



The Messenger

April 2020

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer."

Dear friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The verse above is from one of my favorite hymns. "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" was written as a poem by Joseph Scriven. Joseph was born into a wealthy family in Ireland in 1819. As a young man, Joseph was engaged to be married, but the day before he was to marry, his fiancé died from an accidental drowning. Distraught from his loss, Joseph moved to Canada. There he fell in love a second time, however, while making plans to be married, the young woman developed pneumonia and died.

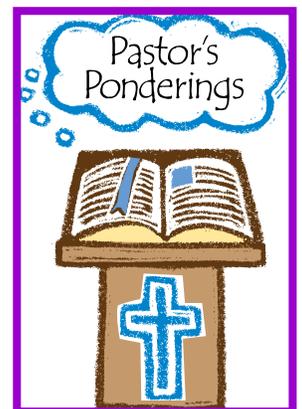
Later, as the story goes, a friend came to visit Joseph when he was ill and found the poem near his bed. When he was asked who had written it, Joseph replied, "The Lord and I did it between us." The verse above continues, "Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear – all because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer."

Joseph Scriven experienced some unimaginably tragic days in his life, and yet, as you read, or sing, the words to his hymn, you can feel his reliance on prayer and the strong conviction of his faith. Clearly for Joseph, having a conversation with God was a refuge that strengthened him and gave him peace.

Each generation, and every individual, will experience days of trials and temptations in a lifetime. No one is exempt.

As I write this reflection, we are only at the beginning of feeling the effects of this global pandemic. We are all trying to figure out our new normal as we strive to keep our families safe and still care for the most vulnerable among us. In some ways, it seems fitting that this pandemic came noticeably upon us during this season of Lent, which is a time of self-examination, self-sacrifice, repentance, and prayer.

I know that I for one, have spent more time reflecting on what is most important in life and giving thanks to God for each day that I can share with family and friends.



Health experts warn that some of the worse days for the virus are yet to come and with Easter just a few short weeks away, it is likely that our Easter celebrations will be curtailed in some fashion. Still, we will find a way in which to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, because we need to hear the promise of the resurrection, perhaps more this year, than any time in recent memory.

And the promise of the resurrection still holds true! Death has been conquered! Christ is alive! Alleluia!!

But I have gotten ahead of myself, we are still in the season of Lent. So, we wait with quiet expectation, we prepare ourselves, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, and we pray. We pray knowing that even if all our friends forsake us, we can take it to the Lord in prayer. **And there in his arms he'll take and shield us; we will find a solace there. Thanks be to God!**

Blessing on your journey,
Pastor Bob



A Letter from our Council President, Laurie Olson

Dear Friends,

Doing church has definitely changed during this time of COVID-19. The good news is we are still doing it. We are still a church of togetherness. We all know, this too shall pass. In the meantime, **let me give you an update on a few things at St. Mark's:**

WORSHIP SERVICE

Based on the information and recommendations provided by the CDC and Synod Leaders, St. Mark's Church Council held a special meeting on Sunday, March 15 and voted to cancel in-person worship services through the end of March. At the regular scheduled council meeting on March 19, based on ever-changing guidelines, it was decided to cancel through April 5. We continue to monitor the recommendations of the government, along with our ELCA leaders, and will do what is best for the health and well-being of our church family; that may mean extending the worship cancellation out further. We will keep everyone posted as this evolves. Currently, **we are posting the most updated information on the St. Mark's Facebook and website pages, along with the office answering machine. St. Mark's has also sent out information via email and regular mail.** These will continue to be our modes, in one way or another, of disseminating information.

As most of you know, we have been providing worship services via Facebook Live Streaming. **We are also attempting to get the videos posted on the St. Mark's website. PLEASE JOIN US, if you can. In addition, Pastor Bob is planning special kids/youth Facebook messages. He'll post details as they come together.**

A *call ministry* has been developed with Pastor Bob and laity making phone connections with people. It is a time to check in, listen, and pray.

THE CHURCH BUILDING

As of today, the church office remains open during its usual hours. However, all church business and committee meetings have been cancelled until further notice. The Church Council will be meeting via online. All outside user groups have suspended their meetings at the church.



FOOD PANTRY

Pastor Bob, Karen Jordan and myself met two weeks ago to develop a safe plan for keeping the Food Pantry open and serve those who suffer from food insecurity. Through a safe social distancing procedure, along with hand sanitizing measures, we opened the pantry on March 18th. Karen allowed everyone to shop for two weeks of supplies, since we intended to have the pantry closed on March 25th. The pantry will reopen on April 1st with more stringent social distancing and hand sanitizing procedures. If we feel we can continue safely serving our friends in need without **compromising the safety of our volunteers, we will continuing the St. Mark's Food Pantry on Wednesdays from 9:00 – 11:00 A.M.**

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Many of you have seen the redecorated Lounge. As of today, the Fellowship Hall carpet has been removed and new carpet will be installed soon. These projects were made possible **through specific donations toward the "Spruce Up" (Lounge) and "Building" (Fellowship Hall) funds.** The carpeting itself came from Kimberly-Clark; KC has a program where they offer lightly used office furnishings to nonprofits. We have benefited greatly over the years from KC and are thankful for their recent generosity. The cost to remove the old carpet and install new carpet **will come out of the "Building" fund.**

STEWARDSHIP

We know that we will get through this unprecedented time. Our hope is we will weather this crisis and be on sound financial ground. Thank you for your continued giving. A reminder on giving options: Mail your offering envelopes to the church office at 140 S. Green Bay Rd, Neenah WI 54956. **Also, consider signing up for safe electronic giving by printing (off St. Mark's website) and mailing the VANCO SIMPLY GIVING AUTHORIZATION form to the church office.**

I encourage each of you to stay in contact with St. Mark's and/or your St. Mark's friends, as we move into the coming days and weeks. Stay healthy; physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Make phone calls (or take phone calls) to/from family and friends. Write notes to those you may know in nursing facilities. Organize your home. Get outside and get fresh air. Pray. Remember, the church is not just a building. It is a group of people *Growing in Faith, to Love & Serve*, just differently.

Thank you to those that are helping St. Mark's do church (differently).

PEACE, my Friends!

Laurie Olson

Friends in Christ, You will notice that this message from the ELCA presiding bishop, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, was written on March 6th, but it is still a timely read and word of encouragement. ~ Pastor Bob

ELCA Presiding Bishop Addresses Concerns About COVID-19 *March 6, 2020 4:55 P.M.*

In 1527 the plague returned to Wittenberg, Germany. Two hundred years earlier the plague had swept across Europe killing up to 40% of the population. Understandably, people were anxious and wondered what a safe and faithful response might be. In answer to this, Martin Luther wrote "Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague." In it, he emphasized the duty to care for the neighbor, the responsibility of government to protect and provide services to its citizens, a caution about recklessness, and the importance of science, medicine and common sense.

To provide care for the neighbor, Luther recommended that pastors, those in public office, doctors and public servants should remain in the city. Luther himself remained in Wittenberg to care for his people. He recommended that public hospitals be built to accommodate those with the plague. He condemned those who took unnecessary risks that put themselves and others in danger of contagion. Luther also encouraged the use of reason and medicine, writing, "God has created medicines and has provided us with intelligence **to guard and take care of the body. ... Use medicine; take potions which can help you;** fumigate house, yard, and street; shun persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence" ("Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague," 1527).

We are living in the time of the coronavirus. We are also living in the time of social media and constant, relentless news coverage. Many of our people have the same concerns as those in Luther's day. Many of our people are anxious. Luther's counsel, based on Scripture, is still sound. Respect the disease. Do not take unnecessary risks. Provide for the spiritual and physical needs of the neighbor. Make use of medical aid. Care for one another, especially the most vulnerable.

The churchwide organization recommends the following for churchwide staff: Wash your hands, stay home when you are sick, wear a mask if you have symptoms, consult your medical provider. Bishops and pastors will provide guidelines for worship and church gatherings.

Luther also reminded his people and us that we should trust God's faithfulness and promises, particularly the promise eternal life. Paul writes: "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." (Romans 14:8).

In peace,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Mission of the Month Spotlight



**SOUTH AFRICA
PARTNERS**

**Mark “Missions” on your giving envelope and mail them to St. Mark’s at
140 S. Green Bay Rd to donate to South African Partnership.**

South African Partnership
Bethlehem Lutheran
Rustenburg, SA

The Partnership Committee has been putting in a great deal of time planning for the arrival of visitors from our sister Parish in Rustenburg, South Africa. In light of the worldwide pandemic, the trip has been postponed. We will continue to communicate with our partners and share our faith journeys. We shared the following prayer: *“Gracious God let your mercy be poured out upon all who suffer, especially those who are battling the effects of this dreadful disease. Grant wisdom to local, national, and world leaders so that they make wise decisions that protect their people. Protect doctors, nurses, first responders, and all who work providing healthcare, so that you might work through them to bring us healing. Keep Bethlehem Parish safe, Lord, and give us the courage and compassion to help others in their time of need. We pray for all these things in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.”*

The Partnership Committee has been very active in helping with the planning for not just our church but other area churches. ELCA Lutheran churches from Sturgeon Bay to Oshkosh and Neenah to Wausau were planning for 122 visitors. Seven of the group were going to stay with **families of St. Mark’s**. We **look** forward a healthy future and continuing our partnership visit in the future. ~Dawn Jones, Partnership Committee

Let us be reminded that we are not the only ones whose daily lives are greatly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. South Africa went into a policed-enforced 21-day lockdown last Thursday, March 19, in attempts to stop the rapid spread of the virus to its over 56 million inhabitants. *(The number of COVID-19 cases in South Africa rose from 61 to 400 cases in just one week, so drastic measures were needed to protect the safety of those in the area.)* Let us continue to keep our brothers and sisters at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Rustenburg, SA in our thoughts and prayers as they navigate through these difficult times. Pray for their physical, emotional, and spiritual protection as they wait out this lockdown and for God to grant them patience, wisdom, and peace in their homes. ~ Olivia Boice, Administrator



Facebook “Live” Video Services



- Every Sunday at 10:00 A.M.
- **Every Wednesday at 11:00 A.M. “Kids Message”**
- Every Tuesday/Thursday 10:00 A.M. Devotional
- *Wednesday Lenten Service, April 1st at 6:30 P.M.
 - *Maundy Thursday, April 9th at 6:30 P.M.
 - *Good Friday, April 10th at 6:30 P.M.
 - *Easter Sunday, April 12th at 10:00 A.M.

Instructions for Viewing Facebook Videos

To sign up for a Facebook account, go to www.facebook.com and fill out the information on the right under “Create a New Account.”

1. Login to your Facebook account.
2. On the top left corner of the screen, next to , click on the word “Search” and type “St. Mark’s Lutheran Church.”
3. A list of several St. Mark’s pages will appear on your screen. Find →  and click on the bolded blue title “St. Mark’s Lutheran Church” to the right to be directed to our Facebook page. (You’ll know you are on the correct page if you see a picture our outside church sign at the top of the page.)
4. You will need to scroll down the page by clicking and holding the gray bar on the far right of our page and dragging it down with your mouse until you see some of the live videos appearing on our page as you scroll.
5. Depending on your computer settings, some of the videos may begin playing automatically. If not, to view a video, click on the white arrow (PLAY) button. This arrow will either be in the bottom left corner or the very center of the video. Be sure to click it.
6. If you do not hear any sound, you may need to unmute the video by clicking on the white speaker icon with an “X” on the bottom right corner of the video.
7. If you need further assistance or would prefer step-by-step instructions over the phone, please call the church office anytime during office hours on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays from 8:30 A.M. to noon for assistance from Olivia.



MOSES MESSAGE

A Sunday School Update

Hi everyone! **'Hope everyone is healthy and staying safe during this trying time.** Our Sunday School is on hold for the time being. There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL at least through Easter (April 12th) and perhaps after as well. We will keep you informed. Everyone, please take care and keep yourselves safe. There will be NO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING ON APRIL 1st.

April Birthdays

J. T. Rose 4/9 Ariana Hopkins 4/23 Tyler Joachim 4/27

**With God's Blessings,
Gwen Hoehne, Superintendent**

We are planning to open the food pantry again on Wednesday, April 1st with a modified system. When life gets back to normal and we back at church, we will need your help even more than usual. As always, we need paper products, such as toilet paper, paper towels and Kleenex. We will also need Spam, tuna, pasta meals, soup, juice and canned fruit. I don't always think to mention all the other things that are greatly needed, but those people needing help just want the everyday things we all stock in our own pantries. Thank you for all your wonderful donations. ~ Karen Jordan [Note: For the latest food pantry updates, **check St. Mark's voicemail, Facebook page, or website at www.stmarksneenah.org.**]



St. Mark's is looking for one or two volunteers to assist our Financial Secretary and Treasurer with data entry and/or church accounting procedures. Experience with Microsoft Excel and/or QuickBooks is a plus, but not necessary. Training will be provided. For more information contact Pastor Bob or Laurie Olson.

Social Ministry Committee: Soon it will be time for graduation again. Please inform the church office if someone in your family is graduating from high school or higher education so that we can both honor them and be in touch with them. We are scheduled to honor our graduates at the church on **Sunday, May 24th**. I'm sure we all hope life is back to normal by then! ~ Karen Jordan



How to Stay Connected During Your "New Normal"

Mary Jane Hartley, Connections Committee Member



- Send birthday, anniversary, get well, or "thinking of you cards" to church members, using the church directory. (Don't have one? Call the office and Olivia will mail you a copy.)



- Call a member and see what they might need - a joke, a little talk, or a prayer. *Ask about their pet!*
- Go for a walk. Get some fresh air and go alone to pray or with a friend to talk together. You never know...sometimes a dog is being walked and they might stop and you can pet them.
- Holler at the robins! They are loud and cranky because it's still cold and windy. and spring has not sprung.
- Call your grandparents to come outside to see and hear the cardinals that have come back.
- Staying home, at least at my house, means you talk more and laugh more...so make the best of it! It's not easy being in house arrest but I see a chance for families to start sharing more.

- **Watch St. Mark's Facebook Live Services together.** Pastor Bob is also giving us a time to share during services. We are learning more about social media on our devices. Don't be afraid to call someone (or the church office) if you're having trouble with this. They will be more willing to help. Our grandchildren are really big help with this so try asking yours for help if you need it.
- Keep your chin up; know that many are praying and thinking about you all and this, too, will pass. Share and connect with others where you can by phone, text, or sending notes or cards to keep your friends near and far.
- Prayers and good thoughts from the Connection Committee!



Blessings Amidst COVID-19: "A friend told me her daughter, Melissa, is currently not working as a result of COVID-19. Melissa is a hairstylist and their shop had to close, by state order. Her landlord and members of the landlord's family are part of her client list. After hearing that the salon had to close, the landlord contacted Melissa and said not to worry about April's rent." ~ Laurie Olson

Americans Coming Together: "I ran into a laid off fellow truck driver from another company today and he was out in search of the perfect filter material to make face masks. The filter material has to be a certain grade or number. His wife is a seamstress and an Oshkosh Hospital needed 200 masks right away, so this driver's wife is sewing together enough masks and probably more at no cost to the hospital. Just a small thing but at the same time a very huge much needed item at the hospital. God bless this lady!" ~ Bruce Grundman



ST. MARK'S CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
February 20, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M. by President Laurie Olson.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Eric Blank, Sharyn Gawlick, Bruce Grundman, Mary Jane Hartley, Judy Hellman, Donna Joachim, Pennie Linna, Laurie Olson, Nancy Rose, Jeff Tharp Phyllis Ziemke and Pastor Bob.

Members Excused: None

Members Unexcused: None

Guest: None

Devotions: Bruce Grundman led us in devotions with an excerpt from a book called "The Story." Phyllis Ziemke will lead devotions next month.

March Calendar was passed around for any changes/additions.

Approval of Minutes for the January 16th, 2020 meeting. **MSC by Phyllis Ziemke/Judy Hellman.**

Thank You Cards – A special Thank You to our two outgoing Council Members - Jane Arps and Linda Rose.

Financial Report:

1. Current Budget balance is \$33,636.79
2. Building Improvement is \$4,482.82
3. January's giving was \$18,893.67 – Spending was \$12,956.20.
4. Giving needs to be around \$3,500.00 to \$4,000.00 per Sunday to meet spending.

MSC by Nancy Rose/Jeff Tharp.

Pastor's Report

1. Made home visits and hospital visits as needed
2. Continue to meet monthly with St. Mark's committees as needed
3. Along with Laurie Olson, I attended a meeting at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Neenah, with pastors and representatives from the four ELCA churches in Neenah to discuss ways in which we may be able to work together on certain projects.
4. Prepared for the special congregational meeting/budget meeting and the Annual Congregational meeting
5. Laurie Olson and I attended the Appleton Conference Annual Meeting at First English Church in downtown Appleton.
6. Met with the family of Patrick Linna and presided at his memorial service.
7. Laurie Olson and I met with Chris Schumacher of Thrivent Financial to make arrangements to transfer money into a Thrivent Financial Money Market account.
8. My brother Gary and I provided music for the Partnership Committee Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser.
9. Along with Mary Jane Hartley and Dawn Jones, I attended a meeting at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Wausau for churches from our synod who are inviting members from partnership congregations in South Africa to visit in 2020.



10. Continued conversation with Neenah ELCA pastors and others at Gloria Dei to discuss supporting each other in ministry.

11. Attended the monthly Appleton Conference meeting at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Neenah.

MSC Phyllis Ziemke/Jeff Tharp.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: No Report.

Connection:

1. Senior Game Day has been rescheduled to Wed, Feb. 26th, 2020 on Ash Wednesday from 2 – 5 P.M. A light meal will follow games before the Ash Wednesday Service. A signup sheet will be posted at church and at St. Mark's Apartments. Games will be Bingo and Bunko with prizes and fun.

2. Refreshments include: coffee and water, a casserole and baked beans {Jane}, lasagna {Ellen}, salad {Mary Jane}, bread {Sharyn}, fruit {Judy}, dessert {Betty and Sandy}.

3. It has been suggested for Fellowship Sundays that are not signed up for we will supply simple donut holes for that day and use funds from the Fellowship Account.

4. We will pass the Fellowship sheet around on Sundays to see who will like to host.

5. Our organist, LuAnn Stensburg, has indicated she would like to provide music at several Eldercare facilities, Sharyn will make arrangements.



Endowment:

1. Laurie Olson's 3-year term was completed.

2. Nancy Maslow was elected to the open position.

3. A grant was approved for \$1,700 for a youth music experience in April.

4. There is \$14,771 left for 2020 grants.

Finance/Stewardship:

1. Reviewed the end of the month account balances. January giving was \$18,893.67 and expenses were \$12,956.20. Our spending was under our giving by \$5,937.47.

2. Pastor and Laurie shared that we had an anonymous gift given to General Fund.

3. In reviewing the budget that was proposed at the annual meeting, an error was found the pastoral salary. It should have been increased \$2,000. This was an error with the calculating in the program.

4. The Keith Niemuth's estate has given another gift of \$16,451.50. The finance committee was asked to think about how some of this money can be utilized to continue the mission of St. Mark's to grow in faith to love and serve. The committee members were asked to bring their ideas to the March meeting.

5. The committee reviewed designated accounts. We noticed that there was still money in the ELCA Women's Spring retreat account. Laurie will discuss with the members of that group what they want done. The \$78.46 left in the photo directory will be moved to Technology as the directory was created two years ago and no bills have come in for that money.

Memorial: No Report.

Partnership:

1. We have extended an invitation to eight members of our sister church, Bethlehem Lutheran in Rustenburg, South Africa to visit. At this time they plan to send seven members from June 17th to June 30th, 2020.

2. We have been meeting with the planning committee to make the arrangements for the June visit.
3. We will be hosting a planning meeting at St. Mark's on March 7th.
4. St. Mark's will host a training session for individuals who will be hosting visitors from South Africa. The training will be for the Appleton Conference sometime in April.
5. The Valentine's Day Dinner was a great success. We raised approximately \$650. We were fortunate to have a \$250 Thrivent Action Team Grant to cover the cost of food.
6. The committee will continue to plan for our visitors.

Property:

1. The fire department checked over the building and everything is okay.
2. We discussed carpeting in the Fellowship Hall. Carpet samples were set out to see and voice their opinion.
3. We discussed the need in the spring to jack up some sidewalk squares to level them off.
4. In the spring the shed roof will be replaced.
5. Property needs to draft a fire escape plan to be posted in each classroom.

Social Ministry:

1. Served 17 people in the Food Pantry on Wednesday, February 5th.
2. J.J. Keller gave grant money for Feeding America for St. Mark's. Karen will send a Thank You.
3. We sent a Thank You to Judy Olson for her generous donation for the Food Pantry.

Worship and Music: No Report.

Youth: No Report.

Committee Reports MSC by Nancy Rose/Jeff Tharp.

Unfinished Business:

1. The website – ran into some problems with e-mail. Working on correcting this.
2. Money Market – finishing up on some paperwork. Money to soon be transferred.
3. We are waiting to hear more from Linda Rose about the possible mission trip to Bethel, Alaska in 2021.
4. We are waiting to hear more information about the School Backpack Project.
5. **"Mission of the Month"** have been filled for the next year.

2020

March – ELCA Disaster Fund

May – Bible Campers

July – Esther

September – ELCA World Hunger

November – Food Pantry

April – South African Partnership

June – Community Table

August – Homeless Connections

October – Wed. Quilting Group

December – Bunk Beds for Guatemala

2021

January – Christine Ann Center

February – International Children's Fund

New Business:

1. Election of officers:

- President- Floor was open for nominations. Laurie Olson's name was presented. With no other names presented **MSC by Judy Hellman/Nancy Rose to close nominations. Laurie Olson accepted the position. MSC by Pastor Bob/Judy Hellman for Laurie Olson to be our President.**
- Vice President- Floor open for nominations. Pennie Linna's name was presented. With no other names presented **MSC by Pastor Bob/Nancy Rose to close nominations. Pennie Linna accepted the position. MSC by Phyllis Ziemke/Judy Hellman for Pennie Linna to be our Vice President.**

- Secretary – Floor open for nominations. Donna Joachim’s name was presented. With no other names presented **MSC by Mary Jane Hartley/Judy Hellman to close nominations. Donna accepted the position. Because Donna has already served two terms as secretary we need to refer to our Constitution. Our newly adopted Constitution states an officer can serve more than 2 terms in a position if the whole council approves it. It was unanimously approved for Donna Joachim to be our Secretary.**

2. Committee Positions were filled at this time:

- Christian Education – Nancy Rose
- Connections – Sharyn Gawlick
- Endowment – Laurie Olson
- Finance/Stewardship – Pennie Linna
- Memorial – Phyllis Ziemke
- Partnership – Pastor Bob
- Property – Bruce Grundman/Jeff Tharp
- Social Ministry – Phyllis Ziemke
- Worship & Music – Judy Hellman
- Youth – Eric Blank/Jeff Tharp



Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers this month:

Tracy Feldman

Steve McCann

Doris & Victor Gilbert

Jane Hartley

3. Appleton Conference Recap – received report on Churches, financials were gone over, nominations were open for the Bishop position. Each area church pays the Synod a set amount per baptized member. Grants are then given for various request. To date they have given out over \$18,500.

4. Received two monetary gifts – An anonymous gift of \$7,000 for the General Fund and from Keith Niemuth’s estate \$16,451.50.

5. Christ the King has started having a church service called Joy. This church service is for people with special needs or just for ones that have a hard time handling a more structured service.

6. Council Installation – It was decided last year that council members will be installed at the first church service following their February Meeting. This will be done during the church service.

7. Hosting a Lenten Meal, discussed what to serve. Came up with “Build your own Potato” Decided who was bringing what – potatoes {Bruce}, ham {Laurie}, shredded cheese and liquid cheese {Sharyn}, sour cream {Pennie}, onions, broccoli, cauliflower {Mary Jane}, bacon {Nancy}, chives {Judy}, two pies {Phyllis}, cupcakes {Jeff} and ice cream {Pastor}.

8. Bible Campers are hosting a Spring Basket Raffle. Tickets to go on sale March 22nd. This is open to all committees and church members. Laurie offered to put a basket together for the council. Drawing to take place on April 19th following worship.

9. We received a letter asking if we were interested in being part of the Filthy Kids Run again this year. It is set for July 11th at O’Hauser. **MSC by Jeff Tharp/Pennie Linna for our church to be part of this event. Looking for 25 volunteers. A signup sheet will be posted.**

10. Discussed the Incorporation Fee. Laurie will be filling in the form and sending the \$10 yearly fee in shortly. Laurie asked us to think about some type of council retreat. Do we want to do something at church or someplace else? Do we want to do a one day retreat or stay overnight someplace, Bring ideas to the March Meeting.

MSC by Jeff Tharp/Sharyn Gawlick to adjourn at 8:00 P.M.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Next meeting is March 19^h, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

Submitted by Donna Joachim



Special Council Meeting

March 15, 2020

Present: Phyllis Ziemke, Nancy Rose, Judy Hellman, Laurie Olson, Sharyn Gawlick, Jeff Tharp, Donna Joachim, Pen-nie Linna, Mary Jane Hartley and Pastor Bob

Excused: Bruce Grundman, Eric Blank

Guest: Rich Sczerzen

This special council meeting was called to order by President Laurie Olson at 9:39 A.M. This meeting was called for the council to decide what is in the best interest of our congregation during this time of the Coronavirus {COVID-19} starting to show up in our area. What safety precautions do we as a church need to take?

The Executive Committee met on Wednesday, March 11th to discuss the different areas that we need to monitor as this virus is progressing. We want to keep everyone safe and take all necessary precautions we can. It was decided on the previous Wednesday to not use the common cup during Communion this Sunday, March 15th. Pastor and the communion assistants will wash their hands and use sanitizer before communion is served. Pews and other surfaces will be wiped down with a special disinfection following the service and for other groups that meet at St. Mark's.

Sunday School and Confirmation classes have already been suspended until further notice.
Pastor has suspended all visits at this time.

After discussing the concerns that we all have **MSC by Pastor Bob/Pennie Linna to suspend regular church services and Lenten services at St. Mark's at least through the end of March.** We will continue to monitor this as we move forward and make changes as needed.

MSC by Nancy Rose/Jeff Tharp to adjourn at 9:50 A.M.

UPDATE FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

I would like to add and reiterate a couple of ongoing items from our March meeting that the Property Committee continues to work on. With spring around the corner, we will be having a spring cleanup day as usual, pending the virus status. We have several areas that need our attention, including



the garage roof, sections of the sidewalk mud jacked up along the south and west side of church, and the sump pump drain. The biggest project is the carpet in the Fellowship Hall. Plans are moving ahead for installation in April. Joe and Sandy Deckers are doing a great job coordinating the

installation. This is an unfortunate time but also an opportune time to complete this project. The colors and pattern of the carpet tile will look very nice in the Fellowship Hall. Thank You and God Bless!

~ **Bruce Grundman, The Property Committee**

Sponsored by the St. Mark's YOUTH COMMITTEE
Funding Provided by the St. Mark's Endowment

RESCHEDULED!!!

CASTING CROWNS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 @ 7:00 pm
Menominee Nation Arena, Oshkosh

Meet at St. Mark's Church by 4:30 PM for Pizza/Drinks/Fellowship (Please be prompt)
Bus will return to St. Mark's around 9:30 PM

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL ATTENDING MUST RIDE THE BUS.
WE WILL NOT MEET UP WITH ANYONE AT THE CONCERT VENUE**

Cost Includes: Pizza/drink @ St. Mark's, Bus ride to and from the arena and concert ticket.

Youth: \$5.00
Adult: \$10.00

Youth 6th grade and under must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. (Adult chaperones will be sitting with the unattended youth-those 7th grade+.)

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE
Complete the attached form and return to
St. Mark's Church Office.
Payment required at time of sign up.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

140 S. Green Bay Road

April

2020

A big thank you to our newsletter editor, Judy Griswold-Fowler for editing and proofreading this month's "Messenger."



Help us save postage!



Help us save on postage by signing up to receive the monthly

"Messenger" newsletter via email. Already on our mailing list? Call

Olivia in the church office at 725-2828 to be removed from our

mailing list if you are able to pick up a copy at church. Copies of the

Do we have your email address?

Please send an e-mail to office@stmarksneenah.org so we can update our church records.



newsletter are available next to the bulletins in the

Narthex or on our website at www.stmarksneenah.org.

St. Mark's Office & Leadership Email Addresses

St. Mark's office: office@stmarksneenah.org

Pastor Bob's e-mail is still: pastorbob@stmarksneenah.org

Mary Jane Hartley's e-mail is now: treasurer@stmarksneenah.org