



The Messenger

September 2020

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work..." (Exodus 20:9-10 NRSV)

Labor Day became a federal holiday in 1894 and is largely recognized as the unofficial end of summer. Celebrated each year on the first Monday in September, on Labor Day we honor the working men and women of these United States.

Our Lutheran understanding of our labors here on earth is that through our vocations, we are called to serve and bring glory to God, whether we are a truck driver, nurse, teacher, farmer, or stay-at-home parent, whatever our calling happens to be. Our work, and our ability to work and provide for our families, are gifts from God, and it shall all be done for God's glory.

We have a strong "work ethic" in this country and we, as a society, give thanks for those who produce, build, and protect. However, too often we underappreciate those who create beauty in the world, those who create from the imagination, and work with ideas in the abstract. Vocations such as actors, writers, architects, florists, photographers, and philosophers come to mind, although there are many others.

Our first image of God in Genesis is of a God who creates by God's word, a world of beauty and wonder out of nothing. We know that Jesus worked in his earthy father's trade as a carpenter (Mark 6:3), and yet, the last few years of his life, he was essentially unemployed as he traveled the countryside healing, preaching, and teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Still, we know that—even apart from the cross—Jesus' thoughts and words about how we are to live in relationship with others in the world, continue to change lives even today.

This Labor Day weekend, let us give thanks for all who labor in this world to make it a better place to live, whether they work primarily with their hands, their words, or their minds. Likewise, each of us has a calling to fulfill. Let us also pray for those who are unemployed or who work in a job that does not pay a living wage, that they may find work that both sustains them and enriches their lives.

And finally, as Christians, let us bring glory to God through our work and share our blessings with those in need. But let us also find time to rest, because God knows that we need time to refresh and renew our spirit for the tasks before us.

Happy Labor Day everyone and blessings on your journey,
Pastor Bob





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is September 13, 2020. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Sign up options: Not all activities require signing up. See below, for more information on each activity.

Online using this link:

<https://signup.com/go/gUsQxvn>

Call or email St. Mark's with your name, activity and number signing up.

Phone: 725-2828

Email: office@stmarksneenah.org.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. This year's **God's Work. Our Hands** events will look differently, due to the pandemic. There are a few options to choose from with something for all ages. You will be able to sign up online or by calling/emailing the church office. Projects will take place outside or in your own homes. **Not all activities require signing up. See below, for more information on each activity.**

ST. MARK'S FOOD PANTRY FOOD DRIVE: NO SIGN UP REQUIRED. BRING ITEMS TO THE SEPT. 13 PARKING LOT WORSHIP. **Items Requested:** Canned Vegetables: corn, carrots, peas, beans green, baked beans. Canned Soups: Chicken noodle, vegetable, beef vegetable. Canned Fruit: peaches, pineapple, mixed fruit. SPAM, Tuna and Dinty Moore Beef Stew. Paper Products: Toilet paper, Kleenex and paper towels. Laundry Soap & dish soap.



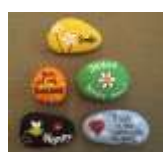
PERSONAL HYGIENE KITS: NO SIGN UP REQUIRED. A few kits will be available for our Food Pantry clients and others will be delivered to local homeless shelters. Place items in a Zip-loc bag and BRING TO THE SEPT. 13 PARKING LOT WORSHIP. **Suggested items to include:** Tooth brush-es, tooth paste, moisturizer, shampoo, conditioner, hand soap, and deodorant.

PARK TRAIL MULCHING: SIGN UP REQUESTED Join us at Wilderness Park (same park as last year) South Park Ave., Neenah. We will spread mulch to increase the enjoyment of the trail users. Helpers will need to bring their own rakes, wheelbarrows, shovels, gloves, your own snack, and water bottle. Park and meet on Bayview Rd. park entrance, for your work assignment. Meet at 11:15 AM on Sept. 13.



SEW FABRIC FACE MASKS: NO SIGN UP REQUIRED. BRING ITEMS TO THE SEPT. 13 PARKING LOT WORSHIP. A few FACE MASKS will be available for our Food Pantry clients and others will be delivered to local homeless shelters.

YARD SIGN BLESSINGS: SIGN UP REQUESTED. Sign up for a yard sign and stake (no cost), pick it up from St. Mark's during office hours (Tues, Thurs. & Fri. from 8:30 AM—noon) and create, from home, an inspirational sayings or bible verse on it. Deliver on Sept. 13 or anytime it to a family member, friend, or church member and place in their yard. Let them know you're there by beeping your horn. Example messages include: "Be Kind", "God is Good. All the Time.", "#blessed", "Give a Hug Today" or whatever moves you. See below painted rocks activity for more ideas. Don't forget to add "St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Neenah" on the bottom of it, so they know who brought them the BLESSING.



PAINTED ROCKS/CHALK MESSAGES: NO SIGN UP REQUIRED. Create chalk messages in your neighborhood on your driveway or on sidewalks, or paint some rocks and decorate with inspirational sayings or bible verses and leave around town for others to find.



Returning to In-Person Worship Task Force: Report from the August 26 2020 Meeting

- Pastor Bob opened with devotions.
- The Church Council has directed the task force to create guidelines for funerals and outside group use as well as in-person worship. In-person worship could begin in October. Some church committees are currently meeting and the Food Pantry continues to operate on Wednesdays, but no outside groups will be allowed to meet until we resume in-person worship.
- An additional camera will be installed in the sanctuary that can be used to broadcast services in the Fellowship Hall (in case the sanctuary is full with social distancing guidelines in place) and to allow live feed to Facebook for those worshipping from home.
- Worship and Music has scheduled a parking lot worship service for Sunday, October 11.
- The following guidelines were proposed for funerals:
 1. Masks will be required.
 2. Music: Soloist or recorded music only. Hymnals will not be in the pews.
 3. Funeral bulletins would be used.
 4. Communal praying will be allowed.
 5. No meals or fellowship before or after the service.
 6. Visitors will be asked to sign in. Usually the funeral home has a book for everyone to sign in.
 7. If there is a visitation before service, there will be social distancing down the center aisle and exit down side aisles.
 8. Ushers would help seat the people and would also dismiss them. They would enter on center aisle and leave by side aisle or the ushers would dismiss the back pews first and instruct them to go directly outside. No congregating in the church narthex.
- The following guidelines were proposed for use of church facilities by outside groups:
 1. Masks will be required
 2. Follow Social Distancing
 3. Cleaning after meeting – have items for them to use to wipe down the room tables.
 4. No communal food – bringing of their own individual drinks and snacks will be allowed.
 5. Room Capacities: Mary Room-12, Library- 4, Lounge-10, Fellowship Hall – yet to be determined.
 6. **NOTE: Bathrooms and common areas will be cleaned by St. Mark's**
- Items discussed related to preparation for in-person worship:
 1. Sign-in is required for contact tracing purposes and what that process looks like. Individual pens (clean and used pen cups).
 2. Set up written greeter and usher duties. Suggested that we just need a few people to be ushers and greeters. Suggested putting together training videos.
- The next meeting will be scheduled for sometime in September.
- **The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.**

Summary taken from minutes written by Gwen Hoehne

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Neenah

Parking Lot Worship Service

Sunday, September 13th at 9:00 A.M.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

You are asked to stay in your vehicle at all times. Church restrooms will NOT be available. (Must be in a vehicle. Setting up of lawn chairs will not be an option.) Pastor and worship assistants will be outside with volume transmitted through your car radio (station number will be posted on a sign when entering the lot & in your bulletin on the morning of the service). Follow directions of the parking lot ushers. A safe distribution of communion and an offertory will be a part of the worship.

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes Sponsors Virtual Race

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes is sponsoring a "Virtual" race (run or walk) from October 2–October 18. Proceeds of the race will support the funding of a Care Coordinator who will communicate with and counsel residents and their families.



The mission of Fox Valley Lutheran Homes is to provide "Supportive Independent Living in a Faith-Based Senior Community." Operating as Linwood Place and Commons, Fox Valley Lutheran Homes offers a ministry of hope and help. Our goal is to end the isolation and invisibility that prevents moderate income older adults in the Fox Cities from accessing the support they need to live with independent dignity in our community.

Cost to enter the race is \$10. You can see complete race instructions at the following website:

<https://foxvalleylutheranhomes.itsyourrace.com/event.aspx?id=13836>

Now is the time for us to come together... *by staying apart.*
During this time of isolation, join together with runners and walkers all over the country in supporting their local charities and organizations.



Mission of the Month Spotlight

Mark “Missions” on your giving envelope and mail them to St. Mark’s at 140 S. Green Bay Rd to donate to ELCA World Hunger.



For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. – Matthew 25:35

God richly provides for daily bread — the earth can produce enough food for everyone. Yet, many of our sisters and brothers still go hungry. More than 820 million people - that's about 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry.

As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Lutheran churches overseas, and other partners, **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. Through this comprehensive approach, we work to address hunger from all angles — both domestically and globally. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Information above was taken from:

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger#General>

Visit the East-Central Wisconsin Synod's Website at: <https://ecsw.org/> and Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/East-Central-Synod-of-Wisconsin-ELCA-139767989400097/



MISA and UMKR present
Exploring the question:

IS IT ANTISEMITIC to criticize the State of Israel



BISHOP HOPE MORGAN WARD, UMC
DR. MARK BRAVERMAN, Kairos USA



September 9, 12:00 noon, Church Fellowship Hall

Pastor Bob will also share some of his experiences in Israel/Palestine. Masks/Social Distancing will be observed. Call the church office if you plan to attend.



MOSES MESSAGE



A Sunday School Update

Hi Everyone!! Hope you enjoyed your summer. Sunday School was scheduled to start in September, but due to the coronavirus, we will NOT BE STARTING Sunday School until we can open up as a church and then it will probably be different from what we are used to. We will keep you informed as we figure things out.

Also, I hope everyone enjoyed their fun sheets you received in the mail. Hope you are looking forward to the special surprise you will have coming in early September. I think you will enjoy it. Take care everyone and stay safe and healthy. Enjoy your first days of school.

BIRTHDAYS

Leland Tharp 9/30

Happy Birthday Leland!!



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



Food Pantry Update ~ Karen Jordan



St. Mark's Food Pantry is still doing well. We have about four willing workers and average 12 to 16 families weekly. In July we provided food to benefit 184 people. With your help we have been able to help our friends and neighbors stretch their food budget. We are always in need of tuna, Spam, pasta meals, juice and canned fruits and vegetables. We also need paper products and dish and laundry soap. Thank you for your generous donations to help keep this program going so well. We are all doing a good thing.



Facebook Video Services



- www.facebook.com/stmarksneenah
 - Every Sunday at 10:00 A.M.
 - Every Tuesday/Thursday 10:00 A.M. Devotional
- **DVD's are available** if you do not have Internet in your home. Please call the church office at 920-725-2828 to request copies.



Giving through the GivePlus Mobile app is an easy and convenient way to donate to St. Mark's. It only takes a moment to set up an account:

1. Download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Find our church by ZIP code {54956} or by searching "St. Mark's".
3. Donate!

Thank you for your generosity!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Neenah

ST. MARK'S GIVING OPTIONS:

1. Mail in your giving envelopes to St. Mark's: 140 S. Green Bay Rd Neenah, WI 54956
2. Electronic Simply Giving/Vanco forms on our website or in church office. Call the office at 920-725-2828 to have this form mailed to you if you prefer not to leave your house.
3. Download the free GivePlus App from the App Store or Google Play. Find our church by zip code (54956) or by searching "St. Mark's."

God bless you and thank you for your faithful and generous support during these unprecedented times.



ST. MARK'S CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

July 16, 2020



Meeting was called to order at 6:34 P.M. by President Laurie Olson.

Roll Call:

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

Members Excused: Jeff Tharp

Members Unexcused: None

Guest: None

In keeping with the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, Eric Blank, Bruce Grundman, Sharyn Gawlick, Mary Jane Hartley, Judy Hellman, Donna Joachim, Pennie Linna, Laurie Olson, Phyllis Ziemke and Pastor Bob met in person at St. Mark's, wearing our face masks and sitting 6 feet apart. Nancy Rose joined us online through the Zoom App.

Devotions: Phyllis Ziemke led us in devotions with a reading "Take Time for Prayer." Pastor Bob volunteered for devotions next month.

The August Calendar was not passed around for any changes/additions due to the building being closed.

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

Thank You Cards – A Special Thank You to everyone that helped make the Parking Lot Church Service a success. A Thank You was sent to the young people that have stepped forward to do some of the readings for our Sunday on-line service.

Financial Report:

1. Current Budget balance is \$45,200.56
2. Building Improvement is \$3,886.26
3. June's giving was \$16,082.11 – Spending was \$14,628.91.
4. Giving needs to be around \$3,500.00 to \$4,000.00 per Sunday to meet spending.

MSC by Judy Hellman/Phyllis Ziemke.

Pastor's Report

1. All home and hospital visits still continue to be suspended due to the COVID-19.
2. I continued to post Tuesday and Thursday morning devotions on St. Mark's Facebook page.
3. I participated in several Zoom Meetings with the Synod Office and pastoral colleagues regarding best practices during the coronavirus.
4. I took a week of vacation June 22 to June 28th, during which seminary student. Katy Tomlanovich provided pulpit supply.

OUR CHURCH'S
**FINANCIAL
HEALTH**

Through
JULY 2020

Given: \$20,057.93
Spent: \$16,636.55

5. **I participated in a meeting with the St. Marks Task Force regarding creating a plan for reopening St. Mark's or in-person worship.**
6. . I participated in an Appleton Conference Zoom Meeting.
7. **I continue to record, along other members of St. Mark's Church, the Sunday worship service, which is then posted to our Facebook page and linked to our website.**
8. **I presided at St. Mark's first parking lot worship with communion**
9. I presided at the Baptism of Caleb James Golden, son of Marie and Chase Golden.
10. I presided at the Baptism of Theodore Oliver Koch, son of Ben and Amy Koch.
11. I met with Judy Hellman and Delores Hellman to record music for up-coming church services.
12. Council President, Laurie Olson. Mary Jane Hartley and I conducted three interviews with candidates for our church administrator position.
13. **I represented St. Mark's at a meeting of Neenah Clergy and the Neenah Police Departments.**
12. I plan to take vacation July 27 – August 2nd. Katy Tomlanovich will be presiding during the online worship service.

MSC Phyllis Ziemke/Pennie Linna.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: No Meeting.

Connection: No Meeting.

Endowment: No Meeting.

Finance/Stewardship:

1. Mary Jane reviewed the current giving for June, which was \$16,082.11 and expenditures were \$14,628.91. Our spending was under our giving by \$1,453.20.
2. Mary Jane Hartley and Jenny Blank continue to work on the finance computer program and glitches.
3. The finance committee is impressed with the continued giving of our members as we continue to not meet in person. We would like to thank the congregation for their continued support during this trying time. We feel extremely blessed.
4. Pastor inquired about the Paycheck Protection Plan as it does not appear that we are using it to pay salaries at this time. Laurie Olson explained that it is being used to pay the salaries, but the computer program is not currently set up to reflect it at this time. It will be reflected with documentation sent to the state. Due to the offset of the money, our congregation has been able to continue to pay our contract providers {musicians and maintenance staff}.
5. We discussed preparation for the Annual Stewardship information that will be sent out to members. We discussed reviewing possible stewardship programs from the Creative Communications.

Memorial: No Meeting.



- Doris & Victor Gilbert
- Pat Wenzel
- Judy Koerner

Partnership: No Meeting.

Property:

1. Discussed sidewalk- Bruce will be contacting Professional Concrete Raising Inc. {They are looking at doing the job in about a month. Cost is \$800 for 10 sections to be raised. There is a 3 year warranty}.
2. Garage roof will be done when the guys can coordinate their time.
3. **Rich's Janitorial hours will be downsized from the present 20 down to 10. Days and time to be coordinated with pastor.**
4. **The light in the men's bathroom does go off.**
5. The Mary Room sink will be treated.
6. The value on heat line will be followed up with Keyes Plumbing.
7. Trimming of grass will be done.

Social Ministry: No Meeting.

Worship and Music:

1. Previous virtual worship services were discussed. People who have received DVDs of the service really enjoy them.
2. Our main item discussed was the Parking Lot Service. On July 12th at 9:00 P.M. Judy Hellman will be playing the music for worship. Pastor Bob will give the sermon, readings, and prayers. Dawn Jones and Laurie Olson are in charge of organizing the service. Individual communion kits containing wafer and juice will be provided. Ushers will be in charge of parking and dismissal of cars.
3. Future Parking Lot Services with Communion will be August 9th and September 13th.

Youth: No Meeting

Committee Reports: MSC by Mary Jane Hartley/Judy Hellman.

Unfinished Business:

1. Council Retreat is on hold until the Fall.
2. The Basket Raffle is rescheduled for November.
3. The upcoming Synod Assembly will be conducted over Zoom.

New Business:

1. In person Task Force met on July 2nd. We discussed a webinar that we were able to listen to. We discussed the needs of having a Parking Lot Service. Some of the Task Force members were able to volunteer their time for that day. We discussed how many people we would be able to fit into our church, keeping the social distancing guidelines in place. Bruce Grundman and Ginny Schieck will measure the space out to get an accurate number before we meet again.



2. In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the following decisions have been put in place for the paid staff and **St. Mark's church. This will be revisited monthly or sooner if needed.**

- Judy, Delores and LuAnn our Organists will continue to be paid thru the end of August MSC by Pastor/Phyllis Ziemke {Judy Hellman Abstaining.}
- In August, we will look at the possibility of using some pre-recorded Music/Songs for some of the Sundays. Pastor will continue to reach out to LuAnn.
- **Rich, our janitor had been referred back to Property for them to evaluate what St. Mark's needs are at this time.** They are recommending at this time to downsize his hours from the present 20 to 10 hours. He will coordinate with Pastor as to what days and hours this will be. MSC by Pennie Linna/Pastor Bob.
- **All outside groups that meet at St. Mark's remain cancelled till further notice.** {Will re-examine this when we move into Phase 2 of re-opening Guidelines.}
- Regular Church services for St. Marks is available on Facebook Live.
- Church office at the present will remain open in the morning.

All of the above decisions will continue to be monitored on a regular basis as we continue to work our way thru this health crisis facing our country.

3. Update on the Office Administrative Position: There were 3 interviews conducted. The position has been offered to one of them. She is going to discuss it with her husband and let us know in a couple of days.

4. **Olivia's last day will be August 21st.** Discussed getting her a thank you gift for all her hard work and dedication **she has given to St. Mark's. We wish her well.** MSC by Phyllis Ziemke/Bruce Grundman to pick her up a gift certificate. We would like to invite her to our Parking Lot Service and present it to her then.

5. At our June Meeting we discussed on whether to hold the Craft Fair. We decided to take some time to think about it and place it on the agenda for July. After discussing tonight MS by Phyllis Ziemke/Sharyn Gawlick to cancel it completely. Upon further discussion Phyllis Ziemke/Sharyn Gawlick amended their motion to if covid guidelines change we will re-evaluate this motion. Carried.

6. Food Pantry continues to operate on a weekly basis.

7. Phyllis Ziemke has informed us that Community Table will continue to serve bag lunches to go for the present time.

MSC by Eric Blank/Pennie Linna to adjourn at 7:40 P.M.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is August 20th, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

Submitted by Donna Joachim



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

140 S. Green Bay Road

Neenah, WI 54956



Visit St. Mark's Website
www.stmark **sneena**



**Do we have your
email address?**

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



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