



The Messenger

August 2021

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



"Work, work from early until late. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."
Martin Luther

Dear Friends in Christ,

The quote above from Martin Luther, was his response when he was asked, "What are your plans for the day?" As we see from the quote, when Luther was overwhelmed with the burdens of the day, he felt it was more important than ever to take time to pray.

I must confess that my spiritual well-being, including my time for prayer, suffers when I become busy with work and life. Maybe you are like me in that regard, or perhaps you are a prayer warrior, like Martin Luther.

Thank goodness for prayer warriors, who are committed to praying for the needs of others and who have a disciplined prayer life. I considered my mother to be a prayer warrior, although, I suppose anyone with ten children would have to be. Another great prayer warrior, theologian, and spiritual guide was St. Ignatius Loyola, a contemporary of Martin Luther.

Ignatius, who was born in 1491 in northern Spain, was seriously wounded in battle in 1521, and he experienced a conversion to Christianity while recuperating. Having recovered and now seeking to do **God's will, Ignatius spent about ten months in prayer with the Benedictine monks in the caves of Manresa, Spain.**

During this time, Ignatius developed what has come to be known as the Spiritual Exercises, which is essentially a manual for a spiritual retreat. Ignatius believed that just as our bodies need physical **exercise, we must also exercise our spiritual self. To help in that regard, Ignatius' manual has about 15 different models for praying.**

One of Ignatius' prayer techniques, called the Examen, was meant to be prayed at the end of the day. The Examen, is broken into five different points of reflection. The ones I will share with you are taken from Ignatianspirituality.com.

1. Ask God for light: *I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own.*
2. Give thanks: *The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.*
3. Review the day: *I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.*
4. Face your shortcomings. *I face up to what is wrong – in my life and in me.*
5. Look toward the day to come: *I ask where I need God in the day to come.*

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Pastor's Ponderings

Continued from page 1

For those of you that may be struggling to have a consistent prayer life, join me in using Ignatius' Examen throughout the month of August. I will have some copies of the Examen for you on the table in our church narthex. Together, let us exercise and strengthen our spiritual prayer life. And, for those of you who are prayer warriors, pray for us who struggle, so that we also will learn to take time to pray when we are overburdened with work and life.

God bless you on your journey,
Pastor Bob

Electronic Worship Opportunities

- www.facebook.com/stmarksneenah
 - Worship Service every Sunday at 10:00 am
 - Devotional every Tuesday at 10:00 am
 - **Children's Message every Sunday morning**
- Please call the church office at 920-725-2828 if you would like a DVD of any worship service.



Thanks So Much!



Thank you, St. Mark's, for all my beautiful birthday cards. I re-read some every day and remember that special day. Yet most special was my birthday parade. WOW! What a wonderful day! Thank you again.

*Love,
Eunice Niemuth*

Marilyn Streck, a long time member will be celebrating her 98th birthday on August 3. It would **be nice if members of St. Mark's sent her happy birthday wishes.** Her address is:

Marilyn Streck, Room 172
Bethel Home
225 N. Eagle St.
Oshkosh, WI 54902



MOSES MESSAGE

A Sunday School Update



Hi everyone!! Hope you are having a good summer so far. Wanted to give you a heads up for VBS this year. Four churches in the community are getting together for Vacation Bible School this year, from August 1-5 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. A flyer and registration form should have arrived at your home, but if you didn't get it sent in, come out to Gloria Dei and we will sign you up! I hope you will all to attend. Have a great summer!!!

With God's Blessings,

Gwen Hoehne, Sunday School Superintendent





ST. MARK'S CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

June 17, 2021



The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm by President Laurie Olson.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Bruce Grundman, Sherri Denney, Mary Jane Hartley, Judy Hellman, Pennie Linna, Laurie Olson, Mykayla Tharp, Jeff Tharp and Pastor Bob.

Members Excused: Phyllis Ziemke

Members Unexcused: None

Guests: None

In keeping with the COVID-19 guidelines, everyone met in person at St. Mark's, with face masks optional, but sitting six feet apart.

Devotions: Pastor Bob led us in devotions with a reading from a book published by our former Bishop Herder, *Always on the Way*.

Phyllis Ziemke volunteered for devotions next month.

The July Calendar was not passed around for any changes/additions.

Approval of Minutes for the May 20, 2021 meeting. It was noted that on the cover page under the New **Members that Terry Stillman's name was omitted.**

MSC by Jeff Tharp/Sherri Denney.

Thank You Cards - None

Financial Report:

1. Current Budget balance is \$80,855.56
2. Building Improvement is \$9,859.14
3. **May's giving was \$15,790.02** - Spending was \$12,780.66
4. Giving needs to be around \$3,500.00 to \$4,000.00 per Sunday to meet spending.

MSC by Jeff Tharp/Sherri Denney.

Pastor's Report:

1. I made several home visits and hospital/nursing care visits.
2. I attended St. Mark's church committee meetings as needed.
3. I met several times with St. Mark's Mission and Acton committee.
4. I recorded and posted Sunday morning children's messages to our St. Mark's Facebook page.
5. I met with Jeff and Mykayla Tharp to begin planning a church picnic, with games for the kids, on Sunday, July 11th. **This would take place at St. Mark's Church following the worship service.**
6. I presided at the wedding of Robby Miller and Taylor Diemel (non-members).
7. I attended a VBS planning meeting at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.
8. I helped to plan, and I took part in the Confirmation Retreat Event sponsored by St. Paul Lutheran Church, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, and St. Mark's Lutheran church. **This took place at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and at Memorial Park in Neenah, on June 9-10.**
9. I met with the family of Joe Pues and presided at his funeral held at Verkuilen Funeral Home in Freedom. Joe, and his wife, Shirley, is a friend of my family.



10. I attended the Appleton Conference Monthly Zoom Meeting.
11. Up-Coming: I will be taking a week of vacation: 6/21-6/27. Pastor Chuck will preside over the church service.
MSC Jeff Tharp/Judy Hellman.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: No Meeting.

Connection:

We had a good attendance to sort tablecloths and store them in labeled bins according to color.

Sharyn asked if our group would join others with a drive-by recognition of Eunice Niemuth, whose 97th birthday is on Sunday, June 6, 2021.

Proposal for Fellowship Serving

When a member of the church wants a special cake or dessert for an anniversary or other event:

1. Member can sign up for fellowship and serve their cake/dessert, or
2. Member can check who is signed up for Fellowship the Sunday they want to celebrate and let them know they have a special cake or dessert. The person who signed up would still prepare the drinks (coffee, water and juice) but would only have to serve the cake/dessert. They would also still clean-up.
3. Member providing the special cake or dessert should contact Connections and let them know the date.

Endowment: No Meeting.

Finance/Stewardship:

1. Reviewed the end of the month current account balance. May giving was \$15,790.02 and expenses were \$12,780.66. Difference was +\$3,009.36. Year to date giving towards monthly expenses is +\$7,562.73
2. Total Associated Bank checking has a balance of \$144,900.95, which includes \$64,045.39 allocated to designated accounts. Additionally, \$164,300.00 in the Thrivent money market and \$102,331.54 in the Mission Investment Fund.
3. **Reviewed detailed financial reports. It was noted that St. Mark's received \$692 from the Thrivent Choice Dollars program and it was included in general revenue in checking account. \$2,231.38 of Technology dollars was moved out of the Thrivent money market into the Technology designated account, to cover recent technology (audio & visual) invoices.**
4. **Laurie Olson noted that the description of the "cleaning service contractor" line item under Property should read "cleaning service contractor/wages" since we are now paying our custodian on payroll and not as a contractor. Mary Jane will change this on her reports.**
5. **Pastor Bob noted that he was reviewing his St. Mark's online Elan credit card statement and rewards points. He wanted to make us aware that he redeemed the points as a statement credit. Amount was \$120. Mary Jane will follow up, when she reviews and pays the next statement.**



- Doris & Victor Gilbert
 - Pat Wenzel
 - Judy Koerner
 - Tracy Feldman
 - Brett Gawlick
 - Ron Forrest
 - Judy Fowler
- Tom & Gwen Hoehne
 - Lori Brehm
 - Todd Hellman

Memorial: No Meeting.

Partnership: No Meeting.



Property:

1. Discussed getting the windows in the courtyard repainted. (Received an estimate of \$550)
2. Discussed getting replacement chair leg rubber boot ends.
3. Discussed getting a lightweight hose for gardening.
4. Discussed calling Cintas to stop them from delivering paper products until we draw down our current supply.
5. Front Church sign has been wired and flipped.
6. Hallway light switch needs to be replaced.
7. Mary Jane reminded property they need to turn in their charge slips so she can check them against the statement when it comes in.

Social Ministry:

1. We are planning Graduate Recognition Sunday, which will be on May 30. We hope some will attend.
2. We were nominated for the Selfless Samaritan Award and our Food Pantry won a \$25.00 gift card.

Worship and Music:

On June 20th, Father's Day, we will give a candy bar to all adult men attending the worship service.

In the future, our committee will be in charge of finding someone to plant the geraniums in observance of Pentecost Sunday.

Laurie Olson suggested we find several special music groups to perform at our church services.

We decided on a gospel group from Chilton call the "Voices of Peace." Possible dates to consider are October 16th or November 14th. Laurie will be contacting this group. We also plan to contact Dennis Krempien and his band to play for a service sometime this winter.

Youth: No Meeting

In- Person Task Force Meeting:

1. Reviewed the current recommendations from the CDC, regarding masks, along with other Neenah church procedures. After discussion, it was decided to make the wearing of masks optional. It was further decided to allow outside groups to have coffee and food. Outside groups should continue to clean table tops, after use. Church door signs will be updated, to reflect the change. Laurie will work with Jean to ensure outside groups are informed of the changes. We will continue to abide by the following procedures:
 - Do not attend in-person worship or enter the church building if are sick or have recently been sick.
 - Maintain social distancing between family groups (6-feet).
 - Max of 3 per pew or a family.
 - No peace offering during worship, such as hand shaking or hugging.
 - Pre-packaged Communion elements will be used on Communion Sundays.
 - Laurie will post these changes on Facebook.



2. Reviewed the graduation day fellowship. Everyone thought it went well. It was decided to resume weekly after worship fellowship on June 13 with the following procedures in place:

HOSTING FELLOWSHIP DURING COVID-19

Place fellowship snacks/treats on individual serving plates/bowls.

Put a plastic eating utensil with each plate/bowl.

Place on stainless steel tables for individual pick-up.

Just before worship is concluding, pre-pour regular coffee & decaf and water & juice. These go on the brown tables against the wall. The host should pour additional cups of beverages, as needed.

Tablecloths will not be used at this time.

The Task Force agreed to meet in a few weeks to review COVID-19 status/data and make further procedural changes, as needed.

The Mission & Vision Team:

Continued to review survey results, reflect on team members insights and discuss the development of our values. Further, we looked at numerous mission statements, including our current statement. The team will present what has been developed so far to Pete, from GSB, at our next meeting via Zoom (and Zoom at St. Mark's for those wishing to attend in-person) on Thursday, June 17 at 5:30 pm.

ST. MARK'S VALUES

COMMUNITY: Service through sharing, supporting and providing to our church, area, and world.

WORSHIP: Celebrating God's Love in our own way.

FELLOWSHIP: Coming together to celebrate life moments and helping to carry life's burdens

MISSION STATEMENT VERSIONS

Serving Community through relationships

Growing in Faith, to Love and Serve

Worshiping through Service to Community

Living out Our Faith through Lives of Service

Growing Relationships through Community, Worship and Fellowship

Living out Our Faith in a Community Devoted to Service



During the time Council was discussing this, it was brought up that there was a late entry brought in after the meeting was over. {Celebrating the Joy of Faith Through Love and Service}

There will be more discussion on all these versions at their next meeting.

Committee Reports: MSC by Judy Hellman/Jeff Tharp.

Unfinished Business:

Discussing the upcoming Craft Fair, October 23rd. Motion was made by Laurie Olson/Jeff Tharp for council to endorse this event. Covid safety guidelines will be put in place.

On July 11th following Worship, Mykayla Tharp, along with the help of Pastor Bob, Jeff Tharp, and Laurie Olson, is coordinating a church picnic. This is for all ages. Come enjoy the food and drinks. Stay for the fun and games.

New Business:

In-Person Task Force update is listed under the Committee Reports.

Mission and Vision updates are listed under the Committee Reports.

Life Line Screening has asked to use the Fellowship Hall. There was a discussion that took place without being able to reach a decision. Pastor made a motion, seconded by Sherri Denney to defer this decision to the Executive Committee.

MSC by Jeff Tharp/Mykayla Tharp to adjourn at 7:37 P.M

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is July 15, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by Recording Secretary,
Donna Joachim



SHELTER. SUPPORT. SOLUTIONS.



The Mission of the Month for August is Pillars (formerly Homeless Connections), an agency providing for those in need in the Fox Valley. Pillars mission is to end homelessness by connecting individuals and families to resources that promote self-sufficiency and prevent future homeless episodes.

The Emergency Shelter of Pillars was established in 1981 as a non-profit organization to provide homeless men, women, and children safe shelter. Their current facility currently can house adult men, adult women and families not to exceed 75 total residents.

Pillars' Emergency Shelter serves any homeless individuals regardless of their city, county, or state of origin providing they adhere to the admission criteria. All residents fall below the federal poverty guidelines for income.

Please consider supporting this worthwhile agency this month.

Include you donation in your offering envelope and mark "Mission of the Month" on your giving envelope.





Thank you so very much for all your wonderful donations to the Food Pantry – both cash and products are greatly appreciated by those filling their food orders and definitely by those getting so many items to help feed their families. During the first six months of 2021, we had 320 families getting food to feed 1,135 people. We are definitely making a difference to many members of our community. Thank you. We are in need of soap – bar, dish and laundry, as well as, juice, jelly, canned fruit, Kool Aid and sugar. We also need paper products. Donated items should be placed in the yellow tub in the narthex.

– Karen Jordan



There will be a concert by the Happy Wanderers German band on Tuesday, August 3 at 7:00 pm at Riverside Park. Bring your lawn chairs.

The Neenah Community Band has one more concert this season – come out to Riverside Park at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, August 10, and enjoy a concert of music by Warren Barker. Bring your lawn chairs.

The Linwood Place Summer Concert Series has two more concerts this summer. On August 8th, the Voices of Peace Southern Gospel group will be performing. And on September 19th, a bluegrass band called Prince of Peace Spirit will be on stage. Concerts are at 2:00 pm on the Linwood Place lawn. Bring a lawn chair. There will be a free-will donation and 50/50 drawing.

The Ambassadors Dance Band will hold a concert on Tuesday, August 17 at Riverside Park. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs!

Voice of Peace church in Potter will be holding their 16th Annual Gospel Music Fest on Friday, August 20, and Saturday, August 21 at Hibert Civic Park on Highway 57 in Hibert. Admission is free although a free will offering will be taken and given to the bands performing. Bring a lawn chair. Concert times are 1:00-9:00 pm on Friday and 10:00 am-8:00 pm on Saturday. There will be a fish fry on Friday evening and other food will be available. **St. Mark's members will carpool to this concert on Saturday morning (8/21).** There is a sign-up sheet and more information on the table in the narthex.

Our Sunday Servants

Date	Assisting Minister	Reader	Greeters	Ushers	Counters	Altar Guild
August 1	Jean Memken	Judy Hellman	Doug & Renie Sebstead	Team 4	Jeff Tharp Susan Antonneau Kim Wallmuller	Jean Memken
August 8	Jean Memken	Jeff Tharp	Joy Case Jenny Case	Team 5	Jane Arps Ellen LaMarche Emil Leppiaho	Jean Memken
August 15	Bruce Grundman	Jean Memken	Joe & Nancy Rose	Team 6	Doug Sebstead Renie Sebstead Fern Fuhrman	Jean Memken
August 22	Jeff Tharp	Sherri Denney	Ginny Schieck Bruce Grundman	Team 7	Bruce Grundman Lois Kemp Judy Olson	Jean Memken
August 29	Judy Hellman	Tara Dieck	Linda Anderson Rose Cermak	Team 8	Dawn Jones Laurie Olson Judie Hilliker	Jean Memken



We had a beautiful day for our volunteer efforts at the Filthy Fun Kid's Run in on July 17th.

Here's a picture of our group. From left: Evie Peterson, Judy Olson, Tara Dieck, Laurie Olson, Kim Wallmuller, Joy Case, Terry Stillman, Jenny Case, Mary Jane Hartley, John Olson, Dawn Jones, Pennie Linna, Jean Memken, and Ginny Shieck. Thank you all for giving up a part of your weekend and for so ably representing St. Mark's!

Attention Senior Ladies

It is movie time again! Please join us in the theater room for a movie on Wednesday, August 11th at 1:00 pm. Coffee and water will be provided. Snacks will not be provided, but you may bring your own. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. We will try to choose a movie that is joyful and uplifting!



 **SOLE BURNER**
Fighting cancer one mile at a time

My name is Kim Wallmuller and my participation in the American Cancer Society Sole Burner 5K run/Walk event started more than 15 years ago and I have the t-shirt collection to prove it.

The ACS Sole Burner has been taking place for more than 39 years and raised over \$7.2 million to save lives from cancer. This year our goal is to raise \$180,000. The money raised from the Sole Burner helps fund local programs and services and fund critical cancer research.

I am the City of Oshkosh team captain and will be walking the Loop the Little Lake trail in Neenah and have registered for the 9:15 am start. Please join me on the City of Oshkosh team on Saturday, August 21, by using the following link to register. <https://tinyurl.com/CityofOshkoshteam>. You also can make a team donation if you don't want to run/walk.

All participants will be required to wear a mask from start to finish of the event.

If you have questions about the event, please contact me at: 920-205-2240



To the left is a picture of Sandy Pederson, Phyllis Ziemke, and Geri Marta preparing a take-out meal for Community Table. These faithful volunteers are part of a group that gathers on the second Tuesday of each month here at St. Mark's to prepare food for those in need. Well done, good and faithful servants!

The Mission and Vision Team wishes to thank those who took the time to give feedback on the Mission Statement and Core Values, by completing the survey. A meeting was held on Monday, July 26, via Zoom in the Fellowship Hall, with our consultant and cohorts from other participating churches. The meeting focused on the process timeline and the development of a planning matrix. After this meeting, **the St. Mark's Team met and began to review and discuss the survey comments. It was decided to meet on Sunday, August 8, at 11:15 am.** Team members were asked to take time, before this next meeting, to review the survey comments and come prepared to firm up the mission statement and core values. Also, to review the initial survey results, past meeting discussions and cohort meeting information, in order to begin establishing 3-5 Ministry Results Areas. It has been noted, that the Ministry Results Areas should flow out of who we are – our core values, where should we be putting our energy, time, money, and resources.



Ready for some fun at the "old ball game?" St. Mark's Connection Committee is sponsoring a night out at the Timber Rattlers' "Bratoberfest" on Saturday, September 10, at 6:30 pm. The evening begins with a Picnic dinner that includes all you can eat hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, and drinks (soda, water, and beer) served from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. Then comes the game where the first 1,000 fans receive a Brat-themed Manny Pina bobblehead. There will be fireworks after the game! Total cost is \$26. Sign-up on the table outside the church office and give your money to Jean in the church office.



It was great to once again host the Mid-Wisconsin Wood Chippers here at St. Mark's on July 23-25. This year they carved and painted a perch, and they sent us a group shot of their finished handiwork. What a talented bunch!



VOLUNTEER WANTED—For many years, Don Peterson has taken care of our lawn during the mowing season. Don is ready to step down, so St. Mark's is looking for one or two people to volunteer to mow our lawn each week. The church has a riding mower. Please contact Bruce Grundman, Jason Blank, or the church office if you are interested.



Linwood Place Concert Fun in the Sun!

Several members of St. Mark's made their way to Linwood Place in Appleton for the first concert of the 2021 Summer Concert Series. The performers were the Maroszek Brothers (see photo on top left) Polka band. It was a warm day, but those who attended had a terrific time in spite of the heat. Emma Anderson reported she danced to every song and she is pictured on the right dancing with Sharyn Gawlick. Below left, Lois Hill and Mary Jane Hartley enjoy the concert from their lawn chairs. There are two more concert at Linwood Place this summer. See page 8 of this newsletter for more details and for information on other concerts around the area.



Attend the Gospel Music Fest with Friends from St. Mark's!

The Connections Committee is planning a one-day trip to the Gospel Music Fest and Hilbert Civic Park in Hilbert, Wisconsin on Saturday, August 21. They plan to leave the church at 9:00 am and will stay at the concert until around 3:00 pm.

There will be food at the event to purchase. They ask that no one bring coolers.

A free-will offering will be taken and given to the performers. If you want to join in the fun, sign up on the sheet in narthex. Be sure to bring a lawn chair!



Usher duty

It's human nature to sometimes slip into judgmentalism and arrogance: "I'd never do what she did!" we think or say. Or "People who [fill in the blank] shouldn't call themselves Christians. They don't belong in the church." Jesus clearly said, "Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1, ESV) and, memorably, made his point with the image of a speck in someone else's eye and a log in one's own.

In *Love Does* (Thomas Nelson), Bob Goff reflects further on what Jesus' response would be when we put ourselves in positions of authority over others: "[Jesus] said people who followed him should think of themselves more like ushers rather than the bouncers, and it would be God who decides who gets in. We're the ones who simply show people to their seats that someone else paid for."





Visit St. Mark's Website

www.stmarksneenah.org



“Sleep is a daily reminder from God that we are not God. Once a day God sends us to bed like patients with a sickness. The sickness is a chronic tendency to think we are in control and that our work is indispensable. To cure us of this disease, God turns **us into helpless sacks of sand once a day.**” — John Piper



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 (Jean): office@stmarksneenah.org

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

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

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

140 S. Green Bay Road

Neenah, WI 54956

