



The Messenger

October 2021

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

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:6-8 NIV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Bible tells us that *"the earth is the LORD's and all that is in it (Psalm 24:1)."* Recognizing this truth is the first step in leading to a life of faithful stewardship. Stewardship is the theological understanding that everything we have is a gift from God, therefore, we are to be thoughtful in how we use our gifts for the care of creation and one another.

Stewardship is really a yearlong practice, essentially a way of life, still, many churches place a special emphasis on stewardship in the fall of the year. Each year, Stewardship Sunday is a day set aside for our members to make a financial pledge and a pledge of time and talent to the ministry of St. Mark's church. This year, that day will be Sunday, October 17th.

St. Mark's Church is blessed to have many faithful, servant-minded members, and over these past several years we have received a couple substantial financial gifts, which together with your consistent faithful giving, has given us the opportunity to envision a bright future.

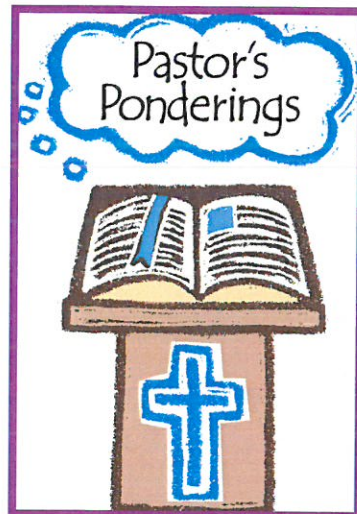
This year St. Mark's Stewardship committee is looking to place a particular emphasis on the many talents of our members and the opportunities St. Mark's provides for service in ministry. Apart from your financial gifts, each of you have gifts to share; gifts which God has first given you for the purpose of serving God, through service to the church, the world, and those in need.

I appreciate the verse above, from Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, because Paul recognizes the diverse talents and abilities that members of the church have to share. Not everyone has the gift of prophesy, the ability to teach or lead, or even the means to give generously, however, most of us have the capacity to give encouragement and show mercy, and these are by no means less significant. When you fill out your time and talent sheet this year for Stewardship Sunday, even if you cannot commit to being an usher, a reader, or serving on church council, consider noting how you plan to share your gifts in other ways. You might serve others by running errands for a homebound neighbor or by bringing them a hot meal.

You may not have the means to increase your financial pledge this year, but you could plan to increase your patience with people you encounter each day, or plan to be more forgiving, or you might commit to devoting a few minutes each week to praying for people on St. Mark's prayer list.

You may not believe you have the talent or wealth to make a difference in the world, but each of us has something that God has given us to share, and when we commit our gifts to God's purpose, they will do great things.

Servants together,
Pastor Bob



Quilts Dedicated and Delivered!

By Karen Jordan

The Wednesday Workshop Group has been very busy making quilts for the Lutheran World Relief drive. Because of the pandemic, there was no collection last year and all meetings were cancelled. After a shut down for several months, the Wednesday Workshop Group got back into action meeting at Faith United Methodist Church with an ecumenical group of quilters; they have been very



Pastor Bob at the Quilt Dedication on September 26th.

busy. During the shutdown, Joan Frahm was very busy piecing quilt tops and the quilting group hasn't caught up to her yet. We will have 165 quilts and blankets to be delivered to the Lutheran World Relief collection point on Saturday, October 2 by Bruce Grundman. Thanks Bruce, and thanks all the people who have been working so hard to help others around the world stay warm. Please continue with all your wonderful donations of fabric and yarn. We will still be working every Wednesday at Faith for a while, until we are able to come back to the Mary room at St. Mark's.



Karen Jordan holding one of the many beautiful quilts made by the Wednesday Workshop Group.



MOSES MESSAGE

A Sunday School Update



Hi everyone!! Hope you are staying healthy and safe. It has been decided that since the Covid case numbers are still going up, we WILL NOT START SUNDAY SCHOOL ON OCTOBER 3rd. We want to keep everyone healthy and safe. What we will be doing is recording some Bible Stories or lessons and each Sunday at 9:00 A.M. you can watch them on St. Mark's Facebook page. They will be about 5 to 10 minutes long. I am going to be sending you some worksheets or an activity that goes with each lesson or story for the month in the mail. That way we can have a little Sunday School without meeting in person. We are looking forward to meeting in person, but until the numbers come down, we will keep doing a recordings and mailings to you. Take care and be safe.

BIRTHDAYS

Rylen Hock 10/1

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RYLEN!!!

With God's Blessings,

Gwen Hoehne, Sunday School Superintendent



Living Into a Culture of Mission and Action

Congregations continually navigate changing environments, expectations, and potential for ministry growth. The purpose of *Living Into a Culture of Mission and Action* has been to guide us through developing a mission and vision that is current, relevant for future ministry in an evolving culture, and in partnership with God's work in the world.

Throughout the past five months, the Mission and Vision Team has met many times with our consultant at GSB, along with other participating churches enrolled in this program. Additionally, they have met numerous times on their own. They've listened to our congregation through two surveys and have asked them to pray for this process, through a sixteen-week devotional program.

This team has developed, and the Church Council has approved, the following Mission Statement, Core Values and Ministry Results Areas:

Mission Statement

Celebrating the Joy of Faith through Love and Service

Core Values

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

Worship: Celebrating God's Love.

Fellowship: Coming together to celebrate life's joys and helping to carry life's challenges.

Ministry Results Areas (Goals):

Connecting passions to ministry.

Ending hunger in our community.

Delivery of impactful worship experiences.

Providing life-long faith opportunities.

The next steps, for the Mission and Vision Team, will be to meet with the committees to establish objectives and timelines for each of the Ministry Results Areas (goals).

Our Sunday Servants

Date	Assisting Minister	Reader	Greeters	Ushers	Counters	Altar Guild
October 3	Bruce Grundman	Jean Memken	Otto & LaVerne Arndt	Team 6	Jeff Tharp Susan Antonneau Kim Wallmuller	Gwen Hoehne
October 10	Tom Wenzel	Tara Dieck	Linda Anderson Rose Cermak	Team 5	Jane Arps Ellen LaMarche Emil Leppiaho	Gwen Hoehne
October 17	Jean Memken	Bruce Grundman	Jean Memken Karen Jordan	Team 4	Gwen Hoehne Doug Sebstead Renie Sebstead	Gwen Hoehne
October 24	Judy Hellman	Pennie Linna	Joy Case Jenny Case	Team 7	Bruce Grundman Lois Kemp Judy Olson	Gwen Hoehne
October 31	Bruce Grundman	LaVerne Arndt	Judy Fowler Ginny Schieck	Team 9	Dawn Jones Laurie Olson Judie Hilliker	Gwen Hoehne



ST. MARK'S CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
September 16, 2021



The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by President Laurie Olson.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Bruce Grundman, Mary Jane Hartley, Judy Hellman, Pennie Linna, Laurie Olson, Phyllis Ziemke, and Pastor Bob.

Members Excused: Donna Joachim.

Members Unexcused: Jeff Tharp, Mykayla Tharp, and Sherri Denney

Guests: Dawn Jones and Tara Dieck

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

Devotions: Pastor Bob led us in devotions with a reading from "Our Daily Bread."
Phyllis Ziemke volunteered for devotions next month.

Approval of Minutes for the August 19, 2021 meeting were not given due to the absence of recording secretary, Donna Joachim.

Thank You Cards - Don Peterson for all the years he mowed the church lawn. Jean Memken for all her hard work and celebration of her first year here.

Financial Report:

1. Current Budget balance is \$86,761.41.
2. Building Improvement is \$16,670.57
3. August's giving was \$16,097.15. Spending was \$13,590.12.
4. Giving needs to be around \$3,500.00 to \$4,000.00 per Sunday to meet spending.

MSC by Pastor Bob/Bruce Grundman.

Pastor's Report:

1. I had a week of vacation August 23 - August 29. Pastor Chuck Fluegel provided pulpit support.
2. I made several home communion visits and nursing care visits.
3. I attended St. Mark's church committee meetings as needed.
4. I met with St. Mark's Mission and Action team.
5. I attended an on-line synod Connecting With Colleagues event.
6. I recorded and posted Sunday morning children's messages to our St. Mark's Facebook page.
7. I had a couple of on-line meetings with our confirmation students and parents.
8. I met with St. Mark's In-person Task Force to discuss our response to the increase in COVID-19 cases.
9. I attended a St. Mark's group outing to the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers game.
10. I helped with yardwork at Linwood Place/Fox Valley Lutheran Homes on God's Work Our Hands Sunday.
11. I presided at the wedding of Joe Rehorst and Linda Rose.
12. I attended the Appleton Conference Monthly Zoom Meeting.

MSC by Phyllis Ziemke/ Pennie Linna



Committee Reports:

Worship & Music Committee – August 31, 2021 ~ Submitted by Judy Hellman

The Worship and Music Committee met on Tuesday, August 31st. Members present were Betty Linna, Ardys Seelow, Mary Ellen Tracey, Pastor Bob and Judy Hellman.

Due to the rise in Covid, the church picnic was cancelled for September.

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” is Sunday is September 12th. The words and music for the theme song will be included in the Sunday bulletin. Box lunches will be provided for people working at the Lutheran Home in Appleton and for those making key chains at church.

We will be having another hymn-sing on September 26th.

Our meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Connections Committee - August 23, 2021 ~ Submitted by Jane Arps

Attended: Judy Hellman, Jane Arps, Ellen LaMarche, Joy and Jenny Case, Sandy Mathenia, Sharyn Gawlick, Betty Linna and Mary Jane Hartley.

Mary Jane opened the meeting with prayer.

Things we talked about:

Fellowship:

- A. Need a signup sheet
- B. When we resume Fellowship

Women of the ELCA Information

- A. Magazine is called *Gather*
- B. We could have a signup sheet to see who would be interested in getting a subscription
- C. Write a grant to Endowment for year’s subscription for those who sign up at a cost of \$19.99 each. Committee approved this. Will discuss more at our next meeting.

Bag Lady retreat September 18, 2021 at Imago Dei

- A. 8 have signed up for the Fall retreat.
- B. Registration was confirmed at \$30. All will pay difference at event.
- C. We will have a basket made up and titled “For Stressed and Forgetful Women”
- D. There was a question about snacks. Confirmed that we are to bring our own.

St. Mark’s will sponsor ELCA Women’s Conference in November

- A. ECSW Women’s group event: St. Mark’s is providing the site for the event.
- B. Food for the event will be provided by Women of ELCA but we might be asked to serve only.

Timber Rattlers game is Friday, September 10, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

- A. Cost of \$26. Food, drinks, chairs with backs, handicapped accessible
- B. Fireworks after the game
- C. Some will carpool. Cost to park is \$5.



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



A member of St. Mark's will have surgery on September 8th and asked if our committee could assist. We have four members helping with rides to Physical Therapy and Doctor's appointments.

"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday is September 12, 2021. We will serve a box lunch.

Gospel Fest was attended by 6 members. It was in Hilbert, Wisconsin. Lots of food and music. All had a good time.

Craft sale is October 23, 2021. We talked about having a bake sale also. We will get information out about that.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Finance/Stewardship Committee – September 14, 2021 ~ *Submitted by Pennie Linna*

Attendance: Pastor Bob, Mary Jane Hartley, Laurie Olson, Evie Peterson, Jean Memken and Pennie Linna.

We opened with a devotion and prayer lead by Pastor Bob.

Mary Jane reviewed the current giving for August which was \$16,097.15 and expenditures were \$13,590.12. Our spending was under our giving by \$2,507.03.

A check for \$200 dollars was given to Pastor by a parishioner and will be placed in the Council discretionary fund. MSC by Pastor Bob/Evie Peterson.

The committee reviewed the Time and Talent sheets and pledge cards and made changes to them to match the current stewardship focus.

We began to discuss how we might utilize the time and talent sheets more effectively this year.

We will be having video temple talks about people giving of their talents to the ministry of St. Mark's.

Time and talent sheets and pledge cards will be sent out the week of September 27- October 1, 2021. We will be looking to collect them during worship on October 17, 2021 which is Stewardship Sunday.

The committee reviewed the health insurance options being offered from Portico for Pastor. The Finance Committee will provide the Church council with the recommended Insurance options with Pastor's benefits package during the budget process.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Social Committee – September 13, 2021 ~ *Submitted by Karen Jordan*

Members Present: Phyllis Ziemke, Jane Arps, Pat Thompson, and Karen Jordan

Quilts will be delivered to site on October 2nd.

Elks donated 100 pounds of hamburger to our Food Pantry.

We will continue to stay in touch with our college students.

We will meet again in November. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Committee Reports: MSC by Phyllis Ziemke/Bruce Grundman



Unfinished Business: There was none.

New Business:

1. Mission and Vision update: Dawn Jones and Tara Dieck explained the mission statement, core values and ministry goals that the committee had established.
2. In-person Task Force:
 - Fellowship has been shut down until further notice.
 - The upcoming craft fair will be further discussed at their next meeting.
3. Stewardship Sunday
 - Stewardship Sunday will be October 17, 2021.
 - Mailings will be going out in the near future describing the purpose of stewardship.
 - Short videos will be made asking people why they give their time and talents.

MSC by Phyllis Ziemke Pastor Bob to adjourn at 7:37 pm.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is October 21, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Lay School Thoughts (or "A Lay Student's Perspective")

By Jenny Case

I attended the two-year program of Lay School of Ministry and graduated in 2014. I decided after that to take continuing education classes, and I have been attending ever since (except for the last two years).

I always considered this experience my college experience because it challenged me to read harder material. I got the opportunity to challenge myself and improve my reading comprehension skills (which was always a struggle for me). I did grow a lot in my reading comprehension and I still challenge myself. I also grew in my faith.

I have been able to use the knowledge I have gained in Lay School over the years in Sunday School and Confirmation Class teaching, Bible Class, and reading the lessons in church.

I am excited to be learning through Lay School Continuing Education classes once again.

One of the four classes I am taking this year is about Experiencing God. Have you ever thought about the ways that you experience God in your life? There are many ways you can experience God.

1. You can run, but you can't hide from God (Elijah in 1 Kings).
2. I see God in Nature. Have you ever heard of John Muir?
3. God's presence in the silence. The teacher talked about Elie Wiesel who was a Hungarian concentration camp survivor and he read something from his novel entitled "Night."
4. In the arts and music. Our instructor then went through the words to the hymn "Spirit of Gentleness" which includes many ideas about creation.
5. Forgiveness
6. Healing
7. Sacrifice
8. Justice and Mercy

Are any of these ways you experience God in your life? What are other ways you experience God in your life? Feel free to share your thought with others!

I would love to share with you anything I am learning in Lay School this year. Just ask!





The Mission of the Month for October is the **Fleece Blanket Project**. Funds donated this month will be used to buy material to make fleece blankets for the Homeless, Group Homes, Shut-Ins, Dialysis Patients, and others. If you want to donate to this worthwhile mission, please check the "Mission" column on your giving envelope.



In September the Food Pantry was very blessed, In addition to all the donations from our very generous members, we were also blessed by the Neenah-Menasha Elks Club. They gave us a donation of one hundred pounds of hamburger. With such a donation I would say we were very blessed. If you know any Elks, please thank them.

Also this month the local VFW group held a can drive and gave us a wonderful assortment of canned goods. With all our wonderful donations we were able to help 49 families help feed 176 people. We are definitely helping our neighbors. We aren't asking for anything specific this month, but we always accept donations, with thanks.

We appreciate your generosity. — by Karen Jordan



St. Mark's Lutheran Church
140 South Green Bay Road
Neenah, WI

Saturday, October 23
9:00 - 2:00pm

Start your holiday shopping early!
Over 30 Craft Booths and Vendors!
Admission is free!

Sack Lunch available for \$3. (cheese and crackers, chips, and beverage)

Questions? Call Sandy Mathenia at 920-558-3077.




Thank you, Faithful Servant!

Thank you, Don Peterson, for your many years of service, mowing the lawn at St. Mark's. Your dedication to the upkeep of the church property has been a blessing to us all. We look forward to your continued involvement on the Property Committee.

Sponsored by the St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Neenah
Just a few tickets left!!!! Sign up soon!
Funding Provided by the St. Mark's Endowment



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 @ 7:00 pm

Menominee Nation Arena, Oshkosh

**Meet at St. Mark's Church by 4:30 PM for Pizza/Drinks/Fellowship
(Please be prompt)**

Return to St. Mark's around 9:30/10:00 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.

COST: \$5.00

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

Get a registration form outside the church office.

Turn your completed form into St. Mark's Church Office.

Payment required at time of sign up.



Worship With Us



- In-person worship at St. Mark's at 10:00 am on Sundays
- Online Worship: 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.

A Night at the Ball Game!

A riotous group of 45 St. Mark's members made their way to the Fox Cities Stadium on September 10th for a night of food, fun and fellowship. We started the evening waiting in line to get into the park where we were entertained by a nice polka band. Then as we entered the stadium, we were each handed a Manny Piña bobblehead. Once in, we headed to a dining room on the first base side of the park where we were offered a great buffet of brats and burgers, salads, baked beans, cookies, and drinks. After we finished eating, we made our way to our seats, and they were excellent – right between first and home, just above the visitor's dugout. The game was either close or tied until the ninth inning when the visitors pulled ahead with back to back home runs. Alas, the T-rats didn't win, but we all had a great time and enjoyed the fireworks after the game. Those who stayed to the bitter end got home around midnight. Many thanks to Mary Jane Hartley who arranged this terrific evening for us! Check out the pictures below!



Top left—We were welcomed to the ball park!

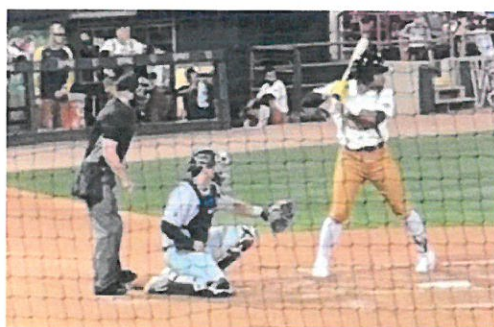
Top center and right: Lois Kemp, Ellen LaMarche, Jane Arps and Gwen Hoehne, Dawn Jones and her family enjoy the buffet.

Right: What a great looking group of fans!

Bottom Left: The Timber Rattlers mascots (Fang and Whiffer) entertain us.

Bottom Center: View from our excellent seats! Go T-rats!

Bottom Right: A breathtaking fireworks show after the game!



WELCA Retreat a Welcomed Respite— Ten women from St. Mark's made an early morning drive to the beautiful Imago Dei Village campgrounds near Clintonville on September 18th to attend the East Central Synod of Wisconsin WELCA Retreat. It was a gorgeous day, and the setting was perfect. We got to hear a number of



What a group! From left: Mary Jane Hartley, Ellen LaMarche, Emma Anderson, Lois Hill, Jean Memken, the bag lady, Sharyn Gawlick, Sherri Denney and Jane Arps.

interesting speakers, including Bishop Anne Edison-Albright who led the worship service. With the Theme "Are you a BAG (Blessed and Gifted) Lady?" you can be sure there were plenty of references (and puns!) related to bags, purses, carry-alls, etc. Each participant received a nice tote bag as a favor and all the door prizes were various kinds of purses and bags. We were busy most of the day, but we did have a bit of a break after lunch to go out and experience the surrounding beauty of the camp. We also met in our conferences and discussed future activities. Our conference will be hosting the synod biennial convention in November here at St. Mark's so we were interested to hear what had been planned so far. In all, it was a wonderful experience for all who attended.



Attendees Laurie Olson and Dawn Jones.



Scenes from "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday!

Far left: Judy Hellman and Jenny Case work on gifts for our community servants.

Near left: Some of the key chains for our hospital workers.

Below: The crafters (from left) Judy Hellman, Jenny and Joy Case, Tara Dieck, Mary Ellen Tracey, Fern Fuhrmann, Gwen Hoehne, Betty Linna and Lois Hill. Not pictured is Pennie Linna.



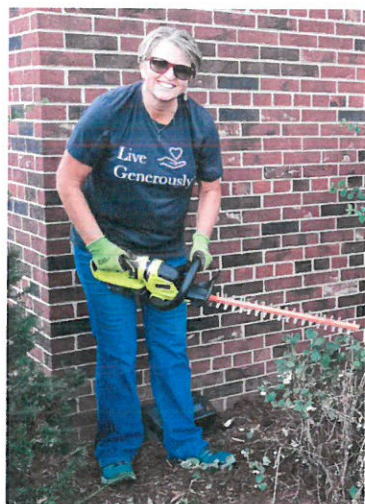
Above: The "Mulchers" from St. Mark's at Linwood Place: From left: Pastor Bob and Laurie Wilkinson, John Olson, Nancy Maslow, Laurie Olson, Mary Jane Hartley and Dawn Jones.

Below: Laurie Olson looking dangerous. Dawn Jones looking determined.



Left: Nancy Maslow, Sherri Denney and Lynn Ann, Linwood House manager, take a breather to pose for the camera!

Below: Laurie and Pastor Bob are moving mulch!


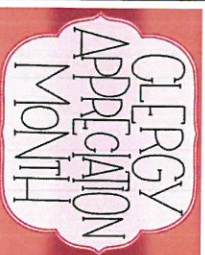


In all, a great day to "Serve the Lord with Gladness!" Thanks to all who participated.



OCTOBER

Mission of the Month:
Fleece Blanket Project

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
3 9:00 Bible Class 10:00 Worship w/ Comm 10:00 Online Child. Msg 10:00 Online Worship	4 6:00 Esther Prison Reform 6:00 OA 6:30 Property Meeting	5 6:15 Book Study 7:00 AA 7:00 SAA	6 9:00 Food Pantry 6:30 Education Comm.	7	8 7:00 AA	9
10 9:00 Bible Class 10:00 Worship—Voices Of Peace 10:00 Online Child. Msg 10:00 Online Worship <i>Scrip Orders Due</i>	11 12:30 FRS Meeting 6:00 OA 6:30 Social Ministry	12 11:30 Community Table 6:15 Book Study 7:00 AA 7:00 SAA	13 9:00 Food Pantry	14	15 7:00 AA	16
17 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 9:00 Bible Class 10:00 Worship w/ Comm 10:00 Online Child. Msg 10:00 Online Worship <i>Scrip Orders Delivered</i> 6:30 Neenah Baseball	18 6:00 OA	19 6:15 Book Study 6:30 Finance & Stewardship 7:00 AA 7:00 SAA	20 9:00 Food Pantry	21 11:30 Policy Council 1:30 Lydia Circle 2:30 Board of Advisors 6:30 Church Council	22 Set up for CRAFT SALE 7:00 AA	23 9:00—2:00 CRAFT SALE
24 9:00 Bible Class 10:00 Worship 10:00 Child. Msg 9:00 Bible Class 10:00 Worship 10:00 Child. Msg 10:00 Worship REFORMATION DAY 31	25 1:00 Connections 6:00 OA	26 10:30 Worship/Music 1:00 Program Leadership 6:15 Book Study 7:00 AA 7:00 SAA	27 9:00 Food Pantry 11:00 Pyramid Model Training 11:30 Ongoing Ed. & Conscious Discipline	28	29 7:00 AA	30 



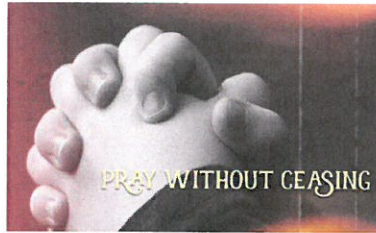
Visit St. Mark's Website

www.stmarksneenah.org

Unimaginable Impact

You don't know how many people have been strengthened because you asked God to encourage them; how many people have been healed because you prayed for their bodies; how many spiritual runaways have come home because you prayed for their souls. None of us may ever know the true effects of our prayers this side of death. But we do know this: History belongs to the intercessors.

—John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*



*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

