



The Messenger

June 2022

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

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Come, Holy Spirit

I am sure you have heard the words in the title of this article many times, but the phrase bears repeating, especially as we approach the season of Pentecost. *"Come, Holy Spirit"* - I say that little prayer every time I take communion. Perhaps you do, too. But what are we really asking for when we say, *"Come, Holy Spirit."* What do we really know about this somewhat elusive part of the Holy Trinity?

I once participated in a Bible Study that examined the role of the Holy Spirit in relation to the spiritual gifts that are listed in the Bible, and it seemed the more we studied the Holy Spirit, the more I realized how little I really knew about this third person of the Trinity.

First, to be clear, God is present today with us in the form of the Holy Spirit. So we don't really need to ask for His presence. We believe that the Holy Spirit is planted in the heart of a person when they are baptized. So asking God for the Holy Spirit doesn't really mean you need His presence, but rather, you would like to sense His presence to a greater degree.

When we take communion, it is probably the closest we can get to God this side of heaven. We ask for the Holy Spirit to be present so that we can truly experience that amazing meal in the way God wants us to. When we pray, *"Come, Holy Spirit"* we are asking God to reveal himself in our lives as we partake of Christ's very body and blood. It is a prayer for reverence, wonder and the comfort and peace only God can provide. It is a prayer asking God to reveal His power and will in our lives. That can be a wonderful and scary proposition all at the same time. Let's look at what happened to people when they experienced the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit came upon Sampson and gave him his strength. It says in Judges 15:13, *"The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him [Sampson]."* David was blessed with the Holy Spirit in his life. In 1 Samuel 16:13, it says, *"And from that day on, the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David."*

The idea of the Holy Spirit taking the form of a cloud "hovering" is frequent in Scripture. In Genesis 1:2 it says, *"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."* The children of Israel experienced God's Spirit as a pillar of cloud during the day. After Solomon build the temple, scripture says in 1 Kings 8:10-11, *"When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord."*

When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descends from the clouds above *"like a dove"* and hence, we use the dove as a symbol for the Holy Spirit, but we could just as well use a cloud as it seems like the Spirit manifests itself in that way throughout the Bible.

So why would experiencing the Holy Spirit be scary? Well, think about the first Pentecost. When God's Spirit is poured out on the disciples, they experienced a rushing wind. They saw tongues of fire. They spoke different languages. There were so many things happening that all who were present knew that this was not mortal men's doing, but God Himself was among them. That sounds a little scary.

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Come, Holy Spirit

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With God's Spirit as their guide, the disciples went throughout the area and performed many miracles, particularly healing the sick. Wonderful, but also scary!

Once the disciples were gathered together and they prayed for God's Spirit to be present, and the room where they were meeting began to shake. I bet if that happened here at St. Mark's we would all be a bit scared.

The Spirit the disciples called upon is the same Spirit we call upon today, and when we ask that Spirit to come upon us, we must accept the way it comes and what it brings. And, even more importantly, we need to use the spiritual gifts it provides. That is a wonderful, albeit a little scary, truth. The apostle Paul is a prime example of how the Spirit can transform lives. Paul, who persecuted the church, was touched by the Spirit to dedicate everything he had and everything he did to furthering God's kingdom and telling the good news about Jesus.

But rather than anticipate the Holy Spirit with fear, Paul's example shows us all the good things that happen when living a Spirit-filled life. With God's Spirit, Paul experienced *success*, especially as he preached to the Gentiles. The Spirit can bring opposition, but also the *strength* to withstand that opposition. Paul was threatened and imprisoned, and yet the Spirit helped him continue his mission. The Holy Spirit brings *joy*. No matter what happened to Paul, he accepted it with joy, knowing that the Spirit was with him. And finally, it brings *boldness*. Despite threats and persecution, Paul continued to boldly talk about Jesus.

The more I learn about the Holy Spirit, the more I realize what a tremendous privilege it is to be able to spend time with God and feel His presence in my life. To spend time in God's presence, whether it be with others in Bible study or worship, or by myself when I get out my prayer list or read my daily devotion, I am so much more renewed each time I am with Him and He with me. It is my prayer that you sense that renewal and exhilaration as well as the Holy Spirit takes hold of your life and leads you to sense God's presence. Come, Holy Spirit, yes indeed, Come! — jm



Well, summer is on the way. Sunday School is done for another year. It was a good year and the attendance was great. On our last day, each student got a gift card and a certificate. We played a little Bingo and the students made a Teapot magnet for their mothers. Then there were treats. Thank you, students, for coming to Sunday School and thank you, parents, for bringing them. Hope to see everyone in the fall. Vacation Bible School will be at Our Savior's in Neenah on Commercial Street. It will be August 1-4 from 9:00 am to noon. If you are interested in going (or being a volunteer to help), please contact the church office. Everyone have a great summer!!!

BIRTHDAYS

Hunter Brill June 28

Happy Birthday, Hunter!!!

With God's Blessings,

Gwen Hoehne, Sunday School Superintendent

Report from the Synod Assembly

On May 13-14, our Synod held their annual Assembly where delegates gathered either online or in person at the at the Best Western Convention Center in Oshkosh. Theme for the Assembly this year was "To Live Among God's Faithful People." Our delegates were Sharyn Gawlick and Sherri Denney. Jenny Case also attended some of the sessions. The following is a summary of the business that was transacted and the activities that were included.



The business of the Assembly Included:

- Adoption of the 2023 Budget
 - Compensation Guidelines were adopted for the year 2023 and are recommended for congregations as they work to faithfully compensate rostered ministers.
- Amendments to the Synod Constitution were presented to the Assembly for consideration at the 2023 Synod Assembly.

Six Resolutions were passed:

1. Participate in Pray Act Connect Education (PACE) to Reduce Hunger in our Neighbors Near and Far
 2. Encourage Synod Women of the ELCA - Be Bold to Act
 3. Safe Gathering Spaces for All God's Children
 4. Resolution to Work for Racial Equity
 5. Diverse Books Support Cross-Cultural Literacy
 6. A Memorial Calling for a Just Transition to 50% Reduction in US Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030, as amended
 7. New leadership was elected to serve in various capacities.
- Elected to Synod Council: Rev. Mary Bauer, Breanna Linna, John Murphy, Dia Arpon, Janet Zander, Rev. Cheryl Davis
 - Elected Secretary of Synod Council: Rev. Nate Gauerke
 - Elected to the Committee on Discipline: Rev. Benjamin Williams
 - Elected to the Consultation Committee: Rev. Dan Luett, Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras
 - Deep gratitude was conveyed by Bishop Anne for all those willing to serve, including those who were not elected. Several vacant positions with no nominees presented will be appointed by Synod Council.

Thank you for the gifts that were given.

- Funds were raised for 50 beds donated to the Oshkosh chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace.
- In kind donations of sheets and bedding were giving to the Oshkosh, Waupaca, and Green Bay chapters of Sleep in Heavenly Peace.
- Build day included over 85 volunteers of all ages who worked to complete 40 beds and made parts for several more.

An offering was collected for the Bishop's Resource Fund and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services totaling \$5,756.37. Continued gifts can still be given online www.ecsw.org and by mail: 16 Tri-Park Way, Appleton, Wisconsin 54914.

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Report from the Synod Assembly

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Workshops

Music that Makes Community
AMPARRO & Refugee Relief
Focus on Anti Racism Work
Becoming a Reconciling Church
Safe Gathering Space Policy Formation
Wisconsin Council of Churches
Workshops from ELCA Representative, Rev. Barbara Lund
Pandemic Legacy Project

Ministry Partners & Display Tables

Crossways
Lutheran Office for Public Policy
Portico
ELCA Mission Investment Fund
Anti-Racism Team
Global Mission Team
Campus Ministry - Gathering Place
Fox Valley Lutheran Homes
LSS
WELCA
Lay School
Wisconsin Council of Churches
AMPARRO & Refugee Relief
ELCA World Hunger
Advocate Aurora Health
Synod Youth Committee

Assembly Firsts...

- First Hybrid Assembly to welcome voting members online and in person.
- First "Prayground" welcoming children intentionally into assembly space.
- First Dinner Church worship where Holy Communion was shared in the context of our evening meal together.

Our delegates, Sharyn and Sherri, and also Jenny, would like to thank the congregation for allowing them to represent St. Mark's at this year's Synod Assembly.

Save the Date! The next synod assembly will be on **May 20, 2023** at First English Lutheran Church in Appleton, Wisconsin. We will elect delegates at our Annual Meeting in February, 2023. Please consider volunteering to be on the ballot for this important service opportunity!



We Get Mail

I would like to thank the members of St. Mark's for all the prayers and cards, and support I received during my time of recovery from surgery. The outpouring of support during this time is greatly appreciated.

Peace

Pastor Jon

Dear St. Mark's Family,

Thank you so much for the lovely gifts, beautiful cards, and kind words you gave me on Administrative Professional's Day. I feel blessed to serve as your administrator. God was certainly taking care of me when he led me to you!

Thanking God for All of You!

Jean Memken

NOTE ON HOLY COMMUNION: The In-Person Task Force had recommended going back to regular Holy Communion, beginning in June. However, due to the increased COVID numbers and concerns from numerous members, we will continue using the pre-packaged elements in the pews. If numbers begin to go down, the task force will again review the communion procedure.

PASTORAL TRANSITION Update

The Call Committee is accepting candidates to interview. All initial interviews will be done virtually. An in-person interview (second interview) will be scheduled with a candidate, if the Call Committee is interested in the candidate. As of May 23rd, one candidate has shown interest and a virtual interview has been scheduled. This process may take a couple more months or many months. Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers, as they continue with this important work of our church.

In the meantime, please consider helping out during this transition. As many of you know, during transition times, churches are assigned an interim Pastor, to assist with coordinating and presiding over weekly worship services, having office hours (handling of church business), caring for those in need (emergency care), assisting with Christian Education programs, etc. (All the duties that a called Pastor would be responsible for). Due to the lack of available interim Pastors, we were not assigned someone. As noted in a previous newsletter, we have entered into a covenant with Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Neenah. That agreement states that Pastors Tabitha and Jon will be our emergency care Pastors (hospital visits and end of life care, for example), be available for needed Sunday worship coverage (no more than twice a month and if it works into their schedules) and attend Worship & Music and Christian Education Committee Meetings. St. Mark's is paying Gloria Dei Church a monthly stipend for Pastors Tabitha and Jon to be on call 24/7 for emergency care. In addition, we pay a supply Pastor fee for them presiding over worship, and a per/hour fee for meetings, phone calls, etc. All other church duties, including obtaining weekly Pastors or Lay Persons and coordinating the worship service content, are being handled by Committees, Jean iMemken n church office, and myself.

Our current needs: Become a member of one of the many St. Mark's committees, read scripture during a worship service, host fellowship, usher, counter (giving envelopes) or greeter on Sundays, sponsor the altar flowers, etc. If you have a talent or skill, that may not fit into one of ministry areas, please let me know, so I can help you in sharing that with St. Mark's.



The Church Council has approved the replacement purchase of three new handheld and two bodypack wireless microphones, along with receivers and set-up for a cost of approximately \$4,700. (Our current wireless microphones are many years old and are not functioning properly.) The *Karen Thompson Memorial Fund* will be used to cover the expense of this purchase. Thank you, LuAnn Gorecki, for seeing the value in using your mother's memorial funds for this project. Due to supply chain issues, it may take some time to get the microphones in.



St. Mark's Food Pantry

The Food Pantry has been very busy lately. Every week we've been getting one or two new people signing up to get help. In April we had 40 families getting food to help feed 108 family members. A lot of our patrons are seniors and also quite a few single people with children. With your help, we have been stocking some milk and fruit, as well as the staples. At this moment our greatest need is for paper towels, sweetened cereal, and sugar. Thank you so much for your generosity. We all appreciate your help. — *Karen Jordan*

Calling All Golfers!



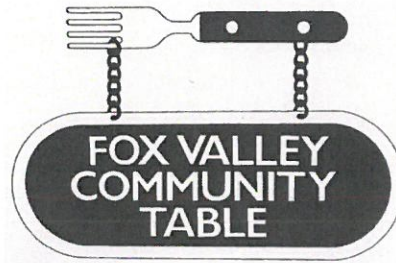
Synod Golf Tournament – Tuesday, August 9 Glacier Wood Gold Club in Iola

Cost: \$60 (includes golf, cart, lunch and prizes)

Join us for a fun-filled day with 18-hole event prizes plus additional prizes and giveaways. Proceeds will go to the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis Fund. For more info, see the flyer in the narthex.



Pat Wenzel
Tracy Feldman
Brett Gawlick
Otto Arndt
Ellen LaMarche
Delores Cherdon
Richie Szerzen



Community Table



The Mission of the Month for June is the Fox Valley Community Table. Fox Valley Community Table (FVCT) is a free meal site located in the lower level of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Neenah. They serve lunch every Tuesday and Saturday from 11:30 am-12:30 pm. There is no income or residency requirements. Once a month, members of St. Mark's gather and prepare a meal for those at the Fox Valley Community Table. Your donations will help them buy the food needed to prepare these meals. If you would like to donate to support this very worthwhile mission, please check the "Mission" column on your giving

envelopes and mail them to: St Mark's Lutheran Church, 140 S. Green Bay Rd., Neenah, WI 54956, or bring them with you and put them in the fish bowl when you attend worship anytime in June. You can also contribute electronically through VANCO.





Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School 2022

9:00am-Noon, August 1-4

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

809 S. Commercial Street, Neenah

Sign-up to attend or volunteer by contacting
the church office.

(920)725-3956

officemanager@our-saviors.org

Bring a friend!!



I WILL RISE

**Facing Bullying Through
Faith And Music**

Keynote Speakers

FRANKI MOSCATO

Singer/Songwriter

CINDY CZARNICK-NEIMEYER
Mental Health Specialist at Catalpa Health

June 11, 2022

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

2330 E. Calumet St.

Appleton, WI

8:00 am—1:00 pm

\$20 per person; \$10 student 18 and under

Sign up by June 1 on the table in the nar-
thex and pay your registration to Jean
in the church office.

H A P P Y

FATHER'S DAY



FILTHY FUN KIDS RUN



{Kids Mud Run}

**St. Mark's is the *volunteer*
sponsor of this event!**

*St. Mark's logo appears on event publicity materials, including the
back of the 850+ participant t-shirts. A St. Mark's info sheet will
also be included in participant bags.*

Held on Saturday, July 16 at

O'Hauser Park, Neenah

7:00 am - Noon

15 Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed for registration, parking, obstacle course stations, etc. All volunteers receive a t-shirt.

**Sign Up Sheet is on the table
in church narthex.**

**For the month of
April 2022**

Given: \$13,957.40

Spent: \$ 7,649.36

Our Sunday Servants – June

Date	Assisting Minister	Reader	Greeters	Ushers	Counters	Acolyte
June 5 Pentecost	Bruce Grundman	Judy Hellman	Pat Westphal Rose Cermak	Ginny Schieck Judy Fowler	Jeff Tharp Kim Wallmuller Pat Westphal	Volunteer
June 12 Trinity Sunday	Jean Memken	LaVerne Otto	The Blank Family	Otto & LaVerne Arndt	Jane Arps Ellen LaMarche Emil Leppiaho	Volunteer
June 19 Father's Day	Jeff Tharp	Pennie Linna	Ginny Schieck Judy Fowler	Joy Case Jenny Case	Gwen Hoehne Doug Sebstead Rennie Sebstead	Volunteer
June 26	Tom Wenzel	Tara Dieck	Rose Cermak Jeff Tharp	Emil Leppiaho Phyllis Ziemke	Bruce Grundman Lois Kemp Judy Olson	Volunteer

Altar Guild: Gwen Hoehne

We Celebrate at St. Mark's

We have had a whirlwind of activity at St. Mark's since Easter. For the last five weeks, we have had a special service almost every Sunday. To recap:

April 24 – Holy Humor Sunday – Pastor Jake Czarnick-Neimeyer led our fun-filled worship that day, and there were plenty of jokes and puns to go around. After our somber Lenten season, it felt good to laugh and praise God for his many gifts, including the gift of humor.



THANKS, Mom! May 8 – Mother's Day – Laurie Olson put together a lovely tribute to Moms and Pastor Jake offered a special prayer for all mothers and mother figures in our congregation. All the women in our congregation received a special gift at the end of the service.

May 15 – Confirmation-Reaffirmation of Baptism – Pastor Jan LaVake led our joyous worship service where we welcomed two new confirmands, Dakota Lemmers, and Trista Nelson, into membership at St. Mark's. A special fellowship hour with a beautiful cake followed the service.



Trista, Pastor Jan, and Dakota



May 22 – Graduation – Another jubilant worship service with Ms. Jill Beverlin presiding. We set aside time in the service to honor each of our graduates by having them stand and reading a short tribute to each. Graduates this year are: Neenah High School: Eric Blank, Jacob Fifield, Kayla Hopkins and Evalina Krueger. College Graduates: Mollie Olson, Nicole Reitzner and Jamie Rose. A celebration with another lovely cake followed the service.

*Evalina Krueger and Eric Blank
celebrate their graduation*

Many thanks to all the people who made these special services possible, including members of our Education Committee, Worship and Music Committee and Social Committee!

Pie & Ice Cream Social



SUNDAY JUNE 12, 10:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.
425 N. Linwood Ave, Appleton WI

The Pie and Ice Cream Social is returning to Linwood Place, a Ministry of Fox Valley Lutheran Home on Sunday, June 12 from 10:30 AM to 2 PM.

Tickets are \$10 each, \$30 maximum per household



Linwood House Summer Concert Series

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy great music with family and friends for our second annual outdoor summer music series.

Sunday, July 10 - "Talk of the Town, New Orleans Jazz"
Sunday, August 14- "The Happy Wanderer's German Band"
Sunday, September 25 - "Voices of Peace", Gospel

All concerts begin at 2:00 PM
Outside of Linwood Place
425 N Linwood Ave, Appleton
(across from Linwood Park)

Here's a poem one of our members shared with me. Perhaps it can be a source of comfort in these challenging times. — *jm*

Remind Me, God

Dear God, When I am lonely and
Perhaps I feel despair,
Let not my ailing heart forget
That you hear every prayer.

Remind me that no matter what
I do or fail to do,
There still is hope for me as long
As I have faith in You.

Let not my eyes be blinded
By some folly I commit.
But help me to regret my wrong
And to make up for it.

Inspire me to put my fears
Upon a hidden shelf,
And in the future never to
Be sorry for myself.

Give me the restful sleep I need
Before another dawn,
And bless me in the morning with
The courage to go on.

—S D Sharon Jebaraj

Be of
good courage
and he shall
strengthen
your heart.
Psalm 27:14

The Clean-Up Day (more like clean-up weekend!) was a great success. Volunteers concentrated on sprucing up the outside of our church as well as the grounds around it. Probably the most noticeable improvement is the installation of a rock bed for our landscaping on the north side of the church. Other tasks accomplished were power washing the exterior of our building, planting flowers, and washing windows. Volunteers included Joe and Sandy Deckers, Bruce Grundman, Ginny Schieck, Roger Karan, Mary Jane Hartley, Evie Peterson, Pat Thompson, and Phyllis Ziemke.

Joe and Sandy Deckers plant flowers in our decorative pots by the front doors.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 Food Pantry	2 4:00 Robert Shadduck Funeral	3 7:00 AA	4 10:30 Choir
5 PENTECOST 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship w/ Comm 10:00 Online Worship 11:00 Fellowship Hour	6 8:30 Head Start 6:00 Esther Prison Reform 6:30 Property Meeting	7 9:00 Head Start Prgm. Leadership Mtg. 7:00 AA 7:00 SAA	8 9:00 Food Pantry	9	10 7:00 AA	11 WELCA Spring Event Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Appleton
12 HOLY TRINITY 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 10:00 Online Worship 11:00 Fellowship Hour Scrip Orders Due	13	14 11:30 Community Table 6:30 Finance & Stewardship 7:00 AA 7:00 SAA	15 9:00 Food Pantry	16 1:30 Lydia Circle 6:30 Church Council	17 7:00 AA	18 10:30 Choir
19 FATHER'S DAY 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship w/ Comm 10:00 Online Worship 11:00 Fellowship Hour Scrip Orders Delivered 6:30 Neenah Baseball	20 10:30—Worship/Music	21 7:00 AA 7:00 SAA	22 9:00 Food Pantry	23	24 7:00 AA	25 All Day Wood Chippers 10:30 Choir
26 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 10:00 Online Worship 11:00 Fellowship Hour	27 1:00 Connections	28 7:00 AA 7:00 SAA	29 9:00 Food Pantry	30		

KEY

Red	—Fellowship	Purple	—Sanctuary
Orange	—Online	Pink	—Lounge
Green	—Library	Black	—Other
Blue	—Mary Room		

Mission of the Month: Community Table



Visit St. Mark's Website

www.stmarksneenah.org



Cast Away

God has cast our confessed sins into the depths of the sea, and he's even put a "No Fishing" sign over the spot.

— D.L. Moody



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

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

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

140 S. Green Bay Road

Neenah, WI 54956

