



The Messenger

June 2023

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Beloved Children of God gathered as St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Grace and peace to you.

As the summer sun casts its warm glow upon the world, the church awakens to a season of renewal and vibrant energy. The beginning of summer breathes new life into the spiritual community, creating an atmosphere filled with anticipation, growth, and a deep connection with nature.

During the summer months, it is not uncommon for church attendance to experience a temporary decline as individuals and families embark on vacations, engage in outdoor activities, or simply enjoy the leisurely pace of the season. As summer approaches, let us remember that it is not a vacation from our faith. While the season brings opportunities for relaxation and enjoyment, our faith journey should remain steadfast and vibrant.

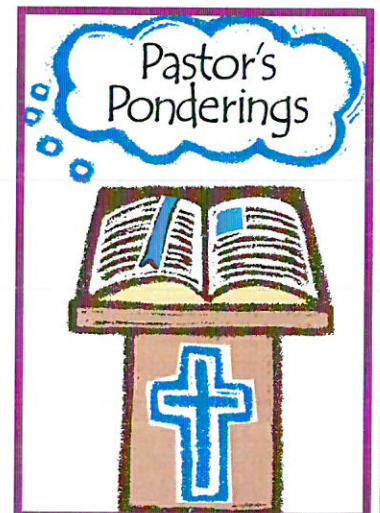
However, staying connected with the church community is essential for maintaining a strong spiritual foundation and nurturing relationships. Here's a reminder to stay connected with Jesus throughout the summer:

1. Prioritize spiritual practices: I enjoy walking or biking with Jesus. I talk with him as I would talk to a friend. Many times, I joke with God. God has a sense of humor. Joking with God is a beautiful and intimate aspect of my relationship with the Divine. God's sense of humor is woven into the fabric of our lives, inviting us to find joy in God's creation. I encourage you to have a holy imagination by creating your spiritual practice that nourishes your soul and strengthens your relationship with Jesus.
2. Attend worship services: Make attending church a priority, even during the summer months. Gather with fellow believers to worship, receive teaching, and find encouragement in the presence of God. If you cannot make it to church, stay connected digitally.
3. Engage in St. Mark's community: Participate in small groups or fellowship activities offered by our church, such as visiting the Oneida Nation Museum in De Pere (stay tuned for more details).

Remember, summer should not be a break from our faith. Let us continue to seek Jesus, grow in our relationship with Him, and shine His light in all that we do.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarra



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

You Are Invited To A

SMALL GROUP GATHERING

{ AT THE CHURCH }

140 S. GREEN BAY RD., NEENAH

YOUR MAILED INVITE WILL HAVE YOUR
SPECIFIC GATHERING DATE

6:30-7:30 PM

ENTER THROUGH NORTH DOOR

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

-CASUAL

-ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR
HOUSEHOLD ARE
WELCOME TO ATTEND.

This is an opportunity for Pastor Niveen to meet with small groups of members; for her to get to know you better & for you to get to know her a bit more.

Call or email, if not able to make the date.
office@stmarksneenah.org
920-725-2826

Small Group Gatherings at St. Mark's

Please watch for an upcoming mailing that will invite you and your household to attend a small group gathering. These gatherings were promised to our new Pastor in our Ministry Site Profile (MSP), so that she will be able to know the members of the congregation and their interests. This will also be an opportunity for members to get to know Pastor Niveen better. The attached is an example of what to look for in the mail and will have your group's specific gathering date listed on the invitation. These gatherings will take place throughout the coming months, so please put the date & time on your calendar when you receive the invitation. You are encouraged to attend, even if you feel you already know Pastor Niveen well.



Lay School Students Finish Year One

Sherry Denney and Jean Memken finished their first year of Lay School on May 21. As part of their program, they had to conduct a short worship service for the rest of the students. Sherry read the liturgy and sang a solo and also lead the prayers. Jean did the invocation and confession, sermon and closing. Pictured is Sherry singing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" while Jean accompanies her on the piano. You can see the service on the Lay School Facebook page. Jenny Case also attended Lay School continuing education classes.



Moses Message



Congratulations to the two young ladies that were confirmed on Sunday, May 14th, Hailie Anderson and Ariana Hopkins. We hope you will continue to grow in God's Faith. It has been a good year for Sunday School. We added a couple of new students and hopefully in the fall we might have more. I would like to thank the Confirmation class and Jenny Case for the flowers and the small Christian items given to me. Very thoughtful and I appreciate it very much.

Just a REMINDER: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is on July 31st to August 3rd. The hours will be 9:00 am to noon. A registration form was sent home with everyone on the last day of Sunday School. There is NO COST!!! Be sure to fill out the form and return it to the church office as soon as possible. I hope to see some of you there!!!

BIRTHDAYS

Hunter Brill—6/28

Happy Birthday!!!

With God's Blessings,

Gwen Hoehne, Sunday School Superintendent

**ST. MARK'S
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
May 18, 2023**

Present: Laurie Olson, Pennie Linna, Dawn Jones, Mary Jane Hartley, Ryan Blank, Jason Blank, Sherri Denney, Kim Wallmuller, Jenny Case, and Pastor Niveen

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

Devotions: Sherri shared devotions. Jenny volunteered to do devotions for June.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes reviewed April 20th.

MSC to approve the minutes by Jason Blank/Sherri Denney

Approval of special meeting Minutes: Minutes reviewed from May 4th.

MSC to approve the minutes by Pennie Linna/Kim Wallmuller

Thank you: Sherri, Jenny, and Pastor Niveen were thanked for the confirmation service and the work they put into the confirmation class. Thank you cards will be sent to Gwen and Nancy Rose for all of the work they have put into Sunday school. Sunday School ended last week and resume in September, 2023.

Financial Report: Mary Jane reviewed finances and budget standings. We are in good shape at this time. This is important before summer, due trend of less giving in summer. We are currently under budget by \$8,658.41 with spending through April at \$54,052.95. Giving toward budget was \$63,163.21, which is a net of \$9,110.26.

MSC by Jason Blank/Sherri Denney to approve the Financial Report.

Pastor's Report

There is an American saying, there is no rest for the wicked. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, this saying is "said when you must continue with your work or other activity although you are very tired." Do you know that the phrase is based on Isaiah 37: 20-21, which reads, "But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. 'There is no peace,' says my God, 'for the wicked.'" Since Lent, I have been working without rest and enjoying every bit of my ministry. Here is the summary of my adventure at St. Mark's.

1. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue my education. I went to Milwaukee for three days to do research at Marquette University. While in Milwaukee, I visited Chuck Baumgartner at the Veteran's Hospital, where he had his surgery. I also held a virtual meeting with Addison Gipp's parents and godparents to discuss her baptism, which took place on Sunday, May 7.
2. I spent three Sundays working with Hailie Anderson and Ariana Hopkins to write their statement of faith for their affirmation of baptism service. I met with Ariana and her family and godparents to explain the meaning of baptism. The baptism and the affirmation of the baptism service occurred on Sunday, May 14, 2023. It was a very big day.
3. I officiated Dorothy Burghardt's memorial service on April 29, 2023. I met with Dorothy's family three times before and after her death to provide them pastoral care and to plan the funeral.



4. On Tuesday, May 2, the finance and stewardship ministry team and I watched a recorded webinar, "Church Fraud – Keeping Thieves and Embezzlers Out of Church Finances." The webinar was engaging, and we found out that Saint Mark's rules on handling our finance are compatible with what we learned from the presenters.
 5. I met with the worship and music ministry team to plan for Sunday, May 14, service, and I also met with the connection ministry team to discuss the best way to support members of our congregation who are in need.
 6. I met with my Neenah ELCA colleagues to plan for a joint worship at Riverside Park on September 3. This event will be an opportunity to kick off the initiative to educate the congregations on the ELCA Native American's Land Acknowledgement.
 7. I will attend the synod assembly with Pat Westphal and Mary Jane Hartley this coming Saturday.
 8. Finally, I will attend a conference at Nazareth College in Rochester, NY, and present my paper on Acts 10 and 11.
- MSC to approve Jason Blank/Sherri Denney.**

Ministry Team Reports

Worship and Music Ministry Team – May 8, 2023 ~ Submitted by Judy Hellman

The Worship and Music Ministry Team met on Monday, May 8th. Members present were Lois Hill, Pat Westphal, Joy and Jenny Case, Mary Ellen Tracey, Pastor Niveen, and Judy Hellman.

Devotions were given by Mary Ellen Tracey. Lois Hill volunteered for devotion in June.

Pastor Niveen presented the order of service and songs for confirmation Sunday, May 14th. Mary Ellen Tracey and Joy and Jenny Case will hand out the carnations to all the mothers. The Youth Bell choir will also perform at this service.

The purchase of new paraments and a blue chausuble was discussed. A generous church member has donated \$6,000 for this. It was decided to wait until the June meeting to determine what is needed.

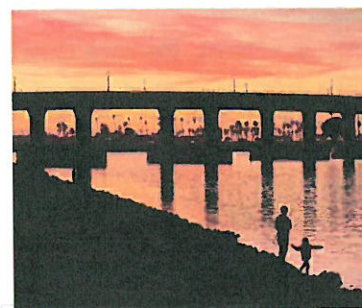
Judy Hellman will check at Island Music or Heid Music for additional wide mic holders. She will also contact Dennis Mullen, an organ repair person, about possibly repairing our present organ.

The clavinova/organ committee plans to visit Heid Music either May 31st or June 7th to check out clavinovas. The date depends upon the availability of Tom Bailey, the contact person at Heid Music.

Summer special music was discussed. A message will be put in the church bulletin asking for volunteers to perform at our services.

Our next meeting will be Monday, June 12th at 10:30 am.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Pat Wenzel
 Tracy Feldman
 Brett Gawlick
 Jan Travis
 Ellen LaMarche
 Sarah
 Doug Bedor
 Erin Biese
 Todd Bagley
 Pastor Chuck Flugel
 Jan Bagley
 Mary & Ron Zalewski
 Sara Forrest
 Richie Sczerzen
 Bob Ulrich

Property Ministry Team— May 1, 2023 ~ Submitted by Jason Blank

The Property Ministry team met on May 1st at 6:30 pm. Members Present: Bruce Grundman, Phyllis Ziemke, Sandy Deckers, Joe Deckers, Ginny Schieck, Jeff Tharp, and Jason Blank.

The toilet handles have been fixed in the women's restroom.

Lighting in the sanctuary has been changed.

We need to look at sealing the downspouts, they are dripping at the seams.

The stained ceiling tiles in the Fellowship Hall have been painted white.

We have a new contract with Cintas.

We are looking at getting the lawn rolled to make it level for mowing.

We are getting the lawn fertilized again as we do annually.

Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team - May 16, 2023 ~ submitted by Laurie Olson

Members Present: Treasurer Mary Jane Hartley, Evie Peterson, incoming Financial Secretary Pat Westphal, and Laurie Olson

Members Absent: Pennie Linna, Pastor Niveen, Jean Memken, and outgoing Financial Secretary Fern Furhmann

Opened with a Prayer.

Reviewed current account balances through end of April 2023. April's giving was \$17,263.30 and expenses were \$15,227.63. Difference was +\$2,035.67.

Total Associated Bank checking has a balance of \$185,940.72 which includes \$61,932.79 allocated to designated accounts and \$124,007.93 for current operating. Additionally, \$154,650.43 in the Thrivent money market and \$1,020.28 in Thrivent TIPS account and \$53,848.32 in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund.

Laurie reviewed the purchase and installation of two new office computers (one for Office Administrator and second for the financial office). Both had been experiencing speed and storage issues. Those computers were installed on Monday, May 15, 2023. The new computers were purchased and installed by PC Mechanics of Neenah. Laurie noted that she talked with Tammie Kersten, who oversees the SCRIP program, and it was suggested to use SCRIP funds to cover this unbudgeted, but necessary expense. Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team agreed with using SCRIP funds to cover the invoice of \$1,730.99.

A presentation check (large whiteboard check) has been purchased and will be used to acknowledge special giving by St. Mark's. It was also suggested that we take a picture each month (various/ different St. Mark's members holding the check each month) with the Mission of the Month agency/ organization and amount noted on the check. These photos can be posted on Facebook and in the Messenger newsletter.

Mary Jane noted that St. Mark's has received a total of \$2,148 from the Thrivent Choice Dollars program. This money goes into *current offerings*.

Pat Westphal, our new Financial Secretary, commented that she has been familiarizing herself with the *Church Windows* software with training from Fern and by going on the *Church Windows* website viewing tutorials. The Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team agreed that Pat will be given access to the safe. Mary Jane will review the safe code & opening procedure with Pat.

Closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Racial Equity Committee ~ Submitted by Pastor Barb Girod

Current work of the team includes:

Read and discussed US The Resurrection of American Terror by Rev. Kenneth W. Wheeler. Rev. Wheeler is a retired ordained pastor in the ELCA. In his book he shares his experience as an African American living in the United States and as a pastor serving in the ELCA. It is a compelling read that reveals that racism continues to do harm within our country and communities as well as within our churches.

Discussed topics and entry points that we could use to help the congregation and members reflect on racism in the life of the church and their own lives. These entry points include The library that has been established. Each member of the team will write a review of one of the books in the library. These reviews will be included in The Messenger.

Other resources, such as films available on line, will also be included in The Messenger.

The team will follow up on the Land Acknowledgement work being done by the ESCW. Land Acknowledgement includes acknowledgement that the land the church and members live on, and work on was the land of the indigenous people. It also acknowledges the culture, language, and human lives that have been lost as the land was taken by the United States.

Palestinian/Israeli Conflict

Islamic Fellowship event that is taking place on May 27.

Our next meeting is June 6th at 6:30 pm.

Book Reviews

May- Chains- Pat

June- On Juneteenth- Barb

July- Mary Jane will select a book

August- Orientalism- Pastor Niveen

September- New Jim Crow- Laurie

Council reviewed the reports with the following noted;

Connections Ministry Team did not include a report, but noted they are planning a trip to Door County on June 28th. More details will be provided to the congregation.

Worship and Music Ministry Team is looking at the replacement of the paraments. Ellen LaMarche has come forward to donate the needed funds for the replacements.

Property Ministry Team: Has negotiated a new contract with CINTAS which has taken out the items not needed and lowered the monthly invoice. Church Cleaning day is Saturday, May 20th. Council members who are able to be present, please come and help.

Note: There will now be updates from the Racial Equity Ministry Team included in the council packets.

MSC to accept the committee reports.

Unfinished Business

Digital Sign Update: Ellen LaMarche has come forward to fund a new digital sign for the front of the church. The new sign will use the existing columns and power at the site, along with the inclusion of the flower bed. Laurie has met with two sign companies. Property Ministry Team, Laurie, and Ellen will look at the designs and estimates at the next Property meeting on June 5. We are very fortunate to have our donor, Ellen LaMarche, interested in helping us update the church. The sign will be electronic and we will be able to share information easily. The time frame is not known at this point. Initial impressions of the project is it will fit well with current landscaping and the current sign pillars.

Office Computers Update: The computers have been updated and scanning with the new computers from the copier is not working. Work is being done to resolve the problem. \$1,700 for computers and installation of software. Tammie Kersten has agreed to have the expenses covered with the earnings from SCRIP program.

Nursery Space Use: Current use of the nursery has been seen during funerals and occasionally on Sundays. We will clean and update. Pastor, Jenny, Gwen, Laurie, and Dawn will clean and assess use. The thought is to continue use as a nursery, but include space for meetings.

New Business Items

Synod Assembly Resolutions: Our Synod representatives have asked for guidance on how to best represent the church on the voting of three resolutions. Pat Westfall and Mary Jane Hartley will attend the Synod Assembly on Saturday, May 20th in Appleton.

1. Land Acknowledgement-agree to acknowledge where the land has come from. If passed, the churches will be advised to do research and develop an acknowledgment statement. Note: the racial equity mission team is currently working toward developing a statement. **MSC to endorse the resolution Sherri Denney/Pastor Niveen.**
2. Racism-Pastors of the Synod will be required to attend training and do reading. Pastor noted this is work she has already done. **MSC to endorse the resolution Pennie Linna/Sherri Denney.**
3. Hunger-Churches will be advised to be aware of hunger and strategies through education and training. St Marks is already working on this. **MSC to endorse the resolution Jason Blank/Pennie Linna.**

Small Group Gatherings: Small groups will gather with Pastor so she can get to know people and families. The groups will have facilitators to propose the questions. Groups will be gathering over the next few months, starting in June. Everyone in the congregation will be invited. The groups will be a mix of ages and interests.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjourn: **MSC to Adjourn and 7:50 pm Kim Wallmuller/Sherri Denney.**

Notes: Next meeting: June 15th at 6:30 PM.

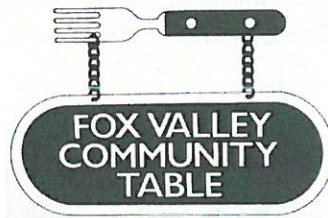
Respectfully submitted by Dawn Jones, Secretary



The Food Pantry numbers are down, but we usually have a steady business on Wednesday mornings. In April we served 26 families receiving food for 68 people. We are always in need of paper products, dish and laundry soap, Spam and sugar. Thank you so much for all your help. — Karen Jordan

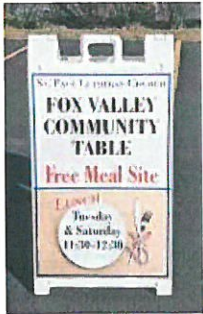


Many thanks to the Treble Singers for adding some beautiful music to our worship services this year. We look forward to their music again this fall. Pictured (from left) are: Judy Hellman, Karen Jordan, Lois Hill, Jean Memken, Mary Jane Hartley, Mary Ellen Tracey and Pat Westphal.



Fox Valley 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 provide a meal for those at the Fox Valley Community Table. If you would like to donate to buy food for these meals, please check the "Mission" column on your giving envelopes and put them in the clear box when you attend worship anytime in June. Or designate Mission of the Month on your electronic giving account. Let's support our volunteers at the Community Table!

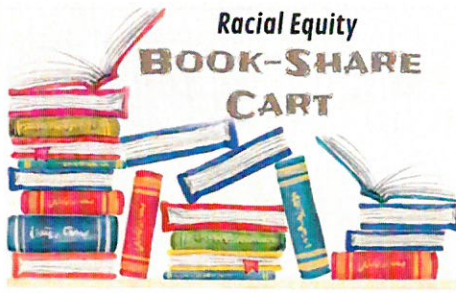


Special Projects

It is with great pleasure that we announce we have been blessed with a generous donation to fund two projects at St. Mark's. Ellen LaMarche met with Pastor Niveen and Council President Laurie Olson to discuss the funding of an outdoor digital sign (WIFI operated from the office computer with the ability to post worship times, special worship times during Lent, Christmas & Easter, events at the church such as the craft sale & VBS, clean up dates, acknowledging of holidays, etc.) and also the purchase of new paraments (cloth hangings on the altar, pulpit and baptism font in the colors of the day). Two Fox Valley companies have submitted proposals for the digital sign. These designs and estimates will be reviewed by Ellen at the Property Ministry Team meeting on June 5. Design options include the existing brick columns, power, and the flower bed. The installation date of the digital sign will be determined once a company has been chosen for the project. The Worship and Music Ministry Team is working on options and the purchasing of the paraments.

Updates on these projects will be provided via St. Mark's newsletter, Facebook page and website.

Thank you, Ellen LaMarche, for seeing the value of these projects and the impact they will have on the future of St. Mark's and thank you also for your continuing support of the work of our church. You are a blessing!



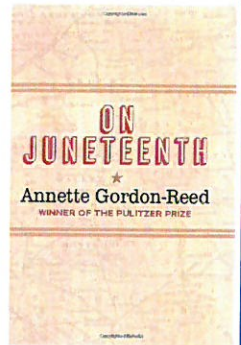
On Juneteenth by Annette Gordon-Reed

Did you know that the slaves in Texas did not hear the news about emancipation until June 19, 1865? That is a 2 ½ years AFTER President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. It was also two months after Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox.

In *On Juneteenth*, Annette Gordon-Reed blends the story of her family and the history of African-Americans in what became the state of Texas, as well as the complex stories of the many people who populated that land.

While this is a short read, it is an educating, fascinating, and one in which we learn how complicated history is and how important it is for us to know the history of our country.

Check it out! - by Pastor Barb Girod



"Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained." — Helen Keller

Our Sunday Servants

Date	Assisting Minister	Reader	Greeters	Ushers	Counters
June 4	Sherry Denney	Gwen Hoehne	Jeff Tharp Wanda Webster	Evie Peterson Lois Kemp	Jeff Tharp Kim Wallmuller Pat Westphal
June 11	Tom Wenzel	Jeri Travis	Linda Anderson LaVerne Arndt	The Blank Family	Jane Arps Ellen LaMarche Emil Leppiaho
June 18 Father's Day	Jean Memken	Jean Memken	Jean Memken Judy Fowler	Rose Cermak Sherry Denney	Gwen Hoehne Doug Sebstead Renie Sebstead
June 25	Judy Hellman	Jenny Case	Linda & Joe Rehorst Samantha Rose	Emil Leppiaho Phyllis Ziemke	Bruce Grundman Lois Kemp Judy Olson

Communion Assistants:

June 4 – Sharyn Gawlick, Ginny Schieck, Bruce Grundman, Gwen Hoehne, and Pennie Linna

June 18 – Laurie Olson, Jean Memken, Phyllis Ziemke, Pat Westphal, and Chuck Baumgartner

Altar Guild: Gwen Hoehne

Dear Children of God,

I am excited to invite you to attend a remarkable day trip to the Native Americans, Oneida Nation Museum (W892 County Rd Ee, De Pere, WI 54115). Prepare to embark on a journey that will immerse us in their rich culture and heritage.

Date: Monday, July 10

Time: 10:00 am

Meeting Point: St. Mark's Lutheran Church

On this unique excursion, we will have the opportunity to learn about the fascinating traditions, customs, and history of the Oneida people. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Dawn Jones or me. We are more than happy to assist you in any way we can.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Sarras

**Save the date for Neenah-Menasha Intertribal Powwow
Saturday, September 16, 2023, 1:00 pm--4:00 pm. Shattuck
Park 240 East Wisconsin Avenue Neenah, WI, 54956.**



Deadline for WELCA Trip extended to June 5— The synod Racial Equity Team and Women of the ELCA are offering a bus trip to attend worship at Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church and visit America's Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee on Sunday, June 11. Cost is \$15 (with a stipend from our Endowment Account if you get your registration to Mary Jane Hartley by June 4. Call the church for more details.

Dear Children of God gathered at St. Mark's Lutheran Church,
Grace and peace to you.

I am writing to express my heartfelt thanks for your incredible fundraising efforts, which raised \$4,717.31 for Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem, Palestine. Your generous support will make a significant impact on the lives of many Palestinian students.

Your donation represents more than just a monetary contribution; it embodies the compassion and solidarity that St. Mark's Lutheran Church holds dear. By supporting educational initiatives in Bethlehem, you are sowing seeds of knowledge, hope, and empowerment in a region that greatly needs it.

The funds raised will enable Dar al-Kalima University to enhance its programs, provide scholarships, and create a nurturing environment for students. Your generosity directly influences the lives of these students, enabling them to pursue their dreams and make positive contributions to their communities. Thank you once again for your remarkable contribution.

May the Lord bless you always, Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarra, Ph.D.



WELCA Spring Event—This is the Holy Land Today

Held at All Saints Lutheran Church in Oshkosh on April 15th

Twelve women from St. Mark's attended the event. On brother in Christ, Jerry (Pastor's friend) attended.

Pastor Niveen led the worship service. She also shared about the Holy Land trip coming up next year.

Box lunches from Jimmy John's were provided with event registration.

Mary Volkman from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church shared about her trip to the Holy Land. She had a slide show as part of her presentation. —
by Jenny Case

Used Medical Equipment Needed

The Lions Clubs of the Fox Valley have joined together to open a place that will loan out medical equipment. Late July is our target date to open in Appleton. We need to gather gently used and clean medical equipment listed below.

-Wheelchairs -Rollators -Gait Belts -Walkers -Ice Machines -Grabbers

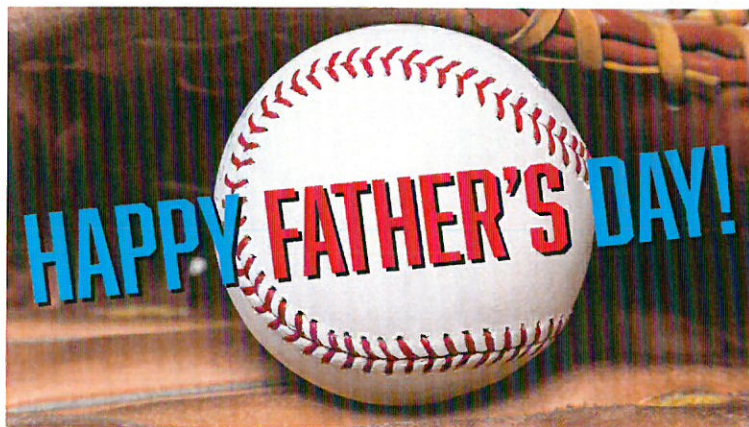
-Canes -Travel Chairs -Crutches -Toilet Risers/Commodes -Bed Rails

-Knee Scooters -Transfer Benches -Shoe Horns -Incontinence Supplies

**Bring to 312 W. Northland Avenue, Appleton
BETWEEN 8 am and 2 pm on Saturday, June 17**

An Idea from Sam Rainer

"Concerning your unchurched neighbors: Surprisingly, many people who are not currently attending a church are receptive to going. The reason they do not come is that they have yet to be invited. If invited and accompanied, 82% of the unchurched are open to attending church with a friend or acquaintance."



WANT TO TAKE A ROAD TRIP?

Who: All St. Mark's members and their friends

What: Day trip to Door County

When: Wednesday, June 28, 2023, leaving the church at 8:30 am, returning around 7:00 pm

Where: Sister Bay — Door County

We will carpool to Sister Bay (we need drivers—5 to a car—we will share the cost of the gas).

We will start at Al Johnson's Restaurant for a lunch or brunch. Cost is approximately \$12-\$20.

We will visit the shops in Sister Bay and the attractions in the area. There are lots of things to do.

We will stop for ice cream on our way home.

Sign up sheet on the table in the narthex. Deadline is June 18th.

Questions: Call Mary Jane at: 820-210-3587



May—A Month of Celebrations!

Every Sunday in May was a chance to celebrate at St. Mark's. Here's a recap!



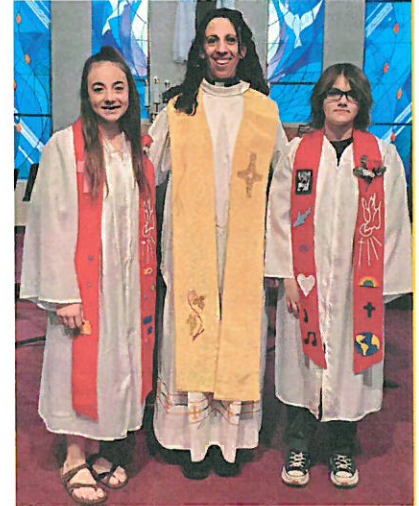
On May 7th we honored Fern Furhrmann, our Financial Secretary for the past 24 years. Fern is now retiring, although we will still get to see her here at St. Mark's for Sunday worship. Thank you, Fern, for your service to St. Mark's! We appreciate all you have done for our church.



On May 14th, we celebrated the baptism of Ariana Hopkins and the confirmation of both Ariana and Hailie Anderson. It was a glorious service and fun celebration during our Fellowship Hour.



May 14th was also Mother's Day, and so each woman in the congregation got a flower, compliments of the Worship and Music Ministry Team.



And then on May 21, we honored our high school and college graduates with a special presentation during the worship service and a beautiful litany of graduation. Graduating this year were Kayla Kersten and Mitchell Krueger from Neenah High School, Jenny Blank from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, Noah Kersten from University of Wisconsin—Green Bay, Jonathan Rogers from the University of Kansas and Alex Ziemke from James Madison University. And again during the Fellowship Hour, we had a special cake in honor of our graduates.

May 28th was Pentecost Sunday when we celebrated the birthday of the church at a joyous service of worship and praise. And at the Fellowship Hour, we had a beautiful cake in celebration of the Memorial Day Weekend, along with fresh fruit and nuts, thanks to Linda Anderson and Mary Jane Hartley.



Thanks to everyone who made these events so special for all of the members of St. Mark's! Congratulations to all the honorees!



Sunday, May 14th was the last day of Sunday School for this term. Here's a picture of the children and our Sunday School staff. We started the year with just 5 students, but we have grown and hope to have even more when Sunday School resumes in the fall.



VBS **FREE**

OPERATION RESTORATION
MENDING GOD'S WORLD

Open to age 3 thru 5th grade

A restoration theme that inspires everyone to be menders of God's world. Daily themes kids understand: feed, heal, forgive, pray, & rest.

July 31 - August 3, 2023
9:00 am - Noon Early drop-off will be available beginning at 7:30 AM

HOST SITE: St. Mark's Lutheran
140 S. GREEN BAY RD., NEENAH

Snacks & drinks will be provided.

Sign up to attend or volunteer by contacting the church office at 920-725-2828
office@stmarksneenah.org

VBS Plans Progressing

The VBS Planning Committee has been busy putting together the schedule and activities for VBS this year. Now we need some of you to help out as well. Here's what you can do:

1. Come to our next planning meeting on June 5th at 6:30 pm at St. Mark's. We will be meeting with representatives of all the churches in Neenah and we need people to help plan the various activities that will take place each day.
2. Sign up to be a volunteer. We will need people at all the different stations (science, service, art, storytelling) to help. We also need snack volunteers and supervisors. There's something for everyone to do.
3. Look for items to donate. We will have a list of supplies we will need for VBS coming soon. Sign-up to donate small items that will be used to teach the children each day.
4. Sign up your kids and grandkids. Tell your friends and neighbors about it.
5. Come and have fun!

ATTENTION PIE BAKERS:



Pie Donations Needed for the Pie & Ice Cream Social at Linwood Community.

We'd love to have you donate a pie or two or ten to the 2023 Pie and Ice Cream Social Fundraiser at Linwood Community. Any Flavor! These pies will be sold during the event on Sunday, June 25th. For more information, check out the flyer in the church narthex.

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS:

There will be two work days at Linwood this month. Please help them out if you can.

June 6 (9:00-4:00) Construction projects.

June 10 (9:00-4:00) Painting, building planters and benches and other projects

You can also volunteer to teach an art class, serve a luncheon, or small music ensembles.

Check out the flyer in the narthex!

FILTHY FUN KIDS RUN



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

Held on Saturday, July 15

O'Hauser Park, Neenah

7:00 am—Noon

Great Opportunity to be of service to the Neenah Community and to HAVE FUN!

15-20 Volunteers Needed

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

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes Hold Annual Meeting

The Fox Valley Lutheran Homes annual meeting was held on Saturday, April 29. It started with a welcome and introductions. Then Pastor Amy Engebose from St. Paul's, Neenah, delivered a short inspirational devotion and prayer. Following that was a very short review and approval of the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes.

Committee reports were presented and accepted. Three new board members were elected. A promotional video about Linwood Community was shown. It can be accessed by going to the Linwood Community website (fvlhomes.org). It featured interviews of the residents, and an overview of the facilities.

Donors and volunteers of the year were recognized and received beautiful mum flowers. Pastor Dan and Becky Luett gave a special presentation. Thank yous were given to Dawn Jones, Jody Tews, Pastor Leon Knitt, and Pastor Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer for serving on the board. Next, the 2023 priorities and action plans were highlighted and the 3-5 year Strategic Plan was reviewed. The meeting ended with a prayer.

Highlights:

Dawn Jones served 6 years on the board.

Trying to fill a part-time Wellness Coordinator Position.

Received a grant from the ELCA Elderly Endowment Fund.

Summer concert dates set.

They have a lending library for their tenants and accept book donations.

There will be 13 board members in 2023.

By Jenny Case

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

140 S. Green Bay Road

Neenah, WI 54956



June 2023

June 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 28	29	30	31	Jun 1	2	3
					7:00pm AA - Mary Room	5:00am Islamic Center Fellowship (Neenah Islamic Center)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00am Bible Class (Lounge) 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship	6:00pm ESTHER (Fellowship) 6:00pm OA (Mary Room) 6:30pm Property Ministry Team 6:30pm VBS Planning	7:00pm AA (Mary Room) 7:00pm SAA (Lounge)	9:00am Food Pantry		7:00pm AA - Mary Room	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00am Bible Class (Lounge) 10:00am Worship 11:00am St. Gabriel walk 11:00am Fellowship	6:30pm Social Ministry Team (Library)	11:30am Community Table (St. Paul's) 7:00pm AA (Mary Room) 7:00pm SAA (Lounge)	9:00am Food Pantry	1:30pm Lydia Circle 6:30pm Church Council (Mary Room)	7:00pm AA - Mary Room	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:00am 9:00am Bible Class (Lounge) 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am 11:00am 7:00pm Neenah	10:30am Worship and Music (Mary Room)	Confirmation Camp (Pine Lake Camp)			8:30am 7:00pm AA - Mary Room	
25	26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1
9:00am Bible Class (Lounge) 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Fellowship (Fellowship)	1:00pm Connections (Fellowship Hall)	7:00pm AA (Mary Room) 7:00pm SAA (Lounge)	Trip to Door County (Sister Bay) 9:00am Food Pantry		7:00pm AA - Mary Room	

