



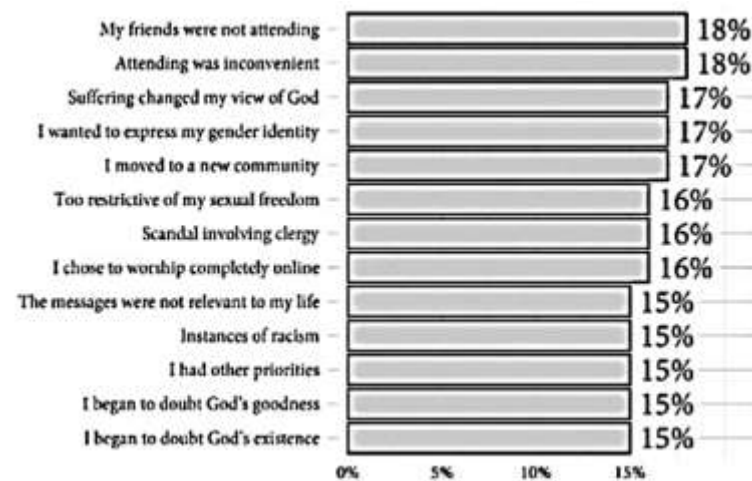
The Messenger

October 2023

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

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

In this article, I will continue to summarize the exciting book, *The Great Dechurching: Who's Leaving, Why Are They Going, and What Will It Take to Bring Them Back?* by Jim Davis, Michael Graham, and Ryan P. Burge. I gave you a summary last month of the whole book. In this article, I will talk about Cultural Christians.



Who are the cultural Christians? According to the authors, cultural Christians are still believers, but they left the church for different reasons, that is, dechurched (pg. 42). "Dechurch" means leaving the church altogether.

Cultural Christians often leave the church during their college or early professional years. Why did they leave? See the figure on the left (pg. 49).

In chapter four, the authors focused on the culturally dechurched Christians in Mainstream Evangelicals (DMEs). They found in their survey that they "are slightly younger than churched mainstream

evangelicals (CMEs), with an average age of 40 compared to age 50 among those still churched" (pg. 57).

According to the survey, the dechurched are, on average, 40 years old, and dropped out of the church during the COVID-19 pandemic. Data shows that 61% of this group is female with higher incomes and education levels. (pg. 60 -61).

In chapter five, the authors discuss the Exvangelicals (exit evangelicals).

People who fit this profile comprise 17 percent of dechurched evangelicals in the survey. They have purposefully left evangelicalism and no intention to return (pg. 68-69). However, 70% of them affirm the orthodox faith—believing in the doctrine laid out in the Nicene Creed (pg. 71) and are willing to return to different church traditions, but not evangelical. The authors describe them as dechurched casualties because they experienced trauma at church. "According to the study, exvangelicals are 82 percent white, 13 percent Black, and 2 percent Hispanic" (pg. 69). Their political affiliation is center-left, and they primarily trust broadcast news (pg. 70). "Exvangelicals have particularly low confidence in the public education system (27%), criminal justice system (25%), big technology companies (22%), US Congress (20%), newspapers (18%), and Wall Street (16%)" (pg. 73). Exvangelicals also struggle with the political partisanship found in many evangelical churches today. What do they need? The survey found that the exvangelicals need a nonpartisan and healthy church community consistent in their ethics (pg. 75).



(Continued on Page 2)

Pastor's Ponderings

(Continued from Page 1)

In chapter six, the authors discuss the BIPOC, which stands for "Black, indigenous, and people of color." This group is 100 percent non-white (pg. 84). The data found that the dechurched BIPOC are highly educated, affluent, and relatively unorthodox (pg. 88-89). The group is 68% male and 32% female (pg. 85). The survey found that they slightly support Christian nationalism, 55% support Trump, 57% support the January 6 riot, 52% support Russia's military operation in Ukraine" (pg. 87).

They reported leaving the church around age (13–17) or (18–25) because of their school or profession. Unfortunately, parents play a more negative role in the dechurched BIPOC's decision to dechurch. The figure to the right explains the reasons (p. 92).

The reason for the dechurched BIPOC to return to church is related to a strong and established relationship with friends and loved ones (pg. 94). They need a church that is willing to put political partisanship aside and build a healthy relationship with them (pg. 95).



In chapter seven, the authors discuss the Dechurched Mainline and Catholic. The authors found remarkable similarities between dechurched mainline Protestants and Catholics. The data found that gender was the most significant difference between the two groups—48% dechurched Catholic females compared to 68% dechurched mainline females (pg. 104). Politically speaking, the data found that the Catholics were less supportive of Donald Trump than the mainline dechurched (pg. 105). "Dechurched Catholics were more likely to cite political friction, misogyny, and desiring more sexual freedom as reasons why they dechurched than the dechurched mainline group (Ibid).

The data also found that 15% of the mainline believe that the Bible is the literal word of God compared to 13% of Catholics (pg.106). Many of both groups are against "Christian nationalism, Donald Trump, the Capitol riots of January 6, 2021, racism, and misogyny." Only 21% of these groups favor Fox News and 13 % CNN (pg. 107). The reasons for these two groups leaving the church are related to politics, belief, lack of time, and life change. The dechurched mainliners and Catholics state that they would be willing to return to the church if the church is willing to do real good work in the community. The authors explain that it is difficult to minister to this group. It requires years of consistent and patient relationships to bring them back to church (114).

To be continued . . .

Yours in Christ,

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

Christian nationalism, a belief that the United States was founded as a white, Christian nation and that there is no separation between church and state.



Thank you very much for the wonderful donations to the Food Pantry as part of the "God's Work. Our Hands." program. We have been very busy with many cars lined up well before we even open. In August we had 61 people shopping to feed 179 family members. We are very happy to be able to help them. We are always in need of paper products, bar, laundry and dish soap as well as sweet cereal and jam. We are very grateful for all your help. Thanks.—Karen Jordan



Sunday School started off on a good note. We had six students and their families there. We talked about the year ahead and tied four blankets. It was a little challenging because some couldn't tie very well but the blankets turned out great. I am sure the people in the NICU will love them. Thank you for all the families that came. We enjoyed some juice and treats after we were done tying the blankets. We look forward to a very good year. If anyone is interested in helping out in the classroom or even teaching, we could use some help in

both areas. Contact Gwen Hoehne if interested. We have Sunday School every other Sunday and it starts at 9:00 to 9:45. If there are any students that didn't come, please come join us on Sunday mornings. Ages three to Grade 5.



BIRTHDAYS

Henley Biese 10-2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

With God's Blessings,
Gwen Hoehne
Sunday School Superintendent



Community Christmas Party, Blankets, and the Basket Raffle

Save the Date! - For the past 15 years, area churches have joined together to provide a hot meal/companionship for local residents in need. This year's Community Christmas Dinner will be held Saturday, December 9th, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Neenah. We are presently collecting 150 pairs of adult socks for men/women. A tub will be placed outside the church office for these. The socks will be placed with donations from other churches and given out that day. As the date gets closer, we will be asking for volunteers to help out at St. Paul's, deliver meals, etc.

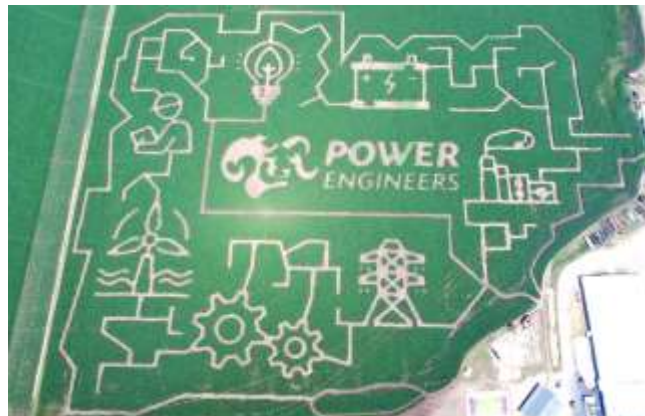


Thank You to everyone who helped tie the Fleece Blankets. These blankets will help precious babies in the NIC unit the protection from the overhead lights they need for their bodies to get stronger. Once they leave the unit the blanket goes home with them Blessed with the Love/Prayers from St. Mark's.

Annual Basket Raffle - Time to get your creative ideas going. We are looking at ticket sales to start mid-November. More information to follow next month.—*Donna Joachim*

Synod Youth Activity—Corn Maze at Stevens Point on October 14

We will be joining other youth and leaders from across the Synod for the day of fall fun! **Please meet at St. Mark's at 8:00 AM.** The church will provide lunch and pay the entry fee to the maze. There is a farm store on site—bring your own extra money, if you wish to purchase something. Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend but it is not necessary. Rev. Niveen and Sherri Denney will be drivers and accompany the youth on the field trip. If your children need transportation, there is a form that you need to fill out. Check with pastor. To the right is this year's maze!



ST. MARK'S
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
September 21, 2023

Present: Pennie Linna, Jason Blank, Dawn Jones, Laurie Olson, Sherri Denny, Kim Wallmuller, Jenny Case, and Pastor Niveen

Not Present: Ryan Blank

Call to Order by President Pennie Linna at 6:30 PM.

Devotions: Jenny Case led devotions. Jason Blank will lead devotions in October

Thank Yous: Thank you to John and Laurie for picking up pumpkins. Thank you to Mary Jane for setting up the baseball game.

Approval of Minutes: There has been a change to the schedule of Prison ministry. They meet here the 3rd Tuesday of the month.
MSC to approve revised September 21 minutes Dawn Jones/Sherri Denney

Financial Report: Laurie shared current balances and highlights.

August was a low month for incoming money toward budget. The SCRIP account was a problem with some individuals behind in SCRIP payment. **MSC to accept Financials Jason Blank/Pastor Niveen**

Pastor's Report ~ Submitted by Pastor Niveen Sarra

Dear Church Council Members,

Grace and peace to you.

I want to share with you a summary of my recent pastoral activities and engagements:

1. ****August 13 & 20:**** I had the privilege of attending two meetings with ELCA pastors and our St. Mark's youth and family members to discuss the upcoming youth gathering in New Orleans next summer. It was an opportunity for us to plan and coordinate for this exciting event.
2. ****September 3:**** We had a joint service with the ELCA Neenah churches, and I am delighted to report that 45 worshipers from St. Mark's joined in. The feedback from this gathering was truly heartwarming and encouraging.
3. ****September 10:**** I was honored to preside over Cullen Odekirk's baptism. I met with his parents and godparents to discuss the significance of this sacrament and their spiritual and physical responsibility toward Cullen.
4. ****September 7:**** I had a meaningful discussion on "A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America To American Indian And Alaska Native People." Pat Westphal led this discussion on Sunday, Sept. 10.
5. ****September 11:**** I participated in the last Missional Leaders coaching session, which was a valuable opportunity for personal and professional growth.
6. ****September 12:**** I attended colleagues' meeting to discuss the youth gathering planned for next summer. The deadline for submitting participant names is October 14, and I'm pleased to report that two boys and one volunteer from our congregation have expressed interest. Our Savior Lutheran Church will handle the registration process. Additionally, we discussed the Thanksgiving worship service that will take place at St. Mark's.
7. ****September 14:**** I attended the Appleton Conference Meeting held at St. Paul. I also showed the ELCA documentary "Native Nations: Standing Together for Civil Rights." This documentary shows how our church, the ELCA, accompanies our Native American siblings to pursue justice and equality. After watching the documentary, we engaged in meaningful discussion on how Saint Mark's can move forward in understanding and building relationships with our Native American siblings.



8. **September 16:** I attended the Reconciling in Christ Collaboration Day for Congregation Leaders. This program, in place since 1983, is dedicated to ensuring the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the Lutheran church. My attendance was for educational purposes, and I want to emphasize that I do not intend to push St. Mark's in any specific direction regarding RIC.

9. **September 22-23:** I will attend a task force meeting at the ELCA church-wide office in Chicago. The focus of this meeting is to discuss the social statement on civic and faith, reflecting on our role as a faith community in the broader societal context.

10. Lastly, I am currently working closely with Judy Olson and Alan Tegelman to prepare for their wedding service, which is scheduled for September 30. It's a joyous occasion, and I am honored to be a part of it.

11. **October 22, 2023:** Rev. Jon Gallatin from Gloria Dei invited us to team up with his church and maybe other Neenah ELCA churches to have a trunk or treat event at his church on Sunday, October 22, 2023, 1-2:30 pm.

What is Trunk-or-Treat?

Consider this a cool twist on old-fashioned trick-or-treating. A group of cars with elaborately decorated trunks gathers in a parking lot, and kids go from car to car for treats, games, and other Halloween fun. St. Mark's members are invited to decorate a car or simply show up and trick or treat. All ages are welcome to participate.

The ELCA churches and Presbyterian church of Neenah have been invited to share in the Thanksgiving service. Pastor will invite the Methodist church to join. The service will be here at St. Mark's

October 1 will be New Members Sunday.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in the life of our congregation. Your dedication to our church is what makes St. Mark's such a vibrant and welcoming place.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarra, Ph.D.

MSC to accept Pastor's report Laurie Olson/Sherri Denney.

Ministry Team Reports:

Worship and Music Ministry Team—August 21, 2023 ~ Submitted by Judy Hellman

The Worship and Music Ministry Team met on Monday, August 21st. Members present were Lois Hill, Mary Ellen Tracey, Jenny Cse, Joy Case, Betty Linna, Ardys Seelow, Pastor Niveen, and Judy Hellman.

Jenny Case gave devotions for this month. Pat Westphal volunteered for devotions in September.

Pastor Niveen presented the themes for the services in September. There will be a joint service at Riverside Park at 9:30 am on September 3rd. "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday is September 10th. A special "Healing of the Nations" service will take place on September 17th. On September 24th, there will be a Healing Service.

Pat Westphal will draft a letter of thanks that will be sent to all the people who donated to the purchase of our clavinova. Our new clavinova is scheduled to arrive August 23rd.

Betty Linna presented information for ordering some new paraments, white burse and veil, and a blue stole. More information will be needed before we purchase the paraments. However, the blue stole and the white veil and burse will be purchased now.

Our next meeting will be Monday, September 25th at 10:30 am.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Pat Wenzel
Ellen LaMarche
Sarah
Doug Bedor
Mary & Ron Zalewski
Richie Sczerzen
Walt Ziemke
Richie Sczerzen
Paul, Cousin of Pastor Barb

Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team—September 19, 2023 ~ Submitted by Laurie Olson

Members Present: Treasurer Laurie Olson, Pennie Linna, Financial Secretary Pat Westphal, Mary Jane Hartley, and Fern Fuhrmann.

Members Absent: Pastor Niveen and Evie Peterson

Opened with a Prayer.

Reviewed current account balances through end of August 2023. August's giving was \$10,932.70 and expenses were \$13,825.29. Difference was -\$2,892.59.

Total Associated Bank checking has a balance of \$186,193.27 which includes \$69,292.64 allocated to designated accounts and \$116,900.63 for current operating. Additionally, \$156,462.58 in the Thrivent money market and \$1,039.52 in Thrivent TIPS account and \$54,261.65 in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Year-to-date for current operating: Giving = \$113,303.87 and Expenses=\$110,656.73. Difference=\$2,647.14.

It was again noted that the SCRIP program procedures for handling the payments and allocation of those dollars continue to be reviewed. Some past accounting errors have resulted in numerous journal entry corrections in both the revenue and expense side of SCRIP.

Mary Jane and Laurie will be meeting with Associated Bank and Thrivent to change authorizations credentials for accessing accounts.

Third quarter statements will go out in early October.

The Ministry Team continued with a discussion of 2023 Stewardship program; ***Down, In, & Out.***

Reviewed Stewardship Campaign letter. It was noted that Fern's name was listed and Pennie noted that she revised the theme graphic into a cross. Pennie will send Laurie the graphic, so she can update the letter.

October 8th

The flashlights have been purchased.

Mary Jane will purchase 4 dz. AA batteries for the flashlights.

Pennie will do a brief introduction on the Stewardship program at the beginning of worship. Mary Jane will ensure the lights are shut off during prayer & children's sermon (by informing ushers or doing it herself).

Laurie is working on the person for the temple talk.

October 15

Laurie will make copies of the "Personal Money Autobiography", which will be distributed as people leave worship.

Big Check picture needs to be taken in early October and ready for this date.

Pennie will work on the PowerPoint presentation (for the offertory time) and send to Laurie.

Mykayla Tharp agreed to record herself-temple talk. Voice-over the slides.

October 22

Mary Jane has names to contact for temple talks.

We will have paper ready to distribute for people to write down their privileges both physical (clean water, safe neighborhood, shelter, food) & social (race, gender, ethnic, cultural) that they experience. Need the cross from basement in narthex- people will post these on the cross on their way out of worship.

Ministry Team will discuss Oct. 29, Nov. 5 and 12 worship dates at their Oct. meeting.

Closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Connections Ministry Team—September 19, 2023 ~ Submitted by Mary Jane Hartley

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

Old Business:

1. The Timber Rattlers game was a success. We had 22 attend, were given out Bobble Head toys, the theme was German Fest, music was enjoyed, good food and drinks, Timber Rattlers won and fireworks. Hope to attend next year.
2. Pow Wow at Shattuck Park was enjoyed and learned a little about the Native American Community. Sharyn did join the circle dance and won a prize.
3. Prepared the newcomer packets and have them available.

4. Our trip to Door County is September 27, 2023 which is next Wednesday. There are 3 places open. We plan to car pool and be at church at 8:00 am. We will do a Trolley ride and that cost is \$28.00. Call the office or let Pat or Mary Jane know you are interested.
5. We have cleaned out the cabinets in the Library room.

MSC to accept Sherri Denney/Kim Wallmuller

Unfinished Business:

- Digital Sign and previous sign update: the sign is up and the old sign is placed where it will be mounted. Laurie, Jean, and Pat Westphall have been trained to program the sign. Discussion of blessing of the sign. The Property committee will mount the old sign.
- Sound System Update: We have an order in for a new mixer. The old one does not have the capacity to manage our current sound needs. We are currently using a loaner from audio/visual company assisting us.
- Live Streaming Update: Live streaming is still down. Our technology person has been trouble shooting, but we are unable to use our camera & streaming service. Handheld phone streaming will continue..
- Small Group Gathering: We have 2 more small groups; Sept 25 and Oct. 3.

New Business Items

- ESTHER ad and basket donation: ESTHER has reached out for a donation to place an ad in their booklet for the annual banquet. It is recommended to use funds from the council discretionary fund. **MSC to take the money from the council discretionary fund. Sherri Denney/Jason Blank.** The council has acknowledged a group will donate a basket in the name of St Marks
- Digital Sign Policy: A policy will be developed and brought back to council for their approval at the October, 2023 meeting.
- Pumpkin Sales and Recipient: **MSC to approve the sale of pumpkins and the proceeds go toward the National Youth Gathering. Sherri Denney/Dawn Jones**
- Narrative Budgeting: Finance Ministry Team will be developing a narrative budget for 2024. Teams will be ask to write a narrative of how money is used-impact of the ministries. This will give the congregation a picture of what the use of their money looks like. Finance and Stewardship will find examples to share with Ministry Teams. There will be more to come.

It was noted that we had a record number of people/families come in for the food pantry.

Adjourn: **MSC to adjourn and share the Lord's Prayer at 7:17 by Jason Blank/Kim Wallmuller**

Next Meeting: October 19th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Jones, Secretary



When: Sunday, October 22, 2023
Time: 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Where: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Parking Lot,
1140 Tullar Road, Neenah
Sponsored by: All the Neenah ELCA churches

***Bring a non-perishable food item for St. Mark's Food Pantry**

All are invited to wear costumes and trick or treat while viewing the decorated cars.

For more information or to reserve a spot for your decorated vehicle, contact office@gloriadeilc.org or 920-725-6822.



CROSSWAYS
CAMPING MINISTRIES

Crossways Bible Campers

The Mission of the Month for October is our own Bible Campers. Mark "missions" on your giving envelope or denote a gift to Mission of the Month with your Vanco electronic giving.

Crossways Camping Ministries has three camps in Wisconsin: Pine Lake in Waupaca, Imago Dei Village in Clintonville, and Way Post in Hatley. Our youth usually attend Pine Lake in Waupaca. Crossways Mission Statement is: *Bringing People together in Christ so lives are changed and Communities enhanced.*

This year we were able to support several camping opportunities including winter camp and Confirmation camp.

Last year was the first year in quite a while that we were able to fundraise for our campers with the Basket Raffle. The only other fundraiser has been candy bar sales in the church office (We still have a few left! Only \$1.50!). Please consider making a donation so our young people can experience camp in the years ahead.

Our Sunday Servants

Date	Assisting Minister	Reader	Greeters	Ushers	Counters	Acolyte
October 1	Sherri Denney	LaVerne Arndt	Pay Thompson Phyllis Ziemke	Joy and Jenny Case	Jeff Tharp Kim Wallmuller Pat Westphal	Lily Anderson
October 8	Bruce Grundman	Jenny Case	Linda Anderson LaVerne Arndt	Tom Wenzel Doug Hesser	Jane Arps Ellen LaMarche Emil Leppiaho	Leland Tharp
October 15	Judy Hellman	Sherri Denney	Chuck Baumgartner Jean Memken	Betty Linna Pennie Linna	Gwen Hoehne Doug Sebestead Renie Sebestead	Braydin Messing
October 22	Jean Memken	Jeff Tharp	The Blank Family	Rose Cermak Sherri Denney	Bruce Grundman Lois Kemp Judy Tegelman	Sophia Kersten
October 29	Tom Wenzel	Gwen Hoehne	Karen Jordan Nancy Bricco	Doug Sebestead Nancy Bricco	Laurie Olson Dawn Jones Judie Hilliker	J.T. Rose

Communion Assistants:

October 1 — Chuck Baumbartner, Sherri Denney, Sharyn Gawlick, Bruce Grundman, Mary Jane Hartley

October 15 — Judy Hellman, Gwen Hoehne, Pennie Linna

Altar Guild: Gwen Hoehne



Racial Equity Book Review

Non-Fiction—The Lemon Tree by Sandy Tolan

This is one of many books on our book cart.

Read about the human dimensional story about an Arab and a Jew who can continue a four decade friendship that began in 1967. Struggles of Holocaust survivor and Palestinian exile find their much needed ray of hope. Find out what the Lemon Tree stands for. This is such an appropriate read, especially at this time. It opened my eyes. Enjoy as I did.

—Sharyn Gawlick



WOW!

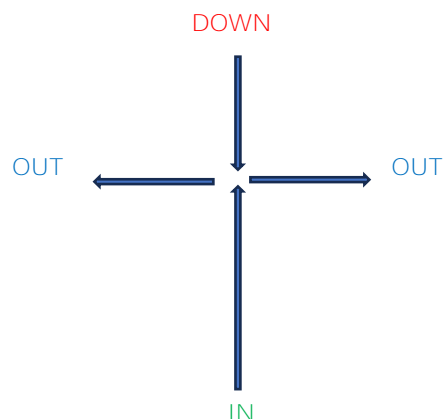
Our new has finally been installed, and it is beautiful. We have already seen its impact as more people are calling our office to ask about the activities we have displayed on the sign. Pat Westphal, Laurie Olson, and Jean Memken have been trained to operate it, and currently there are guidelines being written to govern its use.

We are all grateful to Ellen LaMarche for making this new sign a reality for our church. Thank you, Ellen!





Down, In & Out



Down: How has God come down to me/us?

In: With what talents, time, or treasures has God entrusted me/us to do His will?

Out: We look out to see the needs of neighbors near and far.

Each Sunday from October 8-November 12, 2023, we will focus on different topics related to stewardship.

Stewardship Sunday will be November 12. We will celebrate by hosting a fish fry and macaroni & cheese meal during Fellowship Hour. Watch for your letter, Intent Card and Ministry Gift form in the mail the week of October 23rd.

A Great Day for a Road Trip!

We couldn't have asked for a better day for our trip to Door County. It was a little gray and rainy when we left the church parking lot at 8:00 am last Wednesday, but by the time we reached our destination, the temperature was perfect and there was no rain. By the afternoon, we saw the sun, and it made our surroundings all the more beautiful. We weren't able to eat at Al Johnson's, but we did see the goats, and then we made our way to some of the many great restaurants in the area for brunch.

Around noon, we boarded a trolley for a fantastic tour of the area. Our tour guide was a Door County native, and he was amazing, telling us many stories of local lore and all about history of the various towns in Door County. He also informed us that they have ghost tours and a new "crime scene" tour that he developed.

Following the trolley tour, we went to Lauterbach's orchards and winery and indulged in some wine tasting and shopping at their market. Then we parted company and pursued individual interests, including shopping, cheese tasting, and climbing the eagle's tower in Peninsula Park.

We are definitely planning a return trip to Door County in the future and we thank Pat Westphal for all the planning she did to make the day such a wonderful experience!

If you have ideas of places to go or things to do that you think might make a good road trip or activity for our members, please share them with Pat or Jean in the church office.—Jean Memken



Our travel group! Front row (from left): Pastor Niveen, Mary Jane Hartley, Lorrie Wood, Betty Linnea, and Jenny Case.

Back row: Lois Hill, Jerry Nickolai, Judy Nickolai, Linda Anderson, Jean Memken, Judy Hellman, Wanda Webster, Rose Cermak, Joy Case, Ginny Schieck, Pennie Linna, and Pat Westphal.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

140 S. Green Bay Rd.

920-725-2828

office@stmarksneenah.org



FREE Workshops For All!

Thursday Oct. 12th at 6:00

ELDER ABUSE: Heidi Baseboard from Guardians of Tomorrow will share information about Elder abuse. She will talk about what it is, what signs to look for, and what to do if we suspect abuse.

Thursday Nov. 9th at 6:00

CYBER SECURITY: Adam Clifford, St. Mark's member and IT security expert, will talk about cyber security; online/email scams, safety practices & tips.

Invite friends & family to these valuable sessions. Held at St. Mark's Church. For planning purposes, we are asking you sign up in advance for one or both of the workshops. Sign up at church, call or email the office or use this online link: <https://signup.com/go/BbQhxWC>

WELCA News

On Saturday October 21, the Women of the ELCA are invited to share in the 20th Biennial Convention for a day of worship, workshops, fellowship, and a business meeting at St. John Lutheran Church in De Pere, Wisconsin. St. Mark's is responsible for providing breakfast. We really need volunteers to help set out the food for light continental breakfast in the morning (no prep required, that's taken care of already) Please check with Jean Memken if you are interested in serving the breakfast and cleaning up afterward. The program is related to social justice and the two speakers are excellent. You will enjoy their presentations! Lunch will be served. If you are interested in going, let Mary Jane Hartley know and get your registration in soon. Forms are in the church narthex or register online at:



<https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/7696886>

Linwood House News

The last of the three summer concerts at Linwood House was on September 24. The attendees enjoyed the nice sunny weather and listening to the Voices of Peace Gospel Group. Three women from St. Mark's attended the concert. Leaders from the Linwood community thanked St. Mark's many times for sponsoring the summer concert series—*Jenny Case*

Linwood house is once again looking for items and experiences for our upcoming Online Auction to be held on October 20-30.

Some ideas would be a gift basket, vacation home or cabin stay, gift certificates or tickets to local events, handiwork or original artwork.

If you are interested in donating an item or experience, please contact Lynn Ann at 920-734-7225 or by email at lynnann.fvlhomes@gmail.com.



What a great morning of worship and fellowship we experienced on Labor Day weekend when members of the four Neenah ELCA churches gathered for worship at Riverside Park. Pastor Jon from Our Savior's led the music during the service. The other four pastors officiated the service and can be seen in the picture above distributing communion. After the service was a time of fellowship—and the predicted extreme heat stayed away until we were just getting ready to leave! In all, it was a beautiful Sunday morning blessed by God in every way!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

140 S. Green Bay Road

Neenah, WI 54956

