



The Messenger

May 2024

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

When Salvation Through Faith is Not Enough

Dear children of God gathered as St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

"Grace be with you all" (1 Timothy 6:21).

As we observe Mental Health Awareness Month in May, I reflect on a sermon I once heard from an ELCA pastor. They proclaimed, "If we are in a good relationship with God, we will not be depressed." This statement struck me profoundly and made me reevaluate my relationship with God in Jesus. I was going through a tough time and transition in my life. Away from my family, friends, and familiar surroundings, I found myself in a new town in California for my internship, grappling with the weight of isolation and uncertainty. Financial constraints made seeking professional help seem out of reach. Hearing this pastor's statement made me feel that I am not in a good relationship with God, and so I need to be closer to God to free myself from anxiety. Through prayers and meditation, my cortisol dropped. However, the grip of anxiety persisted, impacting both my emotional well-being and physical health.



With the stability of a steady income, I sought medical support, finally accessing the prescription and counseling I so desperately needed. Anti-anxiety medication and therapy have helped me. It was a transformative journey, one that taught me a valuable lesson: while faith is a cornerstone of my life, it does not negate the importance of medical intervention in addressing mental health challenges. In other words, "salvation is by grace through faith" (Ephesians 2:8-9), but salvation from anxiety and depression cannot be by faith alone. God provides us with medicine, psychiatry, and psychology therapy to use.

Studies show that pastors experience higher levels of mental and emotional distress than the general population, with elevated rates of depression, anxiety, burnout, and even suicidal thoughts reported across different surveys. My own experiences in ministry only served to underscore this reality, especially amidst the added strain of the COVID-19 pandemic. The mental well-being of pastors impacts not just themselves but also their congregation.

Recently, during a meeting with our executive ministry team, I was encouraged to adopt a healthier work-life balance, a gesture of genuine concern for my well-being. Embracing their guidance, I have committed to taking regular two days off. So, I will try diligently to make Fridays and Saturdays personal time to relax and rejuvenate. Additionally, I plan to allocate Wednesdays for sermon preparation instead of Fridays.

I want to express openly that I take anxiety medication every day and regularly see a therapist. Mental and emotional illness should not remain a stigma. Jesus experienced deep sorrow, Paul grappled with inner conflict, and the Psalms often articulate profound feelings of sorrow, angst, and fear.

Overcoming mental health condition requires more than prayer alone; it demands active faith. Mental illness is not a sign of a lack of faith or a consequence of sins. Just like physical illness, mental and emotional health challenges require professional care.

Finally, God calls the church to practice accompaniment, journeying alongside and fully engaging with all who suffer, including individuals facing mental health challenges. In doing so, we affirm the sacred truth that healing encompasses both the body and the mind.

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

¹<https://gravitycommons.com/pastor-emotional-health/>

Moses Message

Another year of Sunday School is coming to an end. May 5th is our last day of Sunday School. It has been a very good year. We ended up with 11 students this year. Thank you to Jenny Case for teaching. Thank you to all the helpers we had, Nancy Rose, Erin Biese, Jan Bagley and Ginny Schieck. Thank you also to Judy Hellman for leading us in music. I appreciate all the help they did throughout the year, especially on Palm Sunday. It helps us to remember that Jesus had helpers with the disciples to spread his word.

REMINDER: You can sign up for Vacation Bible School that will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on August 5th to the 8th from 9:00 am to Noon. All children who have completed 4-K to fifth Grade can attend. If you can't register on line, call the office.

Thank you, St. Mark's congregation, for all the support you give the Sunday School.

With God's Blessings,

Gwen Hoehne
Superintendent



We Get Mail

*Thanks a bunch!
Thank you for all your
thoughts and prayers
during my recovery.
I really like the afghan
I received from you. It's
very colorful and warm.
I use it everyday!
Susie Brauer*



WE LOVE OUR MOMS!



On May 19, we will recognize our 2024 graduates during the service and fellowship hour. Please plan to stay for cake and take the time to congratulate our graduates and wish them well. If someone in your family is finishing their education, please inform the church office.

The Food Pantry has still been busy, but our numbers are down. In March we had 48 families shopping to feed 138 family members. We are always in need of spam, jam, and laundry and dish soap. Thanks for all your help.

—Karen Jordan



Youth News: Having a Blast at the Lock-In and Rev's



On Friday, April 12, several of our youth made their way to Our Savior's Lutheran Church for a youth lock-in. Both kids and chaperones reported it was a "blast." The pictures to the right show some of the activities the participants enjoyed along with food and games and lots of fellowship.



On Saturday, April 20th, J.T. Rose, Braydin Messing, and Mykayla and Leland Tharp participated in the Youth Bowling at Rev's Bowling in Oshkosh that was sponsored by our Synod. You can see them along with parents Jeff Tharp and Nancy Rose in the picture on the left. It was a lot of fun, according to the youth that went. And from the scoreboard, it looks like Jeff was the big winner, for at least one of the games.

It is great that our youth program is back up and running. Many thanks to Sherri Denny, Ryan Blank, and Laurie Olson for your leadership of this ministry.



Time to Spruce Up!

The Property Ministry Team is planning a morning work day at St. Mark's to spruce up the outside of the building and grounds on May 18th from 8:00 am to noon. Come when you can and stay as long as you like. Please help if you can!



Our Sunday Servants

Date	Assisting Minister	Reader	Greeters	Ushers	Counters	Acolyte
May 5	Pennie Linna	Jane Frantz	Linda Anderson LaVerne Arndt	Bruce Grundman Doug Sebstead	Jeff Tharp Kim Wallmuller Fern Fuhrmann	Braydin Messing
May 12 Mother's Day Confirmation	Jeff Tharp	Tom Frantz	The Blank Family	Ginny Schieck Judy Fowler	Jane Arps Ellen LaMarche Emil Leppiaho Pat Westphal	Leland Tharp
May 19	Tom Wenzel	Emily Christofflis	Nancy Bricco Karen Jordan	Emil Leppiaho Phyllis Ziemke	Gwen Hoehne Doug Sebstead Renie Sebstead	Sophia Kersten
May 26	Pat Westphal	Bruce Grundman	Chuck Baumgartner Rosie Cermak	Sherri Denney Jeff Tharp	Bruce Grundman Lois Kemp Judy Olson Linda Anderson	J.T. Rose

Communion Assistants:

May 5—Gwen Hoehne, Pennie Linna, Jean Memken, Laurie Olson, and Ginny Schieck

May 19—Pat Westphal, Phyllis Ziemke, and Sherri Denney

Altar Guild: Mary Jane Hartley and Jane Hartley



Members Present: Laurie Olson, Ryan Blank, Kim Wallmuller, Jenny Case, Jason Blank, Dawn Jones, and Pennie Linna

Members Excused: Pastor Niveen and Emily Gauthier

Call to Order: Jason call to order at 6:28 pm. Jason started us off as Pennie had a late work commitment.

Devotions: Jenny Case, May devotions: Jason Blank

Welcome to Gwen: Gwen shared information on the upcoming Chili Cook-Off. This will be on 11/5/2024 from 4:00-7:00 pm on election day at Our Savior's. This will be a joint initiative between the four Neenah ELCA churches. Each church is asked to make 6 Nescos of Chili. St Mark's will make 5 plus 1 vegetarian chili. Tickets will be \$5.00 and each ticket will be a vote. There will be several meetings before the event, which Gwen will be attending. Bread, oyster crackers, and saltines will also be available. Each church will be asked to provide desserts. Our Savior's has several Nescos, which may be available to us. It was suggested to apply for Thrivent Action Grants, to cover soup supply expenses. Profits will be split between the four churches. We will ask our confirmands to help clear tables.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from March 21, 2024, were reviewed. **MSC to accept the minutes Dawn Jones/ Kim Wallmuller.**

Thank-you notes: Thank you to confirmands who helped with Lent, Jean for the lovely banners for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Laurie will send confirmands and Dawn will send a thank you to Jean.

Financial Report: Laurie reviewed current account balances through the end of March 2024. March's giving to current monthly expenses was \$18,247.05 and actual expenses were \$16,560.91. The difference was \$1,686.14. Year to date (end of March) giving was \$44,526.90 and expenses were \$39,899.36 with a difference (giving minus spending) of \$4,627.54.

Total Associated Bank checking has a balance of \$187,970.05 which includes \$72,662.85 allocated to designated accounts and \$115,307.20 for current operating. Additionally, \$162,426.68 in the Thrivent money market and \$1,023.85 in Thrivent TIPS account and \$55,544.29 in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. **MSC Jason Blank/Dawn Jones to accept the Financial Report.**

Pastor's Report ~ Pastor Niveen Sarras

Dear Church Council,

"Grace be with you all" (1 Timothy 6:21).

As we reflect on the events of March and April, we are filled with gratitude for the abundant presence of the Holy Spirit in our church community. Throughout Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter, we experienced moments of profound spiritual connection and fellowship.

Palm Sunday marked the beginning of our journey through Holy Week, and it was a joy to witness the active participation of our Confirmation Class and Sunday School in the service. The Sunday School's heartfelt song added to the spirit of celebration, while the Confirmation class demonstrated their dedication by leading worship alongside me during the Holy Week services.

On April 5th, we resumed our Confirmation class sessions, and I took the opportunity to express my appreciation for their commitment by treating them to Dairy Queen and gifting each one of them the first volume of the comic book



"The Chosen." It was a small gesture of gratitude for their significant contributions to our worship during Lent.

Our Good Friday observance was a powerful ecumenical gathering. We joined hands with our Neenah ELCA churches and Faith Methodist Global church to commemorate the crucifixion of our Lord. This collective worship experience highlighted the unity and diversity within the body of Christ.

Easter Sunday was a truly blessed occasion, as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the sacrament of baptism for Leighton and Serenity Joachim, welcoming them into the family of believers. We anticipate another baptism on April 28th, rejoicing in the continual growth of our church family.

In addition to these significant events, I had the privilege of meeting with Dom Christofilis and Emily Gauthier to plan their upcoming wedding service, scheduled for April 20th, 2024. Let us keep them in our prayers as they embark on this sacred journey together.

Our commitment to social justice and community engagement was evident as I participated in the Racial Equity Team meeting, where we discussed plans to commemorate the tragic loss of children in Gaza through special worship services on May 19th. Additionally, I convened with the Worship and Music Ministry Team to discuss incorporating special occasions into our worship services for April and May, such as Earth Day, Pentecost, and Confirmation service.

I also helped at the Community Table on April 9th, demonstrating our church's dedication to serving those in need. Later that day, I participated in discussions with the Communication Audit Team about improving signage on our doors and the content of our bulletins and newsletter.

April also saw moments of mourning, as I officiated over Larry Perkins' memorial service. During these times of grief, we lean on the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit to guide us through.

On a personal note, I am grateful for the opportunity to expand my theological knowledge through the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago's weekly virtual class on "Liturgy and the Natural World." This course has deepened my understanding of the sacramental approach to creation, enriching my ministry and spiritual journey.

Lastly, I had the privilege of visiting several homebound members of our congregation, sharing communion with them and nurturing their spiritual well-being. These intimate moments of connection remind us of the importance of community and fellowship in our faith journey.

In conclusion, I am humbled by the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in our church community throughout March and April. Let us continue to cultivate a spirit of love, unity, and service as we journey together in faith.

Yours in Christ,

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

MSC to accept pastor's report Kim Wallmuller/Laurie Olson.

Ministry Team Reports:

Property Ministry Team—April 1, 2024 ~ Submitted by Jason Blank

Present: Jason Blank, Phyllis Ziemke, and Ginny Schieck

1. Still waiting on parking lot estimate.
2. Still waiting on updated gasket for our leaking dishwasher.
3. We are looking into changing the gas fireplace to electric due to reoccurring issues with our current unit.
4. We began talking about a date for the annual spring cleanup.

Jason shared the 1st estimate for the parking lot was \$129,000.00. Other estimates will be obtained. We are still at the initial stage of evaluating the parking lot repairs and costs. Currently looking for a budget number for next year.



Pat Wenzel
Ellen LaMarche
Sarah L.
Richie Sczerzen
Walt Ziemke
Paul Girod
Doug Bedor
Jordan
Kathy
Sara Forrest
Sherry Winter
Odeh Sarras
Jean Burgess
Jeri Travis

Christian Education Ministry Team—April 7, 2024 ~ Submitted by Gwen Hoehne

Present: Jenny and Joy Case, Sherri Danney, Gwen Hoehne

Opened with prayer

Lessons for rest of year - We will continue with Moses. We have done Baby Moses and burning bush and will work on Parting of the Red Sea on April 21st.

April 21st Special Event - Will do planting for Earth Day in the fellowship hall during Sunday School.

Year End Celebration - Last day of Sunday School is May 5th. Will do a Mother's Day project – play some Bingo – have treats and juice. Will give out their certificates along with a Dairy Queen gift card to all students including the Confirmation students.

Confirmation - Confirmation will be on May 12th. J. T. Rose is the only one being Confirmed. Gwen will order a cake and have a flower for him. Chris Education will also do Fellowship that day. Fruit, cookies and cheese and sausage and crackers. A little nicer since it is Confirmation and Mother's Day.

Vacation Bible School - St. Paul's is hosting VBS this year. It will be August 5th thru 8th. There is a meeting on April 16th at 6:30 pm at St. Paul's if anyone is interested in going.

Other Business – Talked about the number of students next year and about having no new students for Confirmation. Just one for First Communion next year. Will discuss this more when we meet in August after VBS. No date has been set for next meeting just in August.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Social Ministry Team—April 8, 2024 ~ Submitted by Gwen Hoehne

Chairperson: Karen Jordan

Present: Jane Arps, Phyllis Ziemke, Pat Thompson, Kim Wallmuller, Gwen Hoehne

Pat Thompson opened with devotions

1) Discussed Graduation Recognition which is on May 19th. Karen has a notice in the bulletin that if anyone is graduating from high school, college or technical college to contact her. Right now we have 1 High school student and possibly 2 college students. Phyllis will get a cake for fellowship that day.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

NEXT MEETING is May 13th at 6:30 pm.

Racial Equity Ministry Team—April 8, 2024 ~ Submitted by Laurie Olson

Members Present: Pastor Barb, Pat Westphal, Dawn Jones, Mary Jane Hartley, Pastor Niveen, and Laurie Olson

Members Absent: Emily Gauthier

Pastor Barb opened with prayer.

Laurie read the minutes from the March 5, 2024, meeting.

Pastor Barb reported that having a table at the Synod Assembly will not work out.

1st Sunday in May (May 5th) is *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman Day*: A message will be included in the May newsletter, which will be developed by Laurie. Pastor Niveen will include a prayer in the worship Prayers of Intercession.

Pastor Barb thought it would be a good idea to do a book study on “Apeirogon” by Colum McCann. We will discuss at a future meeting.

A new book will be added to the Racial Equity Library called “The Stolen Wealth of Slavery” by David Montero. Laurie will order the book and get it cataloged into the cart system.

May 19 (NAKBA): The team discussed logistics of the handing out of the hearts. Pastors Barb and Niveen will meet to discuss further on the worship service details. After a discussion, it was decided to move the Wall presentation to June 2 during Fellowship, due to May 19 being Pentecost and Celebrating of Graduates. Pastor Barb agreed to preach on June 2. Pat and Laurie will work on the presentation.

Discussed a condensed version (tagline) of St. Mark's Land Acknowledgement Statement. It was decided to go with “St. Mark's is located on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee and Ho-Chuck Nations, the Winnebago.” This should be included in bulletins and the newsletters, on the TV monitor in narthex, on outdoor digital sign, signatures on emails, etc. Eventually, we will include a hot link to the full statement, which will be located on the website. The

Ministry Team walked down to the narthex and looked at an appropriate spot to hang the framed Land Acknowledgement Statement. It was decided to hang it on the wall above the small pew bench {current photo will be moved, to include with the other photos, to the wall next to kitchen}. Pastor Barb will investigate getting a piece of art from the Oneida Museum to hang along side the statement.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is Monday, May 6 at 6:30 pm.

Connections Ministry Team—March 25, 2024 ~ Submitted by Mary Jane Hartley

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

Things we did in February:

- We sponsored a Bingo afternoon on February 19, 2024 and had over 25 attend. Any thought about this?
- We had a Name Tag Sunday, on February 18, 2024.
- All Fellowship Hours for February were covered.
- Sent our ideas our Ministry Time and Committee Booklet to the Church Council.

New Business:

- Neenah Newspaper in the Worship Directory for one year cost of \$250.00.
- Cards for People We Do Not See Very Often" were signed.
- Decided to send cards to three people on the homebound list each month. They will be available in the narthex on Sunday morning for members to sign and write a greeting.

This is a copy of the insert that we put in the cards:

*Though you are not with us in person, you are in our hearts
and prayers.*

*Your presence is missed,
but your faith strengthens our
community from afar.*

*May Gods love surround you,
and may we soon gather
together again in fellowship.*

With love in Christ,

St. Mark's Church Family

- FELLOWSHIP sign up for April just need one date to cover. Donut Holes are a hit.
- Coffee and candy program ideas?
- Earth Day: movie, craft, Bingo, Word Game, and discussion about recycle in the valley—April 15, 2024 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Other Ministry Team News:

Jenny shared Worship and Music is helping with Stewarding God's Creation and Mother's Day Sundays.

Laurie shared money was moved, as planned, to cover technology expenses in the amount of \$1,000 from the City of Neenah Utilities refund. Remaining money from city refund will be moved into Building Fund designated account.

MSC to approve Ministry Team Reports Jason Blank/Dawn Jones.

Unfinished Business:

National Youth gathering Update: No update at this time.

Communication Audit Update: There was a meeting, and the audit has been started. We broke into areas. We will be getting together and making a list of suggestions. Thank you to our new members Tom and Jane Frantz for joining the team.

Church Directory Update: We have a meeting scheduled for May 7th at 6:30 pm.

New Business Items:

Outdoor yard sign policy: A member had a question about yard signs posted by the doors. It was noted that signs up for extended periods lose their effectiveness - message is lost. After a discussion, the council provided guidelines for the office to use, when asked to put up a yard sign and for duration of the sign posting. **MSC to approve the policy Dawn Jones/Jason Blank.**

Guidelines include:

Sign approval authority will be given to Pastor and office staff.

Ensure sign is from an organization we support and are affiliated with, such as ELCA, ECSW, ESTHER, etc.

If the sign is for a specific event (date/time), the sign needs to be removed after the event has been held.

General Signs e.g. support of a cause/agency (no event): sign can be up for 60 days maximum and must then be taken down. Another sign, from the same agency, can go back up after 30 days from the day taken down and it is suggested the message be different from previous sign.

Limited to one sign per organization.

It is the responsibility of the individual who put up the sign to take it down. If this doesn't happen, church staff will remove the sign.

Synod Assembly Service Project: The synod assembly service project will be supporting Crossways Camping Ministries. Each conference (ours is the Appleton Conference) has a different list of in-kind items to purchase, can donate dollars directed to the Crossways Scholarship Fund or give of time at the synod service project table. There is a QR code link to Amazon for a purchase list. After discussion, it was decided to allow our congregation the option to purchase directly through Amazon or include dollars in an envelope (like how we collected money for the Clavinova) and the treasurer will make a purchase from the given list. Laurie will collaborate with Jean to get the provided bulletin insert and envelope in our bulletins. **MSC to approve the support of the Synod assembly service project Laurie Olson/Jenny Case.**

Other Items:

Synod Resolutions were distributed to council members: Pat Westfall and Adam Clifford have summarized the Synod resolutions. Please read and be ready to vote at the next meeting.

Pastor Niveen's Review: the Executive Ministry Team met with Pastor Niveen on April 17 to review the past 1-½ years. Pastor Niveen is incredibly happy with St Mark's and Neenah. We are so very happy to have Pastor Niveen.

MSC by Kim Wallmuller/Jason Blank to adjourn at 7:45 pm.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting : May 16th, 2024, at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Jones, Secretary

Snacks and drinks will be provided

FREE!
OPEN TO CHILDREN WHO COMPLETED 4K THRU 5TH GRADE

Camp Firelight
A SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE WITH GOD
Psalm 56:3

TRUST GOD, FACE FEARS AND DO GREAT THINGS!

August 5-8, 2024
9:00 am - Noon
Host Site: St. Paul Lutheran
(200 N. Commercial Street, Neenah)

REGISTER HERE OR CALL 920-725-3961

SPONSORED BY
GLORIA DEI,
OUR SAVIOR'S,
ST. MARK'S
AND ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN
CHURCHES
ELCA

Who's Ready for VBS?

Get it on your calendar and make plans to attend Vacation Bible School 2024 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Neenah on August 5-8 from 9:00 am to noon. Scan the QR Code on the left to register or go to the following Facebook Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/12kVBF37ea1NtYnG/?mibextid=oFDknk>

Interested in helping this year? You can also find a link to volunteer at the Facebook page listed above. For those who volunteered at St. Mark's last year, you know how much fun it was! Why not do it again this year? We will have a blast!

If you have questions or need help in registering your child/grandchild or signing up to be a volunteer, check with Jean in the church office and she can get you signed up!

MAY 5 is National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

A National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls:

- honors the lives of our Native sisters,
- continues to shed light on the countless tragedies involving our Native sisters,
- highlights the need for ongoing grassroots advocacy and organizing for change of laws, policies, protocols, and allocation of increased resources at the tribal, federal, and state levels to end these injustices, and
- creates the sharing of information needed to understand the legal reforms and changes required.

The current reports of abduction and murder of Native women are alarming and represent one of the most horrific aspects of the spectrum of violence committed against Native women. The murder rate of Native women is more than ten times the national average on some reservations. These disappearances or murders are often connected to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking. It is important to understand the connection between domestic, dating, and sexual violence and the high incidence of missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) in the United States.



In response to the crisis of MMIW, grassroots actions to honor and call for justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women have increasingly grown at the local, regional, national, and international levels. Many of these grassroots efforts have lifted May 5th as a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. May 5th is the birthday of 21-year-old Hanna Harris (*Northern Cheyenne*) who went missing and was found murdered on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in 2013. Since then, Native families, advocates, and Indigenous nations have risen to challenge the silence, tolerance, and inaction in response to the crisis of MMIW. Locally, community searches and actions, tribal press conferences, justice marches continue to draw attention and urgency to the MMIW crisis, reflecting the long-standing call-in holding governments publicly accountable for the perpetrators allowed to prey on Native women with impunity.

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Inc. {NIWRC}, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, 2024, <https://www.niwrc.org>

Submitted by the St. Mark's Racial Equity Ministry Team



Linwood Community Summer Schedule

Make plans to attend (and maybe help with) some of the activities going on at Linwood Community this summer. Here's the line-up:

Sunday, June 23—Pie & Ice Cream Social—10:30 am—2:00 pm—Come and enjoy some pie and ice cream with your friends at Linwood Community. We'd love to have you donate a pie or two if you would like! Any flavor is appreciated! Contact Lynn Ann at lynnann.fvlhomes@gmail.com and let her know if you can help out. Pies need to be delivered on Saturday, June 22, between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon.

Linwood Summer Concert Series

Sunday, July 21—2:00 pm—Talk of the Town, New Orleans Jazz

Sunday, August 11—2:00 pm—Elvis John

Sunday, September 15—2:00 pm—Voices of Peace, Gospel Group





Millions of people in the U.S., many of whom are our neighbors, friends, and family, lack the blessing to access to primary healthcare. This includes those who are uninsured, underinsured, facing language barriers, geographical barriers, cultural barriers, and lack of availability of quality healthcare services. Founded in 2015 and located within the Goodwill Headquarters for NE Wisconsin in Menasha, Hope Clinic and Care Center (HCC) partners with the surrounding communities to provide collaborative wraparound support to over 700 patients annually, each of whom are living at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. The clinic offers primary care, specialty care, labs, medications, counseling, and social assistance referrals and navigation to rent support, utilities, dental, vision, job placement and training, and more.



By addressing the immediate healthcare needs of patients, Hope Clinic helps to break the cycle of poor health and limited access to care and improves the health and quality of life for those who might otherwise go without care. Through meticulous effort, we hope to make a positive impact on the health and well-being of the communities it serves and works to create a more equitable and just future.

Please consider supporting this worthwhile non-profit agency by including a donation in your offering envelope for “Mission of the Month” in May or by making an electronic donation with VANCO.

Let's Bless Camp! Synod Assembly Service Project Details

Following Christ's call to cultivate inclusive communities, equip servant leaders, and create formative faith experiences, the East Central Synod of Wisconsin is enriched and transformed through the mission of our vital mission partner, **Crossways Camping Ministries**.

This year at Synod Assembly, we are rallying support around Imago Dei Village, Pine Lake Camp, and Waypost - and we can't do it without you. First, we invite you to include Crossways in your prayers as we approach the summer season. Please pray specifically for the full time staff, the summer staff, the board of directors, and each camper who will experience faith in community through the ministry of Crossways. Then, help spread the word to share generously!

Each conference will be inspired to give generously based on one of the key values and ministries of Crossways. The Appleton Conference (to which St. Mark's belongs) is focusing on Faith. You can access a detailed wish list of items based on the ministry focus points for Crossways through this link: <https://mailchi.mp/ecsww.org/synod-assembly-9612403>

(Click on the word “Faith” at the top of the conference list next to “Appleton Conference.”) OR scan the QR Code on the right to get to the camp wishlist on Amazon.com.



To Proclaim the Good News of God
in Christ through Word and Deed

Synod Assembly

East Central Synod of Wisconsin
May 17 - 18, 2024

FAITH

Thank you for helping us encourage
each camper to see more clearly
they are a loved child of God.



DONATE



PURCHASE



SERVE



**ST. MARK'S WILL
HAVE A BOOTH!
COME OUT AND GET
SOME TREASURES!**



DATE: Saturday, May 11, 2024

Neenah Pool Parking Lot

TIME: 8:00AM-Noon

600 S. Park Ave.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

VENDOR INFORMATION:

Registered vendors may arrive at 6:30-7:30AM. Vendors will not be permitted after 8:00AM, as all vendors should be in their designated space at that time. The booth spaces are reserved with the intent that your vehicle would occupy one of the two parking spaces allocated, with the second parking space for additional items. Both your vehicle and merchandise must fit within the boundary of your space (2 standard parking spaces). Oversized vehicles, trailers, etc. are not permitted. For pedestrian safety, once your vehicle is in your designated space, it must remain there through the duration of the event. Vendors will be placed upon arrival that morning. Any items not sold must be taken with you.

Dumpsters onsite are for customer and staff use only.

***IMPORTANT:** inclement weather will cancel this event, and we will try our best to reschedule at a later date.

FEE: \$25 Register with Parks & Rec CLASS # 423109-A

***Limit one registration per household**


The Invisible class

A documentary about homelessness all across America, its criminalization, and the devastating impacts of the loss of affordable housing.

FILM SCREENING
Q&A with panelists will follow!

Tuesday, May 7th, 2024

First Congregational UCC Church
724 E. South River Street,
Appleton, WI 54915



Doors Open: 5:30PM
Film Screening: 6PM

Adult Forum Spring Schedule

Join us at 9:00 am in the Lounge on Sunday mornings for Walking with Jesus—a time to gather and study Biblical teachings and how they impact our lives today. This spring, Pat Westphal will present several sessions on “Our Kairos Moment: Earth’s Climate Crisis.” Then on May 19th, we will study the role congregations can play in mental health ministries. There is always a lively discussion and plenty of coffee and tea! Be there!



More Bingo!

It’s Spring—a great reason to play Bingo!! Join us on May 20th from 1:00-3:00 pm for a rousing game of BINGO with a springtime theme. There will be prizes and snacks. Come have some fun at St. Mark’s this spring! Bring a friend!



St. Mark’s Lutheran Church

140 S. Green Bay Road

Neenah, WI 54956

