



The Messenger

September 2024

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Holy Resurrection Monastery in St. Nazianz, WI

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

I would like to share my experience from a spiritual retreat at Holy Resurrection Monastery in St. Nazianz, WI, held from August 5-7, 2024. The monastery, part of the Eastern Romanian Catholic Church, embodies a rhythm rooted in Byzantine Orthodox tradition and Eastern Catholic monasticism. Its daily life integrates prayer, work, and communal living, reflecting a deep commitment to spiritual and communal values.



Daily Life at the Monastery



A distinctive feature of the retreat was observing the call to prayer using a semantron—a wooden board struck with a hammer—before each service. This ancient practice, developed during the Ottoman Empire's restrictions on church bells, reflects the monks' historical heritage. The semantron summons the community to worship, with the first service of the day beginning at 6:00 am.

After morning worship, the monks sit silently for breakfast at 8:00 am, followed by personal time in their cells from 8:30 to 9:00 am. This period of solitude allows them to reflect and prepare for the day's duties. The monks then engage in their "morning obedience," attending to their daily responsibilities around and out of the monastery.



The community assembles again for worship at noon, followed by lunch at 12:30 pm. The afternoon is dedicated to further "obediences," including rest, reading, or other tasks. The following service occurs at 4:50 pm, leading into the evening meal at 6:15 pm, during which readings from the church fathers are shared, enriching the meal with spiritual nourishment.



The final service of the day is held at 8:00 pm, after which the monastery observes a period of silence and private prayer. This time allows for personal reflection and communion with God before retiring for the night.

Experiencing Worship and Ecumenical Dialogue:

Participating in worship at the monastery was a profound experience, immersing me in the rich tapestry of Byzantine liturgy and monastic devotion. The day's structure, from the solemn morning services to the reflective evening prayers, provided a deep sense of peace and connection to the spiritual traditions that guide the monks' lives.

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Engaging in ecumenical conversations with the monks was equally enriching. Their openness and willingness to share insights into their traditions fostered a meaningful dialogue. These conversations highlighted the commonalities and distinctions between our practices, deepening my understanding of the Eastern Catholic tradition.

Hospitality at the Monastery:

The hospitality at Holy Resurrection Monastery is a natural extension of their spiritual life. The monks warmly welcome individuals and groups seeking retreat and reflection. The guesthouse, open to everyone, offers a serene environment for those looking to experience the monastic life or find a place for quiet contemplation. Their approach to hospitality is infused with the same reverence and care that characterizes their daily prayers and work, making every guest feel valued and spiritually nurtured.



My time at the monastery was characterized by a deep sense of spiritual enrichment and a warm, welcoming atmosphere that embodied the essence of their monastic mission. I pray that the Lord bestows upon His Church wisdom and understanding to collaborate in advancing His kingdom on earth. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous support of the Hope Clinic and Care Center. Your Mission Month Program support helps us advance our mission. Your contribution helps us make meaningful change in the life of our patients, and we are genuinely grateful for your compassionate commitment. Together, we are effecting profound transformations in the lives of those who depend on us, and your unwavering support remains indispensable to our collaborative endeavors. Thank you for being a vital part of the Hope Clinic community and for your integral role in propelling our mission forward!

Shelby M. Miller, Executive Director
Hope Clinic & Care Center



Hello everyone!! Well it is almost September and summer is coming to an end. Time for school to start and also time for Sunday School. We will start on Sunday, September 8th at 9:00 am. This is a cluster event so parents and grandparents are welcomed to come with you to Sunday School.. We will be busy making a craft and making a card and possibly tying some blankets. Refreshments will be served. So please plan to attend Sunday School on September 8th. Hope to see everyone on September 8th.



BIRTHDAYS
Vayda Zielinski 9-2
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

With God's Blessings,
Gwen Hoehne
Sunday School Superintendent





ELCA


WORSHIP IN THE PARK

Hosted by the four Neenah ELCA Lutheran Churches:
Gloria Dei, Our Saviors, St. Mark's, & St. Paul

Sunday, September 1st at 9:30 AM
(Labor Day weekend)
RIVERSIDE PARK, NEENAH


Special collection to be spilt with
LEAVEN & Lutheran Church of the Wilderness

Fellowship to Follow Worship.
Seating is limited so please bring your own
chairs, if possible. Held rain or shine!



St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Racial Equity Ministry Team Presents:

BOOK STUDY



*waking up
white*
AND FINDING MYSELF IN THE STORY OF RACE
by Debby Irving

Four sessions held on Monday,
September 16, 30, Oct. 14 & 28
6:30 - 7:30 pm.
Book will be provided to each
participant.
Sign-up deadline- Sept. 3rd

Sign-up at church or by emailing
or calling office.

CALL: 920-725-2828
EMAIL: office@stmarksneenah.org

Celebrating the Joy of Faith through Love & Service

Hosted by: St. Mark's Racial Equity Ministry Team 

Fall Harvest Meal-Potluck

SUNDAY, OCT. 6

DURING FELLOWSHIP
Celebrating God's Bounty!



Bring your favorite fall dish to pass.
A FREE-WILL offering will be collected &
spilt between St. Mark's Food Pantry & the
Fox Valley Community Table.



WOMEN'S Retreat

OCTOBER 11-13

For everything there is a season
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Come for the weekend,
come for the day.
Weekend cost \$185.00
Cost for Saturday \$60.00
Includes meals
Scholarships available
Deadline for registration
September 27th

Register at Our Saviors Lutheran Church
officemanager@our-saviors.org
920-725-3956
Pine Lake Camp
W5631 Akron Ave Waupaca WI



The Neenah-Menasha Elks Club has made a fantastic donation of 100 pounds of hamburger to the food pantry. What a blessing that is! If you know anyone who belongs to the Neenah-Menasha Elks Club, please thank them. Our numbers have been very high lately. In July we had 80 families shopping to feed 220 family members. We try to anticipate how many people we'll have on any single week, but we don't always guess right. We try to tell them they'll have a better chance of getting what they want if they come early on Wednesday morning, but sometimes they come at 10:45 and are disappointed. We are always in need of peanut butter, jam, Spam, paper products, bar soap, laundry detergent, and dishwashing liquid.

Thanks so very much for all your help. We all appreciate it.—*Karen Jordan*

BASKET RAFFLE!

The Bible Campers along with the Christian Education Ministry Team will once again be sponsoring a Basket Raffle in December.

The proceeds of the raffle will be divided between Bible Camp Program Registration Costs and ELCA Good Gifts. The Sunday School children will pick out the items from the Good Gifts Catalog once the donations have been distributed.

The Basket Raffle is open to all. Any member, ministry team, or group are welcome to create a basket for the raffle.

Get your creative minds working!!

More information to follow.



Our Sunday Servants

Date	Assisting Minister	Reader	Greeters	Ushers	Counters	Acolyte
September 1	Joint Worship Service with the other Neenah ELCA Churches at Riverside Park 9:30 am—Fellowship at 10:30 am Communion will be served. Bring lawn chairs if you can.					
September 8	Pennie Linna	Gwen Hoehne	Chuck Baumgartner Rose Cermak	Linda Anderson Nancy Maslow	Jane Arps Ellen LaMarche Emil Leppiaho Pat Westphal	Usher
September 15	Jeff Tharp	Bruce Grundman	Nancy Bircco Karen Jordan	Evie Peterson Lois Kemp	Gwen Hoehne Doug Sebstead Renie Sebstead	Lily Anderson
September 22	Jean Memken	J.T. Rose	The Blank Family	John & Laurie Olson	Bruce Grundman Lois Kemp Linda Anderson	Leland Tharp
September 29	Pat Westphal	Jeri Travis	Jenny Case Joy Case	Pennie Linna Betty Linna	Dom Christofolis Dawn Jones Judie Hilliker	Sophia Kersten

Communion Assistants:

September 1—Mary Jane Hartley and Jean Memken

September 15 —Jean Memken, Pat Westphal, and Bruce Grundman

Altar Guild: Mary Jane Hartley



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

**Call the church office
(920-725-2828)
if you want to sign up!**



“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday is September 8, 2024. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic con-victions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

The projects at Linwood Place, Pillar Meal and the craft projects at church on Sept. 8 require sign up, so we can plan accordingly. See below, for details.



ST. MARK’S GOD’S WORK OUR HANDS 2024 IS SUPPORTED BY THRIVENT ACTION TEAM GRANTS.



ST. MARK’S FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: NO SIGN UP REQUIRED. BRING ITEMS BEFORE OR ON SEPT. 8- put in yellow *FOOD PANTRY* bin in church lobby. **Items in need of include:** Jam, peanut butter, laundry, dish & bar soap, pancake syrup, pancake mixes, & paper products (towels, TP, and tissue).



LINWOOD PLACE/FOX VALLEY LUTHERAN HOMES PROJECT: SIGN UP REQUIRED. Meet at 11:15 AM on Sept. 8 at the church or at Linwood Place, 425 N. Linwood Ave., Appleton. Bring work gloves and wear sturdy shoes.



pillars

PROVIDING MEAL FOR PILLAR’S SHELTER: SIGN UP REQUIRED. We will be preparing a meal, which will delivered that day, for the Pillar’s Shelter on September 8.

PROJECTS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL—AFTER WORSHIP: SIGN UP REQUIRED. All supplies will be provided. Meet in the Fellow-ship Hall after worship on September 8. No special skills required.

- **Greeting Card Making** for St. Mark’s Ministries
- **Blanket Tying** for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Neenah Police Department
- **Chemo Care Baskets** for local hospital patients



**ST. MARK'S
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
August 15, 2024**

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

Excused: Pastor Niveen, Emily Christofilis, and Ryan Blank

Call to Order: Pennie called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Devotions: Jenny Case, September devotions: Dawn Jones

Approval of Minutes: MSC by Jason Blank/Kim Wallmuller to approve the minutes of July 18th, 2024.

Thanks You: Thank you Ellen Krempien for baptismal pitcher and bowl. Laurie will send.

Financial Report: Reviewed current account balances through end of July 2024. July's giving to current monthly expenses was \$11,581.31 and expenses were \$12,463.85. The difference was -\$882.54. Year to date (through end of July) giving was \$97,536.78 and expenses were \$97,126.67 with a difference (giving minus spending) of \$410.11. Total Associated Bank checking has a balance of \$180,047.78 which includes \$68,208.20 allocated to designated accounts and \$111,839.58 for current operating. Additionally, \$164,510.76 in the Thrivent money market and \$1,039.96 in Thrivent TIPS account and \$55,975.38 in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. **MSC to accept Financials as reported by Jason Blank/Kim Wallmuller.**

Pastor's Report ~ Pastor Niveen Sarras

Grace and peace to you,

I am delighted to provide a report on two recent significant events: the retreat at Holy Resurrection Monastery and our Vacation Bible School (VBS) at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Retreat at Holy Resurrection Monastery

From August 1-3, 2024, I had the privilege of attending a retreat at Holy Resurrection Monastery in St. Nazianz, WI. This Byzantine Catholic monastery, in union with Rome, offered a sacred space for deep reflection and spiritual renewal. The retreat included five services each day, providing a profound opportunity for prayer and meditation.

During this time, I was able to focus on preparing my sermon and Bible study without the usual distractions of daily ministry. The quiet and contemplative environment at the monastery enriched my spiritual preparation and strengthened my resolve for upcoming pastoral duties.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Following the retreat, from August 5-8, 2024, St. Paul Lutheran Church hosted a vibrant VBS with the theme, "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you" (Psalm 56:3). This event was a wonderful continuation of the spiritual growth fostered at the retreat, though in a more energetic and engaging setting.

We welcomed 50 children and 40 volunteers who contributed their time and talents to make this VBS a memorable experience. The children explored the theme through music, drama, storytelling, games, arts and crafts, science experiments, and snacks. Each activity was designed to help them understand and trust in God more deeply.

The enthusiasm and joy of the children, combined with the dedication of our volunteers, created a nurturing and dynamic environment where faith was both taught and celebrated.



OUR CHURCH'S
**FINANCIAL
HEALTH**

**For the month of
July 2024**

**Given: \$11,581.31
Spent: \$12,463.85**



Conclusion

Both events, though different in nature, complemented each other in enriching my spiritual life. The retreat provided a time of personal renewal and preparation, while the VBS offered an opportunity to impart faith to the next generation in a vibrant, interactive way.

I am grateful for the support and involvement of all who contributed to the VBS.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarras

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

Ministry Team Reports:

Christian Education Ministry Team—August 12, 2024 ~ Submitted by Gwen Hoehne

PRESENT: Jenny Case, Sherri Denney, Pastor Niveen, Gwen Hoehne

Opening Prayer: Pastor Niveen opened with prayer.

1. **FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL—Cluster Event—** September 8, 2024 will be the first day of Sunday School. This will be a cluster event. Possibly tying blankets and other activities. Will serve refreshments. We will meet in the Mary Room.
2. **CONFIRMATION—**Will start on September 8, 2024. Pastor and Sherri met to discuss what they will teach this year.
3. **ACOLYTE SCHEDULE—**Gwen made up the acolyte schedule for the year. J.T. will fill in where needed.
4. **SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE—**Jenny and Gwen will make up their own teaching schedule and we will give the parents copies so they know when Sunday School meets and what the students will be studying.
5. **ENVELOPES—**Gwen purchased some envelopes and will get together with Pat Westphal to assign the numbers. Sunday School and Confirmation students will receive envelopes.
6. **CLASSROOMS—**Jenny will meet with the older students Grades 2 thru 5 in the Mary Room and Gwen will meet with the younger students in the Pre-K to Grade 1 in the Nursery Room.
7. **OTHER BUSINESS—**On the second Sunday of the month, Sherri will be meeting with the youth (Grades 3 thru 12) and parents if they would like to attend at 9:30 am to discuss youth activities. They will meet on September 8.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Racial Equity Ministry Team—August 6, 2024 ~ Submitted by Laurie Olson

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

Members Absent: Emily Christofilis

Pastor Niveen opened the meeting with a prayer. Dawn will provide a devotion for the next meeting.

After discussion, a regular meeting day of month was determined. Racial Equity will meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. When the Finance & Stewardship meeting lands on this date, Racial Equity will change the meeting date.

“Waking Up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race” by Debby Irving for a fall book study deadline to sign up is September 3. Team members were asked to ask/invite one person to consider participation in the book study.



Ellen LaMarche
Sarah L.
Richie Sczerzen
Walt Ziemke
Paul Girod
Doug Bedor
Odeh Sarras
Mary & Ron Zalewski
Jordan
Bob Ulrich
Family of Ronald Piette

Laurie will post on Facebook. Discussed future book studies. After reviewing a few suggested books, the team decided to go with “Bethlehem Besieged, Stories of in Times of Trouble” by Mitri Raheb. Pastor Niveen suggested doing this study during Advent. December 3rd and 10 will be the dates.

Neenah Pow Wow is Saturday, September 14 from 2-5 pm and Fall Family Festival (traditions of the Oneida Nation), at Green Bay Botanical Gardens on Saturday, September 28 from 9 am-5 pm. We will prepare information for these events to be included in upcoming newsletters.

Dawn continues to work on the hosting of an Asian Americans session on the art of making Egg Rolls. This enriching experience will take place on a Saturday in the Fall. 2-6 pm. She will work with Kristy Le (instructor) for a date on either a Saturday or Sunday later in the afternoon.

The date for the Harvest meal was set for October 6 during Fellowship Hour. This would be a potluck type meal asking for dishes to be made with traditional fall foods. Pat & Mary Jane agreed to coordinate this potluck. Laurie will prepare a flyer for the September newsletter and for Facebook and bulletins.

Barb suggested, between now and our next meeting, that team members research and educate ourselves on a theological tie-in for our Racial Equity statement (rooted in scripture).

Next meeting will be September 3 at 6:30 pm. Items for discussion will include follow up with fall programming and Racial Equity statement to hang above book cart.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team—August 13, 2024 ~ *Submitted by Laurie Olson*

Members Present: Treasurer Laurie Olson, Financial Secretary Pat Westphal, Pennie Linna, Mary Jane Hartley, Evie Peterson, and Pastor Niveen.

Members Absent: Fern Fuhmann

Opened with a Prayer by Pastor Niveen.

Reviewed current account balances through end of July 2024. July’s giving to current monthly expenses was \$11,581.31 and expenses were \$12,463.85. The difference was -\$882.54. Year to date (through end of July) giving was \$97,536.78 and expenses were \$97,126.67 with a difference (giving minus spending) of \$410.11.

Total Associated Bank checking has a balance of \$180,047.78 which includes \$68,208.20 allocated to designated accounts and \$111,839.58 for current operating. Additionally, \$164,510.76 in the Thrivent money market and \$1,039.96 in Thrivent TIPS account and \$55,975.38 in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund.

The Property Ministry Team Meeting was rescheduled for Monday, August 19 at 6:30 pm. We will begin discussion on the parking lot fundraising.

It was noted that St. Mark’s has 6 grave sites at Greenlawn Memorial Park, Neenah. These lots were donated to St. Mark’s in 2000 by a member. Laurie has contacted Greenlawn to get additional information on the lots, such as value, process for transferring and/or selling the sites. There is no official documentation of these grave sites in the St. Mark’s files. Greenlawn will do research and send us documents/deeds. This initial conversation with Greenlawn indicated that each lot is valued at \$1,449. We can transfer a lot to someone for a \$299.00 fee or sell at any amount. Laurie would like to get a process in place to transfer/and or sell these grave sites to St. Mark’s members. She will take this to the council for further guidance.

The team members began reviewing a program for our annual Stewardship Drive. *The Generosity Project* was suggested by Pat. After a discussion, it was decided to go with this program for a cost of \$40 for unlimited digital access to materials. A special meeting has been set for August 27 at 6:30 pm to design a program to meet our needs, using *The Generosity Project* as our guide. Pat will email Jean the program file for printing. NOVEMBER 10 was set as STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY.

It was reported that the Racial Equity Team will be hosting a Fall Harvest Meal on Sunday, October 6 during fellowship. Members will be asked to bring a dish to pass using traditional fall foods. Pat noted that this meal can be seen as extension of our spring Taking Care of God’s Earth (and now God has provided us with his bounty to share) stewardship message.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer at 8:12 pm.

Next regular meeting is September 17 at 6:30 pm. (We also, as noted above, will be meeting with the Property Ministry Team on August 19 and will have a special stewardship planning meeting on August 27)

Council Members took note of Jean's request to write activities on calendar in the church office. **MSC to accept Ministry Team reports.**

Unfinished Business:

National Youth Gathering Update: Our participants had a wonderful time. Pennie will be assisting with the preparation of a video, recapping their experience. Video can be shared during worship. She will discuss with Pastor Niveen.

Communication Audit Update: We are working on signs for rooms and windows.

Church Directory Update: Work has been done to update contact information. There is a sign up for photos. Judy Fowler has been making reminder calls. There is an opportunity to donate toward printing of the directory and a donor will cover any outstanding printing costs.

Moving Forward Kits (Supplies) for college students: We were fortunate to have a surplus of funds to go in an account for future kits.

Parking Lot Report: The meeting to discuss fundraising with Finance & Stewardship and Property has been postponed to Monday, August 19. Discussions are occurring with a member on financial support for the project.

Chili Cook-Off Update: November 5, 2024. We will make the chili and bring to Our Saviors. This will be open to the community. This will be a fundraiser. Gwen, who is St. Mark's representative, is looking for individuals to assist with cooking, set-up, clean-up, etc. Interested individuals are to contact Gwen.

New Business Items:

Bible Camper Basket Raffle: Donna Joachim contacted Pennie and Laurie regarding the annual Bible Camper Basket Raffle. She noted that Christan Ed. and the Campers would like to again hold the Basket Raffle. Gwen and Donna would like the proceeds to be split between the Campers and Good Gifts. Sunday School Kids will be able to pick out items from the Good Gifts Catalog as they have done in the past. The raffle would be open to anyone in the congregation or ministry teams wishing to contribute. They are tentatively looking at having the drawing held Dec.15th following the Sunday School Christmas Program. **MSC to accept the fundraiser Jason Blank/Dawn Jones.**

Fall Harvest Meal: Racial Equity Ministry Team will be hosting on October 6, 2024: Potluck to highlight the harvest and God's bounty.

Greenlawn Memorial Park: six gravesites were donated to the church in 2000 by Bertha Wensel. The value is \$1,449 each. This cost is for the sites only – no burial fees are included. Little official paperwork exists in the church files. Laurie has contacted Greenlawn Memorial Park for further information. They informed us that these grave sites can be given away or transferred to others. If transferred, there is a \$299 fee. Greenlawn is researching details on the grave sites and will get back to Laurie. After discussion, the council agreed the grave sites should be offered to St. Mark's members, at no cost unless individual(s) wishes to transfer the sites into their name. In that case, the transfer fee would be the responsibility of the individual(s). **MSC to move forward with gifting sites contingent on official certificates from Greenlawn Memorial Park Jason Blank/Kim Wallmuller.**

MSC to adjourn at 7:15 pm, ending with the Lord's Prayer Kim Wallmuller/Dawn Jones.

Next Meeting: September 19, 2024, at 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Jones, Council Secretary

CHILI CHILI CHILI CHILI

We have been challenged by Our Savior's church to a chili cookoff along with St. Paul's and Gloria Dei. The cookoff will be on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 (Election day) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church from 4-7 pm. You will be able to taste all the chilis and vote on your favorite and eat all the chili you want. We need to get our team together to help with the recipe, make the chili, set up the gym at Our Savior's, serve chili, clear tables, and clean up after the supper. Also we will need a few cookies and bars. So--There will be a meeting for EVERYONE interested in helping with the chili supper on Sunday, September 29 after church in the Mary Room. Whatever you want to do for the chili supper, please come so everyone is signed up. Any questions, contact Gwen Hoehne.



Special Worship Services Announcement

We have several special worship services coming up in September. Please mark your calendars for the following:

- Sunday, September 1, 2024: Join us for a Joint Neenah ELCA Churches Worship Service at Riverside Park.
- Sunday, September 8, 2024: We will celebrate the Baptism of Charlotte Lynn Hulstrom, whose family is from Wausau, WI. **This service will also highlight "God's Work. Our Hands."**
- Sunday, September 15, 2024: Our worship service will be dedicated to prayer and reflection concerning the upcoming election in the USA.
- Sunday, September 22, 2024: We will hold a special service for the healing of the nations.
- Sunday, September 29, 2024: Join us for the Baptism of Avery Hill, followed by a healing service.



Confirmation Retreat

We are excited to announce that the Confirmation Class will be having a retreat at Crossways' Pine Lake Camp on Sunday, September 29, 2024.

We will depart from the church at 12:00 pm and return by 5:30 pm. This retreat will be a wonderful opportunity for our students to engage in fellowship, reflection, and growth.

More information to follow.



Are you a senior who enjoys learning? Come to **SCHOOL FOR SENIORS**, co-sponsored by Lakeland University and the City of Neenah Committee on Aging.

When: Thursday, September 26, 2024, 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Where: St. Mark's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 140 S. Green Bay Road, Neenah

What: Thought-provoking presentations and discussion in an informal setting hosted by community experts. There's something for everyone! Learn about memory loss, transportation, the YMCA of the Fox Cities, and community safety. Enjoy refreshments and an information fair featuring community resources.

Cost: Free of charge

RSVP: Seating is limited, please call City of Neenah at 920-886-6125 by Monday, September 23 for first priority.

gen·er·os·i·ty
is an aspect of one's character, a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)



THE GENORISTRY PROJECT

Growing in God's Grace Generation to Genera-

2025 STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM-Stewardship & Finance Ministry Team

Generosity is an aspect of one's character, a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). As children of God and disciples of Jesus, we are called "to be" – to be generous in spirit and generous with our time, talent, and resources. In Jesus' time, a steward was the manager of the household. The steward was not the owner but rather an administrator responsible for the owner's property and assets. We are God's stewards – administrators of ALL things inherited and entrusted to us by God. We are stewards of the earth, our wealth, our time, our possessions, and our physical bodies.

We are excited to provide you with information on the first week of the 2025 Stewardship Program: *Generosity* (see below). There will be five additional dates, concluding on November 10 with a Fish Fry during Fellowship. Your Stewardship letter with more details on the program, your Time & Talent form, and an intent card (pledge card) will be sent out or handed out at a worship service in mid-September.

Stewardship Kick-Off Oct. 6	Being Generous	The WHY	Genesis 1:27-31a GENERATION-TO-GENERATION NAME TAG SUNDAY & HARVEST MEAL FELLOWSHIP HOUR	Generosity Challenge: How many paper products (toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls or tissue boxes) do you own? Count them. What would it mean to give away 10% or buy that many paper products for the St. Mark's Food Pantry. Consider bringing these items to worship on Oct. 6.
	Hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper			Bring a dish to pass for our Harvest Meal

New Baptismal Bowl and Pitcher

If you have been to St. Mark's lately, you have probably noticed our stunning new Baptismal Bowl and Pitcher. They were made by local potter, Chris Weber. Chris was inspired by our stained glass windows behind the altar to create these lovely works of pottery that we can now use for baptism.

Funding for these hand-crafted additions to our altar area came from the Tom Krempien Memorial Fund. Pictured with the new bowl and pitcher to the left is Tom's wife, Ellen. We thank Ellen and the Krempien family for helping us beautify our sanctuary with these impressive pottery pieces. Next time you are at St. Mark's, feel free to step up to the altar and see these works of art up close. They are impressive!





Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

The Mission of the Month for September is the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center which is part of the Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministries. They focus on four different ministry outreach areas.

The Threshold/Common Basket ministry includes everything that is distributed out their door including new quilts and blankets, diapers and wipes, morning coffee, mid-day sandwiches, hot meals, and hygiene kits. In the winter months, it also includes our energy assistance matching program.



Cultural immersions are visiting groups who come to learn about Lakota history and culture from the Lakota people. We strive to provide programming and presentations that foster mutual conversations and greater understanding of each other.

The Lutheran/Lakota Job Corp employs local people from the community of Pine Ridge to run and assist the ministries of the Reconciliation Center. This ministry provides people with a way to earn a living and support their families. They have added a mentoring element to the program for young adults.

Children and Youth—Currently, the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center hosts a variety of youth programs for young children, preteens and teens.

Please consider supporting this worthwhile agency this month. Include your donation in your offering envelope and mark “Mission of the Month” on the front of your envelope or denote Mission of the Month with your online giving.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church *Celebrating the Joy of Faith through Love & Service*

JOIN US for a SPECIAL

CONGREGATIONAL meeting

SEPT. 22 | AFTER 10AM SERVICE

Present, discuss and approve the replacement of the church parking lot and funding sources. [Project will take place in 2025]

Can you Help?



St. Mark's is supporting Fox Valley Lutheran Homes in their fall basket raffle. The basket theme will be “Take a Break.” We are looking for any items for a break such as coffee, tea, snacks, cards, etc. Please bring your items to church by September 15th.

Call Dawn Jones at 920-268-7231 with any questions.





Upcoming EVENTS

Sponsored by the Racial Equity Ministry Team

Watch for details, on how to participate, in future newsletters and on our Facebook page.

*Neenah Pow Wow: Saturday, September 14 from 2-5 pm.

*Fall Family Festival (traditions of the Oneida Nation), at Green Bay Botanical Gardens on Saturday, September 28 from 9 am-5 pm.

*We will have a special Vietnamese egg roll making workshop on Saturday, October 26 in the afternoon. Instructor is Kristy Le. Look for a sign-up sheet and cost information soon.

Rise up.

Rise up.

Life is within you.

Beauty,

Grace,

Dignity,

are in you.

**They are your birthright
from ME.**

The One who formed you.

Cell by cell.

My breath,

nephesh,

formed you

and is enfleshed in you.

Rise up.

You are able.

You are whole.

You are Holy.

Rise up.

*This poem was written by Pastor Barb Girod.
The word "nephesh" is Hebrew for soul and
literally means "breath." Thank you for
sharing!*

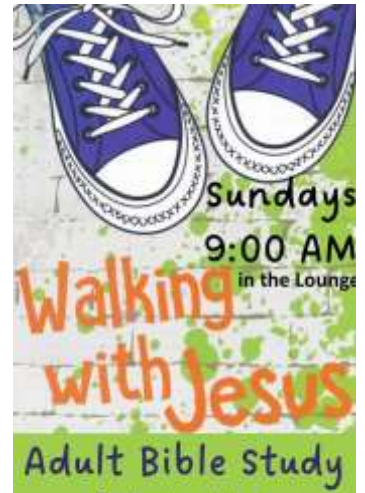
Adult Forum News

On Sunday, September 8, 2024, at 9 a.m., we are pleased to welcome our guest, John Macho, who will be leading the Adult Forum alongside Dawn Jones. The topic of the forum will be "The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries."

Mr. Macho, a lay school colleague of Jean Memken, brings a wealth of experience in the field of criminal justice. He has served as a prison teacher for seven years, where he provided inmates with education on managing mental illnesses, coping skills for incarceration, and GED math. Additionally, he has a robust background as a prison guard, having served for twelve years in various institutions, including Waupun (maximum security), Oshkosh (medium security), and the Wisconsin Resource Center (medium security).

We invite you to join us for this informative and thought-provoking session to meet Mr. Macho and gain insight into the intersection of the Church and criminal justice.

We look forward to your presence.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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