

April 2025



The Messenger



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Pastor
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Ginny Schieck,
Custodian

Laurie Olson,
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Pat Westphal,
Financial Secretary



Sunday School 9:00 am
(September-May, every
other Sunday)

Adult Forum
Sundays 9:00 am

Worship
Sundays 10:00 am
(Holy Communion on
1st and 3rd Sundays)

Bible Study
Thursdays 1:30 pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 140 S. Green Bay Rd, Neenah, WI 54956
Phone: 920-725-2828
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*Easter Message
From the Pastor*

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

As I was preparing to write an article for our April newsletter, I came across a beautiful poem by an anonymous author. This poem beautifully captures the profound meaning of the resurrection and the hope we have in Jesus Christ. Instead of writing an article, I have decided to share this poem with you. I encourage you to read it prayerfully.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

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

Glory in the Resurrection

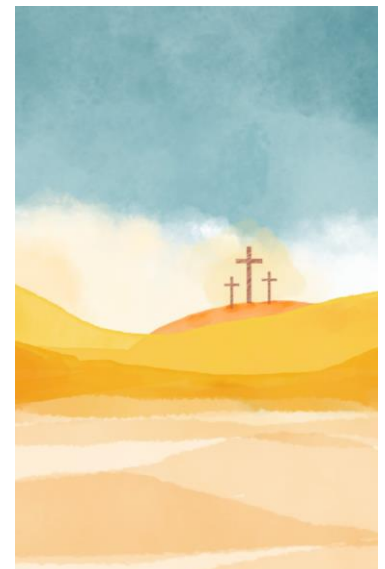
**Upon the dawn of endless light,
The stone was rolled, the veil torn bright.
Where death once claimed its cruel domain,
Now life and hope forever reign.**

**The grave could not its hold sustain,
For Christ arose, our Savior slain.
From death's dark grip, He broke free,
A triumph, bold, for you and me.**

**O death, where is your bitter sting?
For in the tomb, no longer cold,
The risen Christ, our hearts behold.**

**With every breath, the earth does sing,
Of love that shattered death's cruel ring.
Through valleys deep, through trials long,
We rise with Him, in His strong song.**

**Glory be to Christ, who died,
Then rose again, to be our guide.
In Him, we conquer, live, and soar,
Forevermore, forevermore.**





Thank you, thank you, thank you! Last month we asked for cereal, canned fruit and canned pasta meals and you came through fantastically. For now, we are in good shape. We will be getting a wonderful donation of meat from the Neenah-Menasha Elks Club. What a blessing! If you know anyone who is a member, please thank them. Our Food Pantry is a big help to many people in our community. In February, we helped 66 families feed 184 people in great need. We appreciate all the support given to us.

On May 25 we will be honoring our 2025 graduates during the service and fellowship hour. If someone in your family will be completing their education, please inform the church office so we can get in touch with them. Thanks.

Karen Jordan

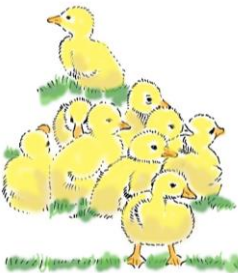


August 21, 1960, the first service in the new church was held. In 1966 the second unit of the church was added which included several classrooms and office space. In 1999, the "Building on Faith" project as completed with the renovation of the worship and service facilities. A new fellowship hall, kitchen, carport, accessible restrooms, and larger narthex were added with upgrades to the Sunday School rooms and Sanctuary. – *Laurie Olson*

The official organization day for St. Mark's was Sunday, February 16, 1958, when 165 confirmed adults braved the 12 degrees below zero weather to become charter members of St. Mark's. Children numbered 126. "Mothering" this mission was St. Paul Lutheran Church, Neenah. After holding services in several locations, the current three-acre building site was purchased and a building fund started. Groundbreaking occurred on November 22, 1959, and on



We are in the season of Lent and the start of Spring. We all look forward for the warmer weather and no snow. Spring vacation from school and maybe a vacation to somewhere else. We also need to remember that Holy Week is also coming in April that leads up to Easter. We talked about the colors of Easter and what all the different colors mean. Brown for the donkey, purple for Royalty, silver for Judas payment for betrayal, red for the robe the soldier put on Jesus and for Jesus's blood, blue for Jesus going into heaven, yellow for the light of Jesus, and green for the new grass and flowers that come in Spring. Jesus gave his life for us to have eternal life. Please remember that as you celebrate Easter with your family and friends. Jesus' love is unconditional. Happy Easter to everyone!!!



BIRTHDAYS
Avery Hill 4-15 Tyler Joachim 4-2'
Happy Birthday to All!!

HAPPY EASTER!!!
With God's Blessings,
Gwen Hoehne



Audit Complete!



The 2023 & 2024 financial audits were completed on Saturday, March 20. Thank you to our Audit Ministry Team and financial volunteers for their due diligence in the review of the church's books. From left: Tara Dieck, Pat Westphal, Jenny Blank, Joy Case, and Sandra Mathenia. Not pictured-- Laurie Olson.

Can You Help?

We have some awesome Sunday morning volunteers, but we could definitely use a few more people to step up and help out on Sunday morning. Please read the descriptions below and think about how you might be able to help out.

Counters – We could use some volunteers to help us count the offerings on Sunday mornings. We can train you and you would be added to a group of experienced counters. Your service would only be required once a month after the worship service.

Altar Guild – We currently have at least one person each month to serve on Altar Guild, but it would be nice to have at least two people each month to set up the communion and change the paraments when necessary. The work is easy, training is available, and you would be scheduled to serve three or four months each year.

Communion Assistant – This important task is so rewarding! Please consider helping serve the Lords Supper. You would be called on to serve once every 3 months, and training is available.



Our Worship and Music Ministry Team is once again asking for donations of Spring flowers to decorate our sanctuary on Easter. **You can bring any potted spring flowers, starting on April 13.** There will be a table and sign-up sheet in the narthex for you to leave your flowers and designate how you would like them to be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Any spring flowers (lilies, tulips, hydrangeas, pansys, daffodils, etc.) are welcome! Flowers can be taken home after the Easter service. Please consider helping our Worship and Music Ministry team beautify our sanctuary on Easter!

New Wheelchair!

Thank you, Ellen LaMarche, for the sponsorship of this new wheelchair. We now have two wheelchairs and one walker, available for anyone in need of them while at St. Mark's.





**St. Mark's Lutheran
Church Council Minutes
March 20, 2025**



Members: Jason Blank, Dawn Jones, Emily Gauthier, Joe Rehorst, Tom Frantz, Tammie Kersten, Pastor Niveen, JT Rose and Laurie Olson

Members Absent: none

Call to Order: President, Dawn Jones, called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

Devotions: Jason Blank. Devotions for April: Dawn Jones

MSC to approve minutes from the last meeting 02/20/25 Jason Blank/Tammie Kersten.

Thank You: Youth Ministry Team for St. Patrick's Day Fellowship- Tammie will write thank you. A verbal thank you was given to Laurie and Tom (and Pat Westphal) for working on the internet/phone set up.

Financial Reports: Reviewed current account balances through end of February 2025. February's giving to current monthly giving was \$15,678.08 and expenses were \$7,761.83. The difference was \$7,916.25. It was noted that we have not received February's invoice from the Synod for Pastor's salary and benefits, which results in the higher positive February difference. That invoice will be around \$7,500.

Total Associated Bank checking has a balance of \$239,214.13 which includes \$125,430.67 allocated to designated accounts and \$113,783.46 for current operating. Additionally, \$168,503.54 in the Thrivent money market and \$1,029.17 in Thrivent TIPS account and \$56,852.43 in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund.

MSC to approve financial report: Jason Blank/Joe Rehorst.

Pastor's Report ~ Pastor Niveen Sarras

Grace and peace to you.

As we journey through Lent, I am grateful for the many ways God is working among us and through us at St. Mark's. The Holy Spirit continues to move within our congregation, inspiring acts of compassion, learning, and ecumenical fellowship.

On **Saturday, February 15**, I led a book study on Bethlehem Besieged by Dr. Mitri Raheb. We had a good turnout, and the discussion was both meaningful and enlightening. Participants engaged deeply with the reality of the Palestinian struggle under Israeli military occupation. The conversation invited reflection on the intersection of spirituality, politics, and justice, reminding us that our faith compels us to listen to the cries of the oppressed.

Throughout the month, I visited several members of our congregation, bringing them Holy Communion and sharing in prayer. I also mailed Holy Communion and ashes to our homebound members, ensuring that they felt connected to the worshipping community during the season of Lent.

On **Sunday, February 23**, I was honored to participate in the ecumenical "Pray for Peace" service at St. Gabriel Catholic Church. The service was well attended by people from across the Neenah area. It was truly moving to witness the Holy Spirit gathering us as one body in Christ to pray for peace in this broken and suffering world.



**For the month of
February 2025**

**Given: \$15,678.08
Spent: \$ 7,761.83**

(Continued on page 5)

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On **Wednesday, March 5**, I led two Ash Wednesday worship services—one at noon with the ELCA Neenah clergy and the second in the evening. These services marked the beginning of our Lenten journey together and offered a meaningful time for reflection, repentance, and renewal.

Additionally, I attended the **Social Ministry Team meeting on March 10** and helped with our **Community Table ministry on March 11**, where we served those in need. It is inspiring to see the Holy Spirit at work through our congregation's generosity and service.

I also participated in the **Worship and Music Ministry Team meeting on March 17** to continue to prepare for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter services. We carefully planned worship that reflects the depth and beauty of this sacred season.

Together with **Dawn Jones, our Council President, and Laurie Olson, our treasurer**, I submitted the grant application to our synod to support our **mission trip to the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center** in South Dakota. This mission trip reflects our commitment to walking alongside our Native American siblings in Christ and deepening our understanding of reconciliation and justice.

We continue to hold midweek Lenten worship services in partnership with Pastor Amy Engebose and members of St. Paul Lutheran Church. It is a joy to see how the Holy Spirit brings our two congregations together—not only to share supper before worship but also to gather as one community of faith. Together, we meditate on our Lord's passion and his deep love for us.

I also look forward to participating in the Racial Justice Conference in Green Bay on April 5, 2025, where I will lead a breakout session on the Palestinians' struggle and the racism that Arabs face in the United States. This is an opportunity to engage in important conversations about justice and equity.

As we continue through this sacred season, I am excited to work alongside our members to prepare meaningful celebrations for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. May these holy days draw us all closer to Christ and to one another.

Through each of these ministries and gatherings, I see God's hand guiding our work. The Holy Spirit is moving among us—inspiring faith, deepening relationships, and strengthening our witness to the world. Through each of these activities, I see God's hand guiding our ministry. The Holy Spirit is working through our worship, service, education, and outreach, strengthening our community of faith and drawing us ever closer to our neighbors in love.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarras

Pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Discussed having a real donkey on Palm Sunday with a cost of \$200. Discussed indoor and outdoor options with the donkey. The donkey will be at St. Gabriel and Our Savior's the same day. Discussed using RaiseRight (SCRIP) funds and having the donkey outside. Tammie, who oversees SCRIP agreed to use available SCRIP funds to cover the cost. How do the other churches handle it, maybe prepare for it next year, discussed carpeting, liability, timeframe, availability of service, processional, and how the other churches do this, dependency on weather, etc. Pastor Niveen will investigate further and talk with Sunday School Superintendent, Gwen Hoehne, on this topic.

MSC to approve Pastor's Report: Dawn Jones/JT Rose.

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Ministry Team Reports:

Christian Education Ministry Team ~ March 22, 2025 ~ Submitted by Gwen Hoehne

Christian Education Ministry Team will meet Saturday, March 22nd at 9:00 am.

Property Ministry Team—March 3, 2025 ~ Submitted by Jason Blank

Present: Bruce Grundman, John Olson, Phyllis Ziemke, Jason Blank, Ginny Schieck and Joe Rehorst

- We are installing partitions back into the men's restroom; they were never installed after the tile flooring was installed.
- Working on getting lights repaired over the "St. Mark's" wooden sign and the lights outside of Pastor's office.
- We reviewed the last three years of electricity/heating bills to better understand annual trends.
- We will be reaching out to "MCC" to get on schedule for having the parking lot replaced.
- Bruce is repairing the base of the banner stand that is used on occasion in the chancel area.

Racial Equity Ministry Team—March 11, 2025 ~ Submitted by Laurie Olson

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

Barb opened the meeting with a prayer titled "The Thread Upon Us" by Walter Brueggemann.

Review of Events

Discussed book study Bethlehem Besieged, by Mitri Raheb scheduled for Saturday, February 15 and rescheduled due to weather for February 22. Pastor Niveen led the study, and she thought it went well. Others commented that it was well attended and beneficial. Dawn thanked Pat for all the wonderful snacks which she provided.

Spring Roll event which was originally scheduled for the 8th and rescheduled due to weather for March 1 was discussed. Everyone thought it went well. Lois Hill sent a thank you card to Kristi. The team is looking to do another cultural food/presentation in the future.

Upcoming Events

The Racial Justice Conference on Saturday, April 5 was discussed. This will be held at Ascension Lutheran Church in Green Bay. Pastor Niveen is one of the speakers and therefore will be attending. Pat and Mary Jane have registered already. Laurie will register Dawn. Jean has announced this event in the newsletter and bulletins. The team will discuss, at their next meeting, how to share the information from this conference with St. Mark's members.

Discussed the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center trip. It was reported that the dates have changed. The trip is now planned for June 30 – July 4. A \$500 deposit has been sent to the center, to reserve our dates. Discussed that a draft application, for a grant from the synod, has been developed and will be reviewed and finalized at a meeting on Monday, March 17. Discussed the recruitment of youth for this immersion trip. Laurie will put together a flyer with basic information. It was decided to give individuals/families until April 13 to inform the team of their interest and then ask for a commitment by April 27. After this time, planning meetings will be set up with those going on the trip. This trip is sponsored by the Racial Equity and Youth Ministry Teams.

Adjourned @ 7:47 PM.

Next meeting will be April 22 at 6:30 pm.

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Social Ministry Team—March 10, 2025 ~ Submitted by Pastor Niveen

The Social Ministry Team met recently to discuss several important topics for the upcoming months.

1. **Graduation Celebration:** The team discussed plans to celebrate and honor the graduates of our congregation. The celebration will take place during coffee hour on Sunday, May 25. We are proud to announce that we have four graduates this year and look forward to recognizing their achievements.
2. **Easter Gift Cards:** The team discussed giving Easter gift cards to members of our congregation. This is a way to show appreciation and care for those in need during the Easter season.
3. **Meeting Schedule:** We decided to return to meeting at 6:30 PM, starting on April 14, 2025. Please note that there will be no meetings during the summer months from June to August, unless there is an urgent need to meet.
4. **Homebound Ministry:** We reviewed the situation of our homebound members and discussed updates regarding their circumstances. It is important to keep in touch and continue supporting those who cannot be with us in person.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will take place on Monday, April 14, at 6:30 PM.

We appreciate everyone’s contributions and look forward to continuing our important work in the coming months.

Worship and Music Ministry Team—March 17, 2025 ~ Submitted by Judy Hellman

We met on March 17th. Members present were Pat Westphal, Joy and Jenny Case, Ardys Seelow, Mary Ellen Tracey, Pastor Niveen, Judy Hellman and guest, Jean Memken.

Devotions were given by Jenny Case, based on St. Patrick. Pastor Niveen will do devotions in April.

Pastor Niveen presented a list of events for March & April:

- March 23rd Healing service
- March 30th – Confirmation kids will do the entire service.
- April 13th – Palm Sunday. There will be a procession with a live donkey and the children.
- April 18th – Good Friday
 Combined service at Gloria Dei at 12:00 pm. Service at St. Mark’s at 6:30 pm with readings, songs, & extinguishing candles.
- Easter Sunday -April 20th at 10:00 am
 There will be a procession of the cross, banner, box with Alleluia, and adults carrying easter lilies. The Treble Singers and 2 youth trumpet players will provide special music. There will be continuous communion with no kneeling.
- Seder Meal – Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm
 A detailed outline was presented and there will be a sign-up sheet for duties. Pat Westphal, Lois Hill and Mary Jane Hartley will coordinate this event.



- | |
|---|
| <p>Ellen LaMarche
 Sarah L.
 Richie Sczerzen
 Doug Bedor
 Odeh Sarras
 Mary & Ron
 Zielewski
 Serenity and Leighton
 Judy Fowler
 Diane Mykel</p> |
|---|

Our team will decorate the altar and tables in the fellowship hall on Saturday, April 19th at 10:00.

We decided to put out 10 Bibles by the collection box for members to use if they wish during the service. On April 27th, there will be a hymn-sing and also is Holy Humor Sunday.

There will be a Prayer Box for members to ask for prayers.

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Our Next meeting is on April 21st.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Youth Ministry Team—March 9, 2025 ~ Submitted by Laurie Olson

Members Present: Joe Rose, JT Rose, Nancy Rose, Jenny Case, Sherri Denney, Pastor Niveen, Laurie Olson, and Ginny Schieck

Members Absent: none

Sherri Denney opened with a prayer.

Business for Consideration

Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center in South Dakota: Trip will be July 14-18. Pastor Niveen is completing a draft Doing a New Thing Grant application. Laurie & Dawn will review with her. Endowment & Thrivent Action Team Grants, along with a fundraiser are additional funding sources. Need to confirm the dates, since the Reconciliation Center does not have us listed on their calendar. Laurie will touch base with Dawn.

St. Patrick's Day Fellowship Hosting:

Reviewed everyone's responsibilities. Everyone is to be able for fellowship set-up and clean-up.

Laurie: Hats & beads for youth and fellowship attendees have arrived, along with the chocolate coins for coin toss game and prizes for the game & trivia. A flyer has been posted on Facebook, bulletin and newsletter.

Jared (Ginny's Son): Reuben Dip and bread

Ginny: Irish Soup

JT: JT will no longer be able to attend. We will ask Brayden, Leland or Lilly to assist with coin toss game. JT needs to get a trivia game to Laurie so she can make copies.

Sherri: Leprechaun snack

Jenny: Cookies-she will talk with Gwen on making Shamrock cookies.

Jeff: Dress as a Leprechaun – green coat, hat & shoes, & green beard, etc. and will run the trivia game.

Laurie: Dawn is making soda bread.

Jenny: Talked with Gwen about cutout cookies. Gwen will drop off on Friday.

Laurie: Talked with Judy about doing a sing-along with an Irish song, during Fellowship Hour.

Pastor: Recruited three of the confirmands to assist and will make a green cake or bread.

Ginny: Her grandchildren will be present to assist.

Middle/High School Lock-in: Sherri attended the first planning meeting for the lock-in on April 11 at Peace Lutheran in Oshkosh. Pastor Niveen sent the flyer to the families. There is another meeting on Thursday, March 13. Sherri is not able to attend. Laurie will attend. Sherri has agreed to be at the April 11 event.

Synod Bowling Event: April 26 (no other details available)

Keeping Our Youth/Kids Engaged: Discussed a plan for keeping our youth and younger kids engaged over the summer. It was agreed to look at offering a couple events. Each Youth Ministry Team member was asked to search for 2 example ideas for youth/kids/families and bring them to the next meeting for discussion. Ideas such as picnic at a park, a day trip, fundraiser, etc.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: Sunday, April 6th at 11:15 AM.

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Connections Ministry Team—February 24, 2025 ~ Submitted by Tom Frantz

Lent:

Discussion of logistics concerning changing out table linens and table decorations in the Fellowship Hall in anticipation of Fat Tuesday and Lent.

The team discussed plans to advertise “free donuts and coffee” available to people passing by the church on Fat Tuesday, March 4. This event is a cooperative venture of Connections and the Worship and Music Ministry Teams. Staffing the event was also discussed.

Lenten Services will be held at St. Mark’s hosting St. Paul’s beginning March 5 with two Ash Wednesday services. One at 12:30 and the other at 6:30. A light meal will be available prior at 5:00 pm prior to the 6:30 service. Ushers and Greeters are needed. Team members were encouraged to volunteer.

The Connections Ministry Team will host the Lenten Dinner on 4/2.

The Seder will be held 4/19 at 6:30 pm.

This year’s Lenten theme is “The Hands of the Lord.” A devotional booklet tied to the theme is available. The Sunday morning Adult Forum will also relate to the theme.

The Neenah ELCA churches will be holding a Good Friday service at noon at Gloria Dei featuring a Good Friday cantata. Singers are needed. Contact Jean in the office to get a copy of the cantata and a CD to practice to.

Looking ahead:

Bingo will resume 3/31 from 1-3 pm.

Craft Fair will be held 10/25/25. Assistance will be needed for set up on 10/23 & 10/24. Details to be worked out at upcoming meetings.

ECSW Women of the ELCA Biennial Convention will be held November 8 and St. Mark’s is hosting.

Featured speaker is Jacqueline Bussie who will speak on the theme “Love Without Limits” Assistance will be needed for set-up, the luncheon, greeters & ushers, and other assorted tasks. We’ll work on those details at an upcoming meeting. We will also need delegates from St. Marks to serve as our voting representative during the business part of the meeting. Let Jean know of your interest in attending or in serving as a voting delegate.

Endowment Ministry Team—No meeting this month ~ Submitted by Jean Memken

Our team did not meet, but I did talk with the other team members (Nancy Maslow and Tammie Kersten) and we did agree to fund the Linwood House concert for \$550. The concert will take place this summer in Linwood Park. The grant will be used to cover the cost of the group singing (Voices of Peace), publicity, refreshments, and park rental fees. Laurie was able to send the check last week and we have already received a very nice thank you from their director

The Endowment Fund has done well since the beginning of the year, gaining \$791.24 in value since January 1. The value as of 2/28/25 is \$195,754.95.

Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team—March 18, 2025 ~ Submitted by Laurie Olson

Members Present: Treasurer Laurie Olson, Financial Secretary Pat Westphal, Mary Jane Hartley, Jason Blank, and Pennie Linna

Members Absent: Pastor Niveen and Fern Furhmann

Opened with a Prayer.

(Continued on page 10)

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Reviewed current account balances through end of February 2025. February's giving to current monthly expenses was \$15,678.08 and expenses were \$7,761.83. The difference was \$7,916.25. It was noted that we have not received February's invoice from the Synod for Pastor's salary and benefits, which results in the higher positive February difference. That invoice will be around \$7,500

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It was suggested that we inform those that ask for donations for Geraniums that there is plenty of funds in the account and to hold off requesting for funds this year.

Discussed the account(s) that might be available to use for Pastor's request to rent a donkey for Palm Sunday. The Stewardship & Finance Team recommends either the In & Out fund (which is temporarily in the red, but anticipated to have funds restored) or ask Tammie Kersten for her blessing to use Raiseright (SCRIP) funds. \$200 is needed.

Laurie informed the team that the 2023 & 2024 audits will be done on Saturday, March 22 at 9:00 AM.

There is a need for additional counters. We will ask Jean to put a note in both the bulletin and newsletter asking for interested individuals to contact Pat Westphal. The plan will be to host a counter review session, for veterans and any new counters. Date yet to be determined.

Stewardship: Stewards of God's Land Seed Library will be set up soon. Also, the team discussed doing a recycling project with kids and adults in May or June. We will discuss it at our next meeting.

Personal thank you cards are sent out to everyone donating to the parking lot project. Pat will provide Fern, who writes out the cards, with an updated list of those to be thanked.

We were notified that the cost of the offering envelopes will be going up on April 1. To take advantage of the current prices, Pat has asked Jean to order 10 less than the previous order, which will meet our needs.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next regular meeting is April 15, 2025, at 6:30 pm. (This date may change, due to it being Holy Week and council meeting date change not confirmed)

Ministry Team Reports: Discussed free donuts and coffee on Fat Tuesday. Connection Representative, Tom Frantz, noted they will evaluate and decide if they do this again next year, how to make it more successful.

MSC to approve ministry team reports: Pastor Niveen/JT Rose

Unfinished Business:

Safety Guide: A draft has been developed and reviewed by Jason Blank and Laurie Olson. After Chris Anderson and Ginny Schieck give their feedback, a final guide will be brought to the April Council meeting for approval.

Communication Audit: No update.

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Parking lot funding: Jason noted that Bruce and Ginny met with construction company, MCC, and discussed sidewalk adjacent to the north side of the building and replacing a few bad pieces rather than removing it completely. This will keep the walkway as a barrier between parking lot and flower bed. Joe Rehorst is making contacting with a company to get the onsite utilities marked ie. utilities to the storage shed and digital sign. Laurie will get the construction permit from Neenah City Hall for the parking lot project.

Synod Council Academy: Laurie, Pastor Niveen, Dawn, Tammie, and Tom are signed up to attend virtually.

New Business:

Fundraiser for Pine Ridge trip: Submitted a grant. Trip leaders would like to involve youth and adults that are attending in the fundraising. Ideas include a fried bread taco fundraising, and a car wash in front of the church, free will offering? Dates are not set yet, but thinking in May? The council agreed on a fundraiser(s).

Did You Know: Laurie distributed a History of St. Mark’s. For the April newsletter, information on the formation of St. Mark’s will be included. Pastor Niveen will provide an item of interest for the May newsletter.

Goals and objectives for the council for this coming year: Council had a discussion on what their goals could look like. It was noted that the church’s role of assisting those in need is increasing, due to social service budget/grant cuts. For example, how do we move into setting up a goal to assist the food pantry so it can be sustained in the future? Who is connecting passions to ministry? Collected effort and plan. Reviewed the current St. Mark’s Mission Statement, Core Values and Goals & Objectives, established in 2021. Discussed focusing on the council’s support of our Ministry Teams and to assist as needed, as the teams work on our ministry results (goals):

Ministry Results Areas (Goals):

1. Connecting passions to ministry.
2. Ending hunger in our community.
3. Delivery of impactful worship experiences.
4. Providing life-long faith opportunities.

Council Members were asked to give goals more thought and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Re-schedule April’s Council Meeting: Change next meeting because of Maundy Thursday. Next meeting will be April 24, 2025.

Our next meeting will be 04/24/25 at 6:30 pm.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

A New Look for The Messenger

Maybe you noticed our monthly newsletter has a new look! We are transitioning our various documents from Microsoft Publisher to Microsoft Word, and this is the first month our newsletter is produced exclusively on Word. We hope you like our new look!



HOLY WEEK

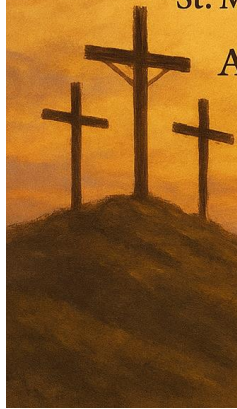
April 13, 2025 – Palm Sunday
at 10:00 AM

April 17, 2025 – Maundy Thursday
& Seder Meal at 6:30 pm

Please let the church office know if you are planning to attend.

April 18, 2025 – Good Friday
The joint service at Gloria Dei is at noon
St. Mark's is at 6:30 pm

April 20, 2025 – Easter Sunday
at 10 am.



Seder Meal Planned for Maundy Thursday Worship

Sunday, April 13, is the last day to sign up for the Maundy Thursday Seder Meal Worship Service. The service will start at 6:30 pm and will be in the Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate the Passover as Jesus and his disciples did on the night he was betrayed. Feet/Hand washing and Holy Communion will be included as part of the celebration. You will not want to miss this very special service, so be sure to sign up to be included on the guest list.



Seder Meal



We are grateful to Dr. Jean Memken and Rev. Dara Clifford for their inspiring preaching. Their messages have touched our hearts and deepened our faith.

We appreciate their dedication to sharing God's Word and pray for continued blessings in their ministries.

An Invitation to the Gospel Musical Presentation of "Bow the Knee: A Dramatic Easter Musical"

Experience the Power of the Gospel in "Bow the Knee." This musical presentation is about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection through the eyes of a Roman centurion.

Presentations at Trinity Lutheran Church & School 501 Stewart Ave, in Wausau. **Saturday, April 5 at 7:00 pm** and **Sunday, April 6 at 2:30.** "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54).

Please talk to Pastor Niveen or Pat Westphal if you want to attend on April 6.



Our Sunday Servants

Date	Assisting Minister	Reader	Greeters	Ushers	Counters	Acolyte
April 6	Confirmands	Confirmands	Joe & Linda Rehorst	J.T. Rose Jeff Tharp	Jeff Tharp Kim Wallmuller Fern Fuhrmann	Sophia Kersten
April 9 Midweek Service			Jean Memken	Rosemary Cermak		
April 13 Palm Sunday	Pennie Linna	Jeri Travis	Doug & Renie Sebstead	Joy Case Jenny Case	Jane Arps Ellen LaMarche Pat Westphal	Braydin Messing
April 17 Maundy Thur. Seder Meal			John & Laurie Olson	John & Laurie Olson		
April 18 Good Friday				Mary Jane Hartley		
April 20 Easter Sunday	Jean Memken	Bruce Grundman	Pay Thompson Phyllis Ziemke	LaVerne Arndt Lois Kemp	Gwen Hoehne Doug Sebstead Renie Sebstead	Lily Anderson
April 27 Holy Humor	Jeff Tharp	Tom Frantz	Wanda Webster Pat Westphal	Bruce Grundman Doug Hesser	Bruce Grundman Lois Kemp Linda Anderson	Leland Tharp

Communion Assistants:

April 6 – (At the Rail) – Confirmands

April 20 – Easter Sunday (Continuous) – Sherri Denney, Linda Anderson, Adam Clifford, Joe Rehorst, and Pennie Linna

Altar Guild: Jean Memken



Thank you to our ambitious and generous volunteers who have provided soups, breads, cookies, and other items for our Lenten pre-church suppers. Our providers have worked very hard to make this an enjoyable time of companionship. Thank you to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Rosemary Cermak, Mary Jane Hartley, Lois Hill, Pat Westphal, Karen Jordan, Ginny Schieck, John and Laurie Olson, Gwen Hoehne, Dawn Jones, Ruthie Grundman, Linda Anderson, Joy Case, Jane Arps, and Jean Memken.

Say it isn't So!



Yes, it already time to start planning for Vacation Bible School 2025! Anyone interested in volunteering for VBS this year is invited to attend a planning meeting on Thursday, April 10, at 6:00 pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. If you can't come to the meeting, but want to participate, call Joan at Gloria Dei at at 920-725-6822 to sign up to volunteer.

VBS dates are Sunday, August 3 – Thursday, August 7 from 5:30-8:30pm.



This is the last weekend to see Jenny Case in St. Timothy's (473 7th St., Menasha) musical production of "Brigadoon." Showtimes are March 28 and 29 at 7:00 pm, and March 30 at 2:00 pm. Free will donation appreciated.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
140 S. Green Bay Road
Neenah, WI 54956

