

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY
10:30AM-12:30PM
AND WHEN NEEDED.

~December 2024 Newsletter~

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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PASTOR TIM WILL BE OUT OF
THE OFFICE FROM MONDAY,
DECEMBER 16TH – JANUARY 3RD
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE
FOR ANY PASTORAL NEEDS.

WELCOMING

WORSHIPPING

SERVING

Merry Christmas



ALL Done in the heat of the day.
Thank you to all who took time to decorate the church, inside and out!



The St. Mark's Sunday School youth will be putting on a Christmas pageant on December 15, during worship. We hope you will enjoy watching the children reenact the first Christmas!



The Advent Cantata will take place during the 10:15 am worship service on Sunday, December 8th. Yulefest will then follow with a gathering featuring soup, chili and breads.

New this year, LIVE MUSIC featuring Pastor Tim and Gary Gutzloff. Group singing of seasonal melodies will be encouraged. Please plan to join us!

If you would like to help bring in the cheer, please let a member of the Social Ministry committee know how you can help (if you're available, we are doing the set up for Yulefest on Saturday at 1 pm. The rear kitchen door will be open for you.)

Before this year, I can count the number of times I have seen a doctor, not counting school vaccinations and sports physicals on one hand. Now, after several office visits and a handful of therapy appointments I am looking forward to a new hip. My surgeon says I will be back to normal after my procedure in no less than 6 weeks. For now, I am in a low-level constant pain and have resigned to taking pills multiple times each day. Not getting good sleep is by far the worst part so far. I don't feel like myself and I don't have the energy I usually have. My wife might tell you that I am irritable, and she would be right. I am so done with this.

Then I am reminded that I am not the only one experiencing sleep depravity, pain or therapy. Many of you have been dealing with much worse for much longer without even complaining. I must say thank you to all of you who have shared your empathy with me, it has helped a great deal.

So, Christmas is coming and while I don't feel much like running around to find the best deals on presents, I have had more time to think and ponder the big things about life. It astounds me that our God would come to us in the form of a baby and be born to a young couple, unwed of humble means and experience all of the ups and downs this life has to offer. This gives God first-hand experience into what it is to be human. And not just for the experience but also to show us God's heart and character. We can go to God with our hurts as well as our joys and God who knows not just us but knows pain and suffering, promises to always be with us.

May God's presence shine in your life this Christmas season!

Pastor Tim

Lectio Divina will
take a break until
after the holidays.

YES! IT'S COMING!!

The seasonal opportunity to volunteer to clear snow at St Mark

The property committee is seeking your help to remove any snow from the city sidewalk, carriage walks and from all the church entrances/exits. If you can help, sign up for your week soon, as they are going fast. The week of July 4th is already taken.



St Mark Veteran Outreach collection concluded at the end of November collecting nonperishable food items and cash totaling \$308.05 in donations. Thank you for your generosity and expressing your gratitude to St Mark veterans by participating in the luncheon and silent auction for the quilts. All the donations will be delivered after the holiday in January to the Wisconsin Veteran Outreach Tiny Homes.



PROJECT CONCERN PERSONAL CARE NEED OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER IS HOUSEHOLD CLEANER

JANUARY IS SHAMPOO

THERE IS A BOX IN THE NARTHEX LABELED FOR
PROJECT CONCERN FOR YOUR DONATIONS.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS for those blessed with WANTING NOTHING.

Consider the Good Gifts display. The ELCA gifts appear on the ornament tree. The ornaments were not offered this year but we had leftovers and the prices are the same. This may be your last year for those cute chicks or strutting roosters.

On the table find suggestions for Project Concern. Sponsor a Child for Christmas or Holiday Food Basket.

Luther Manor Love Lights

Cudahy Family Library Wish Lists

Kelly Senior Center

The Warming Room

Lutheran Social Services

Take an angel off the Hope House tree and purchase the item listed. Bring the non-gift-wrapped item back and put it under the tree. The items will be collected until Dec. 25th. Any questions see Lou Ann Uttke. Thanks for your donations. Hope House appreciates all donations.

We have a BIG collection Box

Our collection is for old towels and blankets for the Wisconsin Humane Society
 So if it's time to replace them, bring your old towels and blankets to church and leave them in the collection box by December 21st

ST MARK ANNUAL WALK TO THE WELL ON OCTOBER 6

Your pledges totaled over \$240 in support of our walkers this year all to benefit Project Concern.



Thank you people of St. Mark for your generosity you actually donated \$445 to Project Concern!!!



For A Gathering



At yer service, Young and old

THANK YOU for the success of St Mark's Long John Oktoberfest

Our St Mark legacy of a good food ministry was maintained. People stepped up and donated a fine selection of German food thank yous to Sue Voros, Jill Hyatt, Sharon Lee and Pastor Tatinen, Jan Ozawella, Phil and Roslyn Shaw, Sharon and Jim Zsebe, Susan Ploetz, Laura Zsebe, Janet Pape . AND

Our Oktoberfest beer sampling donations from Sue Voros, Laurie and Joel Zielinski, Sharon Lee, Jim Zsebe, Beth Kelly Phil Shaw, Sandy Kozey, Randy Kohl, Mark Kulusny, Brandon Johnson, Christa Lindh, Sharon Kuharski, Pastor Tim, Laura Zsebe, Jan Ozawella, Joe Zsebe AND

Those who helped clean up and set up the fellowship hall included Tim Uttke, Randy Kohl, Beth Kelly , Jan Ozawella, Sue Voros, Phil and Roslyn Shaw, Sharon Kuharski and Kalia, Susan Ploetz, Laura Zsebe

AND Plus new this year a silent quilt auction and winning bids from Roslyn and Kalia totaled \$100

AND All who had attended to support our collection of long underwear for Divine Intervention Warming Room folks resulting in \$860 in cash donations and complete sets of long johns.

AND



Traditional German Fest Music by the St Mark Brass Ensemble – Gary, Mike, Lance, Cary, Jim, Mark and Drew

Some spoke of marriage



AND the winner is:
 The Warming Room Guests

St. Mark's Ev. Lutheran Church
October 16, 2024 Church Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order-7:05

Members Present- Matt Fritz, Sharon Paprocki, Virginia Grossman, Lance Uttke, Lou Ann Uttke, Dave Odden, Laura Zsebe, Pastor Tim (via Phone), Guests- Beth Kelly, Members

Excused- LuAnn Barber, Sharon Lee

Prayer- Sharon Paprocki

Additions to Agenda- New Business- Council approval of reimbursement

Previous meeting minutes- Motion-Sharon Paprocki & Laura Zsebe

Pastor's Report- We have much work to do with the absence of Mike Barber. We have big shoes to fill and will be in his debt for a while. Pastor is currently at a Theological Conference meeting with his doctoral professors. Gene Schlecht passed away, and is believed to be the oldest member of the congregation. Four students will be confirmed at the end of October.

Old Business-

Committee Financial Plans- Please submit them to the finance committee.

Review of Stewardship Program- Committee Fair will be canceled at this time unless it comes up again. With all of the things happening recently, we have not been able to give it the attention needed to make it successful. The stewardship committee will be looking at options for the stewardship campaign and asking the congregation to do what they can to help, both financially and through talents.

New Business-

Church Finance- The church, along with the council, will need to understand that the finance will not be run the same way as it has. This comes with any change that new people have new ways of looking at things and understanding them. Any criticisms or complaints will not be productive. Church council is responsible for the finances until a replacement (short or long term) can be found. Currently Nick D'Addario is the only signer of checks. The current credit card will not be used as it is in Mike Barber's name. Going forward, we are looking at having multiple signers, specifically Council Present, Administrative Assistant, among others. When these roles change to other people, we must be diligent in changing the signers to be accurate in case of emergencies. In the absence of a Treasurer/Financial Secretary any bills must be approved by council.

St. Mark's Executive Committee previously met to discuss a path forward given the sudden passing of our Treasurer/Financial Secretary Mike Barber. Minutes were included in the October packet with suggestions and recommendations for council. For specifics, please see these minutes.

Appoint Interim Treasurer- Beth Kelly has offered to be interim Treasurer until the Annual meeting in January. Motion Sharon P. & Lou Ann- to appoint Beth Kelly as interim treasurer with great thanks. Beth Kelly accepted the appointment.

With the appointment of treasurer, council will not have to approve payments of bills and reimbursements.

Estimate for new finance technology- "M" is suggesting \$2080 for technology updates including: a new computer for the work room, updated QuickBooks, 4 hours of training on the updates, and getting any necessary financial information off of Mike Barber's home computer. Motion Pastor & Sharon P.

Payroll is automatic for current employees except for Maria and Gary who get checks.

Reimbursement of \$360 to Joe Zsebe for repairs previously performed. Motion Lance & Lou Ann

Committee Report-

Fall Clean up November 2, Oktoberfest raised \$820 for Heavenly Meals, TO Property- Police and Fire departments need a contact person in case of emergencies. Will ask Joe to be the contact person. WE Energies bill was due and paid. Talked about front door safety if the power goes out. Also talked about who has knowledge of the front door system. Conversations will be directed to property with council input.

Finance Report-

Giving is higher than last year. Deficit is steady and not growing. Beth will request a year's worth of financial reports from Julie

Communication-

Outdoor digital sign was mentioned. Talk will continue once things settle down.

October 26 10am is the confirmed meal- Estimating 30 people. Will be brunch/breakfast foods. Matt is not required to do anything as he is a parent of confirmand.

Adjournment- motion Lou Ann & Lance 8:10

Submitted by Lance Uttke

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Please be patient with the posting of the financials of the church. We are working on getting our interim treasurer set up with the tools needed.

2024 Financial Plan as set at Annual Congregational Meeting

Monthly giving needed to fulfill the missions of the people of St. Mark's (operating expenses, stewardship, education, benevolence, etc.)
\$11,389

GARDEN REPORT 2024

Huge thank you to Farmer Doug (Doog, known in some quarters) for diligently harvesting and delivering the produce to the Project Concern food pantry. Thanks to all who have planted, weeded and work the garden under direction of the Master Gardener Jim Zsebe.

Produce harvested this season was over 200 pounds with a grocery store value of over \$500. Farmer Doug also reports there still may be some Cauliflower and Brussels sprouts yet to be harvested! In addition Patrons of the Project Concern Food Pantry have expressed their gratitude for the locally grown fresh vegetables.



2024 Church Council

- LuAnn Barber
- Matt Fritz (President)
- Virginia Grossman
- Sharon Lee
- Dave Odden
- Sharon Paprocki
- Lance Uttke
- Lou Ann Uttke (Vice President)
- Laura Zsebe (Secretary)

Next Council Meeting: Dec. 13th at 6:00p.m.