

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
**TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY**  
**10:30-12:30**  
**THURSDAY AND FRIDAY**  
**AS NEEDED**

# ~March 2026 Newsletter~

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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**PASTOR TIM'S OFFICE HOURS**  
**TUESDAY 11:00AM-5:00PM**  
**WEDNESDAY 10:00AM-12:00PM**  
**THURSDAY BY APPOINTMENT**  
**UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IN THE**  
**WEEKLY BULLETIN**

## WELCOMING

## WORSHIPPING

## SERVING

*Join us on Wednesdays  
during Lent*

*Lectio Devina at 5 PM*

*Soup and Bread at 6 PM*

*Holden Evening Prayer Service at 7 PM*



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

**Don't forget to turn  
your clocks ahead.**



### **Sunday School and Youth Happenings**

**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Easter Egg hunt during Sunday School and Youth Sunday during service.

**Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday school children will sing a song during worship. They will practice during Sunday school leading up to the performance.

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Last day of Sunday School before summer break.

**Various times in July**

Consider signing your kids or your family up for a couple days or a week at Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn. There are scholarships available.

See Christa Wittenberg with any questions.

### **YES, YOU CAN DO THAT TOO WORKSHOPS**

Sharon Lee conducted bread making on February 28<sup>th</sup> in the St Mark's Kitchen

AND

On March 28<sup>th</sup> Jan Orzewalla will conduct a quilting bee workshop

AND

Now, how can I fix that workshop TBA  
Watch for the details

### **2026 Church Council**

- Emily Buckner
- Virginia Grossman
- Beth Kelly
- Sharon Lee
- Lori Liebenstein
- Dave Odden
- Jan Orzewalla
- Sharon Paprocki (Vice President)
- Terra Scott (Secretary)
- Lance Uttke (President)
- Lou Ann Uttke
- Christa Wittenberg
- Laura Zsebe

**Next Council Meeting:**  
**March 18th at 7:00 pm**

PROJECT CONCERN  
PERSONAL CARE NEED OF  
THE MONTH

**MARCH IS  
TOOTHBRUSHES AND  
TOOTHPASTE**

**APRIL IS  
HAND/BAR SOAPS**

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

What we learned in the Happiest place on earth.

No, I am not talking about Disney. Sharon and I recently returned from Finland which is reported to be the happiest place on earth. You might think that since I am half Finnish it was my idea, but no, all credit goes to my wife who thought... winter... lets go north of the Arctic circle. She was excited to see the Northern Lights and also try to figure out this happiness claim. We arrived at the Helsinki airport were amazed that the airport was very clean and modern and moderately priced, especially for an airport. It was about 11Am Monday, hours before check in at our Clarion Hotel and much to our surprise they were ready to check us in early. I have to say that was either lucky or maybe part of the plan but it did make up happy. After flying all night it was great to have a room, a shower and a bed waiting.

The next morning we went back to the airport to fly to Rovaniemi which is located in Northern Finland at the arctic Circle. It was an easy flight and as soon as we arrived we noticed how beautiful the trees were with thick snow and ice crystals clinging to their branches. We got our carry-ons and made our way to try to find out how to get to our airbnb. To our surprise they had a very visible info booth with people who spoke perfect english. (This was because they teach every kind english in School and have for 50 years.) We got directions to the bus and made our way out of the airport. Once we were out doors we immediately noticed something was different. Yes it was cold, about -20 Celsius but it was something else. The air was so clean and fresh. We jumped on the bus and told our driver where we were going and paid our fare. As we sat and waited the driver came back and informed us that a different bus that was much more direct was dropping off passengers and if we wanted he would flag it down so we could get to our place faster and with fewer stops. We agreed and I was wondering if we would have to pay again but when we got to the buss the driver explained that we had already paid and we just went on. That was a pleasant surprise but not quite true happiness yet.

Our airbnb was a condo in a 12 story building equipped with a Sauna. No not one for the building somewhere down in the basement but right in in our condo. In fact all the units in all of the buildings we saw had them. After taking our first sauna and a glass of wine before jumping into bed was total happiness. Sitting in a really hot room in the dead of winter, sweating out the cares and stress of the day it turns out creates euphoria. Or at least it did for us. The rest of our trip we saw how relaxed and trusting the Fins are. Much of the country runs on the honor system and it works. People trust that kindness and generosity that comes around, goes around and usually they are not wrong. Add to that that they eat really healthy, walk a lot and have the best air quality on the planet. Just maybe, a recipe for happiness.

On our second night in Rovaniemi, we boarded a tour bus and it took us 2 hours north to the Finland, Sweden boarder to a frozen lake where we stood outside on a clean night and saw the most amazing display of green's purples and reds. The Northern Lights with the naked eye, dancing overhead not just somewhere in the far off distance was nothing short of stunning. It really did leave us with a true sense of awe and gratitude. Some might even call that happiness.

### SOUPER FEBRUARY BOWL

#### Collection of soup for Project Concern

Continuing the tradition of bringing soup for Project Concern during the month of February we reverted to the old favorite rivalry pitting the North side pew sitters against the South side pew sitters [Note alpha order neutrality]

#### SOUPER BOWL WRAP UP

**End of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter NORTH LEADS by 5.**

Will South score in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter?

**End of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter: South now leads by 11.**

North threw a challenge flag over missing 5 cans. Play was under review by synod who determined statistician will need to be replaced. 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter is a chance for both sides to bring in the SOUP.

**Thanks to the St. Mark Brass Band for the perfect half time show. And how bout those concession stands... 5 stars for sure.** Synod denied the North challenge and suggested they be good sports. The North responded they will let the five gones be bygones.

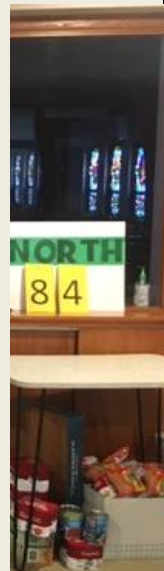
**End of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter:** whistle blows with the score North 78 – South 64.

**AND THE FINAL SCORE: North 84 – South 69.**

Was sluggish finish due to overindulgence.

**WHO CARES, the winner is the folks at the Project Concern Food Pantry with 153 cans.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS**



### ST MARK'S BABY LOVE

Our 40 plus, well fed, members that attended the Kings Sunday Spaghetti Dinner contributed over \$200 to kick off the collection of baby items needed to be donated to Project Concern on behalf of St Mark  
**Laura and Joe purchased a huge cart full of diapers with those funds at a warehouse store.**

**There were some curious people in the store observing a 70 something couple with all those diapers and had to ask some questions.**

**We were able to respond, before we explained our congregation donated for the diapers for our local Project Concern pantry, Haven't you ever heard the story of Sarah and Abraham? It's another MIRACLE! It was of course followed with laughter.**

**All total St Mark's Candlemas collection for babies Doug was able to deliver to Project Concern: 1348 diapers, 22 baby food containers, 3 cereal boxes, a package of wipes and 4 lotions / powders**

**Thank you for your generosity and the chance to be biblical**



**Kristi Sebald**, Volunteer Services & Events Manager for Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity was in attendance to thank us for our support and answer your questions along with new HFH homeowners, Janae and Dallas

Our outstanding St Mark Brass Band: Robin, Drew, Lou, Lance, Mark, Cary, Mike, Jim and Gary had plenty of festive music to perform Yes weren't nothing but a party for y'all to enjoy



**New Orleans food sampling**  
We Thank Thrivent for providing funds to help make this event a success

Along with donations of our volunteer New Orleans Food preparers: Kelly Cliften, Jill Hyatt, Lori and Jim Liebenstein, Jim and Sharon Zsebe, Dick and Mary Martins, Susan Ploetz, Sharon Lee, Jan Orzewalla, Mark Elhey, Laurie Zielinski, Laura and Joe Zsebe, Phil Shaw, Brandon Johnson and Pastor Tim for the King Cake, hey who has the baby?

The decorators: Jan, Tim Uttke, Jill, Laura and Joe  
If you missed it, you can still participate by decorating the HFH 2x4s studs in the gathering space and by picking up a LENTEN SPECIAL GIFT HFH envelopes which are available for you to make a special gift during the Lenten Season. Perhaps a dollar a day added to the envelope for the forty days of Lent? Then at Easter add it with your offering envelope during the offertory.

Your gift will be added to St Mark's Habitat For Humanity Building on Faith gift. Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity is planning to build 40 new homes this year!!

*Photos by Sue Voros*



**WARMING ROOM SERVICE**

The food from our Fat Sunday celebration was also shared with the guests of the Devine Intervention Warming Room the following Monday Lunde Gras, evening served by Joel and Aiden Zielinski and Joe Zsebe



AS we prepared for Fat Sunday our young people and folks built their floats on FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup> For the Fat Sunday Second Line Parade.

Easter Breakfast.  
April 5. Serving 8:15 - 9:45  
Adults \$8.00, Children 6-10 \$5.00, Children under 5 Free  
Ticket sales to begin March 1  
Any questions see Jill Hyatt  
Sign-up sheet for set up (on Saturday April 4 & and clean up after church on April 5), will be in the narthex to sign up.

**CELEBRATE MARCH 17th with 3rd Tues. folks at 1:00 in the Gathering Space.**

We enjoyed cruising as crew shared by 3 generations of Scaffidi women and realize not much could compare so it's back to chat and simple card games. **Green** optional.

## Save the Dates:

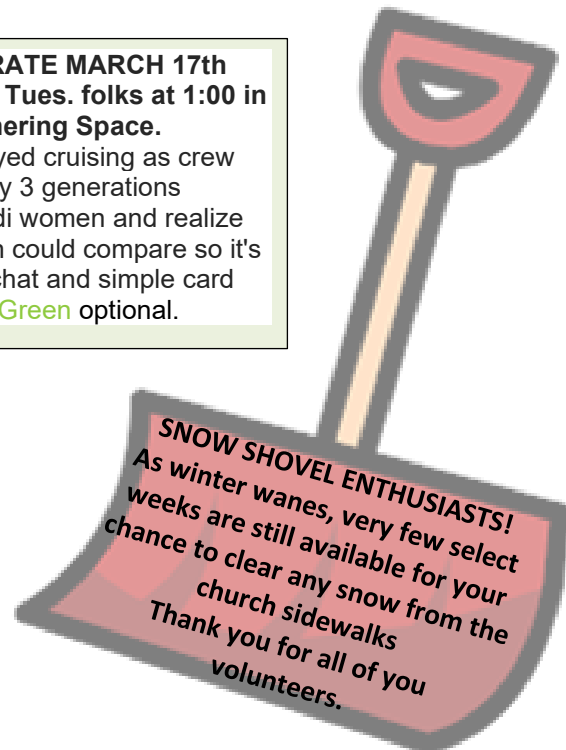
April 5<sup>th</sup> – St. Mark's Easter Breakfast

April 25<sup>th</sup> – Bowling for Concern

June 7<sup>th</sup> – Musical Concert for Project Concern

June 13<sup>th</sup> - Rumble for Hunger (Project Concern)

June 14<sup>th</sup> – St. Mark's Church Picnic



St. Mark's Ev. Lutheran Church  
January 21, 2026  
Church Council Minutes  
St. Mark's Mission Statement

Living in Christ's call to "love one another" St. Mark's is committed to **welcoming** all people into the warmth of God's loving presence through **worshipping** God, and **servicing** all.

**Members Attending:** President Lance Uttke, Virginia Grossmann, Beth Kelly, Sharon Lee via phone, Lori Liebenstein, Dave Odden, Jan Orzewalla, Sharon Paprocki, Pastor Tim via phone, Lou Ann Uttke, Laura Zsebe

**Members Excused:** Lu Ann Barber, Matt Fritz,

**Call to Order:** President Uttke called the meeting to order at 7:10

**Devotions:** Pastor Tim led devotions with a prayer.

**Addition to/Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve made by Sharon Paprocki with a second by Virginia Grossman. Motion carried.

**Approval of previous minutes:** Motion to approve December minutes made by Lou Ann Uttke with a second by Lori Liebenstein. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** This has been a great writing retreat. Lent starts with Ash Wednesday (2/18) and in the weeks following we will have Lectio @ 5:00 pm, soup @ 6:00 pm and service @ 7:00 pm. Pastor mentioned the possibility of 2 or 3 weddings coming up this summer. Banner Sundays will be February 15<sup>th</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Mission Priorities:** Nothing new at this time.

### Old Business:

1. **Slate of candidates:** The following people have agreed to serve on the church council Sharon Paprocki & Terra Scott

### New Business:

1. **Annual Meeting Agenda:** This will be the same as last year. Lance will forward to Julie.
2. **Proposed Financial Plan:** Beth provided us with a plan, which will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

### General Items:

1. **Committee Report:** There were 2 written reports from Social Ministry. I mentioned that Education did not meet however they will meet briefly on 2/15 right after service. Property met with people to get an estimate to repair the bell tower. Joe and Laura delivered items to the Tiny House, which they were very thankful to receive.
2. **Finance:** Nothing is new. We still have a deficit. We received \$14,000 so far for the Fall Campaign.
3. **Communication:** A thank you note was received from Hope House, Tippecanoe and Michelle's Action Angels and Tricklebee Cafe
4. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Lou Ann Uttke with a second by Lori Liebenstein. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Ann Uttke, Volunteer Recording Secretary