

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
1019 North 7th Street
Sheboygan WI 53081

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DECEMBER 2021
FORWARD
MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER



ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH: CONNECTING-SHARING-EQUIPPING-REFLECTING

Connecting by building bridges with our neighbor
Sharing the Good News of Jesus for a changed community
Equipping each other for opportunities to serve
Reflecting God's love through acts of kindness

You are welcome to watch a live stream of Sunday's service at Facebook.com/stmarksheboygan.

If you are unable to join us live, the service is recorded and available on our Facebook ppage. The sermon will continue to be recorded and available after Sunday's service on our website.



Volunteers are needed to:

- Help with projection, sound booth, and assisting with our Facebook livestream on Sunday mornings. Contact Rob Sass if you are interested
- Join the Bell Choir—practice is on Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m.
- Jubilation Choir—practice is on Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. Contact Al Brusse for more information on either choir.



When you are hospitalized or in need of Pastoral care, please contact the church office at 920-458-4343.



SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

Celebrating a special occasion or honoring a loved one in 2022. Sign up to provide flowers for the altar. The sign-up is on the bulletin board in the back of church. Or, you can also call the church office (920.458.4343.)

CONGREGATIONAL FUND


Gifts
unto the **Lord**
from Your Estate

*Have you included
St. Mark Congregational Fund
in your estate planning?*

*See your financial advisor or attorney
to find the best way for you to do it!*



Membership Statistics	
As of November 12, 2021	
Confirmed:	219
Unconfirmed:	11
Baptized:	220

R & R Luncheon

**Wednesday, December 15 at 11:30 a.m.
at the Yacht Club**

**For reservations, please call Lorena Tislau
at 920.467.9118.**



Christmas Tree Decorating

Monday, December 13
at 6:00 p.m.

Many hands make for light work! Please join us!



Come, Prepare Your Hearts and Worship With Us



Wednesday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m. with Holy Communion
 Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. with Holy Communion
 Wednesday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m.



Christmas Eve



Christmas Day
10:00 a.m.



New Year's Eve



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA / DONOR ORDER FORM

You may sponsor poinsettia plants in memory, honor, or celebration of someone special in your life this Christmas.

Please fill out this form and return it along with your payment of \$10.50 for a single size poinsettia plant or \$19.50 for a double size poinsettia plant by **Monday, December 13th**.

The plants will adorn the Sanctuary and Narthex throughout the holiday season.

You may pick up and take home the plant(s) you sponsor after the Christmas Eve service.

Your Name _____

In honor / memory / celebration of

Quantity of plant(s) size and color

Red Single _____

White Single _____

Red Double _____

White Double _____

If you would like to make a monetary donation to help offset the cost of the Christmas decorations, that adorn our church over the holidays, please indicate the amount here \$_____

**Please return to the Church Office
with payment by Monday, December 13th.**



ON-LINE GIVING INFORMATION

Online
Giving

We now have online giving through Vanco. You can use this option to make a one time offering or set up a regular contribution. The link for this is on the website: stmarksheboygan.com

Click on the box that says Donate to St. Mark Lutheran Church.

If you need more information, please contact the church office.

GIVING and WORSHIP ATTENDANCE COMPARISON
Through October 2021 Compared to 2020

	2020	2021
Average Operating Fund Offerings per week (see Note 1)	\$3,810	\$3,786
Average In-person Attendance per week at Services (see Note 2)	\$ 47	\$ 67
Weekly Budget (see Note 3)	\$4,540	\$4,355

Note 1: 2021 Giving includes offerings during Worship and payments received in Church Office through the end of September. Values do not include special fund donations to ministries such as We Care, the Food Pantry, the Vineyard Fund, the Youth Group, and building projects. These donations were approximately \$275 per week through October 2021. Other sources of funds, such as outside contributions, Memorials, refunds, rebates, and transfers from the Congregational Fund, are also not included in the amounts.

Note 2: Attendance per week includes only in-person attendance. Comparable online attendance figures are not available for live-streamed services. Lower 2020 attendance figures are lower partly because there were no in-person services for several months.

Note 3: Budget figures are included as a comparison because the budget was the estimated amount voted on by the Congregation Membership to meet the Congregation's financial requirements during the year. Actual expenditures are available in the monthly accounting report distributed by the Treasurer.

Note 4: These amounts are presented for comparison purposes only. Our individual giving amount should be based on being faithful to the Lord so that we return a generous amount of the gifts He gave us.



*Merry
Christmas!*

The deadline remains the 15th of each month. When emailing to jleff@att.net, please use the words FORWARD (month) in the subject line (Word format—not PDF, please.) You can also call my phone number (920.458.0886) and either leave a detailed message or your return number.

There is a drop box at church, but since I am worshipping online at the present time, I am not faithful with checking it. If you prefer a "real voice", please call after 2:00 PM. Thank you so much.

Julie Leffin



Hi from your Parish Nurse!

It's the Christmas season and you are grieving the loss of a loved one. What are you to do this holiday season? It's okay to be sad when you miss someone you love. You are not alone. The holidays are often challenging for anyone who have encountered the death of a loved one. Instead of being times of family togetherness, sharing and thanksgiving can create feelings of sadness, loss, and emptiness. Society persuades you to join in the holiday spirit, but all around you the sights, sounds and smells trigger memories of the loved one you have lost. There are no simple guidelines that exist that will take away the hurt you are feeling. I will share tips with you to help you get thru the holiday season as you are grieving the loss of a loved one.

First, I would like to share some dos and don'ts for the holiday season. Do be gentle with yourself and protect yourself. Don't do more than you want, and don't. Don't ask if you can help or should help a friend in grief, just help. Such as inviting them to group events or out for coffee.

Here are some tips to help you get through the holiday season while grieving. 1) Acknowledge that the holidays will be different and will be tough. 2) Decide which traditions you want to keep and those you want to change. 3) create a new tradition in memory of your loved one. 4) Determine where you want to spend the holidays. You might want to change the location, or it may be comforting to keep it the same. 5) Plan ahead then communicate your plans with your family and friends so they understand what you want to do for the holidays. 6) Be honest tell people what you want to DO and what you DON'T want to do for the holidays. 7) Journal your good and bad days. 8) It's okay to skip holiday events if you are in holiday overload and don't feel guilty if you do so. 8) When you go to an event, drive yourself so you can leave if it gets to be too much. 9) Talk to kids about the holidays. Let them know it is okay to enjoy the holiday, but it is also okay to be sad when you have lost a loved one. 10) If it's too sad or overwhelming, don't send cards this year. 11) You may want to minimize or skip gifts. Talk this over with your family. 12) Don't feel that you must put up decorations this year and you shouldn't feel guilty if you don't decorate for Christmas. 13) Ignore people try to tell you what you "should" do for Christmas. Listen to yourself, trust yourself, communicate with your family and what works for you. 14) What the booze. Alcohol may become a fast friend when we are grieving. If a holiday party is becoming too much for you, go home not to an open bar. 15) Say yes to help. People will offer to help you. Take them up on their offers to help. 16) Ask for help if people aren't offering to help. It may be hard for you to ask for help, but it will be a big relief for you as well. 17) Have a moment of silence during your holiday prayer or a toast in memory of your loved one. 18) Identify people who will be able to help and support you during the holidays and those who may cause you more stress. Spend more time with the supportive family and friends and less with the ones will cause you more stress. 19) Make some quiet time for yourself to journal, meditate listen to music, read the Bible, etc. as the holidays can be hectic. 20) Practice self-care. Whatever helps you to recharge, do it. 21) Prioritize and don't overcommit. Save your energy for the most important parties and skip the rest. 22) Skip the holiday if you can't face it. It's okay to take a break this year or consider simplifying your Christmas season this year. It's okay. 23) Remember, it's okay to be happy- this doesn't mean you don't love and miss the person you have lost. Don't feel guilty for the joy you do find in this holiday season.

Finally, remember the real reason for the season-Jesus Christ. Jesus has your loved one in his arms in heaven. He is always here for you too. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Carolyn Eiden, RN
Parish Nurse

From: dying.lovetoknow.com and whatsyourgrief.com

I plan to be in my office all Wednesdays in the month of December.



GriefShare is a 13 week Christian-based grief support group that started Wednesday September 22 and runs through December 15. They meet in the Adult Education Room. Included is a video by grief experts and people who have lost loved ones, weekly discussions, and a workbook. The cost is \$15 for the workbook that will be refunded when the sessions are complete. For questions or to register, please contact Carolyn, the Parish Nurse.



Using Useful Gifts

I worked for the Welfare Department in Cincinnati for a number of years. While I was there, one of our department supervisors quit our department so that she could transfer to another department within the agency. She was very much loved so that the women in our area gave her a small going-away party.

At the party, they gave her many small gifts. There were moisturizers and creams and other such items that I do not know about. What I did know is that she was very excited and happy to have received all of those things. I did not know the value of these gifts to her nor did I know the value of the gifts. But it seemed as though all that she received would be useful to her.

That is sort of what Christmas is all about. We have received a valuable gift from God, but not everyone realizes the value of the baby Jesus. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of a baby boy, Jesus. Every child born alive is valuable to its parents. But because Jesus was also the Son of God, he was even more valuable to all people because he was the Messiah who came to save the world from sin. Jesus was also very useful to us because he save us when we were not able to save ourselves. It is unfortunate that the world does not see the great value and usefulness that the baby Jesus turned out to be.

Our faith in Jesus is the most valuable thing that we possess. We are thankful to the Holy Spirit for his having brought us to this saving faith and his working to keep us in this faith. But the work of the Holy Spirit does not end with his giving us this saving faith. The Holy Spirit also gives us valuable gifts that he wants us to use so that we are useful to others. That is what stewardship is all about.

The Holy Spirit wants us to be useful to others for two reasons. On the one hand, it is to be hoped that through the love that we show to other when we use our gifts that those people will also see the love of God for them. On the other hand, it is to be hoped that the love that we show to others will make their lives better so that they too can live long enough to come to faith in Jesus.


Our mothers always told us, "Make yourself useful." The Holy Spirit also says, "Make yourself useful," using the gifts that he has given to you so that you can be a blessing to others. Be a good steward. Be useful. Help others.

Pastor Schaeztle



December 2021

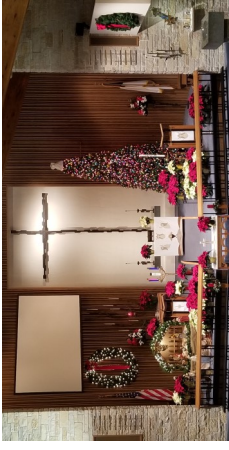
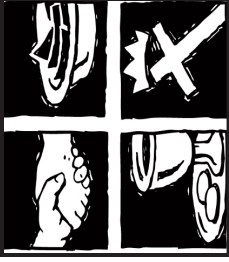
St. Mark Lutheran Church Monthly Calendar of services, meetings and events.
Please see the weekly Messenger, available at each worship service, for important changes and updates.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9:00am Worship (w/HC) Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboyan 10:00am Bible Study	6	7	8 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 5:00pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Worship Service	9 5:15pm Choir Practice	10	11
12 9:00am Worship Service Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboyan 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am Set up Tree	13 5:15pm Trustee's Mtg 6:00pm BOD Meeting 6:00pm Decorate Tree Poinsettia Orders Due	14	15 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 11:30am R & R Luncheon 5:00pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Worship (w/HC)	16 5:15pm Choir Practice	17 8:30am Pantry Workers 9:30am Food Pantry	18 9:00am Poinsettias delivered & placed
19 9:00am Worship (w/HC) Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboyan 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am Congregational Fund Meeting	20	21 <i>Winter Begins</i>	22 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 5:00pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Worship Service	23 5:15pm Choir Practice	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:00pm Worship (w/HC)	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 10:00am Worship Service
26 9:00am Worship Service Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboyan 10:00am Bible Study Food Pantry Sunday	27	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 6:30pm Worship Service	

SUBJECT TO CHANGE



VOLUNTEERS SERVING IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER



Note: If you are unable to attend on your assigned day, please switch with someone else and notify the church office of the change, so the weekly bulletin can be corrected.

DECEMBER 2021 VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Time	Sound	Projection	Facebook Page	Welcome Booth	Greeters	Reader	Altar Guild	Deacon
December 1	Wed.	6:30pm	---	---	---	---	---	---	Needed	Jim Leonhardt
December 5	Sun	9:00am	Jeff Evans	Rob Sass	Dave Hilpertshauer	Lorena Tislau	Evans Family	Mark Lawrenz	Kelly Irwin	Mark Lawrenz
December 8	Wed	6:30pm	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Mary Rautmann
December 12	Sun	9:00am	Dave Hilpertshauer	Drew Thimmig	Rob Sass	Bev Diener	Joe & Kelly Irwin	Kathy Leonhardt	---	Jeff Leffin
December 15	Wed	6:30pm	---	---	---	---	---	---	Needed	Jim Leonhardt
December 19	Sun	9:00am	Dan Drossel	Dave Hilpertshauer	Rob Sass	Bev Sorenson	Mike & Sandy Hotz	Carolyn Eiden	Needed	Jim Leonhardt
December 22	Wed	6:30pm	Needed	---	---	---	---	---	---	Jeff Leffin
December 24	Fri	4:00pm	Dave Hilpertshauer	---	Volunteers needed		Volunteers needed		Needed	Mary Rautmann
December 25	Sat	10:00am	Needed	---	for these services		for these services		---	Chris Keul
December 26	Sun	9:00am	Zachary Falkenberg	Drew Thimmig	Dave Hilpertshauer	Sandy Hotz	Jim & Sue Meyer	Claudia Krepsky	---	Chris Keul
December 31	Fri	6:30pm	Needed	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Sandy Hotz	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	---	Mark Lawrenz

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Birthday blessings to you!



Cindy Dortman	December 2
Carolyn Eiden	December 2
Mary Daehn	December 6
Lorraine Holzem	December 6
Mary Sass	December 6
Jacob Schaller	December 7
Tom Sohr	December 10
Claudia Krepsky	December 11
Cora Erickson	December 15
Nicole Herrmann	December 15
Mervin Kitzerow	December 18
James Rank	December 22
John Sundee	December 24
Mike Schaller	December 26
Lorena Tislau	December 27
Michael Holzem	December 28
Richard Martens	December 29
Gloria Friedel	December 31



Happy Anniversary! God bless your years together.

Hank and Marilyn Kalkopf	December 5	24 years
Christopher Keul and Claudia Krepsky	December 30	10 years



With Sympathy

Sincere sympathies to the family of
 Maxine Keppler
 6.15.1940—10.26.2021



It's more important now, than ever before, to make sure you use the calendar on the wall by the office to mark your meetings and events in order for them to appear in the monthly Forward and the weekly Messenger.