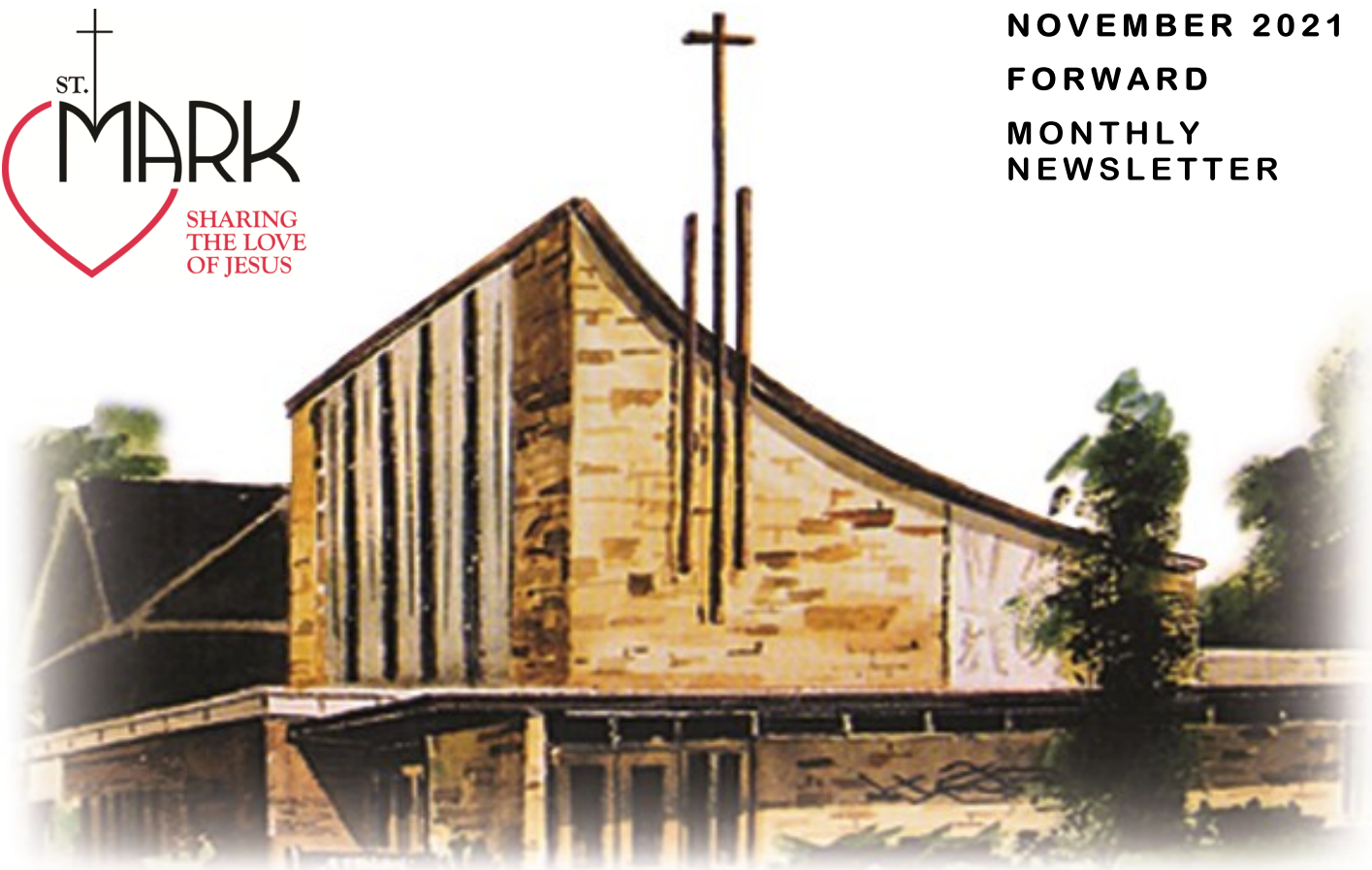


ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
1019 North 7th Street
Sheboygan WI 53081

Return Service Requested
To cancel this subscription call 458-4343



NOVEMBER 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 page. 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 5:00 p.m.
- Jubilation Choir—practice is on Thursdays at 5:15 p.m.

Please - 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? Honoring a loved one?

Sign up to provide flowers for the altar. The sign-up is on the bulletin board in the back of church. You can also call the church office (920.458.4343.)



CONGREGATIONAL FUND



DO YOU REMEMBER to consider including St. Mark in your estate planning? Examples of ways to give: through your will, through a direct monetary gift, gift of real estate, gift of stocks and/or bonds, or as a beneficiary in insurance planning. After prayerful consideration, consult your legal counsel or tax preparer to learn the current methods and rules to do so.

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for GOD loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7



Thanksgiving Eve
Worship Service
With Holy Communion

Wednesday,
November 24, 2021
6:30 p.m.



Membership Statistics

As of September 14, 2021

Confirmed:	210
Unconfirmed:	11
Baptized:	221



Call Committee Update

Call Committee

- The Self Study and Survey were completed last month (September) and submitted to Synod
- Bishop Hardy will review those two documents and then compile group of possible pastors for us to review
- Call Committee met Monday 10/11 to prioritize even further our Pastoral Expectations; we are incorporating those back to the results of the CADS Survey
- Bishop Hardy has compiled a list of names for review
- Call Committee needs to complete Confidentiality Agreements - once done, we will be able to start to review names

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 one 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 September 2021 Compared to 2020

	2020	2021
<i>Average Operating Fund Offerings per week (see Note 1)</i>	\$3,905	\$3,765
<i>Average In-person Attendance per week at Services (see Note 2)</i>	\$ 48	\$ 67
<i>Weekly Budget (see Note 3)</i>	\$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 \$265 per week through September 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.



Hi from your Parish Nurse!

4

I thought I would give you an update on COVID-19 and the Delta variant as infection numbers have been increasing. I will be discussing the facts about the Delta variant, importance of vaccinations and how to stay well this winter with COVID and the flu around us. I will have a bulletin board outside my office in November with more COVID information for you to take with you.

First, I would like to review the facts about the Delta variant of COVID-19. We saw a steady decline in the number of cases of COVID since January, but from late June to late July the 7-day moving averages of COVID cases increased from 12,000 to 60,000. This looked more like the rate of cases that we saw before the vaccine was extensively available. **The Delta variant is more contagious:** It spreads more easily than previous variants and it can cause more than **2x** as many infections. **Some data suggest the Delta variant might cause more severe illness in unvaccinated people.** According to 2 different studies from Canada and Scotland, people infected with the Delta variant were more apt to be hospitalized than people infected with the original COVID-19 strain. The great majority of hospitalizations and deaths caused by COVID-19 are in unvaccinated people. Fully vaccinated people who have symptomatic breakthrough infections can transmit the virus to others.

So far it is not known if fully vaccinated people who have an asymptomatic Delta infection can transmit the disease to others. **Fully vaccinated people with Delta variant breakthrough infections can spread the virus to others, but vaccinated people appear to spread the virus for a shorter time:** For people infected with the delta variant, comparable amounts of viral genetic material have been found in both unvaccinated and fully vaccinated people. But, like previous variants the amount of viral genetic material may decrease faster in fully vaccinated people compared to unvaccinated people which means that fully vaccinated people will probably spread the virus for less time than unvaccinated people.

With COVID continuing and the flu season upon us, how can you stay healthy? Consider vaccines your first line of defense: **1) Get a COVID-19 vaccine if you haven't already.** A May 2021 study published by the CDC, identified that the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines were 94% effective at preventing hospitalizations for the disease in people 65 and older, compared to the flu shot in 2019-2020 which was only 39 % effective in keeping people from needing to see a doctor for the flu. But the flu shot also decreases your risk of serious illness or hospitalization if you get the flu. **2) Get the best flu vaccines.** Two have been proven to afford better protection for older adults compared to the standard vaccine and are available to people over the age of 65. The Fluzone High dose is comprised of 4 times the amount of viral antigen (the molecule that stimulates an immune response) as the standard shot. The other vaccine Fluad, is formulated with an additive that's designed to trigger a stronger response from the immune system. If you can't get one of these flu shots, the standard flu shot is better than none at all. **3) Time your flu jab right.** Flu vaccine effectiveness diminishes over the season, especially for older adults. Getting the flu shot in September or October should provide effective protection. **4) Go for a pneumococcal vaccine if you haven't yet.** The bacteria *Streptococcus Pneumoniae* is one of the most common types of pneumonia. According to the CDC, it is important if you are over 65 to get the Pneumovax 23 vaccination to prevent this pneumonia.

During this cold, flu and COVID season remember to: **1) Keep your mask handy.** The CDC doesn't actively endorse wearing a mask to prevent the flu, but if you have any respiratory symptoms or are headed to a crowded area like an airplane, a busy store or a big event-donning a mask is a reasonable precaution to take says Seema Lakdawala, PhD, an assistant professor in the department of microbiology and molecular genetics at the University of Pittsburgh. **2) Wash your hands.** Cleaning your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds aids in preventing a variety of diseases, not just respiratory viruses. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if you don't have access to a sink. **3) Stay home when you're sick.** Don't be brave and suck it up to go to work when you have respiratory symptoms. Finally, if you do notice symptoms of any viral illness such as a cough, fever, cough, chills, runny nose, or congestion see a doctor as soon as possible as the flu, COVID-19 and colds can have similar symptoms. A quick diagnosis is important.

If you have the flu, antiviral medications can assist in decreasing the severity of the symptoms but should be started within 2 days of noticing symptoms for the best effectiveness. Early treatment with monoclonal antibodies and other medications can improve your prognosis if you have COVID-19. Early testing is also vital so you can isolate yourself if you have COVID-19.

From: [cdc.gov/covid19](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19) and *Consumer Reports on Health*, October 2021

Carolyn Eiden, RN
Parish Nurse



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.



**STEWARDSHIP
COMMITTEE**

In View of God's Mercy

The World Book Dictionary defines mercy as: "More kindness than justice requires; kindness beyond what can be claimed or expected." Mercy is one of the attributes of God. God is not obligated to show mercy, but He chooses to do so in keeping with His nature. God shows mercy because God is "*merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness*" (Exodus 34:6). Because God is merciful, we do not receive our due penalty for our sins. God gives us underserved blessing after blessing.

Through faith, we understand how blessed we are that God is merciful toward us. So how should we respond to God's mercies expressed in Christ? The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans told them, and He tells us the following: "*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—which is your spiritual act of worship*" (Romans 12:1 NIV).

In response to God's mercy, we respond with praise and thanksgiving. In the Old Testament, one of the ways that God's people honored and thanked God for His mercy and blessings was through animal sacrifices. Animals were ceremonially killed and presented to the Lord. Jesus' death on the Cross became the sacrifice that eliminated the ongoing need for animal sacrifices. As New Testament Christians, Paul is now asking the Romans and us to "*offer [our] bodies as living sacrifices.*" Instead of bringing animals as substitutes for us, we offer ourselves. Through the Holy Spirit working in us, we are able and willing to respond to God's mercy by faithfully offering our lives and bodies through using our time, talent, and money in service to the Lord. Paul calls this our "*spiritual act of worship.*"

In the second verse in Romans 12, Paul is exhorting us, "*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*" Paul is telling us that "*in view of God's mercy*" we can and should stop following the ways of the world. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are changed and transformed into new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17) who are enabled to say "no" to the ways of the world and live according to God's will.

Stewardship



Defining Stewardship

Author Don Gray wrote, "Biblical stewardship is not God's way of raising money—it is God's way of raising people into the likeness of His Son." God has called us to be His stewards. As stewards, we manage the property that God has entrusted to us. Our activity and deeds as stewards is our stewardship. Stewardship can be defined as stewards living out their faith in response to God's love, grace, and mercy. Stewards are empowered by God's grace to use their lives and blessings to do God's will. Through His Word and Sacraments, God changes and molds us into His likeness. As changed people, we live out our lives in thankful response to Who God is and what He has done for us, which is stewardship.

Prayer: Dear good and gracious Heavenly Father, place in me the faith that will enable me to be a faithful steward. In Jesus's name I pray. Amen.

Blessings on your journey as a steward!

November 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.

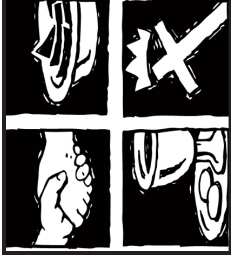
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	15	16	17	18	19	20
	22	23	24	25	26	27
	29	30				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 <i>All Saints Day</i> 9:00am Worship (w/HC) Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboyan 10:15am Bible Study <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	5:15pm Trustee's Mtg. 6:00pm BOD Meeting		9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am GriefShare 5:00pm Bells Rehearsal	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> 5:15pm Choir Practice	8:30am Pantry Workers 9:30am Food Pantry	8:00am Fall Clean-up Rain date
14 <i>Voter's Meeting</i> 9:00am Worship Service Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboyan 10:15am Voter's Meeting			9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am GriefShare 11:30am R & R Luncheon 5:00pm Bells Rehearsal	5:15pm Choir Practice	8:30am Pantry Workers 9:30am Food Pantry	
21 9:00am Worship (w/HC) Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboyan 10:15am Bible Study 10:15am Congregational Fund Meeting			9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am GriefShare 5:00pm Bells Rehearsal 6:30pm Worship (w/HC)	25 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> 	4:30pm-9:00pm St. Mark Night @ Making Spirits Bright	
28 <i>Advent Begins</i> 9:00am Worship Service Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboyan 10:15am Bible Study <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i>						

SUBJECT TO CHANGE



VOLUNTEERS SERVING IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER



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.

NOVEMBER 2021 VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Time	Sound	Projection	Facebook Page	Ushers	Reader	Altar Guild	Deacon
November 4	Thurs	6:30pm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
November 7	Sun	9:00am	Zachary Falkenberg	Rob Sass	Dave Hilpertschauser	—	Melissa Eiden	Kelly Irwin	Todd Goebel
November 11	Thurs	6:30pm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
November 14	Sun	9:00am	Dave Hilpertschauser	Drew Thimmig	Rob Sass	—	Judy Koball	—	Jeff Leffin
November 18	Thurs	6:30pm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
November 21	Sun	9:00am	Dan Drossel	Dave Hilpertschauser	Rob Sass	—	Jane Gapinski	Needed	Jim Leonhardt
November 24	Wed	6:30pm	Needed	Rob Sass	—	—	—	Needed	Jim Leonhardt
November 28	Sun	9:00am	Jeff Evans	Drew Thimmig	Dave Hilpertschauser	—	Gerri Evans	—	Mary Rautmann

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

November



Birthday blessings to you!

Happy Birthday



Jeffry Evans	November 1
Kim Schueffner	November 2
Carol Carriveau	November 3
LaVerne Rydz	November 4
Sue Meyer	November 6
Elly Jaeger	November 7
Vicki Martens	November 8
Michael Marver	November 9
Donald Diener	November 14
Carol Otten	November 14
Brock Bulkow	November 15
Jim Roth	November 22
Judy Feitusch	November 27
Joan Schwerin	November 28
Adaline Coons	November 30


HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

God bless your years together!

Alex and Jessica Horvat	November 10	20 years
Todd and Rose Goebel	November 26	50 years



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.



Join us for Fall Cleanup
Saturday, November 6
at 8:00 a.m.

Alternate rain date: Saturday,
November 13 at 8:00 a.m.

let's do
lunch

The next St. Mark R & R luncheon will be held at the Bourbon Street Pub & Grill, 1536 Indiana Ave., on Wednesday, November 17 at 11:30 a.m.

For reservations, contact Jim Rose at 920.457.3414.



GIVING IS AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF INNER CONVICTION.

I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others” (2 Corinthians 8:8).