

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

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**JANUARY 2022**  
**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.



## CONGREGATIONAL FUND



CONSIDER A GIFT TO ST. MARK

Your donation to the Congregational Fund can enable your church to do great things through this method of giving.

- Missions
- Education
- Building Repairs
  - Outreach
- Church-Related Projects
  - Special Needs

## 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.)



### Membership Statistics

As of December 15, 2021

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Confirmed:   | 209 |
| Unconfirmed: | 11  |
| Baptized:    | 220 |



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



## Stewardship – Taking the Time

The Greeks had two words for time, chronos and kairos. Chronos was ordinary, everyday time, second after second, minute after minute, hour after hour, etc. Our English word chronological indicates that something has been sorted and put into order according to the time when it came into existence.

Kairos is special time, seasonal time, proper time, etc. It indicates that there is something special about the time when the thing came into existence or that something happens at a special time. St. Paul wrote about Jesus when he was born at Christmas, “When the time was right, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman...”

One of the important things about the time when Jesus was born is the fact that punishment for crime included the possibility of a man being hung on a cross. Nowadays, Jesus would never have been “convicted” nor hung on a cross as punishment. God wanted Jesus to come into the world when the world could see Jesus on a cross and then believe that this was the love of God for us. Time is important.

One of the aspects of us Christians “taking the time” is our willingness to take some of our precious time and to give it to others. God wants us to take the time to do something good for others so that we make their lives better for them.

In the back of the church in the narthex along the west wall near the north door is a revolving rack of spiritual booklets that were written to give spiritual guidance to people with various problems. It would be good for you to look at all of the titles that are available. Then when you find someone with a certain problem, it is to be hoped that there will be a booklet that could help that person. But you can't help someone with one of these booklets if you haven't taken the time to see what booklets are available.

These booklets are the Church helping the Church to do God's work here on Earth. The booklets were written by highly qualified Christians whom God has blessed with the spiritual gifts of being able to help people with certain problems. None of us is able to help everyone else with all the problems of the world, but these booklets are a way for each of us to show others that we care about them.

Jesus took the time to come to Earth so that he could save us from our sins. So also does God wants us to take the time to make life better for others.

The Stewardship Committee



The deadline remains the 15th of each month. When emailing to [jleff@att.net](mailto: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.

Apologies for the lateness of the January newsletter, as Covid, quarantining, and the upper respiratory flu reared its ugly head at our house late on the 19th, therefore preventing the January FORWARD from going out in its normal timely fashion.

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!

In October I attended the South Wisconsin District Parish Nurse meeting. Our Guest speaker was Tracy Scheffler from 5-Stones of Dodge County, which fights the five stones of sex trafficking. They are AWARENESS, PREVENTION, EDUCATION, NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION. She gave a presentation on human/sex trafficking. Human trafficking is **modern-day slavery**. It includes the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. I will be focusing on sex trafficking Did you know that sex trafficking is the fastest growing industry in the world and has been reported in all 72 counties of Wisconsin? Wisconsin is the one of the top 5 states for sex trafficking! Milwaukee is called the "Harvard of Traffickers" and Trafficker's College"! The entry age of children who are exploited for sex trafficking are 11-14 down from 12-14 as the younger ones are easier to manipulate. Girls account for 75% of children who are victims of sex- trafficking and boys 25%. I would like to discuss what is human/sex trafficking, who is most vulnerable, how a trafficker works and why sex trafficking is so successful in this month's article.

First, let's look at who is most vulnerable to become trafficked for sex: 1) A person with low self esteem which can be picked up by the way they walk. 2) A person who has been abused. 3) A child in the foster care. 4) Victims of natural disasters. 5) People with a family history of drug abuse as the parents may rent out the children to get money for their next product. 6) A child in the juvenile justice system. 7) A person with disabilities, mental illness, or congenital delays. 8) Runaways: Within 24 hours 1 in 3 runaways will be approached by a sex trafficker and 1 in 7 runaways will be coerced into to sex trafficking! 9) A person who has any unmet needs. 10) a person who is homeless or unstable housing. 11) a person in poverty. 12) A person who has recently migrated or relocated. Anyone can be trafficked! It doesn't matter if it's a straight A student taking A-P courses or an average student. They can be any age, race, gender, or nationality.

Next let's talk about the trafficker, seller, or "pimp". How do they trap their victims? They have 3 top avenues to find victims: social media where they present themselves as kids the same age and as the child on social media, neighborhoods, and peers. They try to get friends involved so the child is not alone. There are spotters or recruiters whose job it is to identify vulnerable children in a chat room, at malls, parks coffee shops, etc. They may be good looking, charming young males or a nurturing, articulate female. They look for kids who are angry, feels ugly or lonely. The recruiter gains the child's trust and information by affectionate behavior and being charming to develop a relationship with the child. They fill the need the child has with false promises, job offers, enticement, preying on the child's vulnerability and drugs. The child is isolated from their friends and family. Then the abuse begins, the switch is flipped and it is too late for the child to get out of the situation. The trafficker maintains control by threats, violence, fear, and blackmail. The child's identity is taken from them.

You may be wondering why trafficking continues to succeed. It is a supply and demand business model. Wisconsin is a great place for traffickers with the highway system with motels just off the Interstate system. So, what creates the demand? We have an addicted, sexualized culture due to all the sex related movies, books, videos, video games, online sites, TV sites and sex stores. Porn is accepted in our culture. For example, 46% of men and 16% of females use it. Globally porn is viewed 12 million hours a year!

Next month I will continue my discussion on sex trafficking, focusing what signs to watch for that may signal sex trafficking, what you can do to identify, and report suspected cases of human/sex trafficking, action steps for faith-based communities and resources available to you. Check my bulletin for more information on sex trafficking and help yourself.

From: Presentation and [www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign](http://www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign)

Carolyn Eiden, RN  
Parish Nurse

I will be in my office all Wednesdays in January from 9am-12:30pm

## 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](http://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 November 2021 Compared to 2020

|   | 2020           | 2021           |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Average Operating Fund Offerings per week (see Note 1)</b>         | <b>\$3,815</b> | <b>\$3,740</b> |
| <b>Average In-person Attendance per week at Services (see Note 2)</b> | <b>\$ 47</b>   | <b>\$ 67</b>   |
| <b>Weekly Budget (see Note 3)</b>                                     | <b>\$4,540</b> | <b>\$4,355</b> |

**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 \$270 per week through November 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.



The LORD  
is my  
strength  
and my  
song;  
he has  
become  
my  
salvation.  
Exodus 15:2, NIV

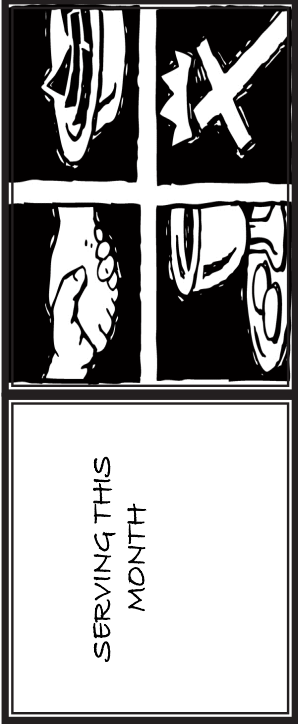
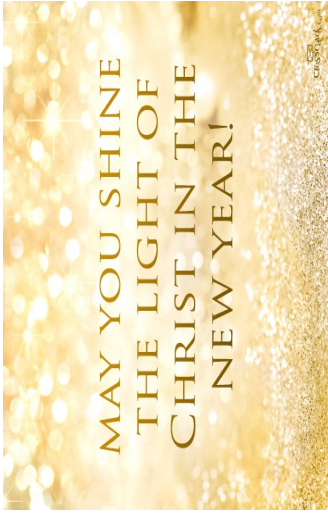
*Thank you to all the volunteers who took the time to help decorate the church sanctuary so tastefully, for our Christmas season. It was absolutely beautiful! Anyone who willingly volunteers, knows that it takes a village, and the efforts of the villagers at St. Mark were noticed and truly appreciated. All decorations are set to go down on Sunday, January 2 after the church service.*

*Happy New Year 2022!*

# JANUARY 2022

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                          |
|--|---|-----|--|---|---|------------------------------|
| 2<br>9:00am Worship (w/HC)<br>Streamed online @<br>Facebook.com<br>/stmarksheboyan<br>10:00am Take down<br>decorations                               | 3   | 4   | 5<br>9:00am-12:30pm Parish<br>Nurse in Office<br>5:00pm Bells Rehearsal                            | 6 <i>Epiphany</i><br>5:15pm Choir Practice<br>No Church Service | 7<br>8:30am Food Pantry<br>Workers<br>9:30am Food Pantry  | 8<br><i>1 New Year's Day</i> |
| 9<br>9:00am Worship Service<br>Streamed online @<br>Facebook.com<br>/stmarksheboyan<br>10:00am Bible Study   | 10<br>Trustee's Mtg<br>5:15pm<br>6:00pm BOD Meeting | 11  | 12<br>9:00am-12:30pm Parish<br>Nurse in Office<br>5:00pm Bells Rehearsal                           | 13<br>5:15pm Choir Practice<br>No Church Service                | 14  | 15                           |
| 16<br>9:00am Worship (w/HC)<br>Streamed online @<br>Facebook.com<br>/stmarksheboyan<br>10:00am Bible Study<br>10:15am Congregational<br>Fund Meeting | 17 <i>Martin Luther<br/>King, Jr. Day</i>           | 18  | 19<br>9:00am-12:30pm Parish<br>Nurse in Office<br>11:30am R & R Luncheon<br>5:00pm Bells Rehearsal | 20<br>5:15pm Choir Practice<br>No Church Service                | 21<br>8:30am Food Pantry<br>Workers<br>9:30am Food Pantry | 22                           |
| 23<br>9:00am Worship Service<br>Streamed online @<br>Facebook.com<br>/stmarksheboyan<br>10:00am Bible Study<br><i>Food Pantry Sunday</i>             | 24  | 25  | 26<br>9:00am-12:30pm Parish<br>Nurse in Office<br>5:00pm Bells Rehearsal                           | 27<br>5:15pm Choir Practice<br>No Church Service                | 28  | 29                           |
| 30<br>9:00am Worship Service<br>Streamed online @<br>Facebook.com<br>/stmarksheboyan<br>10:00am Bible Study  | 31  |     |  |   |   |                              |



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 bulletins can be corrected.

| JANUARY 2022 VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE |       |        |                      |                      |                      |                  |                                  |               |             |               |  |
|---------------------------------|-------|--------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--|
| Day                             | Date  | Time   | Sound                | Projection           | Facebook Page        | Welcome Booth    | Greeters                         | Reader        | Altar Guild | Deacon        |  |
| January 2                       | Sun   | 9:00am | Jeff Evans           | Rob Sass             | Dave Hilpertschauser | Cherie Leonhardt | Dave & Ann Hilpertschauser & Kay | Geri Evans    | Kelly Irwin | Jim Leonhardt |  |
| January 6                       | Thurs | 6:30pm | —                    | —                    | —                    | —                | —                                | —             | —           | —             |  |
| January 9                       | Sun   | 9:00am | Dave Hilpertschauser | Drew Thimmig         | Rob Sass             | Barb Keitel      | Willard Jost Lorena Tislau       | Melissa Eiden | —           | Chris Keul    |  |
| January 13                      | Thurs | 6:30pm | —                    | —                    | —                    | —                | —                                | —             | —           | —             |  |
| January 16                      | Sun   | 9:00am | Dan Drossel          | Dave Hilpertschauser | Rob Sass             | Kathy Leonhardt  | Judy Koball Barb Keitel          | Judy Koball   | Needed      | Scott Schramm |  |
| January 20                      | Thurs | 6:30pm | —                    | —                    | —                    | —                | —                                | —             | —           | —             |  |
| January 23                      | Sun   | 9:00am | Zachary Falkenberg   | Drew Thimmig         | Dave Hilpertschauser | Pat Machut       | Jim & Sue Meyer                  | Jane Gapinski | —           | Jeff Leffin   |  |
| January 27                      | Thurs | 6:30pm | —                    | —                    | —                    | —                | —                                | —             | —           | —             |  |
| January 30                      | Sun   | 9:00am | Jeff Evans           | Rob Sass             | Dave Hilpertschauser | Pat Machut       | Mike & Sandy Hotz                | Carolyn Eiden | —           | Chris Keul    |  |

**Subject to change**

*Birthday blessings to you!*

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Linda Williams     | Jan 2  |
| Melissa Eiden      | Jan 3  |
| Kathleen Leonhardt | Jan 9  |
| Gary Leonhardt     | Jan 10 |
| Libby Ogea         | Jan 10 |
| Kathy Sundee       | Jan 12 |
| Phyllis Dergantz   | Jan 13 |
| Carol Falk         | Jan 13 |
| Kim Diener         | Jan 17 |
| Barb Mueller       | Jan 19 |
| Kelly Dominguez    | Jan 20 |
| Winter Tinkle      | Jan 20 |
| Danny Carriveau    | Jan 22 |
| Jeff Leffin        | Jan 22 |
| Megan Friedel      | Jan 23 |
| Scott Schramm      | Jan 23 |
| Joshua Fritz       | Jan 24 |
| Christopher Keul   | Jan 24 |

# Birthdays & Anniversaries



*Happy Anniversary! God bless your years together.*

|                          |            |          |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|
| Tom and Roxie Sohr       | January 11 | 30 years |
| Boots and LaVerne Brandt | January 29 | 56 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.