



The Forward

August 2024

1019 N 7th St Sheboygan, WI 53081

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Www.stmarksheboygan.com



Worship and Bible Study Programs in August

- Sunday morning service w/Holy Communion @ 9am
- Wednesday evening worship service w/Holy Communion @6pm
- Live stream of Sunday's service at Facebook.com/stmarksheboygan.com
- The sermon will be recorded and available after Sunday's service on our website
- Bible study held Wednesdays @9am

From Pastor Tyler

Stewards of God's Creation

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"

God, in His infinite wisdom and love, created the heavens and the earth, and everything within it. As the pinnacle of His creation, He entrusted humanity with the responsibility to steward His creation. This stewardship is not merely about dominion or control, but about nurturing, caring, and ensuring the flourishing of all that God has made.

Being a good steward of God's creation begins with recognizing our role as caretakers. Just as God looked upon His creation and declared it good, we are called to appreciate the beauty and complexity of the world around us. From the majestic mountains to the tiniest creatures, each part of creation reflects the creativity and artistry of our Creator.

However, stewardship goes beyond admiration. It involves action. It requires us to consider how our choices and behaviors impact the environment and the well-being of future generations. Are we mindful of our consumption habits? Do we take steps to reduce waste and conserve resources? Are we advocating for policies and practices that promote sustainability and

protect vulnerable ecosystems?

As followers of Christ, our stewardship of creation is also an expression of our love for God and our love for our neighbors. When we care for the earth, we are showing reverence for the One who entrusted it to us and demonstrating compassion for those who are affected by environmental degradation.

As always, I look forward to seeing you in God's house for Divine Service and the study of God's Word this upcoming month!

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Tyler Werner

August Happenings

Wednesday August 5th:	5:00pm Outreach Committee Meeting
Sunday August 11th:	10:15am Church Council/Board of Directors
Sunday August 18th:	10:15am Congregational Fund Meeting
Wednesday August 21st:	11:30am R&R Lunch @ Lakeshore Lanes
Sunday August 25th:	10:15am Summer Potluck and Ministry Fair
Wednesday, August 28th:	10:00am Stewardship Mtg

Stewardship

Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity

"Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift" (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul's exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church's response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God's mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul's call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians' joy filled Jerusalem's need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God's generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord's. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn't. Stewardship is easy because it is God's work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come. The church is a mercy place. It's a place where God's mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God's mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor's need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift.

Parish Nurse News, Carolyn Eiden, RN

Hi From Your Parish Nurse!

When I attended the Parish Nurse conference in May at Concordia University, Mequon, I participated in a breakout session on physician assisted suicide and euthanasia presented by Rev. Kevin Voss, DVM, PhD, FCA who is a professor of philosophy and director of the Concordia Center for Bioethics at Concordia University, Mequon. Over the next couple of months I will be sharing what I learned with you regarding assisted suicide, euthanasia and Christian principles at end of life so you can make decisions on what you want for end of life care and for your loved ones.

In the Christian view, all human life has inherent value because we are created in God's image. Genesis 9:6 states, "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind." There are 3 Christian principles to follow at the end of life: 1) Use all the ways possible to care for the person. The Lord's grace can be seen in illness. In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 Paul begs repeatedly for the Lord to take away "*the thorn in his flesh*" but God didn't. God said to Paul "*My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.*" Jesus cared for the sick. We can provide a ministry of presence for those who are sick or dying. 2) The goal is never to kill the person. The 5th commandment states *Thou shalt not kill*. After all the calamities that Satan hit Job with, his wife said to him, he should curse God and die. Job asked if we accept good from God why not the bad? Job 2: 9-10. 3) We don't prolong the dying process. If treatment is futile or the person is near death it is okay to let them die. Check out Philippians 1: 21-24.

On the other hand, the societal view of life is that in order for a person to be a human must have capabilities, like consciousness and self-awareness, as well as to be productive in life. The Hemlock Society now called Compassion and Choices is an advocacy group for physician assisted suicide. As Christians we should never have death as an answer for solving the problem of someone who is dying or ill.

Next, I will be discussing physician assisted suicide (PAS). In this situation a physician plays an indirect role in the death of the person by prescribing a lethal dose of barbiturates or a combination of diazepam (valium), digoxin (heart medication), morphine, amitriptyline (anti-depressant) and phenobarbital (seizure or sedation medication). This combination is known by the acronym DDMAPh. The doctor prescribes the medication for the patient to take when they are ready to die. The American Medical Association denounces PAS, although eleven states

have legalized PAS! The most common reasons people have given for wanting PAS are loss of autonomy, decreased ability to participate in enjoyable activities and loss of dignity.

For years Oregon has had a Death with Dignity Act (DWDA). This act pertains to people who are adults and decisional. Oregon has liberalized the act by removing: the residence clause, the person's lifespan was 6 months or less to 12 months or less and the 15 day waiting period to receive the prescription from the doctor. Two verbal requests and a written request as well as a 2nd opinion are required before the physician writes the lethal prescription for the patient. Physicians who write the prescriptions are protected, but pharmacists don't have conscience clauses to be able to abstain from filling the prescriptions. The patient receives no counseling regarding assisted suicide and its ramifications. Sometimes family care physicians have difficulty diagnosing depression. This would need to be treated first. Once the person ingests the medications death occurs between 3-137(2 hours & 17 minutes) minutes. The median is 53 minutes which means half of the people die in less than 53 minutes and half are taking over 53 minutes to die.

There are ethical principles that support PAS: 1) Autonomy which is having self-directing freedom and especially moral independence to make your own decisions. 2) Compassion or beneficence which is doing good. Is PAS doing good to the person? 3) Utilitarianism or the greatest happiness for the greatest number. There are objections to PAS: 1) For physicians PAS goes against the Hippocratic Oath to do no harm. 2) PAS is not always morally wrong but what about the social consequences? It has become a slippery slope as Oregon has already made PAS more liberal as I explained above. What's to say that the next step in Oregon is to use assisted suicide in the cases of people with disabilities. 3) Contemporary society tends to see death as natural, a part of "the circle of life." Whereas the Bible refers to death as an enemy which was defeated at great cost by our Lord on the cross. (see 1 Corinthians 15-55-57).

Next month I will be discussing the different types of Euthanasia and how palliative and hospice care can help you have an autonomous and dignified death without PAS and euthanasia.

From Presentation: If Death Draws Near: Biblical Reflections on the End of Life and PAS.

Carolyn Eiden, RN
Parish Nurse

Happy Birthday to You!

Marilyn Kalkopf - Aug.3

Bev Sorenson - Aug. 3

David Eiden - Aug 5

Cole Irwin - Aug 6

Joe Irwin - Aug 7

Phyllis Clark - Aug 8

Alyssa Evans - Aug 8

James Leonhardt - Aug 8

Jim Meyer - Aug 9

Jane Kocmoud - Aug 10

Randy Rydz - Aug 11

Brenda Hartman - Aug 12

Pat Frick - Aug 13

Ken Barbian—Aug 16

Ginny Altendahl—Aug 19

Julie Leffin—Aug 21

Mackenzie Irwin - Aug 23

Kinsley Plopper—Aug 28

Happy Anniversary!

Tim and Jerri Lynn Shattuck Aug 4 (35)

James and Cherie Leonhardt Aug 9 (55)

Jerry and Darlyn Cramlet Aug 15 (54)

Rob and Marry Sass Aug 27 (36)