



The Forward

November 2024

1019 N 7th St Sheboygan, WI 53081

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Www.stmarksheboygan.com



Worship and Bible Study Programs in November

- Sunday morning service w/Holy Communion @ 9am
- 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 and Sundays @ 10am

From Pastor Tyler

"Finding Peace Amidst Election Anxiety"

As we navigate the tumultuous waters of the 2024 Presidential election, feelings of frustration, anxiety, and stress can weigh heavily on our hearts. The constant barrage of news, debates, and conflicting opinions can leave us feeling overwhelmed and uncertain about the future. In these moments, it's essential to remember that our hope does not rest in political leaders or platforms, but in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

The Bible reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." These words invite us to lay our burdens at His feet, trusting that He is sovereign over all things, including our political landscape.

While it's natural to care about the direction of our nation, we must not allow our faith to be shaken by earthly powers. Instead, let us turn our focus to Christ, who promises peace that the world cannot give. In times of distress, seek His guidance through prayer, scripture, and fellowship with fellow believers.

As we approach this election season, let us commit to being instruments of His love and truth, reflecting the hope we have in Him. Remember, Jesus is our ultimate solution, bringing light into darkness and calm in chaos. Trust in Him, and let His peace reign in your heart.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Tyler Werner

November Happenings

- Saturday November 2nd:** 8am Fall Clean Up
- Monday November 4th:** 5pm Outreach Meeting
6pm Deacons Meeting
- Saturday November 9th:** 8:30am - 11am Pancake Supper Prep
- Sunday November 10th:** 3pm Pancake Supper
- Monday, November 11th:** 5pm Trustees Meeting
6pm Church Council Meeting
7pm Board of Directors
- Sunday November 17th:** 10am Fall Voters' Meeting
- Wednesday, November 20th:** 11:30am R & R Lunch at Log Cabin Howards Grove
- Sunday, November 24th:** 8am Healing Service
- Wednesday, November 27th:** 10am Stewardship Meeting
6pm Worship w/ Holy Communion
Pie Social
- Thursday November 28th:** Thanksgiving - Church Office Closed
- Friday November 29th:** Church Office Closed
Making Spirits Bright Volunteer at 4:30pm

Stewardship

"The Consequences of Shallow Thankfulness"

Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving — they just don't go together! *[Our apologies to any of you who have brats on Thanksgiving – We don't think the author of this article is from Sheboygan.]*

This month, as we continue to walk through the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (*LSB* 788), we turn our attention to verse three. Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, "Tell grandma thank you." This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.

We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: "Look at me! Aren't I special?" No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

For words that speak at variance with deeds ...

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny — it obscures the Gospel!

Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways

unmindful of a broken brother's need ...

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel.

When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord

and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!

Source: LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Parish Nurse News, Carolyn Eiden, RN

Hi from Your Parish Nurse!

Last month I discussed how to tell when a loved one needs help, what you can do when a loved one needs help and resources in the community to help you find the appropriate help your loved one needs. This month I will be examining the differences between nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Nursing homes or skilled nursing facilities provide an extensive array of health and personal care services. These services focus more on medical care than most assisted living facilities. Services offered in a nursing home include: nursing care, 24-hour supervision, 3 meals a day and assistance with everyday activities. Some nursing homes provide rehabilitation services as well.

How is nursing home care paid for? Medicare does not pay for LT (long-term) nursing home care. If you have a 3-night stay in the hospital you can go to a nursing home for rehab and Medicare will pay for the first 20 days, and then there is a copay for the next 80 days of around \$160/day that you would have to pay. Medicaid can pay for some of the nursing home care if the person meets income and personal resource requirements. If you have LT care insurance, it may include some coverage for nursing home care. Certain life insurance policies can be cashed in to be used for paying for LT care.

A person needs to qualify to be admitted to a nursing home, usually by having debilitating health issues or serious conditions that require frequent medical supervision and around-the-clock care. Each state has their own criteria to be admitted to a nursing home. The physician must evaluate the person and document any medical conditions the patient has. There are many documents needed for a person to be admitted to a nursing home. First, a physician's order for admission to a nursing home is required. The physician also must provide medication and treatment orders for the person to the nursing home. An up-to-date history and physical of the patient is required. The nursing home has a required stat form for the doctor to sign for admittance. Nursing homes are required to offer flu shots, tuberculosis tests and pneumonia vaccines within 3 days of admission. If you have had them recently you will have to provide proof of them. There is admission paperwork that needs to be completed before or on the day of admission. Other things that will be needed are your Medicare, Medicaid and social security information as well as other insurance information. Other information needed is the Power of Attorney for health care and living will, dietary requirements and medical orders for life sustaining treatment (MOLST).

Assisted living is for people who need help with daily care but not as much as a nursing home

provides. They range in size from as few as 25 to 100 or more. Usually they offer several levels of care. As the need for care increases the cost for assisted living increases. In assisted living you live in your own room or apartment and share common areas. There are many services that are available in assisted living such as: housekeeping and laundry, up to 3 meals a day, medication assistance, 24 hour supervision, on site staff, as well as social and recreational activities. Most people have to pay for assisted living by themselves. It tends to be more expensive than living independently but less than living in a nursing home. Medicare does not pay for assisted living. Medicaid may pay for some of the assisted living costs and may be partially covered by long term care insurance.

Admission to assisted living facilities requires preplanning and paperwork to sign similar to admittance to a nursing home.

There are many resources to help you find the right LT facility for your loved one such as: 1) Check out <https://eldercare.acl.gov> or call 1-800-677-1116 2) LongTermCare.gov 3) Sheboygan County Aging and Disability Resource Center in Sheboygan Falls. Call them at 920-467-4100. 4) Joint Commission's Quality Check can be used to check the quality of nursing homes and other health care facilities. 5) You can use <https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare> to find and compare nursing homes and other health care facilities in your area. I can not share all of the information on this topic in this short article so check out my bulletin board in November for further information to help you find the appropriate LT care for your loved one. Help yourself to the information on the bulletin board.

From: nih.gov

Carolyn Eiden, RN

Parish Nurse

Happy Birthday to You!

Jeffry Evans - Nov 1

Sue Meyer - Nov 6

Vicki Marterns - Nov 8

Donald Diener - Nov 14

Carol Otten - Nov 14

Ryan Ericsson - Nov 22

Judy Feitusch - Nov 27

Joan Schwerin - Nov 28

Adaline Coons - Nov 30

Happy Anniversary!

Jon and Katie Schrank - Nov 5

Alex and Jessica Horvat - Nov 10

Bill and Cindy Dortman - Nov 23

Todd and Rose Goebel - Nov 26

In Remembrance Of Baptism

Randy Rydz - Nov 1

Nanci Saucier - Nov 1

Allen Timm - Nov 1

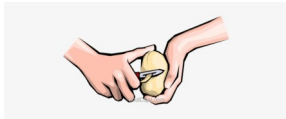
Debbie Ericsson - Nov 9

Ginny Altendahl - Nov 18

Shirley Markham - Nov 19

Pancake Supper Prep:

On Saturday November 9th, from 8:30AM to 11AM, we need people to help peel potatoes and set up the tables in the Fellowship Hall. So if you have some free time, stop down and give us a hand! Thank you!



St Mark Men's Club will be holding their annual Pancake Supper featuring potato pancakes, wheat pancakes, along with sausage, applesauce, cake, coffee, and milk on November 10th, 2024, from 3:00-6:00pm.

Supper to be held in Fellowship Hall. Ticket prices are \$6.00 per child (10 years and younger), and \$10.00 per adult. Tickets can be purchased from any Men's Club member or the church office.

We are having a Healing Service on November 24th. It will be a little different since we have Communion every Sunday now. It will be in the chapel at 8am with Pastor Tyler and Carolyn Eiden, RN, the Parish Nurse. If enough people attend, we will have it in the church. Pastor Tyler is planning a small service with the anointing of oil. All are welcome to attend this very special service.

The Women of St. Mark Lutheran Church cordially invite you to join us for a candlelight afternoon of reflection to prepare our hearts, spiritually, for the Christmas season.

It is Sunday, December 1, 2024 from 3-4:30 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. Please bring a friend. Please RSVP to jleff1959@icloud.com or leave a message at 920.458.0886.