



*The Forward*

*September 2024*

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## *Worship and Bible Study Programs in September*

- Sunday morning service w/Holy Communion @ 9am
- Live stream of Sunday's service at [Facebook.com/stmarksheboygan.com](https://www.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 at 10:00am

### *From Pastor Tyler*

#### **The Purpose of Studying God's Word**

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path." Psalm 119:105

In a world filled with distractions and uncertainties, the Bible remains a steadfast guide, illuminating our path and grounding our journey. Psalm 119:105 reminds us that God's Word is not just a historical document or a set of moral teachings but a living guide designed to lead us through the complexities of life.

Studying the Scriptures is more than a ritual; it's a means of deepening our relationship with God and understanding His will. Each verse holds the potential to reveal His character, promises, and purposes for us. As we immerse ourselves in His Word, we invite His wisdom into our hearts, allowing it to shape our thoughts and actions.

Consider how a lamp works. It doesn't illuminate everything at once but provides just enough light for the next step. Similarly, God's Word guides us step by step, offering clarity and direction in times of confusion and challenge.

When we commit to studying the Bible, we align ourselves with God's vision and gain insight into His will. It nurtures our faith, equips us to face trials, and equips us to live out our calling. More importantly, it fosters a deeper relationship with God, allowing us to experience His presence more fully in our lives.

I encourage you to find those opportunities to deepen your relationship with God as we begin the Fall season. Join us Sunday mornings after worship, as we resume our study of the Augsburg Confession and its Apology, along with Wednesday mornings at 9 am as we contin-

ue our study through the Gospels. And if you're in need of further opportunities or ways to study, let me know! I'm glad to offer those to you and your family as you grow in your faith.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Tyler Werner

### *September Happenings*

- Monday September 2nd:** Church Office Closed
- Tuesday, September 3rd:** 1:00pm Outreach Meeting  
6:00pm Deacons Meeting
- Sunday, September 8th:** 9:00am Special Voters' Meeting  
10:00am Sunday School Starts  
10:00am Sunday Bible Study
- Monday, September 9th:** 5pm Trustees Meeting  
6pm Church Council Meeting  
7pm Board of Directors Meeting
- Thursday, September 12th:** 6:30pm Trivia Night
- Wednesday, September 18th:** 10:00am Stewardship Mtg  
11:30am R & R Lunch  
6:00pm Human Trafficking Presentation
- Monday, September 23rd:** 6:00pm Men's Club Meeting
- Wednesday September 25th:** 1:30pm Daughters of St Mark Meeting

**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.**

### *Stewardship*

#### *Stewards, Called to Forgiveness*

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO.

“Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the Lutheran Service Book has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,  
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,  
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,  
While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware.

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

### *Parish Nurse News, Carolyn Eiden, RN*

Last month I talked about physician assisted suicide. Now I will be discussing the different types of euthanasia and Christian principles concerning care at the end of life. Euthanasia is defined as a mercy killing. It’s where the doctor plays a direct role in the person’s death. Euthanasia is legal in Belgium, the Netherlands, Columbia, Luxembourg, Canada and Spain!

There are four types of Euthanasia: 1) Voluntary passive euthanasia occurs all the time in the United States. A person who is decisional and terminal asks the doctor to withhold/stop treatment which happens all the time in the US. 2) Non-voluntary passive euthanasia: A person who is non-decisional asks the doctor to withhold/withdraw treatment. This is legal in the US. 3) Voluntary active euthanasia: A decisional person asks a doctor to end their life by giving them a lethal injection of medication to end their life. This is legal in some countries. 4) Non-voluntary active euthanasia: A surrogate of a non-decisional person asks a doctor to end the person’s life by lethal injection. This is legal in Belgium for children and in the Netherlands for people with dementia! It is illegal everywhere else. An example

of non-voluntary active euthanasia are the Jews that were killed by Hitler. The Jews were decisional and didn't want to die but they were killed anyway. Remember that active euthanasia is killing and passive euthanasia is letting the person die.

Let's take a look at Christian principles regarding end of life care. First, when may we properly withhold or withdraw feeding tubes, ventilators, or other treatments? 1) if the disease process is terminal and death is imminent ( within a few days or weeks). 2) If treatments are useless (futile). 3) If the burdens of treatment far outweigh the benefits they may hold for the person. "Will the treatment benefit the life this person has" not "is his/her life worth living" ( we refuse treatments not life).

Seek to determine your aim or intention for withholding treatments. Think about why the treatments should be stopped. Also, what are the person's wishes? This is important when making ethical decisions regarding a person's care if they are not able to make their own decisions. It is so important to have your Power of Attorney for Health Care filled out with who you want to make decisions for you if you are unable to do this for yourself (health care agents) and what you want done in various health conditions. You can fill these forms out at the hospital for free with the social workers and chaplains. They will make copies for you to give to your health care agents, the hospital and your doctor. Keep the original for yourself.

A family member waiting for word about the condition of a patient may be approached by the physician for input on whether to initiate or continue life support measures. Here are some guidelines that may be helpful in making decisions in line with your loved one's wishes and the Christian decision maker's faith. 1) What is the medical condition of the patient at this time? This is an objective medical evaluation of the patient's condition. 2) What is the prognosis? Is the patient expected to recover or not? 3) Is the patient dying at this time? If the patient is not dying it would be morally wrong to intend to cause the death of the person. 4) Ask if your loved one is in pain. Make sure the doctor orders medication to keep your loved one comfortable. 5) If a decision is not needed immediately, you can tell the doctor that you need time to talk with family members and/or pastor and I will call you within \_\_\_\_ length of time. If you can meet at church for discussion and prayer.

Being away from the hospital can help you think more clearly.

Finally, I would like to share my experience with end of life care for my mother. Almost 16 years ago my mother had emergency bowel surgery and ended up with a colostomy. She also developed congestive heart failure (CHF). She went through rehab and was doing better until a couple months later when she ended up in the ER where she lived. I had worked a 12 hour night shift and she called me early in the morning from the ER. She said the surgeon talked to her about more colon surgery as the rest of the colon was dying and needed to be removed. He also talked about palliative care. I encouraged her to consider palliative care since she was 81. She already had chronic pain and CHF. She went ahead with the surgery. After getting some sleep so I could drive 3 hours to the hospital I found out what the surgeon told her! He told me that he told her " that she could have surgery or he could call one of his colleagues in palliative care and she could die a slow, painful death." No wonder my mother decided to have surgery. She went to rehab and while in rehab her kidneys started to fail. She decided not to have dialysis with all she had been through and I supported her in this deci-

sion. She died before we could admit her to hospice close to her home. Please contact me if you have any questions about end of life care.

From: The Concordia Center for Bioethics: Kevin E. Voss, DVM, PhD, FCA and Rev. Dr. Richard C. Eyer.

Carolyn Eiden, RN  
Parish Nurse



### *Happy Birthday to You!*

<i>Karen Robison - Sep. 1</i>	<i>Carol Schaefer - Sep. 5</i>	<i>Peggy Bulkow - Sep 6</i>
<i>Heather Conlon - Sep 6</i>	<i>Terry Methfessel - Sep 7</i>	<i>Jessica Fritz - Sep 12</i>
<i>Judy Schmidt - Sep 13</i>	<i>Robbie Sass - Sep 14</i>	<i>Joni Weichbrodt - Sep 15</i>
<i>Kathy Becker - Sep 16</i>	<i>Ryan Coons - Sep 16</i>	<i>Shirley Markham - Sep 17</i>
<i>Connie Thimmig - Sep 19</i>	<i>Avery Sachse - Sep 22</i>	<i>Zachary Falkenberg - Sep 24</i>
<i>Jeff Falk - Sep 29</i>		

### *Happy Anniversary!*

<i>Ryan and Brianna Coons Sep 1 (6)</i>	<i>James and Nancy Rank Sep 3 (58)</i>
<i>Thomas and Nancy Kroll Sep 4 (59)</i>	<i>Garrett and Terri Erickson Sep 9 (24)</i>
<i>Todd and Connie Thimmig Sep 26 (32)</i>	<i>Dave and Brenda Hartman Sep 27 (10)</i>



### *In Remembrance Of Baptism*

<i>Bev Diener - Sep 1</i>	<i>David Eiden - Sep 1</i>	<i>Marilyn Kalkopf - Sep 1</i>
<i>Barbara Keitel - Sep 1</i>	<i>Cole Irwin - Sep 10</i>	<i>Mackenzie Irwin - Sep 10</i>
<i>Megan Marver - Sep 10</i>	<i>Meg Sohr - Sep 15</i>	<i>Kyle Holzem - Sep 27</i>
<i>Judy Schmidt - Sep 27</i>	<i>Alyssa Evans - Sep 28</i>	<i>Roxie Sohr - Sep 28</i>
<i>Ken Barbian - Sep 30</i>		

