FORWARD of MARK

SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS

JULY 2020



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St. Mark Lutheran Church

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The FORWARD of St. Mark Monthly Newsletter July 2020, Volume 14 Issue 7



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Tick-Tock

"Then [Jesus] said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven" (Luke 21:10-11).

Are we nearing the end? That's what a lot of people are asking today. Are we nearing the end – is the clock ticking down to when Jesus will return for the final judgment? If we look around our world today and keep in mind the words that Jesus spoke everything does seem to be falling into place for His return. Covid-19. The uproar we've seen in the streets over the past few weeks. Tick-tock goes the clock.

But truthfully, I don't know. Like many of you, I read the Bible too about all those *things* that are to happen near the end. I guess we'll just have to wait and see. As Jesus said, only God the Father knows that time. A time He's known even before He created the world.

Yet, these events are a reminder of something else. Before Jesus ascended back into heaven He said, "Go and make disciples of all people." And the reason is this: God wants all people to be saved. As you and I look around our world today and see the panic, the racism, the violence, we see a world that so desperately needs to hear about Jesus. A world that needs to hear how Jesus – God in the flesh – died on the cross of Calvary for our sins. A world that needs to hear how Jesus rose again from the dead, giving eternal life to all those who believe in Him. A world that needs to hear what Jesus said, "Love your neighbors as yourself."

Tick-tock goes the clock people. There's a world out there waiting. Time is running out.

In His service,

Pastor Brett



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



THANKYOU!

Dear St. Mark Lutheran Church,

I want to say thank you for the continued support that you offer to me, the church, and most importantly God's Ministry. If it wasn't for churches like you who decided to step up and help the church by support future pastors, many students wouldn't be able to pursue this. So thank you from the bottom of my heart, for the support and prayers that I receive from all of you.

I pray that everything for your church is going well, I know that everything has been almost thrown out of hack with everything that has happened this year. I pray that you are still able to spread the Gospel message to your people, that you are able to proclaim the good news of Christ's death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins to all who you are able to reach out to.

When everything first started, I remember me and my supervising pastor both mentioned that we might need to make a few changes to what is happening in church. So we thought we would simply stop shaking hands and that will hopefully be the end of that. Turns out that 2 days later, Wisconsin went into the lockdown for quarantine. So that meant no more normal Sunday morning services, that meant no more midweek Lenten services. It also meant feeling lost and confused about what we as the church needed to do. I am sure many people felt the same, so many things came without warning, without answers, and the best anyone could do is guess.

So that lead to various changes to my vicarage year. It happened during Lent, which means that the Lenten Sermon rotation that I was a part of to preach at different LCMS churches in the area no longer could happen. It meant that the normal beautiful Mandy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday would not be held like normal with the people of the church gathered around. It meant that I would no longer be able to visit the shut-ins like I did every month. It was strange, it was different, but most of all I adapted and did what I could.

I was thrown into the position of being the 'tech guy' since I was knowledgeable enough to get our services up on livestreams. So the services for midweek Lenten services and the Holy Week services, would be able to still be held, but not in person, it was still being done. In this strange and confusing times, I was able to help set up a way for our congregation to still hear God's Word spoken and preached to them. Was it a way that was normal and easy? No, but it was still being done. The Message of Christ was still being told to the people and in fact, we had more people watch than normally would have been able to. It is strange that even in these times, God's ministry still finds a way to continue to reach out to the people to help them learn and grow.

As I write you this, we have been able to open back up for church services for the last 3 weekends. With various amounts of people coming, it was smaller the first weekend but each time more people come to each service. It filled my heart with joy to preach a sermon and lead the liturgy to a church full of people after preaching for the last few months to a camera and laptop.

Speaking of Joy, my parents and my brother lan were able to come up and visit me the beginning of June. After months of separation, it was nice to be able to sit and talk, hug, and just spend time with one another again. We went out for ice cream, played card games, and played bocce ball around the property of the church and parsonage. Overall even in these times when everything seems to be doom and gloom, the joy of God's Love, the joy of family, and the joy of friends are always present.

So I wanted to write and let you know that I am about to finish up my strange and different vicarage. I have a month and half as I write you today. It is hard to believe that I am that far in my ministry. As I look towards my final year at seminary, it is hard to believe that I am so close to becoming a pastor. It doesn't seem real that I am here in my life but God has lead me along the way and I can't wait to see what he has in store for me this next year. I pray that you are safe and healthy. Thank you again.

God's Blessings,

The vicar from across town, Evan Veen

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L 3	Giving During the COVI-19 S 0/18/2020 through 5/24/2020 0ared to 3/20/19 through 5/2 (see Note 1)	
	2019	2020
April Operating Fund Offerings (see Note 2)	\$42,840	\$39,905
Special Fund Offerings (see Note 3)	\$ 7,225	\$ 6,965
Budget (see Note 4)	\$45,110	\$45,400

Note 1: The time period of the shutdown was 10 weeks. The equivalent time period in 2019 was used for comparison. Both included Easter.

Note 2: Giving includes payments received in Church Office (2019 and 2020) and during services (2019.) Values do not include Special Funds giving and other sources of funds, such as outside contributions, Memorials, refunds, rebates, and transfers from the Congregation Fund.

Note 3: Special Fund donations were made to ministries such as We Care, the Food Pantry, the Vineyard Fund, the Youth Group and building projects.

Note 4: 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 5: 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.

<u>Note 6:</u> 2020 on-line attendance during the live streamed services ranged from approximately 30-53. 'Views' of recorded services ranged form 116-627. In-person weekly attendance in 2019 ranged from 74 to 348.



God's blessings to our 2020 Graduates!

Ollie Dominauez Drew Hoblitzell Kylee Markham Luke Eiden Lucas Sass Melissa Eiden



A modified, drive-thru Food Pantry is, and will continue to take place on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. Being handed out is a box coming directly from the Sheboygan County Food Bank, along with a few items that are added from St. Mark's Food Pantry. It is taking place in the church parking lot.



When thinking about denominations, most people consider us Lutherans to be Protestants because we are not Roman Catholics. But there is another way to look at denominations. Protestants could be considered as church bodies that for the most part adhere to the theology of John Calvin. We also call such denominations Reformed churches. Some of these are Baptist, Presbyterians, Methodists, independent churches, <u>etc</u>.

The other group is the Catholic churches. The Eastern Catholic churches are Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Ukrainian Orthodox, Coptic, <u>etc</u>. The Western Catholic churches are Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and Anglican and Episcopalian.

We Catholic churches differ mainly in our belief in the real presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion and in our belief in infant baptism through which the Holy Spirit creates saving faith in a baby and washes away its sins.

As a footnote, we are The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod because in the 1830s, faithful Lutherans refused to be a participant in King Ludwig's forced merger of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches into one Protestant Church so that there could be only two church bodies in Germany – Protestant and Catholic. Those faithful Lutherans sold everything that they owned in Germany and came to the United States where our freedom of religion assured them that they could remain pure Lutherans.

One thing that I often hear from our Protestant brothers and sisters in Christ is this, "God has a plan for my life." I never did understand what that plan is or how God communicated that plan to that person. If indeed there is any planning in our lives from God, I think that it is better to think that God has a plan for the <u>work</u> that he wants us to do for him here in this world. That work God wants us to do for him is deter-mined by what gifts and talents that God the Holy Spirit has given to each one of us Christians after he brought us to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

In last month's Stewardship exhortation, we saw how, in the Great Judgment at the end of time, Jesus will show the <u>work</u> that we believers in him did by telling the unbelievers what we did for him while we still lived. We fed the hungry, we clothed the naked, we visited the sick, <u>etc</u>. We also see this exhortation to work in St. John's first letter (1 John 3:23) - "This is God's command that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another."

We love one another when we sacrifice our time, treasure and gifts for the benefit of others. Our sinfulness and Satan make our lives miserable until the day when we die. In the meantime, God wants us to restore goodness to the lives of those who are hurting so that they live long enough to come to faith in Jesus Christ. This is the work that God has called us to do.

What work are you planning to do for the church, for your fellow members of our church, and for those outside of the church? As Jesus said, "The harvest (to be gathered in) is great, but the workers (to gather it in) are few." God planned for you to be a good worker when he called you to faith in Jesus Christ and gave you gifts and talents for the benefit of others. Be a good steward. Be a good workers.

The Stewardship Committee



Membership Statistics As of June 9, 2020

Confirmed:222Unconfirmed:15Baptized:237





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July 2020

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.

Sat	4 Independence Day	11	18	25	
Fri	3 9:30am Food Pantry Drive-Thru	10	17 9:30am Food Pantry Drive-Thru	24	31
Thu	2 No Church Service	9 No Church Service	16 No Church Service	23 No Church Service	30
Wed	1 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am Griefshare	8 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am Griefshare	15 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am Griefshare	22 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am Griefshare	29
Tue		2	14	21	28
Mon		Q	13	20	27
Sun		5 9:00am Worship (w/HC) Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboygan	12 9:00am Worship Service Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboygan	19 9:00am Worship (w/HC) Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboygan	26 9:00am Worship Service Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboygan



VOLUNTEERS SERVING IN THE MONTH OF JULY





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.

JULY 2020 VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

				SUBJECI					
Day	Date	Time	Reader	Greeters	Sound	Projection	Ushers	Altar Guild	Welcome Booth
July 2	Thurs	6:30pm							
July 5	Sun	9:00am			Dave Hilpertshauser	Rob Sass			
July 9	Thurs	6:30pm							
July 12	Sun	9:00am			Tim Matz	Drew Thimmig			
July 16	Thurs	6:30pm							
July 19	Sun	9:00am			Dave Hilpertshauser	Rob Sass			
July 23	Thurs	6:30pm							
July 26	Sun	9:00am			Rob Sass	Drew Thimmig			
July 30	Thurs	6:30pm							

Hi from your Parish Nurse!

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It is summertime and time for yardwork! Did you know that yardwork and gardening are ways for older adults to meet the suggested exercise guidelines of 150 minutes of modest aerobic activity each week? This is according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Gardening and yardwork also allow you to get fresh air and grow nutritious produce with out leaving home. Yet, the work can be physically demanding as well as the fact that the heat bugs and sun can cause you harm. I have tips from *Consumer Reports* (CR) experts to keep you healthy and safe when doing yardwork and gardening.

- 1) Use the right mower. Battery-powered walk behind mowers are suitable choice for certain older people who have less than a third of an acre of grass to cut. These mowers are simpler to start as they can be turned on with the push of a button instead of pulling a string that gas mowers have.
- 2) Time your workday. Older adults are more prone to heat-related problems, so steer clear of the hottest part of the day when doing yardwork. Work during the cooler part of the day of the early morning or late afternoon. Mow in the late afternoon if feasible. Early in the morning the grass may be wet from due or last evening's watering as the wet clippings make more work as they are heavier and can cause the mower to clog.
- **3)** Give your back a break. Some garden tasks can be brutal on your body, particularly if you have arthritis. The Arthritis Foundation suggests using tools that can reduce the need for bending, such as long handled weeders, kneeling pads and scooter wagons to sit on while working. You could also install raised beds, so you do not have to stoop or bend over.
- **4)** Shield your skin. Approximately 20 minutes before you head outside cover exposed skin with a sunscreen that has an SPF of at least 30 so it has time to work before going outside, Wear ling sleeves, lightweight pants and a hat when going outside.
- **5) Use hearing protection.** Did you know that roughly 1in 4 people ages 64-74 has significant hearing loss? This makes essential to protect the hearing you already have. Always wear earmuffs or ear plugs when using outdoor power equipment.
- 6) Keep bugs at bay. If you are in an area where mosquitoes and ticks are commonplace, it is important that you take steps to keep them from biting you. Apply insect repellent and wea lightweight clothing treated with the pesticide permethrin. CR's testing demonstrated that repellents with 25-30 percent deet provide dependable protection. Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants that are tucked into your socks. Remember that yardwork to decrease the tick population like clearing brush could put you at higher risk of bites as noted in one study. That is why it is important to be meticulous about these tick protection steps. Finally, when you are done working outside, shower and then check yourself in detail for any attached ticks.
- 7) Take hydration breaks. Older adults may not feel as thirsty as younger people do. This means you may forget to drink when you need to. Make sure you take frequent hydration breaks during yard work and on warm days in general.

From: Consumer Reports on Health, June 2020 Carolyn Eiden, RN Parish Nurse



GriefShare has restarted at St. Mark on Wednesdays from 10 a.m., in the Adult Education Room. If you are interested in joining in GriefShare, please contact Carolyn Eiden, your Parish Nurse, or join us on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m.



Here we are summer 2020 and what a difference from summer 2019. This year we have "social distancing", wearing masks, no movie theaters are open, reduced capacity at stores, restaurants, and yes even church services. How long will this go on? No one has the answer to that, yet life goes on and people adapt.

But what about God? Does God nee to "adapt" to our revised lifestyle? The answer of course is NO, God's love and mercy never changes, His grace, to us, does not require any adaptation for it never changes.

To further illustrate this I will use some words I found in my mother-in-law, Lois Koch's, Bible. She taught Sunday School got a large number of years and in my opinion could hold her ground with any minister when it came to Biblical Truths/Passages. So here is a "Blast From The Past":

The message of Jesus Christ is the story of the Bible – it is the story of salvation. The story of Jesus is the theme of the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. He appears in Genesis as the seed of the woman.

Exodus: He is the Passover Lamb Leviticus: He is the atoning Sacrifice Numbers: He is the smitten Rock Deuteronomy: He is the Prophet Joshua: He is the Captain of the Lord of Hosts Judges: He is the Deliverer Ruth: He is the Heavenly Kingsman Kings: He is the promised King Nehemiah: He is the restorer of the Nation Esther: He is the advocate Job: He is my Redeemer Psalms: He is my all and in all Proverbs: He is my Pattern Ecclesiastes: He is my Goal Song of Solomon: He is my Satisfier Books of the Prophets: He is the coming Prince of Peace The Gospels: He is Christ coming to seek and save Book of Acts: He is Christ risen Epistles: He is Christ at the Father's right hand Revelation: He is the Christ returning and reigning

I pray these words will give you peace and strength as we move forward.

In Christ – Board of Deacons (TCG)



St. Mark has partnered with Trinity Lutheran Church downtown for Stephen Ministry training and continuing education for Stephen Ministers this fall. St. John Lutheran Church in Plymouth is also joining the classes. I started the Stephen Ministry in 2015, training two Stephen ministers who went on to having care receivers. The Stephen Ministers received much more than they gave in this one to one ministry for one hour a week with their care receiver. Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of training, followed by meetings to share with confidentiality how their care receivers are doing, helping each other with questions regarding their care receiver and continuing education. If you are interested in this amazing ministry, please contact Carolyn, your Parish Nurse.

NEWSLETTER INFO...

The FORWARD deadline with the words FORWARD (month) in the subject line (Word format—not PDF) is preferred, or by calling my phone e continues to be on the 14th of each month, via drop box at church, e-mailing information to jleff@att.net number at 920.458.0886. If you prefer a "real voice", please call after 2 PM. Otherwise, feel free to leave a detailed voice message or your return number and I will call you back at a time that is suitable for you. Thank you. Julie Leffin/FORWARD Editor

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George Schaetzle Charmaine Kneevers Bill Dortman Mary Rautmann Mary Warden Kay Hilpertshauser Roxie Sohr Bev Diener Ken Greger Meg Sohr Jim Rose Mark Holling Lana Brock Jerry Gapinski Gerri Evans	July 1 July 2 July 3 July 4 July 9 July 12 July 12 July 16 July 18 July 19 July 20 July 21 July 25 July 25 July 26
Barbara Keitel	July 29
Herb Thiel	July 31



Gary and Kathleen Leonhardt	July 1	48 years
Lyle and Vicki Schultz	July 1	47 years
Bonnie and Richard Broder	July 2	26 years
Alex and Stacey Falkenberg	July 6	18 years
Don and Judy Koball	July 8	53 years
John and Kathy Sundee	July 12	45 years
Jim and Pat Davis	July 20	57 years
Steve and Kim Schueffner	July 23	37 years
John and Carol Rautmann	July 25	33 years



William (Bill) Hewitt 2.26.1929 - 5.26.2020

For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

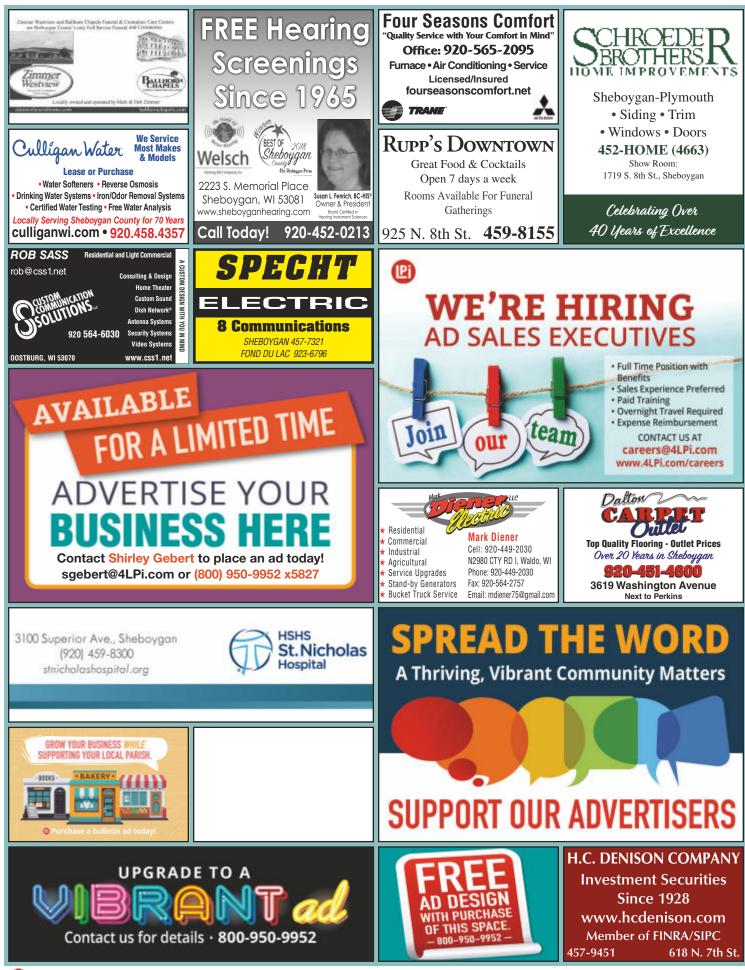
Romans 14:8



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And when you do, feel free to mention your appreciation on behalf of St. Mark Lutheran Church.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, AND THANK YOU.



ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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