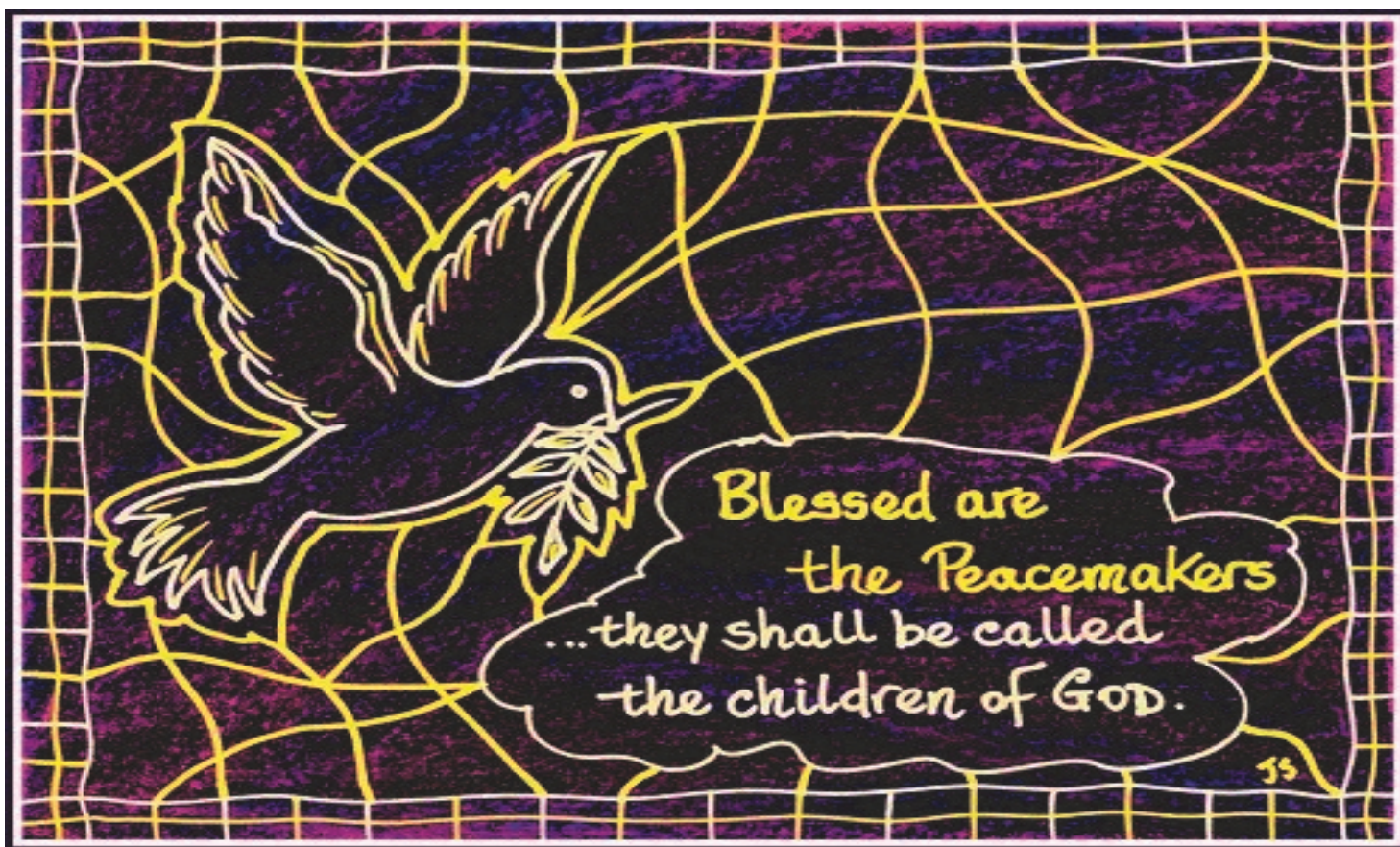


THE FORWARD of ST. MARK

SHARING
THE LOVE
OF JESUS

JUNE 2021



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St. Mark Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod-English District
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The FORWARD of St. Mark Monthly Newsletter
June 2021, Volume 15 Issue 6

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Summer of Parables



When you think about Jesus what comes to your mind? Obviously, your first thought is that of Jesus as our Savior. We see what He did for us in order to save us – His perfect life, His innocent death, and His glorious resurrection. But, what else comes to mind? What about Jesus and all the miracles He performed? It's hard not to think of Jesus and how He turned water into wine or was able to feed five thousand with a few fish and a few loaves of bread. And what about some of those other things we read about: how He was able to heal people, raise people from dead, and even controlling the wind and the waves. There is certainly many things that come to one's mind when you think about Jesus.

But when we think about Jesus we often overlook the teaching He did. Whether it was to His disciples one-on-one or to a crowd that had gathered to hear what He had to say, and one of His most common teaching methods was through the use of parables.

A parable is, in essence, a comparison. Jesus would use common earthly events to reveal a spiritual truth. Take for example the Parable of the Sower. Jesus uses the common earthly event of a sower scattering seeds into various soils to reveal how the Word of God is also to be scattered. What the "seeds" produce depends upon the "soil" into which it is scattered.

Starting in June, we will re-look at some of Jesus' most well-known parables. We will hear such parables as The Prodigal Son, The Rich Fool, The Good Samaritan and The Parable of the Sower, just to mention a few, in the hopes of seeing the spiritual truths that Jesus will reveal to us.

In His service,
Pastor Brett



Congratulations on a job well done!
Best wishes to you in everything you decide to do now and in the future.
Your church family is proud of you.

All graduates are encouraged to attend church on Sunday June 6, with your cap and gown. There will be cake to go following the service.

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



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



Virtual Gala *for the benefit of the* English District Endowment Fund

In the beginning, God spoke and it was so. **THY STRONG WORD.**

Today ministry and mission work is done with our hands and feet, our actions and our words. **THY STRONG WORD.**

God also inspires us to give of our treasures. **THY STRONG WORD.**

Our English District has an Endowment Fund that assists congregations and pastors with ministry and mission work. The 2021 English District Virtual Gala is a time for our district to gather online and recognize the work of our ministries and missions that received assistance from our Endowment Fund. It is also an opportunity for all members and congregations to donate to this important fund so it may continue supporting our district's work in ministry and mission.

Join the English District on June 13, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time for the Virtual Gala—**THY STRONG WORD.** There will be inspiring speakers, award presentations, opportunities to donate, an online auction, a celebration of our missions, and beautiful music.

[Register here](#)
OR

Visit our English District website – www.englishdistrict.org.



Gifts
unto the **Lord**
from Your Estate

*Have you included
St. Mark Congregational Fund
in your estate planning?*

*See your financial advisor or attorney
to find the best way for you to do it!*

HAPPY
Father's
DAY

Sunday, June 20, 2021



Membership Statistics

As of May 13 2021

Confirmed:	220
Unconfirmed:	11
Baptized:	231

Stewardship REPORT

Stewardship and Holiness

On Blue Bloods one time, Commissioner Frank Reagan told a person, "God put you in that place, but he did not expect your to be perfect."

"Expect" has a couple of connotations. On the one hand, expect means that a person anticipates that you WILL do something. On the other hand, expect means that a person anticipates that you SHOULD do something. "I expect you to clean up your room." Or, "I expect that you will arrive here around noon." One expectation is for perfection. The other expectation gives you some leeway.

Does God expect us to be perfectly perfect in all that we do? Yes, he does. "You shall be holy even as I am holy." Fortunately for us, God knows that we cannot be perfectly perfect, and that is why God sent his Son Jesus so that he could be holy in our place. It is only because we believe in Jesus that we can be as holy as God is holy. That is holiness (or justification) by faith.

And yet the calling of God for us to be as holy as he is holy still remains. Just as God was holy when he did good for us by making it possible for us to live eternally, so also does God want us to be holy in that we do good for our neighbors. God accepts our attempts as being holy when we do good for others because we believe that good works are good because the worker is good. First our faith makes us holy, and then our faith makes even our imperfect good works holy in the sight of God.

God is pleased that we want to do good for others by our using the gifts of time, talent, and treasure from the Holy Spirit to make the lives of others good. Good stewards try to restore goodness in the lives of others whom we see need help.

Thus we have the ironic dichotomy that our good are useless, and our good works are useful. Our good works are useless to save us because as Martin Luther said, "Even our good works are tainted by sin." Only our faith saves us.

But our good works are useful to our neighbors who need help when we do good works for them that make their lives better for them. God has made us holy so that we can share his love for all people with others so that they might come to know that God loves everyone best through his Son Jesus. God has placed us where we are so that we can do his work, imperfect as it may be as we build up the Kingdom of God here on Earth through our stewardship of God's gifts to us.

The Stewardship Committee



**God's blessings to our 2021 Confirmands
Aiden Laumann, Cora Erickson, and Zachary Falkenberg**

GIVING and WORSHIP ATTENDANCE COMPARISON
2021 through April 2021 Compared to 2020

5

	2020	2021
Average Operating Fund Offerings per week (see Note 1)	\$3,755	\$3,825
Average In-person Attendance per week at Services (see Note 2)	\$ 64	\$ 64
Weekly Budget (see Note 3)	\$4,540	\$4,355

Note 1: 2021 Giving includes offerings during Worship and payments received in Church Office through the end of April. 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 \$245 per week through April 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. 'Views' of recorded services ranged from 75 to 228.

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.



FUTURE CHANGES IN THE NEWSLETTERS AHEAD!!

Watch for some new and exciting changes to the formatting of the FORWARD starting in July.

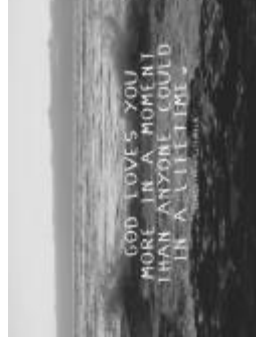
We're always looking for new and detailed information to publish upcoming events. The deadline is the 15th of the month. When emailing to jleff@att.net, please use the words FORWARD (month) in the subject line (Word format—not PDF, please.) You can also call my phone number (920.458.0886) and either leave a detailed message or your return number. 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 PM. Thank you. Julie Leffin/FORWARD Editor

June 2021

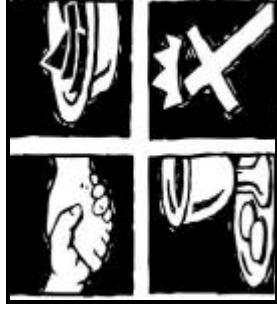
St. Mark Lutheran Church Monthly Calendar of services, meetings and events.
Please see the weekly Messenger, available at each worship service, for important changes and updates.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am Griefshare	3 No Church Service	4 9:30am Food Pantry Drive-Thru	5
6 9:00am Worship Service Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboygan	7	8	9 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am Griefshare	10 No Church Service	11	12
13 9:00am Worship (w/HC) Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboygan	14 Flag Day 5:00pm Trustee's Mtg 6:00pm BOD Meeting	15	16 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am Griefshare	17 No Church Service	18 9:30am Food Pantry Drive-Thru	19
20 Father's Day 9:00am Worship Service Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboygan 10:15am Congregational Fund Meeting	21 Summer Begins	22	23 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am Griefshare	24 No Church Service	25	26
27 9:00am Worship Service Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboygan Food Pantry Sunday	28	29	30 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am Griefshare			

SUBJECT TO CHANGE



VOLUNTEERS SERVING IN THE MONTH OF JUNE



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.

JUNE 2021 VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Time	Sound	Projection	Facebook Page	Ushers	Altar Guild	Deacon
June 3	Thurs	6:30pm	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
June 6	Sun	9:00am	Tim Matz	Dave Hilpertshauser	Rob Sass	_____	Kelly Irwin	Jim Leonhardt
June 10	Thurs	6:30pm	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
June 13	Sun	9:00am	Rob Sass	Drew Thimmig	Dave Hilpertshauser	_____	_____	Todd Goebel
June 17	Thurs	4:00pm	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
June 20	Sun	9:00am	Zachary Falkenberg	Rob Sass	Dave Hilpertshauser	_____	Ginny Altendahl	Mark Laverenz
June 24	Thurs	6:30pm	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
June 27	Sun	9:00am	Dave Hilpertshauser	Drew Thimmig	Rob Sass	_____	_____	Chris Keul

SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Hi from Your Parish Nurse!

For the next two months I will be discussing simple steps to manage your medications. If you use several medications, some research suggests that seniors take nine on average so keeping up with them can be a challenge. During the pandemic it is particularly crucial to have the right medications on hand, so you do not have to make a mad dash to the pharmacy according to Gina Ayers, PharmD, geriatrics clinical pharmacy specialist at the Cleveland Clinic. Ayers adds in the COVID-19 era, as many older adults have delayed doctor's office visits it is imperative that you are taking only the medications that are helpful to you and not take meds that have outlived their benefit.

You might be amazed at how often those two things happen. A study published in 2019 the journal *BMC Geriatrics* discovered that when pharmacy students went to older adults' homes, they found that 40 percent had expired medications on hand, 15 percent had possibly inappropriate meds and roughly a fifth had duplicate medications! Another study in December 2019 at the University of Michigan did a national poll of older adults showed that among those who use 5 or more prescription medications, 32 percent also reported taking another 4 or more over the counter (OTC) meds or supplements, which can magnify the effects of prescription drugs or interact with them. I will share ways to make your medication management easier.

Get your regimen reviewed. If you have not completed a yearly review of your medications-aka a brown bag review since the pandemic hit, then it is undoubtedly high time to do it. For this kind of review, a health care professional – a pharmacist, your primary care physician (PCP) a nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant will look at all your prescription drugs, OTC medications and supplements as well as their dosages. This review might be included in your health insurance. You can also do this virtually as well.

According to Sunny Lenneberg, PharmD, a clinical pharmacy specialist at the University of Colorado Hospital Seniors Clinic in Aurora and past president of the American Geriatric Society, "Physically looking through bottles with a healthcare provider, even if it's online, can often find duplications, excess supplies, expired drugs and medication errors."

Consider mail-order meds. Linnebur says the easiest way to make sure you get the prescription medications you use regularly in a timely manner is to use mail order. You can set yourself up for a 90-day supply if your insurance will cover it. Automatic refills can safeguard against running out of your medications. You could also reorder your medications several weeks in advance before another 90-day supply is needed so you do not miss doses. If you would run out, your physician can coordinate a "bridge" supply to cover you for 15-30 days until the mail order medication prescription arrives per Michael Hochman, MD an internal medicine physician at Keck Medicine of USC in Los Angeles.

Spring clean your stuff. Once a year (why not now?) go through your medicine cabinet ensure that none of your prescription or OTC medications are expired, Linnebur says. Yes, it is true that numerous may maintain at least 70 percent of their original potency for a year or two after expiration, even after the container has been opened, it is most prudent to have the most up-to-date medications with the most up-to-date instructions. According to Linnebur there could be a change in dosing instructions or warnings, or the potency could have been changed.

Next month I will continue the discussion with more simple steps managing your medications, smart storage strategies and disposal of your old medications.

From: *Consumer Reports on Health*, May 2021

Carolyn Eiden, RN
Parish Nurse

Board of Deacons



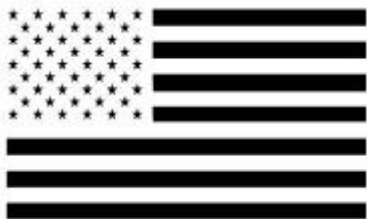
The American flag's significance is so ingrained into the military that even the folding of it has a very special meaning. The symbolism for each fold includes:

- First Fold: The symbol of life.
- Second Fold: Our belief in eternal life.
- Third Fold: Honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks.
- Fourth Fold: Represents our weaker nature - is to God we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for his divine guidance.
- Fifth Fold: A tribute to our country, "still our country, right or wrong."
- Sixth Fold: Where our hearts lie It is with our hearts that we "pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."
- Seventh Fold: A tribute to our Armed Forces who protect our country and our flag against all her enemies.
- Eighth Fold: A tribute to the ones who entered into the valley of the shadow of death that we might see the light of day.
- Ninth Fold: A tribute to womanhood, and others who mold the men and women who have made this country great.
- Tenth Fold: A tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country.
- Eleventh Fold: Glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- Twelfth Fold: Glorifies God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- Thirteenth Fold: Flag is completely folded with the stars uppermost, reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

The completely folded and tucked flag takes on the appearance of a cocked hat reminding us of those who served under Gen. George Washington and Capt. John Paul Jones, followed by other in the U.S. Armed Forces, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

We simply need to go back to our roots and rearrange the order of things - God, and Red, White, Blue. God is in everything - even the simple act of folding our flag.

So when you see our flag flying or being used in a funeral be reminded and thankful to God.



Flag Day
Monday, June 14, 2021

Flag Day is Sunday, June 14! This annual holiday celebrates the history and symbolism of the American flag.

July 4, 1960: The new 50-star flag was flown for the first time—the flag that still flies today.



You are the
light
of the world.

A city built on a hill
cannot be hid. No one after
lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel
basket, but on the lampstand, and it
gives light to all in the house.

Matthew 5:14-15



Birthday blessings to you!

Gloria Reinwand	June 2
Ollie Dominguez	June 4
John Rautmann	June 8
Jensen Horvat	June 9
Mike Keppler	June 9
Mark Lawerenz	June 10
Caroline Greger	June 13
Megan Marver	June 13
Maxine Keppler	June 15
Taylen Bulkow	June 17
Rose Goebel	June 18
Todd Thimmig	June 18
Mark Friedel	June 19
Brett Marver	June 19
Seth Irwin	June 21
Debbie Martens	June 23
Nancy Holling	June 25
Kyle Holzem	June 25
Jessica Horvat	June 26
Vicki Schultz	June 26
Cael Erickson	June 28
Garrett Erickson	June 29
Emily Gapinski	June 29



God bless your years together!

Alfredo and Kelly Dominguez	June 4	17 years
David and Carolyn Eiden	June 4	27 years
Michael and Dawn Marver	June 5	28 years
David and Joni Weichbrodt	June 10	43 years
Mark and Nancy Holling	June 15	47 years
Mike and Becky Ogea	June 16	31 years
Ralph and Joan Schwerin	June 19	50 years
Dan and Rosemary Drossel	June 25	27 years
Scott and Debbie Martens	June 27	40 years



The family of
Jensen Horvat
6.9.2003—5.16.2021



Congratulations to
Luke Eiden and Lindsey Vegter
who were united in marriage on
April 10, 2021



A word of gratitude . . .

St. Mark has been blessed through the generosity of many businesses who pay to advertise in The FORWARD. Please be kind and consider patronizing these monthly advertisers, as their ad donations keep the cost of The FORWARD to a monthly minimum, if any.

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

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