

# THE FORWARD of ST. MARK

SHARING  
THE LOVE  
OF JESUS

MAY 2021

**NOW  
FAITH IS BEING  
SURE OF WHAT  
- *we hope for* -  
AND CERTAIN OF WHAT  
WE DO NOT SEE.**

*Hebrews 11:1*

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## St. Mark Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod-English District

Pastor Brett Matz

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The FORWARD of St. Mark Monthly Newsletter  
May 2021, Volume 15 Issue 5

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE



### Now What?

I recently came across an article in which it described how common it is for a bride (and even the groom) to feel an emotional and even the groom) to feel an emotional and also physical letdown after the wedding and events are over. And when you think about it, it makes perfect sense. Here are two people who have spent a great deal of time and energy (and even finances) to put on the best wedding possible. So what happens after the "big day" is over? Suddenly there is a void that needs to be filled.

I believe the same thing happens within the church two times each year, after Christmas and after Easter. The amount of time and energy that is put into the Christmas and Easter seasons – not only by the Pastor but also the church office and the volunteers – is great. And much like the new married couple, there is suddenly a void to be filled.

Thankfully in the church that void is easy to fill. Jesus ministry on earth didn't only consist of His birth, death, and resurrection. And sadly, while many Christians only attend church for those two "festive seasons," they are missing out on all the other wonderful things Jesus did. Things He did as all part of God's plan to save you and me.

This year don't let Easter be your farewell to church until Christmas. Make the commitment to be faithful in worship, either in-person or on-line. Continue to hear and partake of all the wonderful things Jesus did: the miracles, the teachings, the healings and the proclaiming of His message of salvation.

In His service,  
Pastor Brett



Please notify the church office of any church members who will be graduating from High School or College. Graduates, please plan to attend church on Sunday, **June 6th** 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](http://www.englishdistrict.org).



DO YOU REMEMBER to consider including St. Mark in your estate planning? Examples of ways to give: through your will, through a direct monetary gift, gift of real estate, gift of stocks and/or bonds, or as a beneficiary in insurance planning. After prayerful consideration, consult your legal counsel or tax preparer to learn the current methods and rules to do so.

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for GOD loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7



Sunday, May 9, 2021



## Membership Statistics

As of April 13, 2021

Confirmed: 217  
Unconfirmed: 14  
Baptized: 231

Stewardship  
  
 REPORT

## The Pentecost Season of Servanthood

May 30th is Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost Sunday celebrates the beginning of the second half of the Church year, the Beginning of the Pentecost season, and the beginning of what God expects us Christians, his servants, to be doing for him.

The first half of the Church year showed us all that Jesus did for us as the Servant of God. How in the second half of the Church year, we will see in each Sunday's lessons what God wants us servants to be doing for him.

In the first half of the Church year, we saw how the Holy Spirit impregnated Mary so that Jesus could be God's servant here on Earth as a man. We also saw Jesus made known to the people as God's servant, Jesus suffer, Jesus die, and Jesus rise from the dead.

Similarly, the Holy Spirit, at our baptism, made us a new creation, God's servant here on Earth. As God's servants, we can also expect that we might suffer and die, as did the martyrs of old and as do some modern-day Christians nowadays. But we are all willing to put our lives on the line because we have a sure hope of a resurrection from the dead because we believe in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. We are not afraid to die. We have courage to do God's work.

As stewards of God, we acknowledge that everything that we have comes from God, not only for our own use and welfare, but also for the welfare of others.

We sacrifice what we have to make the lives of others better so that they too might live long enough to come to faith in Jesus Christ, either through our own confession of faith or from hearing the gospel of Jesus some other way.

The Holy Spirit of Pentecost is still active today. He brings us to faith in Jesus Christ and makes us servants of God. He gives us gifts so that we are equipped to do good works for others. He strengthens our faith in Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament when we come to church. He does all of this for us so that we have the courage and the wherewith all to go out into the world to help others.

This Pentecost season, give the Holy Spirit the chance to strengthen your faith by coming to church and by reading and studying your Bible. Desire to be a better servant of God. Desire to be a better steward of God. Do not be afraid. As Christ has risen from the dead, so also shall we rise from death to eternal life. We are God's servants. You can trust that he wants to and will take care of us throughout our lives and even beyond death.

The Stewardship Committee



### ST MARK/AUDREY BALLSCHMIDER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Parents and students applying for registration to Lutheran High School for the school year of 2021/2022 and wish to apply for the scholarship. Please fill out the TADS application form which determines the NEED dollar level you qualify for. The forms are available at Lutheran High at a cost of \$25.00. This should be done by April.

If you have questions, please contact Tim Becker, Carol Carriveau, or Gary Leonhardt through the church office.

**GIVING and WORSHIP ATTENDANCE COMPARISON  
2021 through March 2021 Compared to 2020**

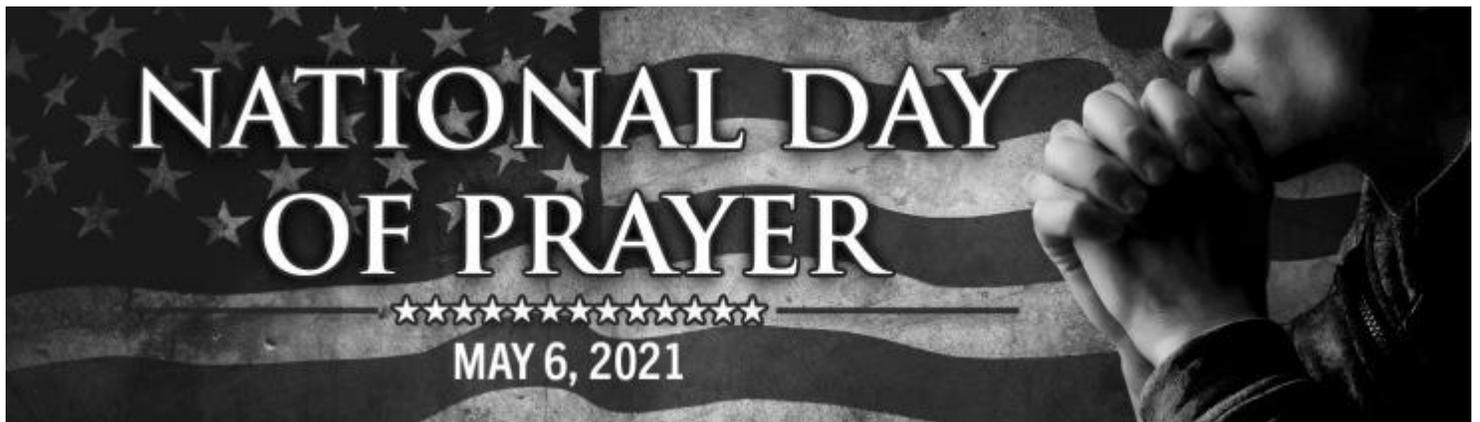
	2020	2021
<b>Average Operating Fund Offerings per week (see Note 1)</b>	\$3,710	\$3,870
<b>Average In-person Attendance per week at Services (see Note 2)</b>	\$ 85	\$ 56
<b>Weekly Budget (see Note 3)</b>	\$4,540	\$4,355

**Note 1:** 2021 Giving includes offerings during Worship and payments received in Church Office through the end of March. 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 \$270 per week through March 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 215.

**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 June.

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](mailto: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

# May 2021

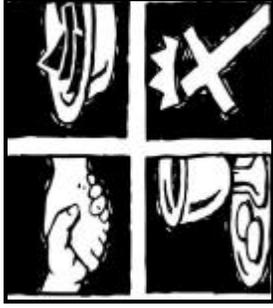
St. Mark Lutheran Church Monthly Calendar of services, meetings and events.  
Please see the weekly Messenger, available at each worship service, for important changes and updates.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00am Worship (w/HC) Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboygan Confirmation Sunday	3 5:15pm Trustee Mtg.	4	5 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am Griefshare	6 <b>National Day of Prayer</b>  No Church Service	7 9:30am Food Pantry Drive-Thru	8
9 <b>Mother's Day</b> 9:00am Worship Service Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboygan 10:00am Bible Study	10 6:00pm BOD Meeting	11	12 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am Griefshare	13 <b>Ascension Day</b>  No Church Service	14	15 <b>Armed Forces Day</b>
16 9:00am Worship (w/HC) Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboygan 10:00am Voter's Meeting 10:15am Congregational Fund Meeting	17	18	19 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am Griefshare	20  No Church Service	21 9:30am Food Pantry Drive-Thru	22
23 <b>Pentecost</b> 9:00am Worship Service Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboygan 10:00am Bible Study Food Pantry Sunday	24	25	26 9:00am-12:30pm Parish Nurse in Office 10:00am Griefshare	27  No Church Service	28	29
30 9:00am Worship Service Streamed online @ Facebook.com /stmarksheboygan 10:00am Bible Study	31 <b>Memorial Day</b>  Church Office Closed					

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



**VOLUNTEERS SERVING  
IN THE MONTH OF  
MAY**



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.

**MAY 2021 VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

Day	Date	Time	Sound	Projection	Facebook Page	Ushers	Altar Guild	Deacon
May 2	Sun	9:00am	Tim Matz	Dave Hilpertshouser	Rob Sass	---	Cherie Leonhardt	Jim Leonhardt
May 6	Thurs	6:30pm	---	---	---	---	---	---
May 9	Sun	9:00am	Dave Hilpertshouser	Drew Thimmig	Rob Sass	---	---	Mark Lawrenz
May 13	Thurs	6:30pm	---	---	---	---	---	---
May 16	Sun	9:00am	Tim Matz	Rob Sass	Dave Hilpertshouser	---	Kathy Matz	Todd Goebel
May 20	Thurs	4:00pm	---	---	---	---	---	---
May 23	Sun	9:00am	Rob Sass	Drew Thimmig	Dave Hilpertshouser	---	---	Chris Keul
May 27	Thurs	6:30pm	---	---	---	---	---	---
May 30	Sun	9:00am	Tim Matz	Dave Hilpertshouser	Rob Sass	---	---	Mary Rautmann

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



Hi from Your Parish Nurse!

Did you know that May is Better Hearing and Speech Month? I am going to discuss what happens to your hearing as you age, what causes hearing loss as you age, signs to watch for, who to see for hearing loss, treatments and how to protect your ears from hearing loss. Most people will gradually lose some of their hearing as they age. In the U.S. about one third of people age 65-74 have some hearing loss while almost half of those 75 and older have some difficulty hearing.

**What causes it?** Most of the time hearing loss with aging occurs the same way in both ears over time. It is usually due to the change in the ears over time. It typically affects the inner ear, but it can be due to injury to other parts of the body such as the auditory nerve (nerve for hearing) or even the brain can be involved. If you have sudden hearing loss it is important to see an ear/nose/throat (ENT) doctor as soon as possible.

**It's not just about your age.** Health conditions such as diabetes, ear infections that recur, and hypertension can affect your hearing as well. Some medications can affect hearing such as aspirin, chemotherapy and some antibiotics can affect your hearing. Loud sounds like music, lawn mowers, fireworks, gunfire, loud engines and planes can have an effect on your hearing. Finally, whether or not hearing loss runs in your family can influence your risk of hearing loss.

**Signs to watch for:** If hearing off you may have difficulty understanding words or following a conversation, especially in noisy places like a restaurant. You might have trouble making out consonants like "s", "t", "k", "p", and "f". You could have difficulty hearing high-pitched sounds like doorbells, phones and the beeps from thermometers when they are ready for you to read. Tinnitus or ringing in your ears may be present

**Do you have a hearing problem?** If you think so, check out these questions. 1) Are you embarrassed sometimes because you can't hear? 2) Does talking with friends/family frustrate you because you can't hear them? 3) Do you need to turn the TV or radio up louder than other people to hear it? 4) Do you feel that your hearing restricts or limits you in any way? If you answered yes to some of these questions and are concerned about your hearing it's time to get it checked.

If you are concerned about your hearing you should check with your doctor or primary care provider (PCP) first. It could be a case of ear wax that needs to be removed. Your PCP can refer specialists who can help you if needed. You might be referred to an ear/nose/throat (ENT) doctor to check your ears to see if there's a reason why you've lost some hearing besides aging. An audiologist is a health care professional trained in the diagnosis, treatment and management of hearing loss, balance disorders and other associated disorders. A hearing aid specialist can measure your hearing and fit you for a hearing aid if needed.

**What else can help your hearing?** Assistive listening devices can make things you need to hear louder like at theaters, airports and churches. St. Mark has portable receivers to hear the service better. Just ask the person in the sound booth for them. When a person is talking pay particular attention to their mouth, lips and gestures. This can help you grasp more of what they are saying.

**Don't be afraid to ask for help.** Don't be reluctant to let friends and family and others know that you have some hearing loss. Here are some simple ways you and those around you can make hearing easier: Ask people to speak up and talk clearly without shouting. Ask people who are talking to you to make sure they are facing you so you can see their faces. Limit background noise at home. When out and about try to find quieter areas to talk with others.

(continued on the next page)

It is very important to protect your hearing at all ages as there is no sure way to stop or slow hearing loss as we age. You can take steps to make sure you are not making matters worse by avoiding loud noises at work and in your free time. If you can't avoid loud noises wear ear plugs or ear muffs to protect your hearing when around loud noises such as lawnmowers, snow blowers, vacuums, small kitchen appliances, farm equipment and loud concerts.

**Finally stay connected.** Hearing loss is more than just about hearing. If you can't hear well, it makes it more difficult to enjoy activities such as movies, lectures, concerts worship and others. It can mean missing out on spending time with people you care about. It can help prevent feelings of isolation and depression so make your hearing a top priority.

Please contact me if you have questions about hearing loss or need resources for hearing loss in the community. I can help you and understand what you are going through as I have hearing loss in the higher decibels, but not quite enough for hearing aids. I grew up on a farm near loud machinery, went to a few loud concerts and around yard as well as home equipment that was loud. I have been protecting my ears since the hearing loss was detected with ear plugs and muffs.

From webmd.com

Carolyn Eiden, RN  
Parish Nurse

**I plan to be in my Parish Nurse office every Wednesday in March from 9 a.m.—12:30 p.m.**



GriefShare is slated to start April 21 and continue through July 14.





*Birthday blessings to you!*

- May 4 Becky Ogea
- May 6 Betty Davis
- May 7 Sarah Fritz
- May 7 Ken Sohn
- May 8 Chad Fritz
- May 9 Rebecca Stentz
- May 10 Pam Langley
- May 11 Spencer Ogea
- May 12 Jackie Lorbecki
- May 17 Drew Thimmig
- May 18 Owen Dominguez
- May 18 Zane Tinkle
- May 19 Ann Hilpertshauser
- May 20 Rob Sass
- May 20 Rocquie Stentz
- May 23 Brianna Coons
- May 23 Dave Hilpertshauser
- May 23 Scott Martens
- May 26 Hayden Herrmann



*God bless your years together!*

- |                             |        |          |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------|
| Jeff and Carol Falk         | May 1  | 39 years |
| Ken and Caroline Greger     | May 6  | 54 years |
| Brett and Kathy Matz        | May 12 | 31 years |
| Michael and Lorraine Holzem | May 29 | 39 years |
| Jeff and Gerri Evans        | May 31 | 24 years |
| Dave and Ann Hilpertshauser | May 31 | 35 years |



*With Sympathy*

*Margaret Erdmann*  
6.28.1933—3.29.2021

*Memorial Service*

*May 7, 2021*

*6 p.m.*

*St. Mark Lutheran Church*



**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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MAY 2021  
FORWARD  
MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

