



Sunday, January 28, 2024
St. James and St. Mark's United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Ann Rodewald, Organist
Jacob Grunwald, Reader

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

The Lord Is My Light

Call to Worship:

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.

**Those who dwell in a land of deep darkness
have had the light shine upon them.**

You multiply the nation; increase its joy;

and we rejoice in you and before your glory.

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, may you reign now and always, bringing a peace such as we've never known.

**Establish your kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven,
With justice and righteousness forevermore.**

Prayer:

Glorious Trinity make your presence known in this place, through our worship, our prayer, the reading of your Word, and in the fellowship we enjoy. Amen.

Hymn:

St. James (#7)

St. Mark's (#426)

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart
Blessed Assurance*

Affirmation of Faith: (Apostles Creed)

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried:

He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:

I believe in the Holy Spirit: The One Holy Universal Christian Church: the communion of saints: The forgiveness of sins: The resurrection of the body:

And the life everlasting. Amen.



Young at Heart:

Recognition of Serving on the Consistory:

St. James

Jamey Binversie

Tammy Serketich

St. Mark's

Glenn Grunwald

Julie Herrmann

Installation of Consistory Members:

St. James

Tanya Bowman

Jamie Henschel

St. Mark's

Tyler Bramstedt

Brenda Miota

Sisters and Brothers,

We are gathered today as one body in Christ, in worship and praise of a loving and faithful God who has richly blessed us time and time again.

In response to God's blessing and commitment to St. Mark's, we pause to give thanks and to recognize those, through their willingness to commit and serve, who have faithfully done so on the Consistory Board.

Today, we recognize the years of service Glenn and Julie have given to the Consistory: time, spiritual gifts, leadership, and guidance for the people St. Mark's for the purpose of deepening our faith and broadening our reach.

Today, we also recognize and commit two new members to a three-year term on the Consistory Board beginning January 2024.

Tyler Bramstedt and Brenda Miota, as you stand before God, Church and family will you commit to serving St. Mark's (and when called upon - St. James) to the best of your God-given talents, gifts and abilities? **We will.**

Will you faithfully participate in the ministries of St. Mark's by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your invitation? **We will.**

Do you believe you have been called by the Holy Spirit to use your skills to lead in your church and community, to expand our caring ministries, and to witness to the Christian faith in worship, invitation, welcoming and hospitality? **We do.**

Will you be in prayer for your family, your church and church family, your pastor, and your community? **We will.**

Will you follow the by-laws and constitution of St. Mark's; will you follow the spirit of the law as given to us by Christ and intended by Christ? **We will.**

To the Congregation:

As a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your invitation, will you commit today to continue to share God's grace and the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the community? **We will.**

Will you honor, support and encourage Tyler and Brenda in their ministries? **We will.**

Will you accept their leadership and the leadership of the Consistory - supporting and encouraging them through prayer, and when in doubt communicate effectively and directly with the Consistory? **We will.**

Prayer: Almighty God, you have bound us together to work for your reign on earth. Bless these people as they share their gifts and ministry with us and the community at large. Grant that all of us, by drawing nearer to you, may always be close to one another in the communion of your saints through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn:

St. James (#43)
St. Mark's (#451)

*When Morning Gilds the Sky
Be Still My Soul*

Scripture Reading:

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer

that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Message: *Messy Church – Inside Out*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Offering:

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church. St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website (stmstjucc.org).

Offertory Music:

Give Thanks

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

God of mercy and grace, we pray that the gifts we offer this morning might be used to bring compassion to the chaos that is our world. We give these gifts in love, hoping they will heal some of the hurting; and as they do, make the crooked road straight for the coming of the Christ. May the hills that separate us from sisters and brothers be made flat and may the valleys of our isolation be raised up, so we will be ready to welcome the Christ as one. In that holy name, we pray. *Amen.*

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending:

St. James (#329)

St. Mark's (#466)

*I Love Thy Kingdom
Take My Life and Let It Be*

Benediction:

May the love of Jesus Christ bring us wholeness, the grace of God the Father grant us peace, the breath of Holy Spirit instill passion, and the unity between them give us strength for this and every day. Go now to love and serve the Lord ...

Postlude:

May the Lord Be With You

Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel:

St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Like us on Facebook  Check out our Website: www.stmstjucc.org

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: stmstjoffice@gmail.com

Staying Close, Staying Connected

Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

January 29th – Nancy Sixel, Allyson Wasmer
February 2nd – Kathryn Jaehnig

ANNIVERSARY: None this Week.

CHOIR REHEARSALS – Wednesday, January 24th

St. James, 6:30pm

St. Mark's, 7:00pm

JOINT CONSISTORY MEETING – Mon., Feb. 5th, 6pm at St. Mark's



Our quilters will be making quilts and lap robes. Our finished projects will go to Bridgeway in Sheboygan, Rocky Knoll Health Care Center in Plymouth, and Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

We are seeking a few donations:

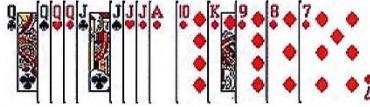
- cotton fabric
- quilt batting
- self-healing cutting board
- working sewing machines
- ironing board
- iron

Please contact Lori Roelse with any questions, lroelse@gmail.com or 920-946-3540.

UCC RURAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Presents

SHEEPSHEAD TOURNAMENT



Where: Bethlehem United Church of Christ
11608 Lax Chapel Road
Kiel WI 53042

When: Sunday, February 18, 2024, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Doors open at 12:30

Entrance Fee: Canned goods and/or free will offering

Rules will be explained before the tournament begins. All levels of skill are welcome. Beginner's table(s) will be available for those who don't know how to play. Don't want to play sheepshead but want to participate in the fun? Bring your own board or card game.

Refreshments will be available.

COME ONE...COME ALL!

Child care will be supplied. Games and movies for the kiddos.



TOURNAMENT!

ST. JAMES UCC
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024
1:00 PM

OPEN TO MEN & WOMEN OF
ST. JAMES & ST. MARK'S

GPS

Grow – deeper in our faith and relationship with God.

Pray – pray daily for family, neighbors, and others.

Study – read the Bible, pray over what we read, ask questions.

Karl Barth, theologian, philosopher, writer, gives definition to “saint” in these terms. “Holy people are unholy people who nevertheless as such have been singled out, claimed and requisitioned by God for his control, for his use, for himself who is holy. Their holiness is and remains in Christ Jesus. It is in him that they are holy, it is from this point of view that they are to be addressed as such, in no other respect.”

Essentially, Barth is saying that Paul’s way of thinking is no one does anything to become a “holy” person or a “saint.” Rather, believers are holy only insofar as Christ’s holiness is given to them. This is an interesting line of thought, and if I break this down further, it’s saying no one is holy except in and through Jesus. No one can claim holiness separate from God through the Son.

To further this thought, the Holy Spirit, called and sent to us by the Son, fills us with the flame of holiness (think Pentecost Sunday). This holiness is known as sanctifying grace. It is a grace, freely given to us by God, that sanctifies us prior to any works we might do in His name.

Being a Christian is more than simply acknowledging God’s will. It is accepting God’s will upon our lives and living out a life committed to Christ. The process of becoming more and more obedient to God’s will after being set apart by Christ’s redemption sanctifies us – cleanses us – helps ready us in our pursuit of God’s will. Hence, the freely offered gift of grace, never earned and never worthy of, is a necessary part of our relationship with God. Given and accepted if we are to deepen our relationship with God.

Prayer: Lord, thankful we are for your amazing grace that saved us, once lost but now found, blind but now seeing. Amen.

NOTES

COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS!

St. James UCC

1st & 3rd Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.

~Sunday School meets 9-10am at both churches~

St. Mark's UCC

1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.