

The Country Church Herald

...Proclaiming the Word of God

NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2019

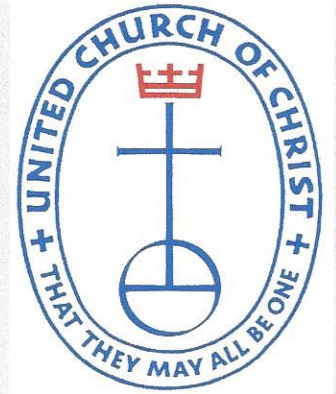
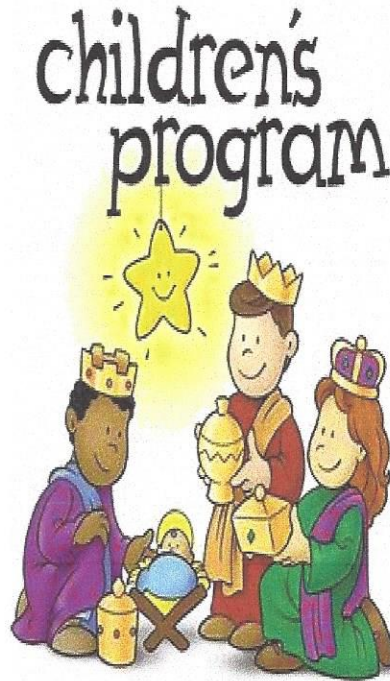
ON THE WEB www.stmstjucc.org FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

ST. JAMES SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE began on November 24th and will also be held on December 1st, 8th, and 15th. Please have your child at church from 9am to 11:30am on these Sundays. Questions may be directed to Sandy Beiersdorf at 920-693-8000.

The Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 9:00am.

ST. MARK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE began on November 10th during Sunday School. The December practice schedule is: Dec 1: 9-10am; Dec 8: 9-10:30am; Dec 15: 9-11am - run through in costume; Dec 22 : 10-12pm - dress rehearsal

The program will be held at 4:00pm on Sunday, Dec. 22 (note the time correction). Children are to arrive at church, dressed in their costumes at 3:15pm.



ST. JAMES UCC
1332 Pioneer Road
Newton, WI 53063
920.693.8100

ST. MARK'S UCC
W1307 Orchard Road
Cleveland, WI 53015
920.693.8361

PASTOR:

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME!

Dec. 1st St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship
9-10 Sunday School Program Practice
St. James: 10:30am Worship
9-11:30 SS Program Practice
Joint Congregational Meeting at
St. James at 11:30am

Dec. 8th St. James: 9:00am Worship
9-11:30 Sun. School Program Practice
St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship
9-11 Sunday School Program Practice

Dec. 15th St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship
9-11 Sunday School Program Practice
St. James: 10:30am Worship
9-11:30 Sun. School Program Practice

Dec. 22nd St. James: 9:00am
Sunday School Christmas Program
St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship
10-12 Sun. School Program Practice
4:00 Sunday School Christmas Program

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight
Worship with Communion, St. Mark's,
7:00pm

Dec. 25th Christmas Day Worship with
Communion, St. James, 10:00am

Dec. 29th St. James: 9:00am Worship
No Sunday School Today
St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship
No Sunday School Today

JUST 4 YOUTH!

Youth meeting at 11:30 at St. Mark's on December 8th after the late service. We will meet to discuss upcoming events and make a Christmas outreach project for Pastor to take on home visits or for members to pass onto those they know who would appreciate a small holiday gift. Please plan to attend, we can really use your help (and definitely the more, the more fun!)

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING

November 14th, 2019

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

October 27, 2019

St. James = 41

St. Mark's = 80

November 3, 2019

St. James = 85

St. Mark's = 68

November 10, 2019

St. James = 64

St. Mark's = 55

November 17, 2019

St. Mark's

Mission Fest = 108

The meeting was called to order by Alan Wippermann at 6:00pm. Pastor Schultz led us in prayer. Members present were Alan Wippermann, President; Clarence Belitz, Vice President; Sue Kracht, Treasurer; Linda Lutzke; Secretary, Michelle Mauk, Colleen Lauersdorf, Tom Kleinhahns and Pastor Schultz. The Secretary's report was discussed. Clarence made a motion to approve the minutes. Sue second it. Motion carried. Sue presented the Treasurer's report. Michelle made a motion to approve the report. Tom second it. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds

Al did monthly elevator inspection. There were many things discussed for our building and grounds. There was a request to have a large bush trimmed around a stone in the cemetery, Al took care of this matter; North wall in the basement needs to be scrapped and repainted from what looks like water damage, Linda will work on that; roads signs at intersections in the block of our church needs to be replaced; kitchen cabinet doors by the sink need to be replaced or fix laminate; railing by back door needs to be painted which will be put on list for spring; Mike Zoltheis is working on replacing some outlets in the church and thermostat in Narthex seems to change temperature settings on its own, may have to be replaced. In addition, Clarence made a motion to raise snowplowing fees (from what Bill Heckmann charges) \$35 to \$45 for this winter season. Tom second it.

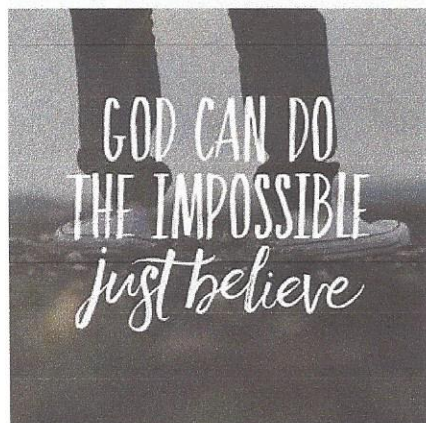
Old Business

Suggestion box was empty. Vision of Hope will meet Dec.2nd. Stewardship TBD and Board of Christian Education TBD. The church purchased a new wireless microphone for Pastor also discussing possibility of updating other tech items in church. Reminder that Memorial Sunday will be on the 24th, Pastor has new ideas as to how we will remember those that we have lost in 2019.

New Business

Please keep in our prayers for continuous healing for Dawn Marcoe, Ed Heckmann and Rita Quast. There was a request for the use of our kitchen from a local 4-H group in which they will be making christmas candy, Clarence & Heidi Belitz will be in charge of this event. We will once again be sponsoring 3 families from Manitowoc County for the holidays. As soon as we have the list of items it will be in bulletin and Linda will have the "Giving Tree" up for members to take ornaments with gift ideas from the tree. Consistory will soon be putting up the christmas tree and decorating our church for the holidays, anyone is welcomed to join us on Saturday Nov. 30th at 8am. Next meeting will be December 12th at 6pm. Sue made a motion to adjourn and Michelle second it. Motion carried.

Linda Lutzke, Secretary



ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING

November 7, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Taylor at 6:05 pm. Members present: Pastor Patrick, Jim Taylor, Tara Vandoske, Bruce Mansker, Dave Call, Audrey Aardappel, Judy Steinbeck, and Lori Roelse.

The Secretary's report was reviewed and approved. The Financial Secretary's report was reviewed and approved.

Buildings and Grounds:

- Winter care: Flags will be placed for plowing. Salt boxes have been placed at the doors.
- If anyone would like the current desk and couch in pastor's office, please let him know.
- Elevator inspection was completed.

Old Business:

- Direct deposit of church dues is now available. Judy Steinbeck will answer any questions.
- Bruce is checking into getting Wi-Fi service in the church basement.
- We will continue membership in the Rural Church Fellowship for another year and then reexamine.
- Mission Fest set-up will be Saturday morning, November 16. Flyers have been hung around Cleveland and Howards Grove.

New Business:

- Pastor continues his home and community visits.
- Joint congregational meeting will be held Sunday, December 1 after the late service at St. James to present the proposal for Pastor's 2020 salary and benefits.
- Thanksgiving service will be at St. James.
- Our congregation will again collect gifts for Sheboygan County and Manitowoc County families.
- Candy bags will be packed on Saturday, December 21 at 10:00 am.
- New postal procedures are coming from the US Post Office. Those new processes are very expensive. In order to save money, newsletters will then be available via email, at church, or by mail.
- Memorial Sunday plans were made for November 22.

The next Consistory meeting will be held Thursday, December 5 at 5:00. The meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lori Roelse, Consistory Secretary

DECEMBER HOSPITALITY TEAM SCHEDULE*

- December 1—Tara V.
- December 8—Audrey A.
- December 15—Ann G.
- December 22—Sandy P.
- December 29—Carol W.

*For publication purposes, please let Karen know if you make changes.



Our sincere sympathy goes to the family of Allen Gabsch on his passing on Thursday, Oct. 31st. He will be deeply missed in both our church and the community. Allen's funeral was held November 5th at St. Mark's.

Allen A. Gabsch, 77, of Howards Grove, passed away Thursday, October 31, 2019 at Harvest Home. Allen was born July 19, 1942, in Sheboygan, to the late Alfred and Norma (Karstedt) Gabsch. He attended Kiel High School. On April 11, 1964, he married the former Katherine "Katie" Gumm at St. Mark's United Church of Christ. She preceded him in death on May 7, 2008.

Allen was employed by Brost Foods as butcher before purchasing and operating his own dairy farm. He was also a Town of Mosel Supervisor and a 35 year veteran of the Haven Fire Department. Allen loved his tractor collection, attend-

Joint Consistory Meeting, Monday October 21, 2019

Present from St. James: President Al Wippermann, VP Clarence Belitz, Secretary Linda Lutzke, Treasurer Sue Kracht, Tom Kleinhans, Colleen Lauersdorf and Michelle Mauk

Present from St. Mark's: President Jim Taylor, VP Bruce Mansker, Secretary Lori Roelse, Treasurer Audrey Aardappel, Tara Vandoske, Dave Call, Financial Secretary Judy Steinbeck along with Pastor Schultz.

The meeting was called to order by Al at 6:05pm. Pastor Schultz led us in prayer. We reviewed minutes from the February 11, 2019 Joint Consistory Meeting. Motion by Jim to accept. Sue seconded.

Youth Leaders Kari Langenhahn and Sandy Perronne met with Consistories to discuss ideas to boost participation with our Youths. Pastor Schultz discussed the possibility of seeking an Intern from Lakeland College to help us out with our Youth Group. Motion was made by Al Wippermann to seek Internship from Lakeland College to help with our Youth group, Lori Roelse seconded.

Our Church Secretary Karen Mansker presented some ways of saving monies concerning printing monthly and weekly bulletins, she researched different options for color verses black & white also printing ourselves versus ordering pre-printed bulletins. We will discuss again at the next joint meeting in February.

We reviewed church calendars and set dates for 2020 calendar year. Service on Thanksgiving Eve will be at St. Mark's in 2020.

Things seem to be going well with new Pastor and new Secretary in their first year. We discussed the need for better communication between both Consistories for a successful relationship.

St. James Consistory asked Consistory of St. Mark's their feedback on their new Sunday School times of 9am every Sunday. Hopefully everything goes well and attendance gets a little better. We will talk about it again in the next joint meeting in February.

St. Mark's is trying automatic withdrawal/debit of church dues. This will again be discussed at the next joint meeting to see how things are going.

We set date for Joint Congregational meeting to discuss Pastor's salary and benefits, this is set for Sunday December 1st at St. James after late service. Consistories will meet again on November 5th at 6pm at St. James to discuss and prepare Pastor's possible raise.

Next meeting of the Joint Consistories is February 10th 2020 at 6pm at St. Mark's. Sue Kracht made a motion to adjourn; Tara Vandoske seconded.

Linda Lutzke, St. James Secretary

OUR CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

Joint Consistory Meeting, November 11th, 2019

Meeting was called to order by President Al Wippermann at 6pm, Al also led us in prayer. Members present from St. James: Al Wippermann, Clarence Belitz, Sue Kracht, Linda Lutzke, Tom Kleinhans, Colleen Lauersdorf and Michelle Mauk. Members present from St. Mark's: President Jim Taylor, Judy Steinbeck, Tara Vandoske and Bruce Mansker.

We discussed the email given to us by Pastor Schultz asking for only a \$500 increase in his Continued Education Budget. Sue made a motion that we increase the Pastor continued education budget by \$500, Michelle second it.

This then led us to discuss conducting a review with Pastor possible in August of 2020. Sue was going to do some research and look for possible guidelines to follow for this review. We then discussed our upcoming Joint Congregation meeting Dec. 1st. Our church's secretary Karen Mansker brought to our attention at our last Joint meeting that there will be some changes with postage and she recommended the new year to be a great time to make changes to the monthly newsletter. To save money we would have the newsletter emailed to each person, on our Website, possibly Facebook page, and also have copies at the back of both churches rather than mail to everyone. If there are shut-ins who would like it mailed to their home they will notify Karen. We decided at our Joint Congregational meeting Dec. 1st we will present that to the congregation. Clarence made a motion to make the change and go with the new methods of getting monthly newsletter to our members. Tara second it.

Clarence made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Michelle second it.

Linda Lutzke, St. James Church Secretary

ST JAMES CELEBRATIONS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Ellen Mae Surfus
- 16 Keith Mauk
- 17 Rev. Bill Kesting
- 24 Jenny Riesterer
- 25 Raymond Henschel
Noel Wippermann
- 27 Ethen Lutzke
- 28 Tim Russart
- 31 Galen LaDuke
Gage Spindler

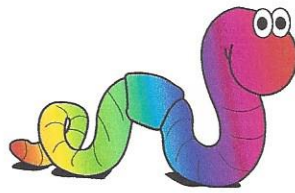
DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 William & Dorothy Mueller
- 31 Jeremy & Karie Ladwig

ST. JAMES' VISION OF HOPE FUND

Committee Meeting at St.
James

Monday, Dec. 2nd, 6:30pm



St James continues to seek a volunteer to bag the gummy worms for the children's message. If you're able to help, please let a member of the Consistory know.



Confirmation Pictures Needed

Can you help? I am in the process of putting all the past Confirmation pictures in an album. I have the pictures from 1928 to 2004 and 2008.

What I need is group confirmation pictures from 2009 to the present. (*it's possible they're at church and I just don't know where to look!*). I would like 8x10 if possible. I am willing to enlarge/copy if you have smaller sizes.

Write all names on the back of the pictures with date/year, and place in an envelope with you name and phone number on it and if you want the picture returned. Either give it to me in church or leave your envelope in the secretary's office.

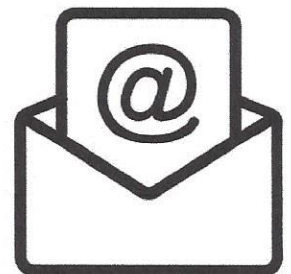
Thanks for your help!
Marlene Kammann

On November 5th the Joint Consistory unanimously passed a cost-saving measure, to electronically distribute the monthly church newsletters. This will begin with the February 2020 newsletter.

What this means is that you will be receiving your monthly church newsletter via email instead of mailed printed copies. The newsletter will also be available Online at our church Website: www.stmstjucc.org and there will be printed copies available at church for those individuals who do not have email or access to the Internet.

Our churches will be saving a substantial amount of money by making the change (cost of postage, paper, ink...), in addition lessening the environmental impact. You will also have the ability to forward on the church newsletter, plus it looks SO attractive in color!

Please make sure that you return the "Information Request Form" that was sent to you. If you aren't sure if we have your updated email address, please contact Karen Mansker, our church secretary.



ST. JAMES

DECEMBER USHERS

Chairpersons:

Jamie & Heather Henschel

Karra Cina

Jon & Diane Luckow

Richard & Sarah Lutze

Cheyenne Spindler

Mike Spindler

Tom & Nicole Spindler

Mary Ann Vogel

Kris Zolltheis

Scott Zolltheis

JANUARY USHERS

Chairpersons:

* Vernon & Jean Henschel

Kim Grotegut

Alan Wippermann

Amy Christianson

Ashley Grotegut

Alyssa Grotegut

Geraldine Scheffler

Brittany Stolzmann

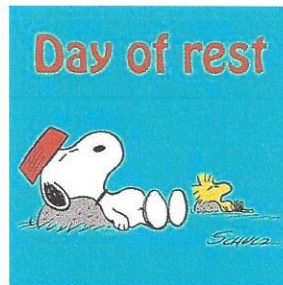
Eric Stolzmann



REMINDER:

Pastor Patrick has designated Tuesdays & Fridays as his weekly days off/out of the office. During those two days each week you may contact him in case of an emergency only at 608-352-9544.

Your Church Consistory Members would be your contact in any nonemergency situation.



BUILDING FUND SUNDAY

December 1st is Building Fund Sunday. We appreciate your generous on-going financial support. Just like at your homes, there is always a need for money for maintenance.

So again, thank you for help to keep our church in tip-top condition!

***Please note, your Building Fund donations will be accepted at anytime, just label them "Building Fund"*

ST. MARK'S

DECEMBER USHERS

Chairperson:

Dave Call*

Cindy Call

Bradley Grunwald

Dave Grunwald

Faith Grunwald

DECEMBER CANDLE LIGHTERS

1 - Mason Scharl &

Bryce Schnelle

8 - Brianne Vandoske &

Reid Vandoske

15 - Emily Binversie &

Luke Grunwald

22 - Brianna Miota &

Rebecca Miota

29 - Colten Sommer &

Annabelle Uttech

JANUARY USHERS

Chairperson:

Bruce Mansker*

Karen Mansker

Brenda Miota

Janell Davis

JANUARY CANDLE LIGHTERS

5- Mason Scharl &

Bryce Schnelle

12 - Alexa Dexter &

Ben Summers

19- Owen Bramstedt &

Sierra Bramstedt

26- Brianne Vandoske &

Reid Vandoske



Meet Our Confirmation Class and Their Mentors!



ST. JAMES NEWS:

Sunday school continues to explore new Outreach ideas. This Christmas season Amanda Russart will help us add Toys for Tots to our program. We will also focus on our special Christmas families and Manitowoc Rehabilitation Center. Questions may be directed to Sandy Beiersdorf at 920-693-8000.

BOTH ST. JAMES & ST. MARK'S HAVE VACATION (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL) ON DECEMBER 29TH AND JANUARY 5TH. See you next year!

BEYOND OUR DOORS...



ADOPT-A-FAMILY!

Once again, you have the opportunity to share your blessings by helping local families in need this Christmas. Each church has a 'tree' with tags of gift ideas to purchase for a specific family in need. It will tear at your heartstrings to see some of the basic needs that are requested as 'Christmas gifts' by the families.

The tags are coded as to which family the gifts go to. We ask that you wrap the gift, attach the tag that you took from the tree, and place your gift in the designated box (each family has a different container). ALL WRAPPED GIFTS ARE DUE AT CHURCH ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th.

In addition to gifting the family, we ask that you always keep your Adopt-a-Family member in your prayers .



Love Feeds OUR World

SUCH EXCITING NEWS!!!!!!! A grand total of NINE children were sponsored as a result of information that Andrea Spindler & Pastor Laurie Haag shared about Love Feeds Our World! Two children were sponsored right at St. James during Mission Fest and 7 more sponsored while the display was set up at St. Marks, plus a cash donation was given to Love Feeds Our World!

Even though the display is no longer at church, you may still visit the Love Feeds Our World Website to get updates, learn more, make donations, and sponsor a child: <http://lovefeedsourworld.org/>

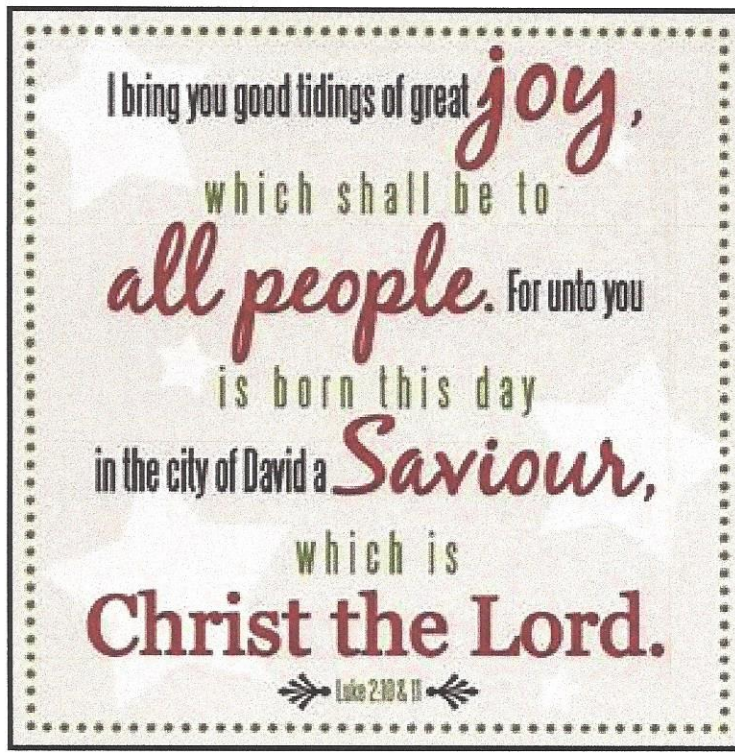
Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ) of Sheboygan County was presented during St. Mark's Mission Fest by Executive Director Katie Popp. She shared ways that Love INC mobilize local Christian churches to transform lives and communities through relationships, in the name of Christ. Their aim is to provide a hand-up, not just a hand-out.

There are many ways that you can involved in this local ministry. A Talent Survey bulletin insert was provided listing opportunities for you to help. The list is also found under their Website: <http://www.loveincsheboygancounty.org/>



Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ
of Sheboygan County



**REMINDER:
POINSETTIA ORDERS ARE DUE
DECEMBER 1st!**

Annual meetings are coming up in January for both of the churches. Because this will be my first year preparing the booklets for the meetings, I would really appreciate it if anyone has their reports done early to go ahead and get the copy to me. Email is the preferred method, however if that's not possible, you may drop off a hard copy in the secretary office at St. Mark's.

Thanks much!
Karen Mansker

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church to join faith and action. With over 5,000 churches and nearly one million members across the U.S., the UCC serves God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world. The UCC is a church of firsts, a church of extravagant welcome, and a church where "...they may all be one"

(John 17:21).

United Church of Christ:
<https://www.ucc.org>

St. James UCC/St. Mark's UCC:
www.stmstjucc.org

ST. MARK'S CEMETARY FUND

We welcome your donations for maintenance of our cemetery. Simply put any amount you wish to give in an envelope marked "Cemetery" and drop it in the collection plate.

PASTORAL CARE

If you or a family member are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Patrick at 920-693-2858 or leave a message on the church's answering machine at 920-693-8361.

CONFIDENTIALITY LAWS

There have been some changes to the confidentiality laws. These changes make it difficult for pastors to obtain information about anyone in the hospital. If you or a loved one will be in the hospital, please call the church office 920-693-8361 or contact Pastor Patrick at 920-693-2858.

**ST. JAMES/ST. MARK'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
W1307 Orchard Road
Cleveland, WI 53015
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Please email karenchurchsec@gmail.com or let a consistory member know of any address, phone number, and/or e-mail changes.