

The Country Church Herald

...Proclaiming the Word of God

NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2020

ON THE WEB www.stmstjucc.org FIND US ON FACEBOOK & YOU TUBE!



Even though we needed to close our doors again temporarily, we know a number of you were able to pick tags from the Giving Tree. Gifts should be wrapped and please make sure the tags are taped to the gift. This ensures an accurate delivery.

ST JAMES: Please deliver your donations to church on either December 9th from 5-7 or December 12th from 9-11.

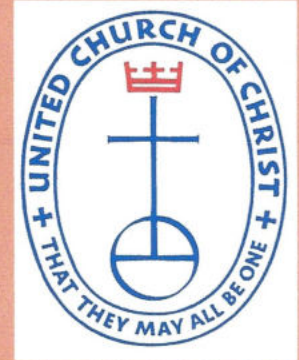
ST MARK'S: Email Karen at karenchurchsec@gmail.com or call the church office to arrange for the drop off of any gifts.

Thank you for your generosity!!

EVERYONE WHO ORDERED A

POINSETTIA will be contacted as to how you will be receiving your flower.

The poinsettia donation list is included in this newsletter.



ST. JAMES UCC
13312 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

All Church Events are Virtual until further notice.

Sunday Bulletins & a link to the Messages are posted under the "Messages" link on our Church Website:
www.stmstjucc.org

Messages are uploaded to YouTube:

St. Mark's & St. James UCC

You can also find us on Facebook

The Gift of Love

St. James poinsettias were purchased by:

- * Heidi & Clarence Belitz ~ in memory of Ed & Gladys Heckmann
- * Charlie & Ruth Ann Kolb ~ for the joy of Christ's birth
- * Julianne Luebke & Family ~ in memory of David Luebke
- * Patrick, Brenda & Grace ~ in memory of Patrick's parents, Jim and Joanne
- * Patrick, Brenda, & Grace ~ in memory of Brenda's parents, Harold and Jill
- * Mary Ann Vogel & Family ~ in memory of my husband, Wayne Vogel
- * Judith & Al Wippermann ~ in memory of LeRoy Schad, Dorothy Schad, Dave Schad

St. Mark's poinsettias were purchased by:

- * Alice Broehm ~ for the joy of Christmas
- * David & Cindy Call ~ for the joy of Christmas
- * Pat & Noreen Flook ~ in honor of the hardworking doctors & nurses caring for the COVID patients
- * Pat & Noreen Flook ~ in memory of Daniel Lindow
- * Gerty Free ~ in memory of my husband, Eddie Free
- * Gerty Free ~ in memory of our son, Terry Free
- * Mike & Janice Marcheske ~ in memory of our parents
- * Chris Schnelle & Family ~ in memory of Joel Schnelle
- * Mary Ellen Schnelle & Family ~ in memory of Lloyd Schnelle
- * Mary Ellen Schnelle & Family ~ in memory of Joel Schnelle
- * Judy Steinbeck ~ for the joy of family at Christmas
- * Ron & Sue Vandoske ~ in memory of our parents and Richard Vandoske



ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING

November 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. Members present: Pastor, Bruce Mansker, Tara Vandoske, Dave Call, Jacob Grunwald, Louise Jetzer, Judy Steinbeck, and Lori Roelse. Pastor led the group in prayer.

The Secretary's and Financial Secretary's reports were reviewed and accepted.

Buildings and Grounds

- The elevator inspection is complete.
- Water test and well report have passed and are complete.
- Bruce will check in with Spectrum about burying the cable.

Old Business

- The secretary's computer has arrived and will be put in place soon.

New Business

-Pastor's Report

More members are seeing the effect of Covid in their families and others near them.

Pastor is contacting musicians for inclusion in our virtual Christmas service.

Communion will be served at the Thanksgiving Eve service. Tara will pick up bread.

-Covid response

Will there be a point when we need to go back to virtual services only? What will be the determining factors? Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

-Wedding fees were updated.

-Planning for the virtual Christmas services was discussed. Pastor is working on rounding up musicians.

Next Consistory Meeting

5:00, Thursday, December 3 at St. Mark's. Christmas decorating, followed by the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lori Roelse, Consistory Secretary

SPECIAL JOINT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

November 8, 2020

The joint congregational meeting regarding Pastor's compensation package for 2021 was called to order by Bruce Mansker, St. Mark's consistory president at 10:55.

Bruce reviewed the components of the compensation package.

The floor was opened for discussion and questions. There were none.

A ballot vote was taken. The compensation package was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02.

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING

November 16, 2020 – 6:30

President Clarence Belitz called the meeting to order at 6:38. Members present were – David Lorfeld – Vice-President, Wendy Henschel – Treasurer, Deb La Duke – Secretary, Michelle Mauk, Jason Riesterer, and Pastor Patrick Schultz. Absent – Tom Kleinhans. Agenda approved and no additions or changes. Pastor led the group in prayer.

Motion to approve the Secretary's Report from October as printed was made by David and seconded by Michelle. Motion carried.

Welcome to Wendy Henschel who will be fulfilling the term of Val Spindler as Treasurer. Motion to approve the October Treasurer's Report was made by Jason and seconded by David. Motion carried. Pastor will also be looking to add a monthly account report from Tithe.ly (the online giving church option.)

Pastor's Report: Pastor has received a "New Neighbors Contact Service" report. It is an accessible file to let community members know of new people moving into the area. Pastor has sent letters of welcome to them. He is also suggesting the addition of a Superintendent of Sunday Schools – one position for both churches. Discussion continues.

Building and Grounds – Thank you to Brian Henschel for trimming bushes. They look great! Brian discovered rotted trim on the east stained glass window. Clarence is contacting Abler Glass and Glass Guru for estimates to repair. The AED pads are outdated and Clarence checking into their replacements. The elevator inspection is Tuesday, 11/17.

Old Business:

Vision of Hope - next meeting Dec 7th

Stewardship Committee – They met on November 1. Linda Lutzke will be sending "Thinking of You cards" to church members we have not had the privilege to see since Covid concerns. Notices to members will be sent with current giving totals before the year end.

Board of Education – Sunday School teachers met on October 29th to review Sunday morning programming. The decision was made to stay safer at home and to send packets to students to cover November and December lessons. Pastor organized a pop-up service for Nov. 15 for students. Eight children attended with their parents. The Twenty-third Psalm was the theme.

Evaluation process for church- A subcommittee of Clarence, Tom, David, and Deb met with Pastor to review the year and continue conversations with evaluations and mission statements. He will continue to submit a list of accomplishments report to the church. Pastor will contact members for the committee he is looking to build and begin the process in 2021.

Covid updates: Memorial Sunday and installation of new Consistory member will be held on Sunday, November 22nd. With rising cases in neighboring communities, several schools going virtual, and hospitals nearing capacity, it is very possible that we will go back to virtual services. This continues to be an ebb and flow process and Consistory continues to monitor and evaluate how we can best serve the needs of the church members. We remain in discussion with St. Mark's as well.

New Business:

Pastor will be on vacation from Thanksgiving Day through Dec. 6th. He has the speakers lined up and will now be in contact with them regarding changes to our church services.

Thank you to Randy and Cindy Sohn for taking over the yearly cleaning for church! We appreciate your dedication.

With the change-up to not having services in the church building, Consistory decided to place the two large wreaths up but no need to put up the big tree. Sohn's decorating will be adjusted also. Candy bags will be prepared at Easter in tandem with the Spring program instead of Christmas.

Both churches are in need of additional musicians to support Sunday morning services. An ad will be placed in the Country Church Herald looking for interested parties.

Clarence continues to receive quotes and ideas for the A/V equipment.

The ushering list, membership list, and committee lists are being updated.

Christmas services will be virtual and any members interested in prerecording a segment can contact Pastor Schultz. Patrick is checking into music and video licensing regulations.

Bill Heckmann will snowplow again, Brian Henschel will take care of the hedges, and Barb Reimer will collect the mail.

Building Fund Sunday Dec. 6, 2020 – to be added to Tithe.ly as another giving option

Christmas Fund Sunday Dec. 13, 2020 – to be added to Tithe.ly as another giving option

Christmas Tree families from the Manitowoc Human Services – plans will need to change since we will be going to virtual services. Michelle will be opening church on December 9th from 5-7 and Dec. 12th from 9-11 for gifts to be dropped off.

Next Meeting Date: December 14, 6:30 Location to be determined.

Motion to adjourn was made by Deb and seconded by David. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb La Duke - Secretary



St. James Sunday School Update

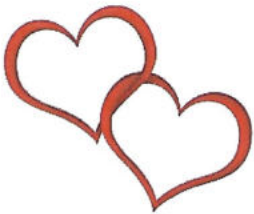
Sunday School lessons have been US mailed out through December. Outreach has remained active behind the scenes with six coats delivered to Coats for Kids program. Christmas presents for our special families have been purchased. St. Jude's has been paid through December.

Sunday School reconvening in January of 2021 will be assessed at a later date. Any questions or concerns please contact Sandy Beiersdorf at 920-693-8000 or sandrabeiersdorf@gmail.com



Elliot and Aubrey Quast of Geneva, Illinois, welcomed Hudson Hugh Quast on July 17, 2020

Happy "Grandparenthood", Amy Christianson!



Congratulations

to

Natalie Serketich

&

Eric Lodes

who were

married

November 14th at

St. James.



Immanuel United Church of Christ

Invites you to join us for a

Drive-Through Live Nativity

Wednesday, December 16th

6:30pm-8:00pm

*Come experience the sights and sounds of that
holy night in Bethlehem!*

A safe & festive event for the whole family

Donations of nonperishable food items for our food pantry
are encouraged, but not required.



Open to All!

W3694 County Road FF, Plymouth
Please enter from County Road FF and
exit onto County Road M.



We have our End of Year Appeal mailing coming up, and we need help to stuff the envelopes, stick labels and stamps on the envelopes, then glue and seal all of them for us to deliver to the post office. We are aiming to accomplish this task the first week of December. We will have shifts of 10am-1pm and 1pm-4pm Tuesday-Friday that week (12/1-12/4).

Please contact Lee Anne at 920-458-3399 ext. 301 or lraleigh@habitatlakeside.com to sign up or if you have any questions.



**Habitat
for Humanity®
Lakeside**



Lakeland University Offers Outstanding Scholarship Opportunity

Are you looking for ways to get involved in a religious studies community during your time at college? Do you have a passion to speak out for justice in our communities and world? Lakeland University offers a full-tuition scholarship competition opportunity to students with these interests; it's called our **Ulrich Scholars Scholarship Program**. The Ulrich Scholarship is named after the long-time and beloved Lakeland Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Reinhard Ulrich.

Each year nine Ulrich Scholars earn a **\$20,000** per year scholarship to attend Lakeland University. We also offer one student a **full-tuition** award. Students who receive these awards major or minor in Religion, participate in Ulrich Scholars events throughout the year (including lectures, retreats, community service, and visits to various religious communities), and lead a social justice initiative on or off campus in their junior or senior years.

If this sounds interesting, we would love to have you learn more about the Ulrich Scholars Program. You may apply for the opportunity at lakeland.edu/portal. The full-tuition competition is set to take place on **January 29, 2021**. Applicants must submit their materials by **January 22, 2021**.

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about this opportunity! Contact Dr. Karl Kuhn at kuhnka@lakeland.edu or admissions@lakeland.edu.



I want to sincerely thank all for the, prayers, messages and encouragements given for my nephew, Kevin Reyer, who is now home recovering from covid-19, after being on a ventilator for nine days. Kevin was told that patients on a ventilator more than 10 days have a 5% chance of recovery because the longer you are on one, the weaker your body muscles become.

Upon leaving the hospital, the medical staff lined the hallways, clapping their hands while a song was heard about being a survivor. This heartfelt show of happiness brought tears to his eyes as the medical staff are all so very dedicated, and always gave him encouragement.

He was unable to walk when first home, but with the help of a physical therapist, muscles in his lungs, arms and legs are improving. He no longer has to have help holding the receiver when he talks on the phone, and is able to walk short distances with a cane, without having to use the walker.

We are so thankful for this miracle that our family received with Kevin's continued progress on his road to recovery. We send lots of prayers for all those who are ill, and also prayers to keep us together in spirit, and be supportive of each other, during this health crisis we are all experiencing.

~Margene Reyer~

ST JAMES DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

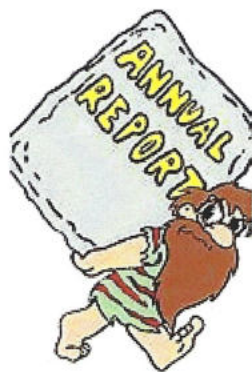
BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Ellen Mae Surfus
- 10 Scott Weinfenbach
- 16 Keith Mauk
- 24 Jenny Riesterer
- 25 Raymond Henschel
Noel Wippermann
- 27 Ethen Lutzke
- 28 Tim Russart
- 31 Galen LaDuke

ANNIVERSARIES

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

★
JOY
LOVE
PEACE
BELIEVE
CHRISTMAS



It's that time again... time for me to get your annual report paperwork to me!

I would like all items that aren't hinged on end of the year financial reports by Monday, January 4th.

**Of course, earlier would be even better!

You can email your reports to karenchurchsec@gmail.com

Or mail to St Mark's UCC,
W1307 Orchard Road,
Cleveland, WI 53015

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

St James	---Date---	St. Mark's
20	11/1/2020	60
—	11/08/2020	29
41	11/15/2020	30

VIRTUAL SERVICES
22nd/29th



With
Deepest
Sympathy...

Our sympathy to Mary Ann Vogel and family on the death of her sister-in-law, Grace Jaeger, on November 12th.

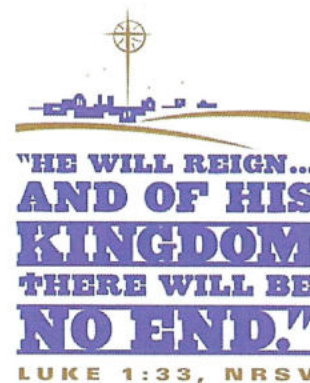
ST MARK'S DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Tyler Bramstedt
Jim Taylor
- 7 Ben Grunwald
- 10 Brianne Vandoske
- 11 Jacob Grunwald
- 13 Andy Roelse
- 16 Janell Davis
- 22 Michael Scharl
- 24 Lee Sixel

ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Mike & Amy Summers



ST. JAMES

NO USHERS NEEDED
WHILE WORSHIP
SERVICES ARE BEING
HELD VIRTUALLY



If you suddenly stop receiving Online church communication (newsletter/weekly Worship), first check both your 'promotions' and 'spam' folder to see if it's there.

Second, if you didn't locate any messages there, check with Karen to find out if you somehow unsubscribed. She can send you a link to be part of our communication again.



ST. JAMES' VISION OF HOPE FUND

"Application for Funding" forms are available in the narthex or from Vision of Hope Committee members. We welcome specific requests as well as your suggestions for using our semiannual gifts from the Wagner Foundation.

The next Vision of Hope Committee meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 7th, at St. James.

STUDENTS:

Use the "Application for Funding" form for tuition help (currently \$1,000) each year.

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

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. MARK'S

NO USHERS OR CANDLE-LIGHTERS NEEDED WHILE WORSHIP SERVICES ARE BEING HELD VIRTUALLY

★
For
God so
loved the
world He gave
His one and only
Son that whoever
believes in Him shall not
perish but have eternal life
John
3:16

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

ATTENTION:



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