

The Country Church Herald

...Proclaiming the Word of God

NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY, 2021

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

Dear Friends and Church Family,

February 14th will be here soon. A date, on our calendar, scheduled to celebrate love! Traditionally, we give or receive a card, a small gift, roses, and perhaps a specially made dinner with candle lights. It is also a day in (especially elementary) schools where cards are given from one student to another; and children craft their own with crayons, bright colors, hearts and flowers to give to Mom or Dad.



Originating as a Roman festival held mid-February to observe the coming spring, the blessings of new babies, and the pairing-off of women with men by lottery, a practice long since undone. It was the end of the 5th century before Pope Gelasius I replaced the Roman holiday with St. Valentine's Day. Nine centuries later the day was being celebrated as a day of romance, with traditional gifts including candy and flowers – particularly red roses, a symbol of beauty and love.

Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the name may have come about from a priest who was martyred 270 CE by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend, the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness.

In this year of 2021, we celebrate Valentine's Day on Sunday, February 14th, reminding us again of love. Not an amorous love or a child's love for a parent (although not excluding these either), but a deeper and eternal love. The love of God, who sent the Son, Jesus Christ. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. This light shines in the darkness and darkness does not overcome it. God so loved the world – all of his children in the world – that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

A greater expression of love, we'll never see. May we celebrate together on this Valentine's Day and every day, the true meaning of love.

~Pastor Patrick



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.**

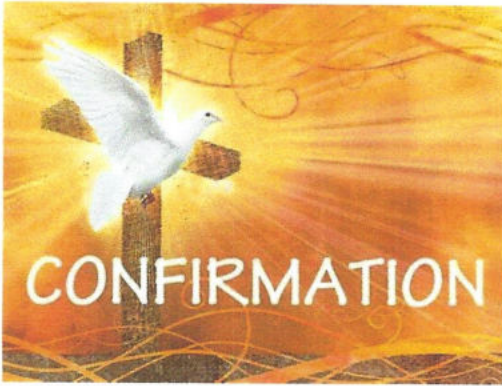
**Sunday bulletins and a link to
the messages are posted
under the "messages" link on
our church website:
www.stmstjucc.org**

**Messages are uploaded to
YouTube:**

St. Mark's & St. James UCC

**You can also find us on
Facebook**

What's Happening in Confirmation?



Some time ago we adjusted our confirmation classes (held on Wednesday evenings) to Zoom classes. Each of our confirmands have continued to do excellent work. I did adjust our schedule and overall agenda to accommodate Zoom. Nevertheless, we are zooming right along! (terrible pun?)

Recently each confirmand completed a presentation on injustice with an inherent or underlying message of compassion. *Compassion and justice are closely related.* Compassion may mean meeting other's needs by feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, providing shelter for

the homeless. Justice deals with the causes of hunger, sickness, poverty and homelessness and tries to eliminate the problem altogether.

Each presented a clear, well thought-out, case of injustice from a credible, newsworthy article (on-line, newspaper, magazine, reported on television news, CNN...) After presenting their case, each described ways this affects us and how the injustice could be eliminated. Each article, case and theme of injustice was then tied to at least one scripture verse(s).

We have worked our way through *Getting Acquainted With Your Bible* and are in *My Confirmation*. Each confirmand continues to write weekly service reports. Confirmands are still meeting regularly with their mentors – some in person and some by Zoom. Mentors and confirmands are working their way through *Making Disciples* and a study of the Gospel of Luke.

Lastly, we are planning May 23rd for Confirmation Sunday. More will be forthcoming regarding Confirmation Sunday. But for now, please mark that date in your calendar.

Please keep in your prayers our mentors: Tim and Wendy Schuler, Karen and Bruce Mansker, Jon and Julie Herrmann, Mike and Jan Marcheske, Linda Lutzke, Brenda Schultz and Sandy Perronne.

And keep in your prayers our confirmands: Mason Scharl, Emma Russart, Rebecca Miota, Brianna Miota, Grace Schultz, Luke Grunwald and Owen Bramstedt.

Karen's new church email address



Be sure to notify her of any address/phone/email changes so that you may continue to receive all church communication.

Additionally, be sure to let Karen know of any family news to add to our newsletterBirths, Graduations, Weddings, Deathsso that we may celebrate with you as well as well as support you in your sorrow.

DATES TO REMEMBER!

- ⇒ Virtual Confirmation Classes
Wednesdays 6-7:30pm
- ⇒ St James Consistory: Sun., Feb. 7, 1pm to go over the ballots; Regular meeting on the 8th at 6:30pm
- ⇒ St. Mark's Consistory: Thursday, Feb. 11, 6pm
- ⇒ Joint Consistory at St. Mark's, Mon., Feb. 15, 6pm
- ⇒ **ASH WEDNESDAY, Feb. 17**
- ⇒ March Newsletter Articles due to Karen Wed., Feb. 24th.

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETINGS

January 4, 2021 6:37 PM

President Clarence Belitz called the Zoom meeting to order. Members present were: David Lorfeld, Wendy Henschel, Michelle Mauk, Jason Riesterer, Tom Kleinhans, Pastor Patrick Schultz, and Deb La Duke. No changes or additions to the agenda.

Pastor Patrick read from Acts 7 and led the group in prayer. Motion to approve the Secretary's Report as printed was made by Wendy and seconded by Michelle. Motion carried. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed was made by David and seconded by Deb. Motion carried.

Pastor has submitted a two-page document as foundational for the Vision/Mission work ahead this year.

David has put safety locks on electrical boxes and stated that we will need to see if any of the other windows need caulking. Hamann Construction had the original contracts for the addition. They are looking into how they can fix the east window. Church services will continue to be virtual for the month of January. Pastor Schultz shared a number of reports with Covid-19 stats.

Vision of Hope is meeting April 5th. No date set for Stewardship Committee at this time. No meeting set for the Christian Board of Education at this time. Children will be receiving packets of lessons for the month of January.

Many options were discussed with how to proceed with an Annual Meeting. The adjusted layout of the Annual Report was discussed. Wendy made a motion to mail out informational letters explaining the changes, the Annual Report, a ballot, and self-addressed stamped envelope to all members. Deb seconded. Motion carried. Continue to check the church's You Tube channel for updates. **Ballots will need to be back at church by February 5. Tallying of the votes by Consistory will occur on February 7.** Results will be posted on the St. James/St. Mark's You Tube channel on February 7.

Motion to adjourn was made by Tom and seconded by Jason. Motion carried.

January 7, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Zoom Meeting called to order by President Clarence Belitz. All members present except for Pastor Schultz. Further discussion was held after consultation with a knowledgeable and experienced church member with regard to church rules and possible changes for the "Annual Meeting." Minutes will be sent to members informing of our process for this year's "Annual Meeting."

Joanne Fessler is the Consistory nominee for the Vision of Hope.

Jamie Henschel is the Consistory nominee for the Board of Education.

Richard Lutze and Mary Ann Vogel are the Consistory nominees for the Stewardship Committee.

Jamey Binversie and Tammy Serketich are the Consistory nominees for Consistory positions.

Motion to adjourn made by Tom and seconded by David. Motion carried.

January 9, 2021 3:00 PM

President Clarence Belitz called the meeting to order. Members present were: David Lorfeld, Wendy Henschel, Michelle Mauk, Jason Riesterer, Tom Kleinhans, and Deb La Duke.

Further discussion followed about the ballot with minor changes being made.

Henry Langenhahn Sr. is the Consistory nominee for the Cemetery Association.

Motion to adjourn made by Jason and seconded by Tom. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb La Duke - Secretary

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING

January 7, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 pm. Members present: Pastor Patrick, 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.

-Bruce will check in again with Spectrum about burying the cable. Spectrum thought the project was done. Someone will get back to Bruce.

Old Business

-We are still looking at options for organ music. If you have suggestions, please contact a consistory member.

New Business

-Church services will stay virtual through January. A decision for the future will be made by the joint consistories in early February. If it is not immediately decided to return at that point, metrics will be determined for future decisions.

-Due to meeting virtually, the annual meeting will follow a different format. Reports and ballots will be mailed to each household. Ballots will need to be returned to church by February 5. Results will be tabulated February 8 at 4:30 and communicated to members.

-The 2021 Budget was reviewed and approved.

Next Consistory Meetings

6:00, Thursday, February 11 at St. Mark's.

(Tentative) 6:00, Monday, February 15, Joint Consistory Meeting at St. Mark's.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lori Roelse, Consistory Secretary



Sheboygan County Interfaith

<https://www.sheboygancountyinterfaith.org>

February, 2021

- ⇒ The SCIO Farmers Market will be offering product pick-up through February in the First Congregational Church parking lot, the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10-11. Go to our website for more information on how to contact our vendors and place your order for pick-up!
- ⇒ Bridgeway could use the following items: Waffle maker, bottled water, paper plates. Additional needs can be shared by contacting our program manager at ashleigh@sheboygancountyinterfaith.org.
- ⇒ Mark your calendars! SCIO is planning a virtual Spring Luncheon event for May. The faith communities have been the backbone of this event, so we are counting on you in a big way to help us celebrate our mission and raise funds for the Bridgeway program. More to come!

Organist and/or Pianist Wanted:

St. Mark's United Church of Christ, N9286 Dairyland Drive, **Cleveland, WI** and St. James United Church of Christ, 13312 Pioneer Rd, **Newton, WI** are vibrant congregations ~ enthusiastic, dedicated, and multi-generational of just under 200 each. We are accepting applications for an organist or pianist (or both) in a rotational schedule of both churches. The schedule would be coordinated with 2 existing organists.



The position can include (but is not limited to): playing Sunday morning services and special services during Advent and Lent; playing weddings and memorials; planning worship with the pastor; possible accompanying choir; possible accompanying children for special performances.

You can check out our churches at www.stmstjucc.org or on Facebook at St. Mark's UCC or our worship services on our YouTube channel at St. Mark's & St. James UCC. You can contact the Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz for additional information at stmstjoffice@gmail.com



"Application for Funding" forms are available in the narthex, from **VISION OF HOPE** Committee members, or under "More" on our website. We welcome specific requests as well as your suggestions for using our semiannual gifts from the Wagner Foundation.

PLEASE NOTE THAT A PRIVACY SECTION HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE FORM.
Effective Jan. 1, 2021, old forms without a completed "privacy choice" section will not be accepted.

The next Vision of Hope Committee meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 5, at St. James.

Bethlehem Chili Supper



11608 Lax Chapel Rd – Kiel

Wednesday Feb 3, 2021

3:00 pm- 6:30 pm

Drive Thru/Pick Up Only

Ready-to-Heat Chili,
Fresh Bread, Cheese, Crackers, & Homemade Tortes

Adults \$8.00 - Children \$4.00

5 and under – FREE

Directions: 67 N of Kiel - Right on Hwy X go 2 miles -
Left on Lax Chapel – the church is located ½ mile on Left



CONGRATULATIONS



Glenn & Terri Grunwald have big news about their son, Mark! Mark was married on Dec. 19, 2020 to Francesca Ratner AND he also obtained his master's degree in Chemistry from Northeastern Illinois in December



A baby girl, McKenna Jo, was born to Marissa & Cameron Fitzgerald on Dec. 31st.



Please mark your calendars to help out with our annual **Youth Chili Dinner** on Sunday, March 7th and preparation for the chili dinner to be held on Saturday, March 6th. We will be holding the chili dinner in a drive-thru style.

Please watch your e-mail for further details and sign-up sheets to help out!! We are looking for monetary donations to help cover the costs as well as help with bringing in desserts to hand out with the chili.

If you are interested in helping out with any monetary donations or desserts, please feel free to call or text Kari at (920)629-7630. Thank you in advance and we look forward to our new Chili Dinner style this year!



St. James Sunday School is following the consistory's recommendations and will forwarding learning materials through the US Mail when received.

~Sandy Beiersdorf

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 FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Mary Ann Vogel
- 6 Jeff Meyer
Jill Schuette
- 9 Kari Langenhahn
- 10 Elliot Gumm
Briana Riesterer
- 12 Amanda Russart
- 17 Everit Gumm
- 19 Wyatt Koenig
- 22 Tom Nye
- 25 Myron Hickman
Jason Riesterer
- 26 Rieck Beiersdorf
Amy Bodah
- 27 Karie Ladwig
- 28 Poppy Binversie
- 29 Eunice Stolzmann

ANNIVERSARIES

- 26 Bill & Laurie Heckmann



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS:
CONFIRMATION:
MAY 23rd!**



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

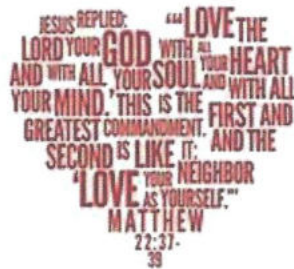
Youth Chili Dinner

March 7th

from 11:00-3:00

Drive-In Format!

**No ushers or candlelighters
are needed while church is
held Virtually. If there is a
change in the status,
Consistory members will fill in**



**Brett Spindler should be
added to the Membership List
at St. James.**

St. James Calendar Book Corrections

Jonathon Meyer is ushering in August only

Oct 17 is the wedding anniversary of Ben & Cheyenne Behnke (not Mueller—oops!)

If there are any other corrections in either book, please let me know by email: stmstjoffice@gmail.com or by calling the church office 920.693,8361

Thanks!
Karen

ST MARK'S FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Kathryn Jaehnig
- 4 Mark Jurk
- 5 Judy Steinbeck
- 8 Trevor Schueler
- 9 Hillary Hermann
Ron Vandoske
- 10 Jon Herrmann
Sue Vandoske
- 16 Cole Herrmann
- 21 Linda Schroeder
Reid Vandoske
- 22 Scott Dexter
Peter Grunwald
- 23 Betty Sixel
- 25 Bill Roelse
- 26 Amy Summers
- 28 Gary Sixel
- 29 Walter Taylor

ANNIVERSARIES

None

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.

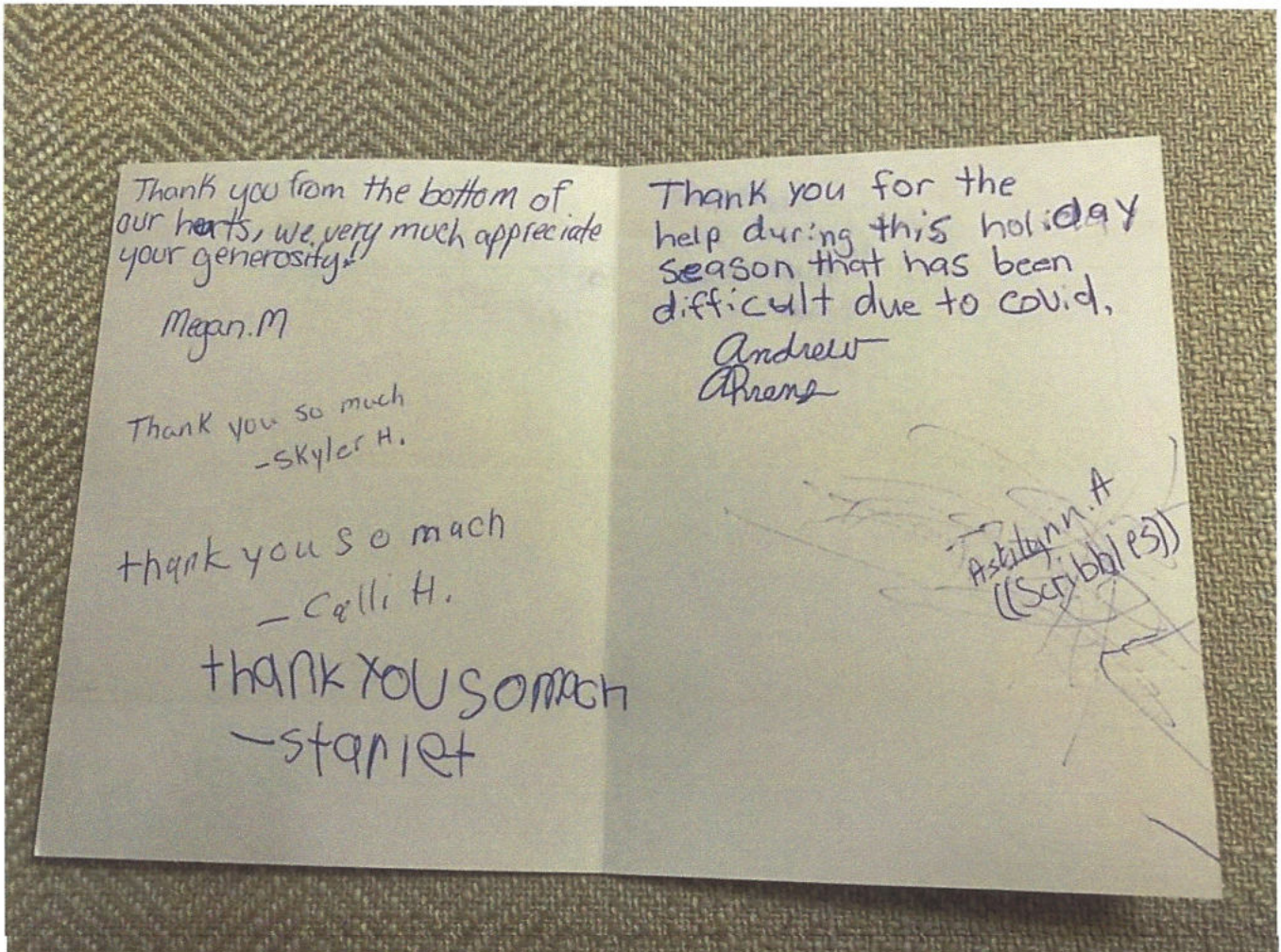
For both churches received from Millhome Nursery & Greenhouses



Dear church members Jan. 13, 2021
We would like to thank you for purchasing your holiday plants from us again this year. We truly appreciate your choice to support our small business and stay local. We hope the quality of our plants and our service is what keeps you coming back. Here's to a new and better year, stay well!
Sincerely,
Alicia & Candy Vandell Deal

Your caring hearts and generosity were much appreciated by the 'Adopt-a-Families' at Christmas time

This card is for St. Mark's:





This card is for St. James:

HAIPIY HOLIDAYS

I Hope you have great holidays.
The presents..thank you for
helping us get them all. We
wold never think we wold
have this many presents under
our tree. It is a dream to
us! We couldnt thank you more.

SO I hope everyone that helped
us with this christmas has
an amazing holiday themselves.
Thank you!

Sincerely,
Kyla Swett
Braeden S
Kloie S
Julia Smith



40 DAYS OF LENT



Ash Wednesday
Read a devotional every day as a family

Start a giving jar and collect money to donate to missions

Lent is a time that we follow Jesus by tending to the needs of others

1st Sunday of Lent



Pray for our world leaders

Tell a friend about Jesus today



Pray for those people who don't know who Jesus is - that they may learn about his love!

Make a card for someone you know who is having a hard time

Go outside and look around you. Thank God for his beautiful creations.

2nd Sunday of Lent

God, I'm sorry for...



Tell your teachers **THANK YOU** for all

Jesus gave up his life for you - what can you do for him?

At dinner tonight have everyone share what they are grateful for

Say sorry to God and ask him to forgive you

Donate old clothes and toys that you do not use to a charity

Take a walk with your family



Pray for peace in the world

Invite a friend to church with you

Remember that God is always with you

Ask Jesus to help you be a good friend

Pray for the homeless

3rd Sunday of Lent

4th Sunday of Lent



Read Mark 12: 30-31 How can you do this?

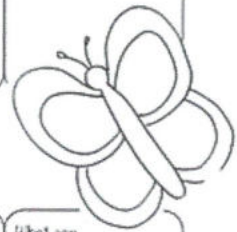
Take the time to share a smile with someone today

Make a card and send it to one of your friends or relatives

Thank God for the person you made the card for yesterday

Give someone a compliment today How did they react?

What can you do to become a better Christian?



Thank you for...



Holy Week
Palm Sunday
Easter reminds us that Jesus brought us new life. What signs of new life do you see in nature?

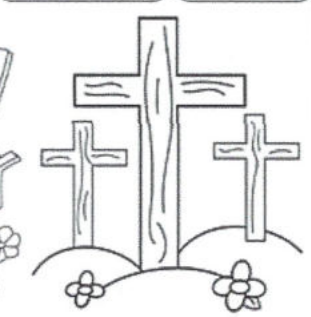
Color Easter Eggs
What can you do to help feed the hungry?

Tell your parents how special they are

Read Matthew 4: 1-11 Give up something you like doing or eating for 2 days

God Always Listens!

Eat a healthy snack today



Maunder Thursday
Good Friday
Holy Saturday

