

The Country Church Herald

...Proclaiming the Word of God

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

MAY, 2024

May 5th — Building Fund Sunday

St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship
Sunday School 9-10 at both churches
St. James: 10:30am Worship Service

May 12th — Mother's Day

St. James: 9:00am Worship
Sunday School 9-10 at both churches
*Last Day of Sunday School—summer break
begins next week*
St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship

May 19th — Pentecost

Communion at both churches
St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship
St. James: 10:30 Worship

May 26th —

St. James: 9:00am Worship
St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship



Sunday bulletins & links to prayer requests are posted under the 'Messages' link on our church website: <https://www.stmstjucc.org/>

Worship Services are recorded weekly and uploaded to our church YouTube channel: St. Mark's & St. James UCC

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ 2024

Growing With God

August 13, 14, 15

9am to noon

hosted at

St. Mark's UCC



All children welcome!

Dear friends and Church family,

Vacation Bible School is getting closer! And I am excited!

Our theme this year is gardening. From the earthly Garden of Eden to the Heavenly Garden in Revelation, gardens and gardening is a vivid image from our Bible. It is a way of life for many and a staple of ours—especially for those of us who live out in the country.

We have much to explore and share with the children of our church, church families and friends. Such as, bean seeds that must germinate in the dark, but once germinated need light to grow. There are edible seeds such as pumpkin, sesame and sunflower and the soils in which our plants grow best.

We have lots of fun games, activities, and learning moments planned. One of our very own farmers, Tyler Bramstedt will speak, a tractor ride, plants of your own to take home.

Many of us have neighbors with kids, grandchildren, or know someone (maybe at work or school or neighboring farm) with kids that might be interested. Please feel free to share this out and extend an invitation. All denominations are welcome, or with no church affiliation.

Come plant a seed of faith with us and watch it grow.

August 13, 14, 15: 9:00am to noon

held at St. Mark's UCC

~Pastor Patrick

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING

April 4, 2024

Larry Perronne called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Members present were Larry Perronne, Ben Grunwald, Janell Davis, Linda Schroeder, Tyler Bramstedt, Brenda Miota, and Judy Steinbeck. Pastor Schultz was absent.

Judy gave the financial report reviewing income and expenses from several accounts. I made a motion to accept the report as presented. Tyler seconded. Motion carried.

The secretary's report was reviewed individually via email earlier in the month. Tyler made a motion to accept the report. Linda seconded. Motion carried.

In his absence, there was no report from Pastor.

Larry tabled action on the bell tower as we await warmer weather.

Tyler stated he was prepared to present the dimensions of the free throw and three-point lines around the basketball hoop in the parking lot. (After the conclusion of our meeting, we went outside to consider the measurements. The decision was tabled until our next meeting.)

The Occupancy Agreement was emailed to Pastor for his review. We will discuss it further in May.

Janell asked to table discussion on the email address list and greeter reminders.

Larry thanked Linda for calling the phone company to re-hook up the elevator phone line. A follow-up inspection was scheduled for Friday, April 5, 2024.

The topic of raises for staff was tabled until J. Jetzer completes documenting his list of duties for the month of April.

After some looking, it was discovered that not all of the consistory member binders have copies of Consistory Duties. I volunteered to update the list of duties and have copies available for the May meeting.

The Pastoral Benefits document (developed per UCC guidelines) was emailed to Pastor and printed in the April newsletter.

Lawn service will continue to be provided by T&L Services Lawn Care. There is a slight increase for the upcoming year, but still very reasonable. Ben made a motion. Janell seconded. Motion carried.

Karen printed copies of the updated bylaws for everyone and they were passed out.

The candles Judy picked up from Sonlight Books are not tapered at the ends and thus do not fit the candelabras. Instead of returning them, they will be filed down to fit and kept for special Sundays. Janell and Linda will look for other candle providers and less expensive options. Tabled until May.

Continued on the next page.....

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING—continued...

Each consistory member was given a questionnaire from the Mission/Vision Team. Please fill it out and return it to a M/V Team member on or before April 21, 2024.

An email from Jason Riesterer was shared regarding the upcoming outdoor service, potluck and polka dance to be held on July 21, 2024. The service will start at 10:30 a.m. and will again be held at the Katie and Dan Kleinhans property.

The next meeting was set for May 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Larry adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion made by Janell and seconded by Tyler. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Miota

** Following adjournment, a quick tour of church was taken where we familiarized ourselves with light switches, thermostats, bell ropes, keys and doors.



Financial Update for St Mark's on Leadership Forward Campaign

Just want to keep you informed on our status for our commitment to the Leadership Forward Campaign. As of April 22, we have a total of \$1,050.00 towards our five-year commitment of \$6,000.00. Thank you for your generosity for this project. As a reminder, the Leadership Forward Campaign consists of three objectives:

The Damascus Project which develops the next generation of lay leaders so the UCC can thrive into the future.

The Catalyst Grant Program which encourages creative new forms of ministry in our congregations and advances our social justice work.

The Ministerial Assistance Program to assure that our clergy who serve our community are cared for in every season of their pastoral careers.

Judy Steinbeck, St Mark's Financial Secretary

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING

April 9, 2024 6:32 pm

- The meeting was called to order by President Jackie Mueller. Members present were Jason Riesterer – Vice-President, Wendy Meyer, Secretary, Tanya Boman, Jamie Henschel, Scott Henschel and Pastor Patrick Schultz.
- Absent: Sheila Hemb, Tanya Boman
- Prayer led by Pastor.
- Motion to approve the Secretary's Report made by Jason and seconded by Jamie. Motion carried.
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Scott and seconded by Wendy. Motion carried.
- **Pastor's Report:**
 - ◇ This Sunday will be confirmation for Parker Sprenger.
 - ◇ Review of guest pastor Julie Mavity Magdalene was discussed.
 - ◇ Discussed the article pastor sent regarding Closed Doors. Future activity discussed to walk in the steps of a guest in our church. Are important items labeled?
- **Mission/Vision Committee** – Summary received. Survey's are being sent to the current leaders, leaders of the past 5 years, and others holding positions in the church.
- **Building and Grounds:**
 - ◇ Contacted 3 bidders for the parking lot. Waiting for responses.
 - ◇ Jason is going to pick up a new light bulb for the yard light in the parking lot.
 - ◇ Elevator was inspected on Friday and failed inspection because the phone was not working. The phone number was accidentally canceled as an attempt to reduce costs. Jackie is going to have it reactivated.
 - ◇ WPS sent a letter regarding the gas line that is coming into church is not up to code. Jackie is going contact Jamie Binversie to have him look at it.
- **Committee Reports:**
 - Vision of Hope:** No meeting
 - Stewardship Committee:**
 - Sheepshead tournament May 5
 - Bunco – April 18
 - Christian Board of Education:** The current teachers are resigning at the end of the year. We will be in need of 3 teachers and substitutes. Have Karen add it to the newsletter and bulletins.
 - Service Committee:**
 - Sign up sheets for the brat fry.

Continued on the next page.....

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING—continued...

- Discussed having an outdoor service, potluck, and band sometime in July at the Dan and Katie Kleinhans barn. The members of the Rural Church Fellowship would be invited. The church would provide water and lemonade.

Audio Visual: no report

- **Old Business:**
Reindl Plumbing came and looked at the bathroom and kitchen sinks. Everything is running well.
- **New Business:**
 - ◇ Leadership Forward – Filled out the form. Wendy to ask Karen to add it to the newsletter and create an insert to the bulletins.
 - ◇ Provide a gift certificate for Randy and Cindy Sohn for all of the work they do to beautify our church. A motion was passed by Scott and seconded by Jamie. Motion carried.
 - ◇ Wendy to update the consistory contact list.
- **Congregation concerns:** none
- Next meeting date: May 7 at 6:30 pm
- Motion to adjourn made by Scott and seconded by Jason. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at: 7:39 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Meyer, Secretary



Sunday, May 5th

May 5 is Building Fund Sunday at both St James and St Mark's. Please keep this in mind when making your donations that day. Both churches have expenses that are financed by the building fund. St Mark's is looking at repairing the bell tower and both churches are planning on resealing the parking lots this year. Your donations will be greatly appreciated. As a reminder, donations are not limited to Building Fund Sundays. We will accept donations at any time during the year.

Sheila Hemb, St James Treasurer

Judy Steinbeck, St Mark's Financial Secretary



St. James Update:

This is a program that St. James has agreed to support. We have pledged \$6000 for five years. If anyone is willing to donate toward the program, please use the payment envelopes at the sanctuary entrance or in the church pews and write Leadership Forward on the envelope. Below, you will find a description of the program.

The Church of Jesus Christ serves the Gospel, inspires disciples, and changes lives when its leaders are fully equipped, confident, and whole. The future of our congregations depends on the quality of faithful leadership provided by clergy and laypeople.

The Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ connects, supports, and resources local congregations and leaders as they find creative and meaningful ways to live out the values of Jesus while helping our people recognize and embrace faithful change. The pandemic underscored this reality:

Leadership matters.

The Church requires investment in good leadership.

We must develop the next generation of lay leaders so the UCC can thrive into the future. Therefore, we invest in the Damascus Project.

The Damascus Project is a ministerial training track for those who feel called to Authorized Ministry but cannot attend seminary.

We must encourage creative new forms of ministry in our congregations and to advance our social justice work. Therefore, we invest in the Catalyst Grant program. This is a seed grant that supports emerging justice and community-based ministries.

We must ensure that those who serve our community as clergy are cared for in every season of their pastoral careers. Therefore, we invest in Ministerial Assistance.

The Leadership Forward \$2 million campaign aims to equip laypeople, clergy, and congregations with wisdom and skills to meet God's challenge to be the Church today and tomorrow.

Together, we can ensure our congregations continue to have high-quality, faithful leadership.



Dear St Mark's UCC Of Cleveland,

Gifts of congregations like yours to OCWM Basic Support make it possible for our Conference to support and strengthen local churches and leaders. We do this through programs like the recent ministerial retreats.

The "Woven Together" retreats took place on March 13 at Cedar Valley and March 18 at Siena Center in Racine. The gatherings provided a place for clergy to reconnect through contemplative prayer, creative engagement with one another through conversation and weaving, and Communion. Associated Conference Minister Rachel Bauman opened the retreat with an introduction to contemplative prayer, raising questions that people discussed throughout the retreat.

Dr. Sheila Feay-Shaw of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee engaged those in attendance in the experience of weaving. The activity centered on the idea of Jesus Christ as a weaver of people who searches out individuals who brought color to his "life-weaving." Like Jesus, we include in our life-weaving people with whom we don't agree. Some may regard people we include as "garish" because of some part of their story. People may leave, creating a hole in our life-weaving that may never be filled. Participants reflected on these ideas while creating a weaving together.

Pastors may worry about what people will think about their work. It can be uncomfortable. The weaving exercise presented similar challenges. Several individuals approached what we did with trepidation because they did not see themselves as "crafty," but as people got to talking and weaving a small piece of material into the common loom at the table, they found a sense of belonging, value and success. The clergy shared stories of their lives, their calling to ministry, and their joys and concerns in serving others.

Associate Conference Minister Jane Anderson closed the day with a celebration of Communion. "This was the first time in a very long time that I've been able to receive communion without having to be the host," one minister said.

Retreats like "Woven Together" provide vital nourishment to our pastors. "It was refreshment for the spirit," one pastor said. Thank you for the gifts of your congregation to OCWM Basic Support, which make support of leaders and congregations possible. A summary of your gifts to date for 2024 can be found below. Please share the enclosed bulletin insert at an upcoming worship service so that your members understand the impact of their generosity.

Faithfully yours,

Franz Rigert, Conference Minister



Our gifts to OCWM Basic Support make an impact on congregations and leaders throughout Wisconsin through programs like the "Woven Together" retreat for pastors.

Learn more about the Wisconsin Conference UCC at
www.wcucc.org



**Congratulations to
PARKER SPRENGER
Who was confirmed
at St. James on
April 14th!**

**Happy Baptism Day
to
Macie Kathleen
Fitzgerald,
daughter of
Cameron & Marissa!
Macie was baptized
on April 21st
at St. James!**



Please help market our Brat Fry to be held on Wednesday, May 8th, by sharing it on your Facebook page.

Sign up sheets are in the narthex for volunteers for torte & charcoal donations.

Contact Mary Ann Vogel with questions: 920-693-6352
OR wvogel3@yahoo.com

St. James U.C.C.

Brat Fry

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

4 - 7 PM

**13312 Pioneer Rd., Newton
Spring Valley**



***brats
*hamburgers
*chicken
*dessert**

**Carry Outs
Only!**

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

St. Mark's/St. James Youth will gather at St. Mark's May 5 at 5:30, but our next gathering's date is on hold until we hear back from the pastor at Green Bay First UCC who is working toward hosting a Daycholah youth retreat reunion. Information about that event, and our next gathering will be in future emails and bulletins!



Mrs. Schultz

FAMILY

The best years of a family are when the kids are too old to need a babysitter and too young to borrow the car.

~Stewardship Team Message

ST. JAMES CHOIR

Rehearsal will be held:

Wed., May 1st, 6:30pm

Wed., May 15th, 6:30pm



ST. MARK'S CHOIR

Rehearsals will resume in the fall.

COME JOIN US FOR:



at ST. JAMES UCC, 1:00pm
SUNDAY, MAY 5th, 2024

OPEN TO MEN & WOMEN OF ST. JAMES & ST. MARK'S
Feel free to bring a friend!

Mark your calendars....

The next BUNCO will
held Thursday,
May 23rd
at St. James.



Memorial Day, Monday May 27, 2024 marks the seventy-eighth year that the Wagner-Eberke -Sukowaty American Legion Post 477 in St. Nazianz has conducted military honors at local cemeteries to respect of Veterans.

The first honors were performed in 1946 and have continued every year since. On a special note, 2024 marks the 40th year that Frank Riesterer has played Taps as part of the Memorial Day ceremonies.

Timeline as follows:

- 7:15 - Ucker Road - near St. Nazianz
- 7:35 - Holy Trinity - School Hill
- 8:00 - Meeme Center Cemetary
- 8:15 - St. Fidelis- Spring Valley
- 8:30 - St. James - Spring Valley**
- 8:50 - St. Isidore - Osman
- 9:05 - St. Thomas the Apostle - Newton
- 9:25 - Salem Ebenzer - Newton
- 9:50 - St. John - Newtonburg
- 10:25 - Salvatorian - St. Nazianz



A message from Pat & Noreen Flook...

The donation Wish List is on the back of this page...



To the members of St. Marks & St. James---

We would like to remind everyone about the collection for Pine Ridge Reservation, SD.

We are very happy to once again stand with the Oglala Lakota people of Pine Ridge by providing much needed resources. Recently we came across this Native American Proverb that we thought was very appropriate for this outreach mission.

Don't walk behind me I may not lead.

Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow.

Walk beside me, that we may be as one.

Every time we drive through the Reservation we see many residents living in run-down houses & trailers, many of which have no electricity, telephone, running water or sewage system.

Pine Ridges population is approximately 20,000 with a poverty rate of 53.75%. When you come to know the residents you realize they are a very proud people—strong in traditions & values.

We have worked with Re-Member for many years and we feel it a responsibility and privilege to help the residents build a better today on Pine Ridge. Lets help Re-Member put back that which is broken. Lets make it our call to action!!

We will continue collecting items & monetary donations through the end of June.

We and the Oglala Lakota Thank You for your generosity!

Wakan Tanka Kici Un
(May God Bless)

RE-MEMBER

Re-Member welcomes like-new, gently used items for distribution via our community giveaway. Goods can be shipped, or brought to Re-Member if you are volunteering with us.

Via USPS (mail)

Via FedEx / UPS

Re-Member
PO Box 5054
Pine Ridge, S.D. 57770

Re-Member
48 County Road 17
Pine Ridge, S.D. 57770

PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

- Women: Hairbrush, deodorant, body soap/wash, sanitary napkins, shampoo, conditioner, hair ties, toothbrush/paste
- Men: Comb, deodorant, body soap/wash, shampoo, conditioner, hair ties, toothbrush/paste, razor, shaving cream
- Toddlers: Toothbrush/paste
- Infants: Diapers (sizes 3,4,5), diaper wipes, diaper rash cream, baby bottles w/ nipples, Enfamil w/ iron

CLOTHING

New and packaged undergarments and socks; otherwise, *new or laundered, gently-used* clothing, shoes and boots

- Infants: baby blankets, sleepers (newborn to age 2); any-sized clothing
- Toddlers/Teens: any sized clothing and footwear; undergarments, socks
- Adults: clothing & footwear (for hot or cold season); undergarments, socks,

WORK-WEEK PROGRAMS

- New toilet bowl seats (round, not elongated)
- New pillows
- New twin sheet sets, blankets

BACK TO SCHOOL

- Backpacks, spiral notebooks & loose-leaf (wide & college rule), composite notebooks, binders, dividers, folders, book covers, crayons, colored pencils, markers, highlighters, pens (black, red & blue), pencils, erasers, pencil cases/pouches, pencil sharpeners, glue, glue sticks, scissors, rulers, memory cards, tissue, zip lock bags etc.
- Socks, underwear (must be new, and packaged; all sizes)

CHRISTMAS/WINTER

- New unopened toys for any age
- Hats, gloves, scarves
- Jackets

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

We are happy to accept Ace wraps, ankle/knee braces, wheel chairs/walkers, canes, and crutches. We respectfully ask that you do not send: medications (new or out of date), syringes/needles, diabetic supplies, nebulizers, ostomy supplies, Vac dressings, or any previously opened personal care/medical products.

Thank you for your support of Re-Member, and the Oglala Lakota people of Pine Ridge Reservation!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

St.
Marks
and St.
James
U.C.C.
invites
you to...



POLKA & POTLUCK

EVENT DETAILS

- Outdoor service 11am
- Potluck: Noon
- Dancing: 12:30pm

07.21.2024

Spring Hope Barn

1424 Spring Lake Road, Kiel WI

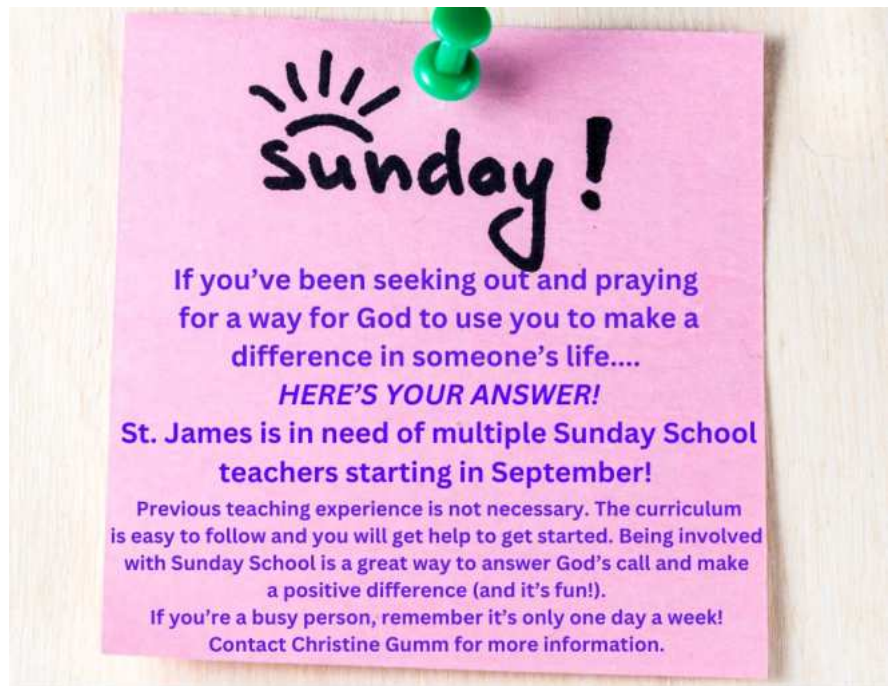


Come join us for a wonderful day of good friends, good food and good ol'fashioned dancing. Use the QR code below to sign up for the Polka and Potluck event to let us know you are coming!



St. Mark's Members, is this your 10" tall flower vase? It was on top of the countertop behind the door in my office.

~Karen Mansker



Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization

BULLETIN BITES ~ MAY, 2024

- ⇒ Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization has been bridging the gap between community needs and partner resources for over 35 years, THANKS TO YOU! Our **faith communities** have been the **backbone** for our organization, and we would love to fill the room with the many volunteers, delegates, board members, and supporters that have created stable and vital community resources since our inception in 1989. *"There's No Place Like Home"* is on May 18th at The Berkshire. This is our exclusive in-person fundraiser for the year – join us in creating impact for hundreds of vulnerable neighbors who benefit from our programs. Register today! <https://www.sheboygancountyinterfaith.org/theres-no-place-like-home/>
- ⇒ Last year Healthy Sheboygan County's research pulled five priority areas to the top: 1) Positive Mental Health, 2) Responsible Substance Use, 3) Activity & Nutrition, 4) Access to Affordable Housing, and 5) Access to Affordable, High-Quality Child Care. These are the areas that Sheboygan County's Community Health Improvement Plan will focus on over the next couple of years. There have been two meetings so far to develop the strategic direction of the work moving forward; however, there are still two more meetings to go, May 13 and June 10 from 2-4 p.m. If you would like to be part of this initial planning for any of the priority areas above, consider joining these next two meetings. You can register to join the planning meetings in May and June [Here](#).
- ⇒ You are invited: **Family Pathways Open House, 2123 N 13th St, Sheboygan Wednesday May 22nd from 11am-1pm**
- ⇒ Supervised Visitation is a great way for children to visit with their non-custodial parent in a safe and secure environment. Not sure what supervised visitation is all about? This is your chance to learn more about the only private program in Sheboygan County.
- ⇒ Our families keep growing! To that end we are in need of Diapers size 4, napkins, and vinyl with flannel backed tablecloths 60in x 102in in groups of three. As always, thank you for all the ways you support us.

ST. JAMES USHERS

MAY

*David Lorfeld
Rick & Donna Wippermann
Tim & Noel Wippermann
Cindi Wippermann
Sara Wippermann
Lindsay Wippermann
Tom Urness
Alan Wippermann
Linda Lorfeld

JUNE

*Clarence & Heidi Belitz
Allen & Eunice Stolzmann
Val Jean Marcoe
Colton Marcoe
Gavin Marcoe
Mark & Kathy Stolzmann
Scott Henschel
Raymond Henschel



ST. MARK'S USHERS

MAY

Dianne Kaczmarski
Margene Reyer

JUNE

Ben Grunwald
Jacob Grunwald
John Grunwald
Katherine Grunwald
Luke Grunwald
Todd Grunwald

READERS

May 5— Sandy Perronne
May 12— Scott Siekman
May 19— Lori Roelse
May 26— Jacob Grunwald

HOSPITALITY

May 5 — Sandy Perronne
May 12 — available
May 19 — Margene Reyer
May 26 — available

***If you're interested in hosting one of the 'available' Sundays, please contact the office.*



VISION OF HOPE ST. JAMES

Next meeting—6:30pm
Tuesday, May 21st

"Application for Funding" forms are available in the narthex, from VISION OF HOPE

Committee members, or under "More" on our church website. We welcome specific requests as well as your suggestions for using our semiannual gifts from the Wagner Foundation.

STUDENTS! Use this form for tuition help (currently \$1,000) each year.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

St. James

St. Mark's

35	April 7	44
62	April 14	52
56	April 21	50
54	April 28	53

ST JAMES MAY CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Timothy Heckmann
Brian Henschel
- 4 William Heckmann
- 7 David Lutze
- 13 Katie Belitz
- 16 Andrew Peterson, Jr.
- 19 Jean Henschel
Carson Spindler
- 22 Daniel Kleinhans
- 28 Jared Luebke
Carlene Sohn
- 29 Carson Russart
- 30 Kelly Luebke Handrow

ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Jamey & Amanda
Binversie
- 14 Tim & Amanda Russart
- 20 Brian & Sheila Hemb
- 21 Randall & Karen Krause

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.

*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 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



Please report any
corrections or additions
on the birthday and
anniversary lists to Karen
in the church office:
stmstjoffice@gmail.com
OR call 920-693-8361

ST MARK'S MAY CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Luke Grunwald
Layla Schultz
- 5 John VanDerMale
- 8 JoAnn Grant
Henley Hermann
- 13 Alyssa Boutelle
- 14 Alice Broehm
- 20 Noreen Flook
- 21 Owen Schnelle
- 22 Samuel DeBlay
- 25 Roxi Bernhardt
- 26 Stacy Hermann
- 27 Steven Schultz
- 28 Wendy Schnelle

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Steven & Mary Jo Gabsch
- 16 Warren & Karen
Vandoske
- 18 Pat & Noreen Flook
- 31 Mark & Kathy Jurk