

The Country Church Herald

...Proclaiming the Word of God

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Mark's and St. James United Church of Christ

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October 2017 Issue

Hello Autumn, Goodbye Summer (author unknown)

Summer says so long as glorious autumn takes its place
Less humidity and cooler nights puts smiles on our face

Cloudy fall wet days give relief from the hot blazing sun
Spectacular fall colors have only just wondrously begun

A previously soft velvet lawn is sadly now a frosty crunch
Squirrels dashing frantically collecting nuts for winters munch

Trees boastfully showing off their multi-colorful leaves so grand
While a wonderful cascading light snow beautifully coats the land

Sweat glands sigh in relief as shivering becomes the norm
Bracing ourselves for the transition as the seasons transform

Needing gloves to keep icy fingers warm on our daily walks
Observing abundant harvest displays mixed with corn stalks

The shortening days lets the moon have its grateful turn
To shine in brilliance more often until summer does return

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Grace and Peace to you,

Whether it is the changing of seasons, the beginning of a new school year, or the change in clergy leadership in the church, transition happens whether we are ready or not. I am reminded what the prophet Isaiah said,

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:18-19a)

Yes, we must give ourselves time to grieve what once was, but we must not stay there for new and exciting things are possible. With the changes before us, as a congregation, let us consider the opportunities. Tradition is comforting but at times it can also be limiting. Change can offer us opportunities to think more deeply about what works, why we do something a particular way, and consider how we might change not for the sake of change, but to open the possibilities of what can be. May we be open to the possibilities before us and continue to love one another as we walk together into the future. Let us remember the good news – through it all, God remains steadfast in God's love for us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Beth

Monthly Highlights From Our Church Groups

St. Mark's Consistory

September 5, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 by Vice President Jim Taylor. Audrey Aardappel led us in prayer. Secretary's report was reviewed. Margene Reyer made a motion to accept; seconded by Audrey Aardappel. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was reviewed. Deanne Schultz made a motion to accept; seconded by Audrey Aardappel. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds:

Transmitter for handicap-accessible access on southeast doors has been replaced. Elevator inspection will be completed at a later date. Canopy Fund letter was sent out - we received one person's feedback. We assume that everything was understood since we received no other questions or concerns.

We received information on possibly refinishing the hardwood floors in the parsonage. No steps will be taken to undertake in the immediate future. Ceiling tiles in the narthex near the elevator will be examined to determine next steps.

Door knob in secretary's office needs to be adjusted, so Jon and Jim will fix.

Old Business:

We discussed the interim pastor situation and will await a decision until the joint consistories meeting. Supply pastors were reviewed - we are pleased with their sermons and will continue scheduling them until an interim pastor is in place.

We have a volunteer to assist with the youth - thank you very much. Please watch for ways you can help with youth-related projects. Our congregation has done a great job supporting these projects by furnishing supplies and we are thankful for this.

Sunday School still needs a 4th/5th grade teacher. Please consider this position - the curriculum is very user-friendly and it's possible to team-teach with another volunteer.

First day of Sunday School is September 24th. There will also be a coffee hour after worship.

Jim will check the possible roof leak and report his findings.

Rev. Beth Petzke will teach the confirmation classes this year. She is looking forward to working with the class, for which we are thankful.

New Business:

We discussed hospitalized/recuperating. Rev. Barb Loose will continue to serve home communions and shut-ins.

We discussed the search committee, but will take no action until after the joint consistory meeting. For Mission Fest in November, we will contact a speaker to share local mission work.

Christmas Program is December 7th at 7:00 p.m. Sunday School teacher installation is September 24th. Chaplain Dan Borchers will handle this service.

Jon will order a dumpster so we can dispose of garbage from the parsonage and garage. We are very thankful to Dave and Cindy Call and their family for all the hard work they have done in cleaning the church, the offices and the parsonage, plus painting in the pastor's office.

We need bell ringers! If you are interested, please see Jim Taylor.

We discussed communion preparations for October 1st.

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Audrey Aardappel made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Margene Reyer. Adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Deanne Schultz, Secretary

St. James Consistory

September 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Alan Wippermann at 6:05PM. Al led us in prayer. Members present were Alan Wippermann, President; Joe Klapperich, Vice President; Sue Kracht, Treasurer; Linda Lorfeld, Secretary; Richard Lutze; and Linda Lutzke. The Secretary's report was discussed. Richard made a motion to accept the report as printed. Joe seconded it. Motion carried. Sue Kracht presented the Treasurer's report noting that the electrical bill was higher than previous months. Richard made a motion to approve the report. Linda Lorfeld seconded it. Motion carried.

Buildings and Grounds:

Richard did the monthly elevator inspection and noted no oil leaks and the squeaky door seems to be resolved. Wendy, Brian and Steve Henschel will do fall bush/plant trimming. Bill Heckmann will do snow removal. Thank you to all of them. Linda Lutzke will send the seamstress a thank you for sewing the pulpit cloths, so they can hang. The seamstress did it free of charge. Linda Lorfeld reported that the adjuster completed his assessment of the church and shed damage from the July 7 hail storm. The roof on the church and shed need to be replaced. Dents on the church's north siding and the shed were also noted. The shed has limited coverage, and the estimate is more than the coverage. The Church has a \$1000 deductible. Richard will call roofing and siding businesses for work estimates. Hammers on the electric piano were fixed. At this time, the keys should work. However, over time, they will continue to break. The Consistory discussed options and funding for a new electric piano with the understanding that the current one is about 17 years old. A new keyboard could be installed on the current piano, but there is no guarantee the electronics will last to support a new keyboard. Randy and Cindy Sohn shared an estimate of a new basic electric piano at Heid Music Co. is about \$3400 with additional costs for delivery and set-up. The Consistory will continue to discuss this. Sue said the first well sample was reported as contaminated, but also shared that due to the heavy rains, many local samples were contaminated. The second sample results were good.

Old Business:

Suggestion Box: No suggestions

Sub-Committee reports: Vision of Hope-Next meeting, October 24, 6:00PM. Board of Christian Education- Linda Lorfeld shared that Sandy Beiersdorf sent out letters to the Sunday School families letting them know when Sunday School starts and the expectations. Sue Kracht and Henry Langenhahn, Jr. completed the insurance form for the Bounce House. Thank you to all the Sunday School teachers for their commitment and organization. Next meeting, October 3, 6:00PM. Korean Methodist Meeting- Linda Lorfeld shared that the Methodists will worship at another location during Mission Fest. Pastor Timothy contacted Barb Reimer to let her know they will not be doing Saturday morning prayer services due to limitations from an injury he received from an accident. Sunday worship services will continue. Next meeting, December 3, 3:30PM. Worship Committee -Next meeting September 17 after church service. Stewardship Committee-Next meeting September 26, 6:00PM.

Evaluations: Audrey Aardappel, St. Mark's, continues to support both congregations by contacting supply pastors. Pastor Beth Petzke will be the supply pastor the last two weeks in October. Barb Loose will perform homebound communion.

Activities: Mission Fest will be October 15, 10:00 with a ham dinner to follow at 11:30. Linda Lutzke and Sue Kracht organized the work list for Mission Fest. Lee Anne Raleigh will send posters out to local churches. Linda Lutzke contacted Richard Bahnaman, and he will do the Mission Fest service. He will not accept payment for leading the service, so on behalf of the Congregation, the Consistory will donate to Lakeshore Ecumenical Outreach.

Other: There are baptism candles at church. Linda Lorfeld will give a candle to the parents of the baby baptized in June.

New Business:

Please keep your thoughts and prayers with those hospitalized and recuperating. Please make sure that your addresses and phone numbers are up-to-date for ushering and other church-related needs. We will have a current list in the narthex for congregation members to review. Linda Lorfeld read a thank you from Ally Wasmer for the use of the church's wooden tables and other appliances for her graduation party. We are seeking two nominees for the 2018 Consistory. Sue will update the ushering list for 2018. Al shared questions from St. Mark's regarding future interims.

Other Upcoming Events:

September 24- Blanket Plus Sunday

October 1- Neighbors in Need Offering and World Communion. Linda Lutzke, Al Wippermann, Richard Lutze, and Joe Klapperich will serve. Sue will bring bread.

Next meeting: October 2, 6:00PM.

Richard made motion to adjourn at 8:25PM. Joe seconded it. Motion carried.

Linda Lorfeld, Secretary

Grow Through Fellowship

Installation

The Church and Ministry Team of The Northeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference invite all members, friends and clergy of the NEA Congregations to the Installation of Rev. Robert G. Sherwood as pastor and teacher at Union-Congregational UCC, 125 Beaver Dam Street, Waupun on Sunday, October 1 at 3:00pm. Light refreshments will be available after the service.

Chili Supper

Our Shepherd UCC is having a Chili Supper on Wednesday, October 18 from 4-7:30pm. Adults - \$7, Children 6-12 - \$4, Under 6 free. Take Outs Available.

Fundraising Dinner

Saron UCC is holding a "Pave the Way" Fundraiser Dinner, serving Chicken and Tips, on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Laack's Hall, Johnsonville. Also included in this evening's event will be 50/50 & Bucket Raffles, along with 4-\$50.00 door prizes. Advance Tickets only. Call Laack's Hall at 893-3054. Prices: Adults - \$15, Ages 6-9 - \$9, 5 & under free.

News to Know

Newsletter Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the monthly newsletter, please email this to Lee Anne Raleigh, church secretary, at leeraleigh@yahoo.com.

St. Mark's Prayer Basket

Please continue to place your requests in this basket at the back of church or give them to Pastor. He will honor your requests.

Favorite Hymns

If you have a favorite hymn, please request it by placing its number in the offering plate.

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.

Receive Your Church Newsletter Online

If you are interested in receiving your monthly newsletter strictly via the internet instead of the hard copy, please send an e-mail stating such to Mike Summers, Lawrence.Summers@kohler.com. Each month an e-mail will be sent to notify you when the updated Country Church Herald is available online.

Reminder from St. James Consistory

Please keep your address and phone number information up-to-date by correcting it at the table in the narthex at church or by letting a consistory member know. Current information is helpful for ushering duties, sending church newsletters, and other church related activities. Thank you for your help.

Vision of Hope - St. James

There are copies of this document available in the narthex. Thank you.

Supply Pastors

October 1	Pastor Barb Loose
October 8	Chaplain Nathan Athorp
October 15	Mission Fest at St. James
October 22	Pastor Beth Petzke
October 29	Pastor Beth Petzke

Pastoral Care

If you or a family member is in need of pastoral care, please contact your Consistory President, Jon Herrmann at 920-901-1712 (cell) 920-726-4212 (home) or Al Wippermann at 920-894-4072. They will help you.

Ushers - St. Mark's

Due to fire safety restrictions, the south door should remain open during worship. Thank you.

St. Mark's Cemetery 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.

St. James Choir

Come and join the St. James Adult Choir. We practice on Tuesdays at 6:30.

Support Mission Fests

St. James and St. Mark's congregations have worked together for over 150 years supporting each other and working together to serve God in many ways. Pastor William Kesting often commented on how he valued the two churches' bond and hoped that they continue to work together and support each other. Both St. Mark's and St. James youth and adults have done many local and global missions by donating to Heifer International, St. Jude Children's Hospital, Crop Walk, OCWM, local pantries, Christmas families, Re-Member and supporting many other organizations, groups and individuals in a variety ways. Both churches will continue their outreach with their upcoming Mission Fests, and the congregations are encouraged to support each other's missions by attending Mission Fest at both churches. St. James will have Mission Fest on October 15 at 10:00AM, and St. Mark's will have their Mission Fest on November 12 at 10:00AM with a meal following each service. Please attend these events and support each other's service to God through our missions.

James Mission Fest **October 15, 10:00 AM**

This year we welcome Deacon Richard Bahnaman who will be doing the service at St. James for Mission Fest Sunday. He was a guidance counselor at Valders Elementary School and has spent a lot of time doing mission work as well as serving the Lord in many other ways. He is part of Lakeshore Ecumenical Outreach (LEO), which is centered at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Manitowoc. The members of LEO are from many different faiths who want to help those in need locally and globally. For more information about LEO, please visit the website <http://www.leo-manitowoc.org>. Anyone is welcome to join us for the service at 10:00AM and for the ham dinner after.

Ushers

St. Mark's

October Ushers

Mark Jurk, chair
Carol Weiland
Wayne & Ann Grunwald
Dale Dirks

Candle Lighters

1 Brianne Vandoske, Tyler Athorp
8 Chase Heling, Ryan Binversie
15 St. James Mission Fest
22 Reina Scharl, Bradley Grunwald
29 Owen Bramstedt, Faith Grunwald

November Ushers

Jason, Anna Marie & Tyler Bramstedt, chairs
Sandy & Emma Perronne
Jay & Kayla Sommer

St. James

October Ushers

Henry & Keri Langenhahn, Jr., chairs
Chelsea Langenhahn
Morgan Henschel
Amanda Henschel
Jim & Karen Becker
Marissa Meyer
Jonathan Meyer
Jeff & Wendy Meyer
Randy & Karen Krause

November Ushers

Galen & Deb LaDuke, chairs
Susan Kracht
Keith & Michelle Mauk
Brad Mauk
Lloyd Athorp & Maureen Sukowaty
Brian & Wendy Henschel

October Celebrations

St. Mark's Birthdays

- 1 Bruce Karstaedt
Sandra Stark
- 2 Kevin Kellner
- 7 Elias Aardappel
- 9 Colten Sommer
- 10 Kay Bitter
- 11 Christine Hayon
- 12 Kathy Jurk
Milton Karstaedt (96)
- 14 Trace Damrow
Sandy Perronne
Wendy Schueler
- 15 Denise Heling
- 20 Todd Grunwald
- 21 Cindy Hundt
Derek Trowbridge
- 24 Marlee Strysick
Dawson Strysick
- 25 Brooklyn Vandoske
- 26 Cindy Call
Robert Vandoske
- 29 Bonnie Schuette
- 30 Autumn Risch
Colton Scharl

St. Mark's Anniversaries

- 11 Jay & Kayla Sommer
- 12 Jon & Julie Herrmann
- 22 William & Lori Roelse
- 23 Jim & Christine Hayon
- 24 Tim & Cindy Hundt

St. James Birthdays

- 1 Jackie Mueller
- 3 Diane Luckow
- 7 ValJean Marcoe
- 8 William Luebke
- 9 Joanne Fessler
- 20 Joe Klapperich
Aric Jump
- 21 Chelsea Langenhahn
- 24 Donald Hemb
Alvin Kracht
- 27 Wendy Henschel

St. James Anniversaries

- 2 Lee & Terri Schmitz
- 6 Warren & Frieda Heckmann
- 8 Mike & Kristin Zolltheis
- 12 Ronald & Jacqueline Henschel
James & Michelle Luckow
- 13 Jim & Karen Becker
- 14 Vernon & Jean Henschel
Rieck & Sandra Beiersdorf
- 16 Zachary & Sadie Koenig
- 20 Milton & LaVern Wippermann (61)
- 26 Clarence & Heidi Belitz
- 29 Mark & Kathy Stolzmann

If there is a correction for the birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office, 693-8361. Thank you.



Visit us on the web at www.stmarksucccleveand.org
Thanks to Mike Summers for ongoing maintenance of the site.

St. James/St. Mark's
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October

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

We Invite You To Join Us...

If you have been joining us for worship and fellowship and would like more information about joining either St. James or St. Mark's, please contact the church office (693-8361).

September 3, 2017
St. Mark's - 35
St. James - 33

September 10, 2017
St. Mark's - 50
St. James - 49

September 17, 2017
St. Mark's - 48
St. James - 67

September 24, 2017
St. Mark's - 65
St. James - 44