



Are You Coming?
Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday, January 25, 2026
Third Sunday after Epiphany
St. James United Church of Christ
***St. Mark's United Church of Christ**
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Rev. Keith Weiland, Interim Pastor
Kathy Jurk, Organist

Our Mission is to help others deepen their relationship with God, become faithful followers of Christ, and to share the message of Christ's love with others.

Mediative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

A Quiet Place

****Bold text means to read in unison**

Responsive Call to Worship:

Come, with undivided attention to meet God, who calls you away from old routines.

OUR SOULS WAIT FOR GOD IN SILENCE. WE HOPE IN GOD, OUR ROCK AND OUR SALVATION.

Come without anxiety or fear, for God cares for you.

WE COME WITH DEVOTION FOR THE LORD, IN WHOM TIME IS FULFILLED AND LIFE HAS MEANING.

Enter the realm of God, which is here and now, as well as beyond time and place.

WE POUR OUT OUR HEARTS BEFORE GOD, WHOM WE TRUST AND HONOR.

Hymn:

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

(St. James #207) (St. Mark's #345)

Affirming Our Faith Together: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried:

He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:

I believe in the Holy Spirit: The One Holy Universal Christian Church: the communion of saints: The forgiveness of sins: The resurrection of the body: And the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Unison Prayer of Confession:

O God, we confess that we have trusted our narrow understandings rather than seek Your Will. We have taken our directions from the world rather than question the way things are ordered here. Not all that we say or do is Your Righteous Will. We have closed our ears to Your call and, when we have heard that call, we have defied it. Even when we have followed, we have resisted the evidence of Your activity in our midst. Forgive us, O God. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

You are not your own; you were bought with a price. The Messiah has come, and you have been claimed as God's own. As Christ was raised from the dead, so, too, all who long to escape death of sin are lifted by God to newness of life. Accept the pardon and transformation God offers in Christ. Amen.

Young at Heart:



Hymn:

(St. James #205) (St. Mark's #589)

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Message:

Guess Where You're Going!

Recognition of Serving on the Consistory:

St. James
Scott Henschel
Sheila Hemb
Wendy Meyer

St. Mark's
Ben Grunwald
Linda Schroeder

Installation of Consistory Members:

St. James
Cindy Klapperich
Galen LaDuke
Kristin Zolltheis

St. Mark's
Mike Bernhardt
Wendy Schueler

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are gathered today as one body in Christ, in worship and praise of a loving and faithful God who has richly blessed us time and time again.

In response to God's blessing and commitment to St. Mark's, we pause to give thanks and to recognize those, through their willingness to commit and serve, who have faithfully done so on the Consistory Board.

Today, we recognize the years of service Ben and Linda have given to the Consistory: time, spiritual gifts, leadership, and guidance for the people St. Mark's for the purpose of deepening our faith and broadening our reach.

Today, we also recognize and commit new members to three-year terms on the Consistory Board beginning January 2026.

Mike Bernhardt and Wendy Schueler, as you stand before God, Church and family will you commit to serving St. Mark's (and when called upon – St. James) to the best of your God-given talents, gifts and abilities? **I will.**

Will you faithfully participate in the ministries of St. Mark's by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your invitation? **I will.**

Do you believe you have been called by the Holy Spirit to use your skills to lead in your church and community, to expand our caring ministries, and to witness to the Christian faith in worship, invitation, welcoming and hospitality? **I do.**

Will you be in prayer for your family, your church and church family, your pastor, and your community? **I will.**

Will you follow the by-laws and constitution of St. Mark's; will you follow the spirit of the law as given to us by Christ and intended by Christ? **I will.**

To the Congregation:

As a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your invitation, will you commit today to continue to share God's grace and the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the community? **We will.**

Will you honor, support and encourage Mike and Wendy in their ministry? **We will.**

Will you accept their leadership and the leadership of the Consistory – supporting and encouraging them through prayer, and when in doubt communicate effectively and directly with the Consistory? **We will.**

Prayer:

Almighty God, you have bound us together to work for your reign on earth. Bless these people as they share their gifts and ministry with us and the community at large. Grant that all of us, by drawing nearer to you, may always be close to one another in the communion of your saints through Christ our Lord. Amen.

People's Prayer:

With all your saints, we open our ears and hearts to claim the message you would speak to us. May we meditate on your word, praise you with joyful lips, and glorify you with our whole being. Come, Holy Spirit, to make your home in our midst and within each one of us. Then use us, we pray, to reach others with your saving Good News. We pray this as we lift our voice as one:

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering:

Where He Leads Me

Offertory Music:

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Doxology:

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye, heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Hymn:

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

(St. James #164) (St. Mark's# 264)

Responsive Benediction:

Go forth to answer God's call to service, sharing the love of Christ with all you meet.

**WE HAVE HEARD GOD'S WORD FOR OUR DAY AND WANT TO FOLLOW
WHERE CHRIST LEADS.**

Venture into unknown tomorrows in faith, for you are co-workers with Christ.

WE HAVE FOUND THE MESSIAH! ALL IS MADE NEW IN JESUS CHRIST.

You are set free from bondage and fear; you shall be called by a new name.

**WE WILL GLORIFY GOD IN OUR BODIES AND WELCOME THE SPIRIT'S
DWELLING WITHIN. AMEN.**

Postlude:

Exaltation



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

January 25th – Gavin Marcoe

29th – Nancy Sixel, Allyson Wasmer

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE TOMORROW. Email them to Karen at stmstjoffice@gmail.com

CONFIRMATION CLASS – meets Wednesday, Jan. 28th, 6-7:30pm at St. Mark's. Confirmation Class will NOT meet on Wednesday, February 4th.

CONSISTORY MEETINGS:

St. James – Tuesday, February 3rd, 6:30pm

St. Mark's – Thursday, February 5th, 6pm

Joint Consistory Meeting – Monday, February 9th, 6pm at St. Mark's

LOOKING AHEAD....

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18th.

*While Pastor Patrick is out on medical leave,
Pastor Keith Weiland will be your contact person
should pastoral care be needed.*

He may be reached by email or phone:

cell phone: 920-946-2260 home phone: 920-565-3278

email: raidermascot@gmail.com





**UCC RURAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP
Presents
SHEEPSHEAD TOURNAMENT**

Where: Bethlehem United Church of Christ
11608 Lax Chapel Road
Kiel, WI 53042

When: Sunday, February 15, 2026, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
[Snow date is Feb. 22nd, same time]
Doors open at 12:30

Entrance Fee: Canned goods and/or free will offering

Rules will be explained before the tournament begins. All levels of skill are welcome. Beginner's table(s) will be available for those who don't know how to play. Don't want to play sheepshead but want to participate in the fun? Bring your own board or card game.

Refreshments will be available.

COME ONE...COME ALL! Open to the Public!
Childcare will be supplied. Games and movies for the kiddos.

**TWO
UPCOMING
FUN EVENTS!**



COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS!

St. James UCC

***1st & 3rd Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School at St. James 9-10am every Sunday.***

St. Mark's UCC

***1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.***

Visit our Church Website: <https://www.stmarksstjamesucc.org>
Worship Services are recorded weekly and uploaded to our church

YouTube channel: St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Facebook: St. Marks & St. James UCC

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office:
stmstjoffice@gmail.com