

2020

Annual Report of the Congregation



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

2020 Annual Report

Table of Contents:

Letter from Bishop Lull, St. Paul Area Synod	3
Pastoral Acts & Statistics.....	5
Congregational President Report: Beth Ingberg.....	6

Ministry Staff Reports

The Rev. Mary Froiland: Lead Pastor	8
Cory Jones: Children, Youth & Family Ministries.....	10
Dorothea Jirsa & Trevor Wolter Ternez: Music Ministry	12

Congregational Ministry & Committee Reports

Community Partnerships.....	14
Columbarium & Memorial Garden Committee	15
COVID Restoration Team	16
Drama Ministry.....	18
Hospitality Committee.....	18
St. Mark's Foundation	19
Global Ministries	20
Personnel Committee	21
Property Committee	22
Stewardship Committee	23
Women of St. Mark's	25

Appendix: *Minutes from Annual Meeting of the Congregation (January 26, 2020)*



Bishop Lull's Annual Report to Congregations

Dear Partners in Ministry,

2020 has certainly been the strangest and most challenging year for us as a synod; for congregations, specialized ministries, and institutions; and for each of you. Thanks be to God, who has strengthened, uplifted, and sustained us during this year of a global pandemic, and important learnings amid social unrest.

I am cheered by the immediate response made by congregations across this synod when we needed to stop gathering in person in early March. From the start you have shown respect for the wisdom of Governor Tim Walz and our public health experts. You pulled together informed lay leaders and community representatives to guide your rostered ministers in crafting a plan for safe reopening and use of your building. Within days, worship planners found new ways to bring the Gospel to a dispersed congregation through mailings, recorded services, live-streamed worship and Zoom. When the weather and new state guidelines allowed gatherings in small numbers, you moved worship outdoors to your parking lots and side yards or used registration, masks and hand washing to ensure that your congregation not become a hotspot for spreading COVID-19. Thank you.

With courage, you as people of faith faced the tough challenge of offering pastoral care to those who were ill and to the dying. We learned afresh how much a phone call can mean and how Zoom can draw family and friends together in times of grief. So many funeral services had to be postponed or turned into small-size gatherings. Let us commit to remembering the saints we have entrusted to God this past year and find new ways to mark anniversaries when we are able to gather in person again.

When the pandemic wanes we will have much learning to share from this past year about what it means to be a community of faith in the twenty-first century. There will be innovations to keep and cherished practices to reclaim. I look forward to learning with you, especially about how the good news of God's grace and forgiveness is spoken to us through God's word and the sacraments.

In 2020 the synod played a unique role in convening congregational leaders amid the pandemic. We hosted Zoom conversations on public health mandates, PPP loans for small businesses, remote congregational meetings, and stewardship of financial resources. I thank Carol Hood, synod vice president; David Laden, synod treasurer; and Sarah Crippen, synod attorney; for helping with many of those sessions.

During all that, the synod assembly was hosted as an online event on Sept. 25-26. We did it, friends! We mastered new technological platforms and demonstrated we could "be together" while "being apart" for the essential business of the synod. I am grateful for the confidence you showed in me and the synod staff team when you re-elected me to a second six-year term.

One of the commitments I bring is to continue the transformational work we need to do as individuals, congregations, and institutions to address racism and to hard-bake racial equity and a profound respect for diversity into all aspect of our church life. That is as essential to our well being as are all the safety precautions, we have taken to lessen the impact of COVID-19.

Our pastors and deacons deserve our gratitude for stepping up and creating new ways to live out their vocations. Put to the test, they responded with imagination and persistence. I know you join me in thanking them. Three new colleagues were ordained in 2020. They include Deacon Stephanie Anderson-Telschow, Pastor Jason Kramme, and Deacon Brad Mills. At the close of 2020 we have 47 persons in the candidacy →

process and are grateful for their openness to serving in a church so shaped by the events of 2020.

While the focus of ministry shifted in every congregation, eight congregations continued their work in the Year of Renewal, an intentional revitalization process that matches the spiritual gifts of members with God's work in the surrounding community. The 2020 participants included Bethlehem, St. Paul; Chisago Lake, Center City; Our Saviour's, Hastings; Redeemer, White Bear Lake; and Our Redeemer, St. Paul. Alongside this work 12 congregations participated in the synod-sponsored Stewardship for All Seasons program and 11 others in the Beginning a Culture of Generosity initiative.

While much attention was given to sustaining congregational life this past year, our mission start partners and global companions were not forgotten. Together as a synod we have supported ministry efforts at Christ the Servant, Vadnais Heights; Lutheran Church of Peace, Maplewood; Hope, St. Paul; Minnesota Faith Chinese, Roseville; Good Samaritan, St. Paul; Humble Walk, St. Paul; The Depot of St. Andrew's, Hugo; Cristo Rey, New Brighton; Foundation of Life, St. Paul; and Shobi's Table, St. Paul. Likewise, while the pandemic made it impossible for delegations to travel to Tanzania or Guatemala, prayers and project support abounded to help our siblings in other parts of the world continue their mission in Christ.

Let me end with a special work of thanks to the synod staff. Two staff members retired or completed their term of service in 2020 – Greg Triplett, and Deacon April Trout. We thank them for good and faithful service. The current staff include Michael Gold, office assistant; Alicia Rodriguez, office manager; Mary Smith, director of communications; David Roinas, finance administrator; Pastor Justin Grimm, director for evangelical mission and assistant to the bishop; Deacon Krista Lind, assistant to the bishop; Anna Marsh, executive assistant to the bishop; Pastor Peter Harrits, director of Bega Kwa Bega and assistant to the bishop, and Ryan and Astine Bose, newly named short-term volunteers in Iringa.

We have been stretched and tested, but all through this past year God has been at work in and through us. What a joy it is for all of us to serve with you in the Saint Paul Area Synod.

Yours in God's service –

Bishop Patricia Lull

Pastoral Acts & Statistics

2020 Annual Report

Beginning Sunday, March 22, due to Covid-19 restrictions, St. Mark's suspended all in-person gatherings which included worship services, funerals and weddings. Worship services continued online and meetings via Zoom.

Average weekly attendance/views at regular worship services:

8:30 am Festival Service (Jan-Feb)	102
10:30 am Celebration Service (Jan-Feb)	81
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Service (Jan-Feb)	115
In-Person Services (2 - October & November).....	24
Sunday Service Online (March-December).....	185
Wednesday Service Online (March-August)	81

Total attendance/views at Holiday Worship Services:

Confirmation – 1 pm (In-Person)	84
Ash Wednesday Online	202
Maundy Thursday Online	250
Good Friday Online	265
Easter Sunday Online	502
Thanksgiving Eve Online	264
Wednesday Advent Services Online	72
Christmas Eve Online	287

Membership Statistics:

Membership as of December 31, 2020

Confirmed members	874
Child (Baptized) members	260

Membership as of December 31, 2019

Confirmed Members	908
Child (Baptized) Members	276

Baptisms	5
Confirmed.....	9
Weddings	2
Funerals	13

Beth Ingberg: Congregational President

2020 Annual Report

Hello St. Mark's!

What a crazy year this has been! In a year where we were spread far and wide and unable to gather I am amazed at how our sense of community is still so strong. During this time there have been many challenges that people have faced, but I know that St. Mark's will continue to be a rock for its members.

This year we saw many changes. We said goodbye to Pastor Ivy and Susie as they took on exciting new opportunities. We welcomed Cory to work with our youth, and are so happy to have him helping us as we search for a new associate pastor or deacon. We faced one of our biggest problems as a community: figuring out how to gather together in worship while also staying safe. This was a new frontier for everyone, but we overcame this obstacle. Throughout all of this our church continues to remain strong.

While this last year has brought its challenges we still have a lot to celebrate!

- In a global pandemic we remained budget neutral through the generous giving of the St. Mark's members.
- We had a successful stewardship campaign that resulted in an increased giving. These extra funds will allow us to revitalize our internship program, increase technology, and expand our community outreach programs.
- The chapel roof has been replaced after a successful fundraising campaign headed by Gary Hook.
- Even a pandemic could not stop us! We discovered new ways to worship as a community; whether it was through Trevor's Facebook Live music on Sunday mornings, streaming recorded church services, gathering in our cars, or many, many Zoom calls and meetings we were still able to come together.

If there is one thing this year has taught me about St. Mark's it is that the building is not the church. We are the church, and our church is an amazing community that is strong and vibrant. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your council president this year. I look forward to coming back together with you all very soon and cannot wait to see what 2021 brings for St. Mark's!

Gratefully,

Beth Ingberg
Council President

2020 Church Council

Beth Ingberg, President
Karen Biedermann, VP
Josh Hirman, Secretary
Mike Ericson
Nick Glendenning
Carolyn Newell
Pam Simanski

Shannon Young
Bob Engwer
Brian Larson
Erin Koppen
Adam Reinke
Dan Colberg
Pastor Mary Froiland

Reports from the *Ministry Staff*

The Rev. Mary Froiland: Lead Pastor

2020 Annual Report

Dear Friends,

Finally, it's 2021 and we have so much to look forward to! Vaccines are being distributed and going into arms. We are hopeful that soon we can begin the process of coming back together instead of being forced apart – in our families, our communities, and our beloved congregation.

At the same time, we are painfully aware that we have a long way to go in coming together as a nation. We are painfully separated, and recent events are a stark reminder of that. It will take more than a vaccine to heal the disease that afflicts our polarized people. May we cling to the non-partisan ideals of integrity, democracy, truth, freedom, and the creation of a just and equitable society for all people. We may differ in our ideas of how to achieve these noble ideals, but let's not lose sight of the ideals themselves in the process.

A year ago, we never could have imagined what living through a pandemic would mean for how we "do church." It is very different, but the essentials continue, just in new ways.

- During the past year St. Mark's continued to provide spiritual direction and guidance using technology. People experienced God's love through God's word, music, the sacraments, and prayer as they worshiped online and outside in the parking lot. This will continue in 2021.
- Our Caring Ministries Team continued to care for the homebound during this time of social isolation. Phone calls and greeting cards replaced in-person time together. Thanks to our online worship, many of our homebound members were able to participate in worship again.
- With increased community needs, St. Mark's continued feeding the hungry in our neighborhood through support of our partners at the North St. Paul Food Shelf, Second Harvest Pop-up Farmers Markets, and the North High School Polar Pack/Polar Den programs.
- Young people grow in faith even during a pandemic. Confirmation and Youth Group have been meeting weekly via Zoom technology, and we engage our youngest members through children's messages during worship most weeks.
- Regular interaction helps preserve a sense of belonging. People have maintained strong connections to one another through online Bible study and conversation, as well as Facebook posts, worship opportunities, virtual committee meetings, and weekly email updates.

As we look ahead to 2021, in addition to continuing the above ministries, there is much to be excited about.

- Our Fall Stewardship Campaign was a great success! 155 Intent Cards were returned – up from 121 in 2020. These intents indicate a \$30,935 dollar increase over last year's giving. You responded to our vision of new ministry initiatives for this coming year, and as a result of your generous response, we are confident in our ability to move forward with those initiatives.
 - We are beginning the application process with Luther Seminary to be a site for a Seminary Pastoral Intern this coming year. We anticipate welcoming an Intern in August or September.
 - We are also working on some tech updates to enhance our on line presence. This past year has shown us how important this is for our congregation.
 - We are excited about the opportunities for intentional outreach to our neighbors in North Saint Paul, both those who have been around for a while and new folks moving into the area.

- In keeping with our commitment to *Stewardship for All Seasons* (and not just a one off fall drive) we will keep you updated on our progress in these ministry initiatives throughout the year. Thanks for your ongoing support of our shared ministry.
- A call committee has been formed, and has begun to work on the search for a new Associate Minister to serve among us at St. Mark's. Members of the call committee are Julie Urban, Mark Lehman, Doug Ronsberg, Brian Larson, Adam Reinke, Betty Wolf, Beth Jensen and Logan Woods. I invite you to pray for the work of the call committee and pray for this person who will join our ministry staff. That person is out there right now, wondering just where God is calling them to next. It's an exciting time for all of us!
- For the third year in a row, we are presenting a realistic, sustainable, and balanced budget for your approval. It is a tribute to all of you that we ended the year in a very strong financial position, in spite of the challenges of this pandemic.
- Finally, I want to give a shout out to the highly competent and deeply dedicated staff and leadership of St. Marks's – elected and otherwise. It is an honor and a privilege to work alongside these people who have stepped up and served well in difficult times. Thank you.

I am excited about the possibilities that lie before us in this year. I am also hopeful that as a congregation and as a nation, we will navigate the challenges before us with grace and good will. May God guide us as we walk and work together.

Peace,
Pastor Mary



Cory Jones: Interim Children, Youth & Family Minister

2020 Annual Report

Acknowledging the odd experience this year has been for St. Mark's as a whole, let alone the CYF Ministries, we also want to acknowledge the positives, of which there have been many. New relationships have been built and mature ones have grown stronger. The message of Jesus has been spoken and demonstrated by loving adults and heard every week by students that need to know they are loved, accepted.

Notwithstanding our current circumstances, the St. Mark's Children, Youth, and Family ministry is currently in an exciting place. The process has begun to find new leadership of the CYF ministries. There is real opportunity in this next season for St. Mark's to engage in a CYF ministry reassessment. Adjustments to ministries are often easiest to make when there is a transition in leadership. There's room for growth and a richer expansion of all the existing CYF ministries at St. Mark's as well as development of new ministries.

Due to the necessary health and safety precautions, all CYF ministries needed to be altered in some capacity. However, Cory Jones, Interim Children, Youth, and Family Minister has maintained many of the ministry programs that were in place prior to the Covid-19 shifts that were made.

Children's Ministry

The children's ministry has regrettably suffered the greatest during Covid-19. The Sunday morning worship service online still delivers a children's sermon but, as you all know, we have not been able to gather and have children's church/Sunday morning children's education time. There were two surveys sent to families with children pre-K to 5th grade offering four different options for how families would prefer to receive or take part in children's ministry in lieu of in person gathering. Both surveys received extremely minimal participation. Based on that reality, a decision was made that families were not interested (or perhaps were already too overburdened) in managing another online event. The decision was made that it would be a better use of CYF staff and volunteer time to focus on other youth ministries.

We are confident that when we're able to safely gather in person again we will be able to meet the ministry needs of our St. Mark's families and children. This is a very positive reality. However, as stated above, there is room for development and even a reimagining of what children's ministry could be at St. Mark's. With new full-time, permanent CYF Ministry leadership the children's ministry programs will absolutely continue to be a priority.

Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation has been online since September 2020. This ministry, in spite of the challenges of doing student ministry online, has been going very well. Students are engaged and (mentally, physically) present every week. The adult leaders have continued to step up to lead, care for, and minister to our students during large and small groups online.

St. Mark's staff and adult volunteers have made significant relational inroads with our middle school students. We have provided a safe online space for them to explore faith in meaningful and relevant ways.

Students have been led through topics such as: *What is the Bible?*, *The Character of God*, and *Jesus' earthly ministry*. Confirmation will continue until early May 2021.

Due to Covid-19 and the indoor gathering restrictions St. Mark's staff has made the decision to move the Rite of Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism Service to Sunday, May 16. This gives us the opportunity to hold the service outdoors if we're still experiencing indoor gathering restrictions.

Moving the service also allows the Confirmation students to have more guests to join them in the service and their faith milestone.

High School Ministry:

High School youth group has been held online since September 2020. This ministry has been a small but consistent group of high school students on Wednesday nights. Knowing that high school students have a little more autonomy than younger students it has been encouraging that our high school students continue to choose to participate in our online gatherings.

Along with the help of some adult volunteers, St. Mark's staff have made the high school youth group gatherings relevant to their lives through fun, engaging community, and a significant element of spiritual formation.

Again, as with all of our CYF ministries, the High School in person ministry was affected by Covid-19. We're unable to meet in person safely for any social or service events. This reality has definitely been a set back for the high school ministry. However, there have been positives as a result as well. The online format will allow students to participate in the high school ministry if they're unable to physically get to church. The online format still allows for real, genuine relationships to be build and developed among students and between student and adult leader. Our online gatherings are also working to provide a safe place for students to explore faith in God in their own comfortable space.

A note from Cory:

I want to express my gratitude to all of our devoted and faithful adult leaders who walk alongside our students every week! It has been a remarkable experience to watch and be a part of.

Thank you to the parents who continue to encourage their middle and high school students to jump on Zoom every week and participate in our online Wednesday evening Confirmation and Youth Group gatherings. Zoom fatigue is very real for students and I'm well aware it can be difficult for parents to push your student to spend more time on a computer screen.

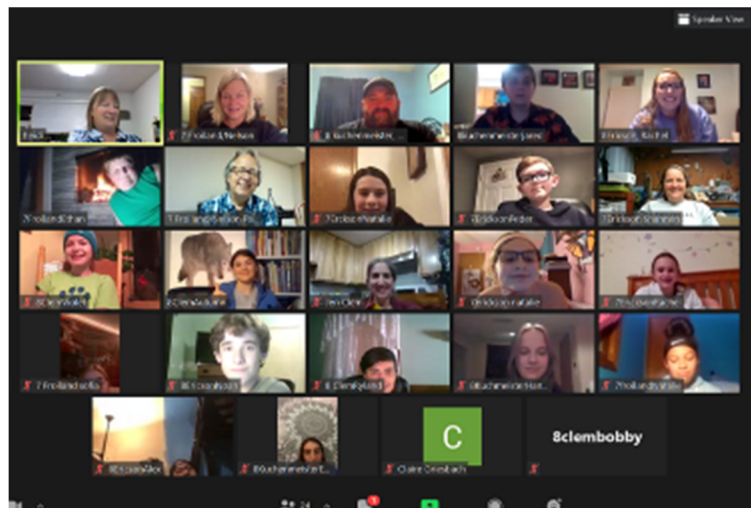
Thank you parents for being committed to your spiritual responsibility to your student's faith journey!

Thank you to the rest of the St. Mark's community for welcoming and supporting me in the midst of such a weird and difficult year.

Last, but 100% not least, thank you to the students for being willing to try my new and (often) silly games. And more importantly thank you for your willingness to engage in discussions on faith and life.

I'm excited to continue to walk with and alongside you in faith and life!

Peace and Blessings,
Cory Jones



Dorothea Jirsa & Trevor Wolter Ternez: Music Ministry

2020 Annual Report

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks,
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God,
yea, even for the living God.
When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and night,
while they daily say unto me,
"Where is now thy God?"

-Psalm 42:1-3

These words were to be sung by the Choir of St. Marks on Sunday, March 15 in a picturesque setting by Herbert Howells. As it happened, March 9 was the last Sunday that we had a "normal" in-person worship service. The anthem may not have been sung but worship continues and the answer to the Psalmist's question, "Where now is thy God?" remains the same: God is enthroned in heaven ruling eternally and by our side, holding our hand each step of the way.

What started out as a year like any other with regular choir and handbell rehearsals and plans for a brass quintet on Easter quickly turned into a year like none other. After the absence of just one Sunday service, the ministry team rapidly adapted to producing a recorded worship service each week with major projection work (filming, directing, editing) completed by Gary Martin for most services.

In addition to online worship, a new venture was started with the Live Music Prelude streamed from St. Mark's Facebook account each Sunday at 9:30 am. Although the worship service is pre-recorded, the prelude is live and gives listeners an opportunity to greet one another in comments and be gathered together, even virtually, for a few minutes.

A piano concert was recorded in honor of Veteran's Day. The entertainment portion of St. Mark's Annual Progressive Dinner was streamed live. A "Yule Log" video was recorded for Christmas featuring over an hour of organ music performed by Dorothea Jirsa and Trevor Wolter Ternez. For 2021, we're looking forward to resuming in-person activities when it is safe to do so but in the meantime are grateful to be able to continue our online programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Trevor Wolter Ternez & Dorothea Jirsa

Congregational *Ministry Reports*

Community Partnerships

2020 Annual Report

Since 2019, we have been able to share our building with two local organizations. These partnerships have remained strong through the uncertainties and challenges of the pandemic.

- **Genesis East Worshiping Community** continues under the leadership of Pastor Aaron Freer. Like us, they have been gathering virtually most of this year.
- **Ramsey County Head Start** continues to offer services to preschoolers in the community, some in person and others virtually.

It is good to have our space used in these ways that bring support and benefit to our neighbors.

With increased community needs, St. Mark's continued feeding the hungry in our neighborhood through support of our partners at the North St. Paul Food Shelf, Second Harvest Pop-up Farmers Markets, and the North High School Polar Pack/Polar Den programs.

- **Pop Up Food Shelf/Farmers Market.** St. Mark's partnered with the North Saint Paul Food Shelf and Second Harvest to host a Pop-Up Food Shelf /Farmers Market at St. Mark's on the 4th Monday of the month - July 27, August 24 and September 28. Located in the St. Mark's parking lot, the experience was a contact free way for neighbors to get free, fresh produce. Special thanks to St. Mark's volunteers who helped bag and "deliver" the groceries.
- **North St. Paul Emergency Food Shelf** and **Lutheran World Relief** donations were collected throughout the year to help aid these organizations in their ongoing efforts to support people in need. We received \$1,015 for Special Christmas Memorials, which was split between the food shelf and Lutheran World Relief. In addition, St. Mark's sent \$1,901 to the food shelf as part of Bishop Lull's Challenge.
- **Polar Pack Program** North High School students and families continue to experience food insecurity during the pandemic. Families without transportation are unable to access the breakfast/lunch meals provided by North High and lacked consistent dinners. Because we were physically unable to fill the Polar Packs during this time, St. Mark's provided Cub Foods gift cards to families who depend on this program. Cub was able to deliver groceries to their doorsteps.

Gift Goes On Christmas Program

This Christmas season, St. Mark's continued the Gift Goes On program in our greater community, in partnership with Ramsey County. This year St. Mark's giving included: gifts for 40 individuals; 62 Cub gift cards; Target Gift cards to help with gift purchases; and handmade hats, mittens and gloves. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped with organization. You truly made a difference to these families this Christmas. A special thanks to Liz Elicerio Nelson, who organized and led this project from beginning to end.

Columbarium & Memorial Garden Committee

2020 Annual Report



August 2020 improvements to the Memorial Garden Landscaping. Three new benches were added June 2020 and secured in place. Trees and shrubs were added



Front view of Columbarium with first Memorial Wall completed August 2019 and dedicated Sept. 8, 2019.



Second Memorial wall added on October 2, 2020.

If you would like to purchase a niche, a Memorial wall inscription or make a contribution to the ongoing maintenance of the Memorial Garden please contact Heidi McKenzie – heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org or 651-777-7451.

COVID Restoration Team

2020 Annual Report

For where two or three are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them. ~Matthew 18:20

As Jesus taught us in this passage from Matthew, gathering together is one of the basic and yet most meaningful ways in which we share our devotion and connection with Christ. Often, we are driven to “look at the numbers” and large gatherings help us feel good about what we are doing as a Church. They are wonderful manifestations of our lives together.

Yet it only takes two or three people to be together to know Christ and to have him in our presence. These past months have kept us physically apart in large numbers and outside the walls of our sacred space, our beloved Church.

Our primary means of worship have been through the use of online delivery of weekly pre-recorded services and the live delivery of music via Facebook. We are very grateful for the efforts of our pastors, ministry & office staff, and volunteers who have worked very hard to keep us connected in worship. Kudos to Gary Martin for all his efforts in the recording, editing and delivery each week.

- In June 2020, the Restoration Team was formed to establish facility guidelines and a Covid-19 action plan for St. Mark's, ensuring that we were adhering to local, state and national protocols and direction in following directives designed to keep our community and our members safe.
- In August, team members, working in collaboration with Pastor Mary and the church council delivered a comprehensive plan for the congregation to follow. It includes a stepped guidance structure based on current pandemic conditions and is available through the church website.
- In September we re-opened our walls for small groups (10 or less) to gather in Rees Hall following pre-registration guidelines and while adhering to safety protocols for distancing, hygiene and mask protection. We also conducted two outdoor worship services (September 13 and 27) where approximately 100 people gathered together in a controlled manner with respect towards one another. Both services were a wonderful reflection of the St. Mark's spirit bringing our community together (yet socially distanced) outside.
- In October, our first in-sanctuary worship services since March were held (October 18 and November 1). Following state guidance these services were limited in capacity to 50 people and required pre-registration and screening. Approximately 25 people gathered together at each service in reflective worship. It was a very solemn experience that brought those in attendance back into our sacred space to share in scripture, reflect on the present, and look forward towards hope and peace.
- In November, rising numbers of Covid-19 infections and new restrictions on social gatherings required that we put in-person worship services on hold and again restrict small group meetings. This was the right thing to do to continue keeping the members of our community safe.
- In December, a wonderful group of volunteers came together and organized an outdoor drive-thru Christmas event. On the evening of December 20, our community came together outdoors to enjoy a program of Christmas stories and songs, the Nativity scene, light displays, and hot chocolate and sweets. We were Blessed with nice weather and friends were able to gather together around a warm fire or from the comfort of their cars.

What comes next?

In 2021 we will be continuing to offer the online worship option weekly for the foreseeable future and forego in-person gathering until it is deemed safe to do so. We have been fortunate that our efforts kept our community healthy and we have not had any infections tied to any of our events and limited gatherings.

Our plans are in place for what would be required to have a safe and controlled in-person worship in the sanctuary. As we continue, there is much work to be done and we ask for your patience and understanding as we look forward to bringing worship back into our space.

Peace,
Kurt Biedermann

Restoration Team

Kurt Biedermann (Chair)
Mike Ericson
Heidi McKenzie
Brad Urban
Hunter Winner
Shannon Young



Limited, in-person worship on Sunday, October 18.



Outdoor parking lot worship service on Sunday, September 13.



Drive/Walk-thru Christmas experience on Sunday, December 20.

Drama Ministry

2020 Annual Report

Due to the pandemic, producing large-scale shows for our community has been put on hold. We look forward to the day we can be performing for you in person again soon. It's only an intermission!

Players and Planners Committee:

Karen Biedermann
Allison Doran
Beth Hoppe
Britt Mathern
Nikki Miller
Mandy Papenguth
Adam Reinke
Hannah Ruikka

Hospitality Committee

2020 Annual Report

The Hospitality Team really misses everyone! We had activities planned, we had fun to have, we had food to eat and friends to meet. Due to safety, we will keep the events on hold, until we can be together safely.

We will get started up again, to bring you monthly, seasonal and special events throughout the year.

If anyone has an idea, for an event, please let the office know and it will be passed onto us.

We are eager to be social, have fun activities, get reacquainted, pray together and just be normal again!

Thank you all for being patient and understanding in these difficult times.

The Hospitality Team:

Suzanne Ericson
Mark McKenzie
Wanda Hurtgen
Adam Reinke
Gary Martin
Barb Martin
Julie Urban
Virginia Collier
Caroline Newell
Corina Peterson (Retired)

Submitted By:
Julie Urban

St. Mark's Foundation

2020 Annual Report

Your Word is a light for my path. ~Psalm 119:105

The St. Mark's Church Foundation and its Board of Trustees had to learn how to navigate during the Covid-19 pandemic that everyone experienced this past year. Despite the pandemic's chaos, the Foundation Board continued its mission of conveying the Christian message to people through excellence in worship, education and the building of relationships, both within the church and out into the community.

One of the highlights for the Foundation Board was the grant request that we were able to fulfill that helped one of the community's most needed nonprofits, the North St. Paul Area Food Shelf. The food shelf was in dire need of additional refrigeration storage and the Foundation was able to grant them the amount needed to obtain that refrigeration unit.

The Foundation was able to award \$3,000 in grants during 2020 thanks to the generous donations from the congregation at St. Mark's and people in the community.

In addition to the grant given to the North St. Paul Area Food Shelf for the refrigeration storage unit, the Foundation awarded Jeanette Perrault a grant to help with expenses during her time of internship in Florida and gave Emily Ronsberg a grant to help with expenses during her seminary studies at Wartburg Seminary. The Foundation continues to work with church staff, the congregation and people in the community to find ways to help those in need.



Volunteers at the North St. Paul Area Food Shelf check out the new refrigeration storage

The Foundation was blessed in 2020 with financial gifts of \$6,441 through legacy gifts, donations, memorials, Thrivent Choice Dollars, Amazon Smile and employee matching gifts from Travelers, Wells Fargo Bank and US Bank. Despite the volatility in financial markets this year, the Foundation's investments returned solid gains. The finance committee works to maximize the return on investments through our financial advisor, creating the budget for the Foundation, and monitoring and reporting on the financial health of the assets of the Foundation.

The Foundation continued its commitment through 2020 to keep the congregation informed about the Foundation's progress and activities. The Foundation website is still a viable means of information for people to find out about the Foundation. The regular announcements about the Foundation are now found in the weekly updates from the church. "Foundation Week" also took on a different look, as it was an abbreviated message given on the first Sunday of October.

The Board of Trustees' meetings were held via teleconference or Zoom so the work of the Foundation could continue.

The 2020 St. Mark's Foundation Board of Trustees: President Terry Kapaun, Vice President Craig Sterling, Treasurer Tom Michel, Secretary Barb Michel, Jim Allen, Paul Ellefson, Kathy Hanon, Beth Jensen, Linda Kapaun, Rod Larkins, Steve Linder, Bill Pickett, John Pottratz, Pastor Mary Froiland and legal advisor Gerry Duffy.

The Foundation Board would like to thank Jim Allen and Beth Jensen for their hard work and dedication during their tenures on the Board of Trustees. They have indicated they will not be returning in 2021 and will be missed.

For more information about the Foundation, please browse the St. Mark's Foundation website at www.stmarksnspfoundation.com

Global Ministries

2020 Annual Report

Below is a summary of the Mission Committee's activities and accomplishments of 2020:

Soup Sunday – On January 26, a Soup Sunday fundraiser netted \$955 in proceeds to benefit Kiheisa Lutheran Church in Iringa, Tanzania and the REACH Home in Bapatla, India. Included in that total was Thrivent Financial support of \$250 to buy food and supplies through the Thrivent Financial Action Team program.

Tanzania

Tanzania Secondary Student and Other Sponsorships – In 2021, St. Mark's individuals or families will sponsor 20 Kiheisa secondary students at a rate of \$450 per year for room, board and tuition. \$9,000 in new funds were donated in late 2020 for secondary school sponsorships. In addition, \$500 in unused prior year funds will be used to support post-secondary students from the Iringa Diocese and \$500 will support secondary students from churches without partners in Tanzania.

Youth Bee Project – St. Mark's provided \$537 to support a youth bee hive project at Kiheisa.

Future multi-purpose building project – St. Mark's provided \$1,400 to level the ground to prepare for construction of a multi-purpose building on the Kiheisa site.

Life Skills Center – (Funds from Oehlke Trust) Equipment and supplies for the Life Skills Center - \$3,650 was funded from the Inez Oehlke Trust fund. Renovation of Compassion classrooms - \$1,194 was funded from the Inez Oehlke Trust fund.

Travel plans to Tanzania are still on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Wolf*

India

Thank you for your past and ongoing support of Reach Home and Orphanage in Bapatla, India. 2020 has been an eventful time for this ministry. In April, those children with any family went home for the end of the school year break. Those without family remained at Reach Home. While the children were away, the Indian government enacted Covid-19 restrictions banning all travel and closed all schools until further notice. This ban remains in place. Teachers and staff have continued the care and education of those children that remain at the home.

Kusuma Paul, co-founder of Reach Home, died on September 1. She is so deeply missed but, as planned, her legacy continues through her son, Regi Mortha, and his daughter, Rohini (Candy), who will continue to serve in Kusuma's role. The rest of the board of directors remains in place. All funds will continue to flow through St. Mark's Lutheran Church. My wife Angel and I travel to India periodically to ensure things continue to be well run.

Reach School is highly rated scholastically as compared to government schools in that area. Many of the children go on to careers in nursing, engineering, and the trades. These are opportunities they would not have without Reach Home. In addition, the children receive a healthy diet, clothing, medical, dental and vision care as needed. Your support makes all this possible. We are deeply grateful.

*Yours in Christ,
Pete Mogren*

Committee Members: *Jim & Betty Wolf, Pete & Angel Mogren, Betty Beane*

Personnel Committee

2020 Annual Report

The Personnel Committee is an Advisory Group. The responsibilities include:

- Develop Personnel Policies
- Conduct annual performance reviews for the Pastors
- Provide oversight on Personnel Matters
- Develop and update Employee job descriptions
- Provide annual budget for approval.

This past year was not a typical year. As you all are aware, we were not able to meet in our church home. Yet our dedicated staff, and some incredible volunteers, led by Pastor Mary, kept us going. They were relentless in ensuring that we, the members of St. Mark's, were kept informed of what was taking place at church; kept us updated on issues in our world today; and kept us spiritually fed with weekly church services and wonderful music.

Thank you so much to all the staff here at St. Mark's, the singers, the lay worship leaders, the production volunteers, especially Gary Martin, who has volunteered hundreds of hours, making sure we can watch the services and keeping us connected to our home church.

Thank you to Karen Biedermann, for heading up the outdoor, drive-up service. Karen wrote the program and organized the event, allowing us all to enjoy St. Mark's during the Christmas season.

Thank you to the dozens of Saturday Stewards, who keep St. Mark's fit and at the ready, for when we all can return. Special thanks to Sherry Berry and Mark McKenzie for heading this up each month.

Now, on with what Personnel has been involved with this past year:

- We have worked with the Church Council in updating the Ministry Site Profile. This is to help in the search of a new Associate Pastor.
- Two key staff members resigned this past year – Pastor Ivy Huston and Susie Modrow. We wish them both all our prayers, love and support, and our thanks as they move on in their work journeys.
- We assisted in hiring of Cory Jones, our Interim Youth Minister. We welcome Cory and appreciate all that he brings to our youth and families.
- We developed a budget for personnel, which was approved by the council.
- Job descriptions were updated.
- All staff reviews were completed by Pastor Mary.
- Exit interviews were performed for Pastor Ivy and Susie Modrow
- Staff appreciation lunch (off Site) was provided for the staff.

The Personnel Committee would also like to thank the volunteers who work in the office during the week. They are: Virginia Coller, Barb McNeely, Terri Borowick, Sandy Schewe, and Sue Fletcher. Their dedication has allowed us to keep our budget intact as well as having consistent presence in the reception area. We can not wait to see you return to the office once it is safe to do so.

Special thank you to previous Council President, Shannon Young for all her help during the year. Welcome Beth Ingberg as our new Council President.

The following are the members of the Personnel Team. I can not express, how dedicated, involved and knowledgeable, each one is to the Personnel Team: Julie Urban (Chair), Kelly Kleppe, Lynn Wyman, Caroline Newell and Suzanne Ericson

Stay Safe Everyone!

Property Committee

2020 Annual Report

Throughout 2020 the St. Mark's property committee was able to complete several projects in addition to ongoing maintenance of our facilities and grounds. Here is a short list of efforts that were accomplished during 2020, thanks to dedicated volunteers and property committee members.

Completed during 2020:

- Replaced Chapel roof and repaired windows (Special Fund Raising)
- Upgraded Sanctuary lighting to LED (BMI Fund)
- Removed 3 trees and stumps near sanctuary and Rees hall entrance
- Painted 4 exterior doors (125 Security)
- Repaired windows in back office and library (Special Fund Raising)
- Replaced trash and recycling receptacles throughout building (Ramsey County Grant)
- Repaired grate near Sanctuary entrance (Special Donation)
- Took delivery of a new floor buffer machine
- Replaced the Rees Hall refrigerator

Looking ahead to 2021:

- Replacement of a split rail fence (Eagle Project)
- Improvements to rain garden maintenance
- Sanctuary beam and baffle repairs
- Repairs to the office wing flat roof
- Installation of new rollup shed door

The Saturday Stewards is a group of hardworking volunteers who meet on the first Saturday of the month to provide a variety of services that help keep our indoor and outdoor facilities in shape. This year the volunteers worked on many outdoor projects including tree trimming, parking lot repair, safety items, general cleaning, and maintenance. They are always looking for additional people to join in the fun. Special thanks to Sherry Berry and Mark McKenzie for leading this group.

We are appreciative of the volunteers who devotedly contributed their time and talent to maintaining and improving the St. Mark's property during 2020. If you are interested in volunteering for upcoming property committee efforts, please let us know. We look forward to working together!

Respectfully submitted by the following property committee members:

Mike Clasen
Heather Fogelson
Gary Hook
Mark McKenzie
Rod Larkins
Brian Larson
Mark McKenzie
Sherry Berry – Recorder
Neil Knutson—Custodian
Heidi McKenzie—Co-chair
Hunter Winner—Co-chair / Custodian

Stewardship Committee

2020 Annual Report

The 2020 Stewardship Team had an exciting and busy year as the Team embarked on a new venture. To assist in St. Mark's ongoing stewardship efforts, the Church Council gave approval to partner with the outside consulting firm, Gronlund Sayther Brunkow (GSB) to provide their professional expertise and guidance in support of our stewardship process. Cost for the consulting services was \$2900 over a two year period.

GSB uses a model that helps lead congregations to an effective stewardship ministry which is a holistic, all-year, systematic process and not simply a once-a-year annual drive. The model is called Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS) and involves proven principles and methods which are customized to meet the needs of the individual congregations.

Working directly with a dedicated GSB consultant, St. Mark's Stewardship Team also engaged with thirteen Lutheran Churches in the surrounding area who also partnered with GSB and were using the SAS methodology. Numerous meetings were held virtually throughout the year to learn from the GSB consultant as well as from one another as churches shared their stewardship experiences, challenges and opportunities. This was very beneficial in helping our Stewardship Team to develop a process which best fits St. Mark's.



Utilizing the learnings from the above discussions, the Stewardship Team, under the leadership of Pastor Mary, determined the following for our 2021 Stewardship for All Seasons Appeal :

- Identified our theme: Growing Together In Love...Loving God, Loving Others
- Set our financial goal: Increase contributions by 10% over last year (which equates to \$50,000)
- Established our initiatives for new funds received:
 - Sustain and enhance our ministry excellence both now and in the future by ensuring sufficient funding for operational stability and, by upgrading our technology to enhance worship, communications, meetings and our overall on-line presence.
 - Contribute to the mission of the larger church in the world by reigniting our partnership with Luther Seminary to once again serve as an internship site. This will enable interns to receive mentorship and real world experience, along with assisting St. Mark's in our ministries. Goal is to have a new intern in place by late summer 2021.
 - Share the good news of Jesus Christ and invite people into the community of faith at St. Mark's. Engage in intentional outreach in new and meaningful ways to attract new North St. Paul residents.

A rollout strategy was then developed by the Stewardship Team which identified tactics and timelines. As with any new appeal, a key element is having a comprehensive communications plan in place. At St. Mark's, we are indeed fortunate to have a talented Communications Coordinator, Ann Mott, who along with Pastor Mary, spearheaded this effort in a very successful manner. Activities included:

- Drafting Introductory letters to the congregation
- Development of a Fall Stewardship Appeal brochure
- Developing a new Statement of Intent card
- Producing three Temple Talk videos to help highlight our three initiatives and to set the stage for our Kick-Off Sunday on November 11 and our Intent Card Sunday on November 22. Lindsey Bina, Mike Erickson and Bob Engwer performed the narratives with Gary Martin, St. Mark's technical guru, doing an excellent job with the production.
- Follow up emails were drafted to remind members of the Appeal.
- Sending hand written Thank You notes to those who donated and returned their Letter of Intent cards.

Another integral part of the process was trying to identify (a) appropriate gift levels and (b) number of current and potential givers for the 2021 Appeal. Helene Doran, St. Mark's Finance Associate, did an excellent job on this difficult task. Results of those efforts were then incorporated into the communications to St. Mark's members.

The above is just a small sampling of the many efforts the Stewardship Team and the church staff performed to ensure St. Mark's had a positive outcome for our 2021 Fall Stewardship Appeal.

As of this writing, the Stewardship Team is happy to announce we had very good success and are thankful for the generosity of St. Mark's members. We are especially grateful in light of all the challenges people faced throughout 2020 with Covid-19. Results show the following:

- Total Dollar Increase: \$30,935 (62% of our goal)
- Number of Intent Cards Received: 155 (25% increase from last year)
 - Number of Increased Intents: 90 (58%)
 - Number of Same Intents: 56 (36%)
 - Number of Decreased Intents: 9 (6%)

The results have been shared with the Finance Committee and the Church Council and will be incorporated into the 2021 budget discussions. Final approval of the 2021 Budget will be made at St. Mark's Annual Meeting on January 31.

As we move forward in 2021, the Stewardship Team plans to continue utilizing the Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS) model – its methodology and tools – to help drive St. Mark's stewardship efforts throughout the year with a goal of encouraging the ongoing engagement of our members time, energy, creativity, and financial offerings.

Respectfully Submitted,
St. Mark's Stewardship Team

Pastor Mary Froiland
Betty Beane
Bob Engwer
Kathy Hanon

Beth Jensen
Kelly Kleppe
Rod Larkins

Women of St. Mark's

2020 Annual Report

Ministry Vision: As an organization of Christian women, we encourage all women to grow in their faith, be of service to others and engage in fellowship with other women.

The Women of St. Mark's are a part of the St. Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization and the Women of the ELCA. We have four Bible study groups that meet monthly (September-May) for Bible study and fellowship. We remember St. Mark's shut-ins with cards and small gifts throughout the year. Cards of support are sent to St. Mark's women in the military and to women in God's service. The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets monthly to knit/crochet comforting shawls for those in need. We choose Secret Prayer Sisters to pray for and remember throughout the year. Monetary support is given to the North St. Paul Food Shelf, Polar Packs/ Polar Den at North High School, Feed My Starving Children, REACH orphanage in India, Kihasa Student Support in Tanzania and the Tanzania Water Project.

In addition, we plan the following events. All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend.

- January-March – Quilting on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. St. Mark's dedicated women completed 59 quilts in 5 sessions this year. *Quilting is currently on hold, but will resume when safe to gather again.*
- January – "Cabin Fever Game Day." Six women enjoyed an afternoon of games, snacks and fellowship.
- January – Winter essentials collection of jackets, hats, mittens, scarves, gift cards and toiletries were collected for Lutheran Social Service Metro Homeless Youth.
- February – Fifteen people attended *Guys and Dolls*, presented by Ashland Productions at the Maplewood Community Center. Dinner followed at Acapulco restaurant.
- The Prayer Shawl Ministry is not currently meeting, but members continue to knit and crochet shawls at home. 15 shawls were completed and blessed last fall.
- The 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women was recognized. We especially honored pastors, interns and students from St. Mark's. A monetary gift was given to Luther Seminary Scholarship Fund for Women in Ministry.
- The Woman of St. Mark's also participated in a Women's Synodical Soup Luncheon. Sandy Iverson shared how their church became a sanctuary congregation and welcomed a family from Nigeria.
- Other events, including the Women's Synodical Convention and Triennial Convention, were cancelled or postponed.
- Many of our monthly Bible Study meeting were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We made an appeal to consider giving an offering so we could fulfill our budgeted obligations. We received a generous response of \$1,240 which was enough to fulfill our obligations plus make a gift to Second Harvest Heartland. What a blessing!
- The Collection Cupboard is located in Rees Hall. Items collected include pop tabs, eyeglasses and kits/projects for the women's organization. *Bar soap and Boxtops for Education are no longer being accepted.*

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Collier, Chairperson

Committee Members: Sherry Berry, Sue Fletcher, Darlene Dent and Bible Study representatives.

Women of St. Mark's Financial Report

2020 Annual Report

Prepared by Sue Fletcher

CASH ON HAND 12-31-2019	\$ 4,020.29
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RECEIPTS

CIRCLE OFFERING (January - April, November - December)	\$ 541.00
COVID offering (May - October)	\$ 1,240.00
ADVENT BRUNCH - 2019	\$ 15.00
MEMORIALS AND GIFTS	\$ 20.00
MEMORIALS AND GIFTS TO PRAYER SHAWLS	\$ 25.00
PLAY OUTINGS - 2019	\$ 110.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR 2020	\$ 1,951.00

DISBURSEMENTS

WELCA OFFERING	\$ 650.00
TRIENNIAL OFFERING - 2018 and 2019	\$ 150.00
NORTH ST. PAUL FOOD SHELF	\$ 175.00
ST. PAUL PARTNERS	\$ 75.00
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN	\$ 100.00
2ND HARVEST HEARTLAND	\$ 200.00
ST. MARKS LUTHERAN CHURCH (office supplies donation)	\$ 150.00
POLAR PACKS	\$ 150.00
INDIA ORPHANAGE	\$ 150.00
INDIA ORPHANAGE CHRISTMAS GIFTS	\$ 50.00
TANZANIA STUDENT SPONERSHIP	\$ 125.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$ 19.95
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (CAROL STUMME MEMORIAL)	\$ 50.00
LUTHER SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$ 200.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 2,244.95

BALANCE 12-31-2020	\$ 3,726.34
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SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

QUILTING	\$ 1,727.03
PRAYER SHAWLS	\$ 230.58
CRAFT DAY	\$ 87.75
TRIENNIAL 2020 set aside	\$ 75.00
CAPITAL FUND RESERVE	\$ 325.00
BALANCE AFTER SPECIAL ACCOUNTS	\$ 1,280.98

Minutes: St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 26, 2020

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Action
Establish Quorum / Call to Order	Quorum obtained at 10:44 AM	Called to order at 10:51 AM by Shannon Young. The soup staff was recognized and thanked.
Opening Prayer		Pr. Ivy Huston
Review of 2019 and What's Next	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition of Pr. Mary Froiland's second annual meeting as pastor and a thank you for a good year St. Mark's is in a much healthier financial situation at this point Adjustments were made for more involvement of congregation There were the changes in worship times and adult forum Columbarium recognized as a sacred space There had been a plethora of fixes and maintenance to the building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanctuary roof, 100+ steam traps, parking lot, sewer issues, and room renovations. New partnerships with Head Start, Genesis East, and social ministries have made St. Mark's a welcoming and hospitable congregation There were highlights from the caring ministries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSP High; NSP Area Food Shelf; pop-up farmer's market; global partnerships including India REACH Home, Tanzania - Bega Kwa Bega, and Rwandan program. Looking ahead: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to address declining attendance. As a community, we need to reach out to past members and our local North St. Paul community As NSP grows, we too need to be a place for new families Stewardship will be a focus, especially through our participation in Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS) beginning in February Worship experience will also need to develop, especially for 	Pr. Mary Froiland

	<p>the second Sunday service and Wednesday night service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Music ministry, under the guidance of Dorothea Jirsa and Trevor Wolter Ternez, will also continue to develop o Overall, St. Mark's congregation is solid and as we find ways to grow, how do we get families and inter-generations to worship together even more so? 	
Annual Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the Meeting Minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting • Nominating Committee report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Election of church council members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dan Colberg, Beth Ingberg, and Adam Reinke o Election of Synod Assembly voting members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Kurt Biedermann, Jenn Luong, Carol Yahr, Steve Yahr o Election of Auditors" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dave Benck and Tammy Peterson o Election of Treasurer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Kelly Nickell • Thank you for your service. The outgoing members of the Council were recognized. They were Gary Hook and Alan Wyman. The outgoing Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, Kelly Kleppe was also recognized. • Sexual Harassment Policy on file in the office 	<p>Motion by Adam Reinke, seconded by Mike Erickson to approve the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting. All were in favor.</p> <p>Karen Biedermann introduced Council nominees, Synod Assembly voting members, the Auditor nominees, and the Treasurer nominee.</p> <p>Nominations by voice affirmation instead of written ballot. Approved.</p> <p>We are required to make an annual notification and review of this policy.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. Mark's Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Terry Kapaun notified congregation of grants awarded in 2019. ○ \$3600 was awarded in 2019, specifically by assisting the youth adventure trip, expenses for "Worship on the Farm", Jeanette Perrault's Clinical Pastoral education fees, Emily Ronsberg as she volunteers in Rwanda through the YAGM program, and gift cards for the Polar backpack program. ● Review of 2018 Audit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The internal audit of the books passed. Thank you to the auditors for their time spent. Tammy Peterson and Dave Benck. ○ St. Mark's needs to consider training someone to fill Helene Doran's position when she decides to step down in the future. ● Review of 2019 Finances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ St. Mark's ended the year with \$7582.92 in black. ○ At the start of the year there was \$3500 in cash, and now ending the year with total cash of \$11,168.96. ○ 2019 was the first balanced budget in recent past. ● Discussion and Adoption of 2020 Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Income: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduced to match more closely with actual received in 2019 ■ Full revenue streams from space utilization ○ Expenses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Generally flat against 2019 spending ■ All committee requests considered ○ Personnel Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Personnel is 66% of budget ■ Thank you to volunteers 	<p>Motion made by Betty Beane and seconded by Brittany Mathern to approve 2020 budget. Approved.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning Receptionist transitioned to volunteer coverage • Hospitality transitioned to Hospitality Committee and volunteers • CYF duties transitioned to CYF Team and volunteers • Musicians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Does not include intern ■ Includes a 2% pay increase for staff ■ Includes increase in music stipends ○ Property: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7% increase to reflect estimated cost increases in most line items ○ Repayment plan for roof ○ Increase in Benevolence ○ SAS will be paid by the interest from Gifts and Memorial Fund ○ REALM will be paid through the building and maintenance of the Gifts and Memorials Fund ○ Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dick Dolby: Is this the last year for the lighting project line item expense? (Yes) ■ Pr. Mary reiterated the budget proposal is keeping the contribution line item flat, though there's been a 3% decrease in gifts/tithes/offering in the past few years. • New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mark McKenzie discussed ways to help through hospitality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There are different parts to hospitality. One such event is the March 7th service event/potluck to give St. Mark's 	
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	<p>a deep-cleaning of the building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Another area to work on is inviting new people to St. Mark's in order to sustain membership. ■ Finally, be open to bringing new ideas to the table to create opportunities for St. Mark's to grow together. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gary Hook discussed the importance of building maintenance, specifically repairing the chapel roof. There is exposed decking and we need to repair in the next couple of months. Gary will be general contractor and will order supplies. As of now, Gary has raised about \$13,000 internally from St. Mark's. He is requesting the congregation consider contributing to reach roughly \$25,000 for overall repair, and any extra money would go toward the repayment of the sanctuary roof expense. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pete Mogren: How many people contribute so far? (12) He also urged the present congregation to contribute. ■ Dick Dolby: Is \$25,000 for total repair? (Yes) ○ Candy Petersen recognized both Pr. Mary and Pr. Ivy in their leadership over the last few years as we have turned our budget around. ○ Sherry Berry recognized Council for their efforts in the last year. 	
Closing Prayer and adjourn	Closing prayer by Pr. Mary	<p>Motion by Pete Mogren and seconded by Beth Ingberg to adjourn at 11:43 AM - all in favor.</p>

Respectfully submitted by Josh Hirman, Council secretary