



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

April 8, 2020



Holy Week Online Worship Services

Maundy Thursday	Thursday afternoon, April 9
Good Friday	Friday afternoon, April 10
Easter	Sunday morning, April 12

During this time of sheltering in place and social distancing, I have found myself drawn back to this quote about uncertainty and our call to live fully within it.

"Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer."

- Rainer Maria Rilke

Living in uncertainty and yet being called to live everything seem to contradict one another and yet that is the tension in which we are living in during this COVID-19 pandemic. Stay home. Be still. Figure out how to do your work from home while tending to your children. Figure out how to not become bored or depressed or desperate when you live alone. Ask the questions but don't demand the answers to them because you aren't ready to receive them....yet. We are in uncertain times with mounting worries and multiply fears as our world pivots from face to face community to distance learning, social separation and worshipping from afar. And we may be coming face to face with the worst still to come.

The prophet Jeremiah reminds us and the beloved ones in exile that God has not forgotten us nor has God neglected us. He speaks on God's behalf saying:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," (Jeremiah 29: 11-14a)

As we enter into Holy Week under the cloud of confusion and concern for ourselves and the world in which live, we are called to walk the path with Jesus, through his final days which lead to the cross. We invite you into the story this year, with a prayer that God would open our eyes and hearts to a new way of seeing- a new perspective- a new way of navigating this life together while apart.

Please join us online for worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and help is to celebrate what God has done to bring about wholeness and hope, redemption and resurrection as we celebrate Easter- apart yet together.

Peace be with you.

Pastor Ivy

Need to talk?

If you have concerns, needs, or just want to chat, please feel free to contact one of the pastors:

Pastor Mary

Cell: 608-295-5401

Email: primaryf@stmarks-nsp.org

Pastor Ivy

Cell: 651-398-1596

Email: privyh@stmarks-nsp.org

Live Musical Preludes

Trevor Wolter Ternez will continue to provide live preludes
Facebook:

Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm: *If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee* arr. (John Leavitt), *In Church* (Tchaikovsky), *I Need Thee Every Hour* (Charles Callahan) and *The Lord's Prayer* (arr. Lorie Line)

Good Friday at 12:05 pm: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (arr. Phillip Keveren), *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (arr. John Kraus), *Near the Cross* (arr. Lorie Line), *Give Me Jesus* (arr. Paul Johnson), and *Where You There?* (arr. Cindy Berry).

Just visit St. Mark's Facebook page and click Play to watch and listen. If you're not able to watch live, the video will also be available to watch on Facebook afterwards.
www.facebook.com/stmarksnsp/

Exciting upgrade at St. Mark's

Thanks to the initiative of Hunter Winner, St. Mark's has received a grant of \$9317.20, to upgrade trash and recycling receptacles around our facility. The grant comes from Ramsey County through partnership with BizRecycling and the MN Chamber of Commerce. The grant provides funding to add and update interior and exterior containers. Additionally, the grant provides a one-year supply of trash and recycling can liners for all St. Mark's waste receptacles.

Church Office

In light of the Governor extending the Stay at Home order, the church offices will continue to be closed and pastors and staff will continue working from home as much as possible. Please call or email staff as you have need.

Dorothea Jirsa: dorotheaj@stmarks-nsp.org

Trevor Wolter Ternez: trevorw@stmarks-nsp.org

Heidi McKenzie: heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org

Helene Doran: helened@stmarks-nsp.org

Ann Mott: annm@stmarks-nsp.org

Susie Modrow: susiem@stmarks-nsp.org

Hunter Winner: hunter@stmarks-nsp.org

Neil Knutson: neilk@stmarks-nsp.org

Heather Winner: heatherw@stmarks-nsp.org

In Sympathy

Our prayers are with the family & friends of Leann Glenna, who passed away on Palm Sunday. A memorial service will be held at a later date. May the Easter promise of resurrection comfort those who mourn.

Financial Support for Congregations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

At its meeting on March 19, just as we were beginning the statewide shutdown and had suspended in-person worship services, the council voted to continue paying all staff members at their budgeted rates even if they were unable to come in to the church to work. This is a commitment we plan to continue for the duration of this crisis.

At this point in time, even though we are not together, the folks of St. Mark's have stepped up to send in their offerings via mail or electronically. Thank you for your generous support of this church and ministry we all love. We are in pretty good financial shape right now.

Recognizing, however, that there is great uncertainty about how soon things will get back to "normal", how unemployment will impact people's ability to give to their church, whether our tenants will be able to continue paying their rent, etc., the council and finance committee held a special meeting Tuesday evening via Zoom to discuss the following:

As part of the economic response to the COVID-19 crisis, Congress passed and President Trump signed into law the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act**. The primary financial aid offered under this Act that is applicable to churches is the **Paycheck Protection Program**. This program authorizes up to \$349 billion in forgivable loans to organizations to pay their employees during the ongoing pandemic.

In the face of the current climate of uncertainty, the council and finance committee felt it would be a responsible act to apply for this loan to ensure that we could continue to meet payroll and cover utility costs for the next few months. If the funds received are spent on payroll and utilities within 2 months of receipt, and if no one has been laid off, the loan is forgivable. The application is being submitted today. It is not certain how much money we will receive or if we will receive any at all, but we wanted you to be aware that we have done this. We will keep you posted on any further developments.

Internship News

Susie Modrow and Jenn Luong have just received news of their Internship sites for this coming year. Susie has been assigned to Oak Grove Lutheran Church, Richfield, and Jenn has been assigned to Campus Ministry at Augsburg University, Minneapolis. Both of these Internships are scheduled to begin mid-August and run for a year. We celebrate with Jenn and Susie as they anticipate this next step on their journey toward ordination as Pastors in the ELCA.