



**Saint Mark's**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

# Weekly Update

April 23, 2020

This week, the reality of the length of days for this COVID 19 outbreak has come to bear. This isn't just a few weeks but a change of lifestyle – a change of what business as usual will look like not just in the short term but for months. And as we wrestle with what that means for our daily lives alongside how it effects our lived life together as the church of God, we are still discerning a path forward. And yet, as Pastor Mary has shared with many of us, God only promises to illumine the next step forward, not the whole path. Or to quote Princess Anna from *Frozen 2* – it's to do the next right thing.

So with those thoughts in mind, the leadership and staff at St. Mark's are making adjustments as we do the next right thing. In an effort to provide ways of connecting to one another, we are providing several opportunities beyond worship to stay in touch:

- **NEW: Friday morning Coffee & Conversation with the pastors.** This will take place via Zoom weekly at 10:00 am, beginning tomorrow, April 24 and will include a brief preview of the Sunday morning scripture passages and check in time. All are welcome! ***The live link is included in the email accompanying this update.***

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://tinyurl.com/y9dfxwqu>

Meeting ID: 870 2565 8262

Password: 486201

- Worship experiences on Wednesdays and Sundays broadcast through Facebook (facebook.com/stmarksns/) and our YouTube channel (St. Mark's Lutheran Church NSP).
- Tuesday morning Bible study with Pastor Mary via zoom: The group meets at 8:30 for an hour of reflection and conversation. If you are interested in participating, email Pastor Mary and she will send you the Zoom invite.
- Weekly Thursday Email Update provides current information about activities and ways to connect with St. Mark's and the greater community.
- Our essential committees and council are continuing to meet via Zoom to conduct church business and our staff is meeting weekly online.
- Susie and Pastor Ivy have been reaching out to the youth and families of the church and will continue to touch base with our kids throughout the time of social distancing.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us with these words that even as we navigate the uncertain path, we are not alone and do not need to be afraid.

“Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you. I've called your name. You're mine.

When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end—Because I am God...That's how much I love you!... “So don't be afraid: I'm with you. (Isaiah 43, MSG)

Holding to God's peace,  
Pastor Ivy

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## 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](mailto:primaryf@stmarks-nsp.org)

**Pastor Ivy**

Cell: 651-398-1596

Email: [privyh@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:privyh@stmarks-nsp.org)

## Payroll Protection Plan Update

Two weeks ago we informed you that the council and finance committee had voted to apply for a Payroll Protection Plan loan. As a reminder, this PPP loan is a government support program intended to assist small businesses and non-profit organizations (like churches) during this time of economic uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

*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.*

Our loan application was granted and we have received sufficient funds to cover payroll expenses and some utilities for the next 8 weeks. The full amount of the loan is forgivable if it is used for these purposes, paid out within the 8 week time frame, and no one is laid off. We are grateful for our government's foresight in recognizing the value of the faith community, and for the ongoing strong support of the folks of St. Mark's, who continue to contribute to the ministry and mission of our congregation.

## Online Worship Services & Facebook Live Sunday Preludes

Worship services will continue to be posted on Wednesdays and Sundays for the foreseeable future. Please join us when you are able. Trevor Wolter Ternez goes Live on Facebook on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am to provide prelude music and his following continues to grow. Greet one another in the comments section...it's a fun way to connect with your church friends.

## North High in need of Cub cards for Polar Pack families

Being Jesus to our neighbors is a value of St. Mark's. It's hard to do as we shelter in place, but our neighbors have a need and we can help! North High is offering breakfast/lunch, but families without transportation have been unable to access this food. They may be lacking consistent dinners. We would like to provide families with gift cards to Cub. (Cub is able to deliver groceries to their doorsteps.) Please consider making a financial gift online to support our neighbors. **Just go to [stmarks-nsp.org](https://stmarks-nsp.org) and click on the green Contribute Online button. Select Polar Packs to direct your gift.** *Thanks to those of you who have already supported this ministry partnership.*

## Garden Gift Cards

The Garden Team has Bachman's (\$10 & \$25) and Gertens (\$25) gift cards for your spring planting. Bachman's cards are good for anything they sell and Gertens cards are for green and growing items only. To purchase the gift cards, please let us know what you need and we can arrange a safe way to get them to you. Contact Sherry at 651-777-6704 or Wanda at 651-770-1905. Proceeds are used to maintain and improve the gardens at St. Mark's. Thank you for your support.

## Watching services on your smart TV

If you have YouTube on your TV, you can access the services and watch on a bigger screen. Note: we have changed the name of the YouTube channel to **St. Mark's Lutheran Church NSP**.

For example, if you use xfinity:

1. Press the xfinity button on your remote.
2. Select "apps"
3. Select YouTube
4. Select "search" (the little magnifying glass)
5. Type the **number/letter combination after the "/" from the video URL** into the search box (not case sensitive). The video should appear at the bottom of the screen.  
Or search **St. Mark's Lutheran Church NSP**, then select the button to see all the uploaded videos and subscribe to the channel. *Side note: who knew there were so many St. Mark's out there?!*
6. Just click on a video to watch.

## Council Corner - April 16 meeting

We hope this message finds you and your family well. Council met in April via Zoom.

- The Children, Youth, and Family program continues to build community virtually.
- The Finance committee reports healthy budget numbers for the month of March as well as YTD. St. Mark's was also approved for our federal Paycheck Protection Program application (*see article in left column for more details*).
- The Personnel committee, and Council, would like to recognize Gary Martin for his extraordinary time, effort, and expertise in shifting St. Mark's services online.
- The Chapel roof is currently being repaired as well as some of the office windows. The maintenance and repair of our building continues even during these times.
- As St. Mark's moves into its virtual presence, please find hope and peace where you may, with each other and within our community.

The complete meeting minutes are available in the church office after they are approved at the following meeting. The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2020 at