



**Saint Mark's**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

# Weekly Update

April 30, 2020

*My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*  
ELW #763

Dear Friends,

I am thankful for the gift of technology! It keeps us connected during this time we cannot be together face to face. It makes it possible for us to do the ongoing work of the congregation from our homes. Most of our church meetings are continuing via Zoom. Many of our Bible studies now meet in this way. I am especially grateful for the Congregational Check-in time that is occurring on Friday mornings at 10:00. Last Friday was the first morning we tried this and it was good to be together. We were able to see one another's beautiful, smiling faces, in real time. We were able to share a cup of coffee and reflect on God's presence in our lives. It was a highlight of my week and lifted my spirits. We will meet again tomorrow at 10:00. If you have internet availability but have not yet taken the "Zoom leap," I urge you to do so. It is a vital tool for staying connected during this time of social distancing. Seeing you and talking to you is one of the things that makes my heart sing above the lamentation of life right now.

Join the Zoom Congregational Check-In on Fridays at 10:00 am:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9dfxwqu> (or just open Zoom on your computer/tablet/phone if you already have it downloaded)

Meeting ID: 870 2565 8262

Password: 486201

Life is taking on a new rhythm. Work, school, community, look different than we are used to. We are unsure how long this new way of being in the world and with each other will continue. For some, particularly the most vulnerable among us, it will probably last longer than for others, but I think we all feel like we are settling in for the long haul. There are difficult aspects of this new way of being, and there are welcome aspects as well. As we continue to walk this new path, I pray the hard things will become easier and the good things will be recognized and carried into our life together post COVID-19.

Pastor Ivy selected the above song as part of our worship service last Sunday, and it has been echoing in my head and heart since we recorded it last Saturday. We are certainly well aware of "earth's lamentation" these days, and I must admit that I don't always feel much like singing. This beautiful hymn, however, reminds us of the calm we can find when we hang on to the one who is our Rock in these tumultuous times. May we all find ways to "catch the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation." After all, we are well aware that God can and does bring new life out of the most difficult circumstances!

God's peace and good health,  
*Pastor Mary*

---

## 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)

## 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.

## Thank you for your generosity


Thanks to those of you who have donated, we have raised about \$1000! Because we are unable to physically fill the Polar Packs during this time, the families depending on this program will now depend on these Cub cards. North High is offering breakfast/lunch, but families without transportation have been unable to access this food. They may also be lacking consistent dinners. Cub is able to deliver groceries to their doorsteps. Please continue to support our neighbors as you are able. **Just go to [stmarks-nsp.org](http://stmarks-nsp.org) and click on the green Contribute Online button. Select Polar Packs to direct your gift.** *You may also send a check to the church, with "Polar Packs" in the memo line.*

## 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. Mother's Day is coming up on May 12 and these cards make great gifts! 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.

## YouTube Tips

**YouTube channel:** Once at [youtube.com](http://youtube.com), search for **St. Mark's Lutheran Church NSP**, then select the button to see all the uploaded videos and subscribe to the channel.

**Subtitles:** If you are having trouble hearing the service, you can turn on subtitles. Just go to the little gear icon  (usually in the upper right or lower left corner) and select settings. Then select subtitles. Be forewarned, sometimes the words may not match exactly...especially during the scripture readings. But for the most part, it's pretty accurate.

## Community Prays email is being sent out again

Each week, an email list of prayers for our community and people within is sent to help guide our prayer times and encourage us to be holding one another in prayer.

**If you are not already signed up, and would like to receive the Community Prays email**, or if you have a prayer request to be added to the list, contact Heidi at [heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org).

## Electronic Giving

If you have not already set up electronic giving, now would be a great time to do so! Follow the link on [stmarks-nsp.org](http://stmarks-nsp.org) to get started. You can find the link at the bottom of the home page, or under the "About" tab. It's easy, secure, and provides for the support of St. Mark's ministries even when we can't be together. Once at the VANCO site, select "set up profile."

## Staff Emails

Staff members will only be working from home until the Shelter in Place order is lifted. If you need to reach any of the St. Mark's staff, contact information is below:

### Music

Dorothea Jirsa: [dorotheaj@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:dorotheaj@stmarks-nsp.org)  
Trevor Wolter Ternez: [trevorw@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:trevorw@stmarks-nsp.org)

### Office

Heidi McKenzie: [heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org)  
Helene Doran: [helened@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:helened@stmarks-nsp.org)  
Ann Mott: [annm@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:annm@stmarks-nsp.org)

### Youth Ministry

Susie Modrow: [susiem@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:susiem@stmarks-nsp.org)

### Custodial

Hunter Winner: [hunter@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:hunter@stmarks-nsp.org)  
Neil Knutson: [neilk@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:neilk@stmarks-nsp.org)  
Heather Winner: [heatherw@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:heatherw@stmarks-nsp.org)

## In need of a helping hand?

If you know of anyone in the congregation who may need help running errands, or just a check-in phone call, please contact Pastor Mary or Pastor Ivy. We have some volunteers lined up who are able to run errands such as picking up groceries for those in need.