



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

April 9, 2021

Dear friends,

The Easter hope and joy continues! It was wonderful to gather with so many of you in person on Easter Sunday morning! We couldn't have asked for better weather and the turnout was wonderful! A rough estimate is that about 200 people attended in person. So good to see familiar faces and some visitors as well. Thanks to all who made it possible: custodians, musicians, techies, Restoration Team members, and so many more volunteers and participants. It warmed my heart!

We are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel in terms of this pandemic reality we have been living with for the past year. As more and more of us become fully vaccinated, we will be able to hang out together and even gather in doors. Remember, every vaccine given benefits all of us! Do it for your own wellbeing, but even more for the good of our communities and world.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Pastor Mary

Joys

We celebrate with Jim and Debbie Martin on the arrival of their granddaughter, Hannah Louise Martin, daughter of Dan and Megan Martin, on March 31.

Also, Bonnie Myers is thrilled to announce the birth of her grandson, William Jack Hirte, son of Allan and Tessa Hirte, on April 2.

And Eleanor Renee Walters was born on Good Friday, the daughter of Brad Walters and Courtney Setzer.

We give thanks for the gift of new life and the hope and promise each of these little ones bring!

Congregational Zoom Check-in:

Coffee & Conversation – Fridays at 10:00 am

Check in with Pastor Mary and your other friends from St. Mark's via Zoom each Friday morning at 10:00, for conversation and a quick peek at the upcoming Sunday's sermon texts. All are welcome! Readings for this week are: [Acts 4:32-35](#) and [John 20:19-31](#)

<https://tinyurl.com/rb3fykuw>
Meeting ID: 876 0860 5754
Passcode: 544807



All-Congregation Grounds Clean-up

Postponed until May 1

The grounds are just too wet for effective clean-up this weekend, so we are changing the date to **Saturday, May 1**. Everyone is invited to join your fellow congregation members to help with the clean-up beginning at 9:00 a.m. Suggested items to bring are gloves, rakes, shovels and if possible, a broom. Also, some trees may be trimmed so if you have pruners, etc. they would be useful. To avoid confusion, please mark your tools, etc. for easy identification when we are done. We will welcome pickups or trailers for hauling to the compost site in St. Paul. Hope to see you on May 1!

Gift Cards

Spring is here and Easter is just a week away. The Garden Team has Bachman's (\$10 & \$25) and Gertens (\$25) gift cards available for your holiday purchases. Pansies and Easter lilies plus other plants are available for your decorating or gift giving. Bachman's are good for all items they sell and Gertens for green and growing. Contact Sherry at 651-777-6704 and I can arrange getting the cards to you. Thank you for supporting the Garden Team.

Forming Garden Team

St. Mark's is forming a gardening team to help with the church gardens. The team responsibilities include spring and fall clean-up, plantings, weeding, watering and any other gardening related projects. No garden experience is needed! Gardening takes place between April and October and usually takes one to two hours per week. Sign up starts May 1. Call Sherry Berry at 651-777-6704 or Wanda Hurtgen at 651-770-1905.

5K-As-You-Can for Shobi's Table—May 22

Help support Shobi's Table – a Lutheran ministry working to feed St. Paul through its pay-as-you-can food truck. Gather your friends and family to participate in a "5K-As-You-Can" the week of May 16-22. Participants can do their 5K anywhere, anytime, at their own pace. Whether you walk, run, ride, or roll, your donation (of any amount) will help us continue to serve meals each week and continue to add serving sites. On Saturday, May 22, Shobi's Table will host a community lunch (location TBA) from 11am-2pm, and provide nearby routes to do a 5K that day. Registration fee is pay-as-you-can (any registration fee \$25 or higher comes with a Shobi's Table t-shirt!). Register or learn more at:
shobistable.org/5k-as-you-can/

An Invitation from Bishop Patricia Lull

Our Bishop, Patricia Lull, has called the congregations of the Saint Paul Area Synod, to join her during these 50 days of Easter on *The Road Toward Racial Justice*. Here is an excerpt from her invitation:

"Now, with the joy of Easter before us and the promise of greater safety to gather in person in new ways, it is time to step into a time of wrestling with the consequences of racism in a bolder way. During the 50 days of the Easter season this year, I invite you personally to join me in making a commitment to an ongoing initiative to address racism in all its forms, to seek God's help in changing our own attitudes and practices that are racist, and to examine and change those habits and actions that have estranged us from one another."

You can read her entire message at spas-elca.org and select the "From the Bishop" link.

If you are looking for ways to begin or continue on this anti-racism path, here's an event that will be helpful:

American Indian Boarding Schools (2-Part Online Event) Saturdays, April 17 (3-5 p.m.) & May 8 (9-11 a.m.)

From the moment the first ship reached the shores of the Americas, the Church has been a force of colonization, causing pain and suffering for Indigenous peoples. One particular colonial endeavor that caused lasting trauma, from which Indigenous communities are still recovering, is Indian Boarding Schools. With the motto "Kill the Indian, and save the man," (Capt. Richard H. Pratt, 1892) these schools were the federal government's chosen method of forced assimilation. Most of these schools were run by the Church.

In 2016 the ELCA repudiated the doctrine of discovery, calling for the worshipping communities, synods and the denomination as whole "...to acknowledge and repent from this church's complicity in the evils of colonialism in the Americas..."(CA16.02.04). As part of this work, the Saint Paul Area Synod's Advocates for Racial Equity work group, in partnership with the Minneapolis Area Synod and the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, is offering a two-part Indian Boarding Schools 101 presentation and discussion.

Part One (April 17): Indian Board Schools 101 - Presenter Vance Blackfox, director of public relations for the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, will provide an in-depth history lesson of the harms of these boarding schools, the role of the church in these schools and what steps we might take toward healing.

Part Two (May 8): Story Sharing - Individuals who spent time in Indian Boarding Schools will share about their experiences.

Complete a brief register form for this online event at:
<https://tinyurl.com/42bdhc8d>