



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

July 1, 2021

*This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

*My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, o God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.*

Dear friends,

As we enter the 4th of July holiday weekend, I share with you the words of one of my favorite hymns, *This is my Song*. This is a national song of Finland, but equally a song for all nations and all people. It speaks of hopes, dreams, and aspirations that are universal, transcending all barriers, borders and divisions. As we celebrate our nation and the freedoms so many of us enjoy, we also look to that day when the reign of God will be realized among us, and we will indeed live in peace.

*This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms, your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you, and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations; myself I give you; let your will be done.*

ELW #887

God's Peace,
Pastor Mary

Sunday, July 4

Pastor Mary will be on vacation June 30 – July 6. On Sunday, July 4, Pastor Steve Nelson will be leading us in worship and preaching. We are grateful for his presence with us and willingness to serve. Our service will be held outdoors in the main parking lot. We hope you can join us!

Office closed on Monday, July 5, in observance of the 4th of July holiday

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

We won't be meeting for Bible study on July 6. Pastor Mary is on vacation. See you July 13th.

Welcoming our new Pastor

We are happy to report that Pastor David's wife, Anna, has been offered and accepted a teaching position at North High School. This is wonderful news! David and Anna are looking for recommendations for childcare options in the area for Desmond (4) and Julian (2). If you know of some good places, please let us know in the office and we will get the information to them. We are excited to welcome them to our community!

Church Office Hours

There will be a volunteer at the reception desk Monday thru Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. However, since staff hours vary, it is best to call ahead if you need to speak with a specific staff member.

Phased return to in-person worship has begun!

- **Sunday, June 13, 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25 and August 8, 15, 22, 29, and September 5** we will have **in-person** worship in the sanctuary at 9 am. Masks encouraged.
- **Sunday, July 4 and August 1** we will have an **outdoor** parking lot service at 9 am. You may bring lawn chairs or remain in your car and listen to the service over our FM transmitter.
- **Sunday, September 12** will be Rally Day and we anticipate a return to a full schedule of worship, education, and fellowship.

Online worship changes

Because we are meeting in person on Sunday mornings again, we are no longer pre-recording worship services and posting them on our Youtube channel in advance. Instead, we are recording the in person services as they occur and then posting on Youtube. We are committed to maintaining an online presence for folks who can't make it to worship in person. Online services will be available by 3:00 pm at www.stmarks-nsp.org, via Facebook, or simply use the email link sent to you.

Wednesday Hymn Time at 7 pm

On Wednesdays this summer, join pianist Trevor Wolter Ternez in person in the church sanctuary as he continues our journey through all the hymns in our hymnal, the Evangelical Lutheran Worship. This will be an ongoing series throughout the summer on the **second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month.

Saturday Stewards meets July 10

We will not be gathering on July 3. Our next work day is on July 10 beginning at 9 a.m. Please contact Sherry Berry at slberr@usjet.net if you have any questions.

Interested in ushering?

If you are interested in ushering, please contact Dan Colberg at drcolberg@comcast.net or call 612-716-5969.

Upcoming Usher Team Schedule

July 4–Team 2	July 11–Team 2
Outdoors	Carl Hurtgen-Capt.
Terri Borowick-Capt.	Wayne Wegwerth
Sharon Sporcic	Jane Roy
Robin Graham	Howie Drager
John Haley	
Dan Colberg	



School Tools Drive July 4 through August 1

This year we are partnering with Interfaith Action to help students from families with low-income start school with the essential tools for success. The new backpacks and school essentials will benefit families who are served through ten different programs in Greater Saint Paul including. *Watch for school supply sales that will start in July so you can get "more bang for your buck."*

Drop off: Collection tubs will be located in the narthex and Rees Hall. Donations can also be dropped off on Thursday mornings in the Rees Hall parking lot from 9 – 11 am, weather permitting.

Supplies needed:

- Backpacks
- 3-ring binders, loose-leaf paper and folders
- Calculators
- Spiral and composition notebooks
- Pencils, pens, markers, colored pencils, crayons, erasers, highlighters, pencil sharpeners
- Glue sticks & bottles
- Scissors & rulers
- Facial tissue
- School boxes
- Hand sanitizer
- Reusable masks

**Pick up a flyer at the Welcome Center to keep handy when shopping.*

Monetary donations are also welcome. Checks may be made payable to Interfaith Action with "school tools" in the memo line.

May FINANCIALS		
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$250,993	\$253,927
Expense	\$193,208	\$232,902
Net difference	\$57,785	\$21,025
<i>Thank you for supporting St. Mark's Ministry!</i>		