



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

July 2, 2020

Dear St. Mark's Family,

This coming Saturday is July 4th. Our celebration of this national holiday will be tempered this year because of the restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Large gatherings of friends and family will be smaller this year, if they are held at all. Huge crowds at fireworks displays are being discouraged, if fireworks are going off at all. We will observe this day in quieter ways this year.

A quieter observation gives us space to reflect on who we are as a country and what we aim for as a people. It gives us space to consider how the ideals we hold dear, of liberty and justice for all, can be equitable applied to all people.

As we celebrate the birth of our nation and the ideals it was founded on, I offer this prayer, adapted from a classic prayer for the church:

Gracious God, we pray for our country. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Sovereign. Amen

God's Peace,
Pastor Mary

Note: Pastor Mary will be taking a few days off (July 3–July 9). If you need to contact her, please email or leave a voicemail on her office phone. In the case of an urgent pastoral need, you may reach her on her cell phone. See page 3 for contact information.

COVID Response/Reentry Team Update

This team held its initial meeting this past week. It has been formed to lead our congregation in establishing a policy and procedures about if, when, and how we begin to gather again face-to-face. The State of Wisconsin requires that Faith Communities have such a written policy in place prior to "reopening". The team has determined that we will continue as we have been for the rest of the summer, with no face-to-face gatherings. Worship, Bible studies, VBS, and other meetings will continue to be held on line. We anticipate a phased reentry as the year progresses.

Congregational Zoom Check-in:

Coffee & Conversation – Fridays at 10:00 am

We will not gather on Friday, July 3 but will reZoom (haha) meeting on Friday, July 10.

No Saturday Stewards this Saturday, July 4

We hope to see you again on August 1.

Holy Communion: This Sunday, July 5

We will continue to offer Communion as part of the worship service on the first Sunday of the month, beginning this Sunday, July 5. We invite you to be intentional about preparing for the sacrament, claiming sacred space, and using bread and wine (or something similar) that you have on hand at home. In Holy Communion, we recognize the presence of Christ among us and celebrate the connection we have in Christ with one another beyond the barriers of space and time. *The Luther Seminary Communion Bread Recipe can be found on page 3 if you want to try making it.*

Online Worship: Sunday & Wednesday & 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.

Summer Worship on the Farm Online Wednesday, July 8 - 6:30 p.m.

Worship on the Farm will meet *via Zoom* on **July 8** and **August 12**. Register to receive the weekly link and join in at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship and worship, hosted by Christ the King in White Bear Lake, House of Prayer in Oakdale, Lakeview in Maplewood, Our Redeemer in St. Paul, Redeemer in White Bear Lake and St. Mark's in North St. Paul. Learn more and register at:
<http://rlc-wbl.org/worship-on-the-farm/>

Foundation Grant Requests

During these uncertain times there is need in our church, community and world. Do you know where a St. Mark's Foundation grant would be helpful? Do you have an idea that would help the mission of St. Mark's Church with its outreach into the community? The St. Mark's Foundation board of trustees invites you to bring your ideas for discussion. The board of trustees will meet on September 8 but the submission of grant requests can also be made during the summer. The grant request form and a list of board members can be found on the Foundation's website at www.stmarksnspfoundation.com. Please feel free to contact a board member or send an email to the Foundation at stmarksnspfoundation@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.



Running out of things to do with your kids yet? Join us for a FREE at-home VBS experience for kids (age 5-11)! While we won't be gathering together at church, there will be lots of fun activities, songs, online interaction, stories... and even snacks!

Pick up a bag with all the craft supplies and snacks you'll need for the week (at no charge) or use what you have at home.

The program is provided **at no cost**, with materials prepared and donated by Green Lake Lutheran Ministries.

The registration form can be found at:

www.stmarks-nsp.org (on the homepage)

Watch for ongoing information on Facebook and in weekly updates.

Help us to prepare for VBS

Looking for **donations** of items for craft & treat packets as well as **volunteers** to help sort supplies and assemble packets. If you are interested in volunteering to help, contact **Rachel Ericson at 651-968-6131**.

We won't have a collection bucket outside to this Saturday due to the holiday. Contact Rachel Ericson if you want to arrange a different time to drop off your donations or wait until Saturday, July 11.

Materials we are collecting:

- Glue sticks- 60
- Markers- 30 packs
- Liquid glue bottles- 50
- Paint brushes- 50-60
- Sidewalk chalk- 200 kids
- Coffee filters (round)- 150
- Bird seed- couple bags
- Hole punchers- 30
- Potting soil- couple bags
- Seeds- 60 packets
- Empty washed babyfood jars with lids
- Disposable gloves- size small (kids)- 120
- Individually packaged non-perishable snacks- 300
- *Examples include goldfish, pretzels, granola bars, fruit snacks, applesauce, etc.*

What does worship look like?

Worship is looking quite different these days, but some of you have been sending us pictures of what worship looks like at your house. We would like to include one or two each week in our Weekly Update, to lift our spirits and help keep us connected during this separation time.

Please send your pictures electronically to annm@stmarks-nsp.org.



Garry and Jodie Larson, friends of Mary and John Froiland, sent a picture of the view from "their pew" in Cable, Wisconsin.

Electronic Giving

If you have not already set up automated electronic giving, this would be a great time to do so! Follow the link on 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" and follow on-screen instructions. If you have questions or need help setting it up, please contact Helene at helened@stmarks-nsp.org.

Luther Seminary Communion Bread Recipe

Yield: 8 - 4oz. Loaves

Loaves can be frozen for later use



Sift dry ingredients together

2 c. whole wheat flour
1 c. white flour
1 ¼ tsp. Baking powder
1 ¼ tsp. Salt

Cut in 4 tsp. Oil

Mix water and sweeteners together;

¾ cup + 2 Tbsp. very hot water
3 Tbsp honey
3 Tbsp Molasses

Add to dry ingredients and mix well.

Dough should be a bit sticky

Divide and roll into 8 ¼ inch thick circles

Mark with a cross

Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes

Remove and brush with oil, bake an additional 5-8 minutes, remove and cool.

Contact Information

Pastor Mary Froiland

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Music

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