

Dear friends,

August 2021 feels much more hopeful to me than August 2020. I can remember last year we were hunkering down for what promised to be a long season of isolation and fear due to the pandemic. While the global pandemic is not over by any stretch of the imagination, as more and more of us are fully vaccinated (and if you're not, please get it done – for the sake of the children among us and the vulnerable, if not for yourselves) we are finding joy in being together safely.

August brings much excitement as we welcome Pastor David and Anna Bjorklund and their children, Desmond(4) and Julian(2), to St. Mark's. Pastor David will be starting with us on Monday, August 2, and will be installed on Sunday, August 8. Deacon Krista Lind from the Synod Office will be with us for this service and we will have a brunch reception following the service. Assuming cooperative weather, we will have lots of outdoor activities and games, so bring your children and grandchildren to meet the Bjorklunds.

On August 16, Intern Eric Gustafson will be joining our ministry team. His first Sunday will be August 22, and we will find a way to welcome him and his family as well! As we prepare for Eric's year with us, we are putting together an Internship Committee. This committee will be responsible for making Eric feel welcome, meeting with him on a regular basis to offer support and address concerns, filling out the forms that assess his ministry, and being an encouraging presence for him and his family during the time they are with us. If this is something you would like to participate in, please let me know. We have a few folks already on board, but would like a few more.

I am looking forward to working alongside Pastor David and Intern Eric as we move into a new program year at St. Mark's.

God's Peace,
Pastor Mary

Guest Preacher

Many thanks to Jenn Luong who will serve as our guest preacher on Sunday, August 1, while Pastor Mary is on vacation with her family. Jenn has been approved for ordination in the ELCA, and is awaiting a congregational call. Jenn has been a lifelong member of St. Mark's and we are excited to see what is next for her!

Helen Berg's Birthday Celebration—August 1

In gratitude for the love and care she has received from her St. Mark's family over the years, the family of Helen Berg invites everyone to enjoy cake and refreshments in Rees Hall following worship on August 1 to celebrate Helen's 90th birthday.

A Birthday to Celebrate

On August 6, **Gladys Peterson** will be turning 100! We invite you to send her a card at 8131 4th St. N. Apt. A-224, Oakdale, MN 55128. She would enjoy hearing from her church family as she celebrates this milestone birthday!

FREE Pop-Up Produce Stand—July 26, August 23, September 27



No registration or income requirements—just good food shared with neighbors. Pickup is available from 4-6 pm in the St. Mark's parking lot (on the sanctuary side). On the 4th Monday of the month, a variety of seasonal produce items are available to pick up. Please bring your own bags. Tell your friends and neighbors about this EASY way to get FREE, delicious fresh produce. Provided in partnership with the North Saint Paul Food Shelf and Second Harvest.

Interested in serving on a new Community Outreach Committee?

Community outreach was identified as one of the three initiatives for St. Mark's Lutheran Church and its Stewardship for All Seasons for 2021. More specifically, an effort by volunteer members of the church to go door to door with the dozens of new homes in North St. Paul and share informational materials inviting the new residents to visit our church. The Church Council agreed to form the committee after the school year and it is time to solicit volunteers to serve and develop an outreach plan including a budget. If you are interested in serving on the committee please contact Mike Ericson who will serve as chair. He can be reached at maericson@yahoo.com or call 612-790-5166 (cell) or 651-704-0397 (home/office). We likely will meet as a committee after the Sunday church service on July 25 or August 1. Please contact Mike if you have questions and/or want to serve. Thank you for your interest.

Lutheran Night at Target Field Monday, July 26 at 7:10 pm

Rumor has it there might be an appearance from your favorite SPAS bishop at Target Field! Join your fellow Lutherans in cheering on the Minnesota Twins against the Detroit Tigers. A variety of seating options are available with tickets ranging from \$17 to \$37. Visit <https://spas-elca.org/event/lutheran-night-at-target-field-2021/> to order individual tickets; for group reservations of 20 or more, contact Brian Bessler at 612-659-4083 or brianbessler@twinsbaseball.com. Groups receive discounted tickets, a welcome message on the scoreboard and the opportunity to participate in the Lutheran Night National Anthem choir.

Providing Hospitality to NSP Police & Fire Departments

St. Mark's will be opening up once again to offer our space and hospitality to the North St. Paul Police and Fire Departments. We'll provide portable snacks and water to take a break during evening and overnight shifts. **We are asking for donations of individually packaged snacks.** Donations may be dropped off (labeled NSP PD) in the Fellowship Hall kitchen or in the church office. This is just one more way that St. Mark's can partner with the North Saint Paul community.



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 supplies are distributed through ten different programs in the Greater Saint Paul. *Watch for school supply sales that will start in July so you can get "more bang for your buck."*

Drop off: Collection tubs are 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. Donations accepted through Aug. 1.

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.

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 25–Team 3

Larry Dent-Capt.
Al Pearson
Mel Schewe
Karl & Sue Trusinsky

Aug 1 (outside)

Team 4
Bonnie Meyers-Capt
Gordy Peterson
Joe & Diane Danko
Dave Smith

Phased return to in-person worship has begun!

- **Sundays July 25 and August 8, 15, 22, 29, and September 5** we will have **in-person** worship at 9 am. Masks encouraged.
- **Sunday, 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

Although we are back to worshipping in person, we are also committed to maintaining an online presence for folks who can't make it to the church. 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.

Council Corner—July 15 meeting

Happy summer! Council's July meeting reviewed monthly committee reports.

- St. Mark's continues to report healthy financial numbers, with a General Fund balance of \$156,000, currently running \$48,000 under budgeted forecast.
- The Hospitality/Outreach and SAS committees have partnered to generate ideas for communication and marketing messages to the community. There is a lot of opportunity for St. Mark's members to lend their talents and service to assist in our collective outreach initiative.
- Deacon Krista Lind will be present at our Aug. 8 Sunday service for Associate Pastor David Bjorklund's installation.
- An intern committee is forming to assist Erik Gustafson during his tenure at St. Mark's.
- We continue to have in-person services throughout the summer months.

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 August 19, 2021 at 6:30 pm.*

In Sympathy

Marian Konobeck recently passed away. Marion was very active at St. Mark's during the days of Pastor Lundquist. A celebration of Marion's life will be held August 23, 2021 at 1:00, at Lake Elmo Park Reserve. If you plan on attending please bring a lawn chair and a favorite memory.

Interested in sponsoring Sunday coffee?

In our ongoing efforts to be good stewards of our resources for ministry here at St. Mark's, we invite you to consider sponsoring coffee on a given Sunday. \$30 will cover the cost of the coffee for our fellowship time for one week. Maybe you'd like to choose a week to sponsor in honor of a significant event in your life or in memory of a special someone. Or maybe you just love coffee and want to share the love! You can send checks to St. Mark's with "coffee sponsor" in the memo line. Sign up in Rees Hall (thru the end of 2021) on Sundays. You may also email annm@stmarks-nsp.org with your information.

Coffee this Sunday...

Provided by a gift from the estate of Bernie Dechaney, who loved to spend time drinking coffee and catching up with her friends after church.