



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

July 23, 2020



VBS Thank You

Many thanks to Rachel Ericson for coordinating the on-line Vacation Bible School experience for our kids this year. We were able to hand out many packets of craft supplies and snacks to families who participated. And thank you to all the families who participated. While we couldn't be together, we hope you were able to feel connected as we remembered, *We Are The Church: Together and Apart*.

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. *This coming Sunday's texts are **Romans 8:26-39** and **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50** in case you want to look ahead and bring your thoughts and ideas.*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81850034128>

Meeting ID: 818 5003 4128

Pop Up Farmers Market—Monday, July 27

Once again, St. Mark's is partnering with the North Saint Paul Food Shelf and Second Harvest to host a Pop Up Farmers Market at St. Mark's. The dates and times are 4-6pm on the 4th Monday of the month - July 27, August 24 and September 28. No registration or income requirements to receive a bag of fresh produce. The market will be outside in the St. Mark's parking lot. Social distancing will be practiced, but masks/face coverings are always encouraged. *We have enough volunteers now—thank you!*

Council Corner - July 16 meeting

Council's July meeting primarily focused on St. Mark's fall stewardship, in addition to reviewing monthly committee reports.

- The SAS consultant, Pete Ruess, along with the SAS team, joined Council to discuss our approach to St. Mark's stewardship in the coming months.
- Council would like to thank all of the hard work put forth by the CYF team to conduct virtual VBS, especially Rachel Ericson for leading the way.
- The Finance committee continues to report a growing cash balance as we find ways to maintain giving through socially distant and online services. St. Mark's PPP loan amount has been fulfilled as we now seek to proceed with the loan forgiveness phase.
- Council is recommending to move forward with an interim CYF position through InterServe Ministries this fall.
- Finally, Council would like to recognize the ongoing work of the Restoration Team as they carefully plan for a safe re-opening of St. Mark's, following state guidelines and Synod approval.

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 20, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

St. Mark's Columbarium & Memorial Garden

It is our ministry to fulfill the age-old tradition of the church to serve its members from baptism through death. In the Memorial Garden, the Columbarium, a granite structure providing niches for the permanent placement of urns, sits in the center. Each niche holds up to two urns. Memorial walls, on either side of the Columbarium, are engraved with the names of loved ones. Through generous donations, benches have been purchased. They offer a comfortable place to pray, read, or just think. Additional landscaping will be added in August to enhance the beauty of the garden.

If you are interested in purchasing a niche or adding a name to the Memorial Wall, please contact the church office at stmarks-nsp.org, or call Heidi at 651-231-5500. You may also find information on the website - www.stmarks-nsp.org/resources.

School Supplies Collection

Interfaith Action in St. Paul will be collecting backpacks and essential school supplies to be distributed to low-income school children to help them be successful in school this year. Here is a list of the items they are collecting:

- New backpacks
- Pencils, pens, markers, colored pencils, crayons (24 count), erasers, highlighters, pencil sharpeners
- Glue sticks & bottles
- Scissors & rulers
- Facial tissue
- School boxes
- Hand sanitizer
- Reusable face masks (child size)
- Monetary donations will be used to purchase needed supplies not collected. Make checks payable to – **Interfaith Action** with “*School Tools*” in the memo line.

To drop off donations

Since our building is not open at this time, all items, including checks can be brought to the Rees Hall parking lot on at the following times:

- > Thursday mornings (if not raining) from 9 – 10:30 am
- > Tuesday evening August 11 from 6 – 7:30 pm
- > Saturday morning August 15 from 9 – 11 am

Contact Sherry at slberr65@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you for your generosity!

Do you know of someone who is NOT receiving the weekly emails from St. Mark's?

We have had reports of people who would like to receive St. Mark's emails but are not getting them. Please contact Heidi on their behalf, or ask them to contact her on their own. She can be reached at 651-231-5500 (cell) or heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org. *We want to make sure that everyone is staying informed!*

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 as often as 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.

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 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.”

Summer Worship on the Farm *Online* Wednesday, August 12 - 6:30 p.m.

Worship on the Farm will meet *via Zoom* for the last time this summer on **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/>

June Financials			
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	
Income	\$360,799*	\$300,868	
Expense	\$271,749	\$311,214	
Net difference	\$89,050	(\$10,346)	\$99,397
*Income includes \$67,300 disbursed from the PPP Loan. Thank you for supporting St. Mark's Ministry!			