



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

March 25, 2021

Dear Friends,

I invite you to join me this coming week as we follow in the steps of Jesus during Holy Week. I look forward to being with you as we move from grief and despair to Easter joy and life.

~Pastor Mary

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP DURING HOLY WEEK



March 28: Palm Sunday: Pre-recorded service available online.

April 1: Maundy Thursday (5:30 pm): **Limited attendance in-person service (pre-registration required, see below)** with Holy Communion to be recorded and available online afterwards.

April 2: Good Friday (5:30 pm): **Limited attendance in-person service (pre-registration required, see below)** to be recorded and available online afterwards.

April 3: Holy Saturday (7:00 to 8:30 pm): **Parking lot drive-in Easter Vigil**

Spiritual Stories - Songs - Solemn Reflections

Listen to a program of Lenten-themed stories and music transmitted through your FM radio (97.9 FM). Additionally, there will be stations positioned throughout the gathering space where we invite you to take some time for personal reflection as an ending to our Lenten journey.

You may participate from the warmth and comfort of your car or gather safely around one of several small bonfires. Pre-packaged goodies and hot chocolate will be served. If you wish to spend some time at the stations or by the fire, we must follow safety guidelines. Masks must be worn and please respect each other by maintaining physical distancing of 6 feet.

April 4: Easter Sunday (10:00 am): **In-person outdoor worship service** with Holy Communion, in addition to a pre-recorded Easter service available online.

****You must register ahead of time to attend the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Attendance is limited to 50 people, masks must be worn, and seating will be assigned. Thank you for your understanding.***

You will find the links to pre-register on the St. Mark's homepage at www.stmarks-nsp.org. Click on the link for the service you would like to attend, complete and submit the form. You may also call Heidi at 651-231-5500 to register.

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! *This week's texts are: Isaiah 50:4-9a and Mark 11:1-11.*

<https://tinyurl.com/rb3fykuw>

Meeting ID: 876 0860 5754

Passcode: 544807

All-Congregation Grounds Clean-up

April 10

Spring is here! Time to clean-up the grounds and areas around the church. Everyone is invited to join your fellow congregation members to help with the clean-up. Mark your calendars for April 10 beginning at 9:00 a.m. with a rain date of May 1. 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 there!

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.

North St. Paul Churches Blood Drive

Monday, April 5, 2021

Christ Lutheran Church

1:00 - 7:00 pm

North St. Paul 55109

Schedule online: redcrossblood.org

1-800-RED CROSS

Council Corner—March 18 Meeting

More and more people are getting vaccinated and Holy Week is on the horizon. There is much to be joyful for as we continue to support each other during this time. Council is excited for upcoming events and opportunities happening at St. Mark's:

- Under the guidance and leadership of Cory Jones, the CYF programming will meet through May 5 and Confirmands are preparing for the Rite of Confirmation on May 16.
- St. Mark's finances are looking good with a YTD amount of \$21,000 under forecast.
- The Personnel committee posted the position for a Contemporary Music and Worship Leader, and hoping to interview in the next few months. In addition, Pr. Mary interviewed several interested Intern candidates, one of whom will begin in August.
- Players and Planners is creating an outdoor Holy Saturday event to take place among other service opportunities for Holy Week stated in the Weekly Update.
- The Restoration team will meet again to discuss the progress of reopening St. Mark's.
- The Call committee is also moving forward with their process and possible interviews.

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 April 15, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Online Worship every Sunday & Facebook Live Sunday Preludes

We're online for worship every Sunday—available via links on Facebook, the St. Mark's website, and emailed directly to you. 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.