



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

March 26, 2020

Reflection

I've been struck by the odd and wonderful places where joy and laughter are springing forth in the midst of these uncertain days. The joy of tulips and daffodils reaching through the ground towards the warm sun. The different landscapes and house structures in our neighbor as we walk more intentionally around the block. The giggles that occur when remaking the bed when your 4-year-old decides to hide underneath. Simple moments that in other circumstances would have been overlooked or under appreciated.

As people of faith, we are called to name the moment we are living in and to entrust it into God's care. It's okay to be scared or worried - this is an unprecedented time where all of us are doing the best we can. It gives us an opportunity to be reminded that the phrase that Jesus uttered most to the people he encountered was "Do Not Be Afraid." It's okay to giggle and laugh and be ridiculous - there is joy to be had and as Pastor Mary reminded us last Sunday - God is opening our eyes in new ways, to new things which will help deepen our love for God and one another.

SO today, I encourage you to name the feelings you are feeling. Hold them with mercy and offer yourself grace. And then talk to God about them asking for guidance, for strength, and most importantly for the peace which surpasses all understanding.

Be well dear ones.

Pastor Ivy

(Remember: Love like Jesus and wash your hands like Pontius Pilate! – *Thanks, Mark McKenzie, for the reminder*)

Your Offering

Remember you can continue to mail in your offering or if you prefer, give electronically through St. Mark's website (stmarks-nsp.org). Click on "My Offering". This will directly deposit your offering into St. Mark's checking account.

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 right under the sermon video, 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.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to send your offering in by mail and electronically. Your continued support and generosity is greatly appreciated. May God Bless You and keep you safe and healthy.

Live Music Starting Sunday

Starting this Sunday, March 29 until we are all able to meet together again, Choir Director-Organist, Trevor Ternez, will present a live musical prelude starting at about 9:30 am for 10 to 15 minutes each Sunday via Facebook Live. Just visit St. Mark's Facebook page and click Play, like any other video, to watch and listen. If you're not able to watch live, the video will also be available to watch on Facebook afterwards. Selections for this Sunday include Jesus Loves Me, The Old Rugged Cross, and There Is a Balm. www.facebook.com/stmarksnsp/

For Pastoral Support, please contact:

Pastor Mary

Cell: 608-295-5401

Email: primaryf@stmarks-nsp.org

Pastor Ivy

Cell: 651-398-1596

Email: privyh@stmarks-nsp.org

Office Hours Cancelled

In response to the Governor's order to Shelter in Place, office hours at St. Mark's have been canceled, and staff will only be working from home until the order is lifted. We encourage all of you to take this order seriously and stay home as much as possible. These drastic measures are being undertaken in an attempt to save lives.

If you need to reach any of the St. Mark's staff, their contact information is below:

Music

Dorothea Jirsa: dorotheaj@stmarks-nsp.org

Trevor Wolter Ternez: trevorw@stmarks-nsp.org

Office

Heidi McKenzie: heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org

Helene Doran: helened@stmarks-nsp.org

Ann Mott: annm@stmarks-nsp.org

Youth Ministry

Susie Modrow: susiem@stmarks-nsp.org

Custodial

Hunter Winner: hunter@stmarks-nsp.org

Neil Knutson: neilk@stmarks-nsp.org

Heather Winner: heatherw@stmarks-nsp.org

Wednesday & Sunday Video Worship Services

We plan to continue our schedule of worshipping on Wednesdays and Sundays – not in person, but online. Links to the services are posted on St. Mark's Facebook page, on the homepage of our website, and in an email sent out prior to the service. Please join us!

How can I help? How can I receive help?

- **In need of help.** If you are confined because of this virus and need help with errands, fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/z2WdA1QLCzD7SYAt6>
We will respond within 48 hours and try to get you the help you need—we already have a several people who would really like to help!
- **Able to help.** If you are able to volunteer to assist with running errands for someone who is confined at this time, particularly if you fall into the younger, less vulnerable category, please fill out this form at <https://forms.gle/bGM5XLbEPH94Tznh7>
We will be happy to match you up with someone who needs your assistance. Thanks for those who already signed up!
- If you aren't able to run errands but would still like to help out, we can put you in touch with someone who could use a phone call or a cheery card. Please contact one of the pastors to make arrangements.

The North St. Paul Food Shelf has an urgent need for volunteers

As is the case with many organizations that rely on a crew of volunteers, most of the NSP Food Shelf current volunteers fall into the population of those most vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus. These folks are staying home as they should, but that doesn't stop the demand for food for those who are hungry in our community.

The Food Shelf has changed their regular procedures to limit person to person contact. Volunteers are needed to pre-bag groceries. Grocery bags are taken outside and left on a table where clients can pick them up. Social distancing is observed! Please call the Kathy, at the North St. Paul Food Shelf 651-770-1309 and let her know when you are available to help out. The Food Shelf also has need of paper grocery bags, so if you have extra, please drop them off at 2538 Seppala Blvd, North St. Paul. Thanks for your help. We are in this together and we need each other more than ever right now.

Help your neighbors through LSS

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) has identified many ways that you can help. Volunteer opportunities vary throughout the state, and you can search for opportunities by area, service, time commitment and more by using this link: lssmn.org/HelpNeighbors

Church directory postponed

We have cancelled the scheduled photo sessions for the church directory. When we receive word on new appointment dates, we'll let you know. Thanks for your patience!

News from Women of St. Mark's

The following have been cancelled until we are all able to meet in person again:

Quilting: The final quilting session for this year have been postponed.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Please continue to work on your shawls at home. Contact Sue Fletcher at 651-770-1271 with questions.

All Women's Monthly Bible Study Groups

The Synodical Women's Convention: originally planned for April 25 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, cancelled but may be rescheduled.

The Women's Spring Luncheon: scheduled for May 9, has been cancelled for this year.

The Women's Board will not meet in April

Tanzania Trip Postponed

The trip scheduled for this Summer has been postponed. Watch for information this fall regarding a rescheduled trip.