



Saint Mark's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

# Weekly Update

May 14, 2020

Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your path. *Proverbs 3: 5-6*

As we stand on the edge between an expiring stay at home order and the deep trust we are asked to give one another as we promise to social distance as retail and businesses return, there is a sense of release coupled with terror. We want so desperately to return to what was that as we step out of the sheltering order, prayers are lifted heavenward for safety and awareness as we move.

WE are being given an opportunity to trust the models, adhere to the guidance of our local and state officials and most importantly, continue to follow the physical distancing and healthy hygiene practices because we are not yet out of the woods with COVID.

In times like these, the words from Proverbs ring in my ears. As we venture out and seek to restore the normalcy we long for, we also have to be honest about our intentions and how they impact those around us. When we trust in God's love and rely on the expertise of those around us the path forward comes easily to navigate. When we lean on our faith and trust our neighbors to do what is right, the road becomes leveled. When we believe in the best that science has to offer and seek to follow the safety guidelines, we can walk forward together.

As the stay at home order expires tomorrow, I encourage you to take a deep breath, put on your mask and enter the chaos of our world with hope....and clean hands! This prayer might help...

### **Blessing in the Chaos** by Jan Richardson

To all that is chaotic in you,  
let there come silence.

Let there be a calming of the clamoring,  
a stilling of the voices that have laid their claim  
on you, that have made their home in you,  
that go with you even to the holy places  
but will not let you rest, will not let you  
hear your life with wholeness  
or feel the grace that fashioned you.

Let what distracts you cease.  
Let what divides you cease.  
Let there come an end to what diminishes  
and demeans, and let depart  
all that keeps you in its cage.

Let there be an opening into the quiet  
that lies beneath the chaos, where you find  
the peace you did not think possible  
and see what shimmers within the storm.

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### Need to talk?

If you have concerns, needs, or just want to chat, please feel free to contact one of the pastors:

**Pastor Mary**

Cell: 608-295-5401

Email: [primaryf@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:primaryf@stmarks-nsp.org)

**Pastor Ivy**

Cell: 651-398-1596

Email: [privyh@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:privyh@stmarks-nsp.org)

## Congregational Zoom Check-in:

### Coffee and Conversation – Fridays at 10:00 am

Check-in with your St. Mark's friends and pastors on Zoom – everyone is invited! We have a brief devotion, check in on each other, and preview the scripture reading for the upcoming Sunday. Join us:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9dfxwqu> (or just open Zoom on your computer/tablet/phone if you already have it downloaded)

Meeting ID: 870 2565 8262

Password: 486201

## Send us your hands!

St. Mark's has a tradition of sending people who are leaving us by calling them to the center of the sanctuary during worship, laying hands on them and blessing them. We will not be able to do this for Pastor Ivy in the way we are used to, but let's get creative! We invite you to trace your hand on a piece of paper, write your name on it along with words of thanks and blessing. We will find a way to string these together and wrap Pastor Ivy in our hands and love on May 31, her last Sunday with us. **In order to have time to get this all together, we ask that you send your "hands" to us no later than May 22.**

## Online Worship Services & 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.

## Electronic Giving

*Thank you to everyone who has continued to send your offering in by mail and electronically. Your continued support and generosity is greatly appreciated.*

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](http://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."

April Financials			
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	
Income	\$218,266	\$215,391	
Expense	\$181,204	\$201,067	
Net difference	\$37,061	\$14,324	\$22,738
Thank you for supporting St. Mark's Ministry!			

## Staff Emails

### Music

Dorothea Jirsa: [dorotheaj@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:dorotheaj@stmarks-nsp.org)

Trevor Wolter Ternez: [trevorw@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:trevorw@stmarks-nsp.org)

### Office

Heidi McKenzie: [heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org)

Helene Doran: [helened@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:helened@stmarks-nsp.org)

Ann Mott: [annm@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:annm@stmarks-nsp.org)

### Youth Ministry

Susie Modrow: [susiem@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:susiem@stmarks-nsp.org)

### Custodial

Hunter Winner: [hunter@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:hunter@stmarks-nsp.org)

Neil Knutson: [neilk@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:neilk@stmarks-nsp.org)

Heather Winner: [heatherw@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:heatherw@stmarks-nsp.org)

## 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 thought it would be fun to invite more of you to submit a picture of what "Worship at St. Mark's" looks like for you these days. 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](mailto:annm@stmarks-nsp.org).**



*Alan Wyman is all set for early morning worship at home. Comfy slippers required on a chilly morning.*