



Saint Mark's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

# Weekly Update

November 12, 2020

Dear Friends,

November is the time of our Annual Stewardship Drive. Our theme for this year is Growing Together in Love: Loving God, Loving Others. We may have limited opportunities to gather in person, but the church is far from closed! We continue to worship, study, plan, reach out, and serve in so many ways, and the good gospel work that God calls us to is far from finished!



GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE  
LOVING GOD. LOVING OTHERS.

At St. Mark's, we have been blessed with resources that enable us to generously love God and love others. The faithful and consistent support of so many of you who contribute your time, energy, creativity, prayers, and financial gifts, has enabled us to weather this pandemic time well, and we are grateful. From this position of strength and stability, we can look to the future and dare to ask, *"What more is God calling us to?"* *"How much more could we participate in God's good work around us with an increase in giving of \$50,000?"*

I hope you have all had the opportunity to see the video from Pastor Lindsey Bina that was featured in last Sunday's service and is available on YouTube ( <https://tinyurl.com/y3z69b72> ), on St. Mark's website ([stmarks-nsp.org/2021-fall-stewardship](http://stmarks-nsp.org/2021-fall-stewardship)), and on our Facebook page. Pastor Lindsey served her internship at St. Mark's and stayed on a year afterwards as our Pastoral Associate. She talks about her experience among us, and shares her excitement that we are looking at becoming an internship site again, which is one of the Ministry Initiatives we have identified for 2021.

Stay tuned as we highlight the other Ministry Initiatives over the next couple of weeks, and please watch for a mailing later this month containing a letter, a brochure about the ministry of St. Mark's, and an Intent Card. Read the material, pray for our shared ministries, and send in your Intent Card.

We are excited about the opportunities to move forward as God's faithful people into the future that is before us. We invite each of you to share in our excitement and commit to consistent financial support of our shared ministry.

Thanks for all you have done in the past. We look forward to a bright future together!

God's Peace,  
Pastor Mary

## 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 week's texts are: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 and Matthew 25:14-30.* All are welcome!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81850034128>  
Meeting ID: 818 5003 4128

## Registration for November 15

### In-Person Service at 10:00 am

The following protocols will be in place in order to conduct the November 15 service:

- Limited to 50 people in attendance
- Pre-Registration will be required
- Masks must be worn by all – no exceptions
- Controlled entrances and seating
- Social distance spacing as we assemble and leave
- Hand sanitizing stations at each entrance
- Physical interactions should be avoided (no hugging or handshakes)
- No social gathering before or after the service (participants will be directed to leave immediately after the service)

### Here's how you pre-register...

ALL participants are required to pre-register for the service by filling out an online form.

Type the following link into your browser:

<https://tinyurl.com/yy3m3d86>

Or, you may call Heidi McKenzie at 651-231-5500.

*All requests must be submitted no later than 5 pm on Friday, November 13.*

The following information will be required:

- Primary Contact Name
- Primary Contact Phone Number
- Primary Contact E-mail
- Number people attending
- Names of all people in your group
- Answer the following TWO questions –
  1. *Have you or anyone in your group been exposed to anyone with Covid-19 in the past 14 days?*
  2. *Are you or anyone in your group currently feeling ill and/or have a temperature over 100.4? (If yes to either, you are instructed to stay home.)*

We are grateful for the opportunity to slowly bring in-person services back to St. Mark's. This will require everyone's cooperation and support to make this happen.

## Wreath Sales

Wreaths will be sold in the Rees Hall parking lot on Sunday, November 28 and December 6 from 10am to 12:00pm. Wreaths of various sizes and swags will be available. If you are interested, garland and mailbox swags can be special ordered. Please contact Heidi McKenzie at 651-231-5500 or [heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org) for questions.

## Report on Scholarship Drive for Kihesa

On October 18 we held a special service highlighting our partnership with Kihesa Lutheran Church in Iringa, Tanzania, and soliciting scholarship funds for students there. Jim and Betty Wolf, our Mission Interpreters for Tanzania, led the service and it was a joyful celebration of faith!

Jim sent a link to the service to our friends at Kihesa. Pastor Tagamtwa, the District and Lead pastor at Kihesa, sent the following response:

*Jim,*

*Thanks for sharing. It was a very inspiring morning service, congregation, Jim for your good plan.*

*Stay blessed and let us continue in our strong relationship. Congratulations for having new president, may God heal your country from Covid-19.*

*Say Hi to all at St Mark's, we love them and wish to meet next year.*

*Rev. Abbasy Tagamtwa*

Just one more example of the gift of technology these days!

## Gift Goes On—Individuals are Available for Sponsorship

Names of individuals to sponsor are now available! If you are interested in helping to bring additional joy to a person in need this Christmas, please contact Liz Elicerio-Nelson at [lizeliceiro@comcast.net](mailto:lizeliceiro@comcast.net) or 651-278-9049 to provide your contact information. Or leave a message at church for Liz at 651-777-7451.

Gifts need to be wrapped and returned to St. Mark's by Wednesday, December 11 th. (Instructions for curb-side drop-off process will be made available when you select a person.)

Another way to help is to purchase Cub Gift Cards in the amount of \$15 which will be included with each individual gift bundle. These Gift Cards can be purchased and mailed or dropped off at church or to Liz by December 1st. Please label with "Gift Goes On."

Thank you in advance for helping others in our community this Christmas season.

## Support the St Mark's Foundation with Amazon Smile

Are you ready for the holidays? Planning to use Amazon for your shopping needs this Christmas? Remember that when you make purchases on Amazon, you can also be donating to the St. Mark's Foundation. Just use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-3463204> and you will be directed to the site smile.amazon.com where you are automatically asked if you want to support St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation. We hope you say "yes" because then Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the St. Mark's Foundation. Thank you for your support of the Foundation and its mission to carry God's Word forward. Please contact a Foundation board member or email the Foundation at [stmarksnspfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksnspfoundation@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns.

## Garden Gift Cards

Thanksgiving is coming up and that means Christmas is just around the corner too. Just a reminder that the Garden Team has Bachman's and Gerten's gift cards available for your shopping trips. Bachman's are in \$25 and \$10 amounts and are good for anything they sell. Gerten's cards are in \$25 cards and are good for anything green and growing. Plus – don't forget, they make much appreciated gifts for those on your shopping list. Call Sherry at 651-777-6704 and we can arrange a time for you to get the cards. Thank you for supporting the Garden Team.

## Online Worship every Sunday & Facebook Live Sunday Preludes

Please continue to join us for online worship services every Sunday—available via links on Facebook, the St. Mark's website ([www.stmarks-nsp.org](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org)) 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.

## In case you missed it...

With deep gratitude, the Saint Mark's family thanks all our veterans for their service with this special Veterans Day piano concert presented online yesterday by our music staff, Dorothea Jirsa and Trevor Wolter Ternez. You can watch and listen at <https://youtu.be/WO-U4mxlyCY>. Or just go to the St. Mark's Facebook page and click on the link.

October Financials			
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	
Income	\$509,727*	\$473,203	
Expense	\$415,240	\$489,314	
Net difference	\$94,487	(\$16,111)	\$110,598
<i>*Income includes \$67,300 disbursed from the PPP Loan. Thank you for supporting St. Mark's Ministry!</i>			