



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekly Update
November 25, 2020



FROM YOUR STAFF AT ST. MARK'S!

Thank God For Humor!

Steve Nelson, former Lead Pastor at St. Mark's and current faithful member of St. Mark's, established a Thanksgiving tradition of preaching a **Thank God For Humor!** sermon on Thanksgiving Eve. In a year where it sometimes seems there isn't much to laugh about, we are grateful for his offer to bring this tradition back! On Thanksgiving Eve, a pre-recorded Thanksgiving service will be available, featuring Pastor Steve's comedic talents! Watch it on tonight, Thursday, or whenever you need a good laugh! Share it with your friends and family. Laugh together, and Thank God for Humor! You will find the video at www.stmarks-nsp.org or on our YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/if4AMW6DM4A>.

Wreath Sales—Nov. 29 & Dec. 6

Wreaths will be sold in the **Rees Hall parking lot** this Sunday, November 29 and Sunday, December 6 from 10 am to 12:00 pm. Wreaths of various sizes and swags will be available. Please contact Heidi McKenzie at 651-231-5500 or heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org for questions.

St. Mark's Fall Stewardship Appeal

You should all have received a mailing last week with a brochure outlining our Ministry Initiatives for 2021 and an intent card for you to indicate how you plan to participate in the ongoing ministry of St. Mark's. **Please return your intent cards, even if you aren't making a change in your giving.** We hope you have been able to read about where we see God at work in our community and the world and how we of St. Mark's can participate in that good work. We appreciate all you have provided to St. Mark's over the years; your prayers, energy, creativity, finances, time and so much more! We look forward to a vibrant and fruitful season of shared ministry ahead of us!



GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE
LOVING GOD. LOVING OTHERS.

Last Sunday, November 22, we heard Bob Engwer discuss the impact of technology on ministry. In case you missed it, watch Bob's talk on St. Mark's YouTube channel (St. Mark's Church NSP) at youtu.be/j5TGG57CSh4. You can also watch all three of the temple talks, with the same information as the brochure, at stmarks-nsp.org/2021-fall-stewardship.

GIFT GOES ON

Giving to the community this Christmas

One way the love and giving of St. Mark's is shared into our greater community is through the Gift Goes On program. Are you interested in helping to bring additional joy to a person in need this Christmas? Contact Liz Elicerio-Nelson at lizelicario@comcast.net or 651-278-9049 to sign-up. (Or leave a message at church for Liz.)

Gifts need to be wrapped and returned to St. Mark's by Wednesday, December 9. (Instructions for curb-side drop-off process and dates will be made available when you select a person.)

Other ways to give are:

- **Purchase Cub Gift Cards** in the amount of \$15 which will be included with each individual gift bundle. These Gift Cards can be mailed or dropped off at church or to Liz by **Tuesday, December 1. Please label with Gift Goes On.**
- **Knitting or purchasing hats and mittens to include in the gift bundles.** These can be dropped at church in the bin by the office. Please place in Ziplock bag with Size and if for male or female. **These items should be dropped at church by Wednesday, December 9.**

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

Parents & Guardians of Pre-school - 5th graders... We have ADVENT KITS for your family!

The kits include a Scripture guide and supplies for your family to create 24 different ornaments for a visual reminder of Jesus' coming to be with us. The kits also include ideas for "family time", treats, and other fun crafts to help your children (and your family) prepare their hearts during this Advent season.

If your family would like an Advent kits they are available for a Rees Hall parking lot drive-thru pick up (while a limited number of kits last) at St. Marks twice:

Sunday, November 29th / 10am-12pm
Tuesday, December 1st / 9am-11am

If you are unable to pick up an Advent Kit but would like one please contact Cory Jones @ 651.249.8958 or coryj@stmark-nsp.org to schedule a delivery day and time. A St. Mark's church staff or volunteer will be happy to drop one off at your home.

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) 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.

Council Corner - November 19 meeting

Though our celebrations are much smaller these days, we are thankful for everyone's health and the coming Christmas season. Find comfort with each other and the people around you.

- The CYF team is building faith through their weekly virtual gatherings. In addition, the Rite of Confirmation has been moved to May.
- Finance's report shows a positive balance of \$105,000, though giving is down.
- You should have received the fall stewardship's appeal letter outlining our task and commitment to consider St. Mark's future ministry goals.
- Unfortunately, due to a drastic rise recently in Covid cases, the Restoration team has decided to dial back to phase one, which pauses in-person services and gatherings.
- We also want to highlight that the annual meeting is just around the corner. Please mark your calendars for January 31. This is an important virtual meeting for us to approve the annual budget and need your presence in order to do so. We will be holding two virtual budget review sessions on January 14 and 21 for those wanting to attend and preview the proposed budget.

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 December 17, 2020 at 5:30 pm.