



Saint Mark's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

# Weekly Update

October 8, 2020

Dear friends,

Our restoration team has been hard at work developing procedures for a gradual return to in person worship. Part of that process was 2 outdoor services in September. We all enjoyed the opportunity to gather together and worship with appropriate precautions like masks and maintaining distance. It was good.

Now that we are heading toward cooler weather, we are looking at ways to continue creating opportunities to be together safely. **As you may have heard, we are planning for an in-person service in the sanctuary at 10:00 am, on October 18.** These services would continue on the first and third Sundays of the month after that.

As we move into this next phase, I want to make one thing clear. **For the foreseeable future, the primary worship service for the congregation of St. Mark's will continue to be the recorded service posted on line each week.**

The in-person sanctuary services that begin on October 18, will not be the full worship experience we all remember and miss so much. That is simply not possible at this time. The services will be more prayer-service style. They will not be longer than 30 minutes in order to limit exposure. Seating will be assigned, distanced, and masks must be worn. There will be no congregational singing, but we will be able to share in the Lord's Supper thanks to our individual communion kits. For those of you who are missing the opportunity to be present in the sanctuary space, this service will provide that, but it will not be everything we are hoping to return to. The time for that is still in the future. *Please see information regarding pre-registration on the next page.*

In addition, we are going to make the sanctuary available for funerals and memorial services. Again, we ask that no more than 50 people attend. Regrettably, visitations and receptions are not an option at this time.

We are hopeful that we can continue taking positive steps forward as we move toward a post-pandemic future. Should conditions become worse with this virus, or if our government leaders and health experts ask us to curtail in-person gatherings again, we will do so.

I thank you for your patience and understanding. I am cautiously optimistic and I trust in your cooperation to keep everyone safe.

God's peace,  
Pastor Mary

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## 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: Philippians 4:1-9 and Matthew 22:1-14.*

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

## Registration for In-Person Church Service – Sunday, October 18 at 10:00 am

Preparation is underway for our first in-person worship gathering to be held in the Sanctuary. As mentioned in the last weekly bulletin there will be a number of action items required in order to safely deliver this service and make sure that we are all working together to protect one another.

The following protocols will be in place in order to conduct the October 18 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
- Greetings should include smiling with your eyes, virtual hugs, waves vs hugging or handshakes. Please continue to wear a mask and maintain a physical distance of 6 feet if interacting outside the building.
- 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/y52c67w8>

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

*All requests must be submitted no later than 5 pm on Friday, October 16.*

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. We ask for your patience and understanding as we work out the details. The service and our ability to deliver it safely will be evaluated afterwards in order to assess how well this format may work for the foreseeable future.

## Tanzania partnership update – October 18

On October 18, our recorded worship service will be dedicated to our Tanzania partnership with Kihesa Lutheran Church in Iringa, Tanzania. Please join us to hear the latest news and learn how you can support our ongoing relationship. We recently received an update from the pastors and staff at Kihesa which we would like to share with you. A special video greeting from Shem Msite, a Kihesa evangelist who accompanied all 7 of our traveler groups, will be shown. We will also be asking for student sponsorships for Kihesa youth which we have done for 19 years. ~*Jim and Betty Wolf*

## Fleece Blankets for Baptism

Thanks to a Thrivent grant, we have material for 21 fleece blankets that are given at baptism. Help is needed to cut and prepare them for the youth to tie. We will meet on Wednesdays, October 14, 21, and 28 at 1:30 pm in Rees Hall. Bring a **sharp** scissor and if you have a rotary cutter and cutting mat. You need to wear a mask and we will follow social distancing and other COVID-19 guidelines. This is a good time to learn how to make a fleece blanket. Sign-up with Wanda Hurtgen at 651-770-1905 as we are limited to 10 people who can help at one time.

## St. Mark's Foundation

As Foundation Week comes to an end, please remember that during these uncertain times there is so much need in our church, community and world. *Do you know where a St. Mark's Foundation grant would be helpful? Do you have an idea that would help the mission of St. Mark's Church with its outreach into the community?* The St. Mark's Foundation board of trustees invites you to bring your ideas for discussion. The board will meet on November 10 but the submission of grant requests can also be made at any time. The grant request form and a list of board members can be found on the Foundation's website at [www.stmarksnsfoundation.com](http://www.stmarksnsfoundation.com). Please feel free to contact a board member or send an email to [stmarksnsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksnsfoundation@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your generous support.

## Help friends keep in touch with St. Mark's news

Do you know someone who struggles with technology or isn't receiving regular email updates from St. Mark's? Consider printing off this weekly newsletter and mailing it to them or dropping it off on their doorstep. It will make their day!

## 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.

## Garden Gift Cards

St. Mark's Garden Team has Bachman's and Gertens gift cards available. This is a great time to buy perennials, shrubs, trees and of course the beautiful mums for long lasting fall color. Bachman's cards can be used for anything they sell and the Gertens cards are valid for green and growing items. Call Sherry at 651-777-6704 and we can arrange a time for you to get them. Thank you for supporting the Garden Team.

## Saturday Stewards Thank You!

Saturday Stewards were busy trimming trees on Saturday with a crew of 4 guys and 1 gal. Mark's trailer was LOADED, and held in place with about 5 straps. So a huge thank you to Mark M, Mike C., Mike P., Steve L. for their help!

*Saturday Stewards meets the 1st Saturday of the month from about 9 – 11 a.m. ALL are welcome!*

