



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

October 29, 2020

Dear Friends,

November 1, brings us once again to All Saints Sunday, that day in the Church year where we take intentional time to remember and give thanks for our siblings in Christ who have died in this past year, yet remain in relationship with us as members of the body of Christ.

Things are different this year and we will not all be able to gather in person for worship on this day as we have in years past. As we have done each year, we will read the names of all who have died since last year's All Saints Sunday, and light a candle in their memory. This time of remembrance will be a part of our regularly scheduled recorded Sunday worship service on November 1. You will be able to find the link to view the service on our website. In addition, we are offering an in person prayer service on Sunday, November 1, at 10:00 am, in our sanctuary. This will be a memorial prayer service for those we have lost this past year. Because in person attendance is limited to 50 people, we are giving priority to family members of those who have died this past year. If you would like to participate, please call Heidi McKenzie at 651-231-5500) to register and secure a place by Friday, Oct. 31.

The death of a loved one is always difficult. It seems that the challenges of this past year compound our grief. It is good to take time to remember, to give thanks for lives lost, and to entrust those who have gone before us to the loving arms of God. We recognize the pain of their passing, yet rejoice in the assurance they are even now safe with God, and the knowledge we will all someday be reunited. Even in the midst of loss and grief, we affirm that God wipes away all the tears from our eyes and makes all things new. God continues to strengthen and empower us to be the hands and voice and heart of Jesus at this place and time. Thanks be to God.

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:*

Revelation 7:9-17 and Matthew 5:1-12

All are welcome!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81850034128>

Meeting ID: 818 5003 4128

Registration for Nov.1 Service at 10:00 am

The following protocols will be in place in order to conduct the November 1 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/y5qxwbjb>

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

All requests must be submitted no later than 5 pm on Friday, October 30.

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.

Ministry Site Profile Survey

We Need Your Help!

As St. Mark's moves into the process of calling a person to join the pastoral staff, we are seeking input from the congregation as to the type of skills and qualities needed for a successful candidate in this position.

Earlier this year, the Personnel Team and the Council met with Deacon Krista Lind from the St. Paul Area Synod, to discuss our staffing needs. We came to consensus that the biggest need for our congregation going forward is to find a person who will be able to complement Pastor Mary in the pastoral ministry of our congregation, with a primary focus on leading our Children, Youth and Family (CYF) programs. We decided to enter the call process with an openness to calling either a Pastor or a Deacon as an Associate on the Pastoral Team.

Our task now is to develop a vital document in the call process – The Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP highlights St. Mark's context, demographics, relevant congregational preferences and information, along with the ministry gifts, skills, and expectations we are seeking. We are currently working to complete our MSP, and this is where you come in.

We want your opinions and perspectives on where St. Mark's is heading and what our next CYF Minister needs to understand about us and our future. Your feedback is important. **Tomorrow you will receive an email explaining more about the process and a link to a brief online survey. Please take a few moments to fill complete this survey as soon as possible.** Thank you for participating and sharing your perspectives to better inform the MSP!

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 for questions.

Holy Communion: First Sunday of the Month November 1

We will continue to offer Communion as part of the worship service on the first Sunday of the month.. We invite you to be intentional about preparing for the sacrament, claiming sacred space, and using bread and wine (or something similar) that you have on hand at home. In Holy Communion, we recognize the presence of Christ among us and celebrate the connection we have in Christ with one another beyond the barriers of space and time.



Gift Goes On—Knitters/crocheters needed!

Do you knit or crochet? Do you have some time to make hat or mittens for the families being adopted by St. Mark's this Christmas season? We will be collecting hats and mittens to be given with Christmas gifts and grocery gift cards to families in our church and community. Please place your donation in a zip-lock bag. Watch for information on how and when to drop off your donation the week of December 6. Any questions, contact Liz Elicerio-Nelson: lizelicerio@comcast.net or 651-278-9049.

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.

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.

Congregational Joys and Concerns

- We extend our sympathy to the family of Steve Milton, son of Betty and Jim Wolf, who died last week. A memorial service for the immediate family was held at St. Mark's last Saturday. May God comfort those who mourn.
- We rejoice in the baptism of Skylar Jo Gustafson, daughter of Derek and Haley (Kyrk) Gustafson, who was baptized at St. Mark's this past weekend.
- *"I appreciate all who keep our church alive for all of us who need that support at this time especially."* ~Marlene Moreno
- *"To our friends at St. Mark's, Thanking all of you for thinking of our students. Your donations are very much appreciated! You all make such a positive impact on our community."* ~Your Polar Family

Prayer for Election Day (from ELW hymnal)

Lord God, you call your people to honor those in authority. Help us elect trustworthy leaders, participate in wise decisions for our common life, and serve our neighbors in local communities. Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.