



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

September 10, 2020

Outdoor Service and God's Work, Our Hands Day this Sunday, September 13 at 10:00 am

It's been a long time since we have had the opportunity to be together in person, so I am very excited about plans for an upcoming worship service. **On Sunday, September 13, at 10:00, we will be gathering in our parking lot for an outdoor service.** Participants may bring their own lawn chairs or stay in their cars. The service will be broadcast through an FM transmitter, so you will be able to tune your car radios to hear it. Everyone will be asked to wear masks and maintain appropriate physical distancing. We are hoping for good weather so we can pull this off!

This will also be God's Work, Our Hands (GWOH) Sunday, an ELCA event that St. Mark's has participated in for years. On this particular Sunday each year, congregations around the country reach out in service to their neighbors and communities. We have come up with a few options for how to reach out when we are unable to touch. ***Don't forget to wear your bright yellow GWOH T-shirts!***

Option 1: Burdock removal at Southwood Park

Jim Wolf has set up this opportunity for us. People will want to wear closed toe shoes, long pants and may also want to wear long sleeves. Bring bug protection. This is an activity that fleece wear is not good to wear because of the seeds. People would be walking into and through areas of the preserve (woods primarily, but some burdock will be found in prairie areas). ***We need to have a count of volunteers ahead of time so enough equipment can be gathered, so please Pastor Mary know by tomorrow if your hands will be a part of this project.***

Option 2: Grounds work at St. Mark's

The St. Mark's Garden Club and Saturday Stewards will have outside projects for us to work on around the church. Bring gloves and tools as you are able.

Option 3: Tying fleece blankets for baptisms at St. Mark's

This is a project the youth will be completing – with good social distancing. Women of the church have purchased fleece and cut it in preparation for tying. Blankets are then presented at baptisms.

Option 4: Non-Perishable Food Collection for NSP Food Shelf

This is a GWOH project that everyone may participate in! Needs are higher than ever in our community and this is a simple way to help our neighbors. We will have tables in the parking lot for folks to leave food donations, which will then be taken to the food shelf.

There may be other options. If you have an idea for a project that could be accomplished safely, please let me know. I look forward to seeing you in person, even if only from a distance.

God's Peace,
Pastor Mary
Cell: 608-295-5401 or Email: primaryf@stmarks-nsp.org

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 coming Sunday's text is **James 1:19-27** in case you want to look ahead and bring your thoughts and ideas.*

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

Wednesday Confirmation Kickoff

September 16

7th & 8th Grade Students - Confirmation kicks off Wednesday, Sept 16 @ 6:30pm. It'll be an **online** time of fun and relevant teaching as well as a time to reconnect with friends from church via Zoom! Cory will send the weekly link by email and posting it on St. Mark's Facebook page.

9th Grade Students - Reminder that you are invited to the High School (online/Zoom) Youth Group Wednesday's at 7pm beginning September 16. Cory will send the weekly link to you by email, Facebook and/or text.

All ages Virtual Bible discussion via Zoom
Wednesdays from 6:15 to 6:30 pm

Hosted by Pastor Mary and Cory Jones

Any and all ages are invited to join us. This coming Wednesday, September 16, our Fall programming begins for 7th and 8th grade Confirmation and High School Youth Group. We will begin with an opening devotion at 6:15 pm. **Members and friends of St. Mark's are invited to join in as we take a few moments out of our busy weekly schedule to pause, breathe, and reflect on God's Word and will for our lives.** At 6:30, following the devotion time, Confirmation classes will begin and at 7:00, the Youth Group will convene.

Attention parents of 6th grade students

Starting **September 24**, Cory will be leading a once a month "Pre-Confirmation" opportunity online for 6th grade students. Parents will receive an email from me soon with more information. Stay tuned!

The Zoom links will be sent out next week.

Contact Cory Jones at coryj@stmarks-nsp.org or 651.249.8958 with questions.

September Saturday Stewards – rescheduled for Sunday, Sept. 13 for GWOH

Saturday Stewards is cancelled and work will be done on Sunday as part of God's Work – Our Hands.

There will be **FREE Hostas** available on Sunday, September 13 in the area by Rees Hall. Any remaining hostas will be put in the dumpsters.

Pop Up Farmers Market – September 28

Our last Pop-Up of the summer is scheduled for Sept. 28 from 4-6 pm. No registration or income requirements—just good food shared with neighbors. The market is outside in the St. Mark's parking lot (on the sanctuary side). This event is contact free: just drive up, pop the trunk or roll down the back seat window, and a volunteer will place the bag inside the car for you. **Tell your friends and neighbors about this SAFE way to get delicious, FREE produce!** ~A partnership with the North Saint Paul Food Shelf and Second Harvest


Red Cross Blood Drive – October 5

St. Mark's is hosting a Red Cross blood drive on Monday, October 5 from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. To sign up, go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>. In the upper right corner is a search box. Type in "north st paul churches". You will be able to schedule your preferred time here.

We also need a few **volunteers** to help during the drive. As the date gets closer, there will be more information available. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please call John Froiland at 608-295-5402.

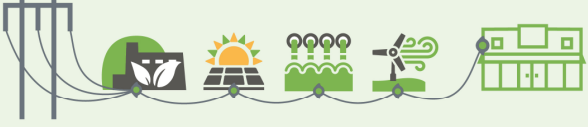
Online Worship every Sunday & Facebook Live Sunday Preludes

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.



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St. Mark's Lutheran Church



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