



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

September 24 , 2020

Outdoor Worship Service with Communion – Sunday, September 27 at 10:00 am

That's right! We had such a great time coming together for worship two weeks ago...we're doing it again one more time before the weather becomes too unpredictable. If you didn't make it last time, here's how it works: 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. **A pre-taped service (different from the outdoor service) will also be available online** for those unable to make it in-person. The link will be emailed and it will be available on www.stmarks-nsp.org and on Facebook.

Free stuff in Rees Hall this Sunday

Take advantage of our fall cleaning of the Christian Education room! Browse the tables in Rees Hall after the service on Sunday for some free deals - crafts supplies, construction paper, toys and more! Remember to maintain physical distancing when in the building and wear your mask. After this Sunday, the items will be donated/recycled/thrown out.

Pop-Up Farmers Market – September 28

Our last Pop-Up of the summer is scheduled for Monday, 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!** **Contact Pastor Mary if you would like to volunteer** (primaryf@stmarks-nsp.org or 608-295-5401). Volunteers need to arrive by 3:00 pm. *~A partnership with the North Saint Paul Food Shelf and Second Harvest Heartland*

2020 Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly this weekend (September 25-26)

The 2020 Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly will be unlike any before! Participants will gather virtually on Zoom to conduct the business of the assembly, including electing a bishop, discussing and voting on resolutions, passing a budget and holding general synod elections. They will also see and hear reports from various synod ministries, synod officers, and the winners of our first-ever hymn contest will be revealed! Please pray for those gathered to do the work of our larger church. Thanks to Carol and Steve Yahr, Kurt Biedermann, Jenn Luong and Pastor Mary for representing St. Mark's.

Have you seen the new playground?

Thanks to Headstart for doing such a nice job installing a safe playground on the grounds of St. Mark's (outside of the Sanctuary, across from North High). This is a wonderful addition to the Headstart program that enables their "littles" to be active outdoors during their school day.

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 texts are **Philippians 2:1-14 and Matthew 21:23-32** in case you want to look ahead and bring your thoughts and ideas.*

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

Meeting ID: 818 5003 4128

Council Corner – September 17 meeting

What an exciting time for St. Mark's to come together in-person Sept. 13 (be it lawn chairs or in vehicles) to celebrate Sunday service and fellowship after such a long time. Thank you to all of those whose efforts made that precious space available. Here's an update from our last Council meeting:

- Grades 7-9 confirmation season kicked-off under the guidance of Cory Jones and Pr. Mary. This brings normalcy to fall and a continuance of youth development.
- The Finance committee continues to report St. Mark's is maintaining a healthy balance. Though it's difficult to assess financial struggles and successes in a Covid-world, your steady financial support is reassuring. In addition, the PPP paperwork for the loan forgiveness went through the revision stage and was resubmitted.
- Projects on St. Mark's grounds are evident, from the Columbarium, to the playground constructed through Head Start, to landscaping. Thank you to all involved from the property and maintenance personnel and members of St. Mark's.
- The Stewardship committee has been heavily involved in crafting a cohesive plan, in conjunction with our consultant, to prepare to push out our fall drive.
- Once again, Council would like to recognize all of the efforts by members and staff to create our online and outdoor services, especially under Gary Martin's expertise. We are getting into the fall season, so ask him about his famous chili recipe.

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 October 15 at 6:30 pm.*


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.

Update on the Secret Prayer Sisters

We will not be having a Women's Fall Event this year to select new Prayer Sisters. Please continue to send prayers and encouraging wishes to your current sister until we can gather again.


Share
your good health

 Give blood or platelets.

Blood Drive
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Rees Hall
2499 North Helen, North Saint Paul, MN, 55109

Monday, October 5, 2020
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: North St Paul Churches to schedule an appointment.

 Download the Blood Donor App today. Get your digital donor card, schedule your next appointment, track your lifetime donations, view your blood pressure, and follow your donation on its way to a hospital.

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.

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

The preparedness and response plan was developed by the St. Mark's Restoration Team to minimize the spread of COVID-19 at St. Mark's (including a phased reopening plan for in-person worship). The report is informed by CDC guidance in accordance with the Minnesota Department of Health guidelines. The full report is available in the resources section of St. Mark's website at www.stmarks-nsp.org/resources.

Electronic Giving

If you haven't already set up electronic giving, now would be a great time to do so! Follow the link on stmarks-nsp.org to get started. Use the "Contribute Online" button on the home page or under the "About" tab. It's easy, secure, and provides for the support of St. Mark's ministries even when we can't be together. Once at the VANCO site, select "set up profile."