



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekly Update

September 3, 2020

Dear Friends,

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 am, 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. The question this year is how to reach out when we are unable to touch. Well, we have come up with a few options.

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 let Jim or Pastor Mary know if your hands will be a part of this project.***

Option 2: Grounds work at St. Mark's

There will be outside projects for us to work on around the church grounds and gardens. 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. **Don't forget to wear your bright yellow GWOH T-shirts!**

I look forward to seeing you in person, even if only from a distance.

God's Peace,
Pastor Mary

Cell: 608-295-5401

Email: pmaryf@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 texts are **1 Corinthians 13 and Matthew 18:15-20** in case you want to look ahead and bring your thoughts and ideas.*

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

September Saturday Stewards – Sept. 12

Saturday Stewards will gather on Saturday, Sept. 12 beginning at 9 am. Our regular workday would be September 5 but that is Labor Day weekend. Hope to see you on the 12th.

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.

High School Students!

You are invited every Wednesday night at 8 to 9 pm to join us online for a time of games, relevant faith and life discussion, and friends! Cory will text out and put the Zoom link on the St. Mark's Youth Facebook page.

Cory Jones

Interim Children, Youth, and Family Minister
coryj@stmarks-nsp.org
651.249.8958 – cell (call or text)

Columbarium & Memorial Garden Update

Additional landscaping has been added to the Memorial Garden: grasses, bushes and arborvitaes have been planted to help create a quiet, beautiful space. Stop by to see the changes if you are driving past St. Mark's.

The Memorial walls, on either side of the Columbarium, are engraved with the names of loved ones. Each wall holds 8 names, and we currently have one wall with 7 names waiting to be engraved. We are looking for one more name, so if you have thought about adding someone to the memorial wall, now is the perfect time.

For inquiries, please contact Heidi McKenzie at 651-231-5500 or heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org.

You may also find information on the website: <https://stmarks-nsp.org/columbarium>

Online Worship every Sunday & Facebook Live Sunday Preludes

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 and his following continues to grow.

Food Shelf Challenge

During August, St. Mark's collected \$905 for the food shelf challenge issued by Bishop Lull. Monetary gifts are a great way to support local food banks, which are able to buy food at deeply discounted prices. This means that when you donate a dollar, you're able to help put more meals on the tables of families, and the food bank is able to buy what is needed to stock the shelves. Thank you for your generosity!

Wednesday Night

This week (9/2) was the last Wednesday night online worship service. Beginning Wednesday, September 16, we will begin our Confirmation programming for seventh and eighth graders virtually via Zoom. High School Youth Group, including 9th grade Confirmation students, will meet Wednesday evenings, also via Zoom. *More details will be provided in next week's Thursday Update.*

Families with children 5th grade and under

You should have received an email from Cory Jones this week. In it is a VERY brief online survey. Please take a moment to complete it to help us plan for programming for younger children going forward. If you didn't get an email from Cory, please contact him directly.