



**St. Mark's**  
Lutheran Church

# The Messenger

715 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND | [www.stmarksqf.org](http://www.stmarksqf.org) | 701-772-4807

"A Heritage of God's Grace" Since 1910

## January 2019

**The Annual Meeting of  
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
will be held  
Sunday, January 27, 2019  
following the 9:30 a.m. worship.**



**The agenda for the meeting includes approval of the proposed 2019 Budget. The updated Constitution & Bylaws will be presented as well.**

**A potluck lunch will be shared after the meeting.**

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**A Forum will be held following worship  
Sunday, January 20, 2019**

**Annual Report packets will be available at that time.**

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Annual reports should be submitted to the office by January 5<sup>th</sup>. Electronic reports are preferred, but not required. If possible, email your reports to [stmarkselca@msn.com](mailto:stmarkselca@msn.com).

All committees/ministries should have reports included in the annual report packets. If you are responsible for a separate checking account, a financial report should also be included.

Please contact Sandy in the office if you have any questions.

# A Message from our Intern Pastor.....

Notes from Dale.....

A focus of a recent sermon was the meaning of "Merry Christmas" and how it has evolved into "Happy Holidays" and that Christ is slowly being removed from the true meaning of why we celebrate December 25th every year. Businesses of the world want to make this a celebration that everyone can participate in so they can fill their coffers and brag about record year-end sales. It has become more about material things, and less about meaningful things. And, every year I sense the term "Merry Christmas" is heard less and less, and you are more apt to hear people say, "Season's Greetings." It is becoming a generic celebration that us Christians can and should do something about.

I don't blame the businesses for using the season to make money, but it has come at the cost of the real reason for celebrating. We not only need to put Christ in Christmas, we need people to know that Christ is Christmas, and in reality everyday should be Christmas, because Christ is with us every day, not just this one day or time of the year.

As I focus on the time Teri and I have been a part of this congregation I am able to thank God for the opportunity He has given us, to become a part of your lives. We really feel like part of the St. Mark's family. As we venture into 2019, we are looking forward to continuing to grow and learn alongside of you all. I am well aware that the remaining time we have with St. Mark's is fleeting, but we are looking forward to each and every moment we have with you all.

So, I pray that your "Christmas Day" was "Merry" and your 2019 will be the "Happiest"

Blessing to All,

Pastor Dale



**Pastor Dale will be at Luther Seminary for part of January. He will be out of the office January 7<sup>th</sup> though January 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**--Beth Hemming will be leading worship January 13<sup>th</sup> and January 20<sup>th</sup>--**

Our December 30<sup>th</sup>, worship will be Lessons & Carols. Please plan to attend this very special worship.



With Heartfelt  
*Sympathy*

**Our Sympathies to:**

Jane & Miles Rodacker and their family as they mourn the death of Jane's father, Roland Young.

**The Parents of Loss group will meet on Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's. This group is for all who are grieving the loss of a child or grandchild, regardless of age. They meet here the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.**



The deadline to submit information for the February newsletter is January 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Men's Group** The Men's Group will meet for breakfast on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 a.m. at Grama Butterwicks. All men are invited to attend. No registration is required! This is an informal group that meets the first Thursday of each month for food and conversation. You can still make it to work by 8!

**Council** will meet Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm.

**Bethesda Society** meets Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm at 4000 Valley Square.

**J.O.Y.** will meet Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. Watch bulletins for information on the program that will follow the luncheon.

**Sanctuary Ministry** meets Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 5:30 p.m.

### **To all our Volunteers ...**

So much of what happens at St. Mark's is done by volunteers. We have a group of members who, on a regular rotating schedule, vacuum, dust, take out garbage, clean bathrooms, clean glass, sweep up pesky flies, etc. Your work is so appreciated! Thank you to: Ann & Tom Henderson, Jane & Miles Rodacker, Dave Christianson, Olive Weber, Sandy McCleary, Kathy Mutcher, and Iver & Sandy Buchmann. Our outside flower beds and landscaping are tended to by Kathy Wyum and Brenda Metcalf. Thank you also to Iver Buchmann, Ray Mutcher, Miles Rodacker, Kathy Wyum and Elton Hendrickson for doing other projects that come up such as mopping, lawn mowing, repairs etc.

**... We thank you!!!!**

## Highlights from the December Council Meeting

*Contributed by Acting Council Secretary, Jeanette Gratton*

- ✓ Repair work continues on the elevator. A grant may be the best option to cover cost of replacement.
- ✓ Discussions continue with Evangelical Ministries regarding our Pastoral future.
- ✓ The Annual meeting date was set for January 27, 2019, all reports will be due in the office by January 5, 2019.
- ✓ The 2019 Budget was approved.
- ✓ Approved modifications to the ministries list and the Constitution.

*(HIGHLIGHTS OF EACH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOLLOWING THOSE MEETINGS. FULL MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY)*

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### **ST MARK'S FINANCIAL REPORT - 01/01/18 through 11/30/18**

BUDGETED GIVING:	\$ 143,088.00
11/30/18 YTD GIVING:	\$ 104,595.00
(2017 YTD Giving	\$ 138,376.00)

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11/30/18 YTD General Fund Income	\$ 138,049.00
11/30/18 YTD General Fund Expenses	\$ 138,262.00
<b>YTD GENERAL FUND <u>Difference</u></b>	<b>(\$213.00)</b>

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### **January 27<sup>th</sup> Potluck...**

We will share a potluck lunch following our Annual Meeting to be held on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Lots of helpers are needed! We would appreciate if the following ministries would take over the specific responsibilities listed:

Outreach	Set up tables and set tables
Council	Set out food on the serving table that morning
Sanctuary & WELCA	Clean up

Thank you so much!

## Education Classes will resume on January 6<sup>th</sup>.



### MARK THESE UPCOMING EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Men's Breakfast – Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 a.m. at Butterwicks

#### **ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE INTO THE OFFICE**

WELCA – Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. at Weber home

Council – Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.

Bethesda Society – Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. at Valley 4000

Parents of Loss – Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

J.O.Y. – Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m.

#### **Congregation Forum following worship January 20<sup>th</sup>**

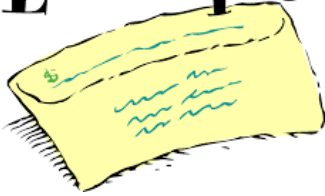
Sanctuary Ministry – Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 5:30 p.m.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>

#### **Annual Meeting of Congregation following worship January 27<sup>th</sup>**

-----a potluck lunch will be shared after the meeting

## Offering Envelopes



Your 2019 Offering Envelopes are here! If you haven't already received yours, please pick them up at the church. They are on a table in the narthex.

If you are interested in Simply Giving, the electronic giving option, please contact the church office. This is a convenient way to keep up to date on your contributions.



**Dine to Donate Program** Texas Roadhouse Restaurant has approached St. Mark's and we have become a part of their "Dine to Donate Program". The program is easy. Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of food purchases to any Sunday diner who gives them a St. Mark's bulletin from that day. This program is for all Sundays, with the exception of holidays. Every quarter, they will issue St. Mark's a check for 10% of those sales. So, grab your bulletin and head over

to Texas Roadhouse! Thank you!

# *Sanctuary Ministry .....*

The Sanctuary Ministry would appreciate the congregation's help in taking down the Christmas decorations from the sanctuary. Please stay following worship on January 20<sup>th</sup>, to help if you are able. Thank you!!

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## January Birthdays and Anniversaries...

### Birthdays:

2	Dave Christianson Lily Stewart
4	Jeanette Gratton Erik Tingberg
11	Pauline Hesse
15	Bob Weber
17	Sandy McCleary
23	Robbie Bohm Ryan Bohm
29	Jim Glick
31	Brittney Gratton

### Anniversaries:

---None---



(Please contact the church office if you have additions or corrections to this listing.)



**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**

Miles Rodacker	746-9438
Iver Buchmann	701-361-6617
Michele Peterson	701-330-0297
Ann Henderson	775-6471
Jeanette Gratton	701-215-0902
Donna Hubbard	218-230-8533
Jane Humble	701-772-4638
Ray Mutcher	218-779-2951
Art Ruud	701-330-2122

**Intern Pastor:** Dale Raatz 701-772-4807  
Email: [DMRaatzStMarks@gmail.com](mailto:DMRaatzStMarks@gmail.com)

**Office Manager:** Sandra Buchmann  
701-772-4807 Cell-701-330-6974  
Office Email: [stmarkselca@msn.com](mailto:stmarkselca@msn.com)

**Office Hours:** Sunday 8-12  
Monday-Thursday 8:30-3:00  
**Office Phone:** 701-772-4807






[www.stmarksgf.org](http://www.stmarksgf.org)



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and look for our logo!



# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 	2	3 7:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00 AI Anon	4	5 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE
6 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee 10:40 Education	7 5:30 WELCA 7:00 Scouts Date out of office Until Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup> .	8 6:30 Council	9 9-Noon Quilting 2:00 Bethesda 7:00 Parents of Loss	10	11	12
13 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee 10:40 Education	14 7:00 Scouts	15	16 9-Noon Quilting 11:30 J.O.Y.	17 7:00 AI Anon	18	19
20 <b>Forum</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee 10:40 Education 10:40 Forum	21  7:00 Scouts	22 5:30 Sanctuary Ministry	23 9-Noon Quilting	24	25 	26
27 <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Meeting 10:40 Education 11:00 Potluck	28 7:00 PLC 7:00 Scouts	29	30 9-Noon Quilting	31		