



# 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

**May 2019**

## Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend Gathering

Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

**The decorations are made, the program is planned and the goodies soon will be made. The members of the WELCA board are looking forward to having you attend the Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend on Saturday morning, May 4 at 10 a.m.**



**Intern Dale will share inspirational thoughts in a devotion and Chuck Gust and Sharon Myron will favor us with music on the accordion and keyboard. Come and enjoy the program, fellowship and refreshments. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Hope to see you there!**

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

Notes from Dale.....

Many people are glad to get through the Lenten and Easter Season, in order to get back to a life of somewhat normalcy, however I must be the odd duck in the group. I for one enjoy the Lenten and Easter Season, and everything they stand for. For me it is the one time of the year where we are all brought to the Church for fellowship, learning, faith building, but most of all knowing that it will culminate with the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. It's probably why it is called the most important Holiday of the Church Year. And as the waters recede back into their banks, flowers start to push their way through the thawing ground, and thoughts of bountiful gardens occupy the recesses of our minds, the resurrection story that is fresh in our minds should take on a whole new meaning.

The resurrection story was on my mind as St. Mark's participated in the annual Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack. In just 2 short hours, 53,784 meals were packed into 249 boxes. Enough meals to feed 147 children at least one hot meal a day for a year were packed and ready to be sent out to those in need. "Go and Feed" was a command given by Jesus, and through our hands we made that happen. Even though I don't have much hair it was an honor to "Wear a Hair Net to Fight Hunger."

This is also the time of the year for graduations. Senior recognition Sunday will be the first Sunday in May. The culmination of years of hard work, and a lot of praying is coming to a close. Fortunately, along with graduation comes the realization that as we close one chapter in our lives a new chapter is about to start. Most of the time the only constant in our lives is our family and church. Remembering that God is with us in all that we do is important, and at times we will talk to God more than our families. But, it's times like this when we need to keep the lines of communication open with not only God, but also family and friends, remember you are not alone.

My graduation from Luther Seminary will take place on May 19th, and since you have all been an important part of my journey through seminary, you are all invited to the festivities at Central Lutheran Church at 3 pm in Minneapolis, MN. You can find the official announcement elsewhere here in the Messenger. I would be honored to see you there, however, you are not getting rid of me that easy. I will still be with you for a few more months and my last Sunday will be the 28th of July.

Remember to make Good Decisions in Life!

Blessing to All!

Pastor Dale



***During worship on May 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be recognizing and honoring Charisse Vetsch. She will graduate from Red River High this spring. Following worship, the WELCA group will host a cake reception in the Fellowship Hall.***



**Pastor Dale has begun a Bible Study series on Mondays. Sessions are offered at 9:30 a.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. No registration is needed.**

A big THANK YOU to Art, Denny, Elton and Iver for their help in setting up tables, racks, etc., for the rummage sale, in addition to returning to pack unsold items and cleaning the fellowship hall!



Thanks, also, to the women who worked to display all the donated articles – Kathy M., Lil, Linda, Marilee, Marsha, Olive and Sandy McC. To the many people who worked at the sale, Ann, Ivy, Kathy M. Lil, Linda, Marilee, Marsha, Michele, and Sandy McC and stayed to pack items and do clean up. To the many members who donated items making the sale possible, thank you. The receipts for the sale totaled \$1,172.00 which will be used for Bible camp scholarships, mission projects locally and globally and projects at St. Mark's.

### **A Reminder about Hospital Visitations:**

If you or a family member are hospitalized, Altru no longer can inform the church or the pastor that you are there. They are required to follow strict patient privacy standards.

This sometimes means that a member(s) are in and out of the hospital before the church is aware.

So...if you or a family member are hospitalized or admitted to a care facility, please let the church or Pastor Dale know. We would be happy to arrange a visit with you.

We feel it is important to serve our members' needs and give our support.

Please keep us informed.





Master of Divinity Candidate  
 --Dale Marvin Raatz--  
 Invites you to  
 Luther Seminary Commencement  
 Sunday afternoon, May nineteenth  
 Three O'clock  
 at  
 Central Lutheran Church  
 333 South Twelfth Street  
 Minneapolis, Minnesota

**The J.O.Y. Group** will meet on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. Following the luncheon, Carrie Knudson from the Grand Forks County Extension Service will give us some tips on gardening, lawn care, etc. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

**The Northern Plains Brass Quintet** will be providing special music for us during worship on May 5<sup>th</sup>. In addition to playing during worship, they will be playing before worship so plan to be here early to listen to this amazing group. Thanks to Dave Christianson for making the arrangements!



## LET'S HAVE A PICNIC!

We, at St. Mark's have been blessed to have the All 4 Learning Daycare become an occupant of our church building, with the added life and the financial boost that it gives us in our mission of faith. The Outreach Ministry and Church Council feel that it's time for us to show them our appreciation and let the families served by the daycare "see the faces" of St. Mark's.

To do that, we will be hosting a **family picnic** for the daycare children, their parents, and the staff on **Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:00 pm**. We will serve a picnic meal, have games for the kids, and provide the opportunity to mingle with and welcome the people who benefit from our building each day.

To make this happen, we need the members of St. Mark's to be there in good numbers. Please mark your calendars and make a plan to join us on the 23<sup>rd</sup> for food and fellowship. If you would like to help with setup or cleanup, please let Sandy know. Otherwise, just show up and enjoy!



# Education News

**Bake Sale (during Rummage Sale)** Thank you to all those who donated baked goods! Education made a little over \$300 which will go towards educational materials including VBS Supplies

**Palm Sunday** Thank you to all the Education students who participated in the Palm Sunday service. Your participation in the service was very meaningful.

**Feed My Starving Children** Thank you to all the Education Students, parents and grandparents who participated in the Feed My Starving Children Event.



**May 12th- Mother's Day** This is the last day of Sunday School. We will be asking the children to participate in the church service. David Hysjulien will play guitar at the church service. Following church, we will have a special event/activity for Sunday School and confirmation kids.

**Bible Camp Funds Available** Abiding Memorials and WELCA will graciously provide funds for St. Mark's kids to attend Bible Camp. Abiding will pay for half the registration and WELCA will also give \$50 towards registration. We are grateful for our church's support of our youth and their spiritual growth. Contact Michele (cell 701-732-0297) or the St. Mark's Office for more information.



## **Vacation Bible School at Northern Air -- Mon-Wed. June 3-5, 6-8:15 pm**

St. Mark's is joining with Augustana Lutheran for VBS at Northern Air. We will have VBS lessons, VBS activities and the kids will have time to use the trampolines and laser tag. The event is free but a food donation is requested (see the registration packet for more information). Each



Education child *is encouraged* to bring friend! If anyone has grandchildren who might like to attend, please contact Michele, we may have available slots. VBS is for kids ages 5-15. Registration deadline is May 27 or until VBS fills (Max 40 students). Confirmation students can register as VBS Helpers. Supper will not be served but we will provide a small snack at 8 pm.

**Thrivent** A special thank you to Thrivent for providing funds to defray the Northern Air rental costs.

**The Annual Block Party** will be on a Thursday in mid-August.

# God's Work, Our Hands



## St. Joseph's Summer Food Program

Put on your tennis shoes and jeans we're packing bags for kids again this summer! Your Outreach Ministry, along with the members of St. Mark's, is again partnering with St. Joseph's to provide weekend meals to kids. These bags supplement their diet during summer weekends. It is difficult to imagine hunger in our community but the need is real and our help at St. Mark's is critical. Each year, your work has packed 3600 bags or the equivalent of 7200 meals for hungry kids! This event has become a staple for our congregation and one which everyone can participate. We're changing things a little this year and packing two times – **May 28th and June 18th**. This shouldn't add more than a half an hour to each evening. Join us at 6:30 at the church on May 28th and June 18th. We will have a sign-up sheet available in the near future.



The Parents of Loss group will meet on Wednesday, May 8<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.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped with the cleaning of the church along with the UND Big Event students on April 27<sup>th</sup>! So much was accomplished that Saturday! Thank you to Kathy Wyum, Mark Humble, Iver Buchmann, Michele Peterson, Synje Peterson, Sandy Buchmann and Jeanette Gratton.

Thank You

With Heartfelt  
*Sympathy*

**Our Sympathies to the friends and family of our member, Jonavon Brothers, as they mourn his death. Jon passed away April 27<sup>th</sup>. God bless his memory.**

## Highlights from the April Council Meeting

- ✓ May 23<sup>rd</sup> has been set for our Daycare Appreciation Event. Plans are being made to have food, games, etc. to show our appreciation for the daycare staff, children and their parents. Details to come.
- ✓ The Fire Alarm Panel needs to be replaced. Bids have been received and Century Electric will be doing the work.
- ✓ We are awaiting bids for the Elevator Repair.
- ✓ The Nominating Committee is working on filling council seats that will be elected at the April 28<sup>th</sup>, Spring Congregational Meeting.
- ✓ Dale's graduation from Luther Seminary is May 19<sup>th</sup> in Minneapolis.
- ✓ St. Mark's has agreed to charter Scout Troop 130G, which will be the troop that admits girls into the scouting program.
- ✓ St. Mark's continues to work with the synod looking at our future Pastoral needs.

### ST MARK'S FINANCIAL REPORT - 01/01/19 through 03/31/19

BUDGETED GIVING:	\$ 30,275.00
03/31/19 YTD GIVING	\$ 34,658.00
(2018 YTD Giving \$ 28,444.00)	
+++++	
03/31/19 YTD General Fund Income	\$ 47,656.00
03/31/19 YTD General Fund Expenses	\$ 44,156.00
<b>YTD GENERAL FUND <u>Difference</u></b>	<b>3,500.00</b>



St. Mark's is looking for someone who would be willing to clean the bathrooms. This is generally a once per week task. Duties would include making sure the bathrooms are all stocked with paper products, cleaning toilets, vanities, mirrors and the floor. Please let the office know if you would have time to do this task. Thank you for your consideration!

**Thank you to all the volunteers who have been cleaning the church. It is appreciated!**



***Do you have a St. Mark's green tshirt at your home? We use these shirts to identify us as St. Mark's members at events out in the community, at our picnics, at our block parties, etc. We are currently missing 8 shirts. If you have of these shirts at your home, please return them to the office. Thank you!!***

**Men's Group** The Men's Group will meet for breakfast on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</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!

**Miriam Circle** will meet Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., at St. Mark's.

**WELCA** will meet on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m., at St. Mark's.

**Bethesda Society** meets Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm at 4000 Valley Square.

**Council** will meet Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.

**Daycare Appreciation Picnic** Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:00 p.m.

**Church Council Election** At the spring meeting of the congregation on April 28<sup>th</sup>, four members were elected to serve 3 year terms on the council. Thank you for your service! They are: Ann Henderson, Iver Buchmann, Jeanette Gratton and Marsha Oss. Officers will be elected at the May council meeting.

**Thank you to Ray Mutcher who just completed two 3-year terms on the council.**

**And, thank you to Miles Rodacker who completed a 3-year term as the congregation president. You have done a great job! Miles will continue to serve on the church council.**



The deadline to submit information for the June newsletter is May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Dine to Donate Program** St. Mark's has become part of Texas Roadhouse's "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!



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## May Birthdays and Anniversaries...

### Birthdays:

- 1 Ryan Christianson  
Megan Maple
- 2 Marla Danielson
- 6 Charisse Vetsch
- 7 Addisyn Sigette
- 8 Jay Gilbraith
- 9 Linda Keehr
- 12 Judy Vatnsdal
- 13 Ray Mutchler
- 14 Kathy Keeley
- 15 Michael Moon
- 16 Linda Vanderhoff
- 17 Molly Fortman
- 18 Tom Henderson
- 20 Ryan Keehr
- 21 Dale Raatz
- 23 Amy Christianson
- 25 Amanda Denault  
Rose Keeley
- 27 Joseph Peterson
- 28 LaVaur Swanson
- 30 Zachary Bohn

### Anniversaries:

- 17 Kelsey & Matt Sigette
- 28 Rose & Pat Keeley



(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
Marsha Oss	
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!



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



**All 4 Learning  
Childcare Center**



**Eastern North Dakota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# May 2019

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9-Noon Quilting	2 7am Men's Breakfast 6:00 Al Anon 7:00 Miriam Crcl	3	4 WELCA Brunch
5 Senior Recognition 9:30 Worship 10:30 Reception 10:40 Education	6 7:00 Scouts	7 Pastors' Conf. 5:30 WELCA	8 9-Noon Quilting 2:00 Bethesda 7:00 Parents Loss	9	10	11	
12 MOTHER'S DAY 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee 10:40 Education	13 7:00 Scouts	14 6:30 Council	15 9-Noon Quilting 11:30 J.O.Y.	16 7:00 Al Anon Date out of office	17	18	
19 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee 3:00 Dale's Graduation	20 7:00 Scouts Date out of office	21	22 9-Noon Quilting	23 5:00 Daycare Appreciation Picnic	24 	25	
26 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee	27 	28 St. Joseph's Food Packing 1:30 Set Up 6:30 Packing	29 9-Noon Quilting	30	31		