



St. Mark's
Lutheran Church

The Messenger

715 24th Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND | www.stmarksqf.org | 701-772-4807

"A Heritage of God's Grace" Since 1910
Member of GIFT of Grace Lutheran Ministry

May 2021

Intergenerational Mission Trip



This short service trip is open to all ages – from little to very wise. We will be performing service work and learning about agencies that help in the Silver Bay, MN area of the North Shore. The trip will run from August 4-7, 2021.

We will be housed in the Silver Bay Recreational Center.

We will structure our service work to the people who go on the trip.

Children, parents, grandparents and singles are all welcome.

We will drive by carpool and cook together.

Cost is \$120 per person. Scholarships are available.

Deadline to sign up is June 1st

A Message from Pastor Sarah

Time is on my mind today.

This week, we learned of the death of Pastor Lynn Ronsberg from Sharon Lutheran Church. She died unexpectedly. Some deaths just hit us. They make us feel our own mortality. They make us highly aware of how fast life goes. This is how it has been for me.

And yet, as I thought about all of that and talked with pastoral colleagues about how we can be supportive and helpful, I also watched the minutes tick by so slowly that it felt like time stopped. My mind was scattered and unfocused. It was hard to do anything that required concentration, so I turned my attention to the tasks of house and home: laundry, dishes, cleaning. But still the minutes were so so slow.

Time is a funny thing. Too slow at times. Too fast at other times.

The author of Ecclesiastes wrote about the phenomenon of time.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

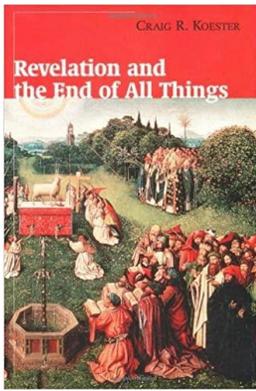
a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

We have this illusion of control over our time. We schedule and make appointments. We book plane tickets in anticipation of travel. We mark birthdays and anniversaries. And yet, we are reminded in so many ways that our time is in the hands of God. When death approaches. When we are waiting and worrying. When we face heartache and loss.

Beloveds, in these crazy, challenging times, I pray for your time. I pray that you find contentment in the minutes. I pray that you can carve out time to spend with God. I pray that your minutes and hours are held precious. Time is a gift. And whether it ticks by quickly or slowly, our time is not our own. We are only the stewards of the time which God has granted to us. May we care for it well.

Pastor Sarah



May Book Group

“Revelation and the End of All Things”

We will begin a new book in May. The book is “Revelation and the End of All Things” by Craig Koester. Copies are available for purchase through the church office or contact Pastor Sarah. The book is \$20. Let Pastor Sarah know if you would like to participate in the book study but cannot afford the book. We will meet in person at St. Mark’s on March 16 at 6 p.m. Please read Chapter 1 for this first meeting. Future meeting dates and locations will be set by the group



Scholarships Available!!

Bible Camp Scholarships are available for all St. Mark’s youth who plan to attend camp this summer. WELCA is offering \$50 towards tuition. And, Abiding Memorials has approved 50% of the cost. This is available for any Bible Camp that is attended. Contact the office to get more information on the paperwork that should be submitted to these two ministries. It is easy and is a wonderful gift offered to our youth.



Hospital Note.....

Due to HIPAA laws and privacy regulations, pastors no longer have access to any hospital lists or information. If you or a loved one is hospitalized and you would like prayer or a visit, please contact Pastor Sarah 701-740-1651 or email pastorsarahraymond@gmail.com



Prayer Practice

Prayer practice continues at noon on Mondays on the GIFT of Grace Facebook page. This 20- minute practice helps you make a little space for God in your day. The practice will remain on our Facebook page for you to access anytime. Join in every Monday, except Memorial Day.



With Heartfelt
Sympathy

Our Sympathies to the family and friends of **Ethel Benfield**, as they mourn her death. Ethel was the sister of **Judy Vatnsdal and Dennis (Lillian) Larson**. She was also aunt to **Linda & Mark Keehr**.

Red Willow Bible Camp

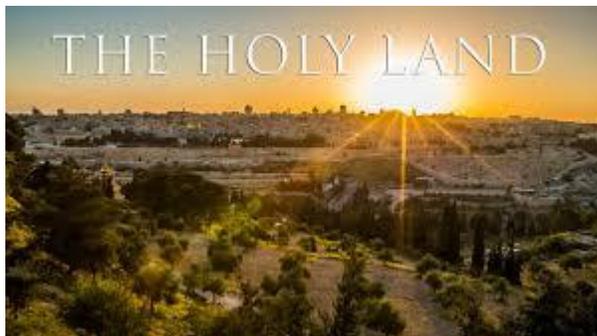
If your child or grandchild is interested in a bible camp experience this summer, we ask that you consider Red Willow Bible Camp. Pastor Sarah will be serving as Pastor of the Week at Red Willow during the week of June 27 – July 2.



There is a Creation Camp that week for grades 4-6. There is also a Taste of Camp event that runs from June 27 – 29 for children entering grades K2, plus a family member. And there is a Pathfinders Camp from June 27-29 for children entering grades 2-3.

All of the churches have scholarships to help offset the cost of these camps. Please contact Pastor Sarah for more information or if you need help arranging rides. For more information on the Red Willow camps, go to www.redwillowministries.com

You are also welcome to attend other bible camps or other weeks. Scholarships are available for those too.



Holy Land 2022

Pastor Sarah will be leading a group to the Holy Land in 2022. The group will depart on January 24, and return on February 3, 2022. If you are interested in more information, please contact Pastor Sarah at 701-740-1651 or email pastorsarahraymond@gmail.com.

God's Work, Our Hands



The GIFT of Grace Outreach Ministry's project benefiting LaGrave on First will continue throughout May. In May, donations of personal care products are requested. All churches will have collection boxes for your donations. Thank you!!

May Personal Care Products Request List:

Shampoo
Mouthwash
Razors

Conditioner
Deodorant
Bar Soap

Toothpaste
Shaving Cream

Highlights from the April St. Mark's Council Meeting

- ✓ The agenda for the April 25th Meeting of the Congregation was approved. The agenda will include two items: One council member will be elected for a 3-year term (Jane Humble will be brought forth for re-election). Also, a person is needed as a St. Mark's representative for GF Homes.
- ✓ The revised 2021 GIFT budget was presented and approved by the St. Mark's council.
- ✓ Bible Camp scholarships are available from WELCA and Abiding Memorials. Paperwork may be submitted to the Church Office.
- ✓ In May, Pastor Sarah will begin a new book study on Revelation.
- ✓ The recent Outreach Ministry project during Lent was very successful. \$2,730.00 was received from St. Mark's. Monies will be equally distributed between Feed My Starving Children and St. Joseph's Food Pantry.

ST MARK'S FINANCIAL REPORT - 01/01/21 through 03/31/21

BUDGETED GIVING:	\$ 30,275.00
2021 YTD ACTUAL GIVING:	\$ 26,989.00
(2020 YTD Giving \$ 27,614.00)	
2021 YTD Fund Income	\$ 41,305.00
2021 YTD General Fund Expenses	\$ 41,061.00
GENERAL FUND <u>Difference</u>	\$ 244.00

Highlights of April 25th Meeting of the Congregation –

- Jane Humble was re-elected to the Council for a three-year term.
- Miles Rodacker was elected to represent St. Mark's on the GF Homes board.

G.I.F.T. of Grace Council Meeting Summary

Highlights of April 12, 2021 G.I.F.T of Grace Council Meeting

- ❖ Ann presented a revised, 2020 Budget, which was approved by the Council
- ❖ The Council approved the carryover of Pastor Sarah's unused paid time. Details of the guidelines are listed in the council minutes.
- ❖ The Neighborhood Church in Fargo is requesting assistance with summer activities.
- ❖ There will be an ice cream social for GIFT Churches at St. Mark's on June 16, from 5:30-7
- ❖ On July 11th at 10:30 am, Pastor will participate in the Thomson Days Community Church Service. Everyone is Welcome. St. Mark's will have a 10:30 with a substitute minister.
- ❖ A block party in August was suggested. This will be further discussed.

Submitted by Michele Peterson, GIFT Secretary

A Note on Stewardship...

I have served, on and off, on committees and ministries at St. Mark's involving stewardship for more than ten years. Prior to that, my thoughts of stewardship focused on fundraising, and Consecration Sunday was the annual pitch for money. I didn't like the feeling that I was being told that I wasn't doing enough. Yep, the church needs money to survive, and it has to come from the members of the congregation. We have to face that reality and each do what we can, after prayerful consideration, to help keep our church mission. After all, as the name indicates, we are just stewards of all that we have, entrusted to us by God.

As we've tried to stress in recent years, stewardship is also all those things that we do for and through our congregation – serving in ministries, helping with worship, cleaning, counting offering, participating in fundraisers, and on and on. God has given us those two things that we in stewardship ministry always talk about - time, of which everyone can find at least a little, and talent (yes, we all have talent!).

However! I see stewardship as so much more, and that it goes way beyond doing things for our church. I, in fact, think that there is opportunity for stewardship in almost every interaction that we have outside of ourselves every day. We have a chance to be stewards of this life that God has given us in so many ways.

Stewardship can be a way that we choose to live our lives. Do we project our Christian values when we interact with others? That can be talking about our faith, or simply treating people in a caring and kind way. We can choose to be helpful to those who might need a little help. We can participate in community activities that are positive. We don't necessarily have to help organize the Art in the Park Festival (unless you feel called to do so), we just have to go and show our support for those who are displaying their work. We can invite a friend to an activity, concert, or church service that they might not otherwise attend. How about planting and nurturing a tree or garden to help our environment? We each do many of these things without thought. Can we do more? I would challenge you to sit down each day and make a list of things you have done that have contributed to the betterment of God's creation, whether its the world we live in or the people in it.

Miles Rodacker
Outreach Ministry

Men's Ministry will meet on Thursday, May 6th, at 7:00 a.m. at Grama Butterwicks. No registration is needed and all are welcome.



The deadline for the June newsletter is May 21st.

From Peggy Hagler...

A label in the quilts crafted by the St. Mark's quilters reads, "May the Lord's blessings and the warmth of St. Mark's Lutheran Church always surround you."

For the past two and a half years, the warmth of the St. Mark's congregation has surrounded me, even when I felt bereft of the Lord's blessings. You welcomed me to your worship and fellowship. You supported me during the difficult days of Gary's illness and death. You continue to do so with meals, virtual hugs, and phone calls.

Thank you for your concern, your care, and your prayers.

I have purchased a home in Cando where we lived prior to our time here. I will be leaving the end of April. Please consider a visit when you have time for a road trip; Sandy will have my address.

Again, thank you. You, members and pastors, have been a constant source of strength.

May the Lord's blessings and the warmth of St. Mark's Lutheran Church always surround each of you and those you love.

Peggy Hagler



May Dates to Remember . . .

Sunday, May 2 nd at 8:30 a.m.	Evanger during worship – the blessing of the quilts
Wednesday, May 5 th , at 7:30 pm	Confirmation students meet at Walle to assemble Foster Care bags
Sunday, May 9 th , at 8:30 a.m.	Baptism of Mackenzie Schulz at Walle
Tuesday, May 11 th , at 6:30 pm	St. Mark's Council
Sunday, May 16 th , at Noon	Baptism of Harper Carlson at St. Mark's
Sunday, May 16 th , at 6:00 pm	Revelation Book discussion at St. Mark's
Monday, May 17 th , at 6:00 pm	Outreach Team meeting on Zoom
Wednesday, May 19 th , at 2:00 pm	Steve Mathiason burial at Walle
Monday, May 31 st	No Noon Prayer Practice



May Worship Schedule

May 2 & 16	8:30 a.m. at Evanger (and on Facebook)
May 9 & 23	9:00 a.m. at Evanger with Rick Jackson
May 9 & 23	8:30 a.m. at Walle (and on Facebook)
May 30	8:30 a.m. worship on Facebook only
Every Sunday	10:30 a.m. worship at St. Mark's

May Birthdays and Anniversaries...

Birthdays:

- 1 Ryan Christianson
Megan Maple
- 2 Marla Danielson
- 6 Charisse Vetsch
- 8 Jay Gilbraith
- 9 Linda Keehr
- 12 Judy Vatnsdal
- 14 Kathy Keeley
- 15 Michael Moon
- 17 Brexton Humble
- 18 Tom Henderson
- 20 Ryan Keehr
- 23 Amy Christianson
- 25 Rose Keeley
- 30 Zach Bohj

Anniversaries:

- 28 Pat & Rose Keeley



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



President
Secretary
Treasurer

David Christianson
Ann Henderson
Michele Peterson

Iver Buchmann
Donna Hubbard
Marsha Oss

Jeanette Gratton
Jane Humble
Art Ruud

Pastor: Pastor Sarah Raymond
Email: pastorsarahraymond@gmail.com

Office Manager: Sandra Buchmann Office: 701-772-4807
Office Email: stmarkselca@msn.com

Missionaries: Willie & Annie Langdji



Please look for our logo and "Like" us on Facebook at St. Mark's Lutheran Church



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



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

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:30 Evanger & Facebook 10:30 St. Mark's Worship	3 Noon Prayer Practice	4	5 7:00 Confirmation at Walle – Foster Care Bags	6 Zam Men's Group at Butterwicks	7	8
9 <u>MOthers DAY</u> 8:30 Walle & Facebook 9:00 Evanger 10:30 St. Mark's	10 Noon Prayer Practice	11 6:30 St. Mark's Council	12	13	14	15
16 8:30 Evanger & Facebook 10:30 St. Mark's 6pm Book Study	17 Noon Prayer Practice 6pm Outreach	18	19	20	21 	22
23 8:30 Walle & Facebook 9:00 Evanger 10:30 St. Mark's	24 Noon Prayer Practice	25	26	27	28	29
30 8:30 Facebook only 10:30 St. Mark's	31 Office Closed 					