



St. Mark's
Lutheran Church

The Messenger

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

"A Heritage of God's Grace" Since 1910

Member of GIFT of Grace Lutheran Ministry

January 2022



**The Annual Meeting of
St. Mark's Evangelical
Lutheran Church
will be held
Sunday, January 23, 2022
following worship**

Annual Report packets will be distributed at the Forum on Sunday, January 16th, following worship. At that time, any questions will be addressed regarding budgets, reports, etc.

The agenda for the annual meeting includes approval of the proposed 2022 Budget, election of a member to the Abiding Memorials Ministry and election of an "at-large" member to the GIFT of Grace Ministry council.

Annual reports should be submitted to the office by January 5th. Electronic reports are preferred, but not required. If possible, email your reports to stmarkselca@msn.com.

All 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.

A Message from Pastor Sarah

Happy New Year, beloveds!

Every year, January 1 feels like a fresh start. We are finished with the previous year. I've worked hard to complete all of the financial work that needs to be done by the end of the year. All of the Christmas worship services are finished, and then we turn to the month of January. It almost feels like a blank month after the activities and busy-ness of December.

This year, once again, we will be distributing star words to anyone who would like one. Last year, we mailed them out, but this year we will have them available at the worship services on January 2 and 9th.

So what is a star word?

On Epiphany, we celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men to see the baby Jesus. This day is celebrated on January 6, but sometimes we don't have worship on that day. So we may or may not get to hear the story of the Magi. Epiphany is a word that means "the appearance of a deity." And it is in that visit that the Magi acknowledge the authenticity of Jesus as someone special.

Therefore, we offer the star words as a way of having something powerful continue to show up in your life throughout the year. Last year, my word was "companion." At first I thought it was a stupid word. I almost contemplated throwing it back in to the bucket to draw out a new word, but I didn't. I figured that the Holy Spirit needed me to learn something about that word. It wasn't more than about a day when that happened. Izzy asked me what I was doing one day when I was preparing the words. I told her that I was sending out words to people. She asked me what my word was, and I told her. When she asked me what that meant, I found myself explaining *companion* as someone who goes with someone else – like a traveling companion. I almost slapped myself on the forehead because it seemed so obvious to me in that moment that it was pretty relevant to me.

Throughout the year, the word has popped up now and then to remind me of the presence of important people in my life – those who walk with me. It has also shown me how the love of God shows up through those people.

I pray that your word last year was a blessing to you. And may the Holy Spirit give you a word for 2022 that reveals God to you throughout the year!

Pastor Sarah

PS. You can get your star word in worship on Jan 2 and Jan 9. Or send me an email and I will mail it out to you. Blessings!

Homeless Helpers

Mission Statement

When no other assistance is available, Homeless Helpers provides temporary shelter, food and other essentials to the homeless in the Grand Forks community while advocating and providing referrals to the homeless.

I want to thank the Outreach Committee for asking me to update you on the work of *Homeless Helpers*. In the fall of 2018, Terry DeMars, director of Lagrave on First, asked Roger Brockmeyer, and myself to join an organization dedicated to supporting the homeless population in Grand Forks. We recognized this population's needs for short term shelter were not currently being fully met by governmental or other local non-profit organizations. The compelling, yet simple mission of *Homeless Helpers*, is to provide short term assistance – if no other assistance is available - to the homeless. We soon understood that this population faced other obstacles besides shelter. With that in mind, we expanded our reach to include food gift cards, survival kits, bus passes including transportation out of our community, showers at the YMCA, and just recently, phones and phone cards. Our all-volunteer board's unshakable belief is that everyone, regardless of their past, is entitled to a basic level of human dignity.

The reasons for homelessness are many – broken families, lack of education, poverty, domestic violence, chemical dependency and mental illness are only a few. It is not our purpose to judge or ask what burdens they carry – though many share their stories with us. Some are truly heartbreaking. We are firmly anchored to the belief that only with the help of trained professionals can behaviors be changed and lives improved. We pride ourselves in the partnerships we have developed with local social service agencies and make every effort to connect clients with these professionals.

In early 2020, *Homeless Helpers* became a registered non-profit – 501c3. Grants, and support from individuals and Communities of faith, support our work. The increase in requests we witnessed over the past two years were unquestionably driven, to some extent, by COVID. For 2021, up until Nov 30th we funded over \$22,000 in direct aid to the homeless including 392 nights of shelter to approximately 82 clients.

The Bible tells us the poor and disenfranchised will always walk among us. It is our hope that our work, along with that of trained professionals, clergy, Communities of faith, government bodies, grantors and individuals can shorten that walk. It takes a village.

We enthusiastically welcome the decision by your Outreach committee to financially support *Homeless Helpers* and our work. If you would like to join us, please make your tax deductible gift to your church with *Homeless Helpers* in the memo line. Thank you in advance for your help and on behalf of *Homeless Helpers*, we wish you the most blessed Christmas season.

Elton Hendrickson

Matthew 25: 35-36

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”*

St. Mark's Annual Reports Due

Annual Reports are due into the church office by January 4th. All Ministries of the congregation should submit reports. If you also maintain a separate checkbook, a financial report is required as well.

Highlights from the December St. Mark's Council Meeting

- St. Mark's Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 23rd, following worship. The Forum will be held on January 16th. Annual Reports are due January 4th.
- Masks will be required for all Sunday worships and no coffee will be served. This will be discussed again at the January council meeting.
- Wednesday education classes will be held at St. Mark's during January & February.
- Dinner Church will be at St. Mark's January 19th and February 23rd.
- Century Electric has submitted a bid to update the narthex lighting.
- Lent worship schedules have been planned and will be publicized closer to Lent.

ST MARK'S FINANCIAL REPORT - 01/01/21 through 11/30/21

BUDGETED GIVING: \$ 108,820.00
(2020 YTD Giving \$ 104,671.00)

2021 YTD Fund Income \$ 163,105.00

2021 YTD General Fund Expenses \$ 137,075.00

GENERAL FUND Difference \$ 26,030.00

Men's Ministry meets the first Thursday of each month. They will meet for breakfast January 6th, at 7:00 am, at Grama Butterwicks. No registration is needed and all are welcome.

The deadline for the February newsletter is January 20th.



Parents of Loss meets the second Wednesday of each month. Location TBD – watch your bulletins for location. The support group will meet January 12th, at 7:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Council meets the second Tuesday of each month. The council will meet January 11th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room.

Outreach Ministry will meet Monday, January 17th, at 5:30 pm at St. Mark's.

Quilting Group meets every Wednesday morning from 9-noon at St. Mark's.

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



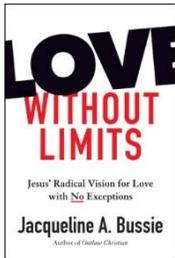
Our Sympathies to the family and friends of our member, Pauline Hesse, as they mourn her death. Pauline passed away on December 7th.

Office Hours at The Other Half

Stop in, grab a cup of coffee and visit with Pastor Sarah at The Other Half Coffee & Taphouse. This is an opportunity without agenda to come and see who else is around and visit for a while. If you have private matters to discuss, please make a separate appointment.



The Other Half Coffee & Taphouse is located in the strip mall on South Washington in front of Choice Fitness. Dates for office hours are: **Monday, January 10 from 9-11 am and Thursday, January 20 from 9-11 am.** (Backup location is Bully Brew on Columbia Road)



Love Without Limits Book Group

Join us for a discussion on the book Love Without Limits by Jacqueline Bussie that looks at the radical way Jesus calls us to love with no exceptions. The book is available from Pastor Sarah for \$22. Our first gathering to discuss the book will be on Sunday, January 9 at 6:00 pm. Read Chapters 1-3 for our first gathering.

The Chosen

Join us for several episodes of The Chosen Movie during worship and confirmation times on January 26 and February 2. Beginning at 6:30 pm, watch episodes of the movie that tells the story of Jesus through the eyes of those who met him throughout his ministry. Discussion will follow as time allows. The movie will be shown in place of worship and confirmation on Jan 26 and Feb 2 at St. Mark's in the chapel.



Annual Meeting Dates

Evanger – January 16 at 9:30 am (following worship)
Walle – January 23 at 9:00 am (following a short worship)
St. Mark's – January 23 at 11:30 am (following worship)

Thank you!

Thank you to Sandy McCleary for making our new blue Paraments. They are beautiful!!

REMINDER ----REMINDER ----REMINDER ----

To be assured that you will have a comfortable space for your meeting/function/event, notify the office you will be here. This will make sure heat is scheduled in that area. Thank you.



Worship schedule for January. . .

Every Sunday – 10:30 a.m. at St. Mark's

January 2 nd	8:30 am at Evanger
	10:30 am at St. Mark's
January 9 th	8:30 am at Walle
	9:00 am at Evanger
	10:30 am at St. Mark's
January 16 th	8:30 am at Evanger
(Intern Pastor Lexy)	10:30 am at St. Mark's
January 23 rd	8:30 am at Walle
	9:00 am at Evanger
	10:30 am at St. Mark's
January 30 th	8:30 am at Walle (5 th Sunday)
(Rick Jackson)	10:30 am at St. Mark's



All Activities at St. Mark's (715 24th Avenue South)

Wed., January 5 th	5:30pm light supper	6 pm WOW	6:30pm Worship	7:30pm Confirmation
Wed., January 12 th	5:30pm light supper	6pm WOW	6:30 pm Worship	7:30pm Confirmation
Wed., January 19 th	6:30pm Dinner Church	7:30pm Youth Group		
Wed., January 26 th	5:30pm light supper	6pm WOW	6:30-8:30pm	The Chosen movie & discussion for confirmation and adults
Wed., February 2 nd	5:30pm light supper	6pm WOW	6:30-8:30pm	The Chosen movie & discussion for confirmation and adults

Other January dates to Remember:

January 4 th	9:30 am	GF Conference Leaders meeting at Pastor Mari Nyberg's
January 5 th	5:30 pm	Wednesday activities resume at St. Mark's
January 9 th	6:00 pm	"Love Without Limits" (Chapters 1-3) book discussion at St. Mark's
January 10 th	9-11:00 am	Office Hours at the Other Half
January 11 th	6:30 pm	St. Mark's Council Meeting
January 13 th	Noon	Valley Senior Living Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom
January 16 th	11:30 am	St. Mark's Forum
January 17 th	5:30 pm	Outreach Ministry Team meeting at St. Mark's
January 19 th	6:30 pm	Dinner Church at St. Mark's
	7:30 pm	Youth Group Meets
January 20 th	9-11:00 am	Office Hours at the Other Half
January 23 rd	11:30 am	St. Marks Annual Meeting
January 24-February 13		Pastor Sarah on vacation

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

Winter Weather Cancellations

Please look for weather cancellation information on the local television stations of KVLV, KX4 and WDAZ. You will also find cancellation information on the St. Mark's Facebook page or the GIFT of Grace Facebook page. If you would like to be contacted directly to be notified of church cancellations, please contact Sandy in the St. Mark's church office.



January Birthdays and Anniversaries...

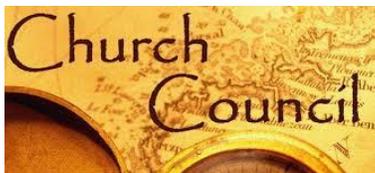
Birthdays:

- 3 Navy Oss
- 4 Jeanette Gratton
- 15 Watson Oss
Rev. Robert Weber
- 17 Sandy McCleary
- 22 David Christianson
- 23 Robert Bohn
Ryan Bohn
- 29 James Glick
- 31 Brittney Balsdon

Anniversaries:



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



President	David Christianson
Vice President	Iver Buchmann
Secretary	Ann Henderson
Treasurer	Michele Peterson
	Jeanette Gratton Donna Hubbard
	Jane Humble Marsha Oss 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
Office Hours: Sunday 8-12
 Monday-Thursday 8:30-3:00

Websites: St. Mark's www.stmarksgf.org GIFT www.giftofgracegf.org



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.

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
2 8:30 Evanger & FBook 10:30 St. Mark's	3 Noon Prayer Practice 7pm Scouts	4 <u>ANNUAL REPORTS</u> <u>DUE</u> 9:30 Pastors' Conf	5 9-Noon Quilters 5:30 Supper 6:00 WOW 6:30 Worship 7:30 Confirmation	6 7am Men's Breakfast 	7 	8
9 8:30 Walle & FBook 9:00 Evanger 10:30 St. Mark's 6:00 Book Study	10 Noon Prayer Practice 9-11 Office Hours @ Other Half 7pm Scouts	11 6:30 Council	12 9-Noon Quilters 5:30 Supper 6:00 WOW 6:30 Worship 7:30 Confirmation	13 Noon Valley Senior Living meeting via Zoom	14 	15
16 <u>Forum @ 11:30</u> 8:30 Evanger & FBook 10:30 St. Mark's	17  Noon Prayer 5:30 Outreach 7pm Scouts	18	19 9-Noon Quilters 6:30 Dinner Church 7:30 Youth Group @ St. Mark's	20 9-11 Office Hours @ Other Half 	21 	22
23 <u>Annual Meeting</u> 8:30 Walle & FBook 9:00 Evanger 10:30 St. Mark's	24 7pm Scouts Pastor-vacation	25 Pastor-vacation	26 9-Noon Quilters 5:30 Supper 6:00 WOW 6:30-8:30 The Chosen movie Pastor-vacation	27 Pastor-vacation	28 Pastor-vacation 	29 Pastor-vacation
30 8:30 Walle & FBook 10:30 St. Mark's Pastor-vacation	31 7pm Scouts Pastor-vacation					