



St. Mark's
Lutheran Church

The Messenger

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

"A Heritage of God's Grace" Since 1910

Member of GIFT of Grace Lutheran Ministry

July/ August 2022



Car Show & Picnic

Monday, July 18
5-8 p.m.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
715 24TH AVE SO
GRAND FORKS, ND

Free will entry fee & free will picnic supper
(served from 5 pm until gone)

The event is sponsored by GIFT of Grace Lutheran Ministry
(Walle, Evanger and St. Mark's Lutheran Churches)

Proceeds will be given away to area charities.

For car entry information, contact Rick Jackson 218-779-9199
For general information, contact Pastor Sarah Raymond 701-740-1651

A Message from Pastor Sarah...

Happy Summer, Beloveds!

I have a little deck of cards called the Serenity Cards Deck. They have some beautiful artwork on one side and then some thoughts on the back. I've used them in prayer practice and in meetings for our opening devotions, as well as in my own devotion time. It's been interesting to see which card I randomly select for each situation. I often feel like God speaks.

So today, I drew a card for all of you, Beloveds. Here it is....

This Too Shall Pass

For better or words, nothing in this life lasts forever. We have gotten through everything in the past. We will get through whatever comes in the future. We know that even good times don't last forever. May that awareness help us live fully present right now.

- ~ How are you aware that "This too shall pass" is true for you today?
- ~ How do you stay grounded in the present moment?

I don't know who else needs to hear this today, but I certainly do. It's easy for us to get caught up in the crisis of the moment and lose sight of the big picture. Our worry and our fear can get the best of us and quickly spiral into a bad mindset.

In John 12, it says that many believed in Jesus, but they would not confess it, because they "loved human glory more than the glory that comes from God."

That gives us a huge clue on what our BIG PICTURE should be. Our big picture is the glory that comes from God. When we can stop worrying about the future and let go of the past and sit in this present moment, we can then center ourselves in that glory that comes from God.

Prayer is a beautiful way to make this happen! Sit in the quiet. Or work in your garden. Or fix something. Or be creative. Then as you do any of those things, spend that time with your mind on God and God's glory.

This too shall pass, beloveds. We have an even greater glory ahead of us. We have the glory of God as our hope and our joy.

May the gift of this present moment, be yours today!

Pastor Sarah

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT -- by AMY CHRISTIANSON

Thank you, St. Mark's, for giving me the opportunity to attend the synod assembly meeting on June 4 and 5. The theme was being a servant.

Dr. Michael Chan who was a teacher at Luther Seminary but was moving to begin his teaching at Concordia College led us in a Bible study about the transformation of Saul as well as Ananias on Saturday. Sunday morning, he led another study on the book of Ruth.

Pastor Jo Gast from Augustana Lutheran spoke about doing good in a community, doing good to or for a community, and doing good with a community. She referenced Homeless Helpers as well as the LaGrave Center and other wonderful service projects Augustana does within Grand Forks.

For our breakout session, I attended a session regarding the Neighborhood Church in Fargo. Many of the attendees were looking for ways to encourage new people as well as retain youth and middle-aged members. Pastor Jessica Miller's advice was not to give up. Invite multiple times. She said that almost all people attending the Neighborhood Church came because they were personally asked. Fliers and brochures didn't attract people. People attracted people. She explained that her church is made up mainly of young people. In fact, she guessed that the average age was ten years old! In her congregation, there are approximately five kids for every one adult. This made me wonder whether St. Mark's could help her church out with Sunday School supplies or something in that regard.

Another activity Pastor Jessica had us do was to imagine what "poor" is in our community. What might the poor say about St. Mark's if they were to write a recommendation letter for our church. Following that question, she asked us to consider what the best thing we could do so someone would write a great recommendation letter for us. She also asked us to consider the worst thing that we could do. These questions, she felt, would help us begin to brainstorm and set goals for what our church wants to do to be a better servant.

On Sunday we heard from Phyllis Johnson who told us that the ELCA is looking to write a social statement regarding its civic engagement. This will hopefully be made in 2025. Leading up to that, there will be opportunities for listening sessions. The hope is that there will be about six adult Sunday School sessions in November/December/January to engage churches in discussion. The draft of this social statement could potentially be ready November 2023. At that point, every synod, every congregation, and every person would have an opportunity to comment. The final draft would be written in 2024 and then reviewed by the council. The synod wants people to take advantage of talking, listening, and communicating their thoughts.

Finally, as a reminder, we were cautioned to be wary of internet scams that appear to come from the bishop. Look carefully at the email address of the sender. Be cautious if the line "I am in a meeting. Email me" is used.

Thank you again for the opportunity to attend the sessions.

Sincerely, Amy Christianson



St Cloud Intergenerational Mission Trip



When: August 3-7, 2022

Where: St. Cloud, MN

Who: Anyone 3+.

Confirmation and Senior high kids can travel alone. All other youth must travel with an adult.

What will we be doing?

Our exact service locations are not set yet, but may include:

- Painting or cleaning a home
- Helping individuals with their home projects
- Learning about Service Organizations in the St. Cloud area

Cost: \$50 per person. Please contact Pastor Sarah if cost is an issue. Scholarships are available. Food and activities will be covered by our donations.

Where do we stay?

We will be sleeping at a church in St. Cloud. You can bring air mattresses, cots and sleeping bags.

How do we travel?

We will travel by carpool.

Other information:

We will be working through an organization called Service Learning Camps.

On Saturday, we will go to Minneapolis for some fun activities.



A small group of JOY members met to share coffee and fellowship in June. It is always nice to catch up with everyone.

We have decided to start up again in September. We will meet the second Wednesday of each month in the fall. Watch for more information closer to September.



The Mug and Muffin Bible Study for July will be the second Tuesday, July 12th. We will begin with coffee at 9:30 a.m. and the study will be held 9:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. We will meet in the library. Pastor Sarah will lead the studies published in the Gather magazine. The theme of the first study is Crafted in Christ. One does not need a subscription to attend. Copies will be available.

Highlights from the June St. Mark's Council Meeting

These are the highlights of the past meeting.

Full minutes of each council meeting are available in a binder in the church library.

- The council is still working on a replacement for the office manager position. Rose Keeley will coordinate volunteers to work mornings Monday-Thursday.
- A car show will be held in the parking lot at St. Mark's July 18th, 5-8pm.
- The daycare has signed a new two year lease agreement.
- Bids were received for refinishing the floor in the Fellowship Hall. Iver Buchmann will coordinate with Jake Fortman (Forty's Floorcare), who was the low bid.

ST MARK'S FINANCIAL REPORT - 01/01/22 – 05/31/22

BUDGETED GIVING:	\$ 45,620.00
(2021 YTD Giving \$48,501.00)	
2022 YTD Fund Income	\$ 75,578.00
2022 YTD General Fund Expenses	\$ 71,307.00
GENERAL FUND	\$ 4,271.00

St. Mark's Abiding Memorials Ministry meets on a quarterly basis – generally the first month of the quarter. In order to have the time to handle all fund requests, they request that **all requests for project funds be submitted to them by the last week of each quarter.** This will give them sufficient time for all members to review the paperwork. Thank you!

Amy Christianson, Rose Keeley, Sandy McCleary, Kathy Mutcher, Linda Simmons, and Olive Weber

Olive Weber made a motion to spend \$600 for a family water system, \$500 for water for a school, and \$500 designated for a water for a community's field for next year through Lutheran World Relief.

Our next meeting will be August 29 at 5:50.
We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Linda Simmons



For youth who are planning to attend Bible Camp this summer, WELCA will again give scholarships toward the registration fee. Please contact Olive Weber for more information.

---Check with the church office for other camp

scholarship opportunities.



Men's Ministry meets the first Thursday of each month. They will meet for breakfast July 7th, at 8:00 am, at Grama Butterwicks. No registration is needed and all are welcome.

Abiding Memorials will meet Tuesday, July 12th, at 6:00 pm.

St. Mark's Council meets the second Tuesday of each month. The council will meet July 12th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library

Parents of Loss meets the second Tuesday of each month in the St. Mark's Chapel. The support group will meet July 12th, at 7:00 p.m.

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

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: **Thursday, July 21. Tuesday, August 16, and Thursday, August 25 from 9-11 am.**

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

Highlights of June 13, 2022, G.I.F.T of Grace Council Meeting

- Jody Dagel with Red River Tax and Accounting will take over the payroll accounting duties previously done by Donna Remer.
- Rachel Anderson has taken over the treasurer responsibilities for the parish.
- The GIFT council approved the purchase of a new webcam and microphone.
- St. Mark's Abiding Memorials has given \$250 to the Outreach Ministry to help purchase supplies for school kits. Sharon Hanson is in charge of this project.

July Birthdays and Anniversaries...

Birthdays:

9	Kathy Mutchler
12	Darci Bohj Sharon Bohj
13	Pearl Berge
15	Ryder Wurzbacher
17	Shelley Wurzbacher
20	Adam Bohj Lillian Larson
21	Lynn Gilbraith
31	Theodore Azure

Anniversaries:

14	Sandy & Brad Gerszewski
29	Audrey & Jim Glick



August Birthdays and Anniversaries...

Birthdays:

9	Arnie Harstad
---	---------------

Anniversaries:

2	Gerald & Beverly Bear
6	Shelly & Michael Wurzbacher
10	Jane & Mark Humble
13	Roselyn Shelton-Urness & Reginald Urness
26	Mark & Linda Keehr
29	Ann & Tom Henderson
30	Kristyn & Michael Vetsch

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



Worship schedule for July/August. . .

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

July 3 rd	8:30 a.m.	Evanger	
	10:30 a.m.	St. Mark's	Intern Pastor Lexy Steinle
July 10 th	8:30 a.m.	Walle	
	8:30 a.m.	Evanger	Rick Jackson
	10:30 a.m.	St. Mark's	
July 17 th	8:30 a.m.	Evanger	Intern Pastor Lexy Steinle (Last day at Evanger)
	10:30 a.m.	St. Mark's	Intern Pastor Lexy Steinle
July 24 th	8:30 a.m.	Walle	
	8:30 a.m.	Evanger	Rick Jackson
	10:30 a.m.	St. Mark's	
July 31 st	8:30 a.m.	Walle	
	10:30 a.m.	St. Mark's	
August 7 th	8:30 a.m.	Evanger	
	10:30 a.m.	St. Mark's	Intern Pastor Lexy Steinle
August 14 th	8:30 a.m.	Evanger	Rick Jackson
	8:30 a.m.	Walle	
	10:30 a.m.	St. Mark's	Intern Pastor Lexy Steinle (Last Sunday)
August 21 st	8:30 a.m.	Evanger	
	10:30 a.m.	St. Mark's	
August 28 th	8:30 a.m.	Walle	
	8:30 a.m.	Evanger	Rick Jackson
	10:30 a.m.	St. Mark's	

Other July/August dates to Remember:

- July 11 12:00p.m (every Monday except July 4) 20-minute Prayer Practice on Facebook Live
- July 11 NO GIFT COUNCIL MEETING
- July 12 9:30 am Mug and Muffin Bible Study at St. Mark's (all are welcome)
- July 12 6:30 pm St. Mark's Council
- July 13 6:30 pm Education Team meeting at Walle
- July 18 5 – 8 pm Car Show and Picnic at St. Mark's
- July 20 6:30 pm Internship Committee gathering in Fargo
- August 3-7 Intergenerational Mission Trip to St. Cloud, MN
- August 8 5:30 pm GIFT of Grace Council Meeting at Walle
- August 11 12:00 p.m. Valley Senior Living Executive Committee Meeting
- August 13 Baptism of Jude Snider in Brainerd, MN
- August 16 7:00 p.m. Walle Council

Hello family church members,

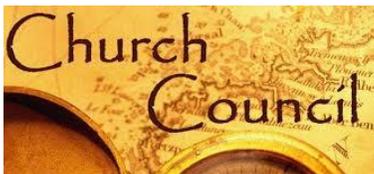
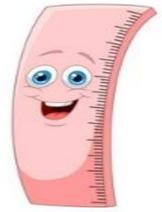
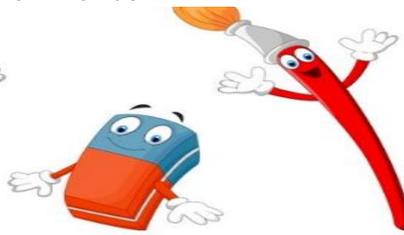
It is that time of the year when we start gathering up supplies for our annual Lutheran World Relief school kits. The bags are now in the process of being made and soon the shopping for the supplies to go into them will begin. As stores begin their school specials for the Fall opening of schools, I begin buying in earnest to fill those bags. I am expecting that supplies will have gone up in price as has everything else so I will really need whatever you are willing to give me for shopping. Those in Evanger can put their donations in my mailbox. Those of you in the other 2 churches can send me your contribution to this address:

Sharon Hanson
710 Goodwin Ave.
Thompson, ND 58278
or

I'm sure Pastor Sarah would be willing to pick them up for me and get them to my mailbox when she is at Evanger.

If there are any questions, you can contact me at 218-791-1989.

Faithfully,
Sharon Hanson



President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

David Christianson
Iver Buchmann
Jeanette Gratton
Michele Peterson
Rose Keeley
Marsha Oss

Donna Hubbard
Jane Humble

Art Ruud

Pastor: Pastor Sarah Raymond Email: pastorsarahraymond@gmail.com
Office Manager: Ireland Hanson Office: 701-772-4807
O fice Email: stmarksofficegf@gmail.com

Missionaries: Willie & Annie Langdji
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-3:00
Websites: St. Mark's www.stmarksqf.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.