



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

September 2022

Wednesday Activities Begin again!

Wild on Wednesday is what we call our Wednesday School for children in grades PK-5. We begin the evening by serving a light supper at 5:30 pm Then the children begin their storytime and activity. Their scripture is always connected to the scripture used in worship that week. Worship begins without the WOW kids, but they come in just in time for Kids' Time. We love to have worship together because it helps the children learn the basics of worship, like the Lord's Prayer and communion. After worship, the kids in grades 6-8 gather for confirmation. They are required to complete 3 years of study to become confirmed in the fall of their 4th year.

Once a month, we hold Dinner church instead of the regular Wednesday schedule. All are welcome to attend the worship and meal held together in our dining rooms.

Wednesday Schedule (beginning at Walle on Sept 7):

5:30 pm Light supper

6:00 pm Wild on Wednesday (grades PK-5)

6:30 pm Worship

7:30 pm Confirmation (grades 6-8)

Dinner Church dates for fall:

September 28 at Walle at 6:30 pm

October 26 at Walle at 6:30 pm

Youth group (grades 6-12) follows Dinner church

A Message from Pastor Sarah...

Happy Fall, Beloveds!

In many ways, the start of the school year is a bigger deal than the changing of the calendar at the New Year. For anyone connected to school, there is a huge shift in routines and schedules. There was great preparation for new teachers, new classes and in some cases, new schools. Some kids and adults are very excited for all of this change. For others, it's not so hopeful.

And even for those not connected to school, it's still a time of change. We have shifted from the pace and weather of summer into the harvest time of fall. What was a season of growth and tending has now shifted into receiving the bounty that comes from the fertile ground here. Some people call this "lock your car doors" season. It's the season where you might end up with extra produce in your car if you leave the doors unlocked. People around here are sharers!

Whatever the case for you, I encourage you to take a little time to notice all of the things happening around us. Notice the leaves changing. Notice the birds begin to gather together to fly south. Notice the grasses in the road ditches change from green to golden brown. Notice the summer flowers wither and fade and the fall flowers emerge and bloom. God's creation is amazing. The wonder of it all. The amazing creativity of our God. The rhythm of the seasons. All of the changes.

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

I hope you sang your way through this beautiful song. It reminds us of God's hand in all that surrounds us. As we encounter more and more changes and shifts in our season, let us take time to notice the work of God in our lives. Let us make gratitude a daily practice. We have been given a well-designed and well-crafted world by our God! May you take time today to notice the handiwork of our God who holds each of us in a gentle hand.

Be well, beloveds! Happy fall!

Pastor Sarah



It is time!!

St. Mark's JOY group will be gathering in September! Please join us for coffee and goodies on Wednesday, September 14th, at 1:30 p.m. in the narthex/library area. This will be a very informal time and will be a time to catch up with everyone. All are welcome! See you on the 14th!

Highlights from the July 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.

There was no council meeting in August.

- A new contact needs to be listed for the Church Mutual Sensor and the fire department. Dave will be listed, Iver will serve as backup.
- A new lockbox for church access has been installed for access to the church after hours, eliminating the need for extra keys.
- Ireland has resigned as our bookkeeper and office manager. Jody Dagle from Red River Tax & Accounting has been assisting Michele in keeping up with the bookkeeping, as allowed in the bylaws as the treasurer. Jody is willing to assist as needed.
- Iver, Dave and Miles cleaned up the yard and the parking lot area for the Car Show and Picnic.
- Lexy's last Sunday will be August 14. The three churches will contribute to her gift from Badman Designs.

ST MARK'S FINANCIAL REPORT - 01/01/22 - 07/31/22

BUDGETED GIVING:	\$ 58,654.19
(2021 YTD Giving \$67,657.00)	
2022 YTD Fund Income	\$ 61,075.00
2022 YTD General Fund Expenses	\$ 96,061.00

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!

Abiding Memorials Meeting

July 12, 2022

Present: Iver Buchmann, Elton Hendrickson, Miles Rodacker, Donna Hubbard and Pastor Sarah Raymond

Minutes of the April 19, 2022 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report was given by Elton H. Current balances as of June 24, 2022 are:

Education	\$38,253.95
Mission Endowment	\$126,087.48
Undesignated	\$31,421.66
Worship & Music	9,987.54
<u>Building</u>	<u>\$5,082.79</u>
Total	\$210,833.42

Due to the downward trend of the stock market, we are down 12% in value since April 2022.

A donation of \$100 received from D. Johnston is requested by her to go to the Music Therapy at Valley Senior Living. Funds to come from Education Fund.

Funds request for ½ of bible camp tuition for \$188.00 for Cavanna Humble. Motion passed. Funds to come from Education Fund.

Request from Pastor Sarah for donations for Mark Humble for medical expenses while he's receiving medical treatment in Rochester. Request is referred to the Council as Abiding Memorials does not donate to private individuals.

Donna H is staying on the Abiding Memorial Committee and will remain the secretary.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting to be held October 2022.
Closing prayer by Pastor Sarah.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna J. Hubbard, secretary

St. Mark's 2022-23 Council

President	Dave Christianson
Vice President	Iver Buchmann
Secretary	Jeanette Gratton
Treasurer	Michele Peterson

Donna Hubbard, Jane Humble, Rose Keeley, Marsha Oss & Art Ruud

Thank you to these members who donating their time to serve on the council!



September Food Drive

This September, we will be collecting food for two area food banks. The food will be split between the Thompson Food Pantry and St. Joseph's.

Donated items can be dropped off at any of the 3 churches. Any monetary donations will be given to ELCA World Hunger (make checks payable to St. Mark's). Thompson food pantry is particularly in need of:

Breakfast cereal

Laundry soap

Dish washing soap

Fruit sauces – peaches, pears, etc.

Pork and beans

Cake mixes



Women of the ELCA Bible Study September 20 at 1:30 pm

After a two-year hiatus, the Miriam Circle will begin meeting again in September. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the library at church. The Bible study in the Gather magazine will be led this month by Rose Keeley. Study material will be available. Circle members welcome others to attend.

Men's Ministry meets the first Thursday of each month. They will meet for breakfast September 1, at 8:00 am, at Grama Butterwicks. No registration is needed and all are welcome.

WELCA will meet on Tuesday, September 20, at 1:30 p.m. in the library for Miriam Circle bible study

St. Mark's Council meets the second Tuesday of each month. But because of the Fall Theological Conference, the council will meet September 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

G.I.F.T. Council meets Monday, September 19th, at 5:30 pm, at Walle.

Parents of Loss meets the second Tuesday of each month in the St. Mark's Chapel. The support group will meet September 13th, at 7:00 p.m.



The deadline for the October newsletter is September 23rd.

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

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

Highlights of August 8, 2022, G.I.F.T of Grace Council Meeting

- **Treasurer's Report:** was reviewed. When GIFT was initially organized, GIFT was given a start-up loan from Walle and Evanger. GIFT will return those funds (which were never used). Thank you to Rachel for taking on the Treasurer's position. Rachel says that all is going well.
- **Fall and Christmas Schedule:** Pastor presented the schedule. The '22-23 education schedule has also been created. A few times and dates will need to be solidified. The church councils will review and confirm the schedule.
- **Budget Planning** the proposed budget was reviewed.
- **Pastor Evaluation and Compensation Package:** Pastor exited for the yearly Pastor evaluation and so that the compensation package could be reviewed. A Compensation Package for next year will be presented to each church council.
- **Car Show and Picnic** the car show was well attended. There were 45 vehicles. Thank you to all those who volunteered and attended.
- **Mission Trip** 4 adults and 7 young adults participated. The participants did yard work for an elderly woman and worked at the Foley Cross Center food pantry and thrift store. Thank you to Pastor Raymond for arranging and leading this 5-day volunteer event.
- **Outreach Ministry** Will meet soon to organize a Sept. food drive.
- Next Meeting will be Monday, Sept 19th, 5:30 at Walle.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Peterson

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, September 22 from 9-11 am.**

Prayer Practice

Prayer practice will continue 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 at noon.



Community Announcements

Volunteers needed for GFK Airport Disaster Drill

GFK Airport will be conducting a disaster drill with the cooperation of area emergency services. They are looking for 75 volunteers to act as passengers in a simulated aircraft emergency. The mock disaster will be held at the Grand Forks Airport on Friday, Sept. 16 from 7:00 am to 11:30 am. Volunteers will be sent information on where to park, details on an optional briefing and safety rules. Volunteers will also receive a light meal and refreshments from the Red Cross along with a bag of GFK airport promotional items. Sign up by emailing intern@gfkairport.com or call 612-770-8750 with name and contact information.

Global Friends Picnic

Join us in this celebration of the diversity in our community. The event will be held on Sunday, September 18 from 5-7 pm at University Park. St Mark's will once again be hosting the children's games. If you would like to make a donation to the prize fund, contact Michele Peterson. Mpetersonplus5@gmail.com The event is free and open to the public.

Coping with Life Alone Program

This is a 10-week support program for those who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation. It will begin Tuesday, September 20, 2022 and continue each Tuesday through November 22. Each session will be held from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at St. Michael's Pastoral Center in Grand Forks, 418 N 6th St. (across the street from the church). For more information or to pre-register: Text or call or email Monsignor Daniel Pilon at 701-361-2051 daniel.pilon@fargodiocese.org. This program is sponsored by Beginning Experience of Eastern North Dakota. To cover the cost of the booklet and other resources, we do ask for a contribution of \$45. Scholarships are available for anyone unable to afford this contribution.

St. Mary's Chicken & Meatball Dinner

St. Mary's Church annual Chicken and Meatball Dinner will be held on Sunday, September 25 from 11:30 am – 2:30 pm. St. Mary's church is located on the corner of 3rd Ave S and Belmont Rd in Grand Forks. Menu: Chicken and dressing, meatballs, potatoes and gravy, green beans, coleslaw, rolls, beverages and dessert. Prices are \$15 for ages 11 and up. \$8 for children 5-10. Free for children 4 and under. Carry-out meals are available.

Memory Cafe

The Memory Cafe will begin meeting again on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 from 1:00-3:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary Lutheran Church, 1405 S. 9th St. The program begins at 1:30 pm. Danielle Freitag, Regional Care Consultant with the Alzheimer's Association will be presenting The 10 Warning Signs of Dementia. We will learn when we should be concerned about memory loss and what is normal aging. Refreshments will be served following the program. Everyone is welcome. The event is free. Call Mary Ann at 701-772-4897.

The Unforgettables Choir

The Unforgettables Choir will begin our Fall Semester on Wednesday, September 21, 2022. We rehearse weekly on Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church, 1405 S. 9th St.

Coffee and Conversation begins at 9:30 am with rehearsal starting at 10:15 am.

The Unforgettables Choir is a community chorus for people living with Alzheimer's and other types of Dementia and a care partner. We sing familiar and new music, no choral experience is necessary.

There is a \$25 registration fee for each person each semester. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation or ability to pay. Contact Mary Ann Devig at 701-772-4897 for more information.

Unforgettables Choir Open House

The Unforgettables Choir will host an open house on Wednesday, September 14 from 9:30 - 11:00 am at Calvary Lutheran Church, 1405 S. 9th St. Join us for Coffee and Conversation, ask questions, and fill out registration papers.

We are also looking for volunteers to sing with us and assist choir members with their music. Call Mary Ann Devig if you are interested or have questions 701-772-4897.

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

Worship schedule for September . . .

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

September 4	8:30 a.m.	Evanger
	10:30 a.m.	St. Mark's
September 7	6:30 p.m.	Walle (WOW night and confirmation also)
September 11	8:30 a.m.	Walle (farewell breakfast for Janell Martin)
	8:30 a.m.	Evanger
	10:30 a.m.	St. Mark's
September 14	6:30 p.m.	Walle (WOW night and confirmation also)



September 18	8:30 a.m.	Evanger
	10:30 a.m.	St. Mark's
September 21	6:30 p.m.	Walle (WOW night and confirmation also)
September 25	8:30 a.m.	Walle
	8:30 a.m.	Evanger
	10:30 a.m.	St. Mark's
September 28	6:30 pm	Walle – Dinner Church

Other September dates to Remember:

September 12 noon (every Monday)	20-minute Prayer Practice on Facebook Live
September 11-13	Eastern ND Fall Theological Conference
September 14 2 pm	Funeral for Avis Ekness at Evanger
September 15 1:30 pm	Pastor Sarah leading worship at Edgewood
September 19 5:30 pm	GIFT of Grace Council at Walle
September 20 6:30 pm	St. Mark's Council meeting
September 22 11:30 am	Valley Senior Living Executive Committee Meeting
September 22 7 pm	Evanger Council meeting
September 25 5:30 pm	Supper & Bingo at Evanger
September 29 1:30 pm	Pastor Sarah leading worship at Edgewood

September Birthdays and Anniversaries...

Birthdays:

- 1 Ashley Mahoney
- Dawn Berge
- 3 Jane Humble
- Sandra Buchmann
- 4 Sydney Vossler
- 9 Angus Eyre
- 14 Garlynn Helmoski
- 19 Michele Peterson
- 20 Kristen Rundquist
- Linda Simmons
- 21 Gabe Keeley
- 22 Kensie Hubbard
- 26 Audrey Glick
- 29 Steve Metcalf

Anniversaries:

- 5 Jerry & Mary
- 17 Iver &
- 19 Emily & David Combs
- 21 Mason & Haily Cooper



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

September

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8 am Men's Breakfast @ Gramma Butterwick	2	3
4 8:30 am Evanger and FB 10:30 am St. Mark's Worship	5 Labor Day – office closed	6	7 9 am to noon Quilting 6 pm Wild on Wed (Walle) 6:30 pm Worship 7:30 pm Confirmation	8	9	10
11 8:30 am Walle and FB 8:30 am Evanger 10:30 am SM Worship Fall Theological Conf	12 Noon prayer practice on Facebook Fall Theological Conf 7 pm Scouts	13 Fall Theological Conf 7 pm Parents of Loss	9 -12 Quilting 14 1:30 pm JOY Group 2 pm Avis Ekness funeral at Evanger 6 pm WOW (Walle) 6:30 Worship/ 7:30 Conf	15	16	17 1:30 pm Pastor @ Edgewood worship
18 8:30 am Evanger and FB 10:30 am St. Mark's Worship 5-7 pm Global Friend Picnic	19 Noon prayer practice on Facebook 5:30 pm GIFT Council 7 pm Scouts	20 1:30 pm Miriam Circle Bible Study at St. Mark's	21 9 am to noon Quilting 6 pm Wild on Wed (Walle) 6:30 pm Worship 7:30 pm Confirmation	22	23	24 9:30 am WELCA Convention in Medina
25 8:30 am Walle and FB 8:30 am Evanger 10:30 am St. Mark's worship 5:30 pm Supper & Bingo at Evanger	26 Noon prayer practice on Facebook 7 pm Scouts	27	28 9 am to noon Quilting 6:30 pm Dinner Church at Walle 7:30 pm Youth Group (Gr 6-12)	29	30	1:30 pm Pastor @ Edgewood worship



President

David Christianson

Vice President

Iver Buchmann

Secretary

Jeanette Gratton

Treasurer

Michele Peterson

Donna Hubbard
Jane Humble

Rose Keeley
Marsha Oss

Art Ruud

Pastor: Pastor Sarah Raymond Email: pastorsarahraymond@gmail.com
Office Manager: unfilled Office: 701-772-4807
Office Email: stmarkselca@msn.com
Missionaries: Willie & Annie Langdji
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-3:00
Websites: St. Mark's www.stmarksqf.org GIFT www.giftofgracegf.org



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



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