

September Newsletter

September 2019

The small church with a BIG heart.



Important Dates

Church Service Sundays—September 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

Bible Study Tuesday—September 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th @ 9:00 am

Quilting Tuesday—September 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th @ 10:00 am

WELCA Wednesday—September 4th @ 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesday—September 4th @ 11 am

Church School Registration Wednesday - September 11th @ 6:30 pm

Confirmation Registration Wednesday - September 11th @ 7:00 pm

Church School Wednesday—September 18th, 25th @ 6:00 pm

Confirmation Class Wednesday—September 18th, 25th @ 7:00 pm

Church Council Meeting—Tuesday September 10th @ 7:00 pm

Newsletter Deadline Tuesday—September 17th @ 11:30 am

Alzheimer's Group Wednesday-September 18 @ 9:30 am

Food Shelf September 4th 8-10 am, 10th 4:30-6 pm, 17th 4:30-6 pm, 25th 9-11 am

Prayer Requests

Levy Roberge (Rob Roberge's Mom), Andy Stein, Cyndi Christopher (Jill Ballard's sister), Lori Sutter (Lisa Loken's sister), Kevin Estrem, Luke Nassif, Joe Horsch, Gary Hanson (Uncle of Beth Bester).

Please keep all our seniors in your prayers, especially:

Arnie Felton, Rosella Davisson, Maxine Sunde, Eleanor Ohmann, Ray Ohmann, Leatrice Taylor, Robert & Margaret Hayes.

Those who have lost loved ones recently, especially:

The Family of Walter "Tom" Pleschourt, Jr.

The Family of Michael Thompson

When requested, we will be keeping loved ones on the prayer request list for a month. If you would like them to stay on longer please let Dixie know.

You can contact Dixie at stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi or leave a message at (507) 263-9182.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	2
From Bishop Lull	4
Happenings	7
Church School Info	8
Feast & Festival Info	9
Community Events	10
Service Information	11
Church Contact Info	12



Pastor's Message

Greetings Saint Mark's Lutheran,

For this month, we will focus on the prophet Isaiah. The book of Isaiah contains some of the most well-known passages in the Bible. In Isaiah, we find the promises of a coming Prince of Peace and the description of God's suffering Servant. However, the book of Isaiah is complex, given that it is written and compiled by several prophets and editors over a long period of Israel's history.

In the book of Isaiah, God's people were caught between the world powers of Egypt to the south and west, and Assyria and Babylon to the north and east. The book of Isaiah announced to Israel what God was doing with and for them when Israel was destroyed and the Jews were exiled. In Isaiah, we see how God guides, warns, challenges, and liberates God's chosen people and reaches out to all the peoples of the world.

In chapter 55 of Isaiah, God is inviting everyone to a free and rich banquet and extends the promise made to King David to all peoples.

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Pastor's Message Continued

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

What I hear the prophet Isaiah remind us is that God wants us to focus on God, forsaking our ways of unrighteousness, wickedness and selfishness. We should not fear God, but instead, run towards God who is ready to welcome and forgive us. God desires that we seek to become more like God, abundant in mercy, compassion and grace.

Our society needs this reminder more than ever, as each of us grow further and further apart from one another. Everyday, we only hear about the divisions that separates us and each side have only dug deeper in their trenches, unwilling to listen to one another. As society grows apart, I hope that we, as God's children, remember who we are and whose we are. Before anything else, we are the children of God. What does it mean to live your life with more mercy, more compassion and, with more grace?

God's Blessings,
Pastor Lue Moua



From Bishop Lull

I started this message several weeks ago. In light of action at the recent ELCA Churchwide Assembly, declaring this church body to be a sanctuary denomination, an expanded word on what that means is included here. – Bishop Lull

Recently, I heard a colleague speak about having a “hospitable heart.” What he meant was having a heart open to see all others with respect and to share a concern for their well-being. Let’s start with the call for us to have a “hospitable heart.” Please don’t confuse this with sentimentality and please don’t stop reading here.

In the midst of a tense conversation, Jesus said, “*Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks*” (Matthew 12:34). We are living in a time when vitriolic words and hate speech have found their way into ordinary life. Tragically, such speech causes many to simply stop talking and has caused a few to act with deadly violence toward immigrants. Instead of engaging in a civil debate, it seems easier to react with broad generalities about others, their intentions, and the very dignity of their lives.

In the Christian community we are called to do better than that. In fact, the very nature of congregational life, where we are called together by the power of the Spirit, gives us an opportunity to listen carefully and to speak respectfully with and about contemporary issues with those with whom we disagree.

Christian commitment to outsiders

From its earliest days, the Christian community has been concerned with strangers in their midst. “*Let mutual love continue,*” writes the author of Hebrews. “*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it*” (Hebrews 13:1-2). The responsibility to offer hospitality to foreigners and outsiders continues the clear mandate within Judaism, expressed in foundational texts like Deuteronomy 10:19: “*You shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.*”

In this synod, many Lutherans have a deep and personal memory of their family’s immigrant roots. Not only Germans, Swedes, Norwegians, Finns and Danes, but people from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Mexico, Guatemala, Liberia, South Sudan, Ethiopia and other countries fill our pews and serve as pastors and deacons. We know from our own family stories the complex reasons that cause people to leave their home in one country to move across the globe. The United Nations High Commission on Refugees estimates that more than 65 million persons are on the move today, seeking economic relief, escaping war or persecution, or displaced by famine or violence in their local community.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), of which the ELCA is a member, was formed following World War II when there were 60 million refugees in Europe – one in six of them a Lutheran. The global Lutheran community played a key role in resettling refugees from its founding in 1947; this role continues today with LWF’s extension of humanitarian aid to migrants from South Sudan to Syria; Cameroon to Central America and elsewhere today.

In the east metro, the work of resettling and welcoming immigrants continued with many persons displaced by the Vietnam War and other unrest in Southeast Asia. As a state, we Minnesotans are well known for welcoming new populations, who contribute in many ways to a thriving economy.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is also a long-standing partner with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), a national agency that assists those who have been granted visas to come to the United States. Lutheran Social Services of

Minnesota and the Minnesota Council of Churches, both affiliated with this synod, continue the work of refugee resettlement today. There are a variety of ways to support such agencies with financial donations and volunteer hours.

Immigration issues today

Currently, the quota for visas for those seeking refugee resettlement status is 30,000 per year. Some officials in Washington, D.C. are proposing to reduce that to zero for 2020, functionally closing the door on a significant and legal way to enter this country. As the bishop of this synod, I encourage you to write to our elected officials about closing the door to immigrants in this time of such high global need. More information is available at www.lirs.org/defending-refugee-admissions/.

Several congregations in this synod have made a connection to AMMPARO (Accompanying Minor Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities), a program of the ELCA to alleviate the conditions in Central America that cause people to migrate or to offer support to deported migrants as they await return to their home countries. Seventy individuals have been trained through the Guardian Angels program to walk with unaccompanied minors, as they navigate the legal system in this country. I encourage congregations to consider becoming Welcoming Congregations and individuals to consider being trained through the Guardian Angels program, as I have been trained, to stand with minors when they come to their immigration hearings in Bloomington. More information on AMMPARO can be found at <https://elca.org/ammparo>.

We know that there is a crisis at the southern border of this country. Thousands of individuals – many of them parents with children – have come to our border seeking asylum, as our laws provide for them to do. Shelters are overflowing and the capacity to house adults and children in a humane manner has been taxed in a way that we cannot ignore.

Some of you have asked me how you can be more directly involved in offering emergency assistance. The ELCA bishops in Texas met recently with their staffs and other resource people to create a mechanism for directing such assistance.

In the Southwestern Texas Synod, a small congregation in Eagle Pass houses dozen of asylum-seekers nightly. Two hours south of San Antonio, they are open to receiving volunteers, who can cook meals, greet guests, clean, do laundry or work on the building. If interested, contact Emma Espina at emmaespino71@gmail.com. Financial donations to assist this ministry – or wherever most needed at the border – can be sent to Southwestern Texas Synod Boarder Relief Fund, 1090 Oestreich Drive, Seguin, TX 78155 or [online](#). I have given a donation and invite you to do likewise.

A sanctuary denomination

Last week, meeting as the Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA voted to be designated as a sanctuary denomination. I ask you to read it for yourself, rather than assuming that what you heard on social media was the full and accurate story of this resolution's intent. [Click here for the actual text of the resolution.](#)

In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith. Being a sanctuary denomination will mean different things in different places.

I know that a number of congregations in this synod have already designated themselves as "sanctuary congregations" through the ISALAH movement. Some have pledged to provide food and material resources to persons fearing deportation or to their families. A few have offered space in their buildings for respite and safe housing.

In each case, the congregation itself deliberated and made a decision to be a part of a formal sanctuary movement. They were not told by others – bishop or denomination – to do so. They prayed, listened, studied and chose how best to respond. In my conversations with the pastors of those choosing to shelter persons within their buildings, I have been assured that the congregations understand the legal consequences their actions may entail.

The congregation decided. The same holds true for all 112 congregations and mission starts of this synod. The suffering of people around the globe; the needs of neighbors in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador; attitudes toward new Americans and recently arrived immigrants; and strategies for showing mercy to others are matters every congregation is called to pray about, study and discern. You are part of defining what being a sanctuary church body means in your context.

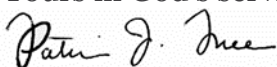
Responding across this synod

What I ask of each congregation is that we pray weekly for immigrants and migrants around the globe. We need God's guidance to untangle the complex, global realities that are driving people from their homeland. Seek ways to contribute financially to Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services, the Minnesota Council of Churches or Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, the outreach work in Texas or to your neighborhood food shelf. Write to your legislators, asking that immigration reform be a priority. We won't all agree on what that reform needs to entail, but know that Lutherans have a high regard for God's action through government. Practice "hospitality of the heart"!

Thank you for taking time to read this message. If I have offended you, missed the point, or dismayed you by suggesting what your congregation needs to do, contact me at 651.224.4313 or

patricia.lull@spas-elca.org. I am asking you to listen to others and I pledge to listen to you.

Yours in God's service,



Patricia Lull, Bishop

Happenings



Congratulations to our newest Member!

Ava Grace Nivala
Baptized on Sunday August 11th.
Sponsors were Adam & Megan Gehrke

New Church Directory Coming

Mark your calendars for New Family Pictures for the new Church Directory.

Dates will be:

11/20/19 - 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm

11/21/19 - 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm

12/6/19 - 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm

12/7/19 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

More information to come!

Make sure the church has your current email or phone number so we'll be able to contact you.

Email: stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com or

Call the church @ 507.263.9182 and leave a message.

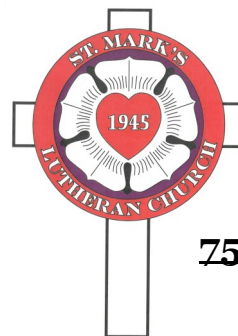
Leave a note on Dixie's desk in the church office.

Church Improvement Update

- The Steel Roof installation is complete.
- The New siding is installed.
- Replaced the rotting exterior door frames.
- Landscaping has been started and will be completed after the parking lot has been paved.
- Paving parking lot will be done the beginning of September depending on the weather.

WELCA Info

- **Next WELCA** meeting 9/4/2019 @ 10 am
- **Bazaar** will be November 30.
- **VBS** feed back was good from kids and parents having Good Earth VBS program
- **Prayers** - Safety in harvest, school & college students. Prayers for victims of violence.



75th Anniversary Celebration

Mark your calendars
May 17th of 2020.

Church School & Confirmation Info

2019/2020 Church School/Confirmation

Registration/Mandatory Parent Meeting

Wednesday, September 11th

6:30 pm Church school parents in Sanctuary

7:00 pm Confirmation students/parents in Sanctuary

Teacher Meeting -

Sunday, September 15 after church (approx. 11:15am)

PLEASE NOTE: we are still in need of Pre-k, K Sunday teachers for a rotation (1 Sunday a month); and 2/3rd grade Church school teachers and some teacher assistance positions still available! Please talk to Sara Gustafson and/or Kelly Tate for more information! We have all lessons ready, it is about 1 to 1.5 hour/week commitment.

Church School Start Date -

Wednesday, September 18th

Bagged Taco dinner starting at 5:30p.m. \$3.00

Church School begins at 6:00 p.m.

Confirmation class at 7:00 pm

Other volunteer opportunities available:

We need parent help in other areas, time commitment varies:

- *Kitchen Helpers* - 2 parents a week to assist with pizza supper, clean up; Hot chocolate/cider/ coffee bar for confirmation kids.
- *Christmas Program/Advent classes*
- *Lent Program/classes*
- *Fundraising*-We are trying to raise funds to help with cost of programs for faith formation experiences. The board of Ed and this team of parents will come together to determine what fundraisers and experiences to plan. For example fundraising for VBS, sending youth to camp WAPO or GEV.

**Sign up will be available for these volunteer opportunities on
Wednesday, September 11th.**

THANK YOU!!!

Kelly Tate & Sara Gustafson



Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2019 Feast & Festival a huge success - from soliciting auction items, selling raffle tickets, making amazing salads and baked goods, cleaning up after the big event - your efforts are appreciated! It truly takes a village to pull off an event such as the Feast & Festival and luckily St. Mark's has an amazing village!

Here are a few statistics from the day:

- Net income of approximately \$22,000
- Served 491 people (108 people took advantage of our raffle ticket promo this year)
- All 600 raffle tickets sold, bringing in \$9,000!
- Items on the silent auction, brought in over \$2,000!
- The live auction brought in over \$8,000!

Winners of the cash raffle

\$800	Dan Lee
\$500	Alissa Gehrke
\$250	JJ Grant
\$250	Connor Chavis
\$250	Ann Church
\$100	Paula Gergen
\$100	Steve Hansen
	Michelle
\$100	Kujawski
\$100	Arnie Felton
\$100	Brian Nicolai
\$50	Lee Volkert
\$50	Ann Church
\$50	Shawn Jensen
\$50	Linda Legare
\$50	Arnie Felton
\$50	Gary Schaffer
\$50	Dixie Schaffer
\$50	Ann Church
\$50	Lee Volkert

We welcome any feedback on things you enjoyed or suggestions on how to make the 2020 Feast & Festival even more successful! Talk to any of the committee members or email us at stmarkschurchfestival@gmail.com. Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 2nd 2020!!

Blake & Chicky Otte - sddotte@gmail.com - 507-291-0197

Dave & Lucinda Preston - lucindapreston@gmail.com - 507-663-6138

Cory & Keri Lorenzen - keri_lorenzen@yahoo.com - 507-202-0663

Doug Bakken - doug.bakken@ridleyinc.com - 612-532-5101

Kjirsten Louis - kelouis16@hotmail.com - 651-276-1042

Steve & Marge Louis - 651-303-5818

Community Events

Cannon Falls St. Pius V Fall Festival

Saturday, September 14th 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Chili Feed

Sunday, September 15th from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Faribault St. John's UCC Germanfest

Sunday, September 29th from 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Community Food Shelf

Here at Saint Mark's Lutheran, we try our best to serve our neighbors. One of the many ways we help is by providing food to our local communities. Saint Mark's Lutheran would like to thank you for your generosity in supporting our food shelf.

If you know anyone that could benefit from receiving some extra food please let them know we're here to help.

1st Wednesday 8:00 am to 10:00 am

2nd & 3rd Tuesdays 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

4th Wednesday 9:00 am to 11:00 am

All cash donations are used to buy healthy perishable food items.



College Student Food Shelf Invite

The Food Shelf is inviting any College Student to come and get some supplies from the food shelf. We want to help with your expenses during these years. Please come when the Food Shelf is open or at 9 am before Church on Sunday or contact Karen Otte at (507) 645-8895.

Greeters

9/1 Deana Otto
 9/8 Dan & Carol Harris
 9/15 Dave & Sandy Kutz
 9/22 Jamie & Trevor Newborg
 9/29 Richard & Melanie Olson

Ushers

9/1 Katie Overby
 9/8 Eric & Alyssa Gehrke
 9/15 Mark & Ann Elliott
 9/22 Karla & Mitch Monson
 9/29 Brian & Sandy Nicolai

Readers

9/1 open
 9/8 open
 9/15 open
 9/22 open
 9/29 open

Acolytes

9/1 open
 9/8 Abby & Joel Gehrke
 9/15 open
 9/22 Marly Monson
 9/29 Richard Olson

Communion Servers

9/1 open
 9/15 open

*If you are listed and can't help or
 If there is an open slot and you can help
 Please let Dixie know by
 phone (507) 263-9182 or
 email stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com.*

**Service Group C (4)**


Chicky Otte & Karen Engler

First	Last
Doug & Jeannette	Bakken
Kelly	Banaszewski
Keith & Kathy	Bey
David & Marge	Blank
Debbie	Chavis
Lisa & Jonas	Chavis
Jim & Katie	Creighton
Larry & Karen	Engler
Chad & Laura	Felton
Adam	Hegland
Bob & Cyndi	Holm
Carolyn	Horsch
Dean	Jahnz
Orv & Sharon	Kappedahl
Clarice & Chico	Krenik
Brian & Mary	Kriesel
Grant & Stephanie	Krueger
Andrew & Shelby	Kuhn
Cory & Keri	Lorenzen
Michael & Amanda	Loritz
Todd & Rachael	Maxwell
David & Patty	McKinley
Dan & Kathy	Motz
Robert & Carol	Nassif
Patty	Olson
Blake & Chicky	Otte
Derek & Amy	Otte
Tyler & Kelsey	Otte
James & Sara	Otto
Phil & Joanie	Peterson
Robert & Traci	Roberge
Lori	Schiller
Karen & Marc	Slininger
Leatrice	Taylor
Kristina	Thomsen
Dorry & Jeff	Waloff
Ann	Weckop

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

PO Box 206,
28595 Randolph Blvd.
Randolph, MN 55065
(507) 263-9182

Sunday Worship 10:00 am
Fellowship following the service

The Small Church
with a Big Heart 

We're on the Web
& Facebook

Saint Mark's Lutheran Contact & Staff

Pastor Lue Moua
Visiting Hours: Tue-Fri 10 am—2 pm
Church: (507) 263-9182
Cell: (651) 500-9890
Email: pastorluemoua@gmail.com

Office Assistant Dixie Schaffer
Office Hours: Tues 8 am—2 pm
Thur 7 am—9 am

President Doug Bakken
Vice President Al Bester
Secretary Keri Lorenzen
Treasurer Christine Otte
Financial Secretary Lisa Loken
Deacons Adam Hegland
Karen Hare
Beth Bester

Trustees Rob Tate
Ryan Kranz
JJ Grant

Church Email: stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com

Church School Email: stmarkschurchschoolkids@gmail.com

Web Site: www.stmarksrandolph.com

Facebook: St. Mark's Lutheran Church