

Auf wiedersehen

Where I grew up people spoke German all the time. In fact, when we graduated from kindergarten we sang German songs. There were Lutheran Germans and Roman Catholic Germans in town. When you went to the bakery or the meat shop you heard people conversing in German. My parents spoke German at the table when they didn't want us to understand what they were saying. So, some of it has rubbed off on me.

Auf wiedersehen is what you say to each other when you are leaving. It means goodbye until we meet again.

You, the people of St. Marks have blessed our lives. Over these past 14 months Linda and I have learned that God is not done with any of us. We all have work to do as we give witness to the incredible love of Jesus for the world.

Over the years I have used this advice when meeting with couples preparing for marriage. There are two things I say which they need to remember – Forgiveness and Humor.

We are given a wonderful gift when we are able to both forgive the other person and able to ask for forgiveness from each other. Both are necessary for healthy relationships. Humor is not laughing at the other but laughing at yourself remembering that you are human and that you do not know all the answers.

I pray that you hold onto this advice as you move forward on your journey of faith together and with a new pastor. This is Christ's church! You and I are privileged to serve our Lord by using the gifts and the resources we have been given. This work will always involve risk and stepping out in faith. You have demonstrated that you are willing and able to do that in these past months.

As for us, we have experienced a willingness in you to love Jesus and love one another. You desire to be the "small church with a big heart". We have been recipients of that big heart. It was a "God Thing" that we connected. We will keep you in our prayers and ask God to continue to bless your lives.

On July 15th the congregation will meet and greet the pastor candidate recommended by the call committee and church council. On July 22nd the congregation will gather to vote on a this new pastor. I will be with you on those days, as well as on July 29th. On July 29th later in the day I am planning on leading a group of people to Tanzania for 17 days. Our time with you will be etched in our hearts and memories.

I have always hated to say goodbye, so instead I will say Auf wiedersehen.

Interim Pastor Chris and Linda Becker

Affirmation of Faith
(confirmation)

Step One:

Find a Bible story or verse that speaks to you. (Google it...)

Read over this selection and write down key words or your immediate thoughts that come to mind when you read it.

Step Two:

Think of experiences in your life that connect you with those words or phrases. Example – story in the Bible is about someone being afraid. When were you afraid? How did you react? Who helped you?

Step Three:

Write a draft of ideas that you would like to share.

Step Four:

Organize your thoughts into a rough draft.

Step Five:

Meet with the Pastor to go over your thoughts (do not worry about the length)

Step Six:

Write a more final draft

Step Seven:

Take a breath. Let it rest. Simply think about what you have written.

John 3:35

³⁵The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands.

Call it a "Devotion" or an "Individual Bible Study". Use it for your own reflecting.

I was going through personally what I had seen others go through so many times. I was no longer an outsider looking in. I was watching my parent's age quickly. My mother had Alzheimer's and did not remember me or my father or any of my siblings. She smiled at people, but she had no idea who they were. She continued to grow old and each time I visited I noticed how much she had changed. The last time I visited I noticed her hands. As she had aged they had become smaller and more pronounced. Every vein and bone had become more and more visible. Her hands had become so fragile.

I remembered my mom being able to juggle so many things at one time. She went to work outside the home when I was in 4th grade. I had two older sisters and a younger brother at that time as well as a younger sister. With five children my mom went to work and our whole life turned upside down. Those of us who were older learned how to do our own wash, ironing (at that time this was a necessity) and even learned how to put pants into those metal stretchers. When my brother and I were done washing clothes the whole basement was lined with legs of pants stiff and stretched to perfection.

There were other chores that now the children had to perform but it still seemed that my mom, even though she worked all day, managed to guide, teach, and care for the events of the house. Her hands held onto so many details. Her hands comforted us when we were sick and hurt and they were firm when we needed discipline. They were hands that created as they sculptured the ceramic pieces she made as her "second" job. They were hands that carefully set a table that welcomed all to its delights. They were hands that typed out term papers and cleaned the house. They were hands that held onto my dad's in tender compassion. They were hands strong and hands gentle all at the same time.

As I sat on the care facility where my mom lived I no longer saw those strong hands. When I held her hand as we walked down the corridor I was aware how fragile her hands had become. They were too weak to hold onto anything tightly. But perhaps they had been that way all along. Perhaps what gave my mom strong hands was what God had placed in them at her Baptism – his very own. Hands which came time and time again to the altar empty were filled with the power of God's own Son as she heard, "This is my body for you".

Jesus awakens in each of us the truth that our hands, which are shaped by the creator, are now filled with the strength of the one who claims us to be children of God.

My mom's hands appeared empty and weak, but they were firmly held by God who has led her through all her life and promised to lead her home.

I remember a hymn that was often sung at funerals. It seems sad that the words were connected with dying and not with everyday living. My mom sang this hymn often. It is a prayer we can all say each day.

*Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me from day to day.
Without your grace and favor, I go astray;
So, take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way.
ELW 767*

Reflection:

- *Recall those times in your life when you thought you would never make it through another day.*
- *How did you get through those times? Who helped you? What gave you hope?*
- *How has God held onto you in your life?*
- *What has kept you from putting your trust in God?*
- *What guidance or protection or direction do **you** need from God these days?*

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual

FEAST & FESTIVAL

Sunday
AUGUST
05
2018

FEAST

11am - 1:30pm

BBQ ROAST PORK
FRESH SWEET CORN
BAKED BEANS
SALADS
HOME BAKED PIES
ROOT BEER FLOATS

28595 Randolph Blvd
Randolph, MN 55065
507-263-9182

FESTIVITIES

--- Church Service - 10am ---

--- Live Music ---

featuring the Roe Family from 10am - 2:30pm

--- Silent Auction ---

check out a wide variety of great items
bidding wraps up at 1:30pm

--- Live Auction ---

bidding begins at 2:30pm

--- Cash Raffle ---

\$20 tickets*, cash payouts totalling \$3,000
winners announced at event

--- Kids Activities ---

bouncy houses, petting zoo,
pony rides and much more!

--- Craft & Bake Sale ---

handmade crafts & homemade goods

Meal Ticket Prices

	Presale	Day of Event
Adults (ages 12+)	\$10*	\$13
Children (ages 3-11)	\$5*	\$7

*To purchase meal or raffle tickets in advance,
email us at stmarkschurchfestival@gmail.com



Thank you for contributing to St. Mark's Lutheran Church's Feast & Festival! Please complete the form and submit via the instructions below.

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Description of Donation: _____

Estimated Value of Item(s) Donated: \$ _____

Special Instructions: _____

Please let us know which method works best for pick-up of this form and donated item(s):

- Coordinate with the committee member that met with you
- Email us at stmarkschurchfestival@gmail.com
- Send this completed form and item(s) to the address below

ST MARKS LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 206, 28595 Randolph Blvd., Randolph, MN 55065

507-263-9182

Email: stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com

Website: stmarksrandolphweb.wix.com/stmarks

Church School E-mail: stmarkschurchschoolkids@gmail.com

Office Hours: Typically, Mon and Thurs 5-7pm, Saturday 9-11am

Facebook: St. Mark's Lutheran Church

July 2018

Prayer Requests

Joyce Nuehring (Lucinda's Aunt), Dan Deike (Kathy Motz' Father), Bob Fleskes, Gloria Dubbels, Kay Molstrom (Tony Price's Mom), Craig Kolstad, Regan Nordling and the Nordling family, Paul Hunsaid, Luke Nassif, Glen Holz, and please keep all our Seniors in your prayers.

Some are in Care Centers: Arnie Felton, Rosella Davisson, Maxine Sunde, Eleanor Ohmann, Norma Taylor, Ray Ohmann, Leatrice Taylor, Robert and Margaret Hayes

FOOD SHELF NEEDS

Food Shelf needs: Detergent, Mandarin Oranges, Jell-O, Toothpaste, Hand Soap, Ramen Noodles. We use all cash donations to buy perishable items. Thank you for your help.

***Important dates to remember:
(Also see enclosed letter)***

***July 15th: Meet and Greet Potluck for
the new Pastor.***

***July 22nd: Congregational Meeting for
a Vote of Call.***

Join us for **Vacation Bible School** as we explore Daniel's Courage in Captivity. We will meet Sunday July 29- Thursday Aug 2nd from 6-7:30pm. Children who have completed grades K-5 are welcome to join as, Pre-K (age 4) are also welcome with an adult. Cost is \$5 per child, \$20 maximum per family.

We need approximately 18-20 teens & parents to volunteer as tribe leaders, shop keepers, game leaders and storytellers. Please contact Kris Thomsen at 507-301-2110, message on Facebook or by the church school email, stmarkchurchschoolkids@gmail.com if you can help.

We also need some props to help create Babylon... 3-4 pop up tents, flat bed sheets (plain neutral colors, stripes ok... no florals or characters, think ancient times), large clay type pots, wicker baskets, burlap sacks. Again, please contact Kris Thomsen if you can help.

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July 2018

Congratulations to the St Marks Class of 2018

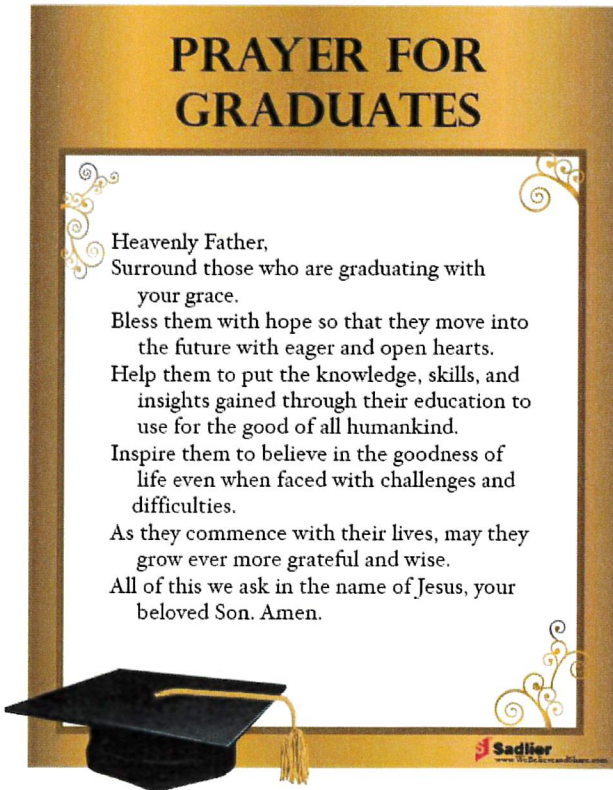
Jordyn Bey, Bailey Braatz, Austin Burlage, Lily Felton, Toni Jahnz, Taylor Jerde, Kendall Martin, Zoe Nassif, tiffany Dallas Ringeisen, Madeline Siebenaler, Raelyn Skog

The July WELCA meeting will be on the 3rd instead of the 4th.

Happy 4th of July!!!

Service Group A

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Ron & Robin | Bakken |
| Jill & Adam | Ballard/Otis |
| Ed & Kayla | Barrett |
| Al & Beth | Bester |
| Matthew & Angie | Cooreman |
| Tara & Steve | Dahlen |
| Garlan & Kathy | Dubbels |
| Candice & Sam | Feidt |
| Chris & Julie | Felton |
| Jeff & Trista | Ford |
| Larissa | Foss |
| Eric & Alissa | Gehrke |
| Ashley | Gergen |
| Brett & Sara | Gustafson |
| Dan & Carol | Harris |
| Bob & Frieda | Helgerson |
| Dave & Sandy | Kutz |
| Orin & Linda | Legare |
| Karla & Mitch | Monson |
| Verone | Mortenson |
| Jamie & Trevor | Newborg |
| | Brian & Sandy |
| | Richard & Melanie |
| | Deena |
| | Tony & Lisa |
| | Randy & Chris |
| | Arlene |
| | Bob |
| | Tim & Carla |
| | Jodi & Todd |
| | Rob & Kelly |
| | Bill & Jodi |
| | Katie & Roddy |
| | Aaron & Beth |
| | Wayne & Diane |
| | Wayne & Carolyn |
| | Kevin & Jessica |
| | Nicolai |
| | Olson |
| | Otto |
| | Price |
| | Ratzlaff |
| | Ringeisen |
| | Romanoski |
| | Skog |
| | Staub |
| | Tate |
| | Taylor |
| | Thielbar |
| | Thompson |
| | Trapp |
| | Weidner |
| | Willems |



A BIG thank you to the girl scouts for pulling weeds on the church grounds!!!

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July 2018

July Ushers

7/1 Dan and Karrie Kuhn
7/8 Chico and Clarice Krenik
7/15 Cory and Keri Lorenzen
7/22 Todd and Rachel Maxwell
7/29 Robert and Carol Nassif

July Greeters

7/1 Durene, William and Jodi Mies
7/8 Brian and Mary Kriesel
7/15
7/22
7/29 Blake and Chicky Otte

July Readers

7/1 Charles Nassif
7/8 Mackenzie Hegland
7/15 Meredith Taylor
7/22 Geoff Krueger
7/29 Charles Nassif

July Acolytes

7/1 Derek Foss and Trevor Preston
7/8 Mackenzie Hegland and Corah Meier
7/15 Meredith Taylor and Sidney Grant
7/22 Geoff Krueger and Sam Swedin
7/29 Charles Nassif and Caden Kranz

July Communion Servers

7/1 Mason Lorenzen and Derek Foss
7/15 Meredith Taylor and Taylor Preston

August Ushers

8/5 James and Sara Otto
8/12 Lisa Loken
8/19 Bruce and Bria Ohmann
8/26 Patty Olson

August Greeters

8/5
8/12 Steve and Marge Louis
8/19 Stan and Mary Ohmann
8/26 Tom and Pat Otte

August Readers

8/5 Paige Ford
8/12 Sophie Engler
8/19 Marly Monson
8/26 Mackenzie Hegland

August Acolytes

8/5 Trevor and Taylor Preston
8/12 Imogen Otte and Mason Lorenzen
8/19 Derek Foss and Nathan Weckop
8/26 Caden Kranz and Charles Nassif

August Communion Servers

8/19 Meredith Taylor and Taylor Preston

SEE ENCLOSED FLYER FOR
OUR WONDERFUL FEAST AND
FESTIVAL INFORMATION!!!

Dear St. Mark's Members,

The Call Committee has spent many hours over the past few months finding a candidate to fit our Call here at St Mark's. They are excited to introduce their candidate Pastor Lue Moua.

From the Call Committee:

Pastor Lue has been serving as a part time pastor (their only pastor) of a small church in the Frenchtown-Missoula Montana area for the past two years.

He grew up in St. Paul, attended school from elementary to college including seminary here in Minnesota, he is married and has a five-year-old son.

Pastor Lue answered our Call wanting to get back to the area. His wife has completed her PHD in social work and accepted a teaching position at UW Eau Claire starting this fall. He enjoys fishing and is TRULY Minnesotan. He's looking forward to getting back to the area and his family.

Pastor Lue has impressive experience working directly with youth prior to receiving his call to ministry. He worked for 5 years as a youth director, taught Sunday School, Confirmation, organized mission trips and a married couples retreat. He's experienced with coalition building with the community from which he comes. He also has a strong desire to meet with and minister to the elderly, shut-ins and the congregation in general.

Pastor Lue's ministry is rooted in grace. He has a very calm, soothing persona with a quiet sense of humor. He has a willingness to challenge us as a congregation and personally, as well as shares our desire for more active involvement of all levels and age groups within our church and the community.

The St. Mark's Call Committee

Sunday July 15th please support St. Mark's by attending a meet and greet potluck for Pastor Lue and his family. (This will be a family day, we would like the elderly, children and youth of all ages to attend). Please bring a dish to share and join in the opportunity to meet and socialize with Pastor Lue and his family.

Sunday July 22nd we will have our Congregational meeting for Vote of Call. To be able to vote you must be considered a voting member. Voting members are confirmed members that have communed during the current or preceding year in this congregation and have made a contribution of record to this congregation within the current or preceding year.

Please be sure to thank all the members of the Call Committee for their hard work and dedication during this Call process.

Thank you for all your support to St Mark's Lutheran Church. See you on **July 15th** and **July 22nd**.

Doug Bakken
President St Mark's Church

WELCA MEETING
JUNE 6, 2018
(No meeting in May)

Meeting was opened at 10:05 by President Diane Trapp.

Treasure Report: We have \$5,487.20 and there was \$75 offering in April. A motion was made by Jill Ballard and passed.

Secretary's Report: Sheryl made a motion to accept, seconded by Carolyn. Passed

Food Shelf: Funds were discussed.

Toni Jahnz received our WELCA Scholarship.

It was asked if all the Senior Blankets were distributed. Maybe 1 or 2 in Pastor's office.

Jill will bring a sample of a crochet pattern called "Father, Son & Holy Ghost" that we could use to make baby blankets or prayer shawls with.

Discussion on Bake Sale for Feast & Festival this year. We made \$940 last year. This was tabled for further discussion next month.

New Business: The funds collected with the Baby Bottles will be given to Life Choice of Cannon Falls. It is an organization that assists young women. Clarice will be in charge of the Baby Bottles until we receive them all. This will be a yearly fund raiser.

The July Meeting falls on the 4th of July. It was decided to have it on the 3rd of July after Bible Study at 10 a.m.

Girl Scouts pulled the weeds around the church last week. A Thank You will be sent to them.

Next month we will have a list of projects that WELCA is sponsoring each year. Dorry will have this list next month.

Prayer concerns for this month: Victims of National Disasters.

Sheryl made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Carolyn.
Motion Passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Karen Otte

Those Present:

Sheryl Fischer, Arlene Ringeisen, Alma Johnston, Carolyn Weidner, Clarice Krenik, Dorry Wallof, Diane Trapp, Colleen Thompson, Karen Otte

Service Group A Contact:

Jodi Taylor: 612-719-4375

July 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1 Service 10am	2	3 WELCA 10am Bible Study 11am	4 FOOD SHELF 8-10 AM Happy Independence Day!!	5	6	7
8 Service 10am	9	10 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am Council Meeting 7pm	11	12	13	14
15 Service 10am Meet and Greet Potluck	16	17 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am FOOD SHELF 5-6:30PM	18 Alzheimer's Support Group 9:30am	19	20	21
22 Service 10am Congregational Meeting for Vote of Call	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am FOOD SHELF 4-5:30PM	25	26	27	28
29 Service 10am VBS 6-7:30pm	30 VBS 6-7:30pm	31 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am VBS 6-7:30pm				