

January Newsletter

January 2019

The small church with a **BIG** heart.



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Important Dates

Bible Study Tuesday—January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th @ 9:00 am

Quilting Tuesday—January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th @ 10:00 am

WELCA Wednesday—January 2nd @ 10 am

Bible Study Wednesday—January 2nd @ 11 am

Church School Wednesday—January 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th @ 6 pm

Confirmation Class Wednesday—January 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th @ 7:00 pm

Alzheimer's Group Wednesday-January 16th @ 9:30 am

Food Shelf January 9th 8-10 am, 15th 4:30-6 pm, 22nd 4:30-6 pm, 30th 9-11 am

Newsletter Deadline Tuesday—January 15th

Annual Congregational Meeting –January 20th

Mark you calendars for our Annual Congregational Meeting after the Worship Service. There will be a potluck lunch and fellowship following the meeting.

Prayer Requests

Chad Holz, Maxine Sunde, Kelli Dibble, Tom Otte, 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 family, Paul Hunsaid, Luke Nassif, and Glen Holz.

Please keep all our seniors in your prayers, especially:

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

Families who have lost loved ones recently, especially:

Norma Taylor Family, Kenneth Hoey Family, Richard Pietrazk Family and Louis Family



Pastor's Message

Greetings Saint Mark's,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends and a happy New Year.

It's hard to imagine that 2018 has already come and gone. For some, the beginning of a new year is a time to look back at the memories made. For my family, 2018 was filled with many memories, both joys and challenges. We were happy to come back to Minnesota but we were also sad to have left family in Montana, especially Nathaniel's cousins. Our family was excited about the new possibilities and adventures but we were also anxious and nervous about the uncertainty that lie ahead. We weren't sure of what might or might not happen and at times we felt panicked, but we felt that God assured us everything will be okay. Now, God neither appeared to us like in the Christmas story nor did we hear a great voice. For me and Nou, it was more like a subtle feeling of peace and calm in the midst of uncertainty and moving cross country. In the end, everything turned out just fine and I can honestly say, we are blessed to have found a wonderful community here in Randolph.

In all of these memories, I see God's work and his many blessings for our family. We are so grateful for Nathaniel and his health; we love coming back to Minnesota and have been welcomed by everyone; and I really enjoy being part of Saint Mark's, spending time with children during church school, teaching our confirmation students, engaging in community events and activities, and learning from all of you. As you look back on 2018, what memories or blessings stand out for you?

For some, I imagine saying goodbye to 2018 couldn't have come fast enough and a new year means starting fresh. Maybe you want to start a new hobby or learn a new skill. Maybe you want to work harder on a relationship. Maybe you want to spend less time at work and more time with your family or serving in your community. Maybe you want to renew a commitment to better health or better decisions about money. Maybe you want to come to church more often (we'd love to see you!). Whatever your goals are for 2019, I hope you remember God's promise during the Advent season--Emmanuel, God with us--so that when you see 2020 on the horizon, you'll look back on 2019 and see all of God's blessings.

“you whom I took from the ends of the earth,
and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, “You are my servant,
I have chosen you and not cast you off”;
do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand (Isaiah 41:9-10).”

God be with you this new year, amen.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Lue

Happenings

Ol' Country Bazaar update

Congratulations! The WELCA made over \$4,500 on the Ol' Country Bazaar.

This event is their big fund raiser which makes it possible for them to outreach locally and nationally. They also keep the Church Kitchen supplied for our fellowship gatherings. We appreciate all the hard work everyone puts in to make this event a wonderful church and community event. WELCA meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 10 am if you would like to attend.

Newletter email

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email please send your email to **stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com**

Please be sure to add us to your **safe sender list** so it doesn't go into your **spam email**.

Applications Open for Young Adults in Global Mission

The ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program is accepting applications for the 2019-2020 year.

YAGM invites young people ages 21-29 into an intentional year of service in our global church. Young adults serve in the spirit of accompaniment, walking alongside global companions in a manner that practices mutuality, interdependence and solidarity. Areas of service include, but are not limited to, health and development, congregational ministry, human rights, education, homelessness, addiction recovery, women's issues and children and youth.

Currently, the Saint Paul Area Synod has two young adults serving through YAGM: Amelia Schurke of St. Andrew's, Mahtomedi serving in Mexico, and Maddie Lindahl of Chisago Lake Lutheran, Center City, serving in Senegal.

Find more information at www.elca.org/yagm

Mission "WARM" Donation Box

If you have warm outer layers you are looking to donate, St Mark's Church has just the box for you. Please place your clean hats, mittens, and warm jackets in the collection box in the church's Narthex. No boots please.

Baby Grand Piano

We have been blessed with a beautiful used Baby Grand Piano at Church.

If you haven't heard our talented Musicians play the piano, you are definitely missing something special.

A BIG thank you to Bob & Frieda Helgerson for making all the connections to make this happen.



More Happenings

Craft Weekend

Friday 1/18 - 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm-\$5
Saturday 1/19 - 9:30 am to 10:30 pm-\$20

Have your own table or 2 to craft, sew,
make cards, get stuff organized.
You can sit in peace or visit,
whatever moves you.

Friday supper you are on your own
Saturday soup lunch is provided &
Saturday night is potluck

RSVP

Stephanie Krueger

612.581.7201

sjkrueger10@gmail.com

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 at 9 am before Church on Sunday or contact Karen Otte at (507) 645-8895.



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. St 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. Check the calendar on the 1st page for dates and times.

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

WELCA December Meeting Highlights

- Bazaar profit was \$4,548.50
- Quilters sent 5 bed rolls to the Union Gospel and 6 quilts to other shelters.
- Gifts are being taken to our shut-ins in Cannon Falls and Northfield.
- Officer were elected

President-Diane Trapp

Vice President-Colleen Thompson

Treasurer-Sheryl Fischer

Secretary-Beth Bester



Thank You Randolph School!

A big thank you to the Students and Faculty at Randolph School for the almost 1,800 lbs. of food that was donated to the Food Shelf. We are all blessed to belong to such a great community full of such giving people.

Bishop's Message

Christmas comes at a descending time. The old year is coming to an end, the new year is not yet here. It is too late to accomplish goals set on the previous New Year's Day, and just enough time to realize that whatever shape or state you are in will be the shape or state in which you end the year. There is a hefty dose of "what might have been."

In the Northern Hemisphere the trees are bare, fields are barren, birds have migrated, animals are hibernating, the days are short and the nights are long. The earth's colors are muted, and when there is snow the world becomes silent. Sometimes during these short days and long nights I find myself thinking about the brevity of life. This conflicts with my tendency to believe that the possibility of self-improvement and renewal is limitless: there is always another day, more time, another chance.

I remember watching our first child as she slept in her cradle, thinking about the future before her and, at the same time, the reality that there would be an end. The Ash Wednesday declaration, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," became more pointed and more poignant. The cradle-to-grave progression is our path; the inevitable and inexorable decline of our strength.

As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more (Psalm 103:15-16).

Maybe this is why the Christmas season can be so fraught. Of course, there is anticipation and celebration, but there is also pressure and stress. Perhaps we are trying to greet the Lord's birth with our best efforts (when I was a girl, Christmas preparations were not complete until the silver was polished, and that job fell to me), but desperation can creep into the urgency to get Christmas right, to hold back the night. "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 279). This is freight that Christmas can't carry when Christmas depends on us.

Christmas comes at an opportune time. God did not come to us that first Christmas when we were at the top of our game or when the world was perfect. Even the circumstances of Jesus' birth were a sharp reminder that all was not well—forced migration to Bethlehem, no room for the young family, born in a stall. Emmanuel—God with us—came to us and comes to us precisely at the time when our need is greatest.

Our attempts to bring about perfection actually get in the way of receiving the gift. When we try to fit into an unrealistic ideal of who we ought to be instead of welcoming God into our real self, no matter how messy, what then is left on the 13th day of Christmas? Fatigue, certainly, but also the dull acceptance that life moves from cradle to grave.

But on Christmas, God has reversed the cradle-to-grave progression. The angel announced to the shepherds: "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:10-12).

Here is the new reality. Here is the truth. Our lives are not a meaningless trudge from cradle to grave, but a joyful journey—true and lasting joy—from grave to cradle. All our brokenness and death meet life and healing and hope in the child in the manger. His cradle defeats the grave. We are loved. We are alive. Now we are free to greet this holy season.

Merry Christmas, dear church.
Presiding Bishop Eaton

Incoming Church Council

President—Doug Bakken
 Vice President – Al Bester
 Secretary—Keri Lorenzen
 Treasurer – Chicky Otte
 Financial Secretary – Lisa Loken
 Deacons– Adam Hegland
 Karen Hare
 Beth Bester
 Trustees –Rob Tate
 Ryan Kranz
 JJ Grant

**Service Group A (2)
 Chairperson**

Jodi Taylor


First	Last
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	Nicolai
Richard & Melanie	Olson
Deena	Otto
Tony & Lisa	Price
Randy & Chris	Ratzlaff
Arlene	Ringeisen
Bob	Romanoski
Tim & Carla	Skog
Jodi & Todd	Staub
Rob & Kelly	Tate
Bill & Jodi	Taylor
Katie & Roddy	Thielbar
Aaron & Beth	Thompson
Wayne & Diane	Trapp
Wayne & Carolyn	Weidner
Kevin & Jessica	Willems

*Happy
 New Year
 2019*

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
Office Hours: Tue-Fri 8 am—3 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 Dixie Schaffer
Secretary Keri Lorenzen
Treasurer Jodi Taylor
Financial Secretary Dawn Burlage
Deacons Chicky Otte
Adam Hegland
Karen Hare
Trustees Todd Maxwell
Rob Tate
Ryan Kranz

Church Email: stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com

Church School Email: stmarkschurchschoolkids@gmail.com

Web Site: www.stmarksrandolph.com

Facebook: St. Mark's Lutheran Church