

January Newsletter

What's New?

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

So what is new?

It is 2018 and once again we stand at the beginning of a new year. Perhaps some have made resolutions to change a form of behavior, or habit, or attitude. Perhaps some are starting a new chapter in their life. Perhaps the days ahead look like the same old same old, going through the routine without much hope for anything new at all.

Paul in his letter to those in Corinth speaks about a whole new way of living. It is so new that one cannot even recognize the old, it has all passed away, it is as if it was dead.

John in his witness of faith in the experience of real life, places the certainty of God's activity in providing for a new life, at the heart of his revelation.

Life at times sucks. It is filled with pain and sorrow, uncertainty and despair. Life is hard. That is not new at all. That still awaits us all in this new year. No matter how much we huff and puff we cannot blow down the walls that close us in.

But God promises something new! A new life. A new way of living. A life risen from the dead. Now!

We have been assured of this through the birth of Jesus and we have been promised this through our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus.

In fact, we have been baptized into a new way of living. One that is not dependent upon our accomplishments, our successes, our status, or our efforts. This new life is given to us. It is a gift.

The gift of Jesus opens up the possibility of our new life as we enter this new year. Paul declares this over and over again in his letters.

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift

¹⁷Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from

the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. ¹⁹They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰That is not the way you learned Christ! ²¹For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. ²²You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 4:1-7; 17-5:2)

What new way of living will you be open to this year? What new way of connecting with Christ will you focus on this year? How will you hear God's call for you to live out your new life in Christ? Who will help you?

These questions I lay on all of our hearts so that we can be a stronger community of faith which bears witness to the love of Jesus which transforms our lives each new day.

In Christ, Pastor Chris

Confirmation

The 8th and 9th graders will continue to explore the lives of those we discover in the Old Testament. Students will seek connect their life story to the stories of those in the Old Testament.

We meet on Sundays at 11:15 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Students are encouraged to be part of the worshipping community on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. each week. This is where we are nurtured in the faith together and strengthened to serve God alongside one another.

The 6th and 7th graders pursue some of the key elements of our faith life. They will unpack what it means to believe in Jesus and how valuable prayer can be in one's life.

Our teachers are: Carol Nassif, Sara Gustafson, Keri Lorenzen, Linda Becker, Lucinda Preston, and Pastor Chris.

Wednesday Home Bible Study
Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."
¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Martin Luther used this Psalm as his source of the hymn "A Mighty Fortress is our God"

Notice how the Psalm starts. Nature is imaged in this psalm providing a strong foundation of security and strength. Promises are declared and the way people do business will change. No longer will there be war. (I need to pause here to let this soak in a little. There has been too much war in my lifetime. War among nations, war within body politics, warring madness within family circles).

(pause and think about what this would be like for you not to have any more "wars".)

All this is promised in this Psalm but what stands out is where all this leads to: No more wars; our security assured, and with those distractions eliminated comes our full attention which can now say who is God.

What we discover is that our insecurity, our warring madness our despair has been caused by the fact that we have tried in so many different ways to take control, to be in control of our fate, our lives. And in so doing we have created our own hell, our own prison. We have increased our worry and anxiety.

God wants us to be at peace. God wants to bring us peace (remember Christmas). God knows our needs and wants us to stop running around in circles and to take in the truth that God is our sovereign Lord and Savior.

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How can we "be still" today? What ways have you tried and how have they helped you? What does not work for you?

When was the last time you simply sat and listened to God? What keeps you from taking that time? When is the best time for you?

Try finding 10 to 20 minutes of time when you are quiet and there are no other distractions.

- Sit in a comfortable place
- Put both feet on the ground and relaxed your hands and arms.
- Close your eyes and listen.
- If your mind wonders don't fight it. Simply think of a phrase or word like "Love", or "Into your hands I place my spirit". Or "Jesus". Think those words over and over again until you go back to listening.
- Don't try to "fix" anything, or "plan" anything. Simply listen to your own breath and to God.

Sunday January 21

The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, with the Saint Paul Area Synod and the Minneapolis Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will bring the five-hundredth anniversary commemorations of the Reformation to a close with a joint liturgy of evening prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Paul (239 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, 55102).

The National Lutheran Choir under the direction of David Cherwien will lead the liturgy. Bishop Patricia Lull of the Saint Paul Area Synod will preach, and Bishop Ann Svennungsen of the Minneapolis Area Synod and Archbishop Bernard Hebda of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis will serve as liturgists. All are welcome as we renew our common witness to Jesus Christ. A reception follows the liturgy at the Cathedral.

If any are interested in going please let the church office know so we can form car pooling.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Council Members

	2017	2018
President	Dean Taylor	Doug Bakken
VP	Doug Bakken	Dixie Schaffer
Secretary	Keri Lorenzen	Keri Lorenzen
Treasurer	Jodi Taylor	Jodi Taylor
Finan Sec	Dawn Burlage	Dawn Burlage
Deacons	Dixie Schaffer Chicky Otte Jill Ballard	Chicky Otte Karen Hare
Trustees	Ed Barrett Todd Maxwell Rob Tate	Todd Maxwell Rob Tate Ryan Kranz

Church School Superintendent: Kris Thomsen

Board of Education: Lucinda Preston, Amy Otte,
Kelli Banaszewski, 1st Year Deacon

Auditors: Sheryl Fischer and Karen Otte

Feast and Festival Committee: Blake and Chicky Otte, Cory and Keri Lorenzen,
Derek and Amy Otte, Dave and Lucinda Preston

Nominating Committee: Doug Bakken and Dawn Burlage

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

January 2018

Prayer Requests

Gilberton Family, Dan Deike (Kathy Motz' Father), Bob Fleskes, Gloria Dubbels, Kay Molstrom (Tony Price's Mom), Craig Kolstad, Regan Nordling and the Nordling family, Jim Roschen, 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, Norman and Eleanor Ohmann, Norma Taylor, Ray Ohmann, Leatrice Taylor, Robert and Margaret Hayes

January Ushers

1/7 Doug and Jeannette Bakken
1/14 Ed and Kayla Barrett
1/21 Derek and Amy Otte
1/28 Wayne and Diane Trapp

January Greeters

1/7 Randy and Chris Ratzlaff
1/14 Bob and Sheryl Fischer
1/21 Bob and Cyndi Holm
1/28 Lep and Colleen Thompson

MORE TO COME SOON!!!!

FOOD SHELF NEEDS

The Food Shelf wants to THANK all the students who collected food for us, helped us sort and put away!! We have received close to 2000 lbs of product. We don't have a need list right now. Thank you all!!

WARM CLOTHES DONATION

We are collecting items to help warm the homeless. Please bring in coats, sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves... Anything to help!! These items will be donated to the Marie Sandvik Center in Minneapolis.

CALL COMMITTEE

A big thank you to Al Bester, Bob Helgerson, Crystal Kranz, Tyler Otte, Lucinda Preston, and Kelly Tate. They have a lot of work to do, so let's keep them in our prayers!!

The annual Congregational Meeting will be January 21st after service. This is a potluck so please bring a dish to pass.

On Tuesday January 2 we will host a Blessing/Prayer time for Adam Gilbertson who is missing. We will gather in the church at 7:00 pm

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

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018!

Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;

To be understood, as to understand;

To be loved, as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive,

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

St. Francis of Assisi

CommentNation.com

Church School Menu

Jan 3-Corn dogs and fries

Jan 10-Sloppy Joes

Jan 17-Tatertot Hot dish

Jan 24- Walking Tacos

Jan 31- Chicken Nuggets

Service Group 2

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Ron & Robin | Bakken |
| Jill & Adam | Ballard/Otis |
| Ed & Kayla | Barrett |
| Kari | Benson |
| Al & Beth | Bester |
| Mara & Paul | Christiansen |
| Matthew & Angie | Cooreman |
| Garlan & Kathy | Dubbels |
| Mike & Kibby | Errington |
| Candice & Sam | Feidt |
| Chris & Julie | Felton |
| Larissa | Foss |
| Eric & Alissa | Gehrke |
| 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 |
| Tony & Lisa | Price |
| Randy & Chris | Ratzlaff |
| Scott & Margo | Reichert |
| Arlene | Ringeisen |
| Bob & Clay | Romanoski |
| Steve & Nancy | Schwartz |
| 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 |

2018 Randolph Food Shelf Schedule

JANUARY
3 - 8 - 10 a.m. Christ United Methodist
9 - 5 - 6:30pm St. Mark's
16 - 4 - 5:30 pm Stanton Methodist
24 - 9 - 11am St. Mark's
This week by appointment only

FEBRUARY
7 - 8 - 10 am Christ United Methodist
13 - 5 - 6:30pm St. Mark's
20 - 4 - 5:30pm Stanton Methodist
28 - 9 - 11 am St. Mark's

MARCH
7 - 8 - 10 am Christ United Methodist
13 - 5 - 6:30pm St. Mark's
20 - 4 - 5:30 pm Stanton Methodist
28 - 9 - 11 am St. Mark's

APRIL
4 - 8 - 10 am Christ United Methodist
10 - 5 - 6:30 pm St. Mark's
17 - 4 - 5:30 pm Stanton Methodist
25 - 9 - 11 am St. Mark's

MAY
2 - 8 - 10 am Christ United Methodist
8 - 5 - 6:30 pm St. Mark's
15 - 4 - 5:30pm Stanton Methodist
23 - 9 - 11 am St. Mark's
This week by appointment only

2018 RANDOLPH FOOD SHELF SCHEDULE

JUNE	6 - 8 - 10 a.m. - Christ United Methodist 12 - 5- 6:30 p.m - St. Mark's Lutheran 19 - 4-5:30 p.m.- Stanton Methodist 27 - 9- 11:00 a.m. - St. Mark's Lutheran
JULY	3 - 8-10 a.m. - Christ United Methodist(Tuesday) 10 - 5- 6:30 p.m. - St. Mark's Lutheran 17 - 4 - 5:30 p.m. Stanton Methodist 25- 9 - 11 a.m. - St. Mark's Lutheran
AUGUST	1 - 8 - 10 a.m. - Christ United Methodist 7 - 5 - 6:30 p.m. - St. Mark's Lutheran 14 - 4 - 5:30 p.m.- Stanton Methodist 22 - 9- 11:00 a.m.- St. Mark's Lutheran 29 - By appointment
SEPTEMBER	5 - 8- 10 a.m. - Christ United Methodist 11 - 5 -6:30 p.m. - St. Mark's Lutheran 18 - 4 - 5:30 p.m. - Stanton Methodist 26 - 9 - 11 a.m. - St. Mark's Lutheran
OCTOBER	3 - 8 - 10 a.m. - Christ United Methodist 9 - 5 - 6:30p.m. - St. Mark's Lutheran 16 - 4 -5:30 p.m. - Stanton Methodist 24- 9 - 11 a.m. - St. Mark's Lutheran Not open this week
NOVEMBER	7 - 8-10 a.m. - Christ United Methodist 13 - 5 - 6:30 p.m. St. Mark's Lutheran 20 - 4 - 5:30p.m. Stanton Methodist 28 - 9 - 11 a.m. St. Mark's Lutheran
DECEMBER	5 - 8 - 10 a.m. Christ United Methodist 11- 5 -6:30 p.m. St. Mark's 18 - 4-5:30 p.m. Stanton Methodist 26 - 9- 11 a.m. St. Mark's

WELCA NEWS

Notes from December 6 WELCA meeting:

The profit from the Bazaar to date was \$5,203.54. The Quilt Raffle profit was \$642.00 (Barn quilt-266.00; Queen size quilt-\$398.00). Vendor/crafter space rental: \$1400; WELCA Bake/Craft Sale: \$1742.15; Lunch Profit: \$1988.55. Total Bazaar Profit: \$5,203.54. The WELCA checkbook balance is \$8,346.68 as of November 30.

Food Shelf has received many gifts. Syngenta Research Center located in Stanton donated 20 meat vouchers for Lorentz Meats. Pastor suggested that we give meat certificates to the Christmas families.

WELCA will be buying & delivering Christmas gifts for our homebound members. We also gave gifts to Pastor Chris, Sandy & Dave Kutz, our custodians, & Dawn Burlage.

There was discussion about next year's Bazaar. Carolyn reported that we didn't have as many vendors as last year.

WELCA officers for 2018 are: President: Diane Trapp; Vice President: Colleen Thompson; Secretary: Karen Otte; Treasurer: Sheryl Fischer.

Dorry Wallof shared ideas for WELCA goals for next year – to plan a “Meet & Greet & Grow” special event for ALL St. Mark's Women. The Goal: for the women of St. Mark's WELCA to connect, meet each other, share ideas, & help each other grow spiritually and personally. More information will be forthcoming – ideas are welcome.


It was voted that WELCA give \$1,000 to St. Mark's General Fund.

Prayer Request – Those suffering from the fires in California. Safe holidays. Pray that all people will find peace and joy in their lives.

Service Group 2 Contacts:

Jodi Taylor 612-719-4375

January 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 	2 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am Daisy Troop 6-7pm 7pm Service for Prayers	3 FOOD SHELF 8-10 AM WELCA 10am Bible Study 11am Church school 6-7pm	4 Bear Den Mtg 6-7pm	5 Girl Scouts 6-8pm	6
7 Service 10am Pre-k..1 st Sunday school Confirmation Pack 208 5pm Pack Mtg 5pm	8	9 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am FOOD SHELF 5-6:30PM Council Meeting 7pm	10 Church school 6-7pm	11 Alzheimer's Support Group 9:30am	12	13
14 Service 10am Pre-k..1 st Sunday school Confirmation	15	16 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am FOOD SHELF 4-5:30PM	17 Church school 6-7pm	18	19 Crafting 5pm-10pm	20 Crafting 9am-10pm
21 Service 10am Annual Meeting Pre-k..1 st Sunday school Confirmation B&B 4H 1pm Pack Mtg 6pm	22	23 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am Daisy Troop 6-7pm	24 FOOD SHELF 9-11AM Church school 6-7pm	25 Newsletter Deadline	26	27
28 Service 10am Pre-k..1 st Sunday school NO confirmation Youth Group		30 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am	31 Church school 6-7pm			