

“Can we Talk”

A number of years ago there was a comedian who used the line “Can we talk” in her act. I want to use it to bring attention to a crucial piece of the ministry of St. Mark’s. I want to first say that it gets a little tiring hearing people say that “all the church wants is money”. What is not understood in our uncomfortableness to the church speaking about money is that money is just one way God allows us to experience life as fully as we can.

Jesus clearly understood the power of money and the importance money plays in our lives. If we are honest we have to admit that we think about money often, we worry about money frequently, and we fear that we will not have enough of it.

What we sometimes forget is how powerful money can be when we collectively use it to bring care, compassion, and support to those in need.

When I came to St. Mark’s one of the things we did together was to assess our needs for our worship life together. We recognized that we needed stronger music leaders. We found them through St. Olaf College but we now needed to make sure they were paid fairly.

The congregation passed a 2018 budget that included monies for a full-time pastor. This was a concern for the council as they proposed this budget. Can we afford it? Wanting to make sure the church had strong leadership we said we would seek a full-time pastor. This will take a commitment from everybody. It will take a consistency in giving and a faith filled willingness to be generous.

We will be entering the summer months soon and these typically have been times when the church feels the strain of reduced giving. I pray that each of us would see the powerful witness that this community of faith plays in the life of our children and youth and people of all ages.

I was told that the motto of St. Mark’s is “A small church with a big heart”. I would hope that this big heart would translate into people willing to give of themselves in their use of time, skills, and money.

John wrote in one of his letters, “let us love as Jesus first loved us”. Be generous is one way we can show love for Jesus, and love for each other.

In Christ, Interim Pastor Chris

High School Graduates

On Sunday May 20 we will honor all those who are completing their High school education. God has blessed them with knowledge and life experiences and we want to offer our blessing to them as they enter into this new phase of their life. Join us at 10:00 a.m. service as we wrap these young men and women in the love of Christ again.



Reflections of a Cowboy
or those who dream to be one

Job 38 and 39

Dave and I were almost there. It had been a long journey, and it was getting dark in this new home of ours. You would not have thought that traveling from Minnesota to someplace on the border of South and North Dakota would have been such a long journey, but some trips are longer in more than miles. We were traveling back in time as we went from our comfortable surroundings to the life of the early cowboys. Dave told me he knew of a place where we could experience life as it was years ago.

We left early allowing for plenty of time since we were pulling a horse trailer and had to travel slower than usual. It all sounded good to me because I considered myself the first of the city slickers. Coming from Chicago the only horse I saw frequently was the kind you put quarters in. Years later who would have thought that I was now riding a quarter horse and racing at the county fair and taking my horse out to ride over miles of open spaces.

We packed our equipment making sure we had everything we needed because where we were going, there weren't any stores. After about 20 minutes on the highway I looked into the review mirror and saw smoke. We pulled off and discovered that one of the tires on the trailer was hot. It was a used trailer that Glen and I had bought and attempted to fix up, but every so often it showed its age. This was one of those times. We searched for someplace that was open early in the morning. Fortunately, we found a station just a little off the highway. The brake was fixed without the horses getting too excited. Once again, we were on our way and talking about the place we would stay for the next few days.

The last few miles we traveled over some rough roads slowly moving along in the late afternoon towards the place where we would live. We got our first glimpse of it as we turned a corner. Dave pointed out the cabin in the distance. I am not sure if one would call it that, but for the lack of any other name cabin would have to do. It was small, very small, and A-frame structure that could sleep two or three on the floor. It even had some storage space in a small loft. We could stand up in the middle but had to bow a lot around the inside edges. This would be our home for the next few days. We brought the horses into a corral that was used at branding time. We staked out a place for the grill and set up our two chairs. Our first meal

was cold sandwiched, but after a long derive they tasted good. The grass was almost shoulder high, so we each found a private section of the "back 40" and each of us designed our own toilet station.

That night we were feeling pretty good about ourselves. We had made the journey with relative ease, and we had brought all that we would need. Life was good, and we were feeling rather in control of things until...until we lifted our eyes to the sky. Here in this pitch-dark place of the earth, miles from nowhere, was this massive expansion of stars stretching from one end of the horizon to the next. We sat there overcome by the feeling of being rather insignificant.

I viewed more stars than this city kid had ever seen before. Stars bright and bold, just glowing in the sky, and stars small and full of glitter. There were stars in designs that even I, a novice, could identify. I saw the Milky Way more clearly than I had ever seen it before. There were shooting stars and planets big and full. The sky was completely filled with them, and they did not stop, galaxies upon galaxies.

I caught myself looking down because the whole thing terrified me. Who was I under such and endless? What significance did I have in comparison to this wonder? I had always felt I was in control. In fact, I want and love to be in control. Perhaps it is the German element within me, my family of origin. Giving a gift is easy because I am in control, receiving a gift is awkward and difficult. Now here I was under these Midwest skies small as could be and afraid. Yes, afraid. Afraid of how small I was and remembering the words of God to Job, "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tellme. If you have understanding." And I was speechless as I gazed into the heavens.

O almighty and merciful God, you created and breathed life into me. At that moment you saw me as one of your creations. How I forget that you are the creator and I am the creature. Renew in me my role, and guide me to praise you for your might and power.

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

May 2018

Prayer Requests

Family of David Engelmann, Family of Jim Roschen, Family of Ashley and Derrick Otte, Family of Norm Ohmann, 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, 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, Eleanor Ohmann, Norma Taylor, Ray Ohmann, Leatrice Taylor, Robert and Margaret Hayes

FOOD SHELF NEEDS

Food Shelf needs, juice, pancake mix, canned fruit, beef stew, cash donations go to buy milk, bread, meat, butter, cheese (things that we keep refrigerated or items we freeze).

Thank you for your help.

WELCA is collecting clean, gently used tote bags to be given to the Women's Shelter. Thank you.

A big St Marks thank you to Kris Thomsen and all the teachers and volunteers that make church school so amazing!! Happy end of the year.

The call committee is working diligently on interviews. They request continued prayers to get through the process.

As of May 29th, we are \$1000 under budget of the year.

SERVICE GROUP B

Arnie & Anne	Berquam		
Rodney & Stacy	Braatz		
Sue	Bresnahan		
Dawn	Burlage		
Mark & Kelli	Dibble		
Ann & Mark	Elliott		
Bob & Sheryl	Fischer		
Donald & Katie	Freidig		
Benjamin & Megan	Friedrich		
JJ & Shannon	Grant		
Shane & Karen	Hare	Durene	Mies
Todd & Mary	Haro	William & Jody	Mies
Julie	Jensen	Bruce & Bria	Ohmann
Alma	Johnston	Stan & Mary	Ohmann
Ryan & Crystal	Kranz	Bob & Shannon	Olson
Dan & Karrie	Kuhn	Karen & Jerry	Otte
Randy & Tami	Lee	Tom & Pat	Otte
Lisa	Loken	Katie	Overby
Steve & Marge	Louis	Matthew & Samantha	Peterson
		Jason & Hillary	Podritz
		Dave & Lucinda	Preston
		Dixie & Marv	Schaffer
		Randi & Jeff	Schmicking
		Tim & Renee	Schultz
		Heather	Siebenaler
		Chuck & Brenda	Taylor
		Dean & Sara	Taylor
		Steve & Colleen	Thompson
		Kurt & Katie	Weidner

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May 2018

May Ushers

5/6 Orin and Linda Legare
5/13 Ron and Robin Bakken
5/20 Al and Beth Bester
5/27 Matthew and Angie Cooreman

June Ushers

6/3
6/10 JJ and Shannon Grant
6/17 Todd and Mary Haro
6/24 Alma Johnston

May Greeters

5/6 Orv and Sharon Kappedahl
5/13 Jill Ballard
5/20 Tyler and Kelsey
5/27 Garlan and Kathy Dubbels

June Greeters

6/3 Brian and Larissa Foss
6/10 Shane and Karen Hare
6/17 Julie Jensen
6/24 Ryan and Crysta Kranz

May Readers

5/6 Meredith Taylor
5/13 Paige Ford
5/20 Sophie Engler
5/27 Marly Monson

June Readers

6/3 Paige Ford
6/10 Sophie Engler
6/17 Meredith Taylor
6/24 Marly Monson

May Acolytes

5/6 Josh Taylor and Richard Olson
5/13 Derek Foss and Mason Lorenzen
5/20 Nathan Weckop and Jacob Weckop
5/27 Wyatt Banaszewski and Kale Staub

June Acolytes

6/3 Geoff Krueger and Sam Swedin
6/10 Caden Kranz and Corah Meier
6/17 Megan Motz and Sidney Grant
6/24 Collin Otto and Josh Taylor

May Communion Servers

5/6 Mason Lorenzen and Derek Foss
5/20 Taylor Preston and Trevor Preston

June Communion Servers

6/3 Imogen Otte and Mackenzie Hegland
6/17 Nathan Weckop and Jacob Weckop

Service Group A Contacts:

Dawn Burlage 952-500-2335

Karen Otte 507-645-8895

May 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 Bible Study 9am <i>Quilting 10am</i>	2 WELCA 10am Bible Study 11am FOOD SHELF 8-10 AM Blessing of the Animals	3	4	5
6 Service 10am	7	8 Bible Study 9am <i>Quilting 10am</i> FOOD SHELF 5-6:30PM Council Meeting 7pm	9	10	11	12
13 Service 10am <i>Happy Mothers Day!!</i>	14	15 Bible Study 9am <i>Quilting 10am</i> FOOD SHELF 4-5:30PM	16 Alzheimer's Support Group 9:30am	17	18	19
20 Graduate Service 10am 	21	22 Bible Study 9am <i>Quilting 10am</i> Newsletter Deadline	23 FOOD SHELF 9-11AM	24	25	26
27 Service 10am	28	29 Bible Study 9am <i>Quilting 10am</i>	30	31		