



Servant, October 2017

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

2001 South Elmwood Avenue Sioux Falls, SD 57105

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Dear sisters and brothers,

“Don't be afraid, for I am with you.” -Isaiah 41:10

These words are lovely when the sky is blue, the birds are singing and we had enough sleep the night before. In those moments, we imagine the scariest thing we will have to face is a cute monster from Monsters, Inc. These words seem idyllic until we face cancer, mental illness, financial insecurity, exhaustion, chronic pain, rejection, persecution or a natural disaster. We wonder how much more we can handle and if we will ever survive. We struggle how to face difficulties and horrible situations. We may question God or blame God, then we hear these words, “Don't be afraid, for I am with you.”

We hear command language in Isaiah 41. “Fear not” is the first command at the beginning of the verse. And then the second is “do not anxiously look about you.” Command language usually expects a task or movement. “Fear not” and “Do not anxiously look about you” invite us to trust even in the midst of darkness, uncertainty and disease. It often takes a command to trust in God's promises and presence when the rug has been pulled out from under us and we have no idea where to turn next.

Barbara Brown Taylor from Learning to Walk in the Dark, “Pema Chödrön did not become one of my teachers until I had almost finished writing, but she diagnosed the problem so well that I can no longer say it without her help. We are all so busy constructing zones of safety that keep breaking down, she says, that we hardly notice where all the suffering is coming from. We keep thinking that the problem is out there, in the things that scare us: dark nights, dark thoughts, dark guests, dark emotions. If we could just defend ourselves better against those things, we think, then surely we would feel more solid and secure. But of course we are wrong about that, as experience proves again and again. The real problem has far less to do with what is really out there than it does with our resistance to finding out what is really out there. The suffering comes from our reluctance to learn to walk in the dark.”

So “fear not” and “do not anxiously look about you!”

Shalom,

Pastor Lori L. Hope

NURTURING FAITH AND LIFE FOR LOVING SERVICE

St. Mark's: Called and empowered to be

Christ-Centered: Proclaiming the Word of God through worship, sacraments, prayer, and study.

Loving Community: Giving importance to human relationships, celebrating individual gifts, and maintaining a sense of belonging.

Action Oriented: Seeing the image of God in all people and striving to do God's work in the community and the world.

Devoted: Serving faithfully with passion and dedication.

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED

If you are hospitalized for any reason, please be sure to tell the hospital on your admission that you are a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. It isn't enough to tell them that you are Lutheran! It would also help if you or one of your family members would call the church office (332-4092) to let us know that you are hospitalized so that we can visit you.

HOME VISITS

If you wish to have someone visit you in your home for conversation, prayer, or Holy Communion, please call the church office (332-4092) and arrange for a mutually agreeable time for a visit.



Adult Forum

Sunday, October 1

Theological Pondering with Michael Smith and the youth

Sunday, October 8

Fellowship, Fair Trade Day and Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 15

"Corrections and the Church" led by Mary Mortenson

Sunday, October 22

"Luther and the Reformation" Sarah Stenson

Sunday, October 29

Reformation and Confirmation Celebration

Circle Schedule....

Ruth Circle: meets Thursday, October 5, at 1:00pm.

Miriam Circle: meets Tuesday, October 17, at 7:00pm.

St. Mark's News

Blessing of the Animals



IT WILL BE A BLESSING --- of the animals, that is.

There will be a blessing of the animals at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 8, 2017, in connection with that day's Reformation Moment pertaining to Francis of Assisi. Please bring your pets of whatever size, shape, form, or fashion to church that morning so that God's wonderful creatures who fulfill our lives may receive a blessing.



ST. MARK'S FALL CLEAN UP DAY

Your Property Committee is organizing a fall clean-up day for October 21, 2017 from 8:00am to 12:00pm. We are looking for help with the following projects. Tree trimming as required; landscape / garden refresh and adding fill dirt to the north yard and under the windows of the Fellowship Hall. We'll need wheelbarrows, shovels and strong backs. Questions should be directed to Todd Goldammer, Rich Kemmis or Wayne Kinstad.

See you there!



PROJECT CAR FUNDRAISER

Project CAR is sponsoring its 14th annual Soup, Sandwich, and Sweets Day, Thursday, October 26, at First Lutheran Church, 327 S. Dakota Avenue.

The menu will feature three soups, pork loin sandwiches and homemade desserts.

Serving is from 11:00 am – 1:30 pm
and 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm.

Take out is available. Call 332-2777.

REFORMATION 500 OPPORTUNITIES

HymnFest with Organist Mark Sedio, featuring The Augustana Choir

- 3 p.m., Sunday, October 8
- Augustana University Chapel of Reconciliation. Attendance is free.
Sedio is cantor of Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Dr. Paul Nesheim will direct The Augustana Choir.

Instrumental Concert featuring the University of Sioux Falls Wind Ensemble

Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

October 27, 7:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Attendance is free.

Reformation Hymn Festival at First Lutheran

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

A Hymn Festival Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation

With Dr. John Schwandt, Organist and Dr. Steven Paulson, Luther Scholar

at First Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 29, at 3 pm.

Join the Sioux Falls community, along with a 100-voice mass choir (**including our own St. Mark's choir**), brass, violin, flute, and organ, in singing the faith we share! The Festival will be followed by a German-themed supper of bratwurst and German potato salad. The Festival is free but tickets are required. Tickets for the meal (\$5 ea.) must also be reserved. Please reserve your tickets prior to Sunday, October 22, by stopping at the church or calling First Lutheran at 605-336-3734. Tickets may be picked up prior to the hymn festival or on the afternoon of Sunday, October 29. **Doors open at 2:15 pm.**

Reformation Worship at the Arena

Tickets Available now until October 9

Commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in worship November 1, 2017 at 7 pm at the Sioux Falls Arena. (Doors open at 6 pm.) Gather together with members from across the South Dakota Synod and our full communion partners as we mark this historic milestone in the church. Free tickets and more information can be found at sdsynod.org/reformation500.



FOOD TO YOU

Mark **October 19** on your calendar and seriously consider helping distribute food to families who need them. St. Mark's is one of the Lutheran congregations that helps the **FOOD TO YOU** program get food to those who really need it. Our service date is October 19. We are collecting **CEREAL BOXES** at our church which will be taken to Augustana Lutheran Church on 235 N. Prairie Ave to be distributed to guests who come there on the 19th. Volunteer workers are needed to help us there. One "work shift" (4:15 and on) is to unload a large truck with crates of donated food. Another "work shift" (5:00-8:00pm) helps display the donated food on large tables. In the past many volunteers have worked both shifts. Please sign up on the orange framed sign-up sheet on the Opportunity bulletin board. You are wanted and needed. Thank you.

God's Work. Our Hands.



ITEMS FOR MISSION TRIP

For the work of our host church in El Paso, our travelers hope to take a suitcase full of items to help asylum seekers, especially children. Needed: new underwear and socks (sizes: children and adults, not large and not babies). Our children might like to bring small stuffed animals to comfort children on long bus rides to other parts of the country.



THANK YOU to my wonderful church family for the cards, notes, hugs, memorial gifts, emails, and other expressions of love shown me after my mother's passing. It has been especially hard to lose her less than a year after my son Bruce's death. Your support since that time is deeply appreciated. I will always remember the kindness of my church family.

--Janine Scott

Celebration of Art & Spirit

“Art enables us to find ourselves and love ourselves at the same time.” -Thomas Merton

Engaging in any creative activity enriches life, and yet most people are intimidated by the very words “art” and “creativity.” St. Mark’s is offering a safe, judgment-free space to explore creativity, which is innate in all of us, spirituality, and inner peace/healing with the focus on the creative process rather than a finished product. SOMETHING IMPERFECTLY BEAUTIFUL WILL EMERGE.

There are many paths for exploring the creative elements of our life journey, including art journals, written word & poetry, simple sculpting, painting and mixed media, doodling, map making, collage and more. An art journal is similar to a written journal but it incorporates colors, images, line, patterns and other materials.

Possibilities for deepening spiritually & growing abound, including healing our grief, memories, loss and other aspects of life that aren’t always accessible with words. It can evolve into a practice of quiet, stillness, self-care, reflection, joy, prayer and “Letting Go and Letting God.”

The first gathering will be Thursday, October 19 at 7:00pm and all are welcome. We’ll begin an Art Journal with all materials provided including St. Mark’s gift of your own bound journal for wet and dry material. Bring your own if you have some you use and love.

It will be both a communal and private process and experience.

Format

- *brief introduction of materials and the how- to’s of creating an art journal
- *a few minutes of silence led into by prayer, poem, quote, etc. (*music will be playing throughout*)
- *first pages of your journal will be created (*you can share or not when it’s finished*)
- *see if there’s interest in continuing this group
- *close with prayer, blessing, song or poem
- *group will last about an hour (give or take)

Please call Ann McGovern or Pastor Lori with any questions, concerns, doubts, suggestions, or just about anything else. Ann McGovern, “I came into this way of expressing art & spirit and deepened into it over time in the aftermath of two very difficult times in my life. I’ve been learning and have been enriched by it ever since.” Ann McGovern 310-8169 or lolachief79@gmail.com

DIRECTORY CHANGES AND UPDATES

New Members

JOHNSON, Ron & Lisa
ziff10@hotmail.com
liston@benderco.com
3100 S Western Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Ron: 310-6409
Lisa: 310-1865; 838-5293

PHILLIPS, Terry & Kim
Lorin
phillipstkl@otmail.com
sdkimp@hotmail.com
2321 S Holt Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
Terry: 212-5706
Kim: 321-1570

New Address

DOUGLAS, Matthew & Amy
720 S Whitewood Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

JOHNSON, Tim & Barb
421 N Phillips Ave
#444
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

MCGOVERN, Ann
lolachief79@gmail.com
1613 S Foss Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57110
310-8169

SEVERTSON, Bob
Edgewood Vista
800 S Wind St
Flandreau, SD 57028

SPAWN, Megan
Truman, Dallas, Presley
2609 W Costello Rd
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Updated Address

DOUGLAS, Barb
1111 W 5th St
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

New Email

EIDEM, Linda
linda.eidem@komengreatplains.org

New Room No.

SWALLEY, Beverly
3901 S Marion Rd, #421
Falls, SD 57106