

# The **SERVANT**

January 2023

Epiphany

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## Worship

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

**Masks are recommended  
but not required**

**Pastor**  
Lori L. Hope



St Mark's Lutheran Church  
2001 S Elmwood Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
605-332-4092  
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Everything old has passed away;  
look, new things have come into being!

2 Corinthians 5:17

# Pastor's Letter

Dear family of St. Mark's,

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland"*

Isaiah 43:18-19

We enter 2023 with hope and expectation but also strong feelings of uncertainty. As with every other year, we have walked out of 2022 with grief, losses, heartbreak, and times of humility. There were also great celebrations, goals accomplished, new relationships, and proud moments. We go into the new year as new people because those good and bad things have reshaped us and changed who we are; some for the better and some not so good. T.S. Eliot wrote,

*We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.*

This is true of the physical journeys that we take but also the emotional, intellectual and spiritual ones. Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? There are times that I grieve for my 25-year-old naive and optimist self. I would not give up who I have become complete with all the scars, woundedness, and profound grief. New and shiny often sounds exciting and maybe it is at the car dealer or jewelry store, but usually gaining new insight, changing our perspective, or learning to trust more come by time spent in the wilderness and wasteland. Not places we would choose to go but places that shape us and help us see relationships, daily necessities, and grace—often for the first time. All this is held together by a promise from God, "See, I am doing a new thing!"

Happy New Year,

Pastor Lori



# Vicar's Notes

Dear friends at St. Mark's,

I have not ever been one to set New Year's resolutions. Each year the new year comes, I say to myself that I'm going to eat better, drink more water, spend less, exercise more, be more organized, or give up social media once and for all. However, by the second week of January, anything I thought I would do in the new year, quickly fades away about as fast as I throw out the previous year's calendar.

What if instead of resolutions for the year, we set intentions for ourselves? Intentions such as loving more, and being angry less; spreading hope and less fear; playing more and working less, or living out acts of generosity instead of scarcity. No matter what it is, know that God has called you and claimed you in this world as a beloved child of God.

*“ ... this year rest in the promises that come through the waters of baptism that you are claimed, you are loved, and that you belong. Whatever you get done this year, or that is left undone, know that you are enough.”*

When Jesus, the Good Shepherd, came into the world so that all may have abundant life, I think it was so we didn't have to worry about listening to the pressures that society and the world put on us to be perfect; or even that we have to have all the “right things” in life in order for us to be considered “successful.” But rather, we can rest in knowing that there is beauty and liberation that comes out through our imperfections and that our imperfections are actually what makes us so unique in the eyes of God.

One of my favorite humans in the world, Dr. Brené Brown, writes in *The Gift of Imperfections*:

“No matter what gets done and how much is left undone, **I am enough**. It's going to bed at night thinking, yes, I am imperfect and vulnerable and sometimes afraid, but that doesn't change the truth that I am also brave and worthy of love and belonging.”

Dear friends in Christ, this year rest in the promises that come through the waters of baptism that you are claimed, you are loved, and that you belong. Whatever you get done this year, or that is left undone, know that you are enough.

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

Vicar Sawyer





## Thank you for helping with our 47th St. Lucia Festival

Thank you so much to everyone who tore down or set up the church sanctuary, baked cookies, volunteered at the festival, danced Swedish dances, coached energetic children, or sang Swedish songs at this year's 47<sup>th</sup> annual St. Lucia Festival! Nearly 30 dancers performed in front of a packed church, and we received many donations in support of Church on the Street. The festival brings so much joy to the community, and I am so appreciative of all of your hard work to make the magic happen.

*God Jul!* Kerri Smith

# St. Lucia Festival



Thank You







## The Lion at the Manger

She stood with the angels  
just behind the manger  
as children enacted the Christmas story  
for the congregation.

She stood among angels  
and the shepherds,  
the sheep, and the camels, and the wisemen  
wearing her lion costume.

A Sunday School teacher  
A pastor  
A parent  
All said "yes" to the lion costume

because being a lion gave her  
courage and confidence and joy.

She didn't want to be a sheep or a camel.  
She wanted to show off her magnificent mane  
and be king of the animals.

She wanted to sing carols  
in a lion's voice  
and protect the Baby Jesus  
with loud roars if needed.

So the teacher and the pastor and the parent  
said, "Yes."

Christ wants every one of us to have  
such courage and confidence and joy.

**Sunday  
School  
Program**



# Thank you, St. Mark's



## Quilt raffle raises \$1585

St. Mark's quilters and the Mission Committee sold raffle tickets during November and December. The result: \$1585.00 to be distributed to the Cameroon roof fund and Lutherans Outdoors. Winners of the four quilts were Deb Carrier, Holly Hirsch, the Boys and Girls Club, and Janine Scott.

The drawing also awarded six lap quilts won by the Boys and Girls Club, Pam Schmidt, Kellie Reves, Jeanett Fink, Dana Yost, and Cathy Jaragoske.

During 2022, St. Mark's quilters donated a total of 124 quilts to 14 different local organizations and individuals. In addition, the group provided three baby blankets, 30 prayer shawls, four baptism blankets, and 14 pillow cases.



## The story of the "Cozy Quilt"

The Cozy Quilt raffled by St. Mark's quilters was actually made some 30 years ago by Jan Nelson's mother, Arvella Jacobson. Arvella passed away in 2013 at the age of 90.

During her lifetime, she made hundreds of quilts, giving them as gifts to her four children and 13 grandchildren, who received quilts as wedding gifts. She also made many quilts as a 60-plus year member of Center Lutheran Church in Salem.

The quilters of West Prairie Lutheran Church in Lennox finished the hand stitching for the Cozy Quilt, one of the last quilts made by Arvella.

Jan Nelson and the quilters of St. Mark's generously included the Cozy Quilt in the recent raffle.

## Thank You; we reached our goal!

A huge thank you to everyone at St. Mark's for your remarkable generosity in helping us reach our goal of raising funds for a roof on a church in Cameroon. It's been a year-long project. We set a goal of \$8,000 and reached it the first weekend of December with proceeds from the quilt raffle. Amazing. We also want to thank Donna Hirsch and the quilt makers for choosing to donate proceeds from the quilt raffle to the roof project. There have been so many who have been involved in this effort and we thank you all. Hopefully, we will make a difference in the faith lives of many in Cameroon.

—The Mission Committee



"Our lives are like quilts – bits and pieces, joy and sorrow, stitched with love."

— Unknown

Dear St. Mark's,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! You have truly changed the lives of countless people with your kindness, support, and generosity. You have met the needs of more families and individuals than I can count. Time and again your donations have come at the *perfect* time. No one has been as loyal, dependable, or as giving as your congregation. Not only have you helped many new Americans, your spirit has inspired staff at LSS. "St. Mark's" is one of the best names we can hear!"

Thank you for always thinking of us and for coming through in ways we never imagined!

Many blessings for the New Year!!

Gratefully Yours,  
LSS-Center for New Americans



# Updates and Announcements

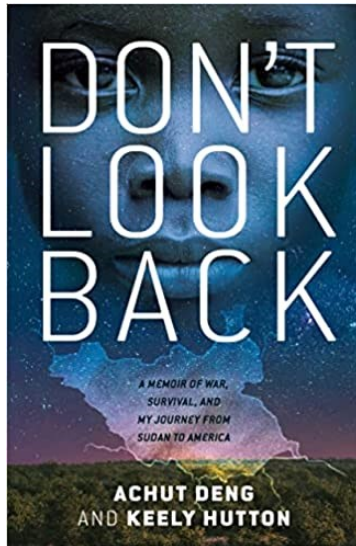
## January Book Study is *Don't Look Back*

St. Mark's Book Study group meets Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. The January selection is *Don't Look Back*.

Achut Deng and co-author Keely Hutton share the story of Deng's experiences in a refugee camp in Kenya and her eventual journey to Sioux Falls.

When a refugee relocation program gave her the opportunity to move to the United States, she was asked why she should be given a chance to leave the camp. Deng told the interviewer: "I want life."

If there is enough interest, St. Mark's will schedule an evening discussion of the book at the end of January. Please contact the office if you are interested. Time/date will be based on schedules of those who plan to participate.



## Season of Epiphany Bible Study

Wednesday, January 4, 10:00 a.m.  
Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-12

Wednesday, January 11, 10:00 a.m.  
Isaiah 49:1-17 and John 1:29-42

Wednesday, January 18, 10:00 a.m.  
Isaiah 9:1-4 and Matthew 4:12-23

Wednesday, January 25, 10:00 a.m.  
Micah 6:1-8 and Matthew 5:1-12

## St. Mark's Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 29

St. Mark's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 29. There will be a potluck following the 10:45 service with the meeting starting at approximately 12:30.

All families are asked to bring an entrée *and*—

- Last names starting with A through L: salad
- Last names starting with M through Z: dessert



## January Baptism Anniversaries

Edith Alberty

Michelle Alberty

Abby Cunningham

Melanie Dumdei

Patrick Hartigan

Abiaza Kane

Jana Keller

Don Laurila

Karin Lindell

Alex Luke

Mary Mortenson

Jodi Randall

Angie Smith

Shari Smith

Dorothy Varns

Cary Wencil

Dana Yost



## THANK YOU

to those who are sponsoring Soliette, our missionary in Nicaragua, and our Transportation Ministry sponsors for the month of January

**Transportation Ministry Sponsor**  
Marlon Mollet is the January sponsor.

### **Mission Ministry Sponsors**

January 1: Verlyn and Nora Lindell

January 8: Cathy Larson

In Memory of John Larson

January 15: Marlon Mollet

January 22: Marlon Mollet

January 29: Marlon Mollet

# Council Minutes

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council December 20, 2022

**Present:** Luanne Alberty, Karin Lindell, Pastor Lori Hope, Vicar Sawyer Vanden Heuvel, Sally Turner, Kent Alberty, Mark Smith, April Hokanson, Becky Luke

**Devotions:** Becky shared devotions that reminded us to let go and let God.

**Minutes:** We reviewed the minutes from the previous council meeting. MSC.

**Old Business:** We discussed the following old business.

Website – We will have a “final” draft hopefully before the end of the year. We can possibly go live mid January.

RIC Taskforce – they will alter their wording because St. Mark's is already a very welcoming congregation. The current wording implies that we are changing to become a welcoming congregation.

COVID procedures – We will revisit returning the tables to the narthex before Easter but will leave the chairs in place for now. The congregation is welcome to visit in the reflection room.

**Treasurer's Report:** The copier cost is over budget but Pastor is going to talk with Linda about printing bulletins in black and white more often. The finance manager is over budget but this was a learning year. Next year's budget amount is more realistic.

**President's Report:** Nothing new.

**Pastor's Report:** The Sunday school program was wonderful!

**Vicar's Report:** Nothing new.

### New Business

- Annual meeting - Our annual meeting will be on January 29, 2023. We will have a potluck after the 10:45 service and the meeting will start approximately at 12:30. All families are asked to bring an entrée. Last names starting with A through L are asked to also bring a salad; last names starting with M through Z are asked to also bring a dessert.
- The Executive Committee presented a proposed budget. Some items to note:
  - ◊ Budget surplus - We currently have \$34,000 in the Property Projects section of the Building Expense budget. We would like to carry that into the next year so we can pay off a \$35,000 non-member loan in March. MSC
  - ◊ Internship income – we are no longer receiving the \$10,000 to help supplement the cost.
  - ◊ Overall increase is about 10%.
  - ◊ We didn't have to dip into our savings.
- Constitution Update – Several recommendations for our church constitution came out of the church-wide assembly earlier this year. Karin will update the constitution as appropriate for our church and will compose an email for the congregation. This will be sent by December 29 so we can vote on the updated constitution at the annual meeting.

### Committee Reports

**Youth:** They had to cancel their Christmas party last week. They are going to try again on December 21.

**Chris Ed:** Going well. Lots of kids and we need volunteers.

**Property:** Kent has contacted a company to inspect the roof, which is planned once the weather clears a bit. The sound board needs to be sent in to fix the mixer. The old one will be reconnected while the new one is out.

**Nominating:** It's time to nominate new committee members. Let Luanne know if you have any ideas for people for any committee.

We closed the meeting with prayer petitions and the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Becky Luke



# January 2023

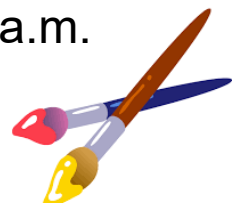
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Worship, 10:00 a.m.	<b>2</b> Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	<b>3</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	<b>4</b> Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	<b>5</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle, 1:00 p.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>8</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.	<b>9</b> Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	<b>10</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 10:00 a.m.	<b>11</b> Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. 9th-10th Grade Confirmation, 7:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	<b>12</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>15</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.	<b>16</b> Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	<b>17</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Exec Committee, 6:30 p.m. Council, 7:00 p.m.	<b>18</b> Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m.. 9th-10th Grade Confirmation, 7:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>22</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.	<b>23</b> Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	<b>24</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	<b>25</b> Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Youth Group, 7:00 pm. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>29</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Potluck follows 10:45 service Annual Meeting, 12:30 p.m.	<b>30</b> Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	<b>31</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 10:00 a.m.				

Pastor Out of Office January 19-22

Watercolor groups start Wednesday, January 11, at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday sessions start on January 14 at 10:00 a.m.

All are welcome.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
2001 S. Elmwood Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

**†he Servant** January 2023

## **Office Hours & Contact Information:**

- Sawyer Vanden Heuvel, Vicar  
Tuesday- Friday  
[sawyer@smluth.org](mailto:sawyer@smluth.org)
- Linda Hallstrom, Office Manager  
Monday - Wednesday 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.  
Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
[stmarks@smluth.org](mailto:stmarks@smluth.org)
- Karin Lindell, Ministry Coordinator  
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Wednesday 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
[karin@smluth.org](mailto:karin@smluth.org)
- Deb Carrier, Finance Manager  
Wednesday  
[deb@smluth.org](mailto:deb@smluth.org) *If you need anything related to finance, please email Deb anytime.*

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St. Mark's office is also open on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.