

The SERVANT

February 2023

Faith
Hope
and the Greatest
of these is
Love

Contents

Pastor's Letter.....	2
Vicar's Notes.....	3
Website Redesign	4
Watercolor Classes	4
Coming Events	5
Announcements	6
Annual Meeting Minutes ..	7
Council Minutes.....	8
Calendar	9
Contact Information	10

Worship

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

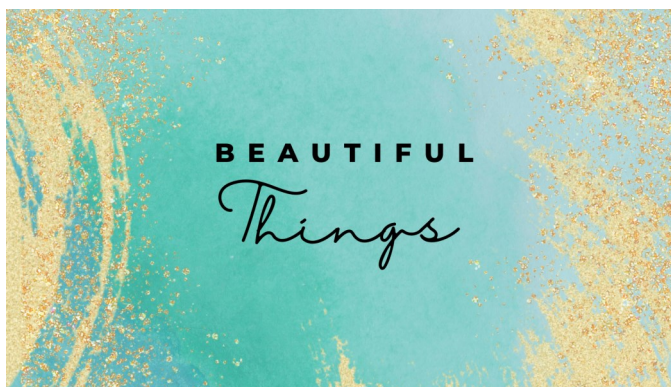
**Masks are recommended
but not required**

Pastor
Lori L. Hope



St Mark's Lutheran Church
2001 S Elmwood Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-332-4092
www.smluth.org

Lenten Season at St. Mark's



Our theme for Lent at St. Mark's is "Beautiful Things." As part of our Lenten observance, we invite you to submit pictures of things/people you consider to be beautiful. Please submit by March 1 either through Padlet <https://padlet.com/stmarkssf/stmarks> or email them to pastor@smluth.org.

In addition, we encourage you to worship with us and join one or more of our church's Lenten activities.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services

St. Mark's has scheduled two Ash Wednesday services: noon and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22. Lenten worship services will be held each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. from March 1 through March 29.

Bible Study

Join Vicar Sawyer during the season of Lent for a five-week Bible study beginning on the first Sunday in Lent (February 26). Participants can choose to attend Sunday sessions at 9:30 a.m. or Wednesday sessions at 11:00 a.m. (beginning March 1).

We will be taking a deeper look into the Woman at the Well text in John 4, using the book *Belonging* by Karoline Lewis.

Pastor's Letter



One thing I have learned in my many trips around the sun and throughout the decades of life in ministry is that there is often beauty where we have failed to see it. In fact, I have been knocked to my knees or caught my breath when I have discovered or seen through new eyes what at first glance seems like devastation, ruins, or brokenness. We have all stood in hospitals, courtrooms, cemeteries, deserts, and wildernesses only to be shocked by beauty. Or we have been in stores, homes, and churches that were not beautiful on the surface but the people that we met made the place shine. My dad's workshop is one of those places.

As a young child I loved helping him; I was his constant shadow. In middle school and high school I realized how messy he kept his shop and how old all of the tools and equipment were. It took me quite a few years into adulthood to appreciate how much good he had done with all of his "stuff." He never wasted anything just because it was old. I took this picture a year after he died. All I see now is beauty and memories!

Our 2023 theme for Lent is "Beautiful Things." The chorus of this *All Creation Sings* hymn goes: *You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of the dust You make beautiful thing, you make beautiful things out of us.* Our theme Bible verse is Isaiah 58:11: *You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again.* We are people of hope who trust and see God in all circumstances and situations.

We invite you to submit pictures of things/people that you consider beautiful things. You can submit multiple pictures.

Please submit by March 1 either through Padlet <https://padlet.com/stmarkssf/stmarks> or email them pastor@smluth.org

Peace,
Pastor Lori Hope

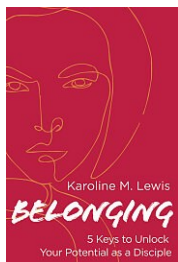
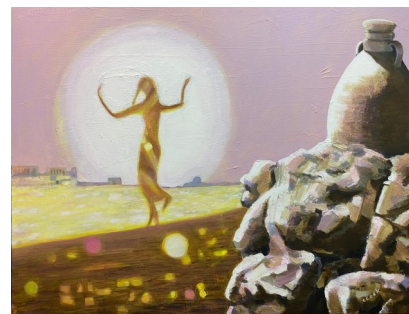
Vicar's Notes

Belonging

I wonder if you can name a time in your life when you felt like you truly belonged in a place. How did belonging feel different from just “fitting in?” What did you notice about yourself or about those around you?

As for me, I think about finding a place of belonging after I graduated from college. Some of my friends had moved on to other places to wherever their career ambitions were taking them. Others had stayed in the Sioux Falls area and started their new careers. It was an awkward feeling trying to figure out this new sense of belonging and identity after leaving the cozy bubble of college life. No longer were we all living in a central place. Eventually, we would meet other people through our new careers. Maintaining friendships became difficult. My friends and I actually had to be intentional about seeing each other. What were we to do with these new relationships that were forming, and also the ones we cared about in college?

In the first few years of young adulthood, we would gather on a weekly basis at a local restaurant. It was a standing tradition and you showed up when you could. Some people would invite new friends to join. We'd pull up extra chairs and tables so there was always room for more. It didn't matter if you were new, or if you hadn't been around in a while, there was always a spot waiting for you. A new community of friendships was formed. People from different walks of life all sitting together sharing about their day. **You belonged.**



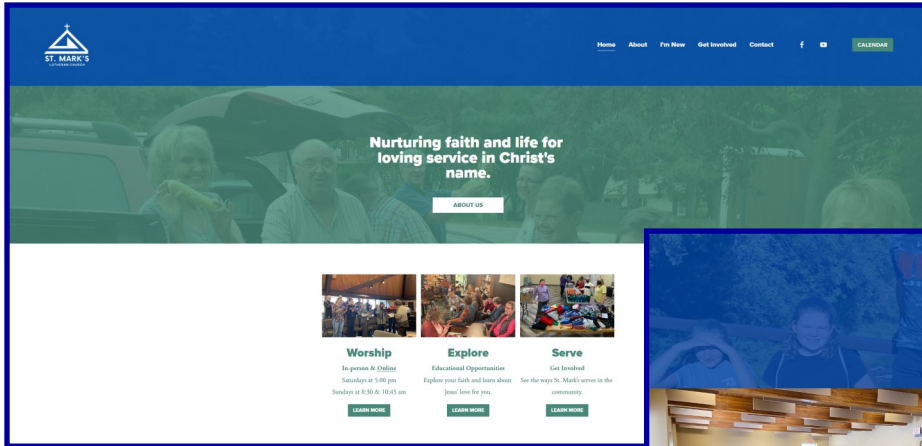
During the season of Lent, I am hosting a Bible study focused on the “Woman at the Well” text found in John 4. This is the assigned text for the third Sunday in Lent. I invite you to join me at the well as we dig deeper into this text using the book entitled *Belonging: 5 Keys to Unlock Your Potential as a Disciple* by Karoline M. Lewis. Through the courage, bravery, and openness of the unnamed woman, we will find that all of us belong to God and that Jesus knows us inside and out and calls us into discipleship with him.

Watch for more details about our Lenten Bible Study or contact me with any questions.

Peace to you as we enter into Lent.

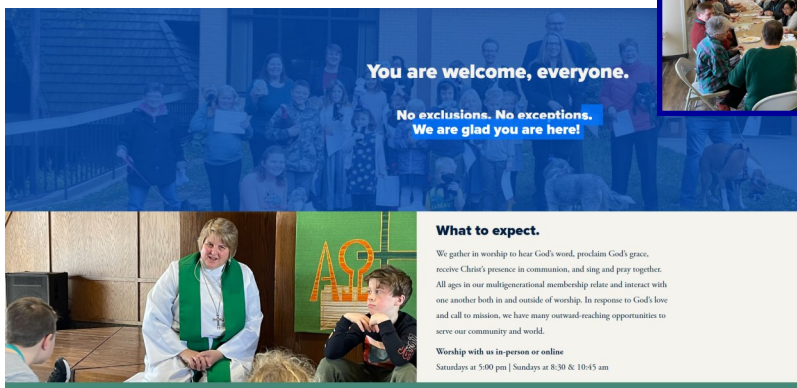
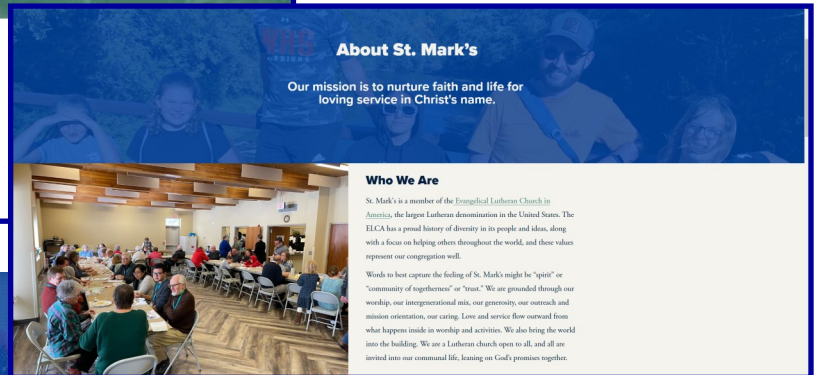
Vicar Sawyer

Coming soon to a screen near you



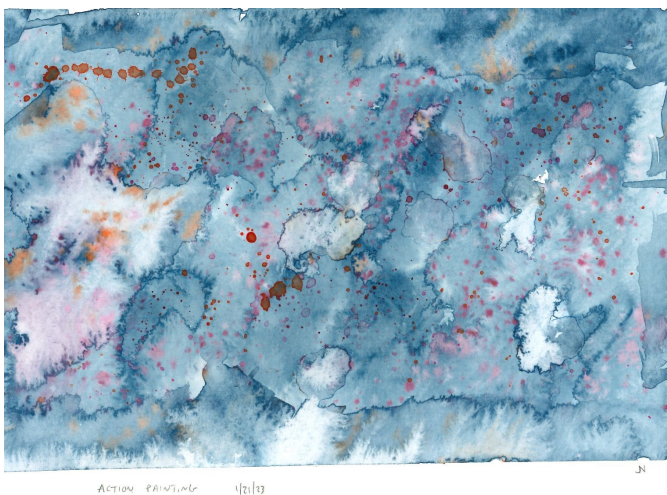
St. Mark's will launch a new website by February 10. Our goal is to simplify navigation and to express the welcoming atmosphere of St. Mark's.

<https://www.smluth.org>



Thank you to Kevin Stillson of WestSide Lutheran in Sioux Falls for creating the new design. Kevin is Director of Music and Communications at WestSide.

St. Mark's watercolor classes encourage creativity



Samples of the artwork produced in the watercolor classes. Both pieces are by St. Mark's member Jonathan Neiderhiser.



St. Mark's began offering watercolor classes a year ago this March. What began as a six-week Lenten workshop last year has found continued interest with sessions scheduled every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. and Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Newcomers are welcome to join at any time.

more amore

LOVE is in the air at George McGovern!

Having you as part of our George McGovern community is a **LOVELY** gift! We would **LOVE** to show you our gratitude and invite you to join us for a **LOVELY** lunch to partake in pasta, performances, and praises from our GMMS community. The Valentine Banquet is hosted by the George McGovern RISE students. Entertainment will be provided by Elisabeth Hunstad.

When: February 9th

Where: GMMS Auxiliary Gym

Time: Come as you are able between 11:10 - 1:15

Please RSVP to stmarks@smluth.org



All Committee Night February 16, 7:00 p.m.

New and returning committee members are requested to attend.

Each committee will select their council rep, their chairperson, and their recording secretary.

The newly-formed church council will meet following the all-committee segment.

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

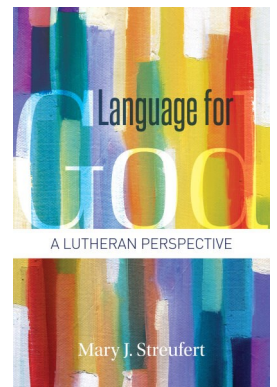
—from St. Mark's Mission Statement

Join us for a book read as highlighted in "The Lutheran."

Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.

You are invited to join a group who will discuss
Language for God: A Lutheran Perspective
by Mary J. Streufert.

This book explores the ways language and images influence who we are and how we live. It declares the necessity of language and images for God that are expansive and inclusive of all genders. Lutheran perspectives are used as a compass to offer scriptural, theological, and historical insights that advance the reformation of Christian language.



Read an interview with the author.

Please let the office know by February 24 if you will be joining us.



St. Mark's Youth invites you to join us for our Fat Tuesday party on

**Tuesday, February 21,
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Pancakes, sausage and ice cream with several toppings will be served.

- ◆ 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Lightning Juggler (Ryan McCormick) will perform magic and juggling.
- ◆ 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
USF Pop, Blues and Jazz Ensemble will perform.

The freewill offering will be divided between The Banquet and the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society.

Hy-Vee and Fareway Gift Cards

The office has \$25, \$50, and \$100 Hy-Vee gift cards as well as \$25 Fareway gift cards. Please let the office know if you would like to purchase cards and we can get them to you whichever way is best. ... or just stop in. Each card purchased benefits our youth program.



Updates and Announcements

Season of Epiphany Bible Study

Wednesday, February 1, 10:00 a.m.

Isaiah 58:1-9a and Matthew 5:13-20

Wednesday, February 8, 10:00 a.m.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and Matthew 5:21-37

Wednesday, February 15, 10:00 a.m.

Exodus 24:12-18 and Matthew 17:1-9

Intergenerational Game Time

We welcome all ages to join us for Intergenerational Game Time on Sunday, February 19, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. In lieu of our traditional Sunday School time, we invite you to build relationships with the children of St. Mark's by playing board games together. Games will be provided or you may bring your own. Get ready for some laughs and make a new friend!



Toolbox Donations

Think of how many times a week you reach for a hammer, screwdriver, pliers, wrench, or measuring tape. Working with the LSS Center for New Americans, we are assembling basic toolboxes to give to each family as they settle into their new homes. We have had a number of tools donated to get us started. We also have a Thrivent Action Team grant to buy more tools. We will buy basic tool boxes, all the same size, for \$15 each. We are looking for donations to help purchase the tool

boxes. The donations can be placed in the lock box next to the tool box in the narthex or in the offering plate with "tool box" in the check's memo line. If you have extra tools you would like to donate, please talk to Pastor Lori.

February Baptism Anniversaries



Kent Alberty
Joey Bohlen
Amy Douglas
Donna Hirsch
Ruth Huber
Connie Kinstad
Christy Schweitzer
Gabriel Spichal Larson
Dustin White

Halstyn Rayne Nygaard, daughter of Lexie Guenther and Andrew Nygaard, was baptized on January 15. Her sponsor was Nicole Voeltz and Baptism Buddy Maddie Turner.

THANK YOU

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

Transportation Ministry Sponsor
Marlon Mollet is the February sponsor.

Mission Ministry Sponsors

February 5: Dan and Katie Harms
February 12: Marlon Mollet
February 19: Marlon Mollet
February 26: Dale and Dianne Schnabel
in memory of Inez Schnabel

Annual Meeting Minutes

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting January 29, 2023

President-elect Luanne Alberty called the meeting to order.

Pastor Lori led opening devotions.

MSC to adopt the agenda.

Luanne appointed Jamie Smith the meeting's parliamentarian.

Minutes - MSC to accept the January 30, 2022, annual meeting minutes.

Nominations - President-elect Luanne Alberty presented the 2023 nomination ballot. Hearing no discussion, Luanne declared the ballot approved. She thanked everyone who agreed to serve on committees in this coming year.

Treasurer's report – Luanne presented the Treasurer's report. MSC

Audit Committee report – Luanne read the audit committee's report. MSC

Budget – Luanne presented the 2023 budget. After a motion to accept and a second, discussion included increasing the Pastor's auto allowance to accommodate for higher gas prices. MSC to raise the allowance by \$600. This increase will only affect the bottom line and no other line item in the budget.

Budget motion carried.

Committee reports – Pastor Lori and Vicar Sawyer presented their reports. Luanne presented the standing committees' reports. MSC

Resolutions – Luanne read the 2023 proposed resolutions. MSC to adopt the resolutions.

Old business – There was no old business.

New business – Cathy Brechtelsbauer reported that member contributions to the ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Relief channeled through the congregation averaged \$15.77 per baptized member in 2022. She then made a motion to set the goal at \$16 per baptized member for 2023. MSC.

Several members of the congregation shared how much this church community means to them. They talked about the feeling of family and welcome that they felt, how wonderful it is that our children are getting involved, no matter how shy they are, and how, when equipment is needed to complete a job, somehow it just magically appears. One specifically mentioned how wonderful our choir is, no matter how small. We are blessed with this amazing St. Mark's family!

MSC to adjourn.

Becky Luke,
Secretary

Council Minutes

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council January 17, 2023

Present: Kent Alberty, Luanne Alberty, Deb Carrier, Katie Harms, April Hokanson, Pastor Lori Hope, Karin Lindell, Dianne Schnabel, Mark Smith, Sally Turner, Vicar Sawyer Vanden Heuvel, Cathy Wencil

Devotions: Cathy opened the meeting with devotions.

Minutes: MSC to approve the December 20 Council minutes with the addition that the December Council passed the motion to recommend the 2023 Proposed Budget to the Annual Meeting.

Old Business: The new website is almost ready to launch. Pastor Lori will send a preview to a few people in various age brackets to get their feedback.

Treasurer's Report: The December financial statement was presented. Names for this year's Financial Compliance Review Committee were suggested and Pastor Lori will follow up.

President's Report: Cathy thanked everyone for making this an easy year and expressed her appreciation for their service. She stated that St. Mark's is a wonderful church and it is an honor to be here.

Vicar's Report: Vicar Sawyer said things are going well. He is on a communications team for the 2024 national ELCA youth gathering in Phoenix.

New Business: Cathy will be unable to be here for the Annual Meeting. Luanne will preside in her place.

Committee Reports

Youth: Pastor Lori will be accompanying four youth to Faith Fest at Augustana University on February 11.

Mission: The congregation has reached its \$8,000 goal for putting a roof on a church in Cameroon. The Mission Committee will be providing ice cream on Fat Tuesday in celebration. Doug Larson is working with a task force making plans for Native American outreach opportunities this year.

Chris. Ed.: More new curriculum has been ordered. There are lots of kids in Sunday School each week.

Worship & Music: The *All Creation Sings* hymnal supplements are here. All money needed was provided through congregation members' donations. Accompanist books have also been purchased.

Property: New faucets have been installed in the women's restroom. The kitchen garbage disposal has been repaired. The parking lot snowbank will be pushed farther west. The committee will take a serious look at the roof leak when melting begins. The entire flat roof will need replacing at some point soon.

Finance: The bills are paid. Deb noted that St. Mark's members do a good job of honoring their pledges.

The meeting closed with prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Karin Lindell,
Acting Secretary

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. 9th-10th Grade Confirmation, 7:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	2 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle, 1:00 p.m.	3	4 Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
5 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.	6 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	7 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Internship Committee, 6:00 p.m.	8 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	9 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. GMMS Valentine Banquet, 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.	10	11 Faith Fest at Augustana University Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
Vicar Out of Office February 8-12						
12 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.	13 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	14 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Mission Committee, 4:00 p.m.	15 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m.. 9th-10th Grade Confirmation, 7:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	16 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. All Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	17	18 Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
19 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Intergenerational Game Time, 9:30 a.m.	20 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	21 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Fat Tuesday Party, 6:00-8:00 p.m.	22 ASH WEDNESDAY Worship, 12 noon Watercolor, 1:00 p.m.. Choir, 6:15 p.m. Worship, 7:00 p.m.	23 Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	24	25 Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
26 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.	27 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	28 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.				

We love because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19



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

The Servant February 2023

Office Hours & Contact Information:

- Sawyer Vanden Heuvel, Vicar
Tuesday- Friday
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
- 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
- Deb Carrier, Finance Manager
Wednesday
deb@smluth.org *If you need anything related to finance, please email Deb anytime.*

St Mark's Lutheran Church
2001 S Elmwood Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-332-4092
www.smluth.org



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