

The SERVANT

March 2023



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Worship

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 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

St. Mark's Lenten Activities

February 26 to March 29 Lenten Bible Study

Vicar Sawyer is leading a Lenten Bible study based on the Woman at the Well text in John 4.

Sessions started on the first Sunday in Lent, February 26, and will continue through March 29. Participants are using the book *Belonging* by Karoline Lewis.

You make
beautiful things.

**March 1 to March 29
Lenten Services and Suppers**
Join St. Mark's on Wednesdays in Lent for a midweek service of Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. Community meals are served from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. All are welcome to participate and to be fed this Lenten season!

March 1 to Easter Sunday Lenten photo display

St. Mark's members have submitted pictures of things and people that they consider to be beautiful. Photos will be on display throughout the Lenten season.

You make
beautiful things
out of us.

March 9 to May 26 Beautiful Things Storytelling Project

Pastor Lori Hope and Linda Hallstrom are leading a 12-week storytelling project. Each week participants will respond to a different question about life experiences. See page 4 for more information.

BEAUTIFUL
Things

Pastor's Letter

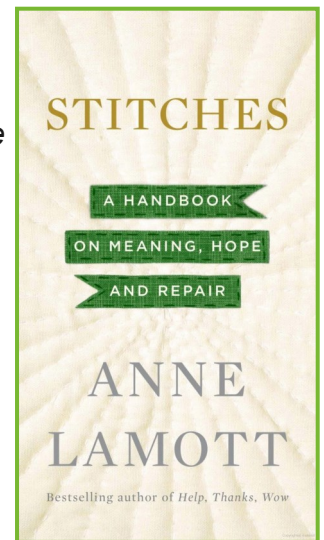
Dear siblings in Christ,

“Surprise us with love at daybreak; then we'll skip and dance all the day long.”

-Psalm 90:14

Anne Lamott speaks the reality of life, loss, and pain in her book *Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Repair*.

No matter what happens to us — to our children, to our town, to our world — we feel it is still a gift to be human and to have a human life, as long as we ignore the commercials and advertisements and the static that the world beams at us, and understand that we and our children are going to get knocked around, sometimes so cruelly that it will take our breath away. Life can be wild, hard and sweet, but it can also be wild, hard and cruel. The bad news is that after the suffering, we wait at the empty tomb for a while, the body of our beloved gone, grieving an unsurvivable loss. It's a terrible system. But the good news is that then there is new life. Wildflowers bloom again... They're both such surprises. Wildflowers stop you in your hiking tracks. You want to savor the colors and scents, let them breathe you in, let yourself be amazed. And bulbs that grow in the cold rocky dirt remind us that no one is lost. A great truth, attributed to Emily Dickinson, is that “hope inspires the good to reveal itself.” This is almost all I ever need to remember. Gravity and sadness yank us down, and hope gives us a nudge to help one another get back up or to sit with the fallen on the ground, in the abyss, in solidarity.



When I think of Beautiful Things, Anne Lamott's words echo true. We all know that pain and loss are a real part of life, yet somehow God enters in and we experience community. In this season of Lent we step back from our normal rhythm of life to reflect, remember and renew our commitment to living into our baptismal promises.

Anne Lamott again, “Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come.”

Peace,
Pastor Lori Hope

Vicar's Notes



Dear friends at St. Mark's,

The Reformer, Martin Luther, once wrote: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

I don't know about you, but singing music in church has always been one of my favorite things to do. I love when we all join our voices together and sing. Singing is core to each time we gather in worship. Whether through the liturgy or through hymns, God's good news of grace, mercy, and forgiveness is proclaimed through song.

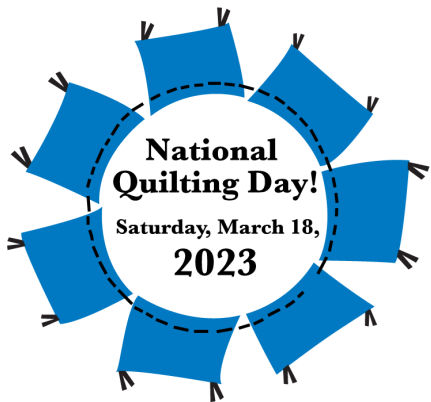
Singing is also a way for us to form a community within the body of Christ. You don't even have to be a trained musician to know that music evokes something in us that, in a way, can only be described through the work of the Holy Spirit. Breath and emotion join together and create music. How many times have you heard a tune that reminded you of something from the past? For me, I can never make it through the entirety of "Beautiful Savior" without tears welling up in my eyes as I remember the many times I had sung it with the Augustana Choir. What is a song that you hold special in your heart?

In April, St. Mark's will have the opportunity to host Deacon John Weit, Executive for Worship and Assistant to the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, for an All Creation Sings Festival. Deacon John was on the team that produced the new worship resource for ELCA congregations that launched in 2020. Deacon John will be with us all the way from Chicago and will teach new music from this resource. The event is open to the public and will be at St. Mark's at **4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 23**. Deacon John will also be doing a workshop on Friday, April 21, for pastors, deacons, and worship leaders in the synod. He is looking forward to spending time with us in South Dakota! He is a talented musician, song leader, and knowledgeable in all things worship.

I am looking forward to this event as we continue to incorporate new music and liturgies into our worship life together at St. Mark's.

Peace to you this Lenten season.

Vicar Sawyer



National Quilting Day

Thank you to our St. Mark's quilters for their hard work, creativity, and generosity. Last year our team of quilters made 124 quilts given to 14 nonprofit organizations. Among the top recipients: Center of Hope, 42 quilts; Boys & Girls Club, 30 quilts; and the St. Francis House, 15 quilts.

St. Mark's quilters are Margaret Blume, Donna Hirsch, Sally Kocon, Tyone Kruse, Judy Larsen, Cathy Larson, and Jan Nelson.

In recognition of National Quilting Day, quilts will be on display in the sanctuary Saturday, March 18, and Sunday, March 19.

Beautiful Things Storytelling Project

Every life is beautiful. Share some stories from your beautiful life. Each week participants will respond to a different question about life experiences. Sharing and discussion will be similar to last year's Circle of Eight sessions.

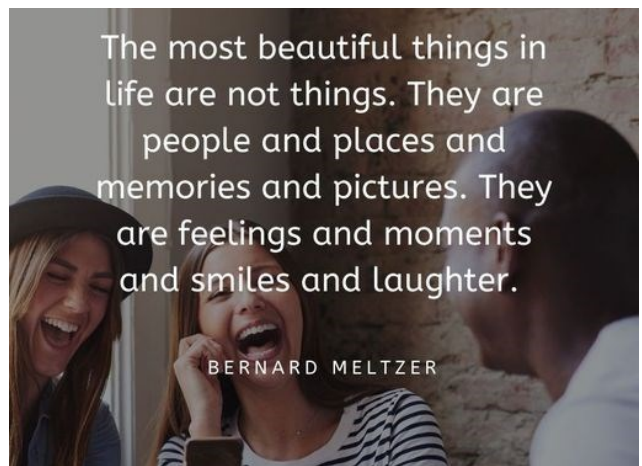
Questions will cover such topics as early childhood memories, favorite travels, and people who have inspired you. If you cannot attend all the sessions, please come anyway.

Sessions will be facilitated by Pastor Lori Hope and Linda Hallstrom. Linda recently completed a year-long life story project which serves as a model for the Beautiful Things program.

When the sessions conclude, each person will have the option to collect and print their stories in a memory book. Assistance will be available.

Please let the office know if you are interested in joining us or if you have any questions.

12 weeks. Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 1:00 p.m.
Thursday: March 9 to May 25 • Friday: March 10 to May 26



“Brew and Renew” is back in March!

Join Vicar Sawyer for Brew and Renew at [Full Circle Book Co-op](#) on Thursday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m. We will be looking at queer stories of the Bible using a method of queer theology. Full Circle has a variety of beverages for sale. Purchase your favorite "brew" and pull up a chair for an evening of community and storytelling. All are welcome!





Our partnership with George McGovern Middle School

In the fall of 2017 representatives from St. Mark's attended a meeting hosted by Empower Sioux Falls, a consortium of Sioux Falls churches that organized to help alleviate problems linked to poverty in our city. The focus of that meeting was a presentation on what several churches were doing to assist schools that had high poverty rates. At that time, St. Mark's entered into a partnership with GMMS to show support and appreciation to the staff — dedicated, hard-working educators in a challenging school setting.

GMMS, located in northwest Sioux Falls, serves approximately 700 students. Nearly 80 percent of the students come from homes categorized as economically disadvantaged. The school's website says, "The students who make up our student body represent a variety of ethnicities, languages, and socio-economic levels. We are privileged to learn from and with each other in a community that is reflective of the world that we are preparing our students to succeed in."

GMMS principal Tim Koehler and assistant principal Richie Hutchinson have been recognized as Middle School Principal of the Year and Assistant Middle School Principal of the Year.

Since 2017, St. Mark's has periodically organized projects to recognize and thank the staff at GMMS. Recently, St. Mark's hosted a January luncheon for school staff. On February 9 we provided dozens of cupcakes for the school's Valentine Banquet. RISE students prepared a meal for almost 200 staff, community members, and district leaders.

We appreciate the dedication of the GMMS staff members and are happy to honor their commitment.

Pastor Lori Hope and Congregation,

The entire staff at George McGovern appreciates the delicious meal you provided for us [on January 26]. It was truly delicious and so thoughtful to think of us.

Every year you bring us many blessings and we all want you to know that we feel so spoiled and it makes our day!



You're very kind and generous and we wish you all the best.

The George McGovern Staff

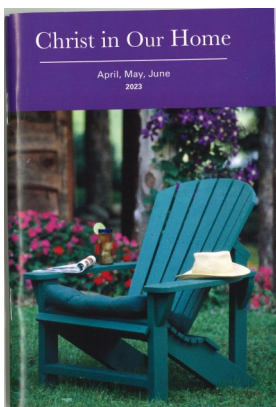
Seeing the image of God in all people and striving to do God's work in the community and the world.

—from St. Mark's Mission Statement

Pastor Lynn Marlowe ordained



Pastor Lynn Marlowe (center) was ordained on February 4 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, FL. Pastor Marlowe was St. Mark's first vicar, interning from August of 2020 to July of 2021. She will be serving as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Carrollton, GA.



Christ in Our Home

Copies of *Christ in Our Home* for April, May, and June are available in the narthex.

Festival of Song

St. Mark's is excited to host an All Creation Sings Festival of Song on **April 23 at 4:00 p.m.** Deacon John Weit, who serves as the Executive for Worship of the ELCA, will be with us leading the festival and teaching us music from this new resource that we incorporated earlier this year.

All are invited! Let us join our voices together and sing to the Lord a new song!

About Deacon John Weit

In his role as Executive for Worship, John oversees the work of the worship team within the churchwide organization and provides



leadership on behalf of the presiding bishop in matters related to worship. This includes developing and implementing strategies and resources that support worship in synods, congregations and other local worship assemblies across the ELCA as well as planning and worship leadership for churchwide events. Prior to his call to the churchwide organization in 2016, John served as musician for congregations in Pennsylvania and most recently as cantor to Trinity Lutheran Church in Worcester, Mass. John earned a Master of Arts in religion with a concentration in liturgy and music from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, now United Lutheran Seminary.

March Baptism Anniversaries

Arthur Alberty
Jenny Bangsund
Jeff Clow
Thomas Douglas
Katie Harms
Dawn Hartigan
Ellis Hope
Jerry Huber
Harold Lawrence
Laurel Luke
Ann McGovern



Jack Mortenson
Matt Neiderhiser
James Nelson
Reynold Nesiba
Emma Olson
Joey Pete
Bob Ramsey
David Roberts
Allan Saugstad
Chloe Schweitzer
Joshua Vortherms

THANK YOU

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

Transportation Ministry Sponsor

Dan and Becky Luke are the March sponsors.

Mission Ministry Sponsors

March 5: Dan and Becky Luke
March 12: Bob Fitch and Mary Gayer
March 19: Karen Zingmark
March 26: Karen Zingmark

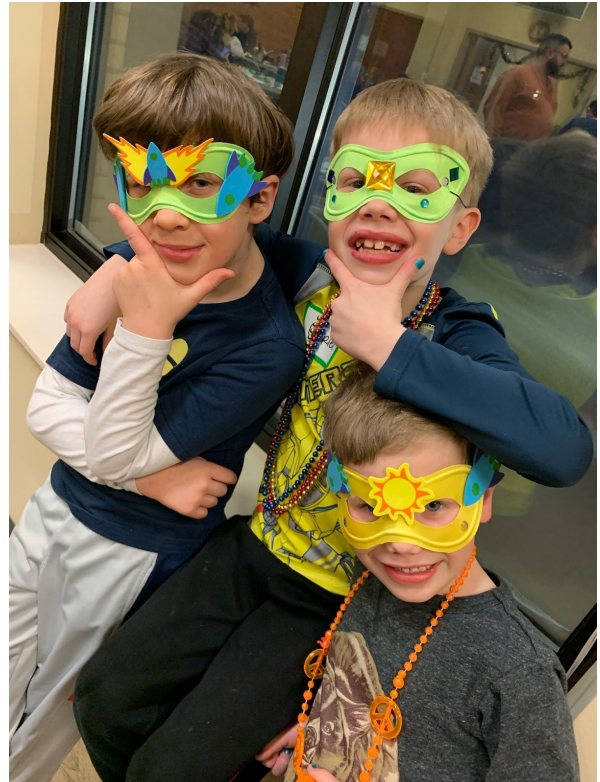
Thank you, St. Mark's

Gratitude for a Great Fat Tuesday 2023

- Thank you to everyone who helped with set-up, serving food, decorating, and cleaning up!
- Thank you to Ryan McCormick for providing juggling and magic tricks.
- Thank you to the USF Pop, Blues, and Jazz Ensemble for the incredible music!
- Thank you to everyone who attended. Because of your generosity we were able to send \$201 to both The Banquet and The Sioux Falls Area Humane Society!



Pat and Dawn Hartigan decked out for Fat Tuesday.



Behind the masks: Matthew Neiderhiser, Gabriel and Elias Splichal Larson.

Donations to the Woyatan warming bus

Thank you to everyone who brought donations for the Woyatan warming bus in Rapid City. The donated coats, quilts, hats and gloves, hand warmers, coffee and tea, and more were delivered to Woyatan Lutheran Church on February 17.

The items will be distributed to people in need in the Rapid City area to help them cope with the cold winter that we are all facing.

The Woyatan community was very appreciative and excited to receive the pickup load of items that we gathered and brought to them. Your generous donations will make a difference! Thank you all!

Council Minutes

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council February 16, 2023

Present: Kent Alberty, Luanne Alberty, David Golemboski, Darrell Herman, Pastor Lori Hope, Karin Lindell, Dianne Schnabel, Angie Smith, Mark Smith, Barb Stanley, Sally Turner, Vicar Sawyer Vanden Heuvel

The council met briefly following the All-Committee meeting to address some needed matters of business.

Check Signing: MSC to designate Luanne Alberty, Deb Carrier, Darrell Herman and Karin Lindell as St. Mark's authorized check signers for 2023. Pat Seiner's and Cathy Wencil's names were removed.

Lenten Suppers: Discussion was held on resuming Lenten suppers after the two-year COVID hiatus. MSC to hold Lenten suppers on Wednesday nights preceding the 7:00 worship services. The Property Committee will host the first one on March 1. The Worship & Music and Mission Committees took March 29.

Lent/Easter Offering: MSC that the Lent/Easter offering be divided between refugee resettlement and Lutheran Disaster Response with a minimum of \$1,000 to refugee resettlement and the remainder to Lutheran Disaster Response. The division will be half-and-half if the total (as presumed) is over \$1,000.

Devotion Schedule: A sign-up schedule was passed around for monthly council devotions.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Karin Lindell,
Acting Secretary

March 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | 1 Bible Study, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Supper, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Choir, 6:15 p.m. Worship, 7:00 p.m. | 2 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. | 3 | 4 Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m. |
| 5 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, 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. Book Read, <i>Language for God</i> , 7:00 p.m. | 8 Bible Study, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Supper, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Choir, 6:15 p.m. Worship, 7:00 p.m. | 9 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle, 1:00 p.m. Storytelling, 7:00 p.m. | 10 Storytelling, 1:00 p.m. | 11 Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m. |
| 12 Daylight-Saving Time Starts Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. Crossroads Conference, 2:00 p.m. | 13 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath | 14 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. | 15 Bible Study, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Supper, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Choir, 6:15 p.m. Worship, 7:00 p.m. | 16 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Storytelling, 7:00 p.m. | 17 Storytelling, 1:00 p.m. | 18 National Quilting Day Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.  |
| 19 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. | 20 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath | 21 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Exec Committee, 6:30 p.m. Council, 7:00 p.m. | 22 Bible Study, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Supper, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Choir, 6:15 p.m. Worship, 7:00 p.m. | 23 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Storytelling, 7:00 p.m. | 24 Storytelling, 1:00 p.m. | 25 Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m. |
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Spring ahead to Daylight-Saving Time March 12

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

The Servant March 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.*

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