

The SERVANT

March 2024



Contents

Pastor Lori's Letter	2
Pastor Sawyer's Letter....	3
Vicar Melinda's Letter	4
You Shall Be Called.....	5
Welcome New Members	6
USF Concert.....	6
Lent/Easter Offerings.....	7
Helping with Essentials ...	7
Cookies & Conversation..	8
Faith Fest.....	8
Thrivent Choice	9
Grocery Gift Cards.....	9
Council Minutes	10
Calendar	11
Contact Information	12

Worship

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:30 a.m.
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Pastors

Lori L. Hope
Sawyer Vanden Heuvel



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

Holy Week at St. Mark's

Maundy Thursday Service

St. Mark's Maundy Thursday service will be on Thursday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m. The choir will sing "Thy Will Be Done" with soloist Doug Larson.



Good Friday Services

St. Mark's Good Friday services will be on Friday, March 29, at noon and 7:00 p.m. The choir will be singing "A Green Hill Far Away" at the 7:00 p.m. service.

Saturday Service

There will not be a regular Saturday service. See pages 4 and 5 for information about the Name Honoring service "You Shall Be Called" that will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 30.



Easter Services

On Easter Sunday, March 31, St. Mark's will have services at 7:00 and 10:00 a.m. The choir will sing at both services: "He Is the Risen Lord" with trumpet by Amy Douglas and French horn by Jonathan Neiderhiser.

Easter Brunch

St. Mark's members and guests are invited to brunch on Easter morning between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. There will be a sign up in the narthex to help with preparation, serving, and/or clean up. You will also be able to sign up to bring an egg bake and/or muffins.

Easter Flowers

Mums will decorate our sanctuary for the Easter services. A bulletin insert will share the names of those honored and remembered.

“Divine Spaciousness”

by Pastor Lori

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- Romans 8:37-39

I love the painting on this page so much that I asked Avery Johnson if I could have it and she signed it for me.

The painting is the piece of paper that she was using to dab her brush while painting her actual picture. It is full of color, fills the page, and has various shapes. It is also not planned out or anything definite at first sight.

Joseph Campbell said, “We must be willing to let go of the life we planned so as to have the life that is waiting for us.”

We all know that the best laid plans, all the goal setting, and all the organization in the world cannot protect us when life changes in the blink of an eye. Instead, we learn to walk again, laugh again, hope again, or trust again.

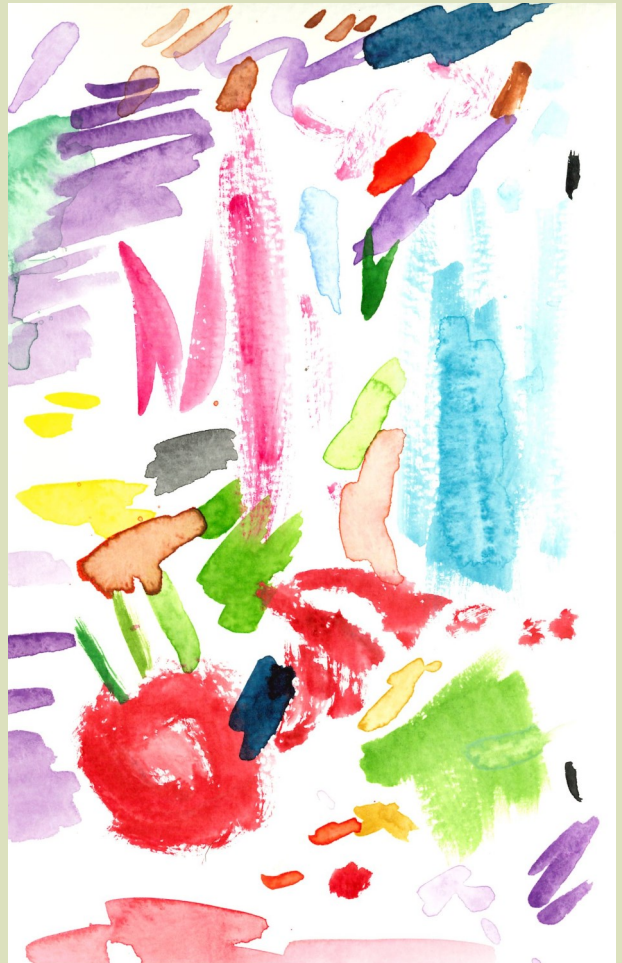
Michael Card has a song entitled “The Things We Leave Behind,” which includes the line, “It’s hard to imagine the freedom we find from things we leave behind.”

Many of those things we do not always want to leave behind but we have no choice sometimes. Like Avery’s beautiful unintentional work of art we find beauty and joy in places, people and situations we could never have imagined.

The amazing Barbara Brown Taylor writes, “Salvation is a word for the divine spaciousness that comes to human beings in all the tight places where their lives are at risk, regardless of how they got there or whether they know God’s name. Sometimes it comes as an extended human hand and sometimes as a bolt from the blue, but either way it opens a door in what looked for all the world like a wall. This is the way of life, and God alone knows how it works.”

Peace,

Pastor Lori Hope



“Faith Formation”

by Pastor Sawyer

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your Word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.*

ELW 512

Dear friends,

One of the gifts of the Reformation was how our shared faith was translated for the everyday person to understand. Martin Luther translated the Bible into German so that *everyone* could have access to God’s Word and for faith to be nurtured. Liturgies for worship were also translated into the language of the people and the Small Catechism was introduced so that the Christian faith could be taught within the home.

At St. Mark’s, we plant seeds of faith into the hearts of all who call this place home. Seeds are planted during worship, in Bible studies, youth group, service projects, confirmation classes, and Sunday School (just to name a few!) We never know what kind of ground the seeds will fall onto, but we trust that the Holy Spirit will work and tend to the soil where the seed is scattered. The important thing we can do is to create an environment for the seeds to be planted and growth to happen.

As we think about ways to nurture faith, one of those ways is through intentional teaching and community building with our young people. You may know this as faith formation or Christian education. **On Sunday, March 10 and March 17**, I am hosting **an informal conversation to have with parents and guardians of children, from birth to high school age**, between the two Sunday worship services. Parents and guardians of our young people are invited to attend one of the available times. My goal is to listen to you and gather insight on what hopes you have for your child’s faith journey here at St. Mark’s. I will also share other opportunities for faith formation to happen in the future. There will be coffee and treats to share!

My hope for faith formation, at whatever age, is that people have a safe place to gather, to grow relationships with one another, to learn about Jesus and the world around us, so that “love can grow and peace is understood.”

Lord, let our hearts be good soil.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Sawyer

“You Shall Be Called”

by Vicar Melinda

Dear St. Mark's Friends and Family,

I am entering month seven of my internship year! Time is moving quickly and before I know it, I will be writing an approval essay, scheduling interviews with Luther faculty and Synod candidacy representatives, and heading to St. Paul for the commencement ceremony. Before I can do all of that, there is one major requirement that I must complete for the internship program. During our internship year, we are required to create and complete a final internship project. The purpose of the project is to deepen the intern's leadership skills by integrating previous coursework, life experiences, curiosity about pastoral identity, and evaluating the needs of the site community for a rich, ministerial experience. The project provides the intern with an opportunity to develop a focused, hands-on ministry experience that is shared in their specific context. It can be a stand-alone experience or an extension of one or more learning goals that the intern has written for themselves. However, it must be a new project (experience) for both the intern and the internship site.

The final internship project that I submitted to Luther Seminary is a Name Honoring Service titled “You Shall Be Called” which will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2024, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 7:00pm.

Before I submitted the project proposal to Luther Seminary, it was reviewed and approved by St. Mark's pastoral team, the internship committee, and the church council.

The Name Honoring service is for the LGBTQIA2S+ community, their families, friends, and allies. This date was intentionally selected because it is the day before the International Transgender Day of Visibility which is recognized each year on March 31st. It was also selected because it falls on Easter Vigil. The idea of holding a Name Honoring service for individuals who have been rejected, hurt, or ignored by the church on a day that the church is mourning the loss of its beloved Savior, is a powerful representation of Jesus' ministry. Jesus was an ally, an advocate, and a Messiah to all of God's children, especially those not accepted by their community. The ministry of Jesus is about grace, acceptance, and love. I cannot imagine a better way to show someone acceptance and love than to honor their chosen name. The name that matches their authentic self. The Bible contains multiple examples of when a person's name was changed to represent their true identity. The identity of who they were to God and who they would be to the world. Some examples are Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Jacob to Israel, Hoshea to Joshua, Simon to Peter, and Saul to Paul.

A name is a powerful representation of who we are and how we are known to others. The service will be a full worship experience with music, scripture readings, reflections, and communion. Components will be added in the service to represent fire (light), water, and prayer. In a traditional Easter Vigil, the sanctuary is dark, and then light is shown in anticipation of Christ's light on resurrection morning. The service will honor the lives of those living in their authentic bodies with their new names, as well as others who have released names or identities that were placed on them by others (names/identities that do not represent their authentic selves).

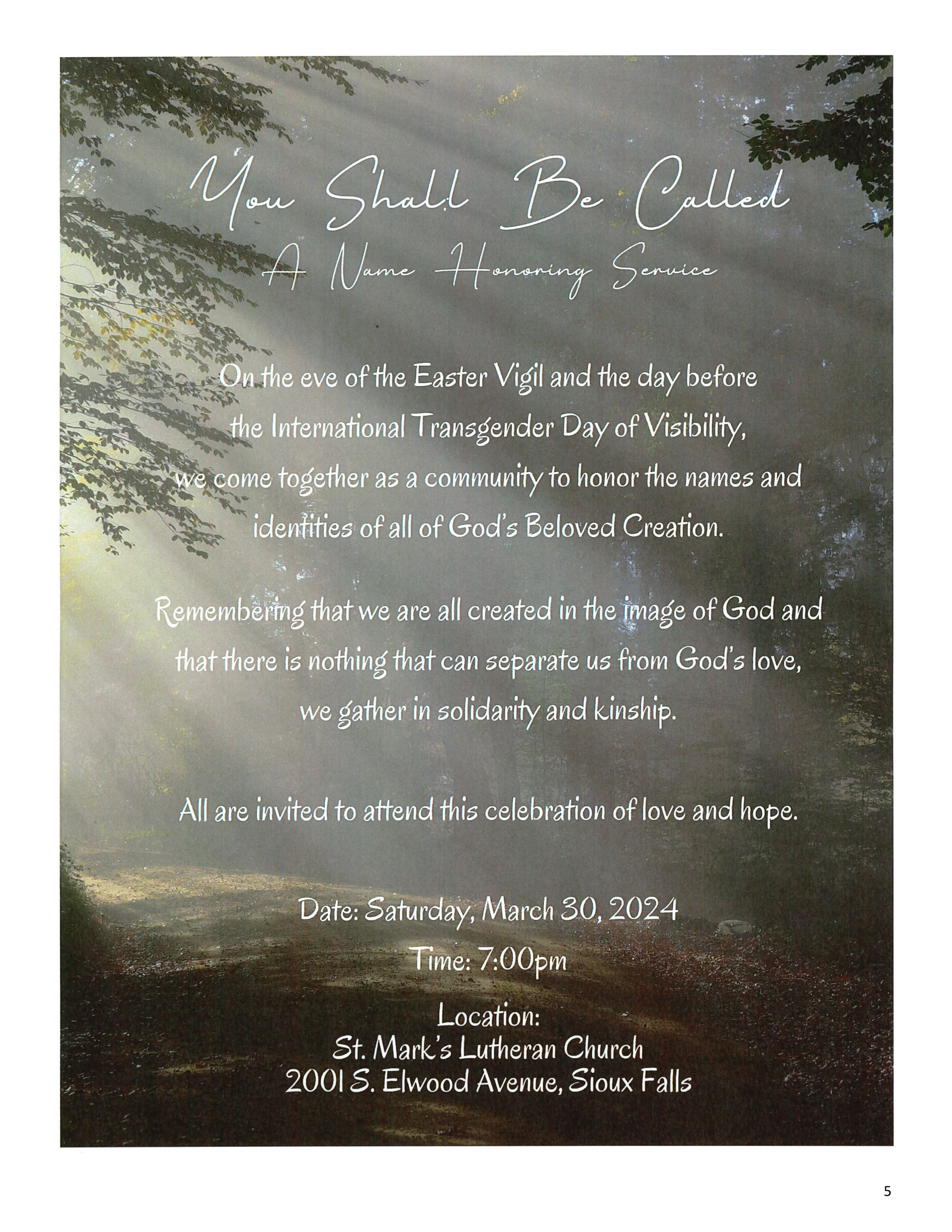
I extend an invitation to all of St. Mark's community to come and attend this special service of love and hope. I am also seeking volunteers who would be interested in singing that evening. If you are interested, please email me at intern@smluth.org by Sunday, March 10th.

Peace and Love,

Vicar Melinda

See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands.

Isaiah 49:16a (NLT)



You Shall Be Called
A Name Honoring Service

On the eve of the Easter Vigil and the day before
the International Transgender Day of Visibility,
we come together as a community to honor the names and
identities of all of God's Beloved Creation.

Remembering that we are all created in the image of God and
that there is nothing that can separate us from God's love,
we gather in solidarity and kinship.

All are invited to attend this celebration of love and hope.

Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024

Time: 7:00pm

Location:

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
2001 S. Elwood Avenue, Sioux Falls

Welcome New Members

Brit, Andrew, and Hugo Carmany

Brit, Andrew, and Hugo are grateful to join St. Mark's. Brit is an art teacher at Jefferson High School. Andrew is an 8th grade ELA teacher at George McGovern Middle School. Hugo is 3 years old and in preschool. Brit loves to make art; Andrew enjoys reading and golfing; and Hugo likes to discover how everything works. They all like to be together, go on walks, use their imaginations, and watch Bluey.

Tony and Tracy Fox

Tony and Tracy Fox are happy to be joining the St. Mark's Community! They have lived in their current home in southwest Sioux Falls for about 10½ years. In his spare time, Tony enjoys reading non-fiction, drawing, and completing home projects. Tracy also likes to read as well as cook, develop recipes, and write. Together, they love spending time with family and friends, playing cards, and traveling to state parks.

Ryan, Tim, Marcus and Santana Conway-Hay & Liam Hoffman

Ryan and Tim Conway-Hay and their sons, Marcus, Santana, and Liam, already feel like part of the St. Mark's community and they have since the day they stepped into the church! Their family lives on the east side of Sioux Falls with their two dogs, Domino (Parti Yorkie) and Dolly (Miniature Schnauzer). Ryan is currently a Motor Fuel Revenue Agent with the South Dakota Department of Revenue, and he has lived in Sioux Falls his entire life with the exception of when he was attending St. Cloud University in Minnesota. Tim is the Director of Customer Management Systems at Point Broadband. Originally growing up in central Pennsylvania, he has lived in Sioux Falls for the past 15 years. Tim and Ryan have been together for over ten years and were happily married in July 2016. They have been foster parents for almost ten years, and as a result were blessed with meeting Marcus and Santana in May 2021 and adopting them in January 2023. Most recently, in January of this year, Liam became a wonderful addition to their home. Marcus is currently in the fifth grade and loves to draw and make people laugh. Santana is currently in the fourth grade and loves playing all kinds of sports, but he anticipates being an NFL football player when he grows up. Liam is currently in the eighth grade, and he enjoys music, technology, and being involved in various activities. The entire family is looking forward to the warmer weather so they can get back to one of their favorite pastimes, which is "glamping." They welcome anyone interested to join them at the Pipestone Family Campground over the summer months!

USF Instrumental Ensembles Concert



Featuring USF —
Wind Ensemble
Chamber Orchestra
Pop Blues and Jazz Ensemble

Dr. Jonathan Neiderhiser, Conductor

Sunday, March 10, 3:00 p.m.
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

St. Mark's Lenten and Easter Offerings

Offerings received at the Wednesday Lenten services and at St. Mark's Easter services will be divided between Refugee Resettlement and Charis Ministry Partners. Here is a summary of the work of each organization:

Refugee Resettlement

The LSS refugee resettlement program is helping new Americans adapt to their new home—English as a second language, cultural assimilation, citizenship—along with finding housing and arranging for other basic living needs. Presently St. Mark's is one of the primary supporting organizations. We have donated such items as furniture, kitchen supplies, household goods, and clothing. Our Lenten/Easter financial donation will make a positive difference for this important program.



Charis Ministry Partners

Charis Ministry Partners, a collaboration of 13 Sioux Falls area Lutheran ELCA congregations, has been helping to address basic needs in Sioux Falls since early 2009. Charis Ministry Partners facilitate Food to You, also known as the mobile food pantry. Food to You provides groceries to those who need them by distributing them in the neighborhoods where the need is greater. Charis Ministry Partners also help with household items not covered by SNAP through the Necessities for Neighbors program. Laundry detergent, diapers, toilet paper, and hygiene products are distributed to those in need.

Helping with “the essentials”

St. Mark's is starting a new outreach for people who stop by the church in need of daily items. The office will have “essential bags” available containing such items as:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Breakfast cereal | Brown rice cakes |
| Oatmeal packets | Tuna or chicken salad snack packs |
| Granola bars/cereal bars/protein bars | Cup of noodles |
| Mac & Cheese | Meal pouches |
| Peanut butter | Toothpaste |
| Fresh or canned fruit | Toothbrush |
| Fresh or canned vegetables | Deodorant |
| Trail mix without chocolate but with fruit | Mini-pack tissues |
| Fruit cups/pudding cups | Bar of soap |
| Beef jerky | Toilet paper |
| Peanut butter or cheese crackers | Small pack of hand wipes |



The collection will continue over the next few weeks. Sunday School students will assemble bags during the education hour on Sunday, March 17.

If you can help, please bring items to the church by March 17. If you would like to donate money toward items, please write "essential bags" in the memo line.

St. Mark's Mission Statement
to nurture faith and life for loving service in Christ's name.



Cookies and conversation

St. Mark's Sunday School hosted Cookies and Conversation on Feb. 11 — a time to make new friends, laugh, share stories, answer questions, and build lifelong relationships.



Liam Hoffman, Connor Hokanson, Johanna Neiderhiser, Cora Hokanson, Clara Walz

Augustana Faith Fest

Vicar Melinda and five of St. Mark's young people attended Follow the Sign, a one-day retreat for sixth through eighth graders, hosted by Augustana University students on Saturday, Feb. 10.

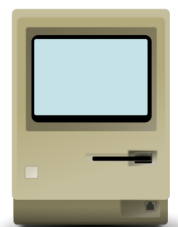
This year's theme was "Follow the Sign," based on 1 Samuel 10:7.

The schedule included service projects in the Sioux Falls community, musical guest Tangled Blue, worship, games and crafts.

History Highlights

St. Mark's will observe its 70th anniversary in 2024. As we prepare for the anniversary, we are sharing some of the church's history highlights along with notes on what was happening nationally and around the world. **In 1984:**

- **St. Mark's became a missionary support sponsor.**
- Apple unveiled the Macintosh personal computer, priced at \$2,500.
- Donald Duck's 50th birthday was celebrated at Disneyland.
- On September 10, the first syndicated version of *Jeopardy!* aired. Alex Trebek was the program's host.



South African Dinner

Former member Lulu Waletzki will prepare and host a South African dinner on Saturday, March 9, following the 5:00 p.m. service. Lulu, who loves to cook, was a refugee from apartheid in South Africa and came to South Dakota from a refugee camp in Botswana. A freewill offering will support our missionary. Loaves of bread will be available for purchase.

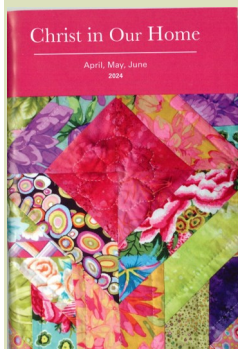


Noisy offering needs bread pans

Do you have extra bread pans that you aren't using? We would appreciate donations to help with the noisy offering collection ... as many as 20 or more bread pans would help. We are looking for aluminum pans rather than glass.

Need Groceries? Got Gift Cards?

We can help you with both! If you shop at Hy Vee and/or Fareway, St. Mark's office has gift cards available—\$100, \$50, or \$25. When you use the gift cards, you are helping to support the youth programs at St. Mark's! *Three to five percent* of all gift card purchases go to St. Mark's youth programs. Just stop by the office to buy cards.



Christ in Our Home

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

Thrivent Choice dollars

The deadline for directing Thrivent Financial Choice dollars to participating nonprofits is March 31. Through Thrivent Choice®, clients with membership can contribute to organizations and causes they care about—including St. Mark's and Project Car. Thrivent has provided more than \$585 million in charitable outreach funds through the Thrivent Choice program.

Visit Thrivent to learn more or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

March Baptism Anniversaries

Arthur Alberty
Jenny Bangsund
Andrew Carmany
Jeff Clow
Thomas Douglas
Katie Harms
Dawn Hartigan
Ellis Hope
Jerry Huber
Pam Iverson
Harold Lawrence
Laurel Luke



Ann McGovern
Jack Mortenson
Matt Neiderhiser
Reynold Nesiba
Emma Olson
Joey Pete
Bob Ramsey
David Roberts
Allan Saugstad
Chloe Schweitzer
Sarah Vining
Joshua Vortherms

THANK YOU

to those who are sponsoring
our missionary in Nicaragua
and our Transportation Ministry
during the month of March

Transportation Ministry Sponsor

Marlon Mollet is the March sponsor.

Mission Ministry Sponsors

March 3:	Dar and Margaret Blume
March 10:	Karen Zingmark
March 17:	Marlon Mollet
March 24:	Karen Zingmark
March 31:	Marlon Mollet

Council Minutes

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

02/20/2024

Mark Smith, Angie Smith, Pastor Sawyer, Barb Stanley, Sally Turner, Pastor Lori, Luanne Alberty, Darrell Herman, April Hokanson, Kyle Alberty, Katie Harms, Denny Peabody, Becky Luke

Devotions – Instead of devotions, we all introduced ourselves and which committee we represented.

Minutes – MSC.

Treasurer's Report – MSC

President's Report – We will not have a meeting next month because so many people will be attending the Boe Forum at Augustana. We will call a meeting another night if necessary.

Pastor Lori's Report – She is interviewing four possible interns over the next couple days.

Pastor Sawyer's Report – He is pleased with the response on the communication survey. He is going to meet with parents of children to get more ideas for the kids. Shepherd's Table is progressing well. Thank you for all of the support and prayers.

Vicar's Report – She is at a conference in Chicago, so no report.

Committee Reports

Youth – Five students went to FaithFest at Augustana with Vicar Melinda.

Christian Ed – Creating sub committees to help run Sunday School so we don't have to hire a Chris Ed Coordinator right now.

Mission – Very excited to have younger people on the committee.

Congregational Well Being – They took meat and cheese trays and candy to Bethany Home staff for Valentine's Day. The staff was so very grateful! The committee is also busy updating bulletin boards.

Property – Denny is busy gathering as much information as he possibly can about the property in general.

Old Business

None at this time.

New Business

- We discussed putting a picture of council on the website.
- Mark will write up a blurb to put in the bulletin to promote the grocery cards for the youth.
- There seems to be an issue with the WIFI downstairs. Property will look into it.
- The kids are going to do a service project in March. They would like to partner with another group, maybe Mission or Congregational Well Being.




We closed with our prayer concerns and the Lord's Prayer.

MSC to adjourn.

Submitted by

Becky Luke, Secretary

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Pastor Sawyer's Sabbath Book Study, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom	Watercolor, 10.00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.	Pastor Lori/Vicar Melinda's Sabbath	Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Internship Committee, 6:00 p.m.	Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Supper, 6:00-6:45 p.m. Choir, 6:10 p.m. Worship, 7:00 p.m.	Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	Pastor Sawyer's Sabbath	Watercolor, 10.00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m. South African Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Faith Formation, 9:30 a.m.  Time to Spring Ahead	Pastor Lori/Vicar Melinda's Sabbath	Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	Fill Your Cup, 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Supper, 6:00-6:45 p.m. Choir, 6:10 p.m. Worship, 7:00 p.m.	Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle, 1:00 p.m. Fill Your Cup, 7:00 p.m.	Pastor Sawyer's Sabbath	Watercolor, 10.00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Faith Formation, 9:30 a.m.	Pastor Lori/Vicar Melinda's Sabbath	Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Supper, 6:00-6:45 p.m. Choir, 6:10 p.m. Worship, 7:00 p.m.	Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	Pastor Sawyer's Sabbath	Watercolor, 10.00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
			Pastor Lori Out of Office	Pastor Sawyer Out of Office		
PALM SUNDAY 24	25	26	27	MAUNDY THURSDAY 28	GOOD FRIDAY 29	30
Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. 	Pastor Lori/Vicar Melinda's Sabbath	Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 7:00 p.m.	Pastor Sawyer's Sabbath Worship, 12:00 noon & 7:00 p.m.	Watercolor, 10.00 a.m. You Shall Be Called, 7:00 p.m.
EASTER 31						
Worship, 7:00 & 10:00 a.m. Easter Brunch, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.						

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

The Servant March 2024

Office Hours & Contact Information:

- Lori Hope, Pastor
Tuesday-Friday
pastor@smluth.org
- Sawyer Vanden Heuvel, Pastor
Monday-Thursday
sawyer@smluth.org
- Melinda Garza Moran, Vicar
Tuesday- Friday
intern@smluth.org
- Linda Hallstrom, Office Manager
Monday - Wednesday 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.
Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
stmarks@smluth.org
- Karin Lindell, Ministry Coordinator
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
karin@smluth.org
- Deb Carrier, Finance Manager
Wednesday
deb@smluth.org
*If you need anything related to finance,
please email Deb anytime.*

To reach a member
of the pastoral team
during non-office hours
605-215-2925

St Mark's Lutheran Church
2001 S Elmwood Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
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<https://www.smluth.org>



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