

The SERVANT

May 2023



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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.

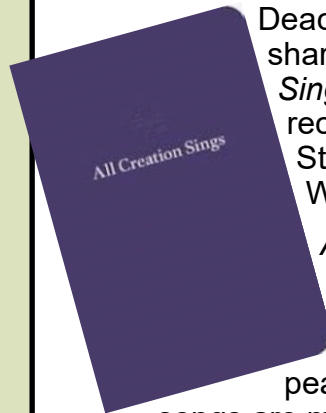
Pastor

Lori L. Hope



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

A festival of song



Deacon John Weit visited Sioux Falls during April to share information and instruction on *All Creation Sings (ACS)*, the worship and song supplement recently purchased by St. Mark's. Deacon John serves as Executive for Worship of the ELCA.

ACS includes 200 hymns and songs supporting the lessons and liturgies of the church year with an emphasis on the themes of healing and wholeness, creation care, justice and peace, praise and lament. More than 30 of the songs are multilingual.

The Sunday workshop drew attendees from St. Mark's and churches around Sioux Falls. Musical selections included songs for the seasons of the church year: Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and All Saints Day. Deacon Weit also led songs expressing prayers for peace and justice around the world.

St. Mark's choir (shown rehearsing below) helped lead songs during the workshop.

In addition to leading workshops at Augustana University and St. Mark's, Deacon Weit played at all three worship services on April 22 and 23, performing the prelude, postlude, and special numbers.



Pastor's Letter

Siblings in Christ,

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater.

Isaiah 55:10

This time of year as the buds burst from the trees, as the flowers seem to bloom and grow overnight and as the birds sing proudly each morning; we are reminded of life from death. The line from "The Rose," written by Amanda McBroom and made famous by Bette Midler, comes to mind,

*Just remember in the winter
far beneath the bitter snows
lies the seed that with the sun's love
in the spring becomes the rose.*

It is so easy to forget this good news when we are facing trouble, when we are overwhelmed or when we are afraid.

Even when we are afraid or overwhelmed there are two things that are true:

1. The deep roots never doubt spring will come. (Marty Rubin)
2. It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart. (Rainer Maria Rilke)

We are God's beloved who trust in things we cannot see and who realize we are so much more than our circumstances. So when there are four-foot drifts in our yards, we know that the seed is in the ground, waiting. When the rain falls from the sky, we know that the plants will grow, as we are waiting. When we are grieving, lost, and fearful, we know that we are not alone. We trust, we wait, and we hope.

*Just remember in the winter
far beneath the bitter snows
lies the seed that with the sun's love
in the spring becomes the rose.*

Peace,

Pastor Lori Hope

Vicar's Notes

“All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.”

- Acts 2:44-47 (NRSV)

Dear St. Mark's Family:

“What's Next?”

This question keeps coming up as my time at St. Mark's draws towards the end. For starters, I am still with you as your vicar until the middle of August. So don't worry; there is still time for more fun and certainly time for more coffee. In other words, there's still work to be done and I'm not leaving you quite yet.

This new movement of community that we read about in Acts, of what we now call “church,” didn't come with a set plan or a roadmap. Jesus had simply given a command to go and be witnesses in the world. The early followers of Jesus had just experienced awe, wonder, and mystery on Pentecost and were now asking, “What's next?” They were sitting in this liminal space, working together “day by day” to figure out where to go from there.

This is where I feel that I am at this stage in my life. I was first called to go to seminary to be prepared through theological education to be sent out into the world with knowledge and skills for ministry. St. Mark's has been a part of that formation as I become a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. On May 21, I will celebrate this milestone of earning a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary. Alongside of this graduation milestone, I will have my approval interview for ordination with the faculty, and then at the end of June, I will have a final approval interview with the South Dakota Synod's candidacy committee. Going through the approval process will be another milestone to celebrate! It means that the church affirms that I am fit and called for ordained ministry. This is where the fun will start as I await a call to serve in Christ's church.

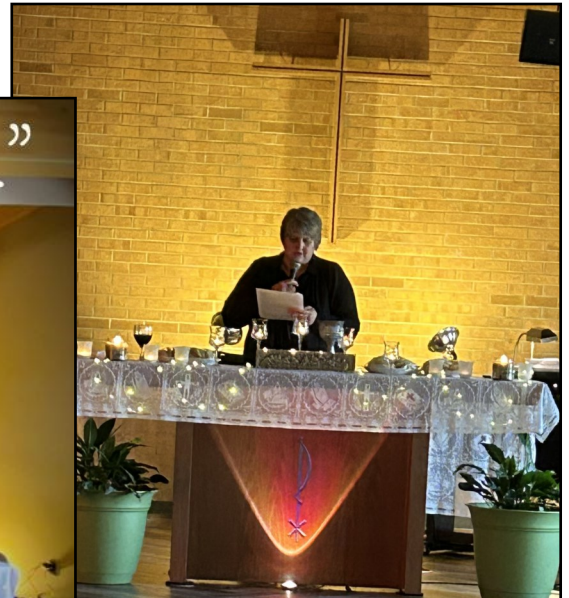
This summer, I will have a consultation with the Bishop and the synod about where God might be calling me next. This is where the synod will work to match my gifts with a ministry site waiting for a pastor to come and serve them. So until that call comes, I will be sitting in that “what's next?” liminal space. I will be discerning, alongside many others, where the Holy Spirit is leading me.

But during all of this waiting and discernment, I will continue to break bread with others, participate in this community we call St. Mark's Lutheran Church, and do ministry together for the sake of the neighbor. I think it is exciting *because there is no clear road map. I put my trust in God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to guide me in “what's next.”*

Thanks be to God for this calling to serve in Christ's Church!

Vicar Sawyer

Maundy Thursday at St. Mark's



Our Holy Week services began on Maundy Thursday in the fellowship hall where we shared a meal, sang hymns, and served each other the bread and wine/ grape juice of Communion. Following the meal, we walked to the sanctuary for prayers and the veiling of the cross and stripping of the altar. Good Friday and Easter Sunday services followed ... now we move on to study the Book of Acts.

Catch up with the Spirit ***A study of the Book of Acts***

As we continue in the season of Easter, and look ahead toward Pentecost, what better way than to usher in this time with a Bible Study on the Book of Acts! Acts is a wild story, filled with many twists and turns, but it points us to the work of the Holy Spirit as a means of gathering and creating community together.

Join Pastor Lori and Vicar Sawyer for a six-week Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 11:00. Our first session was April 26, but newcomers are welcome. No advance preparation is required. We will have optional resources to share with you for your own further study of Acts.

Can't make Wednesday mornings? We will be doing a repeat session on summer evenings beginning Thursdays in June. Contact the office for more information.

St. Mark's Mission Statement

to nurture faith and life for loving service in Christ's name.

Summer Schedule starts May 27/28

Starting on Memorial Day weekend, St. Mark's will follow the summer schedule for worship services:

Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday at 10:00 a.m.



St. Mark's serves The Banquet on May 17



St. Mark's is scheduled to serve The Banquet (900 East 8th Street) on Wednesday, May 17. Volunteers are needed for the 2:00 p.m. shift that prepares the meal and the 5:15 p.m. shift that serves the meal. A sign up sheet is available in the narthex. Volunteers can also use the app that The Banquet has set up on [SignUpGenius](#).

About The Banquet

The Banquet meal ministry was founded in 1985 starting with just one meal per week. They now serve 16 meals per week at two locations. The Banquet is a volunteer-based ministry: meals are paid for, prepared by, and served by volunteer groups. In 2020 The Banquet served over 200,000 meals. At least 25,000 of those meals were served to children under 12.

Brew and Renew is back!

"Brew and Renew" is coming back! After winter storms, Lent, and Holy Week, it is time to gather once again. Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 25, at 7:00 p.m., downtown at the Full Circle Book Co-op (123 West 10th) for Brew and Renew! All are welcome!

St. Mark's to host delegates from Cameroon for the Synod Assembly

Would you like to host (house and transport) delegates from Cameroon during the Synod Assembly in June? You would be hosting the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon or a Cameroonian woman, N. Sodea. They will be in Sioux Falls for a few days representing their church at the assembly.

The two delegates will arrive around June 1. Hosts would be responsible for bringing them to Synod Assembly events that weekend and to a designated church on Sunday. (Maybe St. Mark's?)

Talk to any member of the Mission committee if you are interested in being a host. Thank you.

—Dana Yost, Sally Turner, Doug Larson, Cathy Brechtelsbauer, Cathy Larson

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for the wonderful party to celebrate our 15 years in ministry. Thank you for all the cards, kind words, and gifts. Thank you for all the birthday wishes and gifts! My heart is humbled and full!

Thank you,
Pastor Lori Hope

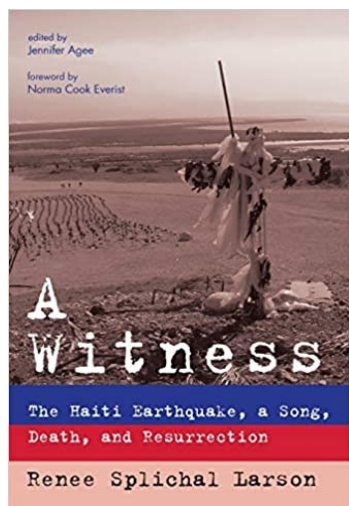
St. Mark's assists with Native American Honoring Ceremony



For the past several years, the Sioux Falls School District has held an honoring ceremony for Indigenous students. This year St. Mark's will be providing cupcakes and cake for the 8th grade students and high school graduates at the ceremony.

In addition, St. Mark's is accepting monetary donations toward star quilts. As part of the ceremony each senior is draped with a star quilt either sewn or purchased by the student's family. The program is in need of seven quilts for students for various reasons. St. Mark's has been able to secure seven quilts for \$225 each. If you would like

to donate money toward this gift, please write "star quilt" in the memo line.



New additions to St. Mark's library

St. Mark's member Renee Splichal Larson has recently published her first book *A Witness* about her experience in the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

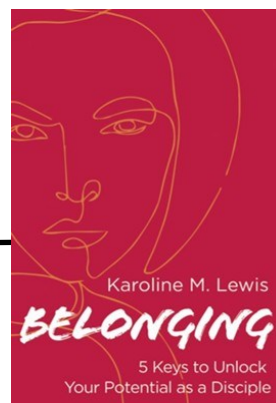
Renee, just 27 at the time, lost her husband Ben, who was buried in the rubble of the quake.

Renee offers us an honest look at the years of struggle and healing that followed the loss of Ben along with the thousands of lives lost in the devastation. She shares her young romance, her experience of the earthquake, and the journey that followed. Most of all, she proclaims her hard-won witness: that in Christ, love and life conquer death.

Renee is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She is married to Jonathan Splichal Larson, who is also a pastor in the ELCA. They have 2 sons, Gabriel and Elias.

A Witness has been added to St. Mark's library and is also available on Amazon.

We have also added a copy of *Belonging* by Karoline M. Lewis. *Belonging* was the text for St. Mark's recent Bible study. The book helps readers understand and live out Christian discipleship in a way that is most deeply authentic for themselves, centering on the story of the Samaritan woman. It can be used for personal as well as group study.



\$1.00 for the Synod

Our South Dakota Synod shows up for congregations in storms and floods, in rural ministry support, in accompanying pastors and candidates, in programs that embody being church together. The synod is currently experiencing a projected budget shortfall in monies received from congregation pledges. This shortfall can be

alleviated if **each** congregation contributes \$1.00 for every confirmed member. Your generosity will enable our continued partnership in ministry across the synod. Please place your donation in the box in the narthex anytime during the first three weeks of May.

St.Mark's FUNdraising projects for mission trips

Pride parade

Saturday, June 10: St. Mark's volunteers walk through the crowd offering rainbow flags for sale. *They sell quickly!*

Festival of Cultures

Saturday, June 10: St. Mark's has a booth. Those who volunteer in the booth get to meet people from around the world as well as others who travel or like to talk about their roots.

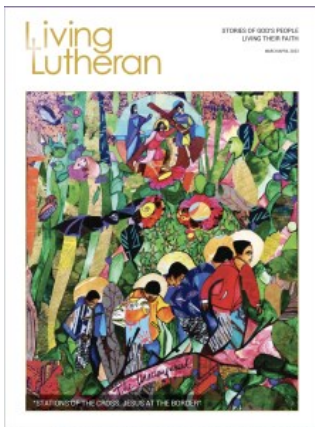
Blumenkranz workshop

Before June 10: St. Mark's will have glue guns and flowers at church one day for making blumenkranz traditional flower wreaths that girls and women wear in their hair. St. Mark's sells them at the Festival of Cultures and (possibly) at Dalesburg Midsommer on June 23.

If you can help with any of these events, let Cathy Brechtelsbauer know.

International service opportunities

Are you interested in teaching abroad? Apply to be a Central Europe teacher in Slovakia or English teacher in Tanzania. To see all opportunities for international service with the ELCA, check out the [Global Mission job board](#).



Living Lutheran magazine will print its final issue in December 2023

Living Lutheran magazine will print its final issue in December 2023, transitioning to an online format. Videos, audio stories, podcasts, live events, and a more robust social media presence will be used to share and spread good news. For the immediate future, *Living Lutheran* encourages readers to sign up for the e-digest, a weekly email that highlights the top five most read stories on LivingLutheran.org. [You can sign up here](#).

May Baptism Anniversaries



Emily Copley-Golemboski
Ruth Copley-Golemboski
Diane Craig
Ray Craig
Christian Cunningham
Baylor DeJong
Lucas Erickson
Sherilyn Goldammer
Kalauni Hartigan
Connor Hokanson
Pastor Lori Hope
Wayne Kinstad
Shirley Larson

Verlyn Lindell
Ronald Livermore
Liz Pfeifle
Joanne Ramsey
Susette Randall
Margie Roling
Dick Sansgaard
Janine Scott
Barbara Stanley
Lois Sundling
Samantha Turner
Leone Zellmer

THANK YOU

to those who are sponsoring our mission in Nicaragua, and our Transportation Ministry sponsor for the month of May

Transportation Ministry Sponsor

Dar and Margaret Blume are the May sponsors.

Mission Ministry Sponsors

May 7: Jana Keller
in memory of her parents
May 14: Cathy Larson
in memory of her mother
May 21: Lorie Laurila
in memory of Ray Hoberg
May 28: Dar and Margaret Blume

Council Minutes

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting April 25, 2023

Present: April Hokanson, Kyle Alberty, Kent Alberty, Mark Smith, Angie Smith, Pastor Lori, Dianne Schnabel, Vicar Sawyer, Dana Yost, Luanne Alberty, Darrell Herman, Karin Lindell, Barb Stanley, Becky Luke

Devotions – Angie shared devotions.

Minutes – Clarification: We have 35 kids actively participating in Sunday school, not 35 kids coming every week. MSC.

Treasurer's report – We've had a lot of good giving in April. \$1900 of the \$2000 for repairs to property was for the soundboard. Snow removal was paid all at once because the contractor had the wrong email but didn't want to say anything to us.

President's report – Discussing old COVID protocols. Are we ready to move back to no gloves and masks at Communion? Are we ready to share the peace as we used to? MSC to go back to no gloves and masks and sharing the peace. Include in the bulletin that this is a person's choice so they can choose how to share the peace – a handshake, a hug, a peace sign.

The Synod has asked for \$1 per confirmed member to help alleviate a shortfall in congregational contributions. Exec proposed picking two Sundays in May that we have times for the congregation to donate. We might have the kids use baskets to collect the money on the second and third Sundays in May. Motion to put an announcement in the bulletin to have people make their own decision on this. MSC

Pastor's report – Thank you for all the help during Lent and Easter. Thank you so very much for the party as we celebrated 15 years in ministry together!

Vicar's report – Thank you for all your help during Lent, especially Maundy Thursday. Thank you for your hospitality this past weekend with Deacon John. Pastor and Vicar had a good time at their retreat. They learned they had to slow down.

Committee Reports

Worship & Music – appreciates all of the help decorating for Easter. Believes people may not always want to be on committees, but do want to help.

Property – One bid for the roof. Encouraging news – leaks were gone after the ice was melted. Starting spring cleanup.

Congregational Well-being – Thank you for the Bethany basket support. St. Mark's Freezer meals will start up again soon.

Finance – did not meet.

Youth – Not much since Easter, meeting Sunday.

Mission – May 17 St. Mark's serving at the main Banquet for supper.

Christian Ed – Last Sunday school is May 21.

New Business

We've been assigned a new intern. Her name is Melinda Moran. Her bio is coming in a summer newsletter. We will be working with Bethany to get a house as soon as one becomes available.

Shepherd's Table – There are several positive ideas coming with this amazing opportunity.

Pastor's sabbatical starts June 26. She will be back on August 1.

Discussion was held around worship and planned musical participation. MSC that all special music, including rhythm instruments and other accompaniment instruments, must be approved prior to worship by the worship leaders.

David G. has devotions for May.

Becky Luke, Secretary

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	2 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Internship Committee, 6:00 p.m.	3 Bible Study/Book of Acts, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m.	4 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Storytelling, 7:00 p.m.	5 Storytelling, 1:00 p.m.	6 Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
7 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.	8 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	9 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	10 Bible Study/Book of Acts, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	11 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle, 1:00 pm.	12	13 Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00p.m.
14 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.	15 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	16 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Council, 7:00 p.m. Vicar Out of Office	17 Bible Study/Book of Acts, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m.. St. Mark's serves The Banquet.	18 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Storytelling, 7:00 p.m.	19 Storytelling, 1:00 p.m.	20. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
21 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.	22 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	23 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	24 Bible Study/Book of Acts, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Open House for Vicar Sawyer, 4:00—6:00 p.m.	25 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Storytelling, 7:00 p.m. Brew & Renew, 7:00 p.m.	26 Storytelling, 1:00 p.m.	27 Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
28 Worship, 10:00 a.m.	29 Memorial Day Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	30 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Pastor Out of Office	31 Bible Study/Book of Acts, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m..			

Seminary Graduation Party

Vicar Sawyer Vanden Heuvel will graduate from Luther Seminary on Sunday, May 21. The ceremony will be livestreamed; we will send a link closer to the 21st. St. Mark's will host an open house and card shower party on Wednesday, May 24, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.in the church fellowship hall.

Congratulations!

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

†he Servant May 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.