

# The SERVANT

July 2022



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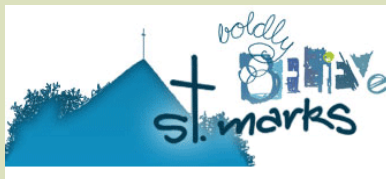
## Worship

Saturday  
5:00 p.m.

Sunday  
10:00 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](http://www.smluth.org)

## St. Mark's bounced into June with Tennis Camp



With 16 participants and eight tennis coaches, St. Mark's kept the courts at Spellerberg Park busy for three mornings in June. Students ages 6 to 11 learned basic tennis skills, worshipped God with music, enjoyed snacks, and created crafts.

**Thank you to the tennis volunteers** who helped with tennis instruction: Victoria Ambrosio-Cueto, Miles Brokenleg, Erika Douglas, Christina Fanciullo, Rachel Fanciullo, Carter Kemmis, Kyan Kemmis, and Joelle Thorfinnson.

**Thank you to the volunteers** who helped at church with music, snacks and crafts: Luanne Alberty, Erika Douglas, April Hokanson, Pat Hartigan, Joyce Kaatz, Cindy McQuay, Shari Smith, and Sally Turner. **And thank you** to Denny Peabody for donating plastic buckets for toting tennis balls and to everyone who brought empty egg cartons for our planting project.

## Why Tennis Camp?

Tennis Camp was Vicar Leif's internship project. All ELCA interns are asked to complete a major project that deepens their leadership skills and engages a curiosity or passion. The project provides an opportunity for a focused, hands on experience. Developing the project gives the intern an opportunity to exercise initiative and to take responsibility for a ministry project. Vicar Leif drew on his 25 years of experience as a tennis coach and his passion for Bible study to plan and facilitate Fruit of the Spirit Tennis Camp.

**[Read more, page 3]**



# Pastor's Letter

*Dear family of St. Mark's,*

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

Joshua 1:9

We have heard these words many times the past three years but we have needed them our entire lives! These words were spoken to Joshua after the death of Moses and after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. These words are for the long haul. They are important for times of wilderness, frustration, pain, suffering, loss, fear and anger. "Wherever you go!" the promise declares. There is much in the news that disturbs us, scares us, angers us, and overwhelms us. There is so much that breaks our hearts as our loved ones suffer, deal with painful situations, and struggle with daily life.

We each deal with our own losses, heartache, and disappointments. These words spoken to Joshua are for all of these times in our lives. The fear, loss, and grief are real and this promise of God's constant presence is for all of us our entire lives.

Instead of becoming hopeless or cynical, we live as those who have been promised grace, love, hope, and God's presence. It is easy to throw up our hands in despair or to blame others; instead we are reminded to be strong and courageous and continue to be the people of God in this time and in this place.

Maggie Smith in *Keep Moving* writes, "Do not stop at the wall looming before you. Make a door. Make a door wide enough not only for you but for others. Keep moving."

We are people who keep moving forward with faith and trust. We are people who call a thing what it is and then live out justice and freedom for all God's children, even when it is hard; especially when it is hard. Isaiah 41:13, *For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Do not fear, I will help you."*

Do not be afraid,

Pastor Lori Hope



**Do not stop at the wall looming before you. Make a door. Make a door wide enough not only for you but for others.**

Maggie Smith

# Vicar's Notes

## Reflections on Tennis Camp

Jesus Christ calls us to be his disciples. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus increased the number of disciples. On his journey to Jerusalem he commissioned 70 disciples and he sent them ahead of him. They were to be guests in homes; they were to heal and preach; and they were to proclaim, "The kingdom of God has come near to you" (Luke 10:9). Jesus taught his disciples a valuable lesson: to become a welcoming community and to embody the kingdom of God, they first must become a humble guest. They must eat what the host cooks! Jesus taught the disciples that to be good givers, they first must be good receivers. He taught them that discipleship begins with God and what *God has done for us*—not us. He taught them that being good receivers would open them up to the wonders of God's creation.



We held tennis camp at St. Mark's June 7, 8, and 9, and we "commissioned" 16 new disciples. They were guests at our church, and hopefully they experienced the kingdom of God.

The theme of the camp was, "Fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5). One of the activities that we did to bring this theme to light was growing bean plants. They learned that potting soil comes from God, that seed comes from God, and that water and sun to help incubate the plant comes from God. The kids learned that their faith, the faith that will help them in any storm, grows when they humbly open themselves up to the gifts God has bestowed on them. The fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control comes from receiving the gifts of God first. Who knows which one of our disciples will be the next Paul or Mary Magdalene?

*"Christ has no body on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless others now."*  
St. Teresa of Avila

*Vicar Leif*





# Mark Your Calendars

## Pie and Ice Cream: an Outdoor Neighborhood Party Tuesday, August 2, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Covid interrupted our annual outdoor neighborhood event but this summer we will gather and celebrate once again. Instead of a corn feed, St. Mark's is planning a pie and ice cream neighborhood party on National Night Out, August 2.



### Menu:

Pie, ice cream, lemonade, and coffee

### Attractions:

Live music, bouncy house with a slide, obstacle course  
Fire truck and community officers will be stopping by

### Help wanted:

- point person to organize this event
- pie bakers
- people to distribute door hangers
- volunteers to help serve food, drinks, monitor bouncy equipment, set up and clean up on the night of the event

Please contact Pastor Lori if you are interested in helping to organize this event!

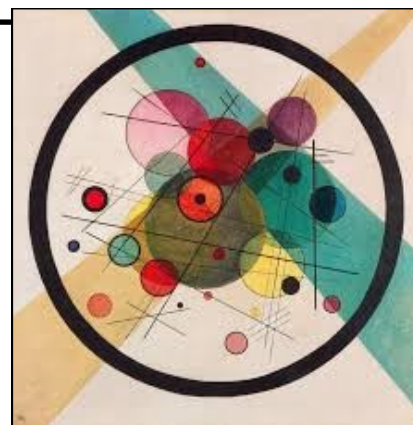
## St. Mark's plans "Circle of Eight" Gatherings *A time to get acquainted or reacquainted*

Since March 2020 we have all been through a lot personally and as a congregation.

We have spent more time apart than together.  
We have buried loved ones. We have celebrated milestones.  
We have received new members on three different occasions.

We would like to gather in groups of eight (plus Pastor Lori and a council member) to get reacquainted or meet one another for the first time. We also want to hear your ideas about vision and hope for our future as a congregation.

Each gathering will last an hour or less. Gatherings will begin at the end of July. To reserve your spot, use [SignUpGenius](#) or the sign-up sheets at church.



### Dates:

Sunday, July 31, at 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, August 10, at 7:00 p.m.  
Friday, August 12, at 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday, August 21, at 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 30, at 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, September 13, at 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, September 14, at 10:00 a.m.


**All sessions will be held at St. Mark's**

# Thank you, St. Mark's

## How flags and lapel pins have helped Ukraine

A big *Thank You* for all the donations to support the people of Ukraine and those helping to resettle them. Donations are helping through Lutheran Disaster Response, which is operating in Eastern Europe where Ukrainians have been fleeing.

At St. Mark's soon after the invasion, Cathy Larson and I (mostly Cathy L.) made some small Ukraine flags because many people wanted to show their support. We gave some of the flags to local Ukrainian families.



At one point, a man insisted on paying for a flag and gave us \$20 for it. We realized that this could be a way to raise funds. Cathy L. made more flags and Cathy Wencil ordered some flags and lapel pins. Before long, the lapel pins were gone and we ordered more.

For several weekends the flags and pins were available at church for a donation. Flags and pins that remained were taken to the hunger table at Synod Assembly where more donations came in. Finally, we took what was left to our flag booth at Festival of Cultures and received more donations.

When only one flag remained, I took it along with our other flags to the Dalesburg Midsommer festival on June 24.

At the festival a little boy named Jack had decided to buy a flag. I explained that the sales of our flags and blumenkranz support St. Mark's mission trips, but we had the Ukraine flag for donations to help the people of Ukraine. Jack was very interested in flags, as he was a great geographer himself. He and I spent much of my time there discussing the many flags and countries of the world. Eventually, he decided to buy the Ukraine flag. He said he chose that one because to do so would help the people of Ukraine.

May God bless all these donations and the work of Lutheran Disaster Response. I hope the donors feel blessed already.

[Note: LDR continues to accept donations for Ukraine. To donate, designate on any offering envelope "Lutheran Disaster Response - Ukraine."]

— Cathy Brechtelsbauer

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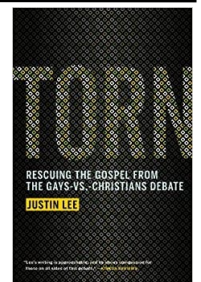
## Book Study to discuss *Torn*

*Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.-Christians Debate* by Justin Lee is the topic of a St. Mark's book study. Discussion is scheduled for Tuesday, July 26, at 7:00 p.m.

In his memoir, Justin Lee, a gay man and devout Christian, talks about his faith and sexuality. As a teenager and young man, Lee felt deeply torn. Nicknamed "God Boy" by his peers, he knew that he was called to a life in the evangelical Christian ministry. But Lee also knew that he was gay. Lee recalls the events—his coming out to his parents, his experiences with the "ex-gay" movement, and his in-depth study of the Bible—that led him, eventually, to self-acceptance.

Convinced that "in a culture that sees gays and Christians as enemies, gay Christians are in a unique position to bring peace," Lee demonstrates that people of faith on both sides of the debate can respect, learn from, and love one another.

*My choices, it seemed, were to be branded a sinner and live my life alone; to abandon my faith, the one thing I held most dear in the entire world; or to lie to everyone, pretend I was straight, and forget about it all.* — Justin Lee



# Updates and Announcements

## Service projects, raise-the-roof fundraiser, and a warm welcome!

Get ready for a big weekend September 10 and 11, St. Mark's members! We're going to celebrate three things all at once as we come together to mark the end of summer and the beginning of the fall calendar. They are:

**God's Work, Our Hands Weekend.** The ELCA designates this weekend as an opportunity to celebrate who we are—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. St. Mark's will do service projects and other events.

**Raise-the-Roof Fundraiser.** We're going to have a meal after the 5 p.m. service Saturday and 10:00 a.m. service Sunday. The meal will also serve as a raise-the-roof fundraiser for the Mission Committee's efforts to put a roof on a church in Cameroon. The Mission Committee held a Tin Roof Sundae event the first weekend in June and raised \$2,060. The committee was overwhelmed by your generosity. Thank you very much. We also received a donation of \$1,000 on June 21. With what we raised at the Tin Roof Sundae event, we now have \$5,060 toward our goal of raising \$8,000 by the end of the year.

**Welcome, Sawyer.** With the meal, we will welcome our new intern, Sawyer Vanden Heuvel. Sawyer comes to us from the South Dakota Synod office where he served as Director of Communications.

So mark your calendars for September 10 and 11. With God's work and our hands, we can do great things.

Thank you again.  
—Mission Committee

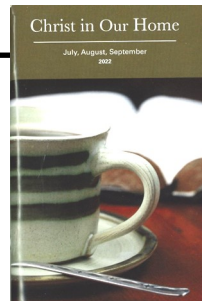
*... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 5:16



## July Baptism Anniversaries

Loren Bohlen	Tyone Kruse
Brianna Copley	Doug Larson
Emily Erickson	Daniel Luke
Rachel Gertner	Christopher McCallum
Cole Hager	Deb Neiderhiser
Anja Hallenbeck Ask	Becky Turner
David Hirsch	Bradley Van Egdome
Sky Kane	Mallory Wencil



## Christ in Our Home

Copies of *Christ in Our Home* for July, August, and September are available in the narthex.

## THANK YOU

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

### Transportation Ministry Sponsor

Deb Grady is the July sponsor.

### Mission Ministry Sponsors

July 3:	Rex and Margie Rolfing in honor of their 50th Anniversary
July 10:	Dar and Margaret Blume
July 17:	Marlon Mollett
July 24:	Deb Grady in honor of Chris Grady's birthday
July 31:	Marlon Mollett

# 2022 Synod Assembly Recap

The [2022 South Dakota Synod Assembly](#) was held on June 3-4, 2022 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD. It was good to be gathered as God's people in South Dakota for the first time in person since 2019. Pastors, deacons, lay members, and visitors gathered each day in worship to center ourselves on the necessary work of the church. Assembly participants were invited to *imagine* new ways of being church through a series of Imagination Labs. In addition to worship and learning, here are some of the highlights of the synod assembly:

- Rev. Keith Fry, executive for administration in the Office of the Secretary, delivered the ELCA report on behalf of our Presiding Bishop, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton. Together, the congregations in the South Dakota Synod made it possible for the synod to share \$812,120 with the churchwide organization to support our ministry together. Our deep faith and strong relationships across the ELCA provide the foundation for Mission Support sharing each year.
- Bishop Constanze Hagmaier shared highlights of the past year of synod ministry including the call of Pastor Alan Blankenfeld to serve as the synod's Rural Ministry Liaison and the formation of the Digital Ministry Task Force. These new initiatives will support congregations and ministry sites of the South Dakota Synod as we imagine new ways of being church together in order that the Gospel will continue to be proclaimed throughout the South Dakota Synod. The "Church Basement Ladies" from Split Rock Lutheran Church provided commentary and challenged us all to not be afraid of change.
- Peggy Hahn, Executive Director of LEAD (Living Everyday as Disciples), was the keynote speaker. Peggy challenged us to think of "church" as a verb: from *going to church* to *sent to be the church*.
- Throughout the assembly, Glocal Musicians provided music leadership. Glocal is a coalition of musician educators that create music influenced by global themes in communities worldwide.
- Actions approved by the Synod Assembly included:
  - Election of new South Dakota Synod Council Members and approval of synod committee members.
  - Approval of new compensation and guidelines for rostered and lay staff.
  - A memorial was adopted to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly to review the process for on leave from call roster status.
  - The 2023 Mission Plan for the South Dakota Synod was adopted.

Thank you to all who participated in the synod assembly this year. St. Mark's delegates were Dawn Hartigan, Cary Wencil, and Pastor Lori.



## July 10: Sioux Falls Singing Legionnaires

The Sioux Falls Singing Legionnaires will be part of our Sunday worship service on July 10. Their musical selections will include "Amazing Grace," "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," "It Is Well with My Soul," and "God Bless America."

The Chorus represents American Legion Post 15 of Sioux Falls. They perform regularly at churches, assisted living centers and civic events. St. Mark's member Bill Roberts is a member of the Legionnaires.



# Council Minutes

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council June 21, 2022

**Present:** Cathy Wencil, Karin Lindell, Luanne Alberty, Kent Alberty, Pastor Lori Hope, Dianne Schnabel, Sally Turner, Vicar Leif, Deb Carrier, Becky Luke

**Devotions:** Karin provided devotions. Sally Turner has devotions for the next meeting.

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

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

The endowment signature card is now up to date.

We have no COVID procedures changes.

Instead of a Corn Feed, we are doing a neighborhood pie and ice cream social on August 2, the National Night Out.

We discussed at length background checks for our volunteers. We have the synod guidelines. We want to update that form to remove waiting six months before a person can help. We will also reword the sexual predator section. We will send the entire document to council before approving.

**Treasurer's Report:** We reviewed the treasurer's report. MSC

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

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor shared greetings from Michael Kruse, a past youth director at St. Mark's. She officiated his wedding this past weekend.

**Vicar's Report:** Tennis camp went great. We had 16 kids and eight coaches.

### **New Business**

Kevin Olson resigned as treasurer and from counting. We need to replace him as treasurer but discussed redefining the position. Included in the discussion:

- Person would be on finance and council as ex officio.

- Two-year term appointed by council

- This person would review and initial all invoices

- The treasurer will have the ability to sign checks

We discussed paying off member loans. The initial goal was to have them all paid off by March 2023. We have over \$114k in loans. We do have a \$35k, non-member loan. We discussed paying that one off in March. We will revisit this in October.

Kerri Smith joined us to discuss St. Lucia. We have been doing this festival for about 45 years. We are going back to our old format and have it open to the public. The days this year are December 9 and 10. We need volunteers to help with costumes, food, and finances.

Pastor is thinking of ways for the congregation to reconnect. She's thought about Circle of Eight. These will be sessions of about eight people, not counting her and a person from council. We want to do this separate from stewardship, so these should start in August.

Vicar Leif's last Sunday is August 7.

Our committee question for next month: If St. Mark's received a \$100k unrestricted gift, what should we do with it?

### **Committee Reports**

**Youth:** We will be going to a Canaries game in the future. Pastor discovered she's not 21 anymore after playing sand volleyball with the kids.

**Mission:** Tin Roof Sundae was a big success with over \$2000 raised toward a Cameroon roof. LSS has brought in a Ukrainian family and a Congolese family. We will be participating in God's Work, Our Hands on September 11. We are thinking of serving a meal that day as well. Church will still be at 10:00 even though it's after Labor Day.

**Worship and Music:** We are reviewing a supplemental hymnal.

**Property:** We will not reseed until fall. The new cleaning lady is amazing.

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



# July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Vicar's Sabbath 1	Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m. 2
Worship, 10:00 a.m. 3	Pastor's Sabbath 4 	Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. 5	Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:30 p.m. 6	Book Study, 10:00 a.m. 7	Vicar's Sabbath 8	Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m. Pastor/Vicar out of office 9
Worship, 10:00 a.m. American Legion sings at worship service Pastor/Vicar out of office 10	Pastor's Sabbath Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. Pastor out of office 11	Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Pastor out of office 12	Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:30 p.m. Pastor out of office 13	Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Pastor out of office 14	Vicar's Sabbath Pastor out of office 15	Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m. 16
Worship, 10:00 a.m. 17	Pastor's Sabbath Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. 18	Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Exec Committee, 6:30 p.m. Council, 7:00 p.m. 19	20	Book Study, 10:00 a.m. 21	Vicar's Sabbath 22	Worship, 5:00 p.m. 23
Worship, 10:00 a.m. 24	Pastor's Sabbath 25	Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. 26	27	Book Study, 10:00 a.m. 28	Vicar's Sabbath 29	Worship, 5:00 p.m. 30
Worship, 10:00 a.m. Circle of Eight, 3:00 p.m. 31						

## Mowing Crew

Help keep St. Mark's lawn mowed and trimmed this summer. Sign up in the narthex or use [SignUpGenius](#). We have a riding mower, push mower, and a string trimmer. Contact Kent Alberty for details and instructions.



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

**The Servant** July 2022

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

- Leif Johnson, Vicar  
Monday - Thursday  
[leif@smluth.org](mailto:leif@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.*

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



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