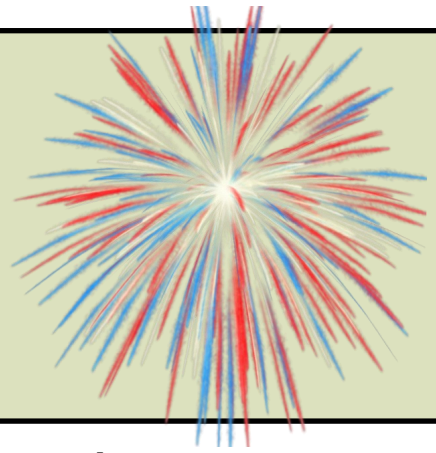


# The **SERVANT**

July 2023



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## Worship

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

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

## **St. Mark's will add an associate pastor**

Members of St. Mark's have voted to add a part-time associate pastor to the staff.

A congregational meeting was held June 24-25 to consider the following resolution:

Be it resolved that St. Mark's Lutheran Church create the position of part-time associate pastor at 20 to 25 hours per week beginning in October 2023 and authorize the forming of a call committee.

With 102 votes cast, there were 100 yes votes and two *no* votes.

Because the congregation has approved the resolution, the council president will inform the synod office and a call committee will be formed. The call committee will work with the synod to complete the next steps of the candidate process and when the process has been completed, the call committee will recommend a candidate to the council.

If the council approves a candidate, a congregational meeting will be scheduled. The congregation votes by ballot to call a candidate. Two-thirds majority is required.

St. Mark's hopes to complete the call process by October.



# Congregational Vote

# Vicar's Notes

***“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!  
All this is from God, who reconciled us to God’s self through Christ,  
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation...***

***So we are ambassadors for Christ,  
since God is making God’s appeal through us.”***

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, 20

Dear friends of St. Mark’s, grace and peace to you!

This month, we will welcome our synod Bishop, Rev. Constanze Hagmaier, as our preacher in worship on July 22 and 23. I am so thrilled to have her with us. One, because she is my former boss in the synod office, and two, because her time with us will represent the work that we do in the church together as the South Dakota Synod and in the wider ELCA. In the synod assembly report from Cary Wencil, you will see some of the things we are already doing together in ministry.

One of the gifts I see of Christ’s church is this appeal that God calls us into for reconciliation. The Apostle Paul writes about the “ministry of reconciliation” in his second letter to the church in Corinth where he describes us as being “ambassadors for Christ.” Since we are joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are joined together as the body of Christ for the sake of God’s mission in the world to be revealed. This isn’t a solo effort. It takes the entire body working together for there to be reconciliation amidst conflict or division.

One of the most powerful displays of reconciliation that I saw recently was at our synod assembly in June. Together as the South Dakota Synod, we returned what wasn’t rightfully ours in the first place. The building and land of Woyatan Lutheran Church in Rapid City, SD was gifted back to the indigenous community and leaders who have been stewards of this land for generations upon generations. It was deeply moving to watch our bishop represent the church by signing over the deeds and paperwork to our indigenous siblings. What may, on the outside, look like a symbolic gesture, was the beginning of something new. A new relationship could begin through the seeds planted by this first step of reconciliation.

So when we look out into the world and all we see is division, hatred, death, or decay, may we look towards the work we can do through the gift of the whole church. Together, when we work towards reconciliation with Christ as our foundation, we can be beacons of hope to a hungering world.

May the peace of Christ be with you,

***Vicar Sawyer***

# ELCA Synod Report

The 2023 ELCA Synod assembly was held at Our Savior's Lutheran church here in Sioux Falls on June 2 and 3. There were 385 pastors, synod staff, and lay people in attendance to hear about and discuss the state of the SD Synod. There were many excellent speakers who provided thought-provoking ideas and challenges.

The theme of the assembly was "Cultivate," as in to foster the growth of, in this case, the church. In 1988 when the ELCA was formed it had 5.2 million members, now there are only about 3.2 million. There was much discussion of how to cultivate new membership and at the same time address the challenges of keeping our STaR churches — Small-Town and Rural churches — vibrant and alive.

One of our keynote speakers was Reverend Jon Anderson. He asked what comes to mind when you hear cultivate? It's not just corn. We need to cultivate our faith. So when we face change we need to think clearly and pray and trust as God cultivates our lives and our church. Reverend Phil Hirsch, the executive director of Domestic Mission for the ELCA, said that a "Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church" has been formed to address the issue of fostering growth in the church. This commission will meet in July and report at the national synod meeting in 2025. Reverend Hirsch also reminded us, "Don't let the only time people know you are a person of faith be at your funeral." Share your faith when you can.

St. Mark's was in the spotlight at the Assembly! Associate to the Bishop Renee Splichal-Larson in her report highlighted St. Mark's and our young member Edith Alberty. She praised Edith for being an evangelist. Edith asks her friends to come to St. Mark's. Then, when the kids come, she invites the parents to come to St. Mark's. Last year St. Marks had 12 children registered for Sunday school. This year there were 35! And one of things that Edith does at the end of the service is hand out Smarties, tasty little candies.

Edith wasn't the only St. Mark's member in the spotlight. Pastor Lori and Vicar Sawyer were lauded for their work in making our church a hospitable place for the marginalized. And St. Mark's member Christy Hallenbeck Ask was front and center as Director of Mission Integration and Senior Pastor of the Good Samaritan Society, urging people to visit those in assisted living and nursing homes.

One of the sad consequences of the Covid pandemic is loss of social connections. A study shows that having no social contact for extended periods of time is like smoking 15 cigarettes a day. How important is the church as a social institution? Very important as it turns out. Just another reason to invite others to church and visit those still isolated.

Terry Johnson is Synod treasurer and I asked him what message he would like me to deliver to the people of St. Mark's. He said, "Tell them that the SD Synod is financially stable and remind them that almost 97% of the synod's operating budget comes from congregations like St. Mark's."

Bishop Constanze Hagmaier read Psalm 104, a beautiful hymn to our beautiful creation which says God is in control. She said that our lives are chaotic and dissonant. God's beautiful music is broken up by our sinfulness. She said that if we lose our sense of wonder at being God's people, then the devil has planted the seed of discontent in our church. Bishop Hagmaier said, "Promises are made in the water of your baptism, and they are renewed every time we partake of the Lord's Supper."

Finally, the Bishop asks us to cultivate where we are planted. So, as we cultivate ourselves and our church, just remember, by God's grace, together, we have everything we need.

Thank you. I was honored and proud to represent St. Mark's at the 2023 Assembly.

Cary Wencil

# Mark Your Calendars

## Pie and Ice Cream: a Neighborhood Party

Tuesday, August 1, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Every year on the first Tuesday in August, the United States and Canada celebrate National Night Out. National Night Out events are meant to bring neighbors together as well provide an opportunity for people to get to know police and fire fighters.

St. Mark's hosted a pie and ice cream neighborhood party last year and is planning to host a pie and ice cream party again this year on National Night Out, August 1.



### Menu:

- Pie
- Ice cream
- Lemonade
- Coffee

### Attractions:

- Live music, bouncy house
- Fire truck and community officers will be stopping by

### Volunteers wanted:

- Pie bakers
- Volunteers to help serve food, drinks, monitor bouncy equipment,
- Volunteers to set up and clean up on the night of the event

Look for sign up sheets in the narthex or use [SignUpGenius](#) to volunteer.

# History Highlights

St. Mark's will observe its 70th anniversary in September of 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 1957:

- **Groundbreaking for St. Mark's church building was held on December 15, 1957.**
- The Soviet Union launched Sputnik I, the first artificial Earth satellite, into orbit.
- Wham-O Company produced the first Frisbee flying disc.
- Teenager Ringo Starr (aka Richard Starkey) received his first drum set.



## Bishop Hagmaier to lead services at St. Mark's

Reverend Constanze Hagmaier, bishop of the South Dakota Synod ELCA, will lead the worship services at St. Mark's on Saturday, July 22, and Sunday, July 23. She was elected in June 2019 to succeed the Rev. David B. Zellmer. Bishop Hagmaier received a Master of Divinity degree from Ruprecht Karl's University in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1999, and affiliated with Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., after emigrating to the United States in 2000. She is serving a six-year term as bishop.



## Congratulations

Pastor Kari Sansgaard was recognized at the SD Synod Assembly for 25 years of ordained ministry.

## Thank you from St. Mark's quilters

In appreciation to everyone who has supported the quilters with donations of fabric or monetary support, we thank you so much. We are going to display different quilts in the narthex each week to highlight the results of your donations.

St. Mark's Quilters

## Equal Exchange chocolate bars, coffee, and tea



Equal Exchange chocolate bars are for sale in the office. Milk Chocolate, Chocolate with Coconut, Milk Caramel Crunch, and Dark Chocolate with Almond and Sea Salt are all \$3.00/bar. Our supplies of Fair Exchange teas and coffees have been refreshed also.

Coffees: Breakfast Blend; Mind, Body & Soul; Congo; and Decaf.

Teas: Green Tea, Earl Grey, English Breakfast, Rooibos, Hibiscus, Peppermint, and Tumeric Ginger.

## July Baptism Anniversaries

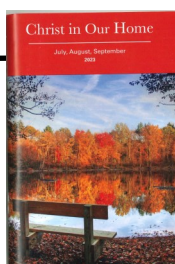
Lauren Bohlen  
 Brianna Copley  
 Emily Erickson  
 Cindy Flint  
 Rachel Gertner  
 Cole Hager  
 Anja Hallenbeck Ask  
 David Hirsch  
 Sky Kane



Tyone Kruse  
 Doug Larson  
 Daniel Luke  
 Christopher McCallum  
 Deb Neiderhiser  
 Carl Rasmussen  
 Thad Titze  
 Becky Turner

## Christ in Our Home

*Christ in Our Home* for July, August, and September is available in the narthex.



## THANK YOU

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

**Transportation Ministry Sponsor**  
 Deb Grady is the July sponsor.

### Mission Ministry Sponsors

July 2: Karen Zingmark  
 July 9: Karen Zingmark  
 July 16: Marlon Mollet  
 July 23: Deb Grady  
           in honor of Chris' birthday  
 July 30: Dave and Cathy Brechtelsbauer  
           in honor of their 53rd  
           wedding anniversary

# Council Minutes

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes 6/20/2023

Katie Harms, Pastor Lori, Kent Alberty, Vicar Sawyer, Darrell Herman, Luanne Alberty, Dianne Schnabel, Karin Lindell, Sally Turner, Barb Stanley, Deb Carrier, April Hokanson, Kyle Alberty, Becky Luke

**Devotions** – Sally shared devotions.

**Minutes** – MSC.

**Treasurer's report** – MSC.

President's report – Nothing new.

**Pastor's report** – Thank you for providing sabbatical without having to ask for it. She is very grateful!

**Vicar's report** – Graduation was great! The reception St. Mark's hosted was wonderful. His hand is healing nicely and he appreciates all of the prayers.

### Committee Reports

**Property** – The city sent a letter regarding the yard but it was mowed by the time the notice got to us. There is still some cleanup to be done.

**Congregational Well-being** – They plan to update the history wall with recent confirmation pictures soon.

**Mission** – They are getting more information on the roof we funded in Cameroon. Project CAR is in desperate need of drivers. You do not need your own car. You do not need to be able to work an entire shift.

**Youth** – They had a progressive meal downtown. They tried alligator bites and okra. They are going to Color Me Mine this month. Vicar Sawyer has something planned for July.

### Old Business

The Listening Sessions to discuss calling a part-time associate pastor were well received. Some of the questions included:

- What are the responsibilities?
- Can St. Mark's handle this financially?
- How do we offer a call?
- What is Shepherd's Table?
- How would St. Mark's and Shepherd's Table work together?

### New Business


We have a new office cell phone. The on-call pastor will carry it. The number is 605-215-2925. Barb S. has devotions for August.

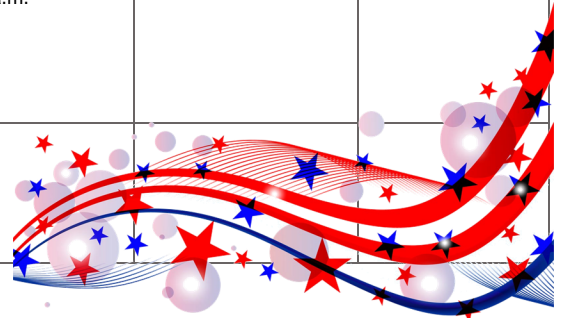
We closed with our prayer concerns and the Lord's Prayer.

MSC to adjourn.

Becky Luke  
Secretary

# July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Pastor Hope is on sabbatical during July.</b>						<b>1</b> Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>2</b> Worship, 10:00 a.m.	<b>3</b> Vicar's Sabbath	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b> Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m.	<b>6</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>9</b> Worship, 10:00 a.m.	<b>10</b> Vicar's Sabbath	<b>11</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	<b>12</b> Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m.	<b>13</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>16</b> Worship, 10:00 a.m.	<b>17</b> Vicar's Sabbath	<b>18</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Internship Committee, 6:00 p.m. Council, 7:00 p.m.	<b>19</b> Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m.	<b>20</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Worship with Bishop Hagmaier, 5:00 p.m.
<b>23</b> Worship with Bishop Hagmaier, 10:00 a.m.	<b>24</b> Vicar's Sabbath	<b>25</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	<b>26</b> Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m.	<b>27</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>30</b> Worship, 10:00 a.m.	<b>31</b> Vicar's Sabbath					



## Pastor Lori's sabbatical

Pastor Lori will be away from St. Mark's on sabbatical from June 26 through July 31, 2023.

St. Mark's congregation has a particular commitment to encourage and support our pastor in making sabbath a priority in her life. According to our synod's guidelines, congregations are encouraged to give their pastor a sabbatical every five years.

Vicar Sawyer and lay members of St. Mark's will be carrying out pastoral responsibilities in Pastor Lori's absence. While on sabbatical, Pastor Lori will not be available for work-related or social activities. She will not be responding to emails, texts or phone calls. Please give her time and space.

A sabbatical is a time of extended sabbath, a dedicated time for both pastor and congregation to review, refocus and recreate.

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

**†he Servant** July 2023

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

- Sawyer Vanden Heuvel, Vicar  
Tuesday- Friday  
[sawyer@smluth.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.*

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