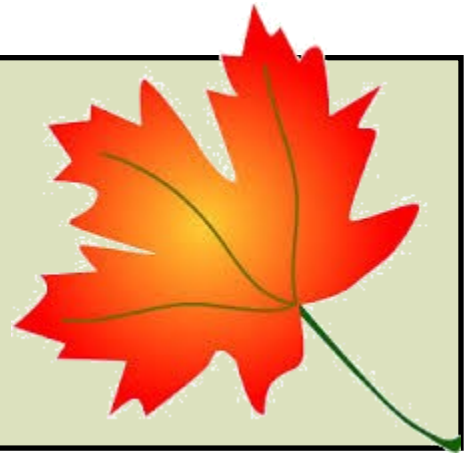


# The **SERVANT**

September 2023



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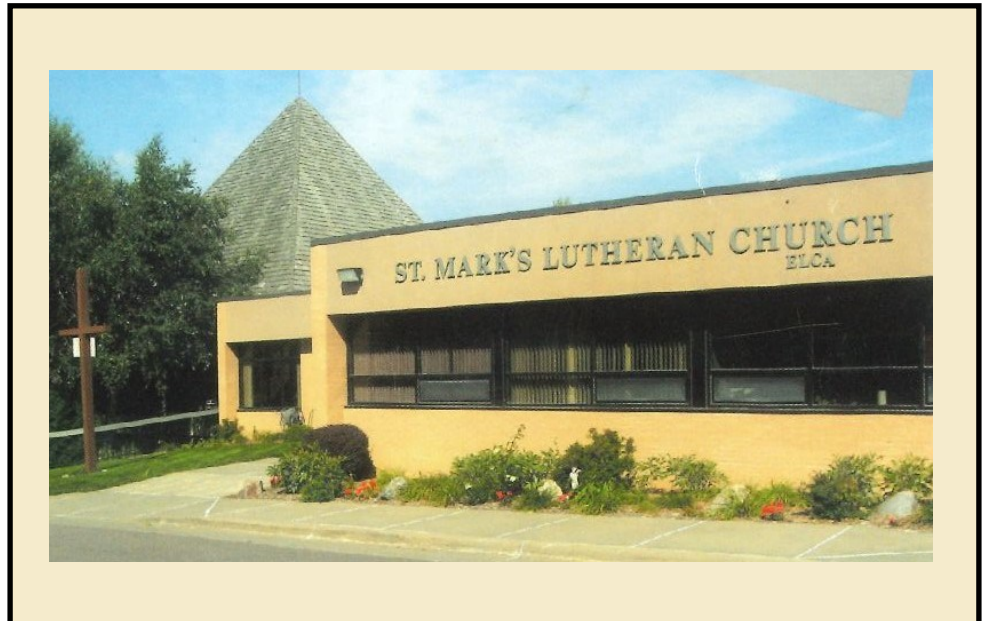
## Worship

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](http://www.smluth.org)



## **Plan to attend the Ministry Site Study Wednesday, September 6, 6:30 p.m.**

**All members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend** the Ministry Site Study on Wednesday, September 6, at St. Mark's. Hot and cold appetizers will be served at 6:00 p.m. prior to the start of the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

At the Ministry Site Study, Synod staff will explain the associate pastor call process, answer questions, and review the Ministry Site Profile which the call committee completed and the council approved.

## **Fall worship schedule starts Saturday, September 9**

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

# Pastor's Letter

*"There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens..."*

Ecclesiastes 3:1

There are some seasons of life and some situations that I would rather not have to experience. If I never had to get another vehicle, phone or computer, I would be content. Life does not allow for this kind of life or mindset. We have many moving parts and changes happening at St. Mark's right now.

It is wonderful to grow in membership, new opportunities to serve in our community, and so many new ways to be involved in our congregation. But it is also difficult when we don't know everyone, changes in staffing, and the natural grief and stress of growing pains. According to Darwin's *Origin of Species*, "It is not the most intellectual of the species that survives; it is not the strongest that survives; but the species that survives is the one that is able best to adapt and adjust to the changing environment in which it finds itself."

All of life is adjusting to changing environments and adapting to change. Nothing stays the same; but in order to adapt it still requires us naming our discomfort and pain and pining for the way things used to be when we were comfortable. It also means we help one another; we face the unknown together; and we grow into our new environment as the body of Christ who trusts in the power of the Holy Spirit. We will continue to practice hospitality, sing our praises, wrestle with questions, pray your will be done, and adapt to the changes in our lives.

Jean Vanier reminded us, "One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing."

May God bless us with courage, vision, hope and joy.

Peace,

Pastor Lori Hope



# Welcome, Vicar Melinda



Melinda Garza Moran has joined the staff of St. Mark's for a one-year internship. Melinda is a Master of Divinity (Justice and Reconciliation concentration) student at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, MN, and is a candidate for Word and Sacrament ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) with the Southern Ohio Synod. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in 2019 from Central Michigan University with a major in Leadership.

Melinda relocated from Southwest Ohio where she worked full-time as the Income Tax Administrator for the City of Monroe. She was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the city's municipal income tax collections. She also led a staff of five employees.

She served her home church Prince of Peace in a variety of roles: as a Council Member, on the Women's Ministry Steering Committee, Welcome Team leader, and on the Prayer Team. Melinda also had the honor and privilege to go on a mission to Haiti with her church and The Haitian Timoun Foundation (HTF) in the summer of 2018. It was during that mission trip that she witnessed the uniqueness of God's beautiful creation as she taught and worshipped with children and adults from different racial and ethnic backgrounds, with various abilities and beliefs. The language and cultural barriers did not restrict the power of the Holy Spirit that flowed through the people and experiences that summer.

Melinda's religious background is as diverse as her family structure. She grew up as a Catholic and then began attending a non-denominational (Pentecostal-based) church at the age of 18. Melinda raised her children in that congregation until she visited an ELCA church in 2012. The ELCA denomination brought together the best of both worlds — tradition and evangelism. The extra gift that the ELCA gave her was the message of Grace and Love through the work of Mission to the Body of Christ.

Grace, love, and mission are core values of the work that Melinda has done in her advocacy work with the LGBTQIA+ community and the church. Her passion is to educate and remove barriers between the two communities. As a parent of Queer children, she knows very well the hurt and pain that the church has done to the LGBTQIA+ community. Melinda deeply believes that we are all created in the beautiful image of God as our authentic selves. This is the truth that she seeks to share in ministry!

Melinda grew up in Michigan and moved to Ohio in 2017 after the birth of her first grandson. She is extremely blessed with two adult children Eli and Alyssa. Alyssa lives in Ohio with her husband AJ and their sons Abbott and Arelio. Eli lives in Michigan with his fiancé Andrew.

She is excited to learn and grow this year at St. Mark's Lutheran Church!

## Sign Up/Sign On for “God’s Work. Our Hands.”

On the weekend of September 9 and 10, St. Mark’s will have Sign Up/Sign On opportunities as we plan our GWOH service projects. Sign up options include:

- Help set up or serve at Food to You, Thursday, October 19
- Drive for Project Car
- Volunteer for Meals on Wheels as driver, runner or substitute
- Participate with St. Mark’s team of cyclists for “Cycle to Break the Cycle,” October 14
- Express interest in future mission travel (photos of roof in Cameroon on display)
- Help teach or assist at Sunday School
- Sign letters to Congress on nutrition programs and/or to the state asking for Summer EBT (child nutrition federal funds) in 2024

Other GWOH projects:

- Help tie a quilt (in St. Mark’s library)
- Participate in an outdoor service project at Bethany Home



## With joyful gratitude to Gretchen and Jonathan

St. Mark’s has been so blessed to have Gretchen Pederson with us as an organist, worship coordinator and friend extraordinaire for 27 years. She has been with us since her early 20’s! After prayerful consideration and balancing our congregation along with her home congregation for all these years, she has given us her resignation effective September 25. She will now be able to teach Sunday School and play for her own congregation every weekend. We are happy for her, but our hearts are heavy as we say goodbye.

We will celebrate our 27 years together and wish Gretchen the best after worship on Saturday, September 23, and in between services on Sunday, September 24.

We are grateful to let you know that the positions of worship coordinator/organist will be filled by Jonathan Neiderhiser. We are glad he is able to accept these roles and transfer his organist duties to St. Mark’s where he will be able to worship with his family consistently.

Please keep Gretchen and Jonathan in your prayers as they say goodbye to their current positions and move to new roles in their home congregations.

Thank you for your prayers for our whole congregation at this time of transition.

*thank you!* Pastor Lori

## 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 1971:

- **January 24, 1971: Rentha Person and Susan Joyce were the first girls to serve as acolytes.**
- Cigarette advertisements were banned on television.
- Starbucks was founded in Seattle.
- US 1st class postage cost 8 cents.



**Join us for Rally Sunday  
(first day of Sunday School)  
Sunday, September 10, 9:30 a.m.**

We encourage families of preschool (age three and potty trained) through middle school students to register their child(ren) for Sunday School. Register using the QR code provided. Paper copies are available in the church office.



**Choir rehearsal  
September 13, 7:00 p.m.**

St. Mark's choir season begins Wednesday, September 13, in the "choir loft" at 7:00 p.m. Come be a part of our St. Mark's choir family.

If you would like more information or have questions, contact our choir director, Shari Smith, 605-332-3129.



**National Night Out**



Members of local law enforcement agencies with Pastor Lori, Vicar Sawyer, and some of St. Mark's young guests at the Pie and Ice Cream Social.



Youngsters got a closeup look at a Sioux Falls fire truck ... until the truck was called away to an emergency.

*Thank You!*

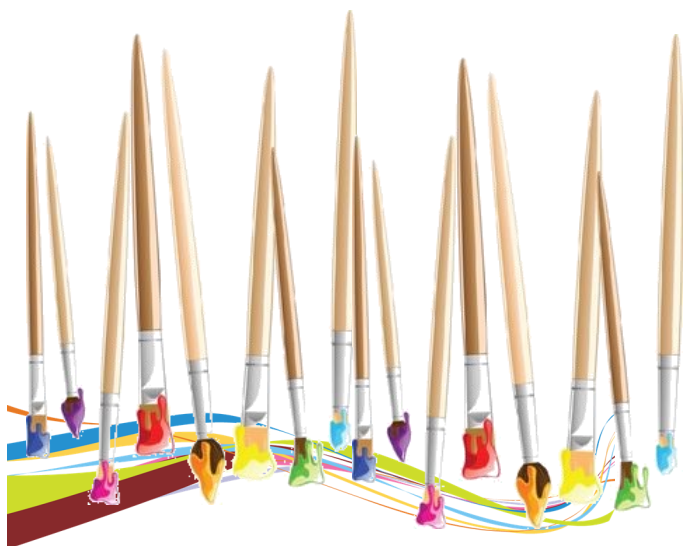
Thank you for the kind words, prayers and support as we journeyed with my dad and Katie's grandpa Harley through his last days and his funeral services. Thank you to the team who served lunch at the visitation and funeral. A special thanks to Pastor Lori for her prayers and presence. My dad so enjoyed coming to church when he was able to see friends and have fellowship. He was blessed to be a member of the church family at St. Mark's. We are grateful and blessed.

God's Peace  
Charis Poppens, Katie Taite and families

## Watercolor sessions start October 4

You were born with potential.  
You were born with goodness and trust.  
You were born with ideals and dreams.  
You were born with greatness.  
You were born with wings.  
You are not meant for crawling, so don't.  
You have wings.  
Use them and learn to fly.

—Rumi



"...art matters because people matter and people are made in God's image."

"Art is the voice of the human spirit."

"Art shapes the way we see the world and one another."

"Art helps us to see what is hidden and opens our eyes to new ways of seeing."

"To imagine is to be an artist. And when we imagine, we are reflecting the image of our Creator God."

—*Why Art Matters*, Alastair Gordon

St. Mark's watercolor (and more media) groups begin Wednesday, October 4, at 1:00 p.m. or Saturday, October 7, at 10:00 a.m. Here are a few things to know:

**Schedule:** Watercolor is offered at two different times: Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. You can switch sessions as your schedule requires. Watercolor is offered weekly, except for holidays, until February (date to be determined).

**Experience:** No experience necessary. We welcome returning creators and newcomers.

**Materials:** We provide newcomers with materials to get them started, including a pan set of Kuretake watercolors, basic watercolor brushes, a plastic mixing palette, and watercolor paper. Returning painters—If you need to replenish supplies, contact Ann McGovern. Bulk orders earn a discount.

**Activities:** We will nurture and expand creativity in several areas, including watercolor, acrylics, neurographics and hand-made books. An example of a hand-made book is shown here. It was made by a Rapid City artist, Camille Riner.



**Guides and Teachers:** Ann McGovern, Joan Haagenon, Sally Turner. One of the gifts of the earlier groups has been the help, sharing, guidance, support and affirmation provided to each other.

**Gallery:** We will host a "gallery showing" of your work some time in early February 2024.

**How to sign up:** Please contact Ann McGovern, 605-370-9072, with questions or concerns or to sign up. You can also sign up through the office. Let us know which session, Wednesdays or Saturdays, will work for you. We ask that you sign up at least one week before the first session to allow time for purchasing materials.

Very much looking forward to being with you again and/or the first time as you create unique, meaningful, beautiful works of ART.

*Ann McGovern*

## Help Wanted: Organize St. Mark's Food to You Event

St. Mark's is scheduled to host Food to You on Thursday, October 19, at Augustana Lutheran.

Food to You, also known as the mobile food pantry, is a food distribution ministry that happens at four different locations throughout the month. Its purpose is to get groceries to those who need them by distributing them in the neighborhoods where the need is greater.

The food distribution takes place from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. with doors opening at 5:00 p.m.

We need a coordinator for the event. If you would like to volunteer to organize St. Mark's turn at hosting, please contact Pastor Lori or Dana Yost.

**Harley Kuper** died on August 13. His funeral was held at St. Mark's on August 18. A long-time member of St. Mark's, Harley is remembered for his gentle personality and his love for cars. Throughout his life he owned a total of 41 vehicles. He loved to spend time with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. A full [obituary](#) is available on the Heritage Funeral Home website.

**Joyce Parry** died on August 15. Her funeral was held on August 26 at Bethany Meadows Chapel. Joyce was an advocate for people with disabilities. She served on several local and state boards to give them her perspective and to aid in making changes. She was instrumental in starting Para-transit in Sioux Falls. A full [obituary](#) is available on the Chapel Hill Funeral Home website.

## September Baptism Anniversaries

Kyle Alberty  
Leslie Cunningham  
Sarah Erickson  
Davina Fanciullo  
Melvin Holmbeck  
Angie Hummel  
Bruce Iverson  
Mason Johnson  
Eliaza Kane

Cathy Larson  
Lorin Phillips  
Dianne Schnabel  
Isaac Smith  
Mark Smith  
Maddie Titze  
Stephanie Wencil  
Jane Williams



## Thank you from LSS



Thank you so much to St. Mark's Church for their toolbox donations for our new refugees. We truly appreciate all that you do for LSS Center for New Americans!

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

—Aesop

### THANK YOU

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

**Transportation Ministry Sponsor**  
Marlon Mollet is the September sponsor.

**Mission Ministry Sponsors**  
September 3: Rich and Rhonda Kemmis  
In honor of all educators  
September 10: Kim and Jane Williams  
September 17: Karen Zingmark  
September 24: Cary and Cathy Wencil

# Council Minutes

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes 8/15/2023

Deb Carrier, Kent Alberty, David Golemboski, Barb Stanley, Pastor Lori, Vicar Sawyer, Luanne Alberty, Angie Smith, Karin Lindell, April Hokanson, Becky Luke

**Devotions** – Barb shared devotions.

**Call Committee** – Dawn Hartigan brought the Ministry Site Profile packet for help completing it. She will send an updated copy when it's done. We will have a couple of days to review and approve it.

**Minutes** –MSC.

**Treasurer's report** –MSC.

**President's report** – The Pie and Ice Cream night was a hit; around 200 people attended. There were many more families with kids this year than last year.

**Pastor's report** – The intern's house is ready. She'll be here August 18. Housing is from Bethany, so we will share Melinda's time with them, like we did with Vicar Lynn and Vicar Leif.

**Vicar's report** – Thank you all for a wonderful year. He couldn't think of a better place to learn and grow!

### Committee Reports

**Property** – They have two bids back on the roof. Both are to fix, not replace, the current roof. One is from the company that put the current roof on the fellowship hall.

Kut and Kill is going to seed again at their expense.

**Congregational Well-being** – They will be sending gifts to first year college students soon. They will also be putting frozen meals together on August 26 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

**Mission** – The RIC task force presented a draft of an inclusive St. Mark's wedding policy. MSC. An inclusive call policy was presented as well. MSC.

**Youth** – They were supposed to go to Wild Water West in July, but it rained, so they went to a movie instead.

**Christian Education** – They had a workday where five people worked eight hours getting ready for the year and they are still not done. They are working on a curriculum that is solid, organized, and effective. They will be handing out Bibles in September to all kids who may have missed them. They have a service project in October at Bethany singing to the residents. The semester calendar will be available at the beginning of the Sunday school year. The kids will be more visible in church.

WE NEED TEACHERS. We teach three classes: pre-school through kindergarten, first through fourth or fifth grade, and fifth grade through middle school. Fifth grade students will be given the choice of staying with the younger students or moving up with the middle school students. Teachers can sign up for one Sunday, which consists of 30 minutes of teaching. Everything you need to teach the class will be provided for you and you will never be alone in the classroom. There will always be another adult in the room with you.

### Old Business

No old business

### New Business

We have three offices and three paid staff. We are proposing to move Karin and Deb to cubicles in the library, on the west side. We will remove the shelves to give the quilters more room. The closets will be part of the cubicles. The quilting supplies will be moved to the main part of the library and the music supplies will be moved to the basement.

Gretchen Pederson has resigned to spend more time with her own congregation. Her last weekend is September 23 and 24. Jonathan Neiderhiser will be our new organist and worship coordinator. We will ask Worship and Music to plan a going away reception for both days.

The Site Study is September 6. We will provide lite appetizers at 6:00 and the study starts at 6:30 in the sanctuary. Our new intern, Melinda, gets here Friday, August 18. We will have a welcome reception after church on August 26 and 27.

Proposal that we change the sign in the entry to say, "Masks are welcome." MSC

We will post a sign up for treats between services once we go back to two services. We will make sure people understand that if they sign up to bring treats, they are responsible to clean up after those treats. They can share the responsibility if they want. Too many times, Pastor had to clean up and put supplies away. MSC

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

MSC to adjourn.

Becky Luke



# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>3</b> Worship, 10:00 a.m.	<b>4</b> Pastor's/Vicar's Sabbath 	<b>5</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Internship Comm., 6:00 p.m.	<b>6</b> Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m. Ministry Site Study, 6:30 p.m. (Appetizers served at 6:00 p.m.)	<b>7</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Worship, 5:00 p.m. Sign Up/Sign On for God's Work. Our Hands.
<b>10</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.  Sunday School/ Rally Sunday 9:30 a.m.  Sign Up/Sign On for God's Work. Our Hands.  Youth Group at Corn Maze, 2:00-5:00 p.m.	<b>11</b> Pastor's/Vicar's Sabbath	<b>12</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Mission Committee, 4:00 p.m.  Miriam Circle, 7:00 p.m. at home of Sandy Jerstad	<b>13</b> Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	<b>14</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m.  Ruth Circle, 1:00 p.m.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>17</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.  Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.	<b>18</b> Pastor's/Vicar's Sabbath	<b>19</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Council, 7:00 p.m.  Vicar out of Office <span style="float: right;">→</span>	<b>20</b> Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m. 11th Grade Confirmation, 7:00 p.m.	<b>21</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Worship, 5:00 p.m. Gretchen Pederson Thank You Gathering
<b>24</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.  Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  Gretchen Pederson Thank You Gathering  Pastor out of Office <span style="float: right;">→</span> Vicar out of Office <span style="float: right;">→</span>	<b>25</b> Pastor's/Vicar's Sabbath	<b>26</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m.	<b>27</b> Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	<b>28</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

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

**The Servant** September 2023

## Office Hours & Contact Information:

- Melinda Garza Moran, Vicar  
Tuesday- Friday  
[intern@smluth.org](mailto: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](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.*

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

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