



THE SERVANT

A monthly newsletter for St. Mark's Lutheran Church
 March 2019

MARCH CALENDAR

Events and Activities

- March 5:** Fat Tuesday Party 5:30pm
March 6: Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm
March 13, 20, 27: Lenten Worship 7pm

WORSHIP TIMES

- SAT 5:30 pm Worship
 SUN 8:15 am & 10:45 am Worship

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." -Deuteronomy 31:6

We are entering the season of Lent. Lent brings with it memories, traditions, rituals and hopes. We hope in these six weeks to be changed. We are not always sure about the change, but what we do know is feelings of discontentment, fear, uncertainty, shame and guilt. We would like those feelings to not haunt us any more. We want to believe the words of grace and absolution we hear every week. Lent is a time to focus on the sacred and remember the promises of transformation.

Victoria Erickson reminds us about the depth of what this journey will entail, "Transformation isn't sweet and bright. It is a dark and murky, painful pushing. An unraveling of the untruths you've carried in your body. A practice in facing your own created demons. A complete uprooting before becoming." Each year we take six weeks to step back from our normal routine and remember how Jesus came into a world of brokenness, pain, violence and grief bringing transformation and hope. This year we will "journey into the wilderness" together. When one enters the wilderness there is darkness and fear but we find our way, one step at a time. After the dark and murky, painful pushing we are thrilled with living into our one true identity, "Child of God."

Peace,

Pastor Lori L. Hope

Office Hours & Contact Info

- Elly Swartz, Office** stmarks@smluth.org
 Mon–Thurs. 8:30 am-2:30 pm
 Fri. 10:00 am-2:00 pm
Karin Lindell karin@smluth.org
 Tues. 9:00 am– 11:30 am
 Wed. 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
 Thurs. 9:00 am–11:30 am
Mary Johnson, Financial mary@smluth.org
 Thurs. 1:00-4:00 pm

Lent 2019

“Journey Through the Wilderness”

Ash Wednesday, March 6 at 7:00pm

Wednesday, March 13: “No Fear In Love”

5:30-6:30pm Supper (Swedish meatballs, *real* mashed potatoes & gravy, broccoli salad and “Glorious” strawberry shortcake for dessert)

7:00pm Worship

Service Project: *Jesus, “I was hungry and you gave me food.”*

Friday, March 8 9:30 am: Make “Thinking of You” freezer meals.

Committee: Mission

Donations: The freewill offering will be designated for Glory House's upcoming building project. Seed money is anticipated from a Thrivent Action Team.

Wednesday, March 20: “As We Pray”

5:30-6:30pm Supper (To Be Announced)

7:00pm Worship

Service Project: *Jesus, “I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.”*

Wednesday, March 20 5:30-6:30pm: Assemble “Gift Bags” for Bethany residents. “Ensure” will be purchased with a Thrivent Living Generously Grant.

Committee: Friends of Bethany

Donations: Bethany Foundation

Wednesday, March 27: “Be Still and Know”

5:30-6:30pm Supper (To Be Announced)

7:00pm Worship

Service Project: *Jesus, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”*

Wednesday, March 27 5:30-6:30pm: Card writing station for St. Mark's members who can no longer come to worship services and assemble hygiene bags for LSS New Americans Program.

Committee: Choir

Donations: (To Be Announced)

Wednesday, April 3: “Speaking the Truth in Love”

5:30-6:30pm Supper (Five Guys Soup Smorgasbord and dessert by the ladies)

7:00pm Worship

Service Project: *Jesus, “I was naked and you gave me clothing.”*

Tuesday, April 2 (please note day of this is on Tuesday): Laundry With Love with Church on the Street. We provide supper, coins for laundry and visit with members while they do their laundry. The Fat Tuesday free will offering and Thrivent Living Generously Grant will cover the expenses.

Committee: Mission

Donations: Bread For The World

Wednesday, April 10: “Healing Through Our Woundedness”

5:30-6:30pm Supper (To Be Announced)

7:00pm Worship

Service Project: *Jesus, “I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”*

Wednesday, April 10 5:30-6:30pm: Assemble “Welcome Bags” for families staying at Family Connection Hospitality House and LifeScape.

Committee: Congregational Life

Donations: (To Be Announced)

FAT TUESDAY PARTY!

Tuesday, March 5 from 5:30-7:30pm
Pancakes, sausage, ice cream with a host of
toppings
Please bring an ice cream topping to share!

LIVE JAZZ MUSIC

MAKING OUR OWN MASKS TO WEAR

FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!

*A free will offering will be taken to help with
hosting
Church on the Street Laundry with Love night on
April 2*



Eric Larson Retirement Prayer

The following prayer was offered at Eric Larson's retirement by Pastor Paula Stecker of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs. For those of you who know Eric please consider adding your voice in praying for him and others in military service.

INVOCATION- RETIREMENT CEREMONY, Lt. Colonel Eric C. Larson AFA ICE ARENA, DECEMBER 14, 2018

O God who hems us in before and behind, who searches us and knows our hearts, hear our prayer as we remember to you today, Lt. Col. Eric Larson and his family, as he steps into retirement from the Air Force.

Thank you, Lord, for allowing this man the strength and wisdom to serve our nation and its security so laudably for 22 years. You have protected him through missions where we could not assume safety. You allowed him to not only continue to learn and hone his skills but also to be a teacher to others, that this work, well done, will continue as he leaves this command.

We thank you for the blessings of good friends and comrades; superiors who encourage and challenge; opportunities to preserve national freedom; and spouses and children and family, on whose support we depend so heavily.

Now, Lord, you know that Eric is a strategic thinker. He doesn't enter into new ventures without a plan, and yet he is entering a season of many unknowns. There are variables outside of his control and ours. May your providence be apparent as he and Merri and Emily figure out the new rhythms of their life together. Protect this family as they navigate many changes. May memories from his years of service sustain him as he commits to wear with equal honor the title of military spouse.

We pray with thanksgiving for those who continue in this command, valiantly defending justice and peace. Bless them with all that they need to bear well the burdens of their duty.

Lord, bless all of us gathered today and preserve all that we hold dear.

In your holy name, Amen.

St. Mark's Global Encounters

Talk on Mission Trips - 2/9-10/19

"Woo-duh-muh"- "Hola" (oh-la) - Greetings in the language of G'Baya spoken in the village of N'gaoui, Cameroon and Spanish spoken in Nicaragua. My mission trip to Cameroon (2004) was to help finish building a village's church by putting on a roof, and Nicaragua (2013) was to continue building the relationship between SD Synod sister churches.

There were several commonalities between the two trips. The most prevalent being the open-hearted receptions we received. I don't know how many committee meetings it took in preparation for our arrivals, but we were treated with high regard in all respects. They literally opened their homes in which we were to stay; we were fed with meals that were obviously made with love and attention; they were so excited that we would come to help and/or *visit with them and they, in turn, being able to share with us many things that made up and were important to their lives,*

Three things immediately come to my mind regarding Cameroon. First, the memory of how the locals just wanted to be around you, to touch you, to watch you. Second, you have not lived until you have danced in a circle to the beat of a drum late into the night surrounded by people who were so inviting and warm, with the *only light being the brightness of a full moon. Third, I was stopped and delayed at almost every security point. And with this face!!! Can you believe it?*

Nicaragua, again the people were so enthusiastic that we would want to visit with them, and we got to see a lot of different aspects of their lives -- the farming and community gardens, the women's centers where females learn a trade or craft in order to help bring more money to the family income, how they are making improvements to their water wells so they have access to cleaner water, how they are improving sanitation conditions, and so much more.

Look around where you worship. You see strong mortar and brick, large glass window panes, obvious use of electricity, nice altar and pulpit, nice chairs, and carpeted flooring. Things that can be

mere trappings when compared to the humbling feeling you get worshipping at a service in a poorly constructed, dilapidated building with holes cut out for windows and doors, no electricity, dirt floors, maybe a rickety wood table with a homemade wooden cross standing on it; so many people attending that the few homemade wooden benches are quickly filled, people filling up space sitting on the dirt floor, and multiple faces peering in from the outside of every window and door because there's no more room inside.

The surroundings you find yourself in during a mission trip may not be what you are accustomed to, be it a thatch hut to the walls of your home being made from left over wooden pallets and a few strips of corrugated tin, and *living on little more than nothing. Yet the people we visited were fellow human beings. They care, they laugh, they cry, they work at raising their families all the while appreciating what they do have.*

The only mission trip you'll regret is the one you don't take.

"Oo-so-co" - Gracias - Thank you.
Darla J. Wilkens

We are excited that this May our **Liz Luke**, Black Hills State student and daughter of Dan and Becky, will join a synod trip to Cameroon, led by former missionary Charlie Bunk. Stay tuned for more on her plans.

One reason we are excited is that we discovered that there was only one space left for that group.

New opportunity: Now we have the opportunity to give **more interested travelers** a little more time to get together and choose a time that works for them. We are looking for 4 or 5 others to form an All-St. Mark's group for a 2-week trip between August and early 2020. We have been raising funds for Liz Luke and for this group to go. Please check the info on the bulletin board and express your interest to a Mission Committee member (Cathy Larson, Cathy B, James Coffman, Janine Scott, Penny Olson).

You never know what God has in store for you on a St. Mark's mission trip.

Save the Date!

Crossroads WELCA Spring Gathering

Where: St. Mark's Lutheran Church
2001 S. Elmwood Ave, Sioux Falls, SD

When: Saturday, April 27, 2019
9:00 am to 3:00pm - Registration begins at 8:15am

Price: \$10.00 - includes luncheon

Guest Speakers

Former Bishop

Andrea DeGroot Nesdahl

&

Diane Nesselhuf

****Please join us for Fellowship and Inspiration, even if your church does not have a formal WELCA unit.****





ST. MARK'S FAMILY CAMP

St. Mark's Families,

Thinking about summer plans? Why not join your St. Mark's friends for a week of FAMILY CAMP at Outlaw Ranch in the beautiful Black Hills?!?!

Kyle Alberty and Ann Rosendale are organizing a group from our congregation to attend family camp together the week of July 28-August 2. Each family is assigned their own cabin and counselor. Daily activities include worship, games, crafts, bible study, horseback riding, canoeing, hiking, resting, campfire, and eating delicious food! Families even have flexibility to venture out on their own for a day to sight-see in the area. There is something for ALL ages, and all family configurations are welcome. Cost varies depending on number of people per family. St. Mark's is providing generous scholarships of \$300 per family!

Online Registration is now OPEN! Spots will fill quickly. Contact ann.rosendale@augie.edu if you and your family are interested in attending, or if you have any questions.

Family Camp is truly the best family vacation. The cost for the week includes everything (meals, lodging, etc.) and you can pay a little bit each month to make the cost more manageable. Counselors provide childcare if parents need a night away. Connecting with other families makes the week a fun adventure. The setting is beautiful, and God is guaranteed to show up!

Register your family or get more information at:
<http://www.losd.org/family-camp>

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Minutes
February 19, 2019

Present: Kyle Alberty, James Coffman, Todd Goldammer, Dawn Hartigan, Lorie Laurila, Karin Lindell, Dan Luke, Chris McCallum, Terry Phillips, Pastor Lori

Dawn led opening devotions on stress and laughter.

Minutes: MSC to approve the January council minutes.

Old Business: A large number of worship surveys on possible change to the Sunday morning schedule have been turned in with many opinions expressed. A small task force will be formed to review the results and conduct further exploration.

Treasurer's Report: Chris presented the January report. There was a brief discussion on the best timeline for benevolence payments. MSC to accept the Treasurer's Report.

President's Report: Dawn thanked everyone for their presence at this first meeting of the new council.

New Business:

Lent/Easter offering; MSC that the first \$1,000 be given to St. Mark's membership in the Refugee Resettlement Coalition with the remainder going to the Banquet West.

Check signing: MSC that Dawn Hartigan, Lorie Laurila, Karin Lindell, Pat Seiner, and Mary Johnson be authorized as St. Mark's check signers. Past president Leslie Cunningham will be removed.

The Lenten supper sign-up sheet was passed around. Supper info and guidelines will be sent to the appropriate groups.

Committee Reports:

Mission: Noted the upcoming SD Synod Cameroon mission trip with Liz Luke going from St. Mark's. Becky Luke and Darla Wilkens' recent Global Encounter moments were very good.

Congregational Life: Have many ideas. Watch bulletins.

Property: Looking at the cleaning schedule, duties, and cost.

Chris. Ed.: Will not be meeting regularly as a committee. Katie Hartigan will attend council periodically to report.

Youth: The group has been busy and is melding well.

Pastor's Report:

This year's Lenten series will be centered on both reflection and service.

An internship exploration committee is being formed.

Three new members will be joining St. Mark's soon.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 20 at 7:45 pm following Lenten worship, as several members would have been unable to attend on Tuesday the 19th.

Karin Lindell,
Secretary

MARCH 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					3pm - Mission	5:30pm - Worship
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:15am - Worship w/ Com. 9:30am - SS & Forum 10:45am - Worship w/ Com.	Pastor's Sabbath 6:30pm - AIAnon 6:30pm - Chair Yoga 7pm - Property	9am - Quilters 9:30am - Office Staff 5:30pm - Fat Tuesday Party 6:30pm - Hatha Yoga	10am - Bible Study 6pm - Choir 7pm - Ash Wednesday Worship	10am - Book Study 1pm - Ruth Circle	9:30am - Freezer Meals	5:30pm - Worship
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:15am - Worship 9:30am - SS & Forum 10:45am - Worship	Pastor's Sabbath 6:30pm - AIAnon 6:30pm - Chair Yoga	9am - Quilters 9:30am - Office Staff 6:30pm - Hatha Yoga 7pm - Finance 7pm - Executive 7pm - Miriam Circle	10am - Bible Study 5:30pm - 6 th -8 th grade meet w/ a mentor 5:30pm - Lenten Supper 6pm - Choir 7pm - Lenten Worship	10am - Book Study		5:30pm - Worship
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:15am - Worship w/ Com. 9:30am - SS & Adult Forum 10:45am - Worship w/ Com.	Pastor's Sabbath 6:30pm - AIAnon 6:30pm - Chair Yoga	9am - Quilters 9:30am - Office Staff 6:30pm - Hatha Yoga	10am - Bible Study 5:30pm - 6 th -8 th grade meet w/ a mentor 5:30pm - Lenten Supper 6pm - Choir 7pm - Lenten Worship 8pm - Council	10am - Book Study		5:30pm - Worship
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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