

The SERVANT

April 2023



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Worship

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:30 a.m.
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

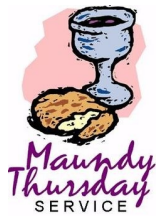
**Masks are recommended
but not required**

**Pastor
Lori L. Hope**



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

Holy Week at St. Mark's



Maundy Thursday Service

St. Mark's Maundy Thursday Dinner Church will be on Thursday, April 6, at 5:45 p.m.

Good Friday Services

St. Mark's Good Friday services will be on Friday, April 7, at noon and 7:00 p.m. The choir will be singing the hymn "On the Via Dolorosa" at the 7:00 p.m. service. *Via Dolorosa* means "sorrowful road," the route believed to have been taken by Jesus through Jerusalem to Calvary.



Easter Services

On Easter Sunday, April 9, St. Mark's will have services at 7:00 and 10:00 a.m. The choir will sing at both services: "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!" and "Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah!" There will not be a Saturday service on Easter weekend.

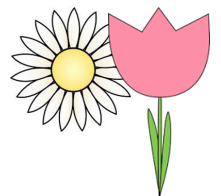
Easter Brunch

St. Mark's members and guests are invited to brunch on Easter morning between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Sign up in the narthex to help with preparation, serving, and/or clean up. You can also sign up to bring an egg bake or muffins.

Our Easter brunch freewill offering will be directed to help purchase cakes for the honoring ceremony of all of Sioux Falls public school Native American students completing 8th grade and 12th grade. The ceremony will take place in the middle of May at the Washington Pavilion.

Easter Flowers

Mums and tulips will decorate our sanctuary for the Easter services. A bulletin insert will share the names of those honored and remembered.



Pastor's Letter

Dear St. Mark's Family,

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.

Genesis 8:22

This month as we wait for the snow to melt and temperature to warm, we will gather to celebrate Easter. We know all about the cold of winter, endless snow, death, loss and fear. This verse from Genesis is at the end of the Noah story; after all the loss and devastation.

Walter Brueggemann relates this verse to the whole story of God,

*Every time, that the resolve of God:
opens what is closed down,
hope against hopelessness,
overrides despair in resolve, and
makes all things new!*



We are Easter people who call a thing what it is! We name the pain, trauma, loss, hopelessness, anger, fear and injustice. We name it and then we are reminded that God or messengers of God show up to say, "Do not be afraid" or "Fear not." We are reminded that winter does not last forever even when it feels like it might. Even on the longest night, dawn eventually breaks. When it seems that death, fear and brutality will win; life, hope and peace break through.

Now, now as the flowers pop up from the ground and the buds burst forth on the trees, we put our hands in the dirt to plant the seed and we see that there is really grass under all that snow and the grass turns green. We live into the reality of life after what looked and felt like only death.

Rachel Carson writes, "Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature...the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

Happy Easter and Happy Spring,
Pastor Lori Hope

Vicar's Notes

You are here to be light

"You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine!"

Matthew 5:14-16 The Message

Dear family of St. Mark's,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of the One who brings light into the world:

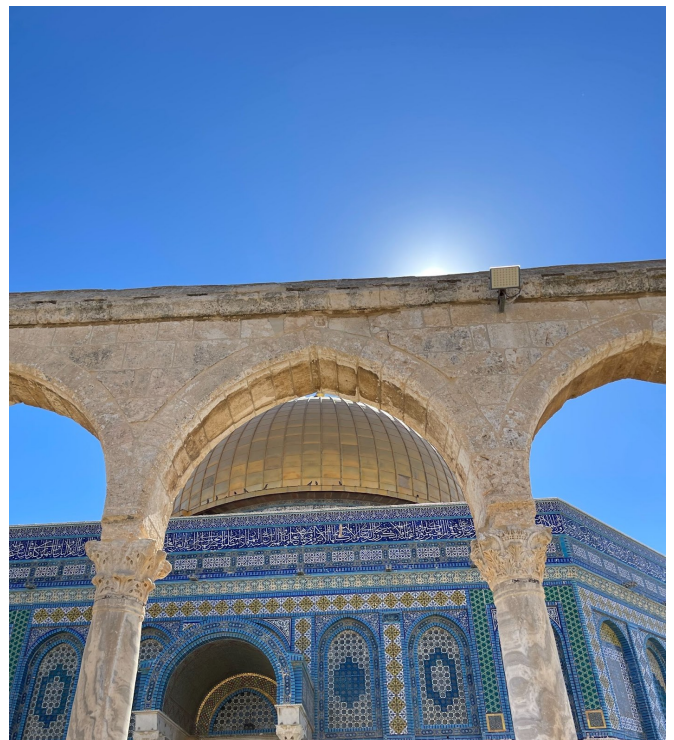
As I am writing this letter to you, we are only a few days away from Holy Week where we will be culminating our Lenten journey through three magnificent days and finally celebrating on Easter morning.

I have been thinking a lot about what it means to be a witness of the Risen Christ in the world. I think Eugene Peterson sums it up well in *The Message* interpretation of the Bible: "You are here **to be light, bringing out God-colors in the world.**" Isn't that a beautiful way to think of being a witness to God's love for us in the world? But, what I think is so important, is that this love we receive and know so well from God is not meant to be hidden from the world. As people of faith, "we're going public" with the Good News that Jesus Christ, who was crucified and died, has been raised from the dead. Death no longer wins the day. What once was holding you back, has now been rolled away like the stone on the tomb. Christ is alive!

You, dear friend, are **created to be set free** from the ways the world tries to put you in a corner! Show your colors. God has put you on a light stand. Let your true light shine in the world.

Peace to you,
Vicar Sawyer

**Photo: Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem
Taken by Vicar Sawyer during his trip
to the Holy Land**



Twelve refugees from Sudan arrived at the Sioux Falls airport on March 8. They were reunited with family members already living in Sioux Falls. The new arrivals ranged in age from a grandmother to a one-year-old. Many did not have winter clothing, but the LSS staff quickly supplied them with coats and stocking hats. Many of the items were donated by members of St. Mark's.



Welcome!

Beautiful Things Storytelling Project

Every life is beautiful. Share some stories from your beautiful life. Each week participants respond to a different question about life experiences. Sharing and discussion is similar to last year's Circle of Eight sessions.

Questions cover such topics as early childhood memories, favorite travels, and people who have inspired you. If you cannot attend all the sessions, please come anyway. Newcomers are always welcome.

Please let the office know if you have any questions.

Thursday, 7:00 p.m.: March 9 to May 25

Friday, 1:00 p.m.: March 10 to May 26

A field trip to Pierre

Students from the LSS Center for New Americans visited the state capitol on March 2. St Mark's member Sen. Reynold Nesiba met with the students during their visit. About 35 students along with LSS staff members and volunteers made the trip.



St. Mark's Mission Statement

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





Come celebrate with us

We are celebrating the 15th anniversary of Pastor Lori Hope and St. Mark's entering into shared ministry together. Join us after the Saturday service on April 15 or between services on Sunday, April 16, for cake, refreshments, and joyful celebration.

We will also celebrate with a card shower. Bring cards to the celebration or drop them off in the office.

Pastor Lori preached her first sermon as our pastor on the weekend of April 12 and 13, 2008.

Festival of Song

St. Mark's is excited to host an All Creation Sings Festival of Song on **Sunday, April 23 at 4:00 p.m.** Deacon John Weit, who serves as the Executive for Worship of the ELCA, will be with us leading the festival and teaching us music from this new resource that we incorporated earlier this year.

All are invited! Let us join our voices together and sing to the Lord a new song!



St. Mark's Lenten and Easter Offerings

Offerings at the Wednesday Lenten services and at St. Mark's Easter services will be divided between Refugee Resettlement and Lutheran Disaster Response. Here is a summary of the work of each organization:

Refugee Resettlement

The LSS refugee resettlement program is helping about 600 new Americans adapt to their new home—English as a second language, cultural assimilation, citizenship—along with finding housing and arranging for other basic living needs. At one time, a coalition of several churches supported the program, but presently St. Mark's is the primary supporting organization. We have donated such items as furniture, kitchen supplies, household goods, and clothing. Our Lenten/Easter financial donation will make a positive difference for this important program.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response is the ELCA's ministry to provide short and long-term recovery when disasters strike in the United States and around the world. Lutheran Disaster Response stays in a community after a disaster to provide both immediate relief and assistance with long-term recovery. *Close to home:* Beaver Valley Lutheran Church, in Brandon, South Dakota, was hit by a tornado on May 30. The tornado damaged their building, with the most damage in the church offices and education areas. With a grant from Lutheran Disaster Response, through the South Dakota Synod, the Beaver Valley congregation bought new computers and office equipment, relocated their preschool and created four produce stands to supply their community with fresh fruits and vegetables.



Outreach project at Red Shirt Table is scheduled for May 5-7



The Native American Outreach task force will travel to the Pine Ridge reservation May 5 through May 7 to participate in a work day. We will be installing the flooring for a new community Coffeehouse at Red Shirt Table.

Here are the details:

- **May 5:** Travel day. We will be based at Outlaw Ranch for the weekend.
- **May 6:** Work day at Red Shirt Table. Install flooring.
- **May 7:** Worship service at Woyatan Lutheran Church in Rapid City. Return to Sioux Falls.
- **Donations:** We are also asking for your help to raise money to pay for the flooring and other necessary materials. Thrivent action team grants will help us to meet our \$1,000 goal. If you wish to contribute, you can donate by check to St Mark's and put "Pine Ridge Project" on the memo line.
- **Volunteers:** We are looking for a few more people who want to join us for this service project. If you are interested please contact Doug or Shirley Larson, Kent or Luanne Alberty, or Kari Sansgaard.

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

St. Mark's Flag Sales



One of the ways we raise funds for our mission trips is flag sales. (Remember this when you need flags.)

On June 10, we will need a good crew to help with this because we will be selling flags at both the Festival of Cultures and the Pride parade on that date.

If you are comfortable walking around, please consider the Pride parade. It's quite easy and fun. You walk through the crowd offering the rainbow flags for sale, and they sell quickly.

If you would prefer a volunteer spot that doesn't involve walking, please consider helping at our booth at Festival of Cultures. At that event you get to meet people from around the world and others who travel or like to talk about their roots.

Thanks for considering.

Contact: Cathy Brechtelsbauer

The 2023 Offering of Letters: Nourishing and Sustaining Food Systems

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." -John 10:10

This is an important year for letters to Congress, because it is the once-every-5-year update of the farm bill. Not only does its \$15-billion taxpayer budget control the direction of agriculture in our country, it also includes critical nutrition programs. Thus, we are writing now to ask for policies that promote sustainable agricultural practices and that let hungry people be fed.

To promote nourishing and sustaining food systems, the upcoming Farm Bill should:

- Support and expand local food systems. Farmers need infrastructure to be able to sell their products locally and regionally.
- Shift power to local farmers and communities, not corporations, especially to support regenerative land practices and protection of water sources.
- Promote, incentivize and support sustainable agricultural practices that ensure farmers' ability to prevent and adapt to climate change.
- Increase equitable and just land transition for minority and beginning farmers. Farmers aged 65+ outnumber farmers 35 or younger by 6 to 1.
- Invest in rural development and livelihood. Include priorities of Native Americans on nutrition programs, rural development and agriculture.
- Reduce barriers to nourishing foods for households. 13% of Americans are food-insecure.

This year Bread for the World-SD and the sustainable ag group Dakota Rural Action are making the Offering of Letters (OL) a joint effort. There will be informational handouts and a SD-specific letter writing flyer using the overlapping platform points of the two groups. A good deal of info is already available at www.bread.org/OL including discussion on healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

We will have a forum at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 16, with nutritionist Megan Eisenvos, a staffer with Dakota Rural Action. Current and former participants in SNAP or farm conservation programs are welcome to share their experience. Take-home letter packets will be available April 15-23. We will dedicate the letters, as we do other offerings, on April 29-30.

We must have a pattern of development that takes care of the needs of the present generation while preserving the rights of future generations.

Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, former prime minister of Norway,
speaking March 14, 2023, on a Sustainable Future for All
Augustana University Boe Forum on Public Affairs

April Baptism Anniversaries

Judd Alberty
Lauren Alberty
Luanne Alberty
Alysha Baus
Maelia Darling
Carol Dorman
Mary Gayer
Piper Gross
Bridger Hope
Rhonda Kemmis
Lorie Laurila



Jan Nelson
Donna Olson
Kevin Olson
Ashley Pete
Kim Phillips
Judie Roberts
Andrew Schnabel
Isaac Schweitzer
Jamie Smith
Ruth Young
Karen Zingmark

THANK YOU

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

Transportation Ministry Sponsor

Dan and Katie Harms are the April sponsors.

Mission Ministry Sponsors

April 2: Marlon Mollet
April 9: Dale and Dianne Schnabel
In memory of Jerri Hansen
April 16: Marlon Mollet
April 23: Rich and Rhonda Kemmis
In honor of 45th Anniversary
April 30: Jack and Mary Mortenson

Council Minutes

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting March 28, 2023

Present: Karin Lindell, Barb Stanley, Dianne Schnabel, Sally Turner, David Golemboski, Darrell Herman, Luanne Alberty, Pastor Lori Hope, Katie Harms, Kyle Alberty, Mark Smith, Angie Smith, Sawyer Vanden Heuvel, Kent Alberty, April Hokanson, Becky Luke

Pastor Lori led opening devotions.

Minutes - MSC to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

Treasurer's report – We paid off the \$35k member loan so our savings has dropped down to \$80k, but that was the largest of the member loans. MSC to approve the treasurer's report.

President's Report – April 15 and 16 – We will have a low key celebration and card shower to celebrate 15 years in ministry with Pastor Lori.

Committee reports

- Sunday School – 35 actively participating kids every Sunday. We will probably need some help with Sunday school teachers in the future.
- Worship and Music – It was wonderful to hear the choir at the 8:30 service.
- Property – More leaks in the roof so will be getting bids soon. We will talk capital campaign after we get bids.
- Congregational Well Being – Bethany Home staff thanks everyone for the pizza and flowers. They loved the sign. Congregational Well Being is considering getting a big Easter basket to take over for staff. We may also make May Day baskets (Dixie cups).
The committee would like to start up freezer meals in the fall. Until then, they will invite the congregation to donate a meal to the freezer if they make a large meal and have leftovers. Labels must list ingredients.
August 1 will be the National Night Out pie and ice cream social.
- Finance – no report
- Youth – Just having fun. Nine people went to the Stampede last weekend and had a great time.
- Mission – Nothing more than what was in the report.

New business

Our guest was Pastor Renee Splichal Larson, member of St. Mark's and assistant to the bishop. She and Sawyer are presenting the idea of a new mission, Shepherd's Table – a ministry reaching out to the Sioux Falls area LGBTQIA2S+ community – and the many different opportunities available to St. Mark's by participating in this exciting new mission.

Next month's meeting is on April 25. Angie Smith has devotions for April.

MSC to adjourn.

Becky Luke
Secretary

April 2023

<p>Bible Study on the Book of Acts starts Wednesday, April 26, at 11:00 a.m. Please contact the office if you would be interested in having us schedule an evening Bible Study.</p>							<p>1 Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.</p>
<p>2 Palm Sunday Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>3 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath</p>	<p>4 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Internship Committee, 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>5 Bible Study, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>6 Maundy Thursday Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Worship./Supper 5:45 p.m.</p>	<p>7 Good Friday Worship, Noon & 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>8 Watercolor, 10:00 a.m.</p>	
<p>9 Easter Sunday Worship, 7:00 & 10:00 a.m. Easter Brunch, 8:00 -10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>10 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath</p>	<p>11 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>12 Watercolor, 1:00 p.m... Choir, 7:00 p.m. Youth Group, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>13 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle, 1:00 p.m. Storytelling, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>14 Storytelling, 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>15 Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m. Celebrating 15 years of shared ministry with Pastor Lori</p>	
<p>16 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum, 9:30 a.m. Celebrating 15 years of shared ministry with Pastor Lori</p>	<p>17 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath</p>	<p>18 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>19 Watercolor, 1:00 p.m... Choir, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>20 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Storytelling, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>21 Storytelling, 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>22 Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.</p>	
<p>Pastor/Vicar out of office</p>							
<p>23 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Festival of Song, 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>24 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath</p>	<p>25 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Exec Committee, 6:30 p.m. Council, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>26 Bible Study/Book of Acts, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m... Choir, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>27 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Storytelling, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>28 Storytelling, 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>29 Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.</p>	
<p>30 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Youth Group, 12:00—3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime. Martin Luther</p>						



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

The Servant April 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.