

# The SERVANT

June 2023

June

## Contents

Pastor's Letter.....	2
Vicar's Notes.....	3
Welcome Intern Moran ...	4
Pastor Lori's Sabbatical..	4
Ecumenical Pride	
Worship Service.....	4
Honoring Ceremony .....	5
St. Marks Graduates.....	5
History Highlights .....	5
West River Outreach .....	6
Serving The Banquet.....	6
St. Dysmas Worship.....	7
Laundry with Love .....	7
Addition to Library .....	7
Council Minutes .....	8
Calendar .....	9
Contact Information .....	10

## 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)

## Congratulations, Pastor Leif and Vicar Sawyer



**Leif Johnson**, former vicar at St. Mark's, was ordained on May 24 in Minneapolis. Pastor Johnson will be installed as pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Howard, South Dakota, on Sunday, June 4.



**Sawyer Vanden Heuvel**, current vicar at St. Mark's, graduated on May 21 with a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

Congratulations

# Pastor's Letter

## We were created in community

*Love each other with genuine affection,  
and take delight in honoring each other.*

-Romans 12:10

As we begin the month of June with our worship focus on the Trinity, I can't help but think of the wonderful reality that we were created in community ("Let us make humankind in our likeness.") and for community. In community our personalities are shaped and formed. In healthy communities we can be our authentic selves.

When we live away from one another in fear or selfishness, the results are devastating. The report "Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community" explains the ramifications: Extensive scientific findings from a variety of disciplines, including epidemiology, neuroscience, medicine, psychology, and sociology, converge on the same conclusion: social connection is a significant predictor of longevity and better physical, cognitive, and mental health, while social isolation and loneliness are significant predictors of premature death and poor health. In fact, the benefits of social connection extend beyond health-related outcomes. They influence an individual's educational attainment, workplace satisfaction, economic prosperity, and overall feelings of well-being and life fulfillment.

In 1981 Kurt Vonnegut wrote in his autobiography *Palm Sunday*, "What should young people do with their lives today? Many things, obviously. But the most daring thing is to create stable communities in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured."

In community we tell our stories, share our art, sing our songs, gather around tables and show up for the good, the bad, and the difficult. Andy Grammer, in his song "The Good Parts," speaks about the true depth of community:

Show me where it hurts and give me something real  
And lead me to the part of you that never really heals  
And say the words that burn when they leave your mouth  
Tell me your story, but don't leave the good parts out

As we gather this summer for reunions, anniversaries, weddings, baptisms and vacations may we be reminded of the blessing of creation and community. "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love, the unity of heart and mind is like to that above."

Peace,

**Pastor Lori Hope**



# Vicar's Notes

Dear friends at St. Mark's!

Thank you so much for celebrating and congratulating me on my graduation from Luther Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. Graduation weekend was filled with moments of joy, gratitude, and celebration. I cannot tell you how thrilled I was to receive your cards and kind notes. Thank you to the internship committee for hosting the pie and ice cream party. It was wonderful!

Here are a few photos from graduation weekend.

Peace,  
Vicar Sawyer



(Clockwise from  
upper left)

Sawyer receives  
his hood

Sawyer and advisor,  
Dr. Mary Hess

Laying on of hands

Sawyer and spouse  
Mark Leemkuil

## St. Mark's welcomes intern Melinda Moran



Melinda Garza Moran will join St. Mark's as an intern this fall. She is currently studying at Luther Seminary for a Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in Justice and Reconciliation. Melinda is seeking ordination in the ELCA for Word and Sacrament.

She has served her home church in a variety of roles: as a Council Member, on the Women's Ministry steering committee and as Welcome Team leader. She currently serves on the prayer team.

She is an advocate and volunteer with the LGBTQ+ community. She currently serves on the Core Team for LOVEboldly as a panelist and featured speaker. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Leadership from Central Michigan University.

Melinda is excited to begin her internship with St. Mark's. She looks forward to learning from Pastor Lori and building authentic relationships with the Body of Christ inside and outside of the church walls.

---

## Pastor Lori's sabbatical: June 26 to July 31

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.

Non-urgent needs can wait for Pastor Lori's return. If your need is urgent, please call the church office. Remember: A sabbatical is a time of extended sabbath, a dedicated time for both pastor and congregation to review, refocus and recreate.

In his book *Sabbath* Wayne Muller says, "more than the absence of work; [sabbath and sabbatical are] the presence of something that arises when we consecrate a period of time to listen to what is most deeply beautiful, nourishing, or true. It is time consecrated with our attention, our mindfulness, honoring those quiet forces of grace or spirit that sustain and heal us."

---

## Ecumenical Pride Worship service

Happy PRIDE! The month of June is a time to celebrate the fullness of the LGBTQIA+ community. The South Dakota Synod's Open Door Team is hosting an Ecumenical Pride Worship service on Wednesday, June 14th at 6:30 PM at Icon Events in Sioux Falls. All members of the queer community, friends, family, and allies are welcome to attend this service.



Preacher: Rev. Shaneequa Brokenleg (The Episcopal Church)  
Presiding Minister: Rev. Alex Smith (Peace Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls)  
Assisting Ministers from the ELCA, UCC, UMC, and the Episcopal Church

Icon Events is located at 402 N Main in Sioux Falls.



## Honoring ceremony for Native American students

On May 22 the Sioux Falls School District held an honoring ceremony for its Native American students who are graduating from 8th grade and from High School. St. Mark's donated funds to help with the purchase of star quilts for the high school graduates. To enjoy an album of photos taken by school district staff at the honoring ceremony, click [here](#).



## St. Mark's graduates

### Amy Douglas

Amy graduated from the University of Sioux Falls with a Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Higher Ed Administration.

### Lennon Keller

Lennon graduated from Northern State University with a B.S.Ed. in 7-12 History Education and minors in Political Science and Public History. He graduated *magna cum laude* and is seeking a teaching position with the Sioux Falls School District.

### Lucas Erickson

Lucas graduated from Washington High School. He will take a gap year to work and then attend college.

### Isaac Smith

Isaac graduated from Lincoln High School. He will attend Nebraska Wesleyan in Lincoln, Nebraska, pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in musical theater.

### Truman Spawn

Truman graduated from Lincoln High School. He will be attending Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona, with a major in Exercise Science.

## History Highlights

St. Mark's will observe its 70th anniversary in September of 2024. During the next 16 months, we will share some of the church's history highlights along with notes on what was happening on the national level. In 1954:

- **St. Mark's held its first worship service on September 12, 1954, at Bethany Home. St. Mark's first pastor was Dallas Young, who had been ordained in June of 1954 and arrived in Sioux Falls that August to begin his ministry as mission developer.**
- The first mass inoculation against polio with the Salk vaccine took place at an elementary school in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- RCA manufactured its first color TV set. It had a 12½" screen and cost \$1,000 (about \$11,000 in today's dollars.)
- A movie ticket was 70 cents.



## West River Outreach

St. Mark's Native American Outreach task force traveled to the Pine Ridge Reservation in May to help install flooring for a new community coffeehouse at Red Shirt Table. Volunteers included Pastor Lori, Darla Wilkens, Kent and Luanne Alberty, Doug and Shirley Larson, Dan Luke, and Scott Kortemeyer. Some were able to attend Sunday worship service at Woyatan Lutheran Church in Rapid City.



The flooring crew



Woyatan Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD

---

## Serving The Banquet

St. Mark's served The Banquet on May 17. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help prepare and serve the meal.



Thank you to everyone who donated to or was involved with Sunday School this year! It was a fantastic year of exploring Bible lessons, music, crafts, activities, toys, reading new books, planting flowers, and eating snacks!  
— April Hokanson

## St. Mark's Mission Statement

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



## St. Mark's to attend St. Dysmas Worship Service

Jesus said, " ... I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25:36 NRSVUE)

St. Mark's will be attending the St. Dysmas Worship Service on Thursday, July 20. The group will meet at 6:45 p.m. at the South Dakota State Penitentiary for the 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. service.

When people worship with the men of St. Dysmas, a congregation of the ELCA, they are fulfilling Christ's command. Visitors find that they are personally blessed with a hospitable welcome and a vibrant worship experience that transforms the lives of **all** involved.

Those who plan to attend the service need to complete the required paperwork, available in the church work room, and return it to St. Mark's office before June 21.



St. Dysmas  
hope beyond bars

## Volunteer for Laundry with Love

St. Mark's is hosting Laundry with Love on Tuesday, June 13, at The Laundromat Company, 701 N. Cliff Ave. Ways you can help: ✓Bring quarters to St. Mark's by Sunday, June 11 ✓Provide cookies or bars for dessert ✓Provide a relish tray for the meal ✓Pick up donated bread from Bread Smith on Tuesday, June 13 ✓Help serve the meal and with laundry on June 13 during one of three shifts — 3:00-5:00, 5:00-7:00, 7:00-8:00 ✓Please sign up in the narthex or call the office.

## New addition to St. Mark's library

St. Mark's office manager, Linda Hallstrom, has recently published a book of poetry. *Hello, Old Age* is a first-hand account of aging — from the way it sneaks up on a person, to its bothersome side effects and, finally, its benefits and blessings. With a light touch and subtle humor, she explores such age-related issues as thinning hair, downsizing, and being ignored. She also takes a look at the upside of aging: wisdom, friends, laughter, and books. The collection has been added to St. Mark's library and is also available on Amazon.

**Bill Roberts** died on May 20. His funeral was held at St. Mark's on May 26. A long-time member, he was a lover of music who sang in St. Mark's choir and the Legion Chorus: The Singing Legionnaires. Survivors include his wife Judie; children Beth Roberts, Jennifer Roberts (Paul Rittenger), David Roberts, and Sara Roberts. A full obituary is available on the Miller Funeral Home [website](#).

### THANK YOU

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

**Transportation Ministry Sponsor**  
Karen Zingmark is the June sponsor.

### **Mission Ministry Sponsors**

June 4: Dale and Dianne Schnabel  
in memory of Judy Moreland  
June 11: Rich Lauer  
in memory of Shirley Lauer  
Dale and Dianne Schnabel  
in memory of Ruben Schnabel  
June 18: Marlon Mollet  
June 25: Marlon Mollet

## June Baptism Anniversaries

Addison Baus	Liz Larson
Marsha Block	Elizabeth Luke
Darwin Blume	Penny Olson
Erika Douglas	Terry Phillips
David Golemboski	Sara Roberts
Greta Hallenbeck Ask	Rex Roling
Simon Hope	Aiden Smith
Lisa Johnson	Alanna Smith
Marcia Johnson	Natalie Sorenson
Ronald Johnson	Jon Splichal Larson
Richard Kemmis	Jackson Turner-Kostrzewa



# Council Minutes

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes 5/16/2023

David Golemboski, Mark Smith, Katie Harms, Pastor Lori, Kent Alberty, Darrell Herman, Luanne Alberty, Dianne Schnabel, Karin Lindell, Sally Turner, Barb Stanley, Becky Luke

**Devotions** – David shared devotions.

**Minutes** –MSC.

**Treasurer's report** – Extra giving is definitely helping. The Lenten/Easter offering was up over last year. MSC.

**President's report** – Our Synod Rep will be Dawn Hartigan in place of Sally Turner this year.

**Pastor's report** – Thank you again for the 15 year celebration! As a reminder, Vicar Sawyer graduates this weekend. We will send out the link to the ceremony.

**Vicar's report** – He was in Minneapolis.

### Committee Reports

**Property** – One hundred pounds of grass seed was donated to seed the spots in the lawn that aren't growing. We are waiting on more bids on the roof. One company thinks they can repair, rather than replace, the roof.

**Congregational Well-being** – Thank you for the Bethany basket support. Freezer meals will start up again soon. We plan to send a care package to our graduated seniors late in the summer to send them off to college with a bang.

**Mission** – We are serving the Banquet on May 17. We have enough servers.

**Worship and Music** – We plan to take down Easter decorations on May 25.

**Old Business** – We discussed calling Sawyer as a part-time associate pastor and providing an office for him to start up Shepherd's Table. We will send a letter of explanation to the congregation in the next couple days. We will have four informational "listening" meetings to discuss this proposal with the congregation. The council was presented a draft of the letter to send to the congregation and reworked some of it. Council approved the re-written version.

**New Business** – While Pastor Lori is on a much-deserved sabbatical, Vicar Sawyer will fill in as pulpit supply four of the five weeks. We felt paying Sawyer \$125/weekend, which is approximately half of normal pulpit supply, would be appropriate. MSC

Barb S. has devotions for June.

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

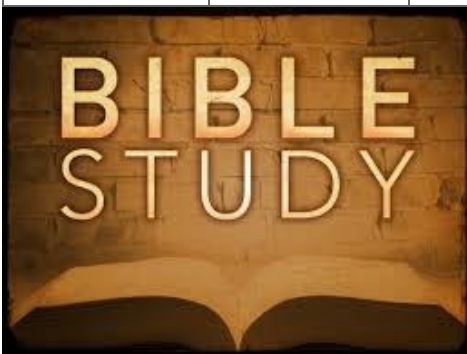
MSC to adjourn.

Becky Luke  
Secretary



# June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	2 Informational Meeting/ Listening Session, 3:00 p.m.	3 Worship, 5:00 p.m.
4 Worship, 10:00 a.m.	5 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	6 Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Internship Committee, 6:00 p.m. Endowment Committee, 7:00 p.m.	7 Bible Study/Book of Acts, 11:00 a.m.	8 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle, 1:00 p.m.. Bible Study/Book of Acts, 7:00 p.m.	9	10 Worship, 5:00 p.m.
11 Worship, 10:00 a.m.	12 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	13 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Laundry with Love	14 Bible Study/Book of Acts, 11:00 a.m.	15 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Bible Study/Book of Acts, 7:00 p.m.	16	17 Worship, 5:00 p.m.
18 Worship, 10:00 a.m.	19 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	20 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Council, 7:00 p.m.	21 Bible Study/Book of Acts, 11:00 a.m.	22 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Bible Study/Book of Acts, 7:00 p.m.	23	24 Worship, 5:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
25 Worship, 10:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting, 11:00 a.m.	26 Vicar's Sabbath  Pastor's Sabbatical	27 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	28 Bible Study/Book of Acts, 11:00 a.m.	29 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Bible Study/Book of Acts, 7:00 p.m.	30	



## Evening Bible Study

St. Mark's has added a second Bible study session to the calendar. In addition to the Wednesday morning sessions, Bible Study will also meet at the church on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. The Book of Acts is the discussion topic during June.

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

**The Servant** June 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 9:00 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 Lutheran Church  
2001 S Elmwood Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
605-332-4092  
[www.smluth.org](http://www.smluth.org)



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