

The SERVANT

August 2022



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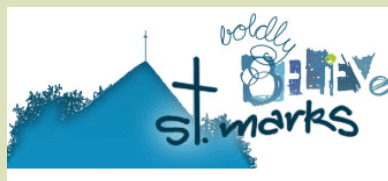
Worship

Saturday
5:00 p.m.

Sunday
10:00 a.m.

**Masks are recommended
but not required**

**Pastor
Lori L. Hope**



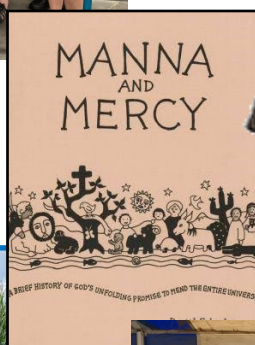
St Mark's Lutheran Church
2001 S Elmwood Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-332-4092
www.smluth.org

Thank you, Vicar Leif



Thank you for serving our church and our community during the past year.

Thank you for leading Bible studies and theological discussions.



Thank you for leading our young people on adventures.



Thank you for planning and conducting our first ever Fruit of the Spirit Tennis Camp.

Vicar Leif,

Thank you for all that you have added to St. Mark's with your spirit, dedication, and energy. We wish you well and we will miss you.

Your Friends
at St. Mark's

Pastor's Letter

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

Romans 15:13

Dr. Seuss wrote, "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." We are so grateful for Vicar Leif's ministry, learning and growing among us. He has shared our joys and sorrows. Now we've come to a fork in the road and he will continue on his journey as he becomes a pastor and accepts a call. It is hard to say goodbye and yet we are so proud to have shared this part of his education and development as a pastor.

The ELCA will be blessed to have Vicar Leif as a pastor serving others, teaching and preaching. The word goodbye originally meant "God be with ye!" As we say goodbye we trust that God will indeed be with us. May God bless Vicar Leif Johnson!

Pastor Lori Hope

Circle of Eight ... Going Great

Thank you so much for your enthusiastic response to Circle of Eight gatherings. We have four gatherings scheduled during August and all are filled!

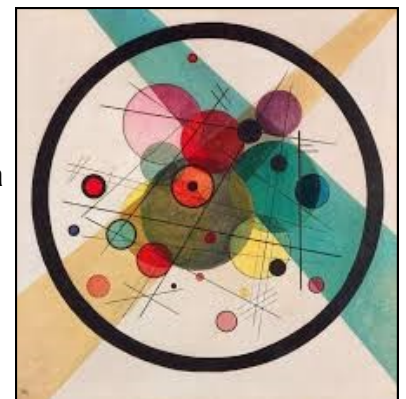
Our September 13 7:00 p.m. session has one opening left and the September 14 10:00 a.m. session has eight openings. You can sign up at church or on [SignUpGenius](#).

Since March 2020 we have all been through a lot personally and as a congregation. We have spent more time apart than together. We have buried loved ones. We have celebrated milestones. We have received new members on three different occasions.

During Circle of Eight, we will gather to share our losses and pain. We also want to hear your ideas about vision and hope for our future as a congregation. Pastor Lori and a council member will be present at each session as we get reacquainted or meet one another for the first time.

I am looking forward to our times together.

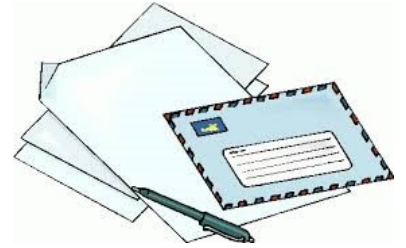
Pastor Lori Hope



Vicar's Notes

The Prison of Loneliness

My mother is a letter writer. She wrote letters to me when I attended the Green Lake Bible Camp in elementary and middle school. Even though my family lived only three miles away from camp, it seemed like a million miles away. It felt like I was a prisoner of homesickness and loneliness. Receiving her letters was exciting!



Mom's hand writing is very distinctive. Capital letters are big and bold, and each letter fits neatly between the lines. Each letter included information about my two older sisters, father, and herself. She described my sisters' work and music activities, and she described what company came to our house for a visit. Those letters took away my loneliness and homesickness for a while. Those letters made me feel part of something bigger than myself. Those letters helped me realize there is a power greater than myself.

Paul was a letter writer. He wrote letters to his fledgling churches. Even though he was many miles away from his "brothers" and "sisters," he helped them feel connected to him. Paul wrote some of his letters from jail. His time in a prison cell, time spent homesick and lonely, shaped his identity.

In his letter to Philemon, a slave owner, he opened the letter, "Paul, prisoner of Christ Jesus." Paul wrote to Philemon upon encountering his slave, Onesimus, in jail. "I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment" (Philippians 10). Paul, in a fatherly way, implored Philemon to free Onesimus from slavery. Marcus Borg wrote, "Philemon cannot keep Onesimus as a Christian slave by claiming that—inside, spiritually, in our souls—we are all equal before God and Christ. The equality of liberation must be both physical and social as well as spiritual and theological."

My mother's letter to me in Bible camp and Paul's letters from prison help us understand that there is a power greater than ourselves. Being a "prisoner of Jesus Christ" helps shape our identity and helps lift us above the prison of our daily living.

Vicar Leif

*Thank
you*

August 6 and 7 will be Vicar Leif's last weekend with us.

**We plan to spend time together
after the Saturday and Sunday services
in fellowship and grateful acknowledgement
of his time with us.**

Mark Your Calendars

Intergenerational Sunday School Open House

We invite **all ages** to join us on Sunday, August 28, at 11:00 a.m. (after worship) for a Sunday School Open House.

We will meet in the sanctuary for a Sunday School sing-along (featuring your favorite classic Sunday School songs). Then join us downstairs as Pastor Lori shares a special blessing for the newly updated Sunday School spaces.

This is a time to celebrate the start of a new Sunday School year and share our thankfulness for the volunteers and donations that made these updates possible.

Refreshments will be served.



—April Hokanson



Sunday School Registration

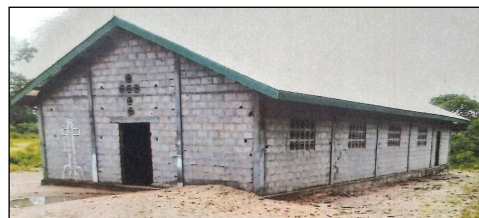
We encourage families of preschool (age three and potty trained) through middle school students to register their child(ren) for Sunday School. Register using the QR code provided. Paper copies are available in the office.

Sunday School will begin the regular schedule on Sunday, September 18, at 9:30 a.m.

Service projects, raise-the-roof fundraiser, and a warm welcome!

Get ready for a big weekend September 10 and 11, St. Mark's members! We're going to celebrate three things all at once as we come together to mark the end of summer and the beginning of the fall calendar. They are:

Raise-the-Roof Fundraiser. The Mission Committee is coordinating a meal after the 5:00 p.m. service Saturday and 10:00 a.m. service Sunday. The meal will serve as a raise-the-roof fundraiser for St. Mark's efforts to put a roof on a church in Cameroon. St. Mark's held a Tin Roof Sundae event the first weekend in June and raised \$2,060. The Mission Committee was overwhelmed by St. Mark's generosity. Thank you very much. The fund also received a donation of \$1,000 on June 21. We now have \$5,060 toward the goal of raising \$8,000 by the end of the year.



Thanks to congregations like St. Mark's, a roof was recently added to the church in Djom, Northern Cameroon.

Welcome, Sawyer. During these meals, St. Mark's will also welcome our new intern, Sawyer Vanden Heuvel. Sawyer comes to us from the South Dakota Synod office where he served as Director of Communications.

God's Work, Our Hands Weekend. The ELCA designates this weekend as an opportunity to celebrate who we are—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. St. Mark's will do service projects and other events.

So mark your calendars for September 10 and 11. With God's work and our hands, we can do great things.

Thank you again.

—Mission Committee



Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.

Martin Luther

Choir Rehearsals Begin September 7

Good News!

The St. Mark's Choir is back! Covid has been really hard on our choir family, but we are regrouping and ready to go.

Wednesday night rehearsals will start Wednesday, September 7, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Our first Sunday morning singing is TBA.

So ... now we need your help. All you new members who love to sing and all of you "old" members who have been waiting to join ... *now is the time!*

Any questions? Talk to choir members or call Shari Smith at 605-332-3129.

—Shari Smith

Thank you, St. Mark's

Dear St. Mark's Lutheran Congregation,

Amazed. Inspired. Grateful. That's how your generosity makes me feel!

On behalf of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sioux Empire and the 1,200 youth we serve, I want to thank you for your gift of 15 quilts.

Clay Hoffman
Director of Development



Pastor Lori and Church Friends,



Thank you for the quilt. It was very thoughtful and will keep Harley warm this winter!

Harley Kuper
Charis Poppens

Thank you so much Sunday School Family!

I so enjoy the beautiful quilt made by Sunday School members. It is beautiful. I have placed it on the back of my antique rocking chair (my grandfather's). I see it every day. I so enjoyed my work with the Sunday School activities and I miss not being around the children. It was a pleasure working on Vacation Bible School and other projects. Bless you for thinking of me here at Dow Rummel Village. Have a lovely summer.

Candace Cameron

Dear Friends at St. Mark's,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$175 to The Community Outreach. Your donations over the years truly make a difference in the lives of families in the Sioux Falls area. We appreciate your partnership in serving our community.

Thank you,
The Community Outreach

Updates and Announcements

Check Out St. Mark's Swap Shop

Wouldn't it be wonderful to access a 'classified ad' source where we could buy and sell unneeded items to our trusted friends at St. Mark's? Well, now we can. It's called the 'St. Mark's Swap Shop' and it is found on Facebook.



Examples of ads to post:

- *For sale:* Furniture, appliances, lawn equipment, vehicles, bicycles, books, kitchen items, sports equipment, and most other miscellaneous.
- *ISO (In Search Of):* Snow removal/lawn service, first car for teen, camper, art canvas, pet sitter, fresh rhubarb, tree trimming service, and most other miscellaneous.

Ads not allowed: Rummage sales, dating, medical services, babysitting/nanny, or anything political in nature.

How do you get in the group? Go to Facebook and search for St. Mark's Swap Shop and click 'Join.' You will get a notification when the administrator accepts you. Once you are a member you can invite other St. Mark's members. Let's please keep the group to our church members only.

Happy shopping!

—Rhonda Kemmis

Moving and donating items loaned for Vicar Leif

Volunteers are needed on August 11 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. to move items out of Vicar Leif's house. If you loaned furnishings for his stay here and would like them back, please let Pastor Lori know as soon as you can.

Otherwise, these items will be donated to new refugees through Lutheran Social Services. Thank you!

August Baptism Anniversaries

Brody Baus	Dave Hokanson
Cathy Brechtelsbauer	Liz Navratil
Dave Brechtelsbauer	Johanna Neiderhiser
Wayne Cunningham	Christine Olson
Dennis Dumdei	Joyce Parry
Kerry Ford	Jana Sievers
Todd Goldammer	Cathy Wencil
JJ Hartigan	Beth Wienhold
Marlene Hartzell	Ellie Wienhold
Arnold Hinseth	

Coming in September Poetry for Beginners

St. Mark's will be offering a four-week class for people ages 60+ who want to try their hand at poetry. Class size is limited to eight participants. Watch for more information coming in September.

THANK YOU

to those who are sponsoring Soliette, our missionary in Nicaragua, and our Transportation Ministry sponsors for the month of August.

Transportation Ministry Sponsor

Becky Luke is the August sponsor.

Mission Ministry Sponsors

August 7: Dick and Ann Sansgaard

August 14: Lorie Laurila

in memory of Doris Hoberg

August 21: Rich and Rhonda Kemmis

August 28: Lisa and Ron Johnson

in memory of Ray Bockelman

Council Minutes

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council

July 19, 2022

Present: Cathy Wencil, Karin Lindell, Luanne Alberty, Kent Alberty, Pastor Lori Hope, Dianne Schnabel, Sally Turner, Vicar Leif, Katie Harms, April Hokanson, Sandy Jerstad, Becky Luke

Devotions: Sally provided devotions – a prayer for our enemies. Becky has devotions for the next meeting.

Caring Conversations: Prayers of praise that Arnie Hinseth was able to go home. Prayers of concern that he is in his home alone. Also prayers of concern about the low income and people without a home in Sioux Falls as prices of essential items continue to rise. Prayers of healing for Dan Harms as he prepares for bladder cancer surgery.

Minutes: We reviewed the minutes from the previous council meeting. MSC.

Old Business: We discussed the following old business.

We have no COVID procedures changes.

The Pie and Ice Cream social planning is going well. We just need more volunteers.

We reviewed the updated background check policy and made several changes. Pastor will get these changes made and route the document to council members as soon as she can.

Treasurer's Report: We reviewed the treasurer's report. MSC

President's Report: Nothing really new.

Pastor's Report: We will be cleaning the house Vicar Leif stayed in August 11 and 12. We will not use this house for our next vicar as he already has a house in Sioux Falls.

Vicar's Report: Bible studies are going strong and he is winding down his duties.

New Business

Our question for this month:

If St. Mark's received a \$100k unrestricted gift, what should we do with it?

From Exec –

- Building, vicar, mission split equally.
- Add a chair position for a special project.

From Mission – renovate part of downstairs as a place of refuge.

From Chris Ed – renovate restrooms upstairs.

We do not have a question for August.

Committee Reports

Chris Ed: We are working on a new curriculum and registration. We did major cleaning downstairs. We have new bulletin boards, new furniture. Motion to give \$5000 from the Gabrielson Family memorial gift to help cover renovations and upgrades for downstairs. MSC.

Property: We purchased a new vacuum and did lots of work downstairs. The damaged tree by the garage will cost about \$2600 to remove.

Congregational Well Being: We've got the St. Mark's Swap Shop on Facebook set up and ready to introduce to the congregation. This will be limited to only St. Mark's members. You can post items for sale or that you are looking for, along with activities. Motion to continue forward with this, MSC. More details will be available in this weekend's bulletin.

We closed the meeting with prayer petitions and the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Becky Luke



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING

Naomi Project's 5th Anniversary

Five years of advancing workers' and immigrants' rights



*FRIDAY AUGUST 26TH 7PM
FALLS PARK OPEN AIR SHELTER
(E Falls Park Drive and N 2nd Ave)*

TICKETS \$10 (includes dinner)

*For more info:
director@projectofnaomi.org*

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pastor's Sabbath Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. 	2 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Pie and Ice Cream Social 5:30-7:30 p.m.	3 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	4 Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	5 Vicar's Sabbath	6 Worship, 5:00 p.m. Vicar Leif Thank You Gathering
7 Worship, 10:00 a.m. Vicar Leif Thank You Gathering	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Worship & Music, 10:30 a.m.	10 Circle of Eight, 7:00 p.m.	11 Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	12 Circle of Eight, 10:00 a.m.	13 Worship, 5:00 p.m.
14 Worship, 10:00 a.m.	15 Pastor's Sabbath	16 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Exec Committee, 6:30 p.m. Council, 7:00 p.m.	17 Pastor Out of Office	18 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Pastor Out of Office	19	20 Worship, 5:00 p.m.
21 Worship, 10:00 a.m. Blessing of the Backpacks Circle of Eight, 4:00 p.m. 	22 Pastor's Sabbath	23 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	24	25 Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	26	27 Worship, 5:00 p.m.
28 Worship, 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Open House 11:00 a.m.	29 Pastor's Sabbath	30 Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Circle of Eight, 7:00 p.m.	31			

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

The Servant August 2022

Office Hours & Contact Information:

- Leif Johnson, Vicar
Monday - Thursday (through August 10)
leif@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.*

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



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