

# The SERVANT

October 2022



## Contents

Pastor's Letter .....	2
Vicar's Notes .....	3
Off to a Busy Start .....	4
Mark Your Calendars .....	5
St. Lucia Festival .....	6
Updates/Announcements .....	6
Thank you, St. Mark's .....	7
Council Minutes .....	8
Calendar .....	9
Contact Information .....	10

## Worship

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**



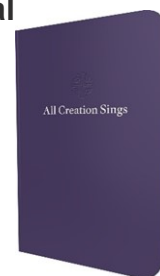
**St Mark's Lutheran Church**  
2001 S Elmwood Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
605-332-4092  
[www.smluth.org](http://www.smluth.org)

## Worship and Music approves new hymnals

The Worship and Music committee has approved the *All Creation Sings* (ACS) hymnal supplement for St. Mark's. ACS is a collection of hymns, liturgies, and prayers that supplement the current hymnal *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW).

Augsburg Fortress released ACS in 2020. Features of the supplement include:

- **Two liturgies of Holy Communion with new musical settings.**  
Settings 11 and 12 present assembly responses to the prayers of intercession beyond what is presented in ELW. Both Settings 11 and 12 present new offering prayers, thanksgivings at the table, and prayers after communion.
- **A Service of Word and Prayer designed especially for contemplative worship.**  
The service is suitable for midweek services, small group gatherings, and retreats with silence and meditative songs.
- **More than seventy-five new prayers and liturgical forms for diverse occasions and circumstances.**  
Topical prayers expand significantly upon the categories in the ELW to incorporate additional prayer concerns that have become urgently needed in our time.
- **Approximately 200 hymns and songs, many of them newly created over the last fifteen years, supporting the church year and a wide range of topics.**  
The topic headings in *All Creation Sings* closely resemble ELW in order and content. Research noted several areas where additional songs were needed, especially around topics such as creation, lament, justice and society, and healing and wholeness.



Worship and Music is offering an opportunity to sponsor the purchase of hymnals. The cost is \$14.50. St. Mark's hopes to purchase 200 new books for use in worship services. Purchases may be used to remember or honor relatives and friends. Order forms will be available soon.

# Pastor's Letter

## ***Life is both joy and weeping***

*And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. **No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping**, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.*

—Ezra 3:11-13

Somehow in my 30 plus years of studying the Bible I had missed the impact of this verse from Ezra. Dr. Cameron Howard, associate professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, brought to our attention when we gathered for the Fall Theological Conference in mid-September. The words *No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping*, describes our individual and community lives. In fact, Dr. Howard said it might be her favorite verse. I tend to agree with her. Life is both joy and weeping. Life is both health and illness. Life is both ecstasy and painful. There are times both seem to be happening at the same time and we cannot distinguish the difference; they both exist.

We trust that God will be present in all times, situations, circumstances and feelings. Barbara Brown Taylor reminds us, “When someone asks us where we want to be in our lives, the last thing that occurs to us is to look down at our feet and say, ‘Here, I guess, since this is where I am.’” We have this moment, this stage of life, these people and this life. Many days *no one can distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping*. But what if we can be all right with trusting God is present in the praise and the crying? What if we understand each other better in the joy and the weeping? What if our faith is built on nothing less?

Peace,  
Pastor Lori Hope

# Vicar's Notes

Dear friends at St. Mark's, grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord!

I can't believe it has already been just over a month since I started my internship here at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. It has been such a joy to meet many new people. I am so very grateful for the ways you have welcomed me into your community of faith. I am also deeply humbled by how you have supported not just one, but now, three interns to learn, grow, and form as a pastor in the ELCA. You are doing a service for the entire Church, and I hope you realize what a gift that is!

Here are some things I have noticed about St. Mark's in my short time here:

- **You are generous.** You are generous with your time, talent, and financial gifts. Whether that's purchasing new supplies for the revitalized Sunday School program, showing up to help a neighbor, or collecting coins for Laundry with Love, you show up with generous hearts that stem from the grace and mercy we receive from God through Jesus Christ.
- **You are welcoming.** Many congregations love to boast the "All are Welcome" slogan, but at St. Mark's, I think you really believe in the phrase and show signs of welcome to your neighbors. None are excluded at Christ's table. I am encouraged by how you have been digging into the hard work of what it means to welcome others by reviewing the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) process and discerning your next steps with that program.
- **You are courageous.** You might not think this of yourselves, but I think St. Mark's has a lot of courage. You are bold to try new things and experiment. I think courage takes a great deal of faith because you know who you belong to, and whose church this belongs to as well (hint: it's Jesus!) One step of courage will be happening on **Thursday, October 6 at 7 PM** down at the Full Circle Book Co-op. I'll be there hosting an event called **Brew and Renew**. We will be looking at stories of the Bible through a lens known as "queer theology." Please come if you are able and invite others to join!

St. Mark's, I am encouraged by you and the ministry we share – for the Church, for this call that God has called me to, and for the world in which the Gospel has called you to witness Christ's love and mercy to all people.

Your sibling in Christ,

*Vicar Sawyer*

# Off to a busy start

Vicar Sawyer kept a full schedule his first month at St. Mark's with a full calendar of activities that included: a bouncy house, a gift from the quilters, a booth at Augie's Faith Fair, conquering the Corn Maze, and a trip to Chicago.

## August 28: Sunday School Open House



## A Warm Welcome



Vicar Sawyer received an official welcome from St. Mark's quilters — the quilt of his choice. Truly, a warm welcome. Pictured from left: Margaret Blume, Cathy Larson, Vicar Sawyer, Judy Larsen, and Donna Hirsch.

## September 21: Faith Fair



Augustana University hosted a Faith Fair on September 21, giving students the opportunity to learn about some 20 Sioux Falls churches — including St. Mark's.

## September 25: Corn Maze



## September 29: A Trip to Chicago

Vicar Sawyer was in Chicago September 29 through October 2 for a celebration and gathering funded by an ELCA scholarship.

His scholarship was awarded from the ELCA Fund for Leaders, a fund for those who are students at an ELCA seminary and are identified and nominated by their seminary as mission developer candidates.

The ELCA Fund for Leaders was established in 1997, challenging the church to make a robust commitment to theological education for its future leaders. The fund supports over 300 candidates for ministry with over \$3.2 million in scholarships.

# Mark Your Calendars

## Laundry with Love: October 11

On Tuesday, October 11, St. Mark's will provide supper and coins for laundry at the Laundry with Love program, a ministry of Church on the Street. A total of 12 volunteers are needed with four volunteers serving at each of the following shifts: 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., and 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Volunteers help to serve the meal and create a welcoming environment. Call the church office to volunteer, use the signup sheet in the narthex, or go to [Signupgenius](#).

In addition to working at the event on October 11, other ways to help include:

- **Donate quarters.** An estimated \$600 in quarters is needed for the project. Bring cash donations to the church.
- **Donate bottled water.** Approximately 120 people are expected on October 11. Bring bottled water to the church prior to the event.
- **Pick up subs from Jimmie Johns.** Sandwiches need to be delivered to The Laundromat by 3:00 p.m. on October 11.
- **Shop for side dishes.** Food/supplies are needed along with the subs: small bags of chips, cookies, fruit, paper plates, napkins.
- **Help bring meal items to The Laundromat.** Food/supplies/quarters need to be transported from St. Mark's to The Laundromat by 3:00 p.m.

Laundry with Love, hosted the second and fourth Tuesday of every month by local organizations, allows people to do up to three loads of laundry at no cost. Detergent and fabric softener are provided.

The program takes place at The Laundromat Company, 701 North Cliff. Contact Ann McGovern, 605-370-9072, with questions.



## First Communion Training



Information on receiving first communion is scheduled for Sunday, October 23, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. St. Mark's practices any age communion so children of all ages are invited to attend the training. Participants will be baking, running, and painting; therefore, please dress accordingly. Let the office know by Wednesday, October 19, if your child will be attending.

## Remember to Wear Red for Reformation

Saturday, October 29

Sunday, October 30



## Intergenerational Game Time

All ages are welcome to join Intergenerational Game Time on Sunday, October 9, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. In lieu of traditional Sunday School time, you are invited to build relationships with the children of St. Mark's by playing board games together. Games will be provided or participants can bring their own. Get ready for some laughs and make a new friend!



# St. Lucia Festival

December 9 and 10



## Join the Joy of Lucia

Want to join the joy of Lucia? The St. Lucia Committee is looking for a person or persons to chair/co-chair the costume committee. Remember, this person does not have to make all of the costumes. They just need to fit them to the kids, make adjustments/repairs, iron costumes, help with costumes before and during festival performances, and clean and store costumes after the festival is complete. This is an essential position and the festival cannot go forward without the costume committee. If you are interested, please contact the Lucia Festival Chair, Kerri Smith, by email at [kerri.smith@k12.sd.us](mailto:kerri.smith@k12.sd.us) or text/message at 605-212-2276.

St. Mark's will be hosting the 47<sup>th</sup> St. Lucia Festival this year at 7:00 pm on Friday, December 9, and Saturday, December 10.

## Updates and Announcements

### Brew and Renew

Join Vicar Sawyer for **Brew and Renew** at [Full Circle Book Co-op](#), 123 West 10th, on Thursday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. We will be looking at queer stories of the Bible using a method of queer theology.

Full Circle has a variety of beverages for sale. Purchase your favorite "brew" and pull up a chair for an evening of community and storytelling.

All are welcome!



### Raising the Roof for Cameroon

St. Mark's is \$2,000 from our \$8,000 goal of funding a roof on a church in Cameroon. If we raise \$1,000, an anonymous donor will match with \$1,000 and we will reach our goal. Thank you for your generosity at the September 10 and 11 meals. If you feel moved, please help us raise the remaining \$1,000. Write a check to donate whatever amount you're comfortable with and put it in the offering plate or drop at the church office. Write "Cameroon roof" in the check's memo line.



**Charis Ministry Partners**  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

St. Mark's is volunteering for Food to You at Augustana Lutheran, 235 North Prairie, on Thursday, October 20. *Ways to help:*

- Serve as point person for the event.
- Volunteer to arrive at 4:15 p.m. to unload the boxes of food. (Six volunteers are needed for this role.)
- Volunteer to distribute food from 5:10 to 7:30 p.m. Seventeen volunteers are needed for distribution. Children under 6th grade can help if they have an adult with them.
- Bring food donations to church:
  - boxes of any kind of cereal
  - full size bottles of shampoo
  - full size tubes of toothpaste
  - full size deodorant
  - bars of soap
  - large/jumbo rolls of toilet paper

**St. Mark's will be welcoming new members at the end of October. Call the office if you are interested in joining our congregation.**

# Thank you, St. Marks

## Naomi Project celebrates fifth anniversary



Sioux Falls' Naomi Project recently observed five years of advancing workers' and immigrants' rights. People gathered at Falls Park for a meal and celebration on August 26. Participants in the Naomi Project (left) performed traditional dances during the evening.

St. Mark's supports the Naomi Project with individual mentoring for women, donating money and items as needed, and being involved in each other's activities.

See a recent [KELOLAND news report](#) by Rae Yost for more information about the Naomi Project.

The Sunday School children and teachers want to share a big **THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!** Once again, the generosity of our congregation is truly astounding! There was such joy on the first day of Sunday School as the children toured the updated spaces and used their new supplies. We are excited to explore our faith and share God's love as we learn together. Thank you for supporting our St. Mark's Sunday School!

*Thank You*

April Hokanson  
Christian Education Committee

Thank you for your kind birthday greetings. Being a part of St. Mark's is a special blessing.

*Linda Hallstrom*

## We could use some help!

Opportunities to give:

- Pastoral Special Needs Fund
- McGovern books for our partners at George McGovern Middle School
- Cameroon Roof Fund



If you wish to donate to these special projects, please indicate the recipient on the memo line of your check.

## October Baptism Anniversaries

Vivian Alberty  
Rick Andersen  
Margaret Blume  
Debra Clow  
James Coffman  
Maylee DeJong  
Dale Dorman  
Lucas Espeland  
Katie Hartigan  
Avery Johnson  
Rylee Johnson  
Abner Nissen  
Avelynn Nissen



Sarah Olson  
Pete Petersen  
Ann Rosendale  
Ann Sansgaard  
Dale Schnabel  
Jaret Sievers  
Johnathan Smith  
Lorraine Smith  
Heidi Vortherms  
Pam Vortherms  
Breanna White  
Simon Wienhold

## THANK YOU

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

### **Transportation Ministry Sponsor**

The Hokanson Family is the October sponsor.

### **Mission Ministry Sponsors**

October 2: Angie and Mark Smith  
October 9: Cathy Larson in honor of granddaughter Emily's birthday  
October 16: Lisa Lindell  
October 23: Marlon Mollett  
October 30: Darla Wilkens

# Council Minutes

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council September 20, 2022

**Present:** Cathy Wencil, Karin Lindell, Pastor Lori Hope, Vicar Sawyer Vanden Heuvel, Dianne Schnabel, Sally Turner, Katie Harms, Sandy Jerstad, April Hokanson, Barb Stanley, Becky Luke

Caring Conversations: April, whose friend's father just passed away. April's dad just received some bad news and April's son, Connor, isn't feeling well but no tests are coming back positive.

**Devotions:** Vicar Sawyer said devotions.

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

**Old Business:** We discussed the following old business.

We decided to let a task force research the abuse policy. We felt we are trying to rush it and we want this done right.

We aren't making any changes to the COVID procedures as we have them.

We might add another Circle of 8. Pastor is making a list of the suggestions that have been discussed in the past meetings. Once all meetings are done, she will route the suggestions appropriately.

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

**President's Report:** Nothing new.

**Pastor's Report:** About ten people will be joining over the next month.

### **New Business**

Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday. We will have three services – 2:30, 5:30, and 10:30. We will have one service on Christmas Day since it is a Sunday. It will be at 10:00.

Worship and Music approved the new *All Creation Sings* hymnal supplement. We will announce this around November 1 and give people the opportunity to purchase some in memory or honor of someone. Each hymnal is \$14.50.

We are hiring Kevin Stillson, a professional website designer and a friend of Vicar Sawyer's, to redesign the website. He designed a new logo, which Council liked. The new site will be mobile device friendly. This will cost about \$1000 to redesign. Yearly maintenance will be about \$200. MSC

The sound system needs adjusting. Vicar Sawyer's mic was extremely loud and none of the music can be heard through the system in the narthex.

Until we bring the tables back to the narthex, we should not shut the sanctuary doors during service.

Committee budget statements will be out soon for committees preparing 2023 budget requests.

### **Committee Reports**

**Youth:** They are going to the corn maze this week. Three students are going to be confirmed in October.

**Chris Ed:** Sunday school is phenomenal. So far, we have 21 kids registered and we are missing several regulars. The new space design was very well received. So many supplies were donated that it took several trips downstairs to get everything out of the office. There are still more supplies coming in.

**Property:** The grass is seeded and growing nicely.

**Congregational Well Being:** The St. Mark's Swap Shop on Facebook is well liked.

Devotions:

- October – Katie
- November – Sandy
- December - Becky

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

Minutes submitted by Becky Luke



# October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>2</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.	<b>3</b> Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath Presentation at GMMS, 8:55-9:30 a.m.	<b>4</b> Presentation at GMMS, 8:55-9:30 a.m. Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Mission Committee, 4:00 p.m.	<b>5</b> Presentation at GMMS, 8:55-9:30 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m. Youth Group, 7:00 p.m.	<b>6</b> Pastor Out of Office Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle, 1:00 p.m.	<b>7</b> Pastor Out of Office	<b>8</b> Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>9</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Intergenerational Game Time, 9:30- 10:30 a.m.	<b>10</b> Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	<b>11</b> Pastor/Vicar Out of Office Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Laundry with Love, 3:00-8:00 p.m.	<b>12</b> Pastor/Vicar Out of Office Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	<b>13</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>16</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Blessing of Pets, 10:00 a.m. Youth Group at Good Earth, 2:00-5:00 p.m.	<b>17</b> Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	<b>18</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Exec Committee, 6:30 p.m. Council, 7:00 p.m.	<b>19</b> Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. 6th-8th Grade Confirmation, 7:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	<b>20</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Food to You, 4:10 and 5:15 shifts.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Watercolor, 10:00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>23</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. First Communion Training, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.	<b>24</b> Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	<b>25</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	<b>26</b> 11th Grade Confirmation, 7:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	<b>27</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Reformation</b> Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>30</b> <b>Reformation</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Confirmation, 10:45 a.m. Sunday School,	<b>31</b> Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath		<b>Join us on Sunday, October 16, at 10:00 a.m. for a blessing of pets. Bring your favorite animal or animals to the south lawn for our blessing.</b>		<b>Blessing - of the - ANIMALS</b> 	

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

**†he Servant** October 2022

## **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.*

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