

# The SERVANT

October 2023



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## Worship

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

## Plan to Attend the Congregational Meeting October 7th or 8th

### Vote on the Part-time Associate Pastor Recommendation

The Council has approved the recommendation of the Call Committee that St. Mark's Lutheran Church extend a call to Sawyer Vanden Heuvel for the position of part-time Associate Pastor.

The congregation will meet to vote by ballot on the recommendation on Saturday, October 7, after the 5:00 p.m. service and on Sunday, October 8, following the 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services.

A process for members to vote electronically if not able to attend the meeting, is being developed.

Votes will be counted and results announced on Sunday. A two-thirds majority is required.

If the vote passes, a Letter of Call will be extended. A congregation typically hears from the called candidate within 30 days.

## Remember to Wear Red for Reformation

Saturday,  
October 28

Sunday,  
October 29



# Pastor's Letter

*"Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the father of mercies and God of all comfort,  
who comforts us in all our affliction,  
so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction,  
with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."*

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Throughout the Bible pain, suffering and loss are named:

"We are powerless before this vast multitude that comes against us.  
We are at a loss what to do, hence our eyes are turned toward you."

"... though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death ..."

"Why is my pain continuous, my wound incurable...?"

"Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!"

Naming our pain, suffering and grief is part of faith. "We have heard it said that grief is the price we pay for having loved and I believe this love-soaked grief of ours is holy to God."  
*(paraphrase by Nadia Bolz Weber)*

All of us know the depths of grief. We know about loss and pain.

Thank you for sharing comfort with me upon the death of my brother, Michael. Thank you for the hugs, texts, emails, cards, presence at the visitation, memorial gifts and food for our family on the day of the funeral. I know I sound like a broken record when I say "we are all in this together," but when I am on the receiving end, I am overwhelmed and humbled.

Thank you so much for your love and kindness.

Peace,

Pastor Lori Hope

# Vicar's Notes



Fall is my favorite time of year! Growing up in Michigan, I loved to see the Fall colored leaves on the trees and to feel the cool, brisk air as we sat by a bonfire. I enjoyed our annual visit to the local cider mill, where we always sampled the apple cider donuts, after picking apples from the orchard. Fall meant that a change was coming, but that a promise of a new life would soon follow.

This year was extra special for me and my family, as we experienced many life changes and new beginnings. It all started one day in late summer when I packed up my car and headed down the highway enroute to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. My final destination would be where God would stretch me in ways I could only imagine. The stretching began as I left my family and started the engine. It was an exciting day filled with joy and anticipation for the unknown. After working for four years as a seminarian, I was entering

the final phase of my MDiv program. The time had finally arrived to start my internship. Life was about to take a turn and ready or not, the time had come to step out in faith.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church was a mysterious place that had only been explored through Facebook, the church website, a site application, and a brief interview with Pastor Lori. I was so impressed by what I learned through that exploration that I chose St. Mark's as my top internship site. Luckily for me, my top pick was granted, and I was able to say "yes" to this placement. I had no idea until I arrived about the wonderful gift I was given. St. Mark's Lutheran Church is not mysterious at all, rather it is one of the most open, loving, and authentic places that I have had the honor to worship and serve in.

The heart of this community is built on the generosity and kindness of real people. People who care about justice, people who love to teach, and people who are open to learning. Regardless of the age or background of the person, each one that I have met has shown themselves to be an amazing, beloved child of God. They even made sure to keep the Vicar safe when we explored a local corn maze!

When I walked into the office on August 22, I had no idea what to expect. What does a Vicar do anyway? I am so used to juggling multiple roles, between being a single parent, working full-time, and completing a graduate program, that I was concerned about not having enough to do to keep busy. Well, let me ease your minds, I was wrong! My first month was filled with pastoral care visits, assisting at a funeral service, hosting a table at Augustana University's Faith Fair, serving in worship, hanging with the youth at a corn maze, singing and dancing with the children in Sunday school, learning how to tie a quilt, and preaching my first sermon. I even got to do some exploring and visited the falls.

Thank you, St. Mark's family, for welcoming me and teaching me so much already. I can't wait to see what the next 11 months will bring!

Grace and Joy,

*Vicar Melinda*

*"For everything, there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."*

**Ecclesiastes 3:1**



# Welcome, Jonathan



Welcome Jonathan Neiderhiser as our new worship coordinator/organist. Dr. Neiderhiser is Professor of Music and Director of Instrumental Music at the University of Sioux Falls. He received both his Bachelor of Music degree in Horn Performance and his Master of Music degree in Music Theory from Duquesne University. He received his Doctor of Music degree in Performance-Conducting from West Virginia University.

Jonathan, his wife Jenny Bangsund, and children Johanna and Matthias are members of St. Mark's.

## Intergenerational Game Time

All ages are welcome to join Intergenerational Game Time on Sunday, October 8, 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!



## Dear St Mark's family,

With a grateful heart I thank you for all your kindness this last month. Thank you for phone calls, offers of rides, words of encouragement, and most of all for your prayers. It was a special joy to worship with you this past weekend! You have filled my heart with love and gratitude!

*Ann Sansgaard*

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.

Martin Luther



## THANK YOU

to those who are sponsoring our missionary in Nicaragua and our Transportation Ministry during the month of October.

**Transportation Ministry Sponsor**  
Marlon Mollet is the October sponsor.

### **Mission Ministry Sponsors**

- October 1: Dave, April, Cora, and Connor Hokanson
- October 8: Dar and Margaret Blume
- October 15: Cathy Larson  
in honor of granddaughter Emily Larson's birthday
- October 22: Lisa Lindell
- October 29: Pat and Dawn Hartigan  
In honor of Kalauni's birthday

Christ in Our Home

October, November, December 2022



## Christ in Our Home

*Christ in Our Home* for October, November, and December is available in the narthex.

## 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  
Heidi Vortherms  
Pam Vortherms  
Breanna White  
Simon Wienhold





# Food to You October 19

St. Mark's will serve at the *Food to You* grocery and personal products distribution on Thursday, October 19.

**Location:** Augustana Lutheran Church, 235 North Prairie Avenue.

## Shifts and volunteers:

4:15 p.m. shift: 4-6 volunteers.

Volunteers will sort and count items which will include some lifting. It is helpful if some of the volunteers can lift 40-pound boxes. The 4:15 volunteers stay to help with distribution.

5:10 p.m. shift: 18-20 volunteers.

At least six of the volunteers should be able to lift and carry boxes. Volunteers will gather in the fellowship hall, downstairs at Augustana Lutheran for orientation and job assignments: offering groceries, greeting, helping with carry out. Youth are welcome to volunteer: One elementary age child per adult; middle and high school youth with adult helpers.

To volunteer: Call or email the office or sign up in the narthex.

**Food donations:** The October "Food of the Month" is cereal. The goal is for all guest households (about 100) to receive one to three boxes of cereal. Estimated need is at least 175-195 boxes. Cereal may be left at St. Mark's by Tuesday, October 17.

**Necessities:** Donations of toothpaste, shampoo and deodorant for hygiene packs and toilet paper any size are needed. Items may be left at St. Mark's by Tuesday, October 17.

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## Fellowship Hour

We will be enjoying a Fellowship Hour between our Sunday services beginning Sunday, October 8.

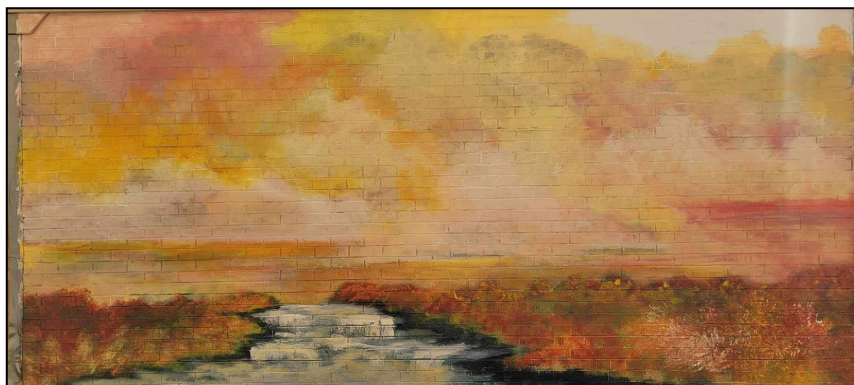
Volunteers are need to bring treats, set up, serve, and clean up each week. You may sign up as an individual, family, or team. A sign up sheet is available in the narthex.



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## A Room with a View

When Ray and Shirley Schaikoski moved to Bethany Home in Sioux Falls, the window in their room faced a brick wall. But now, thanks to St. Mark's member Jennifer White, the view is a landscape painting.



## St. Mark's Mission Statement

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

# Council Minutes

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council September 19, 2023

**Present:** Darrell Herman, Luanne Alberty, Katie Harms, Dianne Schnabel, Barb Stanley, Sally Turner, Kent Alberty, Kyle Alberty, April Hokanson, David Golemboski, Karin Lindell, Pastor Lori Hope

**Devotions:** Kyle led in devotions on hope.

**Minutes:** MSC to approve the August 15 Council minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** MSC to approve the Treasurer's Report.

**Call Committee:** Dawn Hartigan presented the unanimous recommendation of the Call Committee to extend a call to Sawyer Vanden Heuvel for the position of part-time associate pastor. MSC that the council recommend the call to the congregation to be voted on at a special congregational meeting held on October 7 and 8 directly following each worship service. The council will work with Sawyer on compensation and mutual responsibilities as well as outline what is entailed in part-time expectations.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Lori thanked everyone for their support this past week since her brother's death.

### Committee Reports:

- **Congregational Wellbeing:** The making of freezer meals has been postponed until October. Fall baskets with treats will be given to Bethany Home staff. College care baskets have been sent out to first-year students.
- **Mission:** God's Work, Our Hands activities were successful. The Bethany wall mural is beautiful and ready for handprints.
  - ◊The RIC task force is planning eight meetings and events between now and February.
- **Christian Education:** Up to 38 Sunday School registrations have been received. Teaching slots have been filled through December. There is need for a designated Chris. Ed. Communicator. The Bible handouts to preschool and 3 rd grade & up were great to witness.
- **Worship & Music:** Gretchen Pederson's celebration has been planned for her last weekend, September 23 and 24.
- **Property:** The lawn has been reseeded. Plumbing fixes have been taken care of. All solicited bids for roof repair have been received, representing a range of estimates.

### New Business:

- Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. MSC to hold fourth weekend of Advent worship on Saturday evening, December 23 with no Sunday morning worship on December 24. Christmas Eve services will be held at 2:30, 5:30 and 10:30 p.m. There will be one 10:00 a.m. service on December 31.
- A request was received from Sharing the Dream, a project selling fair-trade handicrafts by Guatemalan artisans, for St. Mark's to host an event in December. It was decided to decline per our policy of not promoting fundraising for outside causes.

The meeting adjourned with prayer petitions and the Lord's Prayer.

Karin Lindell, Acting Secretary

# October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  Blessing of the Pets, 10:00 a.m.	<b>2</b> Pastor's/Vicar's Sabbath	<b>3</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Serve the Banquet, 2:00-8:00 p.m.	<b>4</b> Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m. 6th-8th Grade Confirmation, 7:00 p.m.	<b>5</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Watercolor, 10.00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m. Congregational meeting following service
Pastor/Vicar out of office <span style="font-size: 2em;">→</span>						
<b>8</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Congregational meeting following each service Intergenerational Game Day, 9:30 a.m.	<b>9</b> Pastor's/Vicar's Sabbath	<b>10</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Internship Committee, 6:00 p.m.	<b>11</b> Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m. Youth Group, 7:00 p.m.	<b>12</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle, 1:00 p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Watercolor, 10.00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>15</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.	<b>16</b> Pastor's/Vicar's Sabbath	<b>17</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Council, 7:00 p.m.	<b>18</b> Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m. 11th Grade Confirmation, 7:00 p.m.	<b>19</b> Food to You Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Watercolor, 10.00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>22</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.	<b>23</b> Pastor's/Vicar's Sabbath	<b>24</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	<b>25</b> Lectionary Discussion, 11:00 a.m. Watercolor, 1:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m. 6th-8th Grade Confirmation, 7:00 p.m.	<b>26</b> Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Reformation</b> Watercolor, 10.00 a.m. Worship, 5:00 p.m.
<b>29</b> <b>Reformation</b> Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Confirmation at 10:45 service	<b>30</b> Pastor's/Vicar's Sabbath	<b>31</b> Quilters, 9:00 a.m. Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	<p><b>Join us on Sunday, October 1, at 10:00 a.m. for a blessing of pets.</b></p> <p><b>Bring your favorite animal or animals to the south lawn for our blessing.</b></p>			



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

**†he Servant** September 2023

## Office Hours & Contact Information:

- Melinda Garza Moran, Vicar  
Tuesday- Friday  
[intern@smluth.org](mailto:intern@smluth.org)
- Linda Hallstrom, Office Manager  
Monday - Wednesday 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.  
Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
[stmarks@smluth.org](mailto:stmarks@smluth.org)
- Karin Lindell, Ministry Coordinator  
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.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 office is also open on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

St Mark's Lutheran Church  
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To reach a member  
of the pastoral team  
during non-office hours  
605-215-2925