

The

SERVANT

December 2022



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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.

**Masks are recommended
but not required**

December 24

2:30, 5:30, 10:30 P.M.

December 25

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

No 8:30 a.m. Service

Pastor

Lori L. Hope



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

Christmas at St. Mark's From Generation to Generation...

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.*

*His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.*

(Luke 1: 48b-50) - Mary's Song of Praise (Magnificat)

From generation to generation we have heard the story of Christmas. Some of us may even be able to recite the story of Christ's birth from Luke's gospel by heart. But what is it about this story that has captured the hearts and minds of so many people from generation to generation? Why do we find it worth repeating year after year?

This Advent and Christmas season, St. Mark's is weaving through the Christmas story chronologically beginning with the genealogy of Jesus all the way up until his birth on Christmas Eve. We are utilizing a resource from Sanctified Art to help us tell this story of how we belong in the narrative of God's story and remind us how God continues to unfold this tapestry of our lives through the presence of God in flesh and bone.

"The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let you go." (Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity, Sanctified Art)

—Vicar Sawyer Vanden Heuvel

December 9 and 10

St. Lucia Festival



St. Mark's 47th St. Lucia Festival is Friday, December 9, and Saturday, December 10, at 7:00 pm. Doors open one hour prior to the performances. Free will donations support Church on the Street. Enjoy Swedish treats, young dancers and Lucia wearing her crown of candles.

More *Christmas* news page 2.

December 18

Sunday School Christmas Program



The St. Mark's Christmas Program will be presented during worship at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 18. The preschool, elementary, and middle school Sunday School students are preparing to tell the Christmas story again to remind us in story and song how Christ comes into our world and into our lives. Please come to celebrate this story with us!



Christmas Clothing Tree

Donations to the Clothing Tree will go to the Boys and Girls Club of Sioux Falls. Their biggest needs are clothing for children ages 11 to 14. Tags on the tree will have such information as: Male/Age: 11-14/Size: Large/Dress pants and shirt or Female/Age: 11-14/Size: Small/Casual pants and shirt.

To participate in the Christmas Clothing Tree, take a tag, buy the items indicated, wrap the gift, attach the tag, and place it under St. Mark's Christmas tree by December 18. Please email Pastor Lori or Judie Roberts if you have questions.

December 22

Blue Christmas

This holiday season can be difficult for many of us. Not everyone is feeling holly, jolly, and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, dealing with aging parents or problems with children, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities.

We will hold a service of worship on one of the longest nights of the year. Our service will include music, readings, a brief meditation, and an opportunity to light candles, lifting before God our deepest sadness and burdens before we gather for our Christmas celebrations. We remember our deepest sorrows and the need for Immanuel, God with us. Please consider joining us for the Blue Christmas worship service at 7:00 p.m. on December 22. Invite friends and family who might need such a time of reflection.

Please know you are remembered during this difficult time and during this season.



Christmas Services

December 24

Christmas Eve Dinner

Alone for Christmas? You are invited to join other St. Mark's members and families for a Christmas Eve Dinner on Saturday, December 24 at 6:45 p.m. A catered meal will be served in the fellowship hall. Please call the church office or sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board by the workroom by December 17. We are also looking for volunteers to help set up, serve, clean up, or donate Christmas cookies. If you need a ride, let the office know by Thursday, December 22.



December 24 and 25

Christmas Worship Services

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve services with candlelight and communion are scheduled for 2:30, 5:30, and 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 24. Christmas offerings will go to Pastor's Discretionary Fund and Feeding South Dakota.

Christmas Day

Our Christmas Day worship service will be at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 25. There will not be an 8:30 a.m. service.

New Year's Services

On New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31, our service is at 5:00 p.m. The New Year's Day service, Sunday, January 1, will be held at 10:00 a.m. There will not be an 8:30 a.m. service.



Pastor's Letter

God with us

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

—Psalm 46:1

We are hearing plenty of Christmas music in our cars, homes, stores, and as we attend concerts.

We hear lyrics like:

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year”

“’Tis the season to be jolly”

“O’er the fields we go laughing all the way”

“Have a holly jolly Christmas”

It’s the best time of the year, but for many of us it is the most difficult time of the year. The days are so short and the nights seem to go on forever. Our grief seems to be right on the surface constantly, and we struggle with family issues, finances, and fear. Sometimes it can seem like way too much.

Enter the Christmas story. Jesus was born into a broken and violent world. The incarnation was not about tinsel, maxing out credit cards for gifts, or a picture perfect Christmas gathering. Our hymns name the reality:

“The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight”

and

“O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here.”

The promise we have in this vulnerable baby born in a cattle stall is that God enters into our brokenness, pain, grief, fear, and hopelessness. We are not expected to be cheery bright; we are only expected to be human. There was no need for Jesus to take on flesh, experience humanity, or love unconditionally if we could be good enough, strong enough, or even have enough faith.

So be confident this season to dance around your home singing “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas,” but also know that it is all right to be sad, angry, overwhelmed, fearful, and lost because we know that the dear Christ enters right into the midst of it all.

God with us is the promise of the season; the rest is just window dressing.

Peace,
Pastor Lori Hope



Updates to St. Mark's Directory

New Members

Hans Harmakaputra and Rita Regina
2104 W 18th St
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
hharmakaputra@gmail.com
Hans: 857-498-5425
Rita: 857-425-9004

Elizabeth (Liz) Larson
2713 S Prairie Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
liz.ju.larson@gmail.com
651-301-1553

Colleen Lathrop
25289 478 th Ave
Garretson, SD 57030
colleenlathrop4@gmail.com
605-251-7341

Renee and Jon Splichal Larson
Gabriel, Elias
2713 S Prairie Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
splichal.larson@gmail.com
pastorjon.sl@gmail.com
Renee: 701-240-0775
Jon: 701-516-2680



Thad and Madeleine (Maddie) Titze
2310 S 1 st Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
thadtitze@gmail.com
madeleine@sarahbridges.com
Thad: 605-880-4488
Maddie: 575-639-3324

Sawyer Vanden Heuvel
1607 S Spring Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
sawyer@smluth.org
712-470-2708

Corrections, Changes, Additions

Ashley Bohlen, phone – 402-450-7670

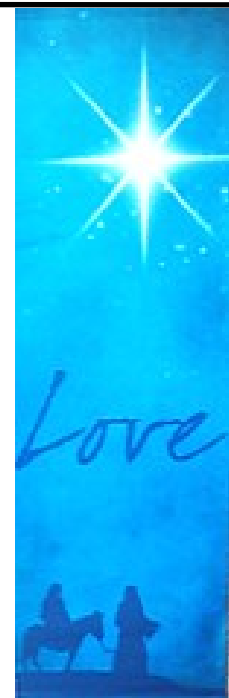
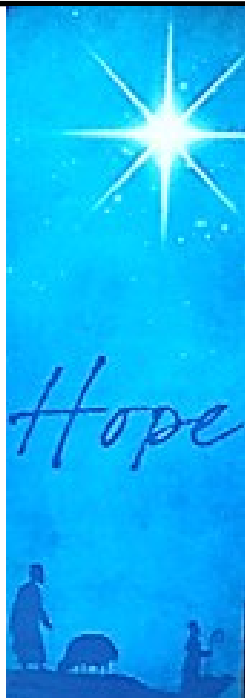
Brianna Copley, phone – 202-513-6333

Arnie Hinseth, new address –
Good Samaritan Village, 3901 S Marion Rd,
#305, Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Ron Livermore, address – Bethany Meadows,
3008 E Aspen Blvd, #404, Brandon, SD 57005

Jenny Westra, address – 420 N Lake Ave,
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Ruth Young, email – ruthamyong@gmail.com



Welcome New Members

Rita Regina and Hans Harmakaputra

Rita and Hans grew up as Christians in Indonesia, the most populous Muslim-majority country in the world. They met when studying as first-year students in a seminary in Jakarta before coming to Boston in 2014. Living for a year in Collegetown, Minnesota, introduced them to ELCA churches in the area, which then prompted them to join another local ELCA church in Hartford, Connecticut: Emanuel Lutheran Church. They moved to Sioux Falls this June because Hans was hired at Augustana University. It was not long before they found St. Mark's and felt at home. From Rita and Hans: *Thank you for letting us be part of the community!*

Janine Heifner

Janine was born in St. Paul and raised in Iowa. She has lived in South Dakota since college. Her father was a Lutheran pastor and retired as an Orthodox arch priest in the Eastern Orthodox Church. Janine worked as a commercial interior designer and project manager for twenty plus years. Due to a serious car accident caused by someone else in 2013, she has permanent physical damage including a partially paralyzed vocal cord, so although she had voice lessons in college and sang soprano, she isn't a soprano any more and sings her best to glorify God. She is an equestrian and loves fishing and playing board games. Her future plans are to be an educational, motivational speaker to provide a message of hope and helpful information for people who are struggling.

Liz Larson

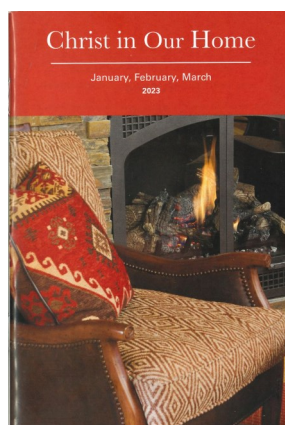
Liz is originally from Minnesota, but has lived all over the upper Midwest. After several years in Bismarck, North Dakota, she relocated to Sioux Falls to reside with her brother Jon, sister-in-law Renee, and two nephews, Gabriel and Elias (who are also joining St. Mark's). Her background and work have primarily been within the social work field, and she currently works for the federal courts. Outside of work she spends time with family, plays in a soccer rec league, and always loves a good cup of coffee. She is excited to join St. Mark's and become a part of this welcoming community.

Splichal Larson Family

The Splichal Larson family gratefully join the St. Mark's community as members, having moved to Sioux Falls three years ago from Bismarck, North Dakota. Renee is an ELCA pastor serving as Associate to the Bishop of the SD Synod. Jon is also an ELCA pastor serving as Associate Campus Pastor at Augustana University. Renee and Jon have two boys, Gabriel (age 7.5) and Elias (age 5), who have quickly and enthusiastically engaged in worship and Sunday school at St. Mark's.

Maddie and Thad Titze

Maddie grew up in Colorado, Texas, and New Mexico, and graduated from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. She was a character at Walt Disney World for six months before moving to Sioux Falls to be an admission counselor at Augustana University. Maddie is currently an executive coach and talent management consultant for a Minneapolis-based firm. Thad grew up in Watertown, South Dakota and graduated from Augustana University. He was an ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission volunteer in rural Hungary for one year, and then returned to Sioux Falls to be an admission counselor at Augustana where he met Maddie. Thad later graduated from law school and practices in Sioux Falls. Maddie and Thad got married in 2020, and in 2021 added a wonderful rescue beagle, Pepper, to the family. They enjoy camping and all things outdoors, cooking, and planning their next adventure together.



Christ in Our Home

Copies of *Christ in Our Home* for January, February, and March are available in the Narthex.

Thank you, St. Mark's

The family of Duane Anderson thanks the St. Mark's community for the love and support we have received. Thank you for sharing your memories of Duane, for expressing how much he meant to you, and for honoring his life. The memorial service, special music, and luncheon after the service were beautiful tributes. Finally, thank you for all the delicious pies ... baked, eaten, and enjoyed in memory of our dad!

—Peter, Dan, Mike, Becca

Thank you for sponsoring our October 20th Food to You distribution. It's only because of wonderful partners like you that we are able to continue helping our friends and neighbors who need us so much. God bless you!

Thank you again,
—Cindy Haiar
Food to You

Vicar Sawyer is grateful for all the people that have taken the time to attend or invite a friend to a Brew & Renew event at Full Circle Book Co-op. We have had a great turnout in the last two events. We will plan to do more in the new year! Stay tuned for details. Thank you!

—Vicar Sawyer

December Baptism Anniversaries

Candace Cameron
Adam Des Enfants
Robert Joyce
Sally Kocon
Rich Lauer
Charlotte Paulson
Kari Sansgaard
Pat Seiner
Madelyn Turner



Every child born into the world is a new thought of God, an ever fresh and radiant possibility.

—Kate Douglas Wiggin

Advent Opportunities



We encourage every person to donate money each day or week of Advent toward ELCA World Hunger with the goal of \$30 per person. Put the money in a bowl, vase, cup, basket, or a piggy bank available from the church. Bring your donation to church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. For more information: <https://www.elca.org/hunger>

If you would like to purchase ELCA Good Gifts, see the Christmas tree in the narthex. Please consider taking an ornament/tag. Additional instructions are provided in the narthex.

THANK YOU

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

Transportation Ministry Sponsor
Marlon Mollett is the December sponsor.

Mission Ministry Sponsors
December 4: Rex and Margie Roling
in memory of Robb Roling
December 11: Dawn and Pat Hartigan
December 18: Jack and Mary Mortenson
December 25: Rich and Rhonda Kemmis

Transportation Ministry and Missionary Support Signups

Sign up sheets for 2023 Transportation Ministry and Missionary Support donations are posted on the Opportunity bulletin board. A Transportation Ministry sponsorship, supporting Project Car, is \$25/month. Missionary Support sponsorships that fund Soliette, our missionary in Nicaragua, are \$30/week.

Council Minutes

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council November 15, 2022

Present: Luanne Alberty, Kent Alberty, Deb Carrier, Katie Harms, Pastor Lori Hope, Sandy Jerstad, Karin Lindell, Pat Seiner, Mark Smith, Sally Turner, Vicar Sawyer Vanden Heuvel

Minutes: MSC to approve the October Council minutes with the addition of last month's designation of the Thanksgiving Offering for Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Old Business:

The office staff will be meeting with Kevin Stillson to review his proposed redesign for St. Mark's website.

A question was raised regarding the recent piece in the *Servant* by the Reconciling in Christ Task Force. The Task Force was asked to review materials with Council before publication.

Treasurer's Report: Pledge cards and Time & Talent sheets are out. We are somewhat behind budget in income. The 2023 proposed budget will be brought to Council in December.

President's Report: It was decided to move next month's Council meeting ahead to December 13 as Cathy would not be able to be present on the 20th and that is also Christmas week.

Vicar's Report:

The Brew & Renew sessions at the Full Circle Book Co-op have gone well with good attendance. Vicar Sawyer enjoyed visiting with people between Sunday services during Coffee with the Vicar time and will be available again on November 20.

Advent plans are proceeding.

New Business:

During Advent, people will have the opportunity to fill piggy banks for ELCA Alternative Gifts/World Hunger.

MSC to spend this year's Local Benevolence \$1500 line item on our relationship with McGovern Middle School, including a meal for staff, student treats, and gift cards for food over Christmas break.

MSC to designate half of the Christmas Offering for Pastor's Discretionary Fund and half for Feeding South Dakota.

The Nominating Committee will be beginning their work soon.

The date of the Annual Meeting was set for January 29.

Committee Reports:

Mission: We are close to the amount needed for the Cameroon Roof fund. A trip to visit Woyatan Lutheran Church in Rapid City is being considered for January. Plans for a mission trip to Pine Ridge in the summer are also being discussed.

Christian Education: The Sunday School Christmas program will be on December 18 at the 10:45 am service.

Worship & Music: People are invited to help decorate the church for Advent and Christmas on Saturday, November 26 at 10:00 am.



Property: We will be hiring Ervin Donis of Q & E Handyman Services for both our parking lot and sidewalk snow removal. This contact came about through the Naomi Project.

Congregational Well-Being: The committee is looking at taking pictures of new members to help with recognizing new faces and getting acquainted.

The meeting closed with prayers and the Lord's Prayer.

Karin Lindell
Acting Secretary

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	2	3 Worship, 5:00 p.m.
4 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. St. Lucia Practice, 12:00–1:00 p.m.	5 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	6 Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	7 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. St. Lucia Dress Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.	8 Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	9 Lucia Festival, 7:00 p.m. 	10 Lucia Festival, 7:00 p.m. No 5:00 Worship
11 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.	12 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	13 Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. Mission Committee 4:00 p.m. Exec Committee, 6:30 p.m. Council, 7:00 p.m.	14 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. Youth Group Christmas Party, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Choir, 7:00 p.m.	15 Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	16	17 Worship, 5:00 p.m.
18 Worship, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Program at 10:45 service	19 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	20 Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	21 Choir, 7:00 p.m.	22 Book Study, 10:00 a.m. Blue Christmas, 7:00 p.m. 	23	24 Worship, 2:30, 5:30, and 10:30 p.m.
25 Worship, 10:00 a.m.	26 Pastor's and Vicar's Sabbath	27 Office Staff, 9:30 a.m.	28 Deadline for 2022 individual giving	29 Book Study, 10:00 a.m.	30	31 Worship, 5:00 p.m.



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

The Servant December 2022

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.