

ST MARK'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. MESSENGER

MARK'S

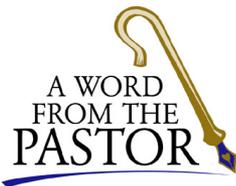
June 2017

Valley, Nebraska

www.StMarksValleyNE.com

402.359.2315

from the Pastor...



It has been a busy Spring! With Easter, graduations, Mother's Day and our Joint Prayer Service with St. John's Catholic church, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, it seems April and May have flown by!

It will soon be time, on the first Sunday in June, the 4th—to begin our experiment with going to *one* worship service only for the course of the Summer. The new worship time for the summer months will be 9:30 am. This time seemed a good choice to 'split the difference' between the early and late services we normally have. The hope is that worship will be more robust, with more people (and voices) together. There will be time for coffee and fellowship after the service to meet folks from the service you don't attend, and, with occasional special speakers or programs. Watch your Sunday bulletins or check the church website for programming—www.stmarksvalleyne.com

As we anticipate vacations with family and friends, fun in the sun and all the rest, I am hoping that we remember to *stay connected* with God, and our church family over the summer. In order to help folks do that, I hope you will pick up a 'flat Jesus' to color or decorate any way you'd like. This is like the 'flat Stanley' project many school kids took part in a number of years ago, only even *more* meaningful and *fun*! I hope that we will remember, in taking our vacation selfies in fun, silly, or faraway places, that Jesus is *always* with us, in our travel adventures, or even working in the

garden, or golfing—wherever we are this summer! We are connected to him, and to one another, as members of our church family here. He is the vine, we are the branches! Flat Jesus is a reminder!

So, in keeping with this theme of ‘connectedness’ over the summer, I hope we will become more used to using our website (which is conveniently printed on the back of ‘flat Jesus’). You may text or email your flat Jesus pictures to Teri Dreessen, (thanks Teri!) along with a short caption or sentence describing the location of the picture, or the event you and ‘flat Jesus’ attended! We can enjoy each other’s travels, share pictures and remember that Jesus is always with our people of St. Mark’s. At the end of the summer, we hope to have a cookout and to award some fun prizes for the ‘flat Jesus’ pictures! Get creative! Have fun! And send those pictures in! (Who knows, you may *even* get a chance to talk to strangers who ask, what your church is doing with these ‘flat Jesus’ pictures!)

Back in Valley, in keeping with our plan to ‘*Stay Connected*’ to God, our church family, and to grow in faith, we will be starting a Bible Study called *Connections* (strangely enough!) This Bible Study is focusing on our Lutheran Small Catechism and our connections from our everyday lives, to our faith, was produced by Wartburg Seminary in Iowa. There are 4 units to this study. Each unit has 6 sessions. A session lasts an hour and a half. The study is free, and would need to be downloaded and printed. (If you need help with that, see the church office, or talk to Pastor.) This was created for everyday folks, not nerdy Seminarrians!

The first unit is called *Living Faithfully*. This 1st unit focuses on the Ten Commandments: with broad themes including; identity, Sabbath rest, relationships, life and death, disgrace and grace, and more. It looks to be a really meaningful study, and is a way for us to connect in a deeper way to our faith, and to other participants. I am excited to begin! There will be a group meeting on Wednesday evenings at 5:30-7pm. Participants are encouraged to bring themselves a meal to eat while we study/engage. There may also be a daytime group, if we can have a few more sign up. The daytime group would be from 11:30-1pm, either Wed. *or* Thursday. Again, we would ask folks to brown bag their lunch,

bring their Bible and enthusiasm for this new way of experiencing God in their everyday life! All are welcome, bring your friends!

May God bless us all this summer with health, the joy of friends, family. Lord, keep us safe, AND above all, ***connected!***

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Barbara

**Remember, that though you may be gone, the church doesn't close down for summer, so please, continue to send in your pledges so bills can be paid! Much appreciated!

from the PMA...

Windows

Sometimes when we are out for a drive, I look at homes and notice the windows. I try to imagine which room is on the other side of that window. If its small, it's probably a bath. A large picture window is most likely in the living or family room. The size and shape of the window give insight to the room inside.

In many ways, our facial expression acts as a window into what is going on inside of us. A furrowed brow indicates concern. Red eyes and tears are tell-tale signs of sadness and a glowing smile can be considered a byproduct of happiness. A window can be fairly complex. It separates the outside from the inside, yet allows for the transmission of light and sight. When we look at others, we gain knowledge of them by what we see. At the same time, we are sending a message to them. When we greet others with a smile, we are letting them know what is inside of us. We are glad to be in their presence. By the same token, a scowl or frown can send a message that is negative.

It has been said that the eyes are the window to the soul. Your smile is then a window to your attitude. I encourage you to greet others with the most positive "window" you can muster.

Karen



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

**This is a synopsis of the Council meeting held on
May 16, 2017.**

- Pastor Barbara and Father Gnirk are planning a Joint Lutheran /Catholic Prayer Service commemorating the Reformation. The service will be held on Sunday, May 21st at 4:00 p.m. at St. John's
- The Evangelism Committee is working on the 500th Reformation Celebration that will be on Sunday, October 8, 2017. 100 Voices will entertain during part of the event.
- 32 pigs can now be purchased (\$964.46) for the Sunday School Mission Project to ELCA Good Gifts.
- Last day of Sunday School will be May 21st.
- Community Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 26-30 from 9-11:30 a.m. at United Faith Church, Valley.
- Six youths were Confirmed on May 7th at St. Mark's.
- Six youth group members will be attending the Nebraska Synod Mission Work Trip to South Omaha on June 11-17.
- Sheryl Beamis will teach the R.E.N.E.W. Children's Story Time again this year. She will teach 4th through 6th graders.
- Pastor Barbara will teach "Connections" beginning in June.
- The air condition in the Sanctuary has been fixed.
- The Prayer Garden was tended to on the evening of May 15th.
- Beginning Sunday, June 4th, St Mark's will begin their Summer Worship Schedule of only one service at 9:30 a.m. This will run through the end of August.
- 29 teams participated in the C.O.P.E. Golf Outing this year.

APRIL MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

April Budget = \$18,361
April Expenses = \$16,676
April Giving = \$18,957

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL REPORT

January - April Budget = \$73,443
January - April Expenses = \$71,022
January - April Giving = \$68,543

End of year 2016 Balance in Savings = \$50,124
End of April 2017 Balance in Savings = \$50,124
End of April 2017 Balance in Checking = \$73,368*

*(including \$35,000 for the Worship Enhancement Design Plan)

A PRAYER FOR ST MARK'S COUNCIL

Lord of the Universe, speak through our leaders so that we might be drawn closer to you each day. Amen.

Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in June

Happy 15^h Wedding Anniversary to Dan and Kristi Trost on the 15th; 50th Wedding Anniversary to Gary and Maggie Burkholder on the 17th; and 40th Wedding Anniversary to Mike and Lori Dyas on the 28th!

If you would like to send cards to any of the above and need an address, contact the Church Office.

Thank You

I wish to thank all of those who remembered me in prayer, with phone calls and visits during my illness, the time I spent in the hospital and while recuperating at home. A special "Thank You" to Pastor Barbara for her visits and phone calls; and "Thank You" to Food for Friends for the delicious meal that they prepared for us, also.

God Bless, Darlene Brummels

2017 GRADUATES

Listed below are the names of those we inadvertently missed. We apologize.

CONGRATULATIONS on a job well done!

HIGH SCHOOL

Travis Glidden - DC West

Ellie Petersen - Yutan

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Ben Kahlandt - UNL - Degree in Agronomy - Employed by
Monkey Brothers, Waterloo

Kyle Hascall - UNMC Dental College, Lincoln - D.D.S. with Highest Distinction and number one in his class - Practicing in Omaha area



It is a chance of a lifetime! The **Worship and Music Committee** of St. Mark's is looking for some additional members on the committee. This committee is responsible for hymn selection and worship elements. They meet about 5 times a year. If you have wanted to impact our worship services in positive ways and would like to have fun at the same time, please consider joining this committee. The next meeting will be Thursday July 6 at 6:30 pm in the conference room. If you have questions, contact Karen King PMA at 402-359-5964 or 402-660-1637.

**Pastor Barbara's new email address is
barbara.oshlo@gmail.com**



**WHAT: Valley Community VBS 2017
"MAKER FUN FACTORY"**

WHERE: United Faith Community Church

218 W. Gardiner Street in Valley

WHEN: June 26th thru 30th 9am - 11:30 am each day

CHARGE: \$10 per child (includes t-shirt)

Let's get our St. Mark's kids and their friends signed up for

this exciting week!!!!!! The registration forms are located on the welcome desk. Please give those to Jan Reis in our church office along with the \$10 per child.

We are still looking for helpers from our church family. Please talk to Barb Kahlandt if this is something you would enjoy doing. All ages of helpers are needed.....so jump right in!!!

JUNE NEWS FOR WOMEN OF ST. MARK'S

FAITH CIRCLE NEWS

Watch following newsletters for further information.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

Our next meeting will be on Monday, June 6th at 6:00 PM for our "Fun Night", we will be going to Lazio's at 192nd & Center. We will continue our Bible Study "Contagious Joy" when we resume our meetings in the fall.

Please join us for our meeting.

JOY CIRCLE NEWS

"Sing for **joy**, O heavens, for the Lord has done this; shout aloud, O earth beneath. Burst into song, you mountains, you forests and all your trees, for the Lord has redeemed Jacob, he displays his glory in Israel."

Isaiah 44:23

Joy Circle members continue the study of Contagious Joy in September.

PEACE CIRCLE NEWS

Watch following newsletters for further information.



COFFEE/TEA

for Sale

in the Fellowship Hall

there is...

Toffee Caramel -- Light Roast --\$7



Decaf -- Medium Roast -- \$8

Love Buzz Organic -- Semi dark Roast -- \$7

Midnight Sun Organic -- Dark Roast --\$7

Drop cash or check (payable to St. Mark's) in the canister located at coffee stand.

NEW SOLDIER GROUP

June Soldier Group

TSgt Natalie E. Caballero

US AIR FORCE

Location: Afghanistan

Attn: Any Airman

Representing: 4 Males 2 Females

438 AEW/ TAAC-AIR

OQAB

APO AE 09320



We are with the Air Force helping train in Afghanistan. We work in hard buildings and live in containers like dorms. We do have electricity but the number of outlets are limited. Our DFAC is open for 3 meals a day but our BX is located on another base so we drive to purchase other snacks and needs. We have a couple laundry machines but no soap unless we drive to get some. We have access to a microwave and refrigerator. We are requesting snacks such as cookies, chips (cans), nuts, protein bars, trail mix, etc. Also laundry pods, dryer sheets, and any personal hygiene products. Thank you so much for your help. We appreciate it so much.

Pack & Pray ...Sunday, June 18th, 2017 @ 10:20 am...(AFTER CHURCH)

Postage funds are always appreciated.

Please pray for our soldiers and their families.

(MAY REPORT: 9 boxes were sent Michael Woodall & his troop in Iraq)

If summer takes you away from St. Mark's on Sundays, don't forget your offering is still important. Thanks!!



COPE's Corner

- June and Perry Root will be joining the COPE Board of Directors representing Community of Grace Church. June will be the Board Member with Perry as the alternate. According to the COPE by-laws, Board members must approve new Board Members. June and Perry approved at the May Board Meeting.
- April 10 to April 15, 220 Easter Dinner bags were available for COPE families to pick up. Each bag contained ½ ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, 4 cans of vegetables and a package of brown-n-serve rolls. The food was paid for by the western Douglas County Holiday Food Basket project. Hy-Vee donated the red cloth bags. Thanks to residents of Elk Ridge Village for volunteering to pack the bags at COPE.
- A good friend and community supporter Steve Nichols passed away on April 13. Steve was the past President of AIB Bank in Elkhorn; he was 46 years old and suffered with ALS the past 5 years. Steve, his wife Toni and daughters suggested in lieu of flowers all donations in Steve's memory go to COPE.
- June 25th is the COPE breakfast at the Elkhorn Eagles Club. Volunteers needed to help clean tables. We received over \$1,000 from the breakfast last year. Please note your calendars the food is delicious and your support provides assistance to COPE clients.

- Thank you for supporting the 2017 Omaha Gives Campaign on May 24, details of giving to be disclosed when final report received from Omaha Gives.
- COPE Annual Golf Outing was successful -- St. Mark's golfers: Bob Stiefel, Cal Peacock, Don Walvoord, Harlan Dreessen, Kent Wolzen, Marv Trofholz, Rob King and Gene Griffin. Many thanks to all for making this event fun filled and blessed.

Thank you...your prayers and support illustrate God's love.



We will be beginning an exciting new Bible/Lutheranism study in June called *Connections*. This is a resource for congregations from Wartburg Seminary—but is NOT over our heads! It was designed for group study to help people meet God in

their everyday lives.

The study walks through Luther's Small and Large Catechisms along with corresponding scriptures and invites us to make connections between our daily lives and these writings. There are 4 units, as there are in the Small Catechism. Each unit has six sessions that address the broader theme of the unit. The first unit is called *Living Faithfully* and participants will be studying the 10 Commandments and the intersections between their lives and the scriptures.

The creating, redeeming and life-giving God continues graciously to reach out to us. Learning together is making a connection between Martin Luther's catechetical "What does this mean?" of God's Word and the "What in the world does this mean?" of our own lives. That intersection is the place for dynamic learning!

Enough people have signed up for 2 classes! We will have one on Wednesday evenings, 5:30-7:00 p.m. (Bring your own brown bag with food for your supper) And there will be a daytime group on Thursdays at 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. (also bring your lunch!) Thanks for the interest in "summer school" 😊 and becoming more "Connected" to God and each other! Classes will begin June 7th and 8th at their respective times. Bring your Bibles!



* On Sunday, June 11th, "Holy Ghost" will be presented by the St. Mark-e-teers. Don't miss them!



Flat Jesus is available at the Welcome Center. Please remember to pick yours up! Color or decorate him however you want and take him along with you during the summer. Take selfies or pictures of Flat Jesus joining in on your summer fun, travels, etc. and send them to tdressen59@gmail.com. She will post them on the website. Check the website at www.stmarksvalleyne.com. Prizes will be given

at the end of summer in many categories! Have fun, stay connected to your church use the website, and remember Jesus is always with you!

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St. Mark's Messenger

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