



SAINT MARK
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAKING OUR MARK

June 2019

Special points of interest:

- Message from Pastor Keller
- Pastoral Call Committee Update
- Fundraising / Mission
- Calendar
- Thank you's
- St. Mark Gardens
- Makerspace
- Synod Assembly Update

J U N E 2 0 1 9



P E N T E C O S T

The Serenity of the Serenity Prayer

The Serenity Prayer begins with three requests: God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.

When I first prayed this prayer, I wondered if the order should not be changed. I wanted the courage to act, to move, to change things. I sought the power to DO God's will and to ACT in God's name. Should not courage come first?

Instead the prayer starts with the serenity to accept things that cannot be change, to be at peace with the way things are before any changes come. One thing we cannot change is the day-to-day weather. I might complain about the frequent rain this spring, but my complaining will not change it. Rather I pray that I might see the beauty and wonder in the clouds and rain drops, and be at peace.

The weather is not the only thing I cannot change. On a more profound level – and where I think AA and Al-Anon see the prayers connection to their program – I cannot change other people's behavior or attitudes. Oh, I can love and care for, cajole and advise other people. But I cannot change them. A spouse or parent is unable to change the addictive behavior of a loved one. A family intervention might help a spouse or child seek rehab but ultimately alcoholics or addicts must seek healing for themselves.

But it does not need to be as dramatic as alcoholism. In marriage, husbands and wives need to be able to love, accept and support each other as they are. When I first married Carolyn, I thought I could change her to share my love of back-packing. I thought that I simply had to get her in the right setting and she would see the light. I was wrong. Though we both have enjoyed day hikes and the beauty of God's creation, she does not share my fascination with sleeping on the ground in sweaty clothes after eating dehydrated gruel. At the same time, she has come to accept that she will not expunge my fascination with carrying a thirty pound pack up and down trails for days on end. Instead we accept each other as we are while enjoying the passions we share, like our love of our grandchildren.

The prayer uses the word serenity as the heart of this acceptance. Serenity is NOT the grit-your-teeth-and-bear-it attitude, but rather the calm, internal state of mind that sees reality for what it is: reality. I remember experiencing such serenity when my father died twenty-four years ago. He had contracted pancreatic cancer and then had a debilitating stroke. When I sat by his bedside during his final hours, I felt sadness that the father I loved was dying, but also serenity that this was his reality. I could not change it.

(continued)

To develop such serenity takes practice. We may have moments of instant serenity, but to have consistent serenity takes the practice of prayer and meditation. Saint Paul connected prayer and peace.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:6-7)

How do you experience or cultivate Serenity?

-Pastor John Keller (Interim)

<i>June</i>	<i>Usher</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Fellowship</i>
2	open	Bonnie Jellinek	Karen Larson
9	open	Marty Brueggemann	Larry
16	open	Jerry Smith	Linda Robinson
23	open	Fran Hillier	Ramona Nelson, Fran Hillier
30	<i>Joint Svc at St. Luke</i>		

**St. Mark Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

*A Congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church of America*

Interim Pastor

John Keller

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550 West Seventh St.

St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

(651) 224-0228

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Website www.saintmark.info

Sunday Worship

10:00 am

*Holy Communion is celebrated the
1st & 3rd Sundays*

Fellowship / Education
Hour

following service

Executive Committee

President	Eric Michelson	651-726-4927
Secretary	Mary Miller	651-483-0671
Treasurer	Nancy Redlin	612-270-7127
Cong Liaison	Candy Petersen	651-249-1981

Committee Chairs

Property	Donald Clark	651-357-0370
Worship	Larry Raasch	651-238-3531

Church Staff

Bonnie Jellinek	Organist
Julia Jackson	Bookkeeper
Martin Brueggemann	Choir Director
Johnny Hammond	Custodian

We need your help...

You've heard the expression, "**It Takes a Village**". At St. Mark, our village is our membership. It takes many hours of St. Mark members volunteering to do the on-going tasks that are needed as well as assist with special projects. We are initiating a new feature for the newsletter that will identify to you where St. Mark needs assistance. God has given each of us unique talents. Please consider where you might put some of those talents to use for St. Mark. If you can help in any of the following areas, please call the office at 651-224-0228 and leave a message.

Current Needs:

- Monitoring the gardens and watering when needed. Need a leader and volunteers.
- Loaves & Fishes - We need 5 volunteers to commit monthly to assisting with the Loaves & Fishes program. This is a 2- hour commitment.

Thank you for your assistance!

We reached our goal!

We have raised enough money for two goats! Goats are one of the most meaningful gifts you can give to a family living in poverty. They help provide a family with a lasting source of nutrition and income.

Through Lutheran World Relief and our gift of \$200, two goats will be given to a family living in Latin America, Africa, or Asia. Thank you for your support.



Call Committee Update

Our group of 12 members have been meeting weekly, receiving instruction from the synod and preparing for our interviews with the candidates that the synod brings forward to us. We have completed a mock interview with an interim pastor from another congregation to gain practice and input before we go live with our interviews. We have received our candidate list. Three calling committee members from St. Luke and three from St. Mark will perform the initial interviews of these individuals. We anticipate these meeting will occur during the first two weeks of June. Please pray that God blesses the action of this committee by bringing us the candidate that can best lead the shared ministry of our two congregations.

Joint Service with Saint Luke

The next shared worship service for St. Luke and St. Mark is Sunday, June 30 at 9:30. The service will be outside (weather permitting) at St. Luke so bring a lawn chair. The theme will be Care of Creation. Together we will celebrate the gift of God's creation and God's call for humanity to be good stewards/caregivers of the earth. After worship we will serve together, picking up trash from local parks, streets and parking lots, so bring gloves. Then we will share a potluck meal at 11:20, so bring something tasty to share.

▪9:30 Worship at St. Luke (Bring Lawn Chair)

10:30 Trash pickup (Bring Gloves) ▪11:20 Potluck Meal (Bring Tasty Food)

Makerspace

St. Luke and St. Mark are hosting a Makerspace at St. Luke on the 4th Saturdays of June through August - a space open to the community to come and be creative! June's theme is Fabric Crafts and our Featured Makers will be Micky and Diane Ruiz. Various sewing projects of theirs will be on display plus a short presentation at 11:00 with Q&A to follow. We will also be collectively creating a project for donation! So come and be creative on your own, learn basic sewing and get some sewing tips from our featured makers, help in our service project or all of the above! The Makerspace is open from 10am-11pm - so you can make your art and get your veggies too!

Info and sign-up sheets are posted at each church - let us know you're interested by signing up or replying on Facebook. We are also looking for donations for the Makerspace - so if you've done your spring cleaning and have creative supplies, empty plastic containers, fabric, paper, flattened cardboard, staplers, beads, twine - feel free to donate to our Makerspace! Ideas for supplies are posted next to the sign-up sheets. Further questions can be sent to Rebecca Ruiz, bunkamade@gmail.com

12th Annual West End Garden Tour

Celebrate the history of West 7th & enjoy its gardens *June 8th, 10-3pm*

▪ Scavenger Hunt ▪ Flea Market Plant Sale

St. Mark Gardens

We are seeking volunteers to mow our church lawn once per week. If you are available, a sign up sheet will be passed around and posted on the bulletin board downstairs or you may contact Bonnie (612)270-1770. We don't have very much grass to mow so it should only take about an hour at the most.

SUN	MON	TUE
<p>2</p> <p>10:00a Communion Svc 11:00a Fellowship 12p The Way Church 6p Capital City Church</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00pm AA 7:11pm Men's Group</p>
<p>9</p> <p>10:00a Worship Service 11:00a Fellowship 12p The Way Church 6p Capital City Church</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm Parish Board Mtg 6:30pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00pm AA 7:11pm Men's Group</p>
<p>16 <i>Father's Day</i></p> <p>10:00a Communion Svc 11:00a Fellowship 12p The Way Church 6p Capital City Church</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00pm AA 7:11pm Men's Group</p>
<p>23</p> <p>10:00a Worship Service 11:00a Fellowship 12p The Way Church 6p Capital City Church</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00pm AA 7:11pm Men's Group</p>
<p>30 <i>at St. Luke</i></p> <p>9:30a Worship Service 11:20a Potluck Meal 12p The Way Church 6p Capital City Church</p>		

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>5</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Luke)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Air National Gd Exercise 10am-4pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <hr/> <p>8 West End Garden Tour 10am-3pm</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Luke)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>St. Luke Farmer's Market 8am -1pm</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Luke)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>St. Luke Farmer's Mrkt 8am -1pm Maker's Space 10-1 (@St. L)</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Luke)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>St. Luke Farmer's Market 8am -1pm</p>

Thank you to everyone who purchased plants or gift cards from our Gertens Plant Sale Fund Raiser. We received 21 orders and our profit is \$520.

Update from the Parish Board

We met on May 6th and agreed that we need to put some additional structure to our group and allow for rotational roles on the Parish Board (formerly referred to as the Shared Ministry Team)

We discussed the possibility of sharing a custodian with Saint Luke. The councils will decide.

Our next Shared Service will be held on Sunday June 30th from 9:30-10:30 in the Side Yard at Saint Luke. The Theme for the service will be “Care of Creation”, following the service we will work together in service for the community by cleaning up the surrounding neighborhood and conclude with a potluck meal around 11:15.

Becca Ruiz shared a document and an explanation on the idea of a MakerSpace. The first one will be held on Saturday June 22nd at St. Luke and then the fourth Saturdays of July and August. More details to come.

Pastor Keller suggested that we begin to think proactively regarding future technology needs for a shared pastor. We talked about the need to purchase a laptop and to research a similar e-mail tool along with a shared electronic calendar.

We talked about considering VBS two evenings in August again, as we did last summer and perhaps continue with our theme of Care of Creation.

Nancy asked that we always include an update from the Call Committee at each of our Parish Board Meetings during this time.

Our next meeting will be held on June 10th at 6:30 at Saint Mark (Eric, Nancy, Mary and Jackie)

June Birthdays

June 2

Gavriella Bolden

June 16

John Mena

June 28

Jan Bloom

June 4

Paul Ryan

Ann Schroeder

June 30

Laura McGuire

June 22

Elizabeth Bremer

June 12

June Turtness

Synod Assembly Update from Jackie Brueggemann

On Friday May 17th, the Saint Paul Area Synod held their annual Synod Assembly at Saint Andrew's in Mahtomedi. Pastor Keller, Wendy Bjorklund from St. Luke and Jackie Brueggemann from St. Mark attended. The theme was Both/And. We spent the day with 400 others from around the Synod, representing close to 70 of the 125 churches in our Synod. We



worshiped together, received updates from a number of synod committees, participated in a mission fair and studied a gospel lesson from Matthew.

At the mission fair we had the opportunity to not only pick up materials and ideas from other churches and organizations, we also attended breakout sessions on the “Redevelopment of Congregations”, “Living out Our Call through Advocacy” and “Caring for Creation”.

During the Plenary Session we also viewed video updates from: Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities; Local and Global Mission Projects (including Christ the Servant in Vadnais Heights ;) The African National Ministry; ongoing work in Guatemala and in Tanzania.

Words of wisdom I heard included: Carry the Church with you, wherever you go; Know Your Neighbors; Speak out and stand with the vulnerable; Listen to each other, our community and to God;

If you have the opportunity to attend this in the future, I highly recommend it!! Feel free to talk to me for any additional details and insights.

Newsletter Process Improvement

We are undertaking an improvement process that will aid in getting out the newsletters by the beginning of the month. We would like the newsletter to more fully explain the many activities that are being conducted at St. Mark. To do this, we need your input for articles. With your on-going input for new articles we envision a newsletter that is informative and meaningful. To ensure timeliness we are instituting a date that newsletter articles need to be in to the office by the 20th of the month.

SAINT MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SAINT MARK
LUTHERAN CHURCH

In the City for Good