



SAINT MARK
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAKING OUR MARK

September 2019

Special
points of
interest:

- Farewell
Message from
Pastor Keller
- Welcome
Pastor Emily
Rova-
Hegener
- Calendar
- Blessing of
the
Backpacks
- Shared Ministry
Committee
Survey
- Birthdays

SEPTEMBER

Welcome Pastor Emily Rova-Hegener



Saying Goodbye... Saying Hello

As I write my final newsletter article, I am fully aware that that this is a bitter-sweet moment.

On the one hand I celebrate the task that we accomplished together, starting a shared pastoral ministry between St. Luke and St. Mark. It was not always clear that both congregations would receive and embrace this new form of pastoral ministry. We have and the call of Pastor Emily is evidence of the shared work and the shared trust in the Holy Spirit. This is one of my personal joys of interim ministry: to have a specific task and to accomplish it. This is often rare in settled pastoral ministry: each completed task is normally followed immediately by another task or project. The conveyor belt of ministry rarely stops for a pastor.

But on the other hand, I have started caring pastoral relationship with many of you and those will now end. I am saddened by that. Though I will continue to pray for your shared ministry and rejoice in your welcome of Pastor Emily, I will step away from the pastoral role that I have served for the past fourteen months. This is part of the interim ministry. It is also part of the rhythm of life.

St. Paul write in Romans 15:12, Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. We mutually care for each other by embracing each other's pain as well as joy. Though I doubt that I will be "weeping" as I leave St. Mark and St. Luke, I will be feeling sorrow. At the same time I will also rejoice with you as a new pastoral ministry begins. God has given us these often conflicting emotions as a gift to strengthen our bonds with God and each other. I will be taking time to acknowledge both emotions and encourage you to allow whatever emotions you have to be present for a time. Don't push them away, but simply feel them for a time and then let them go.

The one eternal constant is the steadfast love of God for us, who embraces us in our sorrow and our joy. Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say Rejoice, Philippians 4:4

Peace and Joy, *Pastor John Keller (Interim)*

Thank You Pastor Keller

On Sunday August 25th we bid a fond farewell to our interim pastor, John Keller. John served us so very well after the retirement of Pastor Walt last summer. Pastor Keller was selected to fill the role of interim pastor for both Saint Mark and Saint Luke and to assist us with moving ahead into the creation of a shared ministry. During the past twelve months he performed numerous baptisms, funerals

(cont.)

worship services and shared worship services along with Holy Communion every other week. He also had the opportunity to lead our young people in confirmation classes and vacation bible school. He led us in a weekly adult bible study, a Centering Prayer Workshop, God’s Work Our Hands in which we packed items for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes and we packed Blizzard Bags for Senior Shut-In’s. He led our joint Parish Board by assisting us with joint Lenten and Advent services and he faithfully attended not only our monthly Parish Board Meetings but both church council meetings as well.

He also provided strong leadership to the Altar Guild as well as all of our members with a variety of solutions. We had a number of opportunities to share in fun events together as well, including: Pastor Trivia, Mardi Gras and an Ice Cream Social as well as service work which included Loaves and Fishes, MakerSpace, our Holiday Boutique, our fall rummage sale, the Saint Luke Farmer’s Market and National Night Out.

We were so very blessed to have his leadership and pastoral care and he has left us very well positioned to continue to serve in the City for God.

September Birthdays

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <u>September 8</u> | <u>September 13</u> | <u>September 28</u> | <u>September 28</u> |
| Katherine McGuire | Juan Mena | Dejy Martens | Larry Raasch |
| <u>September 12</u> | <u>September 22</u> | <u>September 28</u> | |
| Will Brueggemann | Alyssa DuPont | Glen Petersen | |

**St. Mark Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

*A Congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church of America*

**Interim Pastor
John Keller**

(612) 201-6625

550 West Seventh St.

St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

(651) 224-0228

secretary@saintmark.info

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 |

Pastor Emily Rova-Hegener

We are pleased to announce that during the special congregational meeting held on July 31st, both St. Luke & St. Mark members voted unanimously to call Pr. Emily Rova-Hegener to be our shared minister. Pr. Emily has accepted this call; her first Sunday with us will be September 1. Her formal Installation will take place at a shared service on Oct. 13 at 9:30am at St. Mark; details to follow.

Pr. Emily graduated from Luther Seminary in 1999 and was ordained in 2001. She was called as an Associate Pastor to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids in 2001; to the Silverdale Lutheran Church in Silverdale, WA as an Associate Pastor in 2003 and then to the United in Christ Lutheran Church in Eveleth, MN as a Co-Pastor from 2006 - 2015. These past 4 years, Pr. Emily has been teaching at the Oslo International School while her husband, Pastor Joel Rova-Hegener served out his call to the American Lutheran Church in Oslo, Norway. Pastors Emily and Joel have two sons; Nestor age 15 and Johan age 13.

While in Norway, Pr. Emily kept her preaching skills sharp by preaching sermons for the ALC, as well as leading retreats and participating in weekly fellowship opportunities afforded by the Norwegian church in outreach to refugees and immigrants. She served on the board of the Association of International Congregations in Europe and the Middle East as vice president and president. In those roles she was able to pursue her passion regarding connecting through conversation with our global brothers and sisters and raise awareness of how we can share the Gospel in a world which is less about religion and faith and becoming more and more secular.

Pr. Emily is a Minnesota native and still has deep family ties located throughout the state of Minnesota. She is an outdoor enthusiast and is looking forward to settling in St Paul and accessing the wonderful parks and trails St. Paul has to offer. She is excited to work with St. Luke & St. Mark as we continue our friendship and deepen our shared ministry experiences. She is looking forward to meeting each and every member of both congregations.

Please take time to thank the members of our Call Committee for their diligent, prayerful work. Also, thank all of you for your patience, faith in the process, and prayers. This is an important next step for both congregations. We will take many more steps together, so please continue to pray for the future of these congregations and for Pr. Emily.

Shared Ministry Committee Survey

The Shared Ministry Committee is looking for input! We have created a survey to find out what you thought about shared services, events and classes from the past year. You can use the address below, or find the survey link on Facebook & our website! Responses will be accepted until September 15th. Thanks for your help! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3XGWBVZ>

Blessing of the Backpacks-Sunday, Sept 8



If you are a student this year—preschool to college—bring your backpack to church on Sunday, September 8th. You will receive a little gift & a blessing as you begin the new school year.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to be a Reader or an Usher for one or more Sunday services during 2019. A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

Simply write your name & phone # under the appropriate position for one or more Sundays and don't forget to add the date(s) in your personal calendar.

Reader Responsibilities:

A copy of the readings will be sent via email or postal mail the week leading up to your assigned reading Sunday.

Please see the pastor for any special reading instructions before service Sunday morning.

Usher Responsibilities:

Please arrive 20-30 minutes before the service starts to handout bulletins & welcome attendees. Larry Raasch will be available most Sundays to guide ushers as to lights, taking the Sunday count, etc

| <i>September</i> | <i>Usher</i> | <i>Reader</i> | <i>Fellowship</i> |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | open | Nancy Redlin | Nancy Redlin |
| 8 | open | Bev Kisch | open |
| 15 | open | Eric Michelson | open |
| 22 | open | Myra Larson | open |
| 29 | open | Bonnie Jellinek | open |

Rummage Sale

Quick reminder that our annual rummage sale is scheduled for Thurs & Fri October 3rd & 4th with set up starting on Monday, September 30th. We will begin accepting donations on September 26th. Please help us to make this a successful rummage sale by donating gently used items, volunteering for set-up or to help during the sale and by baking for the bake sale that is held during the sale. If you have any questions please call Nancy at 612-270-7127.

| SUN | MON | TUE |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1</p> <p>10:00a Communion Svc 11:00a Fellowship 12p The Way Church 6p Capital City Church</p> | <p>2</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p> | <p>3</p> <p>6:00pm AA 7:11pm Men's Group</p> |
| <p>8</p> <p>10:00a Worship Service 11:00a Fellowship 12p The Way Church 6p Capital City Church</p> | <p>9</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p> | <p>10</p> <p>6:00pm AA 7:11pm Men's Group</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>10:00a Communion Svc 11:00a Fellowship 12p The Way Church 6p Capital City Church</p> | <p>16</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p> | <p>17</p> <p>6:00pm AA 7:11pm Men's Group</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>10:00a Worship Service 11:00a Fellowship 12p The Way Church 6p Capital City Church</p> | <p>23</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p> | <p>24</p> <p>6:00pm AA 7:11pm Men's Group</p> |
| <p>29</p> <p>10:00a Worship Service 11:00a Fellowship 12p The Way Church 6p Capital City Church</p> | <p>30</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm <i>Begin Rummage Sale setup</i></p> | <p>31</p> <p>6:00pm AA 7:11pm Men's Group</p> |



| WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|-----------|--|
| <p>4</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> <p>St. Luke Farmer's Market 8am –1pm</p> |
| <p>11</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> <p>St. Luke Farmer's Market 8am –1pm</p> |
| <p>18</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> <p>St. Luke Farmer's Mrkt 8am –1pm</p> |
| <p>25</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p> | <p>26</p> <p><i>Begin accepting Rummage Sale donations</i></p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> <p>St. Luke Farmer's Mrkt 8am –1pm</p> |

SAINT MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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In the City for Good