



SAINT MARK
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAKING OUR MARK

December 2018

Special points of interest:

- Christmas Services
- Heritage Dinner
- Calendar
- Thank you's
- Mitten Tree
- Birthdays
- Choir Rehearsals

good
tidings
of
comfort
and
joy

<i>Dec</i>	<i>Usher</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Fellowship</i>
2	open	Nancy Redlin	Mary Miller
9	open	Carrie Arnold	Jackie Brueggemann
16	open	Marty Brueggemann	The Michelsons
23	open	Jerry Smith	open
30		Joint service at St. Luke	

December Birthdays

Lori Geib	Isabella Milenar
Nicholas Arnold	Divine Togma
Jorge Chavez-Mena	Kendra Stevens
Joyce Crozier	Robert Maiden
Bev Kisch	Emily Stage



St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

*A Congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church of America*

Interim Pastor John Keller

550 West Seventh St.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
(651) 224-0228

secretary@saintmark.info

Website www.saintmark.info

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

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

Fellowship / Education
Hour
prior to 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	Nate Arnold	651-485-1876
Worship	Larry Raasch	651-238-3531

Church Staff

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

Advent Storms and Safe Harbors

Advent comes during the dark cold month of December. The sun hangs low in the Minnesota sky and frequent storms race across the prairie. The first snow storm of the season often disrupts our daily lives. During this season we hanker for some warmth and light, some good cheer. The world seems ready to collapse and die.

In Advent, I am reminded of Jesus' words, from the first Sunday in Advent.

There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. (Luke 21:25-28)

Jesus experienced the broken, destructive shadows of creation. He knew the despair we can slip into. Yet he would not let us go. It's as if we are on a long sea voyage and terrible storms are smashing our ship. The storms of sickness, violence, neglect, sin and death cause us to despair. Why celebrate Christmas when the world appears to be so harsh, cold and cruel?

The interim journey can feel like a dangerous sea voyage. The uncertainty of how and when a new pastor will be called can stir anxiety and angst. People may feel like abandoning ship and striking out for some new lifeboat. A few may wonder, "Will we make it?"

But the present storms are not the end of the story, only a temporary part in God's glorious story of safe passage. Even as the seas roar, our safe harbor in Jesus is drawing near. A safe harbor called Bethlehem. The angel choir will once again announce, "Peace on earth, good will to all." God will calm the storm.

Lord Jesus, you gave us a glorious promise that someday your whole creation will be made new again. Grant us the faith to trust in your promise and the everlasting hope to live by your power. We trust you to guide St. Mark with your strong love. Raise our heads high and let us sing your praise with energetic joy today. Amen.

~Pastor John Keller (Interim)

SUN	MON	TUE
<p>2</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship</p> <p>10:30 Communion Svc</p> <p>12:00pm <i>The Way</i> Svc</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6pm Confirmation (@ St. Luke)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00pm AA</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am Service</p> <p>12:00pm <i>The Way</i> Svc</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6pm Confirmation (@ St. Luke)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00pm AA</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship</p> <p>10:30 Communion Svc</p> <p>12:00pm <i>The Way</i> Svc</p> <p>Heritage Dinner 4:30p</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00pm AA</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am Service</p> <p>12:00pm <i>The Way</i> Svc</p>	<p>24</p> <p>CHRISTMAS EVE</p> <p>6pm (@ Saint Luke), 10pm (@ Saint Mark)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p> <p>9:30am Svc @ St Luke</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:30 Service</p> <p>10:30am Fellowship</p> <p>12:00pm J.T. Service</p>	<p>31</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>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 10:30 Altar Guild</p> <hr/> <p>8 3B2 Event 10:00am</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Luke)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Luke)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Luke)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>

Our Holiday Boutique

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the Holiday Boutique a success. Thanks to everyone who helped with set up, clean up, worked during the sale, donated delicious baked goods, raffle prizes, purses and items for Bob's Attic. After all the bills are paid our profit should be around \$2,000. Funds raised from the Boutique are deposited in the Capital Campaign Fund and are used for education salaries, repairs and projects which are not included in the General Budget.

Thanks, Bonnie

3B2 (Broomsticks, Brunch & Benevolence)

Please join us Saturday, December 8th at 10am for our monthly 3B2 event as we prepare St. Mark for a season of beautiful Christmas decoration. We'll also share in lunch together and participate in Kiva microlending. Hope to see you there!

St. Mark 'Widow's Jar'

Please be generous in your Widow's Jar donations this month. Our December collections will go to Joseph's Coat. Joseph's Coat is located on West 7th Street and provides essential goods and services to approximately 700 individuals weekly.

Christmas Choir at St. Mark

To all interested in singing with us during this one of a kind Advent & Christmas season, we will be rehearsing on a new schedule. Please join us Wednesdays at 4pm for an hour of caroling and togetherness.

Christmas Eve Services

6pm (St. Luke), 10pm (St. Mark)

Christmas Day Service

9:30am @ St. Luke

Dec 30 Joint Worship Service

9:30am @ St. Luke

Hat & Mitten Tree

Through out the winter season, many children and families are in need of warm outer wear.

If you have new or like new hats, mittens and scarves to donate, we have people who are in need of them.

Items can be placed on the mitten tree during the offering time of worship.

Once decorated, we will donate all items to Womens Advocates and Naomi Family Residence, a local homeless shelter for women and children.



Heritage Dinner

Sunday, Dec. 16,
2018

Set up: 3:30 pm

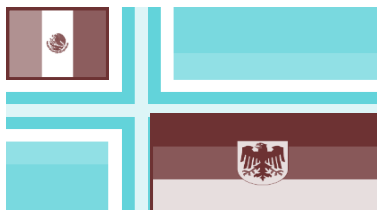
Dinner: 4:30 pm

Clean up: 6:00

Suggested Donation

\$5.00

Everyone is expected to help with set-up and clean-up



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In the City for Good