



SAINT MARK
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAKING OUR MARK

February 2019

Special points of interest:

- Message from Pastor Keller
- Calendar
- Thank you's
- Shared Ministry with Saint Luke
- Birthdays
- St. Mark Anniversary Dinner
- Congregational information



Middle Laps

In college, I ran track. I was not very fast, but I grew up watching Jim Ryun run a sub-4 minute mile. I dreamed of being such a miler, clicking off each of the four laps on the track in 60 seconds. In reality, I rarely could run one lap under 70 seconds, let alone four in a row. Still I competed each year, yearning to improve.

One thing track taught me was the value of persistence, especially in the middle laps. The first and last laps of a mile race have their own magic which can pull the runner along. The first lap has the quick start and the pack jockeying for position. The gun lap has the pull of the finish line and the knowledge that the race will soon be completed.

It is the second and especially the third lap that always challenged me mentally and physically. The pain of running at race pace had become reality, but the finish seemed too far away to contemplate. If I focused on the pain, I rarely did well. If I focused on staying calm, relaxed, and fluid, I could maintain my semi-fast pace. By my senior year I knew the challenge I faced each time I approached the start line.

I think of this as St. Mark and St. Luke continue the process of shared ministry. Now that we have voted affirmatively to move forward and prepare the documents, we are past the starting lap of the interim journey. Yet we still have many meetings and at least two congregational votes before we see the finish line. We are in the middle laps of our race together and so we need to be persistent and patient.

The Christian life also requires persistence and perseverance. *The joy of the Lord is our strength* (Nehemiah 8:10), yet not every day will be happy. Life can be difficult and challenging; it can feel like we are in the middle laps of a very long race. Our prayers may seem to circle around our heads, never reaching God's heavenly ear. Saint Paul reminds us that we are to keep on praying, keep on believing and trusting, even when the days seem long.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer (Romans 12:12)

At some point this year I am confident that St. Mark and St. Luke will call a shared pastor. We will finish this interim journey. Yet our life in Christ will carry on for many more laps. Christ is not simply at the start or the finish, but running beside us each lap of the race, helping us to stay patient and calm. Thus what we are learning in this interim time will carry over into future ministry in Christ. Thanks be to God.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, open the eyes of my heart to see you each day with patience and hope.
 ~Pastor John Keller (Interim)

<i>Feb</i>	<i>Usher</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Fellowship</i>
3	open	Jackie Brueggemann	open
10	open	Jerry Smith	open
17	open	Eric Michelson	open
24	open	Dianne Testa	open

**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
10:30 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	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

February Birthdays

February 3

Tori Fleming

February 4

Abigail Togba

February 9

Ken Geib

February 11

Gary Brueggemann

Shane Geib

February 20

Melissa Michelson

February 21

Elsa Schroeder

February 22

Alyssa Mena

Cynthia Wood

February 24

Amber Meldahl

Shared Ministry Update

On Sunday January 13th, we took a vote of those members present regarding going forward in Shared Ministry with Saint Luke. The result was 26 folks voted YES and no one voted no. At Saint Luke, the vote was 40 Yes and 5 No, so our Shared Ministry Team will continue to work together with Saint Luke to craft both a Shared Ministry agreement and the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). One additional task will be to form a "call committee". Each church will have 6 members on that call committee for a total of 12 members. If you are interested in serving on this committee or can recommend a fellow member for it, please contact Eric Michelson at (651) 726-4927.

On Sunday February 3rd, during fellowship time (9:30-10:30), we will hold a Town Hall Meeting in which you can come and ask any questions you have about Shared Ministry and offer up any suggestions to be considered in our Shared Ministry Agreement with Saint Luke. We need to hear from you!

Since Pastor Walt's Retirement in June of last year, we have accomplished so much to prepare us for this next step. Here are

just a few of our accomplishments:

1. We gave Pastor Walt a GREAT send off;
2. We hired Pastor John Keller to serve both our congregation and Saint Luke;
3. We combined our Wednesday morning Bible Study with Saint Luke;
4. We combined for Vacation Bible School and our Confirmation Class;
5. We have continued to worship jointly on the fifth Sundays (when they occur). We started this practice with Saint Luke in October of 2016 on Reformation Sunday;
6. We continue to serve Loaves and Fishes together monthly;
7. We have held information sharing sessions and provided newsletter updates;
8. The Shared Ministry Team has met monthly for the past year;
9. We have continued with our 3B2 events to keep the church tidy and get things done;
10. We are celebrating Holy Communion twice a month instead of once.

On Sunday February 24, 2019 we will once again have a congregational meeting to vote on the Shared Agreement, the Ministry Site Profile (similar to a job posting) and the Call Committee. Please put this important meeting on your calendars. As always, feel free to reach out to any one of the members of the Shared Ministry Team with any questions or concerns. (Eric Michelson, Nancy Redlin, Jackie Brueggemann or Mary Miller)

SUN	MON	TUE
<p>3</p> <p>9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Communion Svc 12 The Way Church</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:00pm AA</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Worship Service 12 The Way Church 3:30-6:30 <i>63rd Anniversary Celebration</i></p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00pm AA</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Communion Svc 12 The Way Church</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:00pm AA</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:30 Congregational Meeting and Vote 10:30 Worship Service 12 The Way Church</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:00pm AA</p>

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2
<p>6</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>	8	<p>9</p> <p>3B2 Event 9am</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>	15	16
<p>20</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>	22	23
<p>27</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>		

Greetings Fellow St. Mark Members,

We are in the process of organizing, fixing and getting our church property in a condition that will meet the expectations of the many organizations that pay for the use of the facilities as well as add to the enjoyment of our own members as we plan the use of the church for 2019 activities. We welcome your questions about the changes, your input and suggestions as well as your assistance in completing projects that move us forward as we work on our 2019 goals. It should be noted that in the course of some repairs other necessary repairs are being found. Below is a list of high level projects currently being worked on or scheduled to be looked at for 2019.

Countertops have been cleared and items moved to unused Sunday School rooms. This was necessary so that the use of the kitchen, by those that pay us for the use of our facilities and our members, is not hampered by inadequate counter space. Additional projects related to this will be determining what items will be needed for future St. Mark functions as well as creating an inventory of all St. Mark property.

Leaky faucets and toilets have been fixed and where deemed unrepairable have been removed. A determination was made that the counter had to be replaced. That project will be finished in about 5 weeks.

This spring, work will be needed around the gardens. Over time the plantings around the foundation have created stress on the foundation that will need to be addressed.

Weather and age have damaged the stained glass windows to the point that some of them could shatter if impacted by

a bird or hail or some other similar type of object.

The wheelchair ramp is in disrepair and will be repaired or replaced.

Shelves are being made so that like items can be stored together. For example, Christmas ornaments and displays will be in one place as well as material that is used for the rummage sale and the boutique. Kitchen and bathroom supplies will be stored appropriately.

The garage will be cleaned so that we can make effective use of that space as well.

Work will need to be done in the back office conference room so that the pastor(s) of the congregations that are paying for the use of our building have a place to be used as office space for them.

Property use agreements need to be reviewed and updated.

Work is currently under way to improve the content and look of our website.

As stated earlier, we welcome your input and assistance. At a minimum if you have a concern and/or a solution, please voice it to anyone on the council so that it can be addressed.

Sincerely,

St. Mark Council

**ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
550 West Seventh Street, St. Paul MN 55102
63RD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**St. Mark's 63rd Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, February 10, 2019
3:30 - 6:30 PM**

**DeGidio's
425 W. Seventh Street
St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 291-7105**

Join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship as we celebrate our 63 years on West 7th Street.

3:30 PM Social Hour and Raffle followed by Italian Buffet Dinner-Chicken Wings, Caesar Salad, Mostaccioli w/Classic Tomato Sauce, Bowtie with Alfredo Sauce, Meatballs, Cake and Coffee and entertainment by the Barbershop Quartet Autumn Serenade.

**Ticket Price \$25.00 per person (includes one raffle ticket)
Additional Raffle Tickets may be purchased at the dinner**

**Contact Diane Testa (651-227-4047), Bonnie Jellinek (651-738-1399) or call the church office at (651) 224-0228 for tickets.
Reservations are needed by February 3rd.**

Make checks payable to: St. Mark Capital Campaign

February 3B2 Event

On February 9th at 9:00 we will hold our monthly 3B2 event. We will work on organizing and counting inventory. Many hands will be needed for this event. The organizing of our inventory will make our future events so much easier and enjoyable. Please consider helping with this effort.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME

Devotional booklets for January—March, 2019 can be found in the narthex. Please take a copy to bring home!

Mardis Gras Celebration



We will be sharing in a special Mardi Gras Celebration with St. Luke on Saturday, March 2, from 5-7pm (at St. Luke). There will be a Free Will offering, with proceeds go-

ing to our continuing Loaves and Fishes program. Can't wait to see you there!

Year End Statements and Offering Envelopes are now available in the Narthex

SAINT MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

550 West 7th St.

St. Paul, MN 55102

Phone: 651-224-0228

www..secretary@saintmark.info



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

In the City for Good