



SAINT MARK
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAKING OUR MARK

January 2019

Special points of interest:

- Message from Pastor Keller
- Calendar
- Thank you's
- Operation Christmas Child
- Shared Ministry with Saint Luke
- Birthdays
- Undie Sunday
- Congregational Voting information

Happy
New Year!

Prayer Habits and Practices

The New Year can be a good time to start a new habit or to deepen a current one. One powerful habit is daily prayer. In this article I share some basic prayer practices that can enhance your prayer life.

Intentional: most habits are formed when we make it a priority and intentionally schedule time and energy for it. If we want our prayer life to deepen we need to schedule an intentional time and place to pray. Many people find the first thing in the morning best; others prefer the evening. I know one person who made sure to leave for work early so he could have fifteen minutes to pray in his office parking lot. I pray just after my morning stretching routine. I have my daily devotional and prayer app on my phone near my prayer kneeler which is placed in a quiet room.

Written, Spontaneous and Silence. Through most of my life my prayers have been spontaneous with a basic mental framework to guide me. I use **confession** (of sin), **gratitude** (thanksgiving) and **intercession** (praying for others). In recent years my daily prayers has added written prayers and silence. Having all three allows me to stay focused and keeps my mind from wandering as much. I also change some of the written prayers on an annual basis so as to give it some variety and freshness. This past year I have been using the Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr, which starts, *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.*

Relaxed: My goal in prayer is not to finish my prayers as quickly as possible but rather to spend time with God. *Be still and know that I am God! Psalm 46:10.* During the twenty minute of Centering Prayer, I simply imagine God being close to me, His breath matching mine own. If my mind wanders I acknowledge the wandering thought and bring my mind back to my sacred word that reorients my heart's intention to be with God. After my centering prayer I pray for the needs of others.

Consistent: We certainly can pray at any time. Paul calls us to pray without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17). People often practice” bullet prayers”, asking for God’s guidance, strength, or intervention in quick snippets of prayer throughout the day. Such prayers are not wrong, but should not be confused with developing a deeper intentional prayer life. As an analogy, bullet prayers are like calling yourself a runner, when the only running you do is to sprint from the parking lot to the office door during rain storm. To become an honest runner you need to consistently take time to lace up your running shoes and run. To become a disciple of prayer you consistently need to take time to step off the daily treadmill and be in prayer. Fifteen minutes on a daily basis will do wonders for your soul.

Lord Jesus Christ, my desire and intention is to stay close to you. Stir your Holy Spirit within me and guide me to develop and deepen my prayer life with you this coming year. Amen.

~Pastor John Keller (Interim)

**St. Mark Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

*A Congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church of America*

**Interim Pastor
John Keller**

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
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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

January Birthdays

Week of Jan 7-13

Melanie Wood

Ramona Nelson

Week of Jan 14-20

Ron Fogel

Nathan Arnold

Dianne Testa

Bonnie Jellinek

Week of Jan 21-27

Geraldine Salzwedel

Week of Jan 28-31

Jerry Smith

Elena Mena

Jan Usher

6 open

13 open

20 open

27 open

Reader

Bev Kisch

Bonnie Jellinek

Fran Hillier

Dianne Testa

Fellowship

Christmas cookies

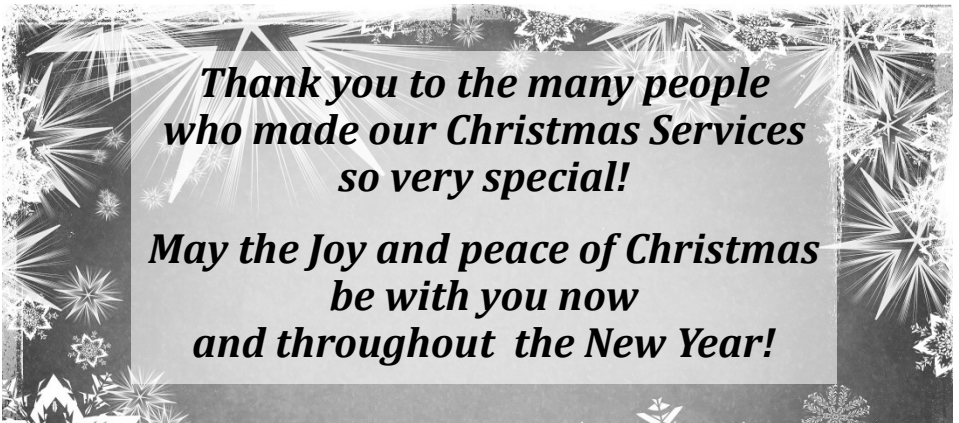
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Save the Date

Our 63rd Anniversary Celebration will be held on February 10th at DeGidio's from 3:30-6:30pm. More details to come—see you there!



“Undie Sunday”

*a clothing collection mission in
partnership with The DRAWER*

It's time for Undie Sunday! Now is a great time to stock up on NEW men's, women's and children's socks and underwear for our annual collection of these important essential items.

We will be collecting NEW socks and underwear at St. Mark in the box marked with THE DRAWER, which will provide dignity and warmth for those less fortunate. We will also gratefully accept monetary donations: just indicate "Undies Drive" in the memo line of your check and place in the offering plate. We hope that you will join us and be a part of our collection

Collection Start: Jan. 6 Undie Sunday: Jan. 27

Also in the afternoon of Sunday, January 27 volunteers are need to help unbundle the package underwear in Oakdale. Please contact Interim Pastor John Keller if you can help.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!



Thank you all so very much for your continued generosity with *Samaritan's Purse*. *The Operation Christmas Child* Project this year was another resounding success with the partnership between Saint Luke's and Saint Mark and friends of both churches. This year we packed a total of 170 boxes together, WOW!! Not only were all of the boxes packed full of wonderful items for the children that will receive them in Belize, but the cost of shipping them (\$9.00 per box), was also raised in a variety of ways. That cost is over \$1,500, another WOW! Just think of all of those smiles, which are priceless.

Thanks again for your giving spirit and for getting your boxes to church for the blessing on 11/11.

SUN	MON	TUE
		<p>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY</p>
<p>6 EPIPHANY 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Communion Svc 12 The Way Church</p>	<p>7 6:30pm Shared Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>8 6:00pm AA</p>
<p>13 <i>Congregational Vote</i> 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Worship Service 12 The Way Church</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 6:00pm AA</p>
<p>20 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Communion Svc 12 The Way Church</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 6:00pm AA</p>
<p>27 "Undie Sunday" 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Worship Service 12 The Way Church</p>	<p>28 Loaves & Fishes 3:00pm Prep 5-6:30pm Service</p>	<p>29 6:00pm AA</p>

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>2</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark)</p> <p>7pm AA OMD</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Square Dancing 7:00-9:00pm</p>		

Shared Ministry Team Update:

- The Shared Ministry Team (Eric Michelson, Nancy Redlin and Jackie Brueggemann) meet monthly with representatives from Saint Luke. Our next meeting is Monday January 7th;
- During fellowship for the past several weeks we have engaged all of you in conversations about your concerns and questions regarding Shared Ministry, along with approving our 2019 Budget;
- We have provided a weekly email communication;
- The following “list” outlines some of the benefits along with some of the concerns we have heard:

Benefits of sharing a pastor Full Time vs. going it alone with someone Part Time:

- Pastor John started on 7/1/2018 and right away had a funeral on his first day. If he was part time he would have been somewhat restricted as to the number of hours he would or could work.
- We were able to share VBS with Saint Luke, giving all of the kids a better experience.
- We have been able to share with Saint Luke in our weekly Bible Study.
- We have joined the confirmation class, again, giving the participants a much more rich experience in being with other kids.
- Our shared services (3-4 times each year in the months with five Sundays) have allowed for a joint choir, which is a great experience for our singers.
- We shared together in our mission outreach with the Blizzard Bags and the jump ropes along with the shoeboxes.
- We continue to share in our service with Loaves and Fishes. Pastor John also brought the confirmation class to serve, what a great experience for all of them!

- We are celebrating Holy Communion twice a month, which is somewhat due to the fact that Pastor John is then able to hold a similar service at each church.
- We are able to learn from one another to improve our experiences.
- We are more fully supported by the Saint Paul Area Synod

Negatives with sharing a pastor have been:

- Changing our time of worship from 9:30 – 10:30
- Not as much time with Pastor Keller during fellowship



CHRISTMAS COOKIES for FELLOWSHIP

Leftover Christmas cookies? Bring them to church on Sunday, January 6th and we can share them for Fellowship Hour!



What happens if one or both congregations vote NO to shared pastor?

Each congregation needs to determine what is best for their future ministry, but the reality is if one congregation votes NO then the shared pastoral ministry between St. Mark and St. Luke will come to an end. Both congregations need to vote YES in order to move forward with shared ministry with a shared pastor.

We need to know what other questions you may have regarding our shared ministry so that we can provide a response. We will be making that decision together on Sunday January 13, 2019. We have also created a “decision tree” for your information. For now, we will attempt to answer this question?

So what happens if a congregation votes NO?

There are two parts to this question. Interim and Calling a Settled Pastor

Interim: The current Interim Shared Ministry Agreement states that after December 31st of this year, the shared interim pastor can continue on a month-to-month basis as long as both councils and interim pastor agree to continue, with thirty days notice for termination. It is Pastor Keller’s intention to continue to serve as our interim as long as needed and desired by both councils, but a council may choose to consider a part-time interim (if available) rather than continue the shared interim arrangement.

Settled Pastor: Each congregation would need to determine whether they want to proceed with a) calling their own pastor, based on their present budget restriction or b) whether they want to seek some other shared ministry arrangement with another congregation. In either case, they would consult with the Saint Paul Area Synod office as to potential resources for their desired direction.

Own Pastor : Both congregations have limited financial resources with which to call a settled pastor. This limitation would probably mean calling a part-time settled pastor. What “part-time” would mean is something that would need to be negotiated with any pastoral candidate. It could be from 15 hours a week to 38 hours or more. The Synod Office has informed both councils that there are fewer candidates for part-time calls than full time calls and that a part-time pastor typically does not stay as long in a congregation as a fully compensated pastor. It is not impossible to find part-time settled pastors, but it is challenging.

Other partnerships. It is possible that other congregations in our Synod might be willing to share a pastor. This could be with a larger congregation that might be willing to “adopt” either congregation to support their ministry, but such financial support would also bring expectations and limitations. There could be other similar sized congregations that would be willing to experiment with shared ministry. It is doubtful that there is a congregation that would be as close in proximity and culture to the present arrangement shared by St. Luke and St. Mark.

The Shared Ministry Team: Interim Pastor John Keller, Eric Michelson, Nancy Redlin and Jackie Brueggemann

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In the City for Good