



MAKING OUR MARK

September 2018

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September 9 **RALLY DAY**

A DAY OF SERVICE

A LIFE OF SERVICE!

Blessing of the Backpacks

Love is Patience

Five years ago I was hiking the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) in Washington State. I was in the middle of an eight day hike that I had been planning for months. That day the trail followed a high ridge whose side dropped a thousand feet into a deep green river valley. Beyond the valley were several snow capped peaks. The sky was clear, the alpine flowers brilliant and the view stretched for miles. Still my mind could not stay centered.

As I walked I noticed that my mind kept jumping back to Minnesota, to worries about work or family. Who could I find to help with the church stewardship drive next fall? What sermon series would be helpful to the congregation? How were my children doing, each starting new work adventures? These were not “bad” thoughts, but they certainly distracted me from being centered on the present path.

I remember stepping back (inside my head) and noticing how these different trains of thought were jumping around. Who exactly was this observer inside my head noticing the jumps? I prayed, asking God to care for these different concerns, but my prayers seemed only to add to the confusing cacophony of thoughts and ideas rolling around in my head.

As the trail began to descend from the ridge, I was surprised to be passed by a fellow solo backpacker. He was moving at a fast clip with a light pack. He had the harden look of a PCT thru-hiker, covering the 2600 mile trail in one season. My mind thought, “Moving that fast he must be missing out on truly seeing the spectacular view.” But another thought followed, “But are you any different, with your mind jumping around? Are you present to this moment?”

I knew that I wanted to change my busy mind but unsure how to go about it. So I asked Jesus for help. *(continued)*

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.
(Matthew 7:7-8)

The next year I was introduced to the simple, but quite challenging practice of centering prayer, a form of Christian meditation. I have practicing this daily prayer discipline for over four years and discovered God's blessings within it. It has opened my heart and mind to God's abiding peace in new ways and has created spiritual fruit in my life and relationships.

I will teach a six week class on Centering Prayer, beginning Monday, September 24. (Information inside)

-Interim Pastor John Keller

**St. Mark Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
*A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
of America*

**Interim Pastor
John Keller**

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**Sunday Worship
10:30 am**

*Holy Communion is celebrated
the 1st Sunday of each month*
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
Evang/Mission		
Worship	Larry Raasch	651-238-3531

Church Staff

Bonnie Jellinek	Organist
Julia Jackson	Bookkeeper
Martin Brueggemann	Choir Director
Carol Gall & Janet Blair	Custodians

<i>September</i>	<i>Usher</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Fellowship</i>
2	open	Nancy Redlin	Nancy Redlin
9	open	Marty Brueggemann	Bonnie Jellinek
16	open	Bev Kisch	open
23	open	Fran Hillier	open
30	open	<i>Joint service w/ St. Luke</i>	open

Confirmation Sign-up

*Confirmation will bein on Monday, September 24 at **6pm** at Saint Mark*

We will be studying the Life of Jesus through the Gospels of St. Mark and St. Luke as well as studying/practicing the Lord's Prayer. Students are to come prepared to study, discuss, and participate. We will be finished at 6:50 pm. We will be alternating every three weeks, meeting at either St. Luke or St. Mark using the following schedule.

Monday, Sept 24	St. Mark
Monday, October 1	St. Mark
Monday, Oct. 8	St. Mark
Monday, Oct. 15	St. Luke
Monday, Oct 22	St. Luke
Monday, Oct 29	St. Luke
Monday, Nov. 5	St. Mark
Monday, Nov 12	St. Mark
Monday, Nov. 19	St. Mark
Monday, Nov. 26	St. Luke
Monday, Dec. 3	St. Luke
Monday, Dec. 10	St. Luke

(continued)

Also confirmation students from St. Mark and St. Luke will join with other Saint Paul Synod congregations for a larger confirmation experience on the Second Sunday of the month, from 1-3pm beginning Sunday, October 14 at St. Paul Reformation Lutheran Church, 100 North Oxford Street. We will then meet November 11 at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave, and on December 9 at the Mall of America in Bloomington. We will need other adult mentors from St. Luke and St. Mark to participate as well.

Please register your student by contacting via email jvkeller54@gmail.com with your student's name, grade, best contact phone number/email and any concerns you might have. If you prefer you can call the church office, 651-224-0288, and leave a voice mail message with the above information.

Centering Prayer Classes

Centering Prayer: A Training Course for Opening to the Presence of God

Monday Evenings 7pm. (Sept 24 – Oct 29) Weeks 1-3: St. Mark; 4-6: St. Luke

Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer. Rather, it adds depth of meaning to all prayer and facilitates the movement from more active modes of prayer - verbal, mental or affective prayer - into a receptive prayer of resting in God. Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and as a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ.

The class will provide the instruction and support to begin a 20 minute silent prayer discipline on a daily basis. The class will include DVD teaching and times of silence. Interim Pastor John Keller will be leading the class. All are welcome to participate.

Operation Christmas Child



Once again this year we will be participating with Operation Christmas Child. However, we are asking that you bring a COMPLETED box to church rather than gathering items. Please plan to have your filled box in church no later than Sunday November 4th. They will be blessed and sent on their way on Sunday November 11th. In the social hall you will find more details regarding the packing of the boxes, labels to affix to your box along with a sample completed box and empty shoeboxes for your use. There are four steps to consider when you are packing your box:

- (1) Find a Shoebox Start with an average-size cardboard or plastic shoebox. If you want to wrap it, cover the box and lid separately.
- (2) Decide if your gift will be for a Girl or a Boy and the age category: 2–4, 5–9, or 10–14 and attach the appropriate label.
- (3) Fill with Gifts Select a medium to large “wow” item such as a soccer ball with pump or stuffed animal, then fill with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies and
- (4) Pray for the child who will receive your gift. You can also include a personal note and photo.

This is a fun activity to do with children. You can even select a plastic type shoebox in the store and see how the kids creatively manage to fill it up as you wander the aisles!!

These are items that you should **not** place in your boxes:

Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

We have learned how to fashion a jump rope out of t-shirts that have been cut into strips. Please bring t-shirts for this purpose and following our joint worship with Saint Luke's on Sunday September 30th we will have an opportunity to learn how to make them together and have them for placement in our boxes.

Thanks for your participation - look for additional details in the coming weeks.

2018 Rummage Sale

Once again we will hold a fall rummage sale. The sale begins on October 4th. Bag Day will be all day on October 5th. We are accepting donations through 10-2nd. We are not able to accept large furniture items, including sofa's and entertainment centers, dining room sets as well as tv's, printers, typewriters etc. We also appreciate help for set-up, October 1st – October 3rd and clean-up on October 6th. Let's make this the best sale ever!!

St. Mark Holiday Boutique

We have started planning our Holiday Boutique which will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2018 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Several vendors have already sent in their registrations and several others have requested the registration forms. We will have a few openings, so if you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them call Di-anne Testa (651-227-4047), Bonnie Jellinek (651-738-1399), or the church office at (651-224-0228). An 8' space is \$50 and a 4' space is \$35.

We are especially looking for someone who sells something that will decorate our entry way.

Please keep the date open as we will need help on that Saturday with the café, kitchen, selling bakery, Bob's Attic and putting the social hall back in order after 3 pm for Sunday. We will also need bakery goods to sell, raffle items and treasures for Bob's Attic. So start looking through your things for those items.

September Birthdays

9/8 Katherine McGuire 9/28 Dejoy Martens

9/12 Will Brueggemann 9/28 Glen Petersen

9/13 Juan Mena 9/28 Larry Raasch

9/22 Alyssa DuPont



Blessing of the Backpacks (Rally Day)

Calling all students: please plan on bringing your backpack to church on Sunday September 9th (Rally Day!). During the service at 10:30 Pastor Keller will bless them and all of you to ensure a great school year.

Joint Service with St. Luke—Sept. 30

Together we will be assembling Blizzard Bags for local shut-ins to use during inclement weather. This will be a great opportunity for us to both worship and work together.

Photos



Joint VBS at St. Luke



SUN	MON	TUE
2 9:30am Fellowship 10:30 <i>Communion Svc</i> 12:00pm <i>The Way</i> Svc	3 Labor Day	4 6:00pm AA
9 9:30am Fellowship 10:30am Service 12:00pm <i>The Way</i> Svc	10 6:30 - 9pm Square Dancing	11 6:00pm AA
16 9:30am Fellowship 10:30 <i>Communion Svc</i> 12:00pm <i>The Way</i> Svc	17 6:30 - 9pm Square Dancing	18 6:00pm AA
23 9:30am Fellowship 10:30am Service 12:00pm <i>The Way</i> Svc	24 6pm Confirmation 6:30 - 9 Square Dncg 7pm Centering Prayer	25 6:00pm AA
30 <i>Joint Service w/St. Luke</i> 9:30am Joint Service 10:30am Fellowship 12:00pm <i>The Way</i> Svc		

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5 9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark) 7pm AA OMD	6	7	8 10:30 Altar Guild
12 9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark) 7pm AA OMD	13	14	15
19 9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark) 7pm AA OMD	20	21	22
26 9:00am Bible Study (at St. Mark) 7pm AA OMD	27	28	29

SAINT MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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LUTHERAN CHURCH
In the City for Good