Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

December Newsletter

December 2020

The small church with a BIG heart.

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Important Dates

Worship Service at Church and On-line

Worship Service Sundays - 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th @ 10 am

Bible Study Tuesdays - 1st, 8th, 15th @ 9:00 am

Quilting Tuesdays - 1st, 8th, 15th @ 10:00 am

Church Council Meeting Tueday - December 8th @ 7:00 pm

Newsletter Deadline Tuesday - December 15th @ 11:30 am

WELCA Wednesday - December 2nd @ 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesday - December 2nd @ 11:00 am

Food Shelf - 2nd 8-10 am, 8th & 15th 4:30-6 pm, 23rd 9-11 am

Prayer Requests

Cindi Christopher (sister of Jill Ballard),
Ka Yang (her father passed, she is a friend of Nou Moua),
and Josh Schumacher (Cousin of Chicky Otte)

Please keep all our seniors in your prayers, especially:
Dave & Marge Blank, Rosella Davisson, Arnie Felton, Robert & Margaret Hayes, Sharon Kappedahl, Marie Norstad, Ray Ohmann, Arlene Ringeisen, Leatrice Taylor and Wayne Weidner

All those who have lost loved ones recently, especially:
The Family of Maxine Sunde

When requested, we will be keeping loved ones on the prayer request list for a month. If you would like them to stay on longer please let Dixie know.
You can contact Dixie at stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com or leave a message at (507) 263-9182.

Pastor's Message

Greetings Saint Mark's,

As November comes to an end, the church begins a new liturgical calendar. December means we head into the season of Advent. Unlike the secular celebration of the new year filled with fireworks, food and drink, and a final, lively countdown, Christians celebrate the beginning of the new calendar year a little differently—waiting and preparing for the arrival of Jesus. During this time, we not only wait and prepare to commemorate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, but we also wait and prepare for Jesus' second coming. While it is a joyful anticipation, we wait and prepare through reflection and prayer.

Reflection and prayer can be so challenging, especially in a society like ours, where there are door buster sales, hurry-no-shipping costs for online purchases, and discount signs in so many places. The commercialization of Christmas and the focus on gift-giving and receiving can distract us from what we are called to during this Advent season. So, what can we do to turn ourselves to Christ? How can we counter the enormous pressure that society places on us?

I invite you to explore the signs, symbols, and hymns of the season of Advent. One of the most well-known symbols is the Advent Wreath. The Advent Wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches with four candles. Traditionally, the wreath has three purple candles and one rose colored candle. One candle is lit for each week of Advent. We have an Advent Wreath at church that we light each Sunday, and I would encourage you to attend Sunday service, watch online, and/or have one in your home, where family can gather around the wreath to reflect together. There are many ideas online from paper craft wreaths to virtual wreaths (that you can actually click and light the candle!). Taking time to light the Advent Wreath allows us to pause our busy lives, and take time to reflect.

We can also read the Bible and learn how people in the past spent this time, waiting in uncertainty, fear, and hope for the Messiah. Reading the Bible can allow us to reflect on our own challenges and find solace in knowing that these challenges have existed for others too.

Lastly, there are some wonderful hymns that speak to our longing and anticipation. Hymns can help us to express emotions that can be difficult to articulate.

People, look east. The time is near of the crowing of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People look east, and sing today — Love, the Guest, is on the way
("People, Look East," Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 248).

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee ("Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," ELW, 254).

Waiting and preparing can be hard, but there are several things we can do to help us during this season. As we enter the Advent season, I pray that each of you find comfort in knowing that no matter what happens to you or around you, God loves you and is with you always. **Emmanuel, God is with us**.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Lue Moua

St Mark's Christmas Family

If you would like to help a local family this year,
go to the following link and sign up for a gift or 2

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094fadac29a2fc1-christmas

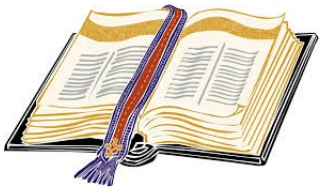
December 15th is the deadline for dropping off your gifts.

Drop off at Church on Sundays or
at The Schaffer's any day
27819 Donnelly Ave, Randolph, MN
Call Dixie with any drop off questions 612-578-8743

If your gift is wrapped, please mark it with these 3 things:

- Family #1,
- Childs age,
- Male or Female

Bible Study Opportunities



Morning Adult Bible Studies

Every Tuesday @ 9:00 am &
1st Wednesday @ 11:00 am

Please join us

There will be no Bible Study on December 22nd or 29th

Church Information

Welcome to our newest members the McCole's
Colton Lee McCole was baptized on November 22nd
and Michael & Heidi joined our St. Mark's Family.
Colton's Sponsors were Erik Beckstrom, Aly Beckstrom & Lindsay Kipples

WELCA Info

- **Next WELCA-**December 2, 2020 @ 10:00 am
- **Shut Ins** - Gifts will be given to our shut ins.
- **Prayer Concerns**: - .For all people in nursing homes and the need for kindness to all.

Church School Information

October 21st started our online Church school curriculum for 1st - 5th grade we hope you and your kids are enjoying them.

Weekly links are sent via email to print a lesson and watch the link!
These are optional! We are using the GO+ virtual church program.

We will be reassessing in-person versus distance learning church school in December!

If you are not receiving these emails and would like to, please contact Dixie at stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com so she can add you to our email list.

Sara Gustafson
Kelly Tate
Amy Otte
Deena Otto

Community Events

Community Food Shelf

Here at Saint Mark's Lutheran, we try our best to serve our neighbors. One of the many ways we help is by providing food to our local communities. Saint Mark's Lutheran would like to thank you for your generosity in supporting our food shelf.

If you know anyone that could benefit from receiving some extra food please let them know we're here to help.

1st Wednesday 8:00 am to 10:00 am
2nd Tuesdays 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm
3rd Tuesdays 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm
4th Wednesday 9:00 am to 11:00 am

All cash donations are used to buy healthy perishable food items.

If you know of any events that we should add to Community Events, please contact Dixie at stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com or call (507) 263-9182 before the Newsletter deadline which is the 3rd Tuesday of the month by 11:30 am.

2 Wheelchairs Available

If you are in need of a wheelchair, for a day, a week, a month, or six months, we have 2 wheelchairs at church that you can borrow. Check with Dixie on availability.

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

PO Box 206,
28595 Randolph Blvd.
Randolph, MN 55065
(507) 263-9182

Sunday Worship

10:00 am

And Live on Facebook

The Small Church with a Big Heart

We're on the Web & Facebook

Saint Mark's Lutheran Contact & Staff

Pastor	Lue Moua
	Church: (507) 263-9182
	Cell: (651) 500-9890
	Email: pastorluemoua@gmail.com
Office Assistant	Dixie Schaffer
	Office Hours: Tues 10:00 am—12 pm
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	Cell: (612) 578-8743
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President	Al Bester
Vice President	Dan Kuhn
Secretary	Keri Lorenzen
Treasurer	Christine Otte
Financial Secretary	Lisa Loken
Deacons	Karen Hare
	Beth Bester
	Kelsey Otte
Trustees	Ryan Kranz
	JJ Grant
	Todd Staub

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