

LIFE

A Publication of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church
2363 West Third Street, Davenport IA 52802
Phone: 563-322-5318 Pastor Travis Fisher-King: 563-676-8160
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Email: stmark@stmarkcares.org

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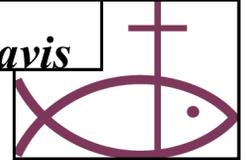


**The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field,
which someone found and hid;**

then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

– Matthew 13:44

From Pr. Travis



Grace and Peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

Massive shifts are under way in our society and world, the sharp rise in COVID-19 cases around the nation and the ongoing economic turmoil that attends the pandemic; the looming election; the question of what school and college education will look like in the fall; What will the new normal look like—the list goes on and on. It's too much, really. With no relief in sight. What are we to do?

Reinhold Niebuhr, the great mid-20th century theologian, who became known for an approach of Christian engagement in the world known as Christian realism, once articulated the human task this way:

“Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore, we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore, we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore, we are saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. Therefore, we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness.” (The Irony of American History)

While personally and collectively we are called to “act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God” (Micah 6), we must understand that our conclusions and actions are neither perfect nor pristine. Shades of grey cover the field. Motives are mixed. Hazards abound. We cannot see clearly. Yet, choices must be made.

Thomas Merton, in a letter he wrote to young activist named James Forest, says it this way:

“Do not depend on the hope of results. When you are doing the sort of work you have taken on, essentially an apostolic work, you may have to face the fact that your work will be apparently worthless and even achieve no results at all, if not perhaps results opposite to what you expect. As you get used to this idea, you start more and more to concentrate not on the results but on the value, the truth of the work itself. And there, too, a great deal has to be gone through, as gradually you struggle less and less for an idea and more and more for specific people. The range tends to narrow down, but it gets much more real. In the end, it is the reality of personal relationships that saves everything. . . The real hope, then, is not in something we think we can do, but in God who is making something good out of it in some way we cannot see. If we can do God's will, we will be helping out in the process. But we will not necessarily know all about it beforehand.” (1st Vol. of Merton's Letters).

Personally, I'm going to try and heed the wisdom from Niebuhr and Merton and recommit myself to being a less anxious presence in a world torn asunder by turmoil. I have a notion that, focusing first on that task, I'll be more likely to stumble upon that treasure hidden in a field.

Journeying with you,

Pr. Travis M. Fisher-King

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

The 49th annual QC CROP Hunger Walk is still a "go." Even though we will not be walking as a 300 member group, we are still walking and raising money – just in a new way! We are asking congregations to walk in their neighborhoods, or at a local park, or around the block where their church sits, or by doing a virtual walk by collecting donations but not doing a physical walk.

We are also asking for folks to register online at www.crophungerwalk.org/quadcities and make sure you join your congregation's team. From there you can share this web address and encourage your family and friends to make donations in your name.

Questions? Please email me at qccrophungerwalk@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support and for caring about our neighbors in need.



Theology on Tap will be reading *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, by Bryan Stevenson discussion will be August 4th if on zoom at 7PM, if in person at 6PM. Bryan Stevenson was one of the keynote speakers at the last National Youth Gathering in Houston.

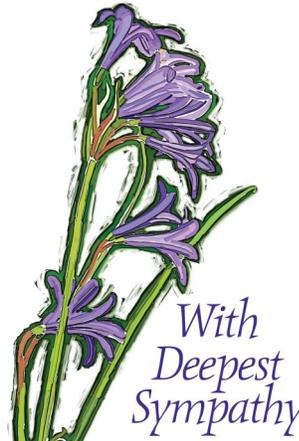
100th Anniversary Committee Meeting August 18 at 7PM in Luther Hall.

Social distancing and masks are required. We will be brainstorming the Anniversary theme, along with possible logo ideas and electing a chairperson and a secretary. Those willing to serve in this event planning and at the events are welcome to attend.

Hospitalized in July

Terri Fogel	Konnie Goldensoph
Wally Kelding	Ray Pagel
Dorene Ruby	Jack Serrine

We offer the Families of:



- Bradley Roelandt
- Kenneth Peters
- Francis Dumerauf
- Theresa Goldermann
- Julia Temple
- Virgil Jacobs, Jr
- Everett Holland
- Vivian Conklin
- Ronald Durham, Sr
- Elsie Quick

words of love, support, and comfort. May they rest assured in the midst of their challenges and adjustments that God will sustain them in the loss of their loved one through faith in our Risen Lord.

Because He lives, we too shall live.

News From the Organ Bench



Though the sanctuary is still closed for in-person worship at St Mark, I'm pleased to note that there are still positive developments in the music program. We've purchased new recording equipment, and will be training various interested members of the congregation in how to use it. (Do let me know if this is something that would interest you! Training will be provided.) This will be particularly useful for recording services to broadcast, as of course we still don't know when it will be safe to meet again.

We've also had some major organ repairs. Several of the lower pipes had been wilting since the organ's original installation: think the Leaning Tower of Pisa. We've straightened and reinforced these pipes, so they now speak much better. (So you might just notice a little more bass!) You'll all get a chance to hear the instrument in its renewed glory when we broadcast my short organ recital this month — stay tuned for details about that.

I'm as impatient as any of you to get back to live worship, but of course we put your health first. For those of you itching to return, I re-emphasize: we're doing this to serve the poorest and most vulnerable in our community. It's not always easy, but it's what we're called to do as Christians. We'll be back someday!



Pandemic Holy Communion Distribution

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace be to you from our Savior Jesus Christ, who is, who was, who is to come.

At the last council meeting it was approved to hold Communion Under Special Circumstance in the **East Parking Lot** the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Weekends of the August. Saturdays at 6PM and Sundays at 9:30AM. This the time will include: Confession and Forgiveness, Prayer of the Day, Gospel Reading, very short reflection, words of institution, Lord's Prayer, Distribution of Communion, Post Communion Prayer, and Sending. This is a step to taking back our liturgical life as the Church.

Holy Communion will be distributed to your vehicles in which you will stay facing south at the garage. Communion will be brought to the driver's side of your cars by a communion distributor wearing gloves and a face mask to the drivers' side for all who are in that vehicle. For your safety and theirs' we ask the driver to don a mask when approached. Communion elements will be in individual packages in a plastic bag, that have been prepared with safety precautions. You may choose to bring lawn chairs and sit directly in front of your vehicles, offering a safe distance between you and the others in your area.

What is needed from those who wish to make use of this opportunity to receive our Lord in Holy Communion:

- † To notify the church office by Friday 2pm of the weekend(s) you plan to attend; to ensure enough communion are elements available. 563.322.5318 or stmark@stmarkcares.org
- † Patience and courtesy. This is by no means a convenient way to make Holy Communion available, but this has been judged the best option that we have at present while staying within the safety precautions during this pandemic.
- † Please follow the direction of the "ushers" who will be directing you to an appropriate place to park.
- † For the safety of all, social distancing must be practiced, and a mask worn if you exit your vehicle.
- † The communion assistants will wear a mask during this time. Those wishing to receive Holy Communion are asked to do so as well.
- † There is no obligation to receive Holy Communion. You know what is best for you and your family.
- † Please pray that we will be able to safely return to indoor, in person, soon as that is the ordinary way for the reception of Holy Communion and the most fitting expression of our shared faith.

Thank you for your attentiveness to the details of this letter. Again, this is by no means ideal, but it is what we have now and our attempt to make the best out of what has been a rather unpleasant situation. I pray that this situation is short-lived and that we might return to fuller worship soon.

Stay safe and may God continue to bless you and yours!

Pr. Travis

Holy Communion in Special Circumstances

Gathering

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

(Service Continued on Page 4)

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever.

C: Amen

Word

Lessons and Gospel Readings

Meal

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. With all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth, and the hosts of heaven, we praise you holy name.

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and forever. Amen.

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Prayer after communion

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Sending

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

(W)holistic Living....Thoughts from the Parish Nurse



A few thoughts that keep crossing my mind that I would like to share during this pandemic. My guess is I am not alone and many of you are thinking the same thing. Everyday experiences I used to take for granted are no longer “everyday experiences.” Things like going to the grocery store for just a couple of items, dinner out with my closest friends once a month to share what is going on in each of our lives. Going to visit family who I dearly miss. Pennsylvania now seems like an even further distance than it used to be. These are just to name a few. I am sure each of you have your own list.

Beyond the anxiety this virus has created, it has also heightened my awareness and appreciation for the human need to be connected. Simple things that involve interaction with others have been disrupted and sometimes even prohibited. Visits to homes and skilled care facilities, attending church on Saturday evening or Sunday morning in a sanctuary filled with music and energy as we worship. Hugging dear friends and family when saying hello or goodbye or holding a person’s hand who is ill or lonely or sad as we pray for whatever their needs might be. The impact socialization makes on our well-being has been strained and tested. We look to God for guidance and hope. Hope that there is a way forward to reconnection. We know we will not be locked in our homes forever and cut off from each other and praying our loved ones and those important to us do not become ill from this virus and wearing masks forever. Beautiful, connected flourishing life will return. Good news for the soul.

While our state restrictions have eased and we watch the numbers rise and fall, our personal responsibility to our parishioners, communities and each other remains. Please remain diligent and do the simple things. Continue to wear your masks, socialize responsibly and if you are feeling ill- stay home. Encourage your friends and family to do the same. These simple things can have an enormous impact. With these simple acts we will get closer to getting back to those everyday activities and people we love.

That brings me to another thought that keeps crossing my mind during this unparalleled time. My thoughts keep going to the importance of kindness for everyone’s health and wellbeing. Social media can be particularly problematic when it comes to kindness and frankly, sometimes I just need to give my mind and heart a rest. I hope we can all remember to:

- † **Lead by example.** Always remember your manners. Others will follow your lead.
- † **Put an end to petty criticism.** If it isn’t constructive, maybe it is better left unsaid.
- † **Recognize one another’s strengths, not weaknesses.** Everyone likes to feel appreciated.
- † **Be kind to others and treat them as you wish to be treated.** Even though we may have different ethnic backgrounds, religions or beliefs, we are all in this together.
- † **Everyone is affected by an act of kindness.** Kindness can be contagious- a small gesture of kindness can have a huge impact on one another.

In faith, hope and love, Parish Nurse Bev



When a child is baptized, there are responsibilities that sponsors and parents promise to keep and among them are these: to teach children the Lord’s prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, and place in their hands the Holy Scriptures. Confirmation is a milestone in the Lutheran tradition that allows for the church to aid parents in this promise.

During the time of this pandemic, it is important to keep our faith active. Together, I hope we can find a way to add Confirmation back into our routine. We will have a meeting with confirmation parents and students in late August (via Zoom) to determine how best to proceed with our program.

If your child is ready and you and your child would like to be a part of our program, please contact Lisa Willey, 563.322.5318.

Until we meet, be safe and know that God is with you!



ST. MARK LIFE
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2363 West Third Street,
Davenport, Iowa 52802

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- August 1, 6:00pm - Holy Communion Distribution in the East Lot
- August 2, 9:30am - Holy Communion Distribution in the East Lot
- August 4, 7:00pm - Theology on Tap on Zoom
- August 15, 6:00pm - Holy Communion Distribution in the East Lot
- August 16, 9:30am - Holy Communion Distribution in the East Lot
- August 18, 7:00pm - 100th Anniversary Committee planning in Luther Hall
- August 20, 6:15pm - Council Meeting on Zoom
- August 29, 6:00pm - Holy Communion Distribution in the East Lot
- August 30, 9:30am - Holy Communion Distribution in the East Lot

Please wear masks and practice social distancing when attending activities at St. Mark.