

LIFE

A Publication of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church
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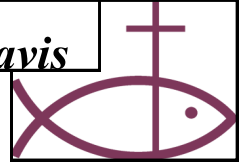


September 2020

Volume 53 Issue 9

Church is never canceled. Even in the time of COVID-19.

From Pr. Travis



Many churches experienced a bitter first that has become a bitter twenty-fourth time of not meeting indoors for a full worship service. For those who haven't belonged to a church before, it may not seem to be that big of a deal. For Christians, it is an enormous deal. Why? Because we believe God is among us, we love being together, and because something special is formed in us when we gather. The church has gathered in person, regularly, for 2,000 years. People still come. They come when it rains. They come even when there are festivals, sporting events, and other distractions at their disposal.

We all know there is a difference between grandma and grandpa talking to the grandkids on Facetime and them scooping the kids up and hugging them as they come through the doorway. And like seeing grandchildren on Facetime, online and outdoor worship are the next best things, but not the best thing.

In March, our church leadership made the difficult decision to move our services online as a way of loving God by loving others. It wasn't easy. From the simple tapings to the videos, (and the learning and equipment needed) our technique has improved greatly since Holy Week. We were trying to figure out how to become a film crew instead of church staff and it was terrifying, exhausting, and labor intensive. Yet, intrinsic to a biblical understanding of Christ, there is a willingness, even a predisposition, to align oneself with those who are vulnerable, sick, or ailing in some capacity. After all, how can we claim to follow the one known as "The Great Physician" if we ignore the needs of those that are compromised?

Simply: we can't. And so, we will meet online and/or outdoors until we believe we can meet in person, safely indoors.

We trust God while acknowledging our church will be impacted enormously by this decision. We will reopen; but it will likely not be the same. We may go upside down financially and it will take time to recover. In turn, this will negatively impact our community. Contrary to what some might believe, Christians make significant contributions to nearly every vital aspect of society: arts, music, education, and perhaps, especially, health care. So, we continue to live out ministries the best we can in different ways.

The church has worshiped for 2,000 years and no virus will end that. This season presents some amazing opportunities for churches with eyes to see. But this is tough. It's also worth it. So, keep loving church. Write an encouraging note to someone. Pray like you've never prayed before. Continue to give, click like, and share.

Church is never canceled. Consider yourself invited. We may not wow everyone and that's okay. If our God is pleased, that is enough. Our video worship services will continue due to Covid-19, as well as our Outdoor Communion in Special Circumstance the ODD weekends of the month Saturdays at 6PM & Sundays at 9:30 AM. Weather Permitting, of course. Join in!

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.

--- Rick Martin

BIBLE STUDY

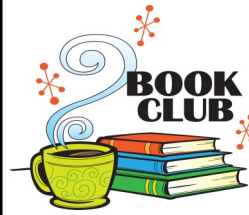


If you are interested in a bible study please let Pr. Travis know. He is willing to either meet in person – using social distance precautions or via Zoom. In person would be limited to 9 participants. If there is interest beyond 9, Pr. can offer two sessions at differing days and times to accommodate those interested.

Contact Pr. Travis tfisher@stmarkcares.org or call the church office 563.322.5318.

Hospitalized in August

Bev Blake
Wally Kelding
Ray Pagel



Theology on Tap will be discussing *Just Mercy: A story of Justice and Redemption*, by Bryan Stevenson at 7PM on September 1st on the Fisher-King property. If rain, we will zoom. Please let Pr. Travis know if you are planning to attend, in order to best plan and communicate with participants.

October 6th we will discuss: *Healing Our Broken Humanity: Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World* by Grace Ji-Sun Kim and, Graham Hill. Location TBD.

100th Anniversary Committee

We are coming along with our preparations for our 100th Anniversary celebrations. We are focusing in on our theme “*Embracing the Future on a Century of Faith*”.



Plans for a banquet, worship celebrations, and events are now being discussed and considered. The next meeting will be September 22nd at 6:30PM in Luther Hall.



Phone and Internet

If you were trying to get ahold of us after the derecho storm by phone, we did not have phone or internet service until Saturday, August 15th in the mid-afternoon.

Our phone lines are connected with Mediacom; so when storms hit, we may have power but no phone or vice versa. Please know you can call Pr. Travis on his cell anytime. The staff can receive emails on their personal computers and phones during times when the phone system might be down at church.

We continue to pray for those who are still without power and who are rebuilding homes, businesses and houses of worship throughout the state due to this devastating storm.



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.

We will hold Communion Under Special Circumstance in the **East Parking Lot** the 1st and 3rd Weekends of September: Saturdays at 6PM and Sundays at 9:30AM.

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 a face mask For your safety and theirs's and 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 directions provided. 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.

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.*

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*

(Service Continued on Page 4)

Word

Lessons and Gospel Readings

Meditation

Musical Reflection

Apostle's Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ. God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended in heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

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.

News From the Organ Bench



After several months of waiting, I'm pleased to write that you should now be able to access a brief (30m) organ recital that I recorded in mid-August. We'll make it available as a streaming video, and provide links to individual audio files as well. The recital includes works from the Renaissance to the 20th Century, with a variety of forms and moods. I was assisted in this endeavour by the very talented Dr Edgar Crockett, whom you'll recognize as our regular trumpet guest soloist -- he's also an accomplished recording engineer. If you get a chance to listen to the recital, do let me know how you liked it -- it will give me ideas for what to do next time I present such a program for the members of St Mark.

As I write this, it currently appears we won't be able to resume normal worship for a long while to come -- certainly not a full in-person liturgy with singing, anyway. With that in mind, I'd like to renew my call for all interested musicians at St Mark: if you would like to offer your musical talents for one of our broadcast services, please let me know! We have some excellent recording equipment now, and scheduling is quite flexible. (We can record a prelude, postlude, or other special music weeks in advance, even.) I'm eager to use all the musical talents in our congregation here at St Mark, so I encourage you to consider whether you might have something to offer.



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 class back into our routine. I have talked with most of the current confirmation parents via text or phone conversations and most feel it is ok to meet in person, but that we should wait until after Davenport Schools have resumed a couple days to finalize plans for beginning our classes.

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!



We are preparing to kick off our 2020-2021 Preschool year. This year will look very different from years past. We have had to make many changes to keep preschool a safe and healthy environment for our kids to learn and grow. This has also meant keeping smaller class sizes. We are currently welcoming all donations of sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer, sanitizing spray, and children sized masks. We are also still welcoming registrations for both our 3 year old program for 5 day, 3 day, and 2day, and our Pre-K program for 3 day and 5 day. For more information on how you can donate or for how to register for preschool, please feel free to email any questions to:

rdankertstmarkpreschool@gmail.com.



ST. MARK LIFE
 St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church
 2363 West Third Street,
 Davenport, Iowa 52802

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- September 1, 7:00pm - Theology on Tap at the Fisher-King property, \ weather permitting. Otherwise, via zoom
- September 5, 6:00pm - Holy Communion Distribution in the East Lot
- September 6, 9:30am - Holy Communion Distribution in the East Lot
- September 17, 9:30am - MVQG meet in Luther hall, Maintaining Covid 19 guidelines set by St. Mark
- September 17, 6:15pm - St. Mark Council Meeting via Zoom
- September 19, 6:00pm - Holy Communion Distribution in the East Lot
- September 20, 9:30am - Holy Communion Distribution in the East Lot
- September 22, 6:30pm - 100th Anniversary Planning Committee, Maintaining Covid 19 guidelines set by St. Mark

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

Worship during the Covid-19 pandemic

The church council with guidance from the Synod and Churchwide offices and health officials have modified how the congregation worships. These measures were put in place to keep the parishioners as safe as possible. Some of the changes have been implemented for several months and one more recently. The church staff has worked diligently to provide online and parking lot communion services. These are new to all of us, so the council requests your input on what you like or dislike about the necessary changes. Any suggestions for modifications, enhancements or otherwise would be appreciated. Please contact any council member with your input. Prayerfully, we will return to a more normal worship service in the future.



Happy Anniversary!

Dolly and Ira Dunsworth will celebrate 65 years of marriage on September 10th. Because of COVID There will only be a family dinner. Their children are asking you to shower them with cards. Their address is:

2224 N Birchwood, Davenport, 52804