



AUGUST 2023

417 Main Ave – Suite #401
FARGO, ND 58103

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



TO:

WORSHIP: Sundays at 10 a.m.
IN-PERSON and Livestreamed
on St. Mark's YouTube Channel

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Micah Louwagie
Administrative Assistant: Sydney Thoreson
Music Director: Alpha Roeszler
Bookkeeper: Jeannie Baskerville

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WORSHIP LOCATION - Temple Beth El,
809 11th Avenue South, Fargo, ND

OFFICE & MAIL - 417 Main Avenue,
Suite #401, Fargo, ND 58103

CHURCH COUNCIL
2023-2024

Pr. Micah Louwagie
Kim Gillette
Stan Franek
Jane Radig
Linda Hamann
Elna Solvang
Jon Golberg

OFFICERS

President: Kim
Vice President: Stan
Secretary: Jane
Treasurer: Linda

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mark's Lutheran Church is an inclusive fellowship of God's people centered in Word and Sacrament and dedicated to serving our urban neighborhood and the wider community.

RIC

St. Mark's is a "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation, welcoming all to God's unconditional love and grace regardless of gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or nationality.

Change of address? Please call or email Sydney at the office and let her know. Thanks!

THANK YOU TO OUR AUGUST WORSHIP LEADERS

| Date | Lector | Songleader | Altar Guild | Usher | Camera Tech | Coffee Hour |
|-----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------------|
| August 6 | | | | | | |
| August 13 | | | | | | |
| August 20 | Phoenix Leiseth | | | | | |
| August 27 | | | | | | |

*MUSIC NOTES FOR AUGUST 2023



The hymn chosen for the last Sunday in August, #576, “We All Are One in Mission” is very new to our Lutheran hymnody as it was published in 1985. The Lutheran bishop at that time, Paul Erickson, said, “Our mission is to touch the lives of others with Christ’s love.” It was used in the 1986 mission appeal of the Lutheran Church in America, was published in *The Lutheran Journal* (1986) and then entered *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (1990). Finally it came to Evangelical Lutheran Worship by way of *With One Voice* (1995) without any changes.

Apparently this text has been used with thirteen different tunes but the one used for our ELW is KUORTANE. This melody has sometimes been named for Nyland, a province in Finland, but it probably comes from the province of KUORTANE. It first entered a Finnish hymnal in 1909 and in English hymnody in 1909 but further research to trace its origins has come up empty.

It is interesting to note that the ELW uses this tune for several hymns as listed:

- 313 - O Lord, Now Let Your Servant
- 419 - For All the Faithful women
- 421 - By All Your Saints

Alpha Roeszler
Music Director

**Excerpts attributed to ELW Hymnal Companion, Augsburg Fortress*

We are looking for song leaders so please consider this. We are finding that the live-streaming is much better with a song leader for our hymn singing.

SIGNUP GENIUS for WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

We have a free account online with “SignUp Genius” for scheduling worship assistants - ushers, lectors, song leaders, camera techs, altar guild and coffee hour. Just click on the link below and you will see the easy sign-up sheet for August, September, and October of 2023. If you prefer to call Sydney at the office, you can also sign up that way – 701.235.5591. Thank you! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040445A4AA2CA0FF2-worship>

NEW MEMBERS?!?

Are you interested in becoming a member of our St. Mark’s congregation? If you are interested, please contact Pastor Micah at pastormicah@stmarkslutheranfargo.com.

Did you know...

...that representatives of Bethany’s sponsoring congregations formed the Bethany Auxiliary in 1964. Since then, these dedicated volunteers have provided countless hours of time and energy to conduct a variety of special fundraising events, assist at resident activities and help out around Bethany. Their efforts have generated thousands of dollars that have purchased items to enrich the quality of life for residents at Bethany Retirement Living. To find out how you can be a part of the Bethany Auxiliary, contact Brianne at banderson@bethany.org or call 701.239.3246.



Emergency Food Pantry Sunday

Sunday, August 6, will be Emergency Food Pantry Sunday.

Our July donations equaled 43 lbs., which was enough to take us over our goal of collecting 275 lbs. from February through July.

Since football season is almost upon us, let's see how many football fields we can make from August through February (Super Bowl month). For every 1 lb. of donations, we gain 2 yards, so one football field equals 50 lbs. Last time we had this goal, we made almost 2 ½ football fields, but the goal was only from September through December. Since I'm adding 3 extra months, let's see if we can't make at least an additional 1 ½ football fields.

The list of needs at the Emergency Food pantry includes rice (one-pound bag of white or brown rice), canned tomatoes, canned tuna, canned beans, peanut butter, toilet paper, bar soap, diapers (size 5 or 6), dish soap, laundry soap, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, and body wash. Besides these items, they also accept other non-perishable items, basic hygiene items, egg cartons (**1 dozen count only**), and paper, plastic, and fabric grocery bags.

Other ways to donate if you're not in church on August 6 are as follows:

- 1: Bring your items to church on any other Sunday. The basket can usually be found by the coat rack.
- 2: Drop them off at the pantry (1101 4 Ave N, Fargo) between 8:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. A box is located inside the warehouse door to put your donations in.
- 3: Bins are available at the following grocery stores to collect donations: F-M Hornbacher's, F-M Family Fare, and F-M CashWise in Fargo.
4. Financially by mailing check to **Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 2821, Fargo ND 58108**, donating on-line through their website, **emergencyfoodpantry.com**, and clicking on the "**How You Can Help**" tab, or writing a check out to St. Marks with "Emergency Food Pantry" on the memo line.

- Jane Radig



RAISED HANDS

In the two years since Afghan refugees have begun arriving St. Mark's has been working with LIRS to plan for, pray for, hope for, and begin to work with them, as well as refugees from other countries. Here are some reflections from volunteers who have made it their goal to make life easier for people unable to stay home. To me the amount of trust shown in every story is what makes it shine.

- Mary Jane Haugen

After a year of developing friendship with Moorhead family K from the Congo, I'm learning much about resilience, determination, and energy. The family is a 40-something father, his young adult nieces and nephew, and two grade-school aged daughters. All the adults are working or in community college, or both. All have learner permits and are working hard to pass the Minnesota drivers' test. They have a supportive Pentecostal church community. I'm grateful for our connection.

- Mary Gay Frojen

The Adventures of Language Learning!

Working with a busy mom from the Democratic Republic of Congo continues to be a delightful experience. This summer I am becoming better acquainted with some of the school-aged-children. They often find a way to enter in as well! Sometimes our English lessons use the Bible as a text — as we compare the Swahili and English renditions of the same verse. We have found the Psalms to be especially conducive to this kind of comparison.

- Helen Beth Kuhens



RAISED HANDS (CONTINUED)

They have our number! In early June we received an email from The Advocates for Human Rights in Minneapolis. They are the group that works with the legal issues of asylum, green cards, and the like for the refugees we work with at LIRS. The email was asking Maxine and I if we could assist a mom, dad and small child from Afghanistan. These three people needed to get to Minneapolis for a meeting with agents from the USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) office by 8 AM on June 15th!

Sure! I had done this before with the person I had been working with and I knew where they had to be and how to get there. However, we did not know these people.

Before we took them to their appointment, we planned to meet them at their home. Unbeknownst to us they prepared a meal for us which we gladly accepted. A couple of days and we were on our way. To get there by 8 AM we had to leave by 3 AM. (The dad got off work at 2:30 AM that day). They needed to meet with Zach, their attorney at 7 AM to make sure they were ready for this meeting with USCIS.

The meeting lasted 53 minutes and we were off to do some shopping for this family and have a meal before we headed back to Fargo. It was a long day for all of us. The family was very appreciative and knew it would be very difficult for them to do this by themselves, especially given the fact that the dad had to work up until we left.

Zach has my number. This may not be the last time Max and I do something like this. We are glad to be of help.

- Linda Hamann

I continue to work with the KM family. They have 8 children and a baby girl on the way. This family is very active and they still live in an apartment.

I work on various everyday challenges and language. I recently talked about crosswalks when we were at Scheels and we also counted money and named the coins. Sometimes we talk about pronouns, sometimes the girls call the boys she.

Two of the girls wanted to buy roller skates but we were unable to find a big enough size for the oldest girl so she got roller blades but she couldn't afford a helmet and dad said it was too dangerous. The other girl did find a pair of roller skates but they both decided to return them. Scheels was very generous in taking them back.

We rode the escalator at Scheels and tried on skates, lots of new experiences. They hesitate to buy things themselves and I think that is because they really don't understand the money system here. I will continue to work on the coins with them.

The girls love dollar stores and they buy lots of small things. Twice we stopped at Dairy Queen which was an experience they had not had before. The first time they simply got a plain cone and last time they got peanut buster parfaits.

The girls are very loving, I don't see much of the older boys and the 2 younger are very rambunctious. To say that it is a busy family is an understatement.

This family is very generous and always offers me chai and often rice or another part of a meal. I feel loved and wanted when I arrive. The 2 little boys come running saying, "Maxine, Maxine, Maxine". Today they were watching for me and started yelling my name before I could see them. I got the biggest hugs of all time this day.

I was able to locate a stroller for this family and have brought them assorted toys and a huge quilt and end tables. Lots of my friends give me things to give to them. Today they found a doll in my back seat I had planned to bring to them but had forgotten. That got them to tell me the story of the big bad wolf and they kept the doll.

It is a pleasure to spend time with this family, it is not always easy but neither are the changes that they have had to make.

- Maxine Fagerland

PRIDE WEEK 2023 ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Thursday August 10



LGBT Trivia & Karaoke - Rhombus Guys Pizza - 8:00pm

Pride Vinyl Night - Front Street Taproom - 8:30pm



Friday August 11



Youth Pride Drag Show - CUM Ballroom • Minnesota State University Moorhead - 7:00pm

Pride Dance Party - Millennium Ballroom • Avalon Events Center - 10:00pm



Saturday August 12



Pride 5K Fun Run - Viking Ship Park at Hjemkomst Center - 8:30am

Pride in the Park - Bluestem Center for the Arts • Moorhead - 2:00pm

Pride Patio Palooza - Wild Cider Terra • Fargo - 10:00pm

Pride Block Party - Fargo Brewing Co. - 8:30pm



Sunday August 13



GAZE - Terrace Yoga - Jasper Hotel - 10:00am

Interfaith Service - The Fargo Theatre - 12:30pm

Pride Parade - 20th St S • Moorhead - 2:00pm



*Visit the FM Pride events page for more details! Link: <https://fmpride.com/events/>



PRIDE IN THE PARK

Pride in the Park this year will be on **Saturday, August 12** from **11 am - 4 pm** and will be held at the **Bluestem Center for the Arts**, located at **801 50th Avenue South** in **Moorhead**.

We are asking for at least 4 people to sign up for shifts to run the Pride booth that day and the remaining shifts that still need volunteers are as follows:

- 11 am - 12 pm (2 more volunteers needed)
- 12 pm - 1 pm (4 more volunteers needed)
- 1 pm - 2 pm (4 more volunteers needed)
- 2 pm - 3 pm (3 more volunteers needed)
- 3 pm - 4 pm (3 more volunteers needed)
- 4 pm - 5 pm (Teardown; 4 more volunteers needed)

If you would like to sign up for any of the shifts, you may use the sign-up sheet provided on the usher's table at church, use the sign-up on SignUp Genius, or let Sydney at the office know, just be sure to specify which time you would like to cover. If you have any questions, please let the office know!

Link to SignUp Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040445a4aa2ca0ff2-pride1#/>



MARCHING IN THE PRIDE PARADE

We hope many of you will join us in the parade this year! This years parade will be held in Moorhead and will begin on **28th Ave S near M State turn north on 20th Street S and will travel north on 20th street to 20th Ave S and turn onto 19 1/2 St S and travel south to end at 24th Ave S near M State**. The parade starts at 2pm so we'll try to gather around 1:30pm. If you would like to also donate some candy, that would be great! We ask that it please not be chocolate as it will more than likely be hot out and melt but hard candy is fine!

*This year there **will** be a regular church service on Sunday, August 13 at St. Mark's at 10 am both online and in-person!



August 2023 Calendar

Aug 4: Serving at Micah's Mission, 3:30 pm

Aug 6: Food Pantry Sunday

Aug 6: In-Person Worship Service and live on YouTube, 10 am

Aug 12: Pride in the Park, 11 am - 4 pm

Aug 13: In-Person Worship Service and live on YouTube, 10 am

Aug 13: Pride Parade, 2 pm

Aug 20: In-Person Worship Service and live on YouTube, 10 am

Aug 27: In-Person Worship Service and live on YouTube, 10 am

Aug 28: Newsletter articles due

Aug 31: Newsletter Assembly & Mailing, 9:30 am

GOSPEL READINGS:

August 6: Pentecost 10

Matthew 14:13-21

Christ feeding five thousand

August 13: Pentecost 11

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus walking on the sea

August 20: Pentecost 12

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter

August 27: Pentecost 13

Matthew 16:13-20

The profession of Peter's faith

NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT OUT

St. Mark's and Temple Beth El are once again sponsoring a neighborhood block party on **Tuesday, August 1** from **6 pm - 8 pm** for National Night Out! In the past there has been a food truck present but this year they are unavailable so please bring a dish to share for a potluck picnic. Please no pork or shellfish; and label nuts, dairy, gluten, and other possible allergens.



ANNUAL SCHOOL KIT DRIVE FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Thousands of school kits are distributed overseas every year by Lutheran World Relief. St. Mark's has a drive each year in August-September when these items go on sale! Each school kit contains the following:

- 4 - 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"
 - 1 - ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
 - 1 - pencil sharpener
 - 1 - pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
 - 5 - unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
 - 5 - black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
 - 1 - box of 16 or 24 crayons
 - 1 - 2 ½" eraser
- Please give new items only. • Please do not donate items with any religious symbols • Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

Monetary donations are also welcomed.

Contact Naomi Franek if you have any questions – naomi.r.franek@gmail.com or 701.298-8920.



THE INFORMANT is published monthly by St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 417 Main Ave. – Suite #401, Fargo, ND 58103. Published on July 27th 2023, this is the August 2023 Informant, Issue 8.

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the storm ceased.

- Matthew 14:28-32

I'm often curious about how certain Bible stories are portrayed in art, and how that portrayal influences how we interpret them. I found myself looking at artwork related to the story of Peter, the lectionary gospel text for Sunday, August 13th. Often, Jesus is portrayed as more "saint-like." Glowing and dressed in white, standing strong and tall as he extends a hand to a terrified, sinking Peter. Some artists incorporate a halo around Jesus' head, a symbol used in iconography to indicate sacred figures. Peter's figure, however, is often portrayed as more shadowed and smaller than Jesus. There are many pieces of art that don't show Peter's face. When it is shown, it's often shrouded in darkness. Of the artwork I observed, Peter never appeared with the signature halo around his head.

Peter, the one who goes on to proclaim, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God," (Mt. 16:17) in response to Jesus asking who his disciples say he is, one of Jesus' faithful disciples, is portrayed as less than worthy in this moment of despair as his fear takes hold and his body begins to sink into the tumultuous waters. Most art portrays a stark contrast between Peter, doubting and shadowed, and a calm, illumined Jesus.

I understand the desire to portray Jesus as sacred; he is the Son of God, after all. But why devalue Peter by casting him in shadow? I lament the fact that I could not find any artworks that simultaneously acknowledge Peter's doubt and his status as one of Jesus' beloved disciples.

The Lutheran church does not honor saints in the same way the Catholic church does; but celebrating people of faith who have gone before us and remembering the ways in which they taught us about God is part of the Lutheran tradition. And – it isn't just their greatest moments or their wisest words that have taught us about God. Their moments of doubt, the times when their fear took hold of them, also have much to teach us.

I think it is normal to want some evidence of strength – like an image of a radiant Jesus standing tall on the water, hand outstretched to a struggling Peter – when we ourselves are struggling. And, that outstretched hand is only one piece of the story. We lose so much if we only recall the more graceful, strong, and wise moments in the lives of those who have gone before us. We must remember the struggles, too.

In response to Peter's panic Jesus essentially says, "Why are you doubting me?! I'm literally right here in front of you! Did you really think I was going to let you drown? Take my hand, you goof." Even when his fear and doubt got the best of him, Jesus continued to reach out to Peter.

This is what Jesus does for each and every one of us. In our fear and our doubt, his hand remains outstretched toward us, as if to say, "I love you. Now take my hand, you goof."

- Pastor Micah