

THE INFORMANT is published monthly by St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 417 Main Avenue - Suite #401, Fargo, ND 58103. Published on October 25, 2018, this is the November 2018 Informant, Issue No 11.

*And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth...." And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1.14-15, 18b*

### ***"Bright Sky"***

As some of you know, I am an artist and have created a variety of paintings, banners and other liturgical art for other congregations. Last winter, I designed a large "Tree of Life" mosaic, which now hangs in the chapel at Churches United for the Homeless community center.



I am excited to share that we are going to do another mosaic with Churches United! It will be for their new Bright Sky Apartments, located about a mile east of their community center in Moorhead. Bright Sky opened this past June and offers permanent, supportive housing to individuals and families with a history of homelessness. The new facility includes 43 single-unit and larger apartments with room for 140 individuals and family members.

Working with staff at Churches United, I have designed a mosaic for the community room at Bright Sky Apartment, pictured here. The mosaic will be about six feet wide and four feet tall, with six panels (the same dimensions as the one we did last year.) We will create the mosaic by gluing hundreds of glass tiles onto the panels.

The mosaic is entitled "Bright Sky" and includes the moon and sun and stars—the "lights" mentioned in the creation story that we have in the book of Genesis. Wherever we live, any one of us can look up and see those lights in the day or night sky. They are symbols of God's loving providence and protection of every living thing. The sky is the roof of the earthly home we all share.

The mosaic includes images of houses and apartments—places that provide shelter for people dealing with homelessness. The design also features a Monarch butterfly, caterpillar and blooming milkweed plants—all part of the life cycle of a creature native to our Red River Valley prairies and symbolic of the personal transformation from homelessness to stable housing that takes place for residents of Bright Sky.

Together with the families and individuals who live at Bright Sky Apartments, we will work with other community members to create this new mosaic. Ultimately, this will be a beautiful piece of artwork created by and for those who live there. We are hoping that many volunteers will join those who helped with the first mosaic! For new people, it's an easy project to learn—kind of like doing a giant jigsaw puzzle! You will also enjoy the sharing that takes place as we gather together each week.

We will be working on the mosaic on Tuesday afternoons, 2-5 p.m., starting November 13, in the Community Room at Bright Sky, located at 3305 3rd Avenue NE in Moorhead (behind Cash Wise Foods.) The project will take about six months. If you or someone you know is interested in participating, please contact me at [pastorjoe@stmarkslutheranfargo.com](mailto:pastorjoe@stmarkslutheranfargo.com) or 612-750-5079.

– *Pastor Joe*

# NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

## USHERS

4: Stan Franek  
11: Bill Roeszler  
18: Charlie Jordan  
25: Brian Buteyn

## LECTORS/CANTORS

4: Linda Graf /Tammy Lanaghan  
11: Jane Radig/Phoenix Leiseth  
18: Jeff Ware/Jay Jansen  
25: Brian Buteyn/Open

## ALTAR GUILD

4: Elna Solvang  
11: Mary Jane Haugen & Maxine Fagerland  
18: Naomi Franek  
25: Tammy Lanaghan

## BREAD BAKERS

4: Maxine Fagerland  
11: Helen Beth Kuhens  
18: Linda Graf  
25: Tammy Lanaghan

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

**Book Study: 9:00 a.m.**  
**Worship/Communion: 10 a.m.**  
**Coffee Fellowship: 11:00 a.m.**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Nov 2:** Serve at Churches United, 3:30 pm  
**Nov 4:** All Saints Sunday  
**Nov 4:** Food Pantry Sunday  
**Nov 8 :** Church Council, 5:30 pm  
**Nov 11:** New Member Sunday  
**Nov 13:** Mosaic, 2-5 pm  
**Nov 20:** Mosaic, 2-5 pm  
**Nov 20:** Thanksgiving Service, 6:30 pm  
**Nov 27:** Mosaic, 2-5 pm  
**Nov 29:** Query, 5:30 pm at PCCC  
**Nov 29:** Newsletter Mailing, 9:30 am



**Daylight Savings Time Ends Nov 4**

**Turn clocks back 1 hour.**

# All Saints Sunday November 4, 2018

On All Saints Sunday we will light candles in memory of those members who have died this past year including:

**Charles (Charlie) Houtkooper**  
October 19, 1920 - November 27, 2017

**Shirley Rourke:**  
April 29, 1935 to February 23, 2018

**Melba Hagen:**  
January 28, 1923 to March 30, 2018

**David Torkelson:**  
July 24, 1937 to April 25, 2018

**Al (Albert) Monson:**  
November 13, 1928 to July 7, 2018

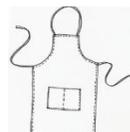
**Virginia Renneke:**  
June 12, 1937 to July 23, 2018

Worshippers will also be invited to come forward and light candles in remembrance of loved ones.



**New Member Sunday!!**

If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Mark's, please contact Pastor Joe at: 612.750.5079. Reception of new members will be held on Sunday, November 11, during worship.



**Time to Serve at Churches United**

St. Mark's will prepare and serve the evening meal at Churches United for the Homeless on **Friday, November 2, 2018, starting about 3:30 p.m.** Please let Jane Radig know if you are able to help out, 701.239.4386. Churches United is located at 1901 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, Moorhead.

# FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

*by Jane Radig*

**November 4,** we will again be collecting items for the Emergency Food Pantry. When I delivered the items from Sunday, October 7, I was told that they are in need of the following items:

Shampoo/Conditioner  
Laundry Soap  
Toothpaste  
Body Wash  
Deodorant (both men and women)  
Cooking oil

Some other items they can use include non-perishable food items (especially tuna fish and peanut butter); grocery bags – all kinds; empty egg cartons (1 dozen size only), and sturdy medium sized boxes (12" x 18" is ideal).

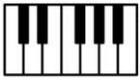
If you wish to make a monetary donation, please make the check out to St. Mark's Lutheran Church and notate Emergency Food Pantry on the memo line.



**Query Book Discussion Group at the Pride Collective**

Query is a group that Pastor Joe Larson and Tammy Lanaghan started last year for LGBTQ+ individuals and allies. This fall, Query is offering a series of book discussions at the **Pride Collective and Community Center, 1105 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South in Fargo. This month's event will be Thursday, November 29, from 5:30-7 p.m.** Free food and beverages will be provided for participants.

The book selected will be posted on the St. Mark's Facebook page. Contact Pastor Joe at 612.750.5079 with questions or suggestions.



## MUSIC NOTES\*

A new hymn to our congregation, #687, *Come to Us, Creative Spirit*, has been chosen to be sung on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> as our Hymn of the Day. It was written by David Mowbray, an English theologian later ordained serving five parishes. He began writing hymns in 1977, several of which are published in *Come Celebrate: 291 Contemporary Hymns from Leading Writers*. The first tune he used, ANGEL VOICES, was very well liked by Mowbray. However, it was not used in our ELW as Richard Proulx chose to use CASTLEWOOD. It came to be that tune when Proulx was serving on the preparation of the *Worship - Third Edition of 1986*. He was part of an editorial team that selected a number of texts. He liked Mowbray's text but decided to write a different tune for it. CASTLEWOOD is the name of a street in Chicago where a colleague of Proulx's lived. It was used as an SATB anthem with a descant and brass. The artistic quality made the hymn a great success at choral festivals, choir retreats, and other festivals of the arts.

Proulx skillfully crafted the tune with gentle flowing curves that become quite adaptable to congregational singing although the meter switches from 3 to 2 beats a measure within the hymn. With the singing talents in our congregation, I think the hymn will become easy to sing.

The hymn is listed in the Stewardship section of the hymnbook. David Mowbray's text echoes Martin Luther's *Savior of the Nations, Come* as it has a **'sense of vocation in which every human talent is hallowed.'**

1) *Come to us creative Spirit, in this holy house;  
Ev'ry human talent hallow,  
hidden skills arouse,  
That within your earthly temple,  
wise and simple may rejoice.*

2) *Poet, painter, music maker, all your treasures bring;  
Craftsman, actor, graceful dancer, make your offering;  
Join your hands in celebration:  
let creation shout and sing!*

3) *Word from God eternal springing, fill our minds, we pray;  
And in all artistic vision give integrity:  
May the flame within us burning  
kindle yearning day by day.*

4) *In all places and forever glory be expressed to the Son,  
with God the Father and the Spirit blest:  
in our worship and our living  
keep us striving for the best.*

**By Alpha Roeszler**  
Music Director

*\*Excerpts from ELW Hymnal Companion*



## CHOIR TO SING...

The choir will sing "Sweet Hour of Prayer" on Sunday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsals are planned for Sundays, Nov. 11 and 18 at 9:15 a.m. for whomever can come. Those who attend the morning Bible Study are asked to come to the rehearsal on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Anyone interested in singing in the choir is most welcome! The dates for singing at worship and rehearsals vary each month, depending on the collective schedules. Contact Alpha for more information: 701.234.9449.

## CAMPUS MINISTRY SUNDAY

Thanks to Carson and Davina, students from Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry at NDSU, for joining us at St. Mark's on October 7 to preach and assist in the worship service.

We thank you for sharing your stories and shining a light on the Crossroads ministry! Blessings to the students and Kim Adams, Campus Minister.

## Sunday Morning Book Study

Helen Beth Kuhens and Tammy Lanaghan are leading a Sunday morning group discussion on the book, ***Why Did Jesus, Moses, The Buddha, And Mohammed Cross The Road? Christian Identity In A Multi-Faith World***, by Brian D. McLaren. The book study meets in the lounge at the chapel from 9 - 9:45 a.m.



## Gospel Readings for November

St. Mark's uses the "Revised Common Lectionary" for the three scripture readings and the psalm selection each Sunday. Listed below are the Gospel readings.

### Nov 4 – All Saints Sunday:

John 11:32-44

*The raising of Lazarus*

### Nov 11 – Pentecost 25:

Mark 12:38-44

*A widow's generosity reveals the hypocrisy of the scribes*

### Nov 18 – Pentecost 26:

Mark 13:1-8

*The end and the coming of the Son*

### Nov 25 – Christ the King Sunday:

John 18:33-37

*The kingdom of Christ*

## Something New for Simply Giving\*

Credit and debit cards will now be accepted in St. Mark's "Simply Giving" electronic funds transfer program, as well as checking and savings accounts.

The paperwork process is the same: you choose the amount and frequency of the donation and it will be transferred to St. Mark's account electronically. Please talk to Naomi Franek if you are interested in pursuing this option. It takes only a few minutes to fill out the form. Contact the office at 701.235.5591 or email: [admin@stmarkslutheranfargo.com](mailto:admin@stmarkslutheranfargo.com)

\*We have also added a DONATE button on our **website** that will accept credit/debit cards and checking/savings accounts: [www.stmarkslutheranfargo.com](http://www.stmarkslutheranfargo.com)

Our thanks to Jeff Ware and Jay Jansen for decorating the chapel so beautifully for fall!



## DID YOU KNOW...

...that Bethany Retirement Living is sponsored by 38 congregations of the ELCA, including St. Mark's? Delegates from sponsoring churches elect the Board of Trustees at the Annual Meeting in April. The Board is charged with overseeing the policies and operations of Bethany Retirement Living. AND, members of this church are donors, advocates for Bethany and active in the Auxiliary that helps enhance the quality of life for the residents. To learn more, visit Bethany's web site at [www.bethanynd.org](http://www.bethanynd.org).

## BETHANY AUXILIARY HOLIDAY SHOPPING SPREE



The Bethany Auxiliary will be holding a **Holiday Shopping Spree** at both campuses with a **bake sale** included with the one at Bethany on 42. The date and time for each campus is listed below:

- **Bethany on University - 201 University Dr. S, Fargo**  
**Thursday, November 1 - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**
- **Bethany on 42 – 4255 30th Ave S, Fargo**  
**Thursday, November 8, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm (includes Bake Sale)**

Proceeds will enrich the lives of those who reside at Bethany Retirement Living.

## Christmas Decorating at Bethany

Do you love decorating for Christmas? Bethany could use your help! Join them on Tuesday, November 27, to set up and decorate trees, hang garland, and generally...deck the halls. Call Maren Johnson at Bethany on University at 701.239.3246 or Laurie Schnabel at Bethany on 42<sup>nd</sup> at 701.478.8904.

## THANKS TO OUR HABITAT VOLUNTEERS:

The following volunteers helped with planning, making and serving lunch, working at the build or at the ReStore site in October: Maxine Fagerland, Linda Hamann, Linda Graf, Ian Jensen, Tara Jensen, Charlie Jordan, Mary Jane Haugen, Helen Beth Kuhens, Aurora Sobolik, and Jane Radig.

## New Church Directory: Save the Dates...

Almost seven years have passed since our last church pictorial directory was published! We have confirmed the dates with Lifetouch to take pictures on January 15 and 16, 2019, for a new church directory. The times will be 2 – 9 p.m. each day.

With the technology available today the process has been streamlined and fewer volunteers are needed. More information will be available in the coming weeks...

## Thrivent Action Team Facts

If you are an **associate** member or a **benefit** member you are eligible to lead a Thrivent Action Team and help one of many eligible non-profit organizations or churches on Thrivent's list. It can be a fund-raising event, an educational event, or an interactive project. Use your imagination!

After your application is approved you will receive a \$250 debit card for expenses related to the project.

Please contact Naomi Franek for more information, 701.235.5591 or 701.298.8920. There is still time to apply and complete your project before the end of the year!

## Happy Thanksgiving!





## **CHAPEL UPDATE...by Pastor Joe**

As many of you know, Prairie St. John's is in the planning stages of building a new hospital. Recently, their Board of Directors made a final decision to build this new facility on its present site rather than another location.

This decision has prompted their staff to cancel the fence project for the side exit in the chapel. Since we had already had the fundraiser (which raised about \$5,100), our church council is going to reach out to everyone who made donations to this special project and offer reimbursement for their donation. The council has decided to put the remaining funds in an interest-bearing account to be used for future moving expenses.

At this point, we have not received a timeline from the hospital for when the construction will begin, but our best guess is that it will be within the next year. The building where we worship will eventually be torn down, so we do need to look again for a new worship space. Please let me know if you have any ideas or suggestions for a possible future site. (Note: We will be able to stay in our current office space as long as we want.)

We are grateful to Prairie-St. John's for providing this wonderful chapel for our use since April 2017. Please keep this issue in your prayers, as we think about a new home for worship for our St. Mark's community. The council and I have been discussing this as we look to the coming year. God has called us to be a journeying people of faith, and we are thankful that God has provided a home for us during the past few years.

## **JOINT THANKSGIVING SERVICE**



St. Mark's Lutheran Church will participate in a joint service with Golden Ridge Lutheran Church and "The Way" on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., at Golden Ridge Lutheran Church, 730 27<sup>th</sup> St. North in Fargo.

Pie/Dessert Social Following