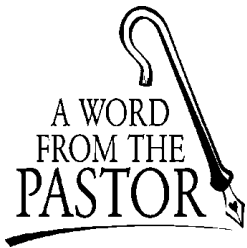


St. Mark & St. Luke Newsletter

THE

MESSENGER



2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

You might have noticed some commotion in the Church Fellowship Hall over the last few weeks. There is stuff piled all over the place and there's been kind of a weird noise.

Well, let me tell you what is going on... We are renovating the Noah's Ark room. Now, most people know what the "Noah's Ark room" is. It is that large room downstairs under the Narthex. It has a big painting of Noah's Ark that was painted by Dale Hanson who passed away a year ago.

The Noah's Ark room has been a place used to teach Sunday School lessons; it has been a room that hosted Vacation Bible School. It has been a space that allowed the youth Group to do their activities. It is even a place for Brides to get ready to walk down the aisle on their special day. However, the room needed some TLC. It had become a storage room for a lot of long forgotten items. The carpet was musty... maybe even a little moldy from all the floods the room has experienced over the years. So, it was time for a renovation.

With some generous donations and memorials... with some hard work by a couple of members- - Dave Niven and Dale Voie, this project is moving right along. The junk has been removed. . . the carpet has been taken out and a good epoxy flooring has been laid down. . . the walls have been repainted (The Noah's Ark painting is still in place). We just need some shelves and cupboards put in and the Sunday school children can move back, and the room can be used for generations to come. Stop downstairs and see the room! Otherwise, there is a picture of it to see later in the newsletter.

Now if you are reading this article and feeling a little twinge of guilt for not helping out with this project... there are several others that we'll need help with. There are the church archives that need some help. We have boxes, files, pictures, and certain items that need to be organized. We have a room full of boxes, record books, old pictures and some other old stuff that needs to be sorted through. We also need some individuals to help with the computers and PowerPoints (like Nina Much is doing for us). Let me know if any of these catch your attention or if you would like to know more about these projects.

We have a great church and a wonderful church building. We are able keep things going because we have generous members and dedicated volunteers. Thanks for all your hard work!

In Christ, Pastor Smiles

WORSHIP

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, which is Feb. 14. As in years past, Wednesday services will be the special service for the Lenten Season. They are designed to be an extra service besides the Sunday morning services. Also, as in years past, the Reach Out Service will be combined with the Wednesday midweek services.

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Jan 31 7:30 pm Order of Service- D.S. 4 (Printed Out)

Holy Communion is offered at the Floor level.

Elder Steve Handrich

Elder Assistant Todd Olsen

Reach out Feb 1 A bi- monthly Communion Service for those who have difficulty coming to the front of church for the Lord's Supper or wish to avoid large crowds but want to attend worship.

Feb 4 10:15 am Order of Service- Divine Service Setting 4 (Pg. 203)

Holy Communion is offered at the Altar level.

Elder Arnold Heideman

Elder Assistant Dan Riske

Acolyte Dillon Krueger

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Feb 7 7:30 pm Order of Service- Creative Worship (Printed Out)

Elder Mel Hansen

Elder Assistant Paul Timm

Feb 11 10:15 am Order of Service- Creative Worship (Printed Out)

Elder Wayne Wendt

Elder Assistant Shannon Hansen

Acolyte Peyton Larson

Ash Wednesday

Feb 14

11:15 am Order of Service & Reach Out- Special Order

Holy Communion is brought to the pews with imposition of Ashes.

Elder Arnold Heideman

7:30 pm Ash Wednesday- Special Service (Printed Out)

Holy Communion is offered at the Floor level / Imposition of Ashes.

Elder Ryan Poppy

Elder Assistant Keith Timm



The First Sunday in Lent

Feb 18 10:15 am Order of Service- Divine Service Setting 4 (Pg. 203)

Holy Communion is offered at the Floor Level

Elder Steve Handrich

Elder Assistant Austin Heideman

Acolyte Madeline Heideman

Lenten Midweek 1

Feb 21 11:15 am Order of Service- Special Order

7:30 pm Order of Service- Special Order (Printed Out)

Elder Wayne Wendt

Elder Assistant Brian Much

The Second Sunday in Lent

Feb 25 10:15 am Order of Service- Prayer and Preaching (Printed Out)
Elder Arnold Heideman **Elder Assistant Dale Voie**
Acolyte Carter Moericke

Lenten Midweek 2

Feb 28 11:15 am Order of Service- Special Order
Holy Communion is brought to the pews.

7:30 pm Order of Service
Holy Communion is offered at the Floor level.
Elder Mel Hansen **Elder Assistant Paul Timm**

The Third Sunday in Lent

Mar 3 10:15 am Order of Service- Divine Service Setting 1 (Pg. 151)
Holy Communion is offered at the Altar level.
Elder Ryan Poppy **Elder Assistant Dan Riske**
Acolyte Zoe Krueger


ST LUKE'S ELDER/USHER TEAMS

Feb. 4 David Bork
Feb. 11 Tom Feucht
Feb. 18 Les Wilson
Feb. 25 David Bork
Mar. 3 Tom Feucht

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, find, and ask someone to take your place. And PLEASE call the office (920)596-3241 to let the Church Secretary know when you exchanged with someone else.
Thank You!

God's Valentine

For God so lo **V** ed the world
that He g **A** ve
His on **L** y
begott **E** n
So **N**
tha **T** whoever
believes **I** n Him
should **N** ot parish
but have **E** ternal life

Have You Moved? 
If you or someone you know has moved or will be moving, and the address or telephone number has changed, **PLEASE** inform the church office. The newsletter is not forwarded when we have a wrong address. It is returned to us, and we pay extra postage.



STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

We made a deposit of \$4,337.00 on January 10, 2024. Of that, \$3,682.00 was for current expenses. There is a chance we may be a little short this month. Cancellations of services due to heat issues, bitter cold weather, and fuel to put into the furnaces are catching up with us this month. We do have one reimbursement coming in from our memorials for the flooring that was done in the Noah's Ark Room, and our first quarter shared expenses from St. Luke. That should help cover some of our January expenses. Below you are looking at what is left of our January expenses and our balance thereafter.

Checkbook Balance (as of 1/21/2024): - \$10,644.65

Monies to designate (memorials/fundraisers): \$0

Upcoming Expenses: \$715

Missions Collected: \$160.56 (so far)

Youth Collected: \$0 YTD

Endowment Fund Collected: \$0

Project Fund Collected: \$500 (so far)

Total Expenses: \$1,375.56

Ending balance: - \$12,020.21

Savings Account Balance (1/21/24): \$20,748.37

THANK YOU! We received our endowment interest for 2023 in the amount of \$8,745.93. Thank you to all who contribute to our endowment fund. This is a tremendous boost to our finances annually!

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

ELDER MEETING- ST LUKE & ST MARK- Feb. 3 2024, the Board of Elders and the congregational Presidents of both St. Mark and St. Luke will have a special meeting with pastor Smiles to discuss his health issues as he battles Parkinson's disease. While there is nothing that needs to be done immediately, the disease will continue to progress, and we as a congregation and he as our pastor want to start putting a game plan in place that will allow us to make the most of the years ahead and be prepared for the changes and challenges that may be around the corner.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES If you would still like your offering envelopes, let the church office know and we'll get them to you. Just in case you might have forgotten your envelope... don't forget our extra ways of giving as well- Electronically via text or through our website (whether a one-time or recurring offering).

2023 STATEMENTS . . . Contribution statements for 2023 are out and can be picked up in the church narthex if you have not already done so. If you need one mailed to you, or have questions, please contact the church office at (920)-596-3241.

THANK YOU! The Sarah Circle would like to send an extra thank you to all who gave to the adopt a family at Christmas. While we had one larger family to support, in the end, we were able to help two families!! One family had more of a monetary need for bills and medical expenses. As there were generous monetary donations, we were able to assist them with their needs!

SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS SING! Reminder that all Sunday school kids will be singing on **February 4th**.

NOAH'S ARK ROOM- NEW FLOOR! Take a moment to head downstairs and look at the new flooring in the Noah's Ark room. The flooring was done by Legacy Concrete and looks amazing! After a heavy rainstorm, the carpet in that room got quite wet. It became musty and the carpet needed replacing. There were thoughts of putting down vinyl, but then the idea of doing this coating came up. This should last for years to come! The cost of this flooring was covered by several memorials and donations.



FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT

You may remember seeing a young gal that you didn't recognize helping with the Sunday School children... or maybe you sat through her presentation of Germany several Sundays ago. Her name is Annalena Gietl and she wanted to thank the members at St. Mark for making her feel welcome and tell you a little more about herself. She submitted the following article for our newsletter:

Hello, my name is Annalena Gietl and I'm an exchange student from Germany. I'm going to the Little Wolf High School and live in Manawa.

My way to the US:

Since I was young, I was always thinking about leaving my home country and studying abroad. Originally I wanted to go to Canada, but then Covid put all my ideas in the background. It was my mom who brought up the idea of studying abroad again, since someone at her work told her about a scholarship which would make a year in the US possible.

The scholarship is called CBYX and is a government sponsored program between the American Congress and the German Bundestag. Getting accepted in this program would mean going to an American High School for a school year and being able to call yourself a youth ambassador. The application process includes a written application, a selection interview and the final nomination of a Bundestag member. Beginning this journey I would've never thought to actually make it and I'm very thankful for this opportunity, which was made possible by Rita Hagl-Kehl who nominated me.

However, this scholarship still includes some responsibilities, one of them was a certain amount of volunteer hours which I made in the Sunday-School-Program of our church.

I arrived in the US in August and tried to get involved. Accordingly I joined some High School clubs like Cross Country, Basketball, Forensics or Quizbowl. Moreover, I volunteer at the Sturm Memorial Library.

In my freetime I enjoy hanging out with friends, going lifting and reading books.

My life in Germany:

I live in the southern area of Germany in a small city called Deggendorf. My school there has around 1000 students and because I am in the US right now I still have to complete my 12th grade in Germany. When I'm not busy with school assignments I love to coach children in rock climbing or spending time outside hiking or with friends.

CONTINUED...



My family consists of my dad, my mom, my grandma, my two younger brothers, and three cats. After I'm finished with school, I plan on going to university and studying law. I'd really like to become a lawyer later on.

It's hard to believe that half of my exchange year is already completed. I can't wait for all the experiences I'll gain in the remaining five months. Also, I want to use this chance to thank everybody who makes my exchange year something I will never forget.

(Anna is staying with the family of Jeremy and Jessica Handrich.) Thank you to Anna for helping with our Sunday School children while she was visiting here in the United States!

S'more about Camp Luther...

Faith, Family, Friendship



SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION HAS STARTED!!

Starting January 15th...you will be able to login into your account and fill out your camper's forms before registration starts. This will make the process way faster when it is time to actually register.

If you have registered for camp in recent years, you should have received your login information to you via email, in case you forgot.

Registration for Quest, IMPACT, and Kindercamp opens January 21st at 1 pm. Registration for Explorer, Pathfinder, Trailblazer, and High School Week opens January 28th at 1 pm.

Go to campluther.com/summer for more information!

VOLUNTEER WEEK!

Facilities Friday! Volunteer Week is 4 months away and we are already planning for it.



Camp Luther
VOLUNTEER WEEK
2024

Save the DATE!

- ✓ Painting
- ✓ Cleaning
- ✓ Organizing
- ✓ Build Lean-to for Cold Storage
- ✓ Stairs built for Crowsnest & Chicadee
- ✓ Various projects for Crowsnest remodel

April, 22-27th, 2024
Starts At: 11:30 a.m. with
Volunteer Orientation

The graphic features a green background with a yellow sun and trees logo. It includes a photo of a group of people standing in front of a building with signs for 'GENERAL INFORMATION OFFICE', 'COTTAGE RENTALS', and 'REGISTRATIONS'. Another photo shows people working on a wooden structure in a wooded area.



Contact Snowcat **715-546-3647**
Director of Facilities
email: snowcat@campluther.com

Visit Our Website
campluther.com/volunteer

FUN FELLOWSHIP SERVE

The graphic has a green border and contains icons for a phone and a globe.