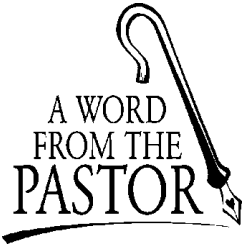


# St. Mark & St. Luke Newsletter THE MESSENGER



Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

[Mark 16:15 \(KJV\)](#)



2024

Dear friends in Christ,

I like to share one of the *Key For Kids* devotional messages that I use when leading a chapel service at St. Paul's school in Manawa. I also use them in my sermons here at St. Mark and St Luke. I like them because they are simple and make a good point for all ages. Here is one that I thought would make a good newsletter article this month. It was written by Linda E. Knight:

### **Endangered Souls**

Theo carefully hung a poster on his bedroom wall. He stepped back to look at it. "EXTINCTION IS FOREVER! SAVE YOUR PLANET NOW!" it said, the large letters looming out at him. Then he ran down the stairs, two steps at a time.

"Whoa, Theo! Slow down! Where are you going, and what do you have in that box?" asked Dad.

"These are the calendars we're selling for our school project," replied Theo. "Each month has a picture of an endangered animal. The money we make is going to help with research on ways people can take better care of the earth. Lots of animals and plants are already extinct--they don't exist anymore. We want to keep that from happening to more." He opened the box. "How many do you want?" he asked eagerly.

"I'll take two," said Dad. He smiled. "I'm proud of you, Theo. It's important to take good care of the earth God has given us." Then he sighed. "Though it's too bad we often forget what's in the greatest danger of all."

"What are you talking about?" asked Theo. "The rainforests?"

Dad shook his head. "I wasn't thinking of animals or the environment. I was thinking of people's souls. Anyone who dies rejecting Jesus will experience something much worse than extinction--they'll face eternal punishment in hell. It's good to be concerned about saving the earth, but we should be even more concerned about saving people."

"I never thought about that," said Theo. He frowned. "But I can't make people become Christians!"

"No," said Dad. "But think about your earth project, Theo--are you able to keep people from doing things that destroy the earth?"

"Well, no," said Theo. "But I can raise awareness about what's happening to the earth, so they know about it. Then hopefully they'll decide to change."

Continued Pg. 2

"Right," said Dad. "And that's what we need to do for people who don't know Jesus. We can't make them become Christians, but we can tell them what Jesus did for them, pray for them, and show them God's love through our actions. Then hopefully they'll recognize they need Jesus too."

Now I fully agree that we should be concerned about our planet. Everyone needs to do their part to take care of God's creation. But what about the people you know who don't know Jesus—are you concerned about their souls? Humans are God's greatest creation, and Jesus became human Himself to take the punishment for our sins on the cross so we could be saved. Trust Him to help you share the good news of His love with others.

This gospel message is so important. God has entrusted that message to us as individuals and he has entrusted that message to the Church.

This is why our congregations in Symco and Big Falls need to keep working hard to keep moving forward . . . Our communities need us. Our communities need somewhere that we can provide a place where people can come and worship and learn and serve. Our communities need a place that shares God's Love and they need a place that cares as much about the endangered souls of the people around us and their place in heaven as it concerned about endangered animals' lives in this temporary world.

If you are reading this article, you are a member of St Luke or St, Mark. If not, you are at least supportive of the ministry we provide. We need our members to put a greater effort to make sure our congregations don't become "extinct". We need people to give of their Time – Talent – and Treasure.

We have a lot of very active members of both congregations who give a lot and make the sacrifices necessary to keep our churches going. But they are getting tired. We really need some of those less active members to step up and do what they can as well.

I think we will be amazed what a difference it will make when all our members put a greater effort to save our church from extinction.

God grant this to us all.

*In Christ, Pastor Smiles*

The following letter was submitted by our MMT (formerly council) President, Keith Nemmetz:

#### WHERE HAVE ALL THE PEOPLE GONE?

We have so many chances to go to church, but not many show up. 20 to 30 people in church is not going to keep the church doors open. They think of the church as a fast-food restaurant- I go there when I want something or when I'm in the mood. The forgiveness of sins in Christ faithfully served to us in the preaching of the church and in the Lord's Supper get treated as a menu item. It's disturbing to go to meetings and church and so few show up. We can't get anyone to serve as a church officer, even though many never had a job.

If things don't change, how is the church going to continue? The old folks die and the younger don't care. The church will be there when we need it; baptism, sickness, confirmation, marriage, and death- but will it? If we, here in Symco, don't start coming to church.

Try coming once a month and increasing it to every other Sunday. I know everyone is busy, but one hour is not too much to ask for. Jesus bled and died for our forgiveness and salvation. Judgement day is coming. Are we ready?

In God We Trust,  
Keith Nemmetz

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- August 28 7:30 pm Order of Service- - Come to His Table (Printed Out)  
Holy Communion is offered at the floor level.  
**Elder Ryan Poppy** **Elder Assistant Brian Much**
- Sept. 1 10:15 am Order of Service- Divine Service Setting 1 (Pg. 151)  
Holy Communion is offered at the Altar Level.  
**Elder Steve Handrich** **Elder Assistant Dan Riske**  
**Acolyte Dillon Krueger**

## The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Sept. 4 7:30 pm Order of Service- - Creative Worship (Printed Out)  
**Elder Mel Hansen** **Elder Assistant Keith Timm**

## *Reach Out* September 5

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.

- Sept. 8 10:15 am Order of Service- - Creative Worship (Printed Out)  
**Elder Arnold Heideman** **Elder Assistant Austin Heideman**  
**Acolyte Emma Smith**

## The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Sept. 11 7:30 pm Order of Service- - Come to His Table (Printed Out)  
Holy Communion is offered at the floor level  
**Elder Wayne Wendt** **Elder Assistant Paul Timm**
- Sept. 15 10:15 am Order of Service- - Divine Service Setting 1 (Pg. 151)  
Holy Communion is offered at the Floor Level.  
**Elder Steve Handrich** **Elder Assistant Shannon Hansen**  
**Acolyte Hailey Claussen**

## The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Sept. 18 7:30 pm Order of Service- Prayer and Preaching (Printed Out)  
**Elder Ryan Poppy** **Elder Assistant Brian Much**

## *Reach Out* September 19

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.

- Sept. 22 10:15 am Order of Service- Prayer and Preaching (Printed Out)  
**Elder Arnold Heideman** **Elder Assistant Dale Voie**  
**Acolyte Peyton Larson**

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Sept. 25 7:30 pm Order of Service- Come to His Table (Printed Out)  
 Holy Communion is offered floor level  
**Elder Mel Hansen Elder Assistant Keith Timm**
- Sept. 29 10:15 am Order of Service- - Divine Service Setting 1 (Pg. 151)  
 Holy Communion is offered at the Floor Level.  
**Elder Wayne Wendt Elder Assistant Dan Riske**  
**Acolyte Nicholas Much**

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Oct. 2 7:30 pm Order of Service- D.S. 3 (Printed Out)  
**Elder Ryan Poppy Elder Assistant Todd Olsen**

*Reach Out October 3*

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.

- Oct. 6 10:15 am Order of Service- Divine Service Setting 3 (Pg. 184)  
**Elder Steve Handrich Elder Assistant Austin Heideman**  
**Acolyte Aiden Heideman**

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, 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!

**ST LUKE'S ELDER/USHER TEAMS**

- Sept. 1 David Bork**  
**Sept. 8 Tom Feucht**  
**Sept. 15 Les Wilson**  
**Sept. 22 David Bork**  
**Sept. 29 Tom Feucht**  
**Oct. 6 Les Wilson**

**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 gets returned to us, and we pay extra postage.

# \$TEWARDSHIP & FINANCE\$

As summer is turning to fall, hopefully some of our families will return to church regularly and continue to give. We made a deposit of \$9,165.00 on August 6, 2024. Of that, \$7,975.00 went to current. There were some kind offerings, which will hopefully help to pull us through August without withdrawing from our savings account. Please keep this in mind as you give your offerings.

Checkbook Balance (as of 8/7/2024): \$1,903.78

Monies to deposit for designating (memorials/fundraisers): \$0.

Upcoming Expenses: \$7,571.76

Missions Collected: \$265 (so far)

Youth Collected: \$0 YTD

Endowment Fund Collected: \$0

Project Fund Collected: \$25.00 (so far)

Total Expenses: \$7,861.76



Ending balance: - \$5,957.98 (This is what is needed currently for our August expenses)

Savings Account Balance (8/19/24): \$13,034.65 (for reference, it was \$29,000 when we began in 2024).

If you're unable to attend church in person, consider mailing in your offering envelope. Or, put your offerings on "auto pilot"- we use Vanco for our electronic giving. You can choose to do a recurring amount or just give as you are able (either by text on your mobile phone or from your PC/laptop). If you need help with this, call the church office and we'd be happy to walk you through the process.

## **STILL SEEKING... CHURCH TREASURER** St. Mark needs a church treasurer!

Some time ago, we put the Treasurer position, the church secretary position, and the Congregational (Council) Secretary positions all together as one position.

The time has come to reevaluate that decision. It may be better to separate the Treasurer' position and the church secretary position as it had been in the past. Tracy Heideman, who currently serves this position, would agree. She is willing to continue as our church secretary but would like us to find someone who would take on the Treasurer' duties.



### Primary Duties and Responsibilities

1. Be the Chief Financial Officer of the congregation and shall be responsible for the overall financial program of the congregation in accordance with policies approved by the church council and Voters' assembly.
2. Be responsible for the safekeeping of all funds, securities, and fiduciary documents of the congregation.
3. Be the disbursing agent of the congregation. All checks shall be issued under the authority and supervision of the treasurer, who shall be responsible for the establishment of appropriate fiscal controls over the congregation.
4. Serve as the controller of the congregation and be responsible for the financial accounting system, the preparation of financial statements and the periodic reporting of them to the congregation, and the establishment or review of all financial accounting procedures. All accounting procedures are subject to the approval of the church council.

In the past, this was an elected position and the person assuming the responsibility was paid a salary for their time. Contact the church office for more information.

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES:** The first day of Sunday school is fast approaching! We will begin our 2023-2024 school year on **Sunday, September 8th at 9:00 a.m.** This is known as "Rally" Sunday. Parents and guardians are invited to join their children for the first day of Sunday school. They will begin by meeting their teachers and getting to know where their classroom is.

**The third-grade class will also receive their Bibles that day in church.** Parents and Guardians are encouraged to be with their child.

We would also like to remind parents; please do not park in the handicapped spaces when dropping off and picking up their child from Sunday school. Also, remind your child/children while waiting for pick-up to be careful of vehicles and people entering the church.

Hope to see you all there!

**CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION - 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 4th.** All 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders should attend.

**BIBLE STUDY** We will have a Bible study every 2nd and 4th Sunday following our morning worship service. It's usually a one or two sessions study with a different theme each time. It lasts about 1/2 hour to 45 minutes. Come and join us and learn more about God and our faith!!

## GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

### **Sarah Circle**

All are welcome; we're always looking for more members! Please consider joining us in our devotions and community events!

**KICK-OFF MEETING!**

**Sarah Circle will be meeting on Thursday, September 12th in the home of Kay and David Niven. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.** with a Potluck meal. Bring your own beverages and a dish to pass. Dessert is provided."

### **Busy Bees Quilting Group**

The Orphan Grain Train of Wisconsin sent a thank-you to our quilting group for making and donating 27 pillowcase dresses to those in need! The girls work hard through the year to create quilts and dresses for anyone in need near and far!!

### **Youth and Family Ministries**

**ATTENTION YOUTH!!** There will be a youth event in conjunction with Confirmation Orientation night on **Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**! Hope to see you there!!



# S'more about Camp Luther...

*Faith, Family, Friendship*



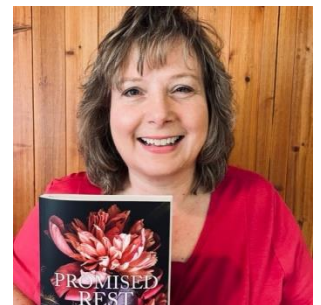
## WOMEN'S RETREAT

September 27-29, 2024

Ladies, we'd love to welcome you to camp this fall to experience our annual Women's Retreat! Find a community of encouragement and hope amidst the beautiful creation of camp. This year our main speaker is Michelle Diercks, who will be sharing with us based on the theme of *Promised Rest*. We'll be digging into the promises of God and the peace His presence provides to us, amidst the storms and sorrows of life. If you're looking for a boost of encouragement in your walk with Jesus along with a hefty dose of laughter, then we hope you'll join us this fall!

From Guest Speaker- Michelle Diercks:

*"Are you weary from all that feels broken in our world? And do you just wish you could find a way to fix it? What is your soul longing for? Does it long for peace and rest? I know mine does. I created this study as a meditation on the various names and characteristics of God to deepen your understanding of Him and your identity as His beloved child. In your deepest sorrow, God is your comfort and will never leave you. As you peer into a future you did not plan, the Good Shepherd walks with you."*



Don't feel left out men, there's a retreat for you too! Coming soon- save the date!

## MEN'S RETREAT!



**Save the Date: Jan 30 - Feb 2, 2025**

Men! Come for a relaxing or adventurous weekend together with other men of God to be built up in your faith, encouraged, and challenged. This full weekend retreat will be a time of disruption of the norm while being surrounded by God's creation and in fellowship with each other and Jesus. See below for a tentative schedule of the weekend!