

April 9, 2020



Dear St. Mark Family,

These are difficult times for our nation and world dealing with an extraordinary pandemic. But in moments like these, the community of faith can be an extraordinary anchor and a source of hope as we draw upon our faith and lean on each other. Your church has been continuing to live out their faith in creative and remarkable ways. We have highlighted a few of these stories on the second page.

As they do monthly, St. Mark's Finance Team has been diligently reviewing our finances and developing projections for the next few months. They have been able to pause our mortgage payment for three months and will temporarily suspend accruing for our Property Insurance and Capital Projects and Worker's Comp funds—as there are sufficient funds accrued to pay the next installment. Additionally, as 64% of our budget is payroll expenses, they are reviewing the option of applying for a Paycheck Protection Program loan.

As of March 31, our General Fund is **-\$4,660**, however we are delighted to see a surge in on-line giving and grateful for folks that are mailing their envelope payments directly to the church. Please continue to support the ministries of St. Mark as you are able. For those that may receive a \$1,200 relief check, we also invite you to consider tithing a portion to St. Mark, or designate an amount to the Food Shelf or Crisis Fund, or other non-profits (Lutheran Social Services, etc.). Target, Cub, and Walmart gift cards are always welcome to arm Pastor Mollie with resources to help members of the St. Mark family and our local community.

If you are struggling with food insecurity, please know the Centennial Food shelf continues to operate with a skeleton crew on Mondays and Thursday, 4-6 pm. You will need to call ahead to advise what food and product you would like and there is pick-up service. Please call 763-784-2013 to schedule a pick up, or if you are young and healthy and would like to volunteer.

To date, to our knowledge, no member of our congregation or visitor to our church has been diagnosed with Covid19.

We look forward to continuing to worship virtually, via Facebook or YouTube, with you during Holy Week and through May 3. We will continue to update as we learn more from Governor Walz. Please note the times of Worship below:

- Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.
- Good Friday, 7 p.m.
- Easter Sunday, 10 a.m.
- Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.

A good time to be reminded of the words of Moses who reminded the children of Israel of God's faithfulness in turbulent time: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified, for the Lord your God goes with you, he will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Be strong and encouraged!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Mundale".

Dave Mundale
President, Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Gregory".

Karen Gregory
Vice President, Council

Continued Ministry of St. Mark

I am thankful to have a task to keep me busy while isolated at home. I started sewing face masks 2 weeks ago and was able to donate 16 to Unity Hospital. Then I began sewing for my family, mailing most of them, and for a few friends. I just kept churning them out after receiving scraps of fabric from one friend and a few yards of elastic from another. I think I have made 67 to date. I also finished several more sundresses for little girls in Africa and mailed off about 30 of them this week. (I sewed most of them last summer.). It feels good to do something worthwhile!

Nancy R.

Peace and Blessings to my St. Mark family, I sure do miss y'all. Our ministry sure looks and feels different right now, but our Lord is still calling on us to be His children and share His love. And sharing His love is what ministry is all about. So do what you can, call a friend, write an email, deliver some groceries or shave your head.....(maybe don't shave your head)..... It's true we are limited in mobility, but we all still have gifts and resources. If you've been able to work from home and are saving money on parking or fuel, look to share those savings with others. If you've been laid off and are struggling, ask for help. But whatever you do, keep your heart and mind focused on Christ Jesus, he is the reason for us all.

Shawn L.

I know in "normal" times I see faith lived out in people in my life. And now there are so few. No hugs - I'm a big hugger. I find myself reading devotions. Waiting in anticipation of worship services online. And in this "meantime" I help with recorded music for church, make masks, change and make banners for the sanctuary and babysit two of the grandkids so parents can work while they can. And like we all do, I pray...and wash my hands!

Cindy H.