

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

messenger

"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

October 2020



Can we count on you to help with our Fall Clean-up?

St. Mark's annual Fall Clean-up will take place this year after the late worship service (around 11 a.m.) on Sunday, October 4. We would love to have you join us as many hands will be needed!

This year's list of chores includes taking down the sanctuary window screens and replacing them with storm windows, cleaning up branches at the back of the parking lot, taking down the remaining room dividers in the basement and library, washing the entryway glass doors (only warm soapy water can be used), and probably a few more jobs. We won't be serving lunch this year due to COVID, so if you feel you need to go home and eat lunch first, feel free to join the clean-up efforts afterward.

Please make a note of this event on your calendars now, and we hope to see you there!



Please join us for Reformation Day on October 25

On Sunday, October 25, we will observe the Festival of Reformation Day! On this day, we remember how God worked so long ago through Martin Luther and the other reformers to renew the knowledge of the Gospel among His people, and we rejoice that God has sustained us in this saving Truth until the present day!

We hope you will join us for this celebration! We will be singing many of your favorite hymns, and we invite you to wear red in honor of the day. Please note that on account of the pandemic, we will not be holding our annual Fall Harvest Potluck.

As usual, Divine Services will be held at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. We look forward to seeing you there!

CONTENTS

2. Two Options Are Currently Available to Study God's Word at Church
3. Pastor's Page
4. Annual Church Planning Meeting is Scheduled for October 10, The Latest News Regarding the Sale of Our Backlots and Parking Lot Repaving, Volunteers Needed for this Year's "Chutes & Ladders" Trunk-or-Treat
5. In our Thoughts and Prayers
6. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Family Movie Night Was Chilly but Fun, Confirmed in the Faith, Please Remember These Folks in Your Prayers, Special Fund Donations, Farewell & Godspeed to the Schwiesows
7. Church Council Minutes - Summarized
8. Visit our Website, St. Mark's Recently Received These Notes
9. Pastor's Page (cont'd.)
10. October's Church Calendar

The *Messenger* is the monthly newsletter of:

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

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Sunday

Divine Service with Holy Communion 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School (Sept. - May) 10:45 a.m. **(ON HOLD)**

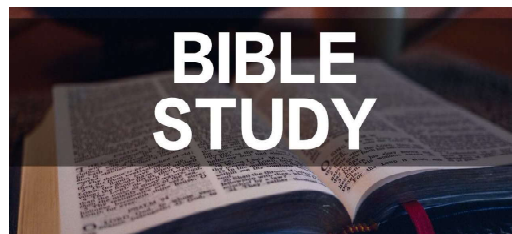
Wednesday

Adult Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

One Saturday/month

Men's Bible Study/Breakfast 9:00 a.m.

Handicap accessible.



Two options are currently available to study God's Word at church

During the month of October, the two opportunities below will be offered to those wishing to delve deeper into God's Holy Word. We hope you will attend one or both, and feel free to bring a friend too!

Adult Bible Class is Meeting on Wednesday Nights

In the month of October, we will be continuing exploring the book of Joshua in our Adult Bible Study. This study is now meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

The book of Joshua describes how the people of Israel conquered the Promised Land through the powerful working of God and how they then divided it up according to His command. As such, it has a lot to teach us about the work of the Church today, as Christ sends us out to overthrow the kingdom of the devil through the preaching of the Gospel, while we await the Day when we at last inherit the true Promised Land of heaven.

We hope you will join us for this study! This is a great opportunity to fill your week with God's Word and to grow in knowledge and faith!

Men's Bible Study Will Meet on October 3

Attention Men of St. Mark's! Our next Men's Bible Study will be held on Saturday, October 3. We will gather from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in St. Mark's fellowship hall. Breakfast will be provided, and we will be continuing our study of the book of Acts.

Also, after the study you're invited to stick around to help tackle a few projects before the full church cleanup on October 4.

We hope to see you there! This is a great opportunity to be formed together as men of God in the image of Christ!



Pastor's Page

The Bible provides the perfect framework for talking about race in a healthy and helpful way

My friends, ever since the tragic death of George Floyd on May 25, the topic of race has been at the forefront of our national conversation. Sadly, while this moment could have served as an opportunity for us to come together, hold an honest discussion and make real progress, the opposite has in fact happened: over the past few months, on the topic of race our nation has only grown more divided.

Truly, our country is in need of healing. All people of goodwill should desire it. The Church of God should pray for it. O Lord, hear our plea!

But we must ask, why is it that we are so divided on this issue, and why does it seem to be getting worse? Of course, we Christians know the biggest reason: We are all sinners, more inclined toward self-righteousness and hard-heartedness than humility and grace (Romans 3:9-18). But aside from that, I think there's more at play. Namely, I believe that our efforts toward honest dialogue and true healing are hindered by the concepts and the rhetoric that currently frame the debate.

As it stands, the discussion on race in our nation is largely being held in terms of a power struggle: one race is universally declared the oppressor, the other race the oppressed. True justice, it is said, can only come about when these labels are embraced and power changes hands. In my pastoral judgment, this rhetoric is both unhelpful and unhealthy—not to mention unbiblical. Rather than uniting, it divides. Rather than healing, it wounds. Rather than treating people as individuals, it groups them all together according to the color of their skin, calling one side “racists” and the other side “victims.” Is it any wonder we are more divided than ever, when this is the predominant narrative? Such rhetoric will not bring people together in a healthy way. It will only breed resentment and suspicion between parties.

However, there is a better way, a way that—even now—can usher in true healing in our nation: We must listen to what God says in His Word about race and about justice. There, in stark contrast to the rhetoric currently being promoted in our society, God gives us the perfect framework for holding these discussions in a healthy and helpful way. Below, I will lay out what the Bible says about these issues, so that we might see things in the proper way, and thus be equipped to do our part to take meaningful and loving steps toward true healing in our land.

So what does the Bible teach about race? First, it teaches that *no matter our ethnicity, we are all part of one human family*. Yeah, we may come from many different lands. We may

differ in our language, in our diet, or in our appearance. But regardless, we are all, quite literally, brothers and sisters. According to the Bible, we are all descendants of Adam and Eve, whom God created on the sixth day (Genesis 1:26-31). In fact, this truth is memorialized in the very meaning of Eve's name. As it is said in the book of Genesis, “The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living” (Genesis 3:20). Truly, through Adam and Eve we are all one family.

But, even more, this brotherhood of all mankind was then affirmed by God through the work of Christ. Jesus came into this world to be our brother according to the flesh, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:31-32). In this way, Jesus joined Himself forever to the line of Adam (Luke 3:23-38). And why did He do this? He did it so that He might redeem His entire human family—every one of us—from the power of sin: “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5). In short, the work of Jesus confirms that we are all brothers and sisters according to the flesh.

But within the Church, this brotherhood runs even deeper, for it is no longer just a brotherhood by bodily descent, but a true spiritual union in Christ, regardless of race. As Paul says concerning the Church, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). Or, as the Apostle says in another place, “We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:5). In other words, in the Church all earthly distinctions, whether they be race or sex or social status, are dissolved by virtue of our unity in Christ. Here, we are all brothers and sisters in Him. Our Lord Himself declares this very truth when He says, “Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother” (Mark 3:35).

Therefore, when we encounter anyone of another race (or someone who is different from us in any way) we must always remember, first of all, that this person truly is our brother or our sister according to the flesh, of equal dignity and of equal worth, deserving of the same respect and having a claim to the same justice. Here, we must always look past skin color to see our common humanity, remembering that we've all been made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). And, furthermore, if this person is a fellow Christian, we must also learn to see him or

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(See Pastor's Page Page 9)

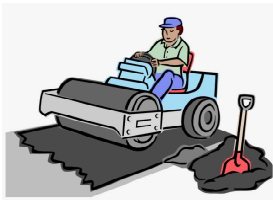


Annual Church Planning Meeting is scheduled for October 10

St. Mark's Officers and Board Members: The time has come for us to begin planning for next year! Therefore, we will be holding our annual Congregational Mission Workshop on Saturday, October 10. It will begin at 9 a.m. and will conclude by noon. Lunch will not be provided.

This workshop is open to all officers and board members. Please mark this date on your calendars; it is very important that you attend!

We praise God for this opportunity to consider the work of His Church. May He grant us wisdom and faithfulness as we craft our plans!



The latest news regarding the sale of our backlots and parking lot repaving

St. Mark's had hoped that our congregation would be able to get the parking lot repaved before wet and freezing temperatures arrived in late October, for those weather conditions wouldn't allow for newly-laid asphalt to cure properly. However, it became apparent to our Church Council when they met on September 15 that by the time we receive approval from the township for the 2 lot splits, put the lots up for sale, find a buyer, close on the lots, and receive the proceeds into our checking account, our window of opportunity weather-wise would have shut. Therefore, the Church Council had to make the disappointing decision to hold off on the repaving project until spring.

The good news is that after reviewing all of the repaving bids that were received, the Council was able to settle on one paving company, and this company will be ready and able to do the job for us come spring, hopefully, at a cost close to their original bid.



Volunteers needed for this year's "Chutes & Ladders" Trunk-or-Treat

On Saturday, October 24 from 2-4 p.m., St. Mark's Board of Family & Youth will be hosting our annual Trunk-or-Treat event, but with a new twist! Keeping in mind the COVID-19 restrictions that are still in place for large gatherings, the theme of this year's Trunk-or-Treat will be "Chutes & Ladders." How will it work? Well, our costumed volunteers, who will be standing next to their decorated trunks, will wear food service gloves and cloth masks as they send individually-wrapped candy down a decorated "chute" (cardboard tube) into the bags/buckets of the children. The costumed kids will stay in their vehicles as their parents/friends drive them around the perimeter of our parking lot so they can collect candy. The board also hopes to have at least one fire truck on the premises (hence the ladders), as well as several Halloween-decorated ladders in the center of the parking lot that will help route traffic properly.

Lots of assistance will be needed for this event including several people to help direct traffic, volunteers to dress up and decorate their trunks, and more! Volunteers should arrive at church on October 24 at 12:30 p.m. if they'd like to decorate their individual "chute" (supplied by St. Mark's), or at 1 p.m. to start decorating trunks and setting up.

A sign-up sheet for volunteers and supplies is now posted on the back table in the sanctuary. Cash donations will also be accepted to help cover miscellaneous expenses.

This is looking to be a super fun event that will be safe for both the kids and the adults participating! We'd love to have a lot of decorated trunks this year, so please consider signing up to decorate your trunk if you can!



IN OUR



Thoughts and Prayers

MORE-URGENT PRAYER'S:

Clarence Arnold—needs prayers for health/memory issues.
Butch Fitzgerald—needs prayers for health issues.
Joan Freeman—needs prayers for health and family issues.
John Freeman—needs prayers for health issues.
Barbara Jewell—her back surgery has been postponed.
Mac McConnell—needs extra prayers.
Rudy Rentola—fell and fractured his lower leg/ankle.
Kay Reynolds—Hospice has been called in.
Marilyn Turner—needs extra prayers.
Mandy Vergin—prayers for her & the baby during pregnancy.
Lynne Welty—is having health issues.
Sharon Williams—is undergoing treatments for cancer.
Joanne Wisti—tested positive for COVID-19, but is improving.
Carolyn Achimov's friend, **Dan**—recovering from stomach surgery to remove cancer.
Joan Freeman's brother, **Ernie Sampson**—is having multiple health problems.
Barbara Jewell's friend, **Holly**—needs prayers for personal problems.
Barbara Jewell's friend, **Patricia**—is recovering from shoulder surgery & in rehab.
Barbara Jewell's sister-in-law's husband, **Del Rowe**—has COVID and is in I.C.U. with pneumonia.
Barbara Jewell's sister-in-law, **Phyllis Tharp**—has lung cancer.
Debbie LoCascio's cousin, **Cheryl Tippet**—cancer has metastasized; will be undergoing treatments.
Debbie LoCascio's father, **Bob Tippet**—has memory issues.
Mary Ann Lockwood's friend, **Sharon Richards**—is battling cancer.
Mary Ann Lockwood's sister, **Sandra Kempisty**—is having health issues.
The Lockwood children's (Anna, Christian, Michael) grandfather, **Milton Javery**—is battling cancer.
Cindy Parks' friend, **Linda**—is battling breast cancer
Cindy Park's mom, **Rose Mielke**—has health issues.
Ellen Rentola's friend, **Pat**—is recovering from surgery.
Judy Schassberger's nephew-in-law, **Eric Rzeppa**—had successful brain surgery and is recovering well.
Judy Schassberger's sister, **Joan Van Houteghen**—continues to recover from a fall.
Jean Swainson's friend's son, **Connor Donahue**—was hit by a car; was transferred to an intensive inpatient rehab center.
Carolynn Taylor's grandson's wife, **Stephanie Payton**—is battling breast cancer.
Mike & Kyle Tolman's grandpa, **Dave Scroggie**—Alzheimer's is worsening; has Stage 3 kidney disease.
Mandy Vergin's father, **Bruce Ketcher**—health issues have gotten worse.
Rob Wheeler's dad, **Rick Wheeler**—is recovering from a brain bleed.
Lori Whitehead's friend, **Vickie Tucker**—is undergoing

cancer treatment.

Lori Whitehead's great niece, Morgan Duggin—needs prayers.
Lori Whitehead's sister, **Linda Head**—has health issues
Sharon Williams' friend, **Carol York**—is very ill; praying that she'll come to faith in Christ.
Sharon Williams' granddaughter, **Erika Williams**—needs extra prayers for guidance.
Sharon Williams' great-grandson, **Emmitt Reynolds**—diagnosed with Autism.

We also offer prayers for:

- **Scott Schwiesow**—he has been deployed to the Middle East

ONGOING PRAYERS:

Cathy Fitzgerald's niece, Kim Trombley—recovering from a car accident
Cathy Fitzgerald's sister, Charlotte—recovering from a stroke
Friend of St. Mark's, Thisvi Steiger—has health issues
Barbara Jewell's friend's daughter, Rebecca Chipp—finished with radiation will need breast surgery.
Barbara Jewell's friend's sister-in-law, Megan Eastman—fell and broke both wrists
Barbara Jewell's niece's son, Tim Brydges—has health issues
Barbara Jewell's niece's friend, John—his health is poor
Barbara Jewell's neighbor's grandson—confined to home
Barbara Jewell's neighbor, Ed Perez—having health issues
Barbara Jewell's friend, Pam Perez—has medical issues
Julie Kosmalski—her cancer is in remission
Angela Peters' father-in-law, Karl Peters—has health issues
Debbie LoCascio's cousin, Bob Tanis—has many health issues.
Debbie LoCascio's friend's neighbor, Marilyn—health is failing and she doesn't believe in Jesus. Praying that she'll come to faith before it's too late.
Mary Ann Lockwood's cousin's kids—Abigail and Amelia List—are ill
Cindy Parks' sister, Jeane Schaefer—awaiting back surgery.
Cindy Park's brother, Jerry Mielke—has medical problems
The Salo's daughter-in-law, Joni—recovering from a stroke; receiving therapy
Marlene Steck—needs extra prayers
Mike & Kyle Tolman's grandma, Margaret Scroggie—needs extra prayers
Dorothy Vermeersch's cousin, Gloria Maire—has medical issues
Larry Whitehead's daughter, Tracy Whitehead—prayers for wisdom and guidance
Sharon Williams' daughter-in-law's nephew's fiancé, Rachel—cancer is in remission
Sharon Williams' daughter-in-law, Pam Williams—has health issues

(continued next column)



October Birthdays

- 3 Owen Reynolds
- 6 Sherry Hyrkas
- 7 Mike Lockwood (son)
- 10 Andrea Benson, Lori Whitehead
- 12 Julia Ligon, Danielle O'Brien
- 14 Julie Kosmalski
- 16 Gracyn Velu
- 17 Olivia Benson
- 22 Darryl Swainson
- 23 Carol Zienert
- 24 Barb Allen, Mandy Vergin



Please remember these folks in your prayers

Those shown below have lost loved ones this past month. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

- ✠ The Fonville family as Sharon Williams' friend, Tina Fonville, passed away on Sept. 2.
- ✠ The Hilton family as Dante Hilton's grandfather, Dan Hilton, Sr., passed away on Sept. 8.
- ✠ The Kaufman family as Jennie Kaufman's brother-in-law, Laverne Kaufman, passed away on Sept. 11.



October Anniversaries

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|------|
| 5 | Carl & Carol Zienert | 57th |
| 9 | Jim & Marlene Steck | 49th |



Confirmed in the Faith

After completing three years of careful study of Holy Scripture and the Large Catechism, Sophie Hurley was confirmed into the faith during the Divine Service on September 27. We celebrate with joy Sophie's public confession of our Christian faith! Congratulations, Sophie!

Special Fund Donations

We thank those listed below who made special donations in August:

Bethesda Lutheran Homes (Lenten Coin Holders): Nancy McInnis, Judy Schassberger
Memorials: Nancy McInnis in honor of Lew
Remodeling - Sanctuary: Nancy McInnis
St. Paul, Pontiac: Darryl & Jean Swainson
Thrivent: Carolyn Achimov

Family Movie Night was chilly, but fun!

On Friday, September 18, on a chilly, crisp, fall evening, a dozen kids and as many adults gathered to watch Toy Story 4 on our outdoor big screen. Blankets and winter coats were a must that night along with hats, gloves, and so on. Some folks were wrapped up so tightly that you could barely see their faces! And yet the movie was cute (causing the kids to all laugh out loud several times), the provided snacks were delicious, the company was warm and friendly, and everyone had a great time!

Thanks so much to St. Mark's Board of Parish Fellowship for sponsoring the event, and to Sharon Williams for baking various types of cookies. They were SO good! (For photos, see St. Mark's Facebook page.)

Farewell & Godspeed to the Schwiesows

On Sunday, September 20, Pastor Vergin went through the Order of Service for Farewell & Godspeed to our church members Scott (serving in the Middle East) and Melanie Schwiesow. Scott and Melanie have recently purchased a home in Nevada where Melanie can be near Scott's home base in southern Nevada.

It has been a great joy having Scott and Melanie as members of our St. Mark's family of faith, and they will be truly missed! We wish them the Lord's continued blessings in this newest chapter of their lives!



Church Council Minutes - Summarized September 15, 2020

Attendees: Pastor Vergin, Tom LoCascio, Debbie LoCascio, Kari Kosmalski, John Reardon, Sharon Williams, Mandy Vergin, John Sidelinker, Debbie Sidelinker, Jim O'Brien and Nancy McInnis

Call to order at 7:33 p.m.

Opening Prayer and Devotion by Pastor – 2 Timothy 3:1-17

Asphalt paving bids per Jim & Debbie L. - discussed bid amounts, Google review ratings, and company references, as well as the timing considering freezing temperatures will arrive in mid-October. Per Council, let's make sure the 2 back lots are approved by the township and sold first so we know the exact dollars we have to work with. Timing-wise, it makes sense to hold off on the repaving project until spring due to weather concerns. Council also approved going with the paving bid from the H.G. Sartor Company.

Vice President's Report per John Reardon - just a reminder that churches are under attack, especially during this time of COVID-19.

Pastor's Report per Pastor Vergin

- Good news: attendance is continuing to trend upwards and private visits are also being scheduled
- Continuing Adult Education classes with Trent & Jennifer Johnson
- My new work cell phone is working great!
- Reminder: Mission Planning Workshop on October 10 for all officers and board members

BOARD REPORTS

Family & Youth per Mandy - Board will be meeting September 19 to plan Trunk-or-Treat event. Will also discuss Christmas music then.

Parish Fellowship per Sharon - Movie Night will take place on Friday, September 18. All food will be pre-packaged for safety reasons.

Properties per Jim

- Board needs to meet and share information re: building maintenance, equipment, etc.
- Jim has started a Board of Properties calendar through Team Up where chores/projects will be listed and can be seen by the congregation
- October 4 is Fall Clean-Up - Need to remove remaining room dividers in the basement and library

GENERAL BUSINESS

Update on the sale of back lots:

- Per Debbie L. - All lot split paperwork was submitted to the township on September 14. It should take maybe 3 weeks to hear back from them. If the splits are approved, the next step is to have our engineering company pound in irons at the property corners, then contact our realtor to have the lots listed for sale.

Reports from the Financial Secretary (Debbie L.) and Treasurer (Kari) were distributed.

Per Debbie L., 2021 budget draft will be distributed to each board chairman within 2 weeks.

Next meeting will be a **Business Meeting** on Tuesday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

(Continued next column)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



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Address Service Requested

For the latest church news, visit our website



What types of information can you find
on St. Mark's website (www.stmarwb.org)?

- Monthly church calendars
- Sunday bulletins
- Weekly announcements
- Monthly newsletters
- About St. Mark's
- Event Registration Forms
- Those on Duty (scheduled to help out at church)

...and more! Check it out for all of your worship/
church needs!

St. Mark's recently received these notes

Last month, St. Mark's received a couple of notes that
we'd like to share (see below).

From the Open Door Outreach Center:

*Thank you for your gift of a \$250 check (St. Mark's
annual contribution to them), as well as 18 pounds of food.
your generous support is greatly appreciated.*

From the family of Frank Salo following his going to be with
Jesus:

*Thank you to all of St. Mark's Church for your love and
prayers.*

From Missionary, Missy Melvin:

There isn't enough room to include the entirety of her
note, but it basically said that after working 33 years with
Wycliffe Bible Translators, she will be retiring at the end of this
month. Also, she will no longer need our financial support after
October 31, but encourages her supporters to divert her
financial support to another ministry. Lastly, she will continue
to live in the Tucson, AZ area for now. Congratulations, Missy
and enjoy your retirement! It is well-earned!

Pastor's Page

(Continued from Page 3)

her as our brother or sister in Christ, to whom we are united spiritually, making us, both now and forever, “members one of another.”

Second, however, the Bible also teaches that *we are all sinfully inclined to be prejudiced against anyone who is different, and of this we must repent*. In His wisdom, God has made all of us different. He gives us different tastes and interests. He builds our bodies differently and gives us different abilities. He places us at a certain point in history, entrusts us to a certain family, and surrounds us with a certain culture. And, yes, most superficially of all, he also shades our skin color differently. For all of this we ought to give glory to God for the beauty and richness of His creation, and thank Him for His work: “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well” (Psalm 139:14).

However, tragically, our sinful inclination is to be prejudiced against anyone who is different than us. We like to think that we know best. We like to think that we are the best. Whenever we encounter anyone who is different in any way we tend to look down on them, if even just a little bit. Remember how the Jews treated the Samaritans in Jesus’ day (John 4:9). Remember also how in the early days of the Church the Hellenist widows were overlooked in the daily distribution of food (Acts 6:1). By nature, we are snobs. We’re inclined to show partiality to those people who are like us, for in doing so we exalt ourselves. This is all part of our sinful nature and something toward which every one of us is disposed.

And, at least to a certain degree, this is also true regarding race. Our sinful hearts are naturally inclined to look down upon people of other races or other cultures, simply because they are not like us. No, this doesn’t necessarily make us a “racist,” for to be a racist one has to embrace and assent to these feelings of superiority. But, at the same time, we should be honest about the fact that we are all inclined toward them, no matter our ethnicity.

And of this we must repent. Daily, we must turn our hearts back to Christ, seek His forgiveness, and strive to walk in His ways. Jesus was not afraid to associate with others, even when it meant breaking norms. He talked to the Samaritan woman (John 4:7-9). He ate with “tax collectors and sinners” (Luke 15:1-2). He ministered to the Gentiles (Matthew 15:28). Like Him, we too must humble ourselves and serve others cheerfully in love, rejecting all prejudice, all partiality, and all racism. We must endeavor to treat others not as unfair stereotypes, but as human individuals, just as God does—and where we fall short we must seek His forgiveness. As it is written, “Man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

Finally, the Bible also teaches that *we should work together to pursue the welfare of all people, regardless of*

race. In my opinion, it seems fair to say that in general life is harder right now for black Americans than for white Americans. Not only are the rates of poverty much higher among black Americans, but there are still people out there—sometimes people in power—who harbor racist attitudes. In the past, black Americans were institutionally repressed, first through slavery, then through segregation and disenfranchisement. As I see it, while we’ve come a long way since then, there’s still much work to be done in promoting the welfare of black Americans in general and fostering equality of opportunity, especially in our inner cities.

And how should we respond to this? As the Scriptures say, out of sincere love and compassion, we should work together for the good of all who are in need. We dare not close our hearts to the plight of our neighbor, as the rich man callously did in Jesus’ parable (Luke 16:19-31). Rather, just as Christ came to serve us in our need, so also we should serve others in their need. As the Scriptures command, “You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land” (Deuteronomy 15:11).

Practically speaking, this means opening our eyes to the needs of those around us, and listening to their cries. It means supporting the causes of worthy charitable organizations as we have the ability, and marshalling the Church. This means working together to enact policies that promote strong families, gainful employment, and effective education in every community. This means casting away all prejudicial attitudes in ourselves and teaching our children to do the same. And, of course, this means lifting up our brothers and sisters in prayer. This is our task, both as Christians and as fellow human beings, in light of the needs that surround us, and we undertake it to the glory of God and with His blessing: “Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him” (Psalm 41:1).

My friends, our nation is in need of healing. But I’m convinced that we won’t get there by imposing a power struggle between races and labeling people solely on the basis of skin color. Rather, let us listen to the Word of God, and adopt our Creator’s perspective. Let us humble ourselves, repent of our sins, and serve our brothers and sisters in love. And let us Christians look forward to the day when, cleansed by the blood of Christ, we will gather together with all believers around the throne of God and be blessed to see the Church for what she truly is, a “great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages” (Revelation 7:9).

O Lord, heal our nation, strengthen Your Church, and grant help to the needy and justice to the oppressed! Amen.

**(CHURCH CALENDAR IS
ON REVERSE SIDE!)**

(continued next column)

Sunday Divine Service 8:30 & 10 a.m.
 Wednesday Adult Bible Class 7 p.m.
 Sunday School (Sept. - May) 10:45 a.m. (**ON HOLD**)
 Men's Bible Study/Breakfast - One Saturday per mo. 9 a.m.

October 2020

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

PAGE 10 (see back side for Page 9)

For live, up-to-date versions of ANY St. Mark's calendar, visit our website at:
www.stmarkwb.org.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 9am Men's Bible Study at St. Mark's
4 17th Sun. after Trinity Elder on Duty: Darryl Swainson 8:30 & 10am Divine Service 11am Fall Clean-Up	5 Pastor's Day Off	6 Pastor out of office in p.m. 7pm - Bd. Of Elders Mtg.	7 7pm Adult Bible Cls.	8	9	10 9am Planning Meeting
11 18th Sun. after Trinity Elder on Duty: Tom LoCascio 8:30 & 10am Divine Service	12 Columbus Day Pastor's Day Off	13 Pastor out of office in p.m.	14 7pm Adult Bible Cls.	15 All District Pastor's Conference	16 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	17
18 19th Sun. after Trinity Elder on Duty: Tom LoCascio 8:30 & 10am Divine Service	19 Pastor's Day Off	20 Pastor out of office in p.m. 7:30pm - Council Mtg.	21 7pm Adult Bible Cls.	22	23 DISTRIBUTE NEWSLTR.	24 2-4pm Trunk-or-Treat
25 Reformation Day (obs.) Elder on Duty: Darryl Swainson 8:30 & 10am Divine Service	26 Pastor's Day Off	27 Pastor out of office in p.m.	28 7pm Adult Bible Cls.	29	30	31 Reformation Day Halloween

ALTAR GUILD: Gail Fitzgerald
COUNTERS: Barbara Jewell & Lori Whitehead

		USHERS:		VIDEO	
ACOLYTES (either svc):	GREETERS (either svc):	8:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	TECHS (either svc.)	
4 Jay Anderson	4 Gail Fitzgerald	4 John S.	Tom K.	4 Kim Olsen	
11 Sophie Hurley	11 Sharon Williams	11 Scott M.	John R.	11 Debbie Sidelinker	
18 TBD	18 Mary Lockwood	18 Tom K.	Matt M.	18 John Sidelinker	
25 TBD	25 Sue I./Judy S.	25 TBD	John R.	25 Kim Olsen	