**April 2020**

**NEW CHURCH WEBSITE!**

**Our new church website address** is: [www.stmarks-benson.com](http://www.stmarks-benson.com)

Soon we will have our services available there to watch / hear online, as well as having bulletins available, so that families can print them off and worship together at home. In the meantime, bulletins can be picked up at church... or they can be emailed to you. Just email Pastor Wolter and ask for a bulletin that can be printed off at home. His email address is: [jwolter78@hotmail.com](mailto:jwolter78@hotmail.com)

**LCMS MISSION STATEMENT**

In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of the LCMS is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world.

**MISSION STATEMENT OF THE MN NORTH DISTRICT OF THE LCMS**

The mission of the Minnesota North District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is to further the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and to assist congregations as Great Commission churches.

**ST. MARK’S LUTHERAN CHURCH STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The purpose of this congregation shall be to serve its member and to spread the Kingdom of God by the preaching of the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments and by the religious instruction of youth and adults, according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; and to foster Christian fellowship and charity.

**SCHEDULES TO NOTE**

**St. Mark’s Church Services (Radio & TV)**

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. KBMO (1290 AM) Radio

**The Lutheran Hour (Radio)**

Sunday at 6:00 a.m. KWLM (1340 AM dial)

7:00 a.m. KBMO (1290 AM dial)

12:30 p.m. KMRS (1230 AM dial)

**Woman to Woman (Radio)**

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. KDMA 1460 AM

Thursday 10:30 a.m. KSDR 92.9 FM

Sunday 1:00 p.m. KMSD 1510 AM

**Time of Grace Ministry**

Sunday 10:30 a.m. KARE – Ch. 11

**Lutheran Public Radio**

(24/7 Lutheran music/talk)

<http://lutheranpublicradio.org>

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Church Telephone: 320-843-4131

office e-mail address [st.markslcms@centurylink.net](mailto:st.markslcms@centurylink.net)

St. Mark’s Website: [www.stmarks-benson.com](http://www.stmarks-benson.com)

Pastor’s Cell Phone: 402-335-7518

Pastor’s Email address: [jwolter78@hotmail.com](mailto:jwolter78@hotmail.com)

Sunday Morning Worship Services

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

Communion Services: The first and second Sundays of the month.

Sunday morning worship services on Channel KBMO Radio (1290 AM) at 9:30 a.m.

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Obviously, the way that we worship during this most holy week of the year... is going to be different this year. All of the details aren’t figured out yet, but the plan is to have our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services online at 6pm (on their respective days). The plan, as of right now, is to celebrate the Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday (and Easter Sunday). How are we going to do that? See below...

When it comes to Easter, we will have an Easter celebration on that Sunday. BUT... the plan is that- when we are finally able to be back in the sanctuary- we will celebrate Easter on that day, as well. There will not be a Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil this year- at least not at the church. But resources will be made available on our website, if you should choose to honor the day with a personal, private prayer vigil in your home.

**RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR- *AT HOME***?

The Synod has given us pastors some direction as to how we may be able to lead our members in a celebration of the Lord’s Supper, even during this time of social distancing. On Maundy Thursday (and Easter Sunday) I will give instructions (in the online worship service) as to how we will do it. The basic gist of it is this: the spiritual head of the family will hold their hand over the elements (the bread and the wine) and repeat after me. Then they will distribute the Sacrament to themselves and to their families. For those who are living alone, they will simply commune themselves. Although this will be strange, it will not be “illegal” or heretical. For more information about that, see the “Rev’s Ramblings”. BUT: you’ll need to have some bread and some grape wine available, in preparation for participating in the Sacrament with the rest of us. Although we will be separated by distance, we will be united in the Body of Christ... and around His Table.

**ABOUT THAT NEW WEBSITE**...

Before I say anything else, I just want to say: that our OLD website was junk. It was not user-friendly at all. The new website has A LOT of different resources for you to use (especially now, during this time of being quarantined at home). For those who are able to use the website, not only will our services be broadcast there but it will also be possible to give an offering through the website. Even after we are able to come together again, most of the things that are on our website will continue to be available to members: whether they go away to college... or head south for the winter. Here are some of the things that can be found on our new website:

* Bulletin Announcements
* Sunday School (*links to Christian radio serials and weekly online games / activities*)
* Monthly Calendar
* Monthly Newsletter (see note below)
* Pictures of St. Mark’s events
* Place for giving online offerings

*And on our “****resources****” page, we have links to*:

* Daily Devotions
* The LCMS and MN-North District
* KFUO (*amazing place for worship, devotions, Bible study, and Lutheran “talk”; there’s even a “Ladies Lounge”)*
* Lutheran Hour Ministries (*devotions, Bible study and ways to share faith with others*)
* Issues Etc. (*worship and sacred music*)
* Main Street Living (*various media ministries, including re-runs of “This is the Life*”)

\*\*\* QUESTION FOR YOU TO CONSIDER: Since most (all?) of our newsletter can be published on our website, would you be willing to get it there… rather than having it mailed to you? For some, it might be more accessible to have it with you all the time (as long as you have a smart-phone)… and, if enough people choose to get it there, it might save the church some money. But we will still be mailing newsletters to every member who wants to receive it that way. If you’re willing to get it online (only), please contact Robin.

** EASTER LILIES **

St. Mark’s has cancelled their order for Easter lilies. There have been 4 people that have already paid for an Easter lily. If you are one of them and would like your money back, please contact Robin in the church office.

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**SOUP AND PIE - POSTPONED**

The Soup and Pie Luncheon has been postponed to a later date.

**CONFIRMATION**

The Rite of Confirmation will be observed on Sunday, April 19th. The following individual will be confirmed on that day: Anissa Demuth.

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**RECEPTION FOR 2020 GRADUATES, 2020 CONFIRMANDS & NEW MEMBERS**

When services resume at St. Mark’s there will be a reception for our New Members (since May 2019), our 2020 High School Graduates and our 2020 Confirmands. Please let us know if we have missed anyone. New Members: Vernon, Mitchel and Dennis Peterson, Josh Minchow, Howard Thomas, Emma and Gracilynn Amundson. 2020 High School Graduates: Mariah Ahrndt, Josie Connelly, Noah Denzer, Tyler Huettl, Elizabeth Mansfield, Abbie Mitteness, Allie Mitteness, Harliegh Schlief, Cassidy Vergin and Jacob Wolter. 2020 Confirmands: Katlyn Reinke and Anissa Demuth. On the day of the reception, the quilts the ladies have made will be displayed in the sanctuary and the 2020 Graduates will be invited to choose a quilt for themselves as a gift from St. Mark’s congregation.

**LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP**

Lutheran Island Camp and Christ Serve Ranch are asking for your prayers during this very difficult time. It is unknown right now what impact this will have on the summer programs. Programs will be cancelled or postponed until at least mid-April. You may still register for summer programs and without a deposit. Sign up online or mail in your registration.

**STATISTICS**

**BAPTIZED AND CONFIRMED: Katlyn Marie Reinke.** Born: March 5, 1994

Baptized: March 8, 2020

Confirmed: March 8, 2020

**TRANSFERRED OUT: Nicole and Ava Hoffman** to Trinity Lutheran Church Benson, MN

**DEATHS:**

**Wayne Hagen -**Born: April 25, 1971

Passed Away: March 15, 2020

Funeral Service: March 18, 2020

**Marjorie Mills -**Born: February 24, 1932

Passed Away: March 19, 2020

Funeral Service: March, 2020

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Apr. 1: Lisa Ascheman, Brent Bemis, Janet

Demuth and Samantha Thompson

Apr. 2: Tai Anna Moe and Doris Neuhaus

Apr. 3: Chelsie Lehmberg and Darin Vergin

Apr. 4: Bennett Hamblin and Sally Peterson

Apr. 5: Kiley Bemis, Linda Knutson and

Belwin Rode

Apr. 6: Linda Birch, Everett Quigley, Josh Sherod

and Bella Wolter

Apr. 7: Wayne Jaeger and James Mast

Apr. 8: Michaela Englund, Noah Goossen and

Bill Hetrick

Apr. 9: Bobi Jo Drews

Apr. 10: Haley Demuth, Dan Fridgen and

Stacie Schlief

Apr. 11: Michelle Goossen, Jemma Madden and

Joe Weber

Apr. 12: Melissa Schwendemann and

Kristin Thompson

Apr. 14: Matt Ahrndt, Megan Boutain, Ben Jobgen

and Helen Lee

Apr. 15: Jacoby Gallagher, Orlend Menze and

Christena Quigley

Apr. 16: Charli Christianson and Bruce Lachmiller

Apr. 17: Kendra Dingmann

Apr. 18: April Bartz

Apr. 19: Peyton Quirk and Diann Solomon

Apr. 20: Justin Klemm and Lacey Wersinger

Apr. 21: Mackenzie Crow, Keith Razink and

Kevin Razink

Apr. 22: Brady Ascheman, Aaron Hofland and

Aidyn Molden

Apr. 23: Eleanor Odegaard and Vernon Peterson

Apr. 24: Travis Dingmann, Jake Mesenbrink and

Shawna Muehlbauer

Apr. 25: Jerry Bailey

Apr. 26: Nicole Ascheman and Shania Gallagher

Apr. 27: Carroll Pagel

Apr. 28: Leif Cluever, Jean Schlieman and

Al Thompson

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**ANNIVERSARIES 50 YEARS AND MORE**

**4/20-Chuck and Darlene Wilts (62 years)**-Their address is: 165 30th St. SW, Benson, MN 56215