



The Messenger

VOL. LXI, ISSUE VIII

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

August 2019

Called by the Spirit. Equipped to Serve. Sent to love all!

Church Picnic

Susan Saeugling

What a beautiful day it was for the St. Mark's annual picnic. Our campfire outdoor church service was a huge success and beautifully done by Pastor Bev. We had so much food thanks to everyone who brought delicious desserts, side dishes, fruit, and snacks. We served eighty people and were able to donate some extras to our Wednesday night meals.

It was not only me that pulled this off but I had lots of help. I would like to thank Claudette Gilbert for everything she's done—she's the best. I also would like to thank Mary Katherine, you helped me out from set-up to answering my many questions. I'm truly thankful. I share the success of my first fellowship event with you both, thank you. I would also like to thank everyone else who helped, which includes:

- All my kitchen helpers: Rose Kvern, Tami Whitcomb, Bernette Douin, Mary Crum, Mary Katherine, and Claudette.
- Jim and Betty Falk—the bouncy castle was a great success, even after our picnic with the Serve Boldly crew.
- Our grillers Ron Maniscalco, Clark Gilbert, and Ryan Gohl—you really helped out and fed eighty friends and family, great job!
- Thanks also to Patrick Stephenson, Josh Vermaas, and Chris Prillwitz (good call with the ice cream truck).
- Also, thanks to Pastor Bev for reminding us all of our beautiful surroundings. I think we should praise God and sing out loud, outside, more often.

See you all at the Harvest Festival.



From the Desk of Pastor Bev Piro

The Transition Team has been diligently working through the tasks that are before them. Meeting every other Saturday, to date they have gathered and reviewed demographic information (see the article by Josh Vermaas elsewhere in this newsletter); presented a timeline for church members to record St. Mark's events and significant history on; and a survey is currently underway. Each of these tasks plays an important role in gathering information *about* the congregation and *from* the congregation instead of relying on a general sense or feel about the congregation as a unique organism. In addition, this information is needed when the time comes to prepare the Ministry Site Profile that will be used as a matching tool for St. Mark's and its next pastor.

Sunday morning worship time is the best time to reach the majority of St. Mark's members. In order to include as many people as possible, we will spend many Sunday mornings from mid-August through November with a condensed liturgy and a longer period for special topics or guest speakers to talk with the congregation about important topics that are critical to your discernment about moving into the future.

Listening Posts are coming. In the month of September, the Transition Team will hold Sunday morning Listening Posts during the Faith Formation hour. Each week up to 12 members will engage in small group conversation with members of the Transition Team about hopes and dreams for St. Mark's. Sign-up sheets will appear in mid-August. The Team encourages every member to attend a Listening Post. If needed, a weekday or evening session will also be scheduled.

I referred to the congregation as an *organism* in the first paragraph of this article. As a whole, it is composed of many individual members, not all of whom hold the same priorities about St. Mark's and its ministry. This time of transition is a specific time to discern where and how God is calling St. Mark's to be the body of Christ in its community for the next 5 to 15 years. What do you believe God is calling you personally, and St. Mark's specifically to do and to be in the future? Shape your prayer life around these questions and open yourself to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Transition Team Update

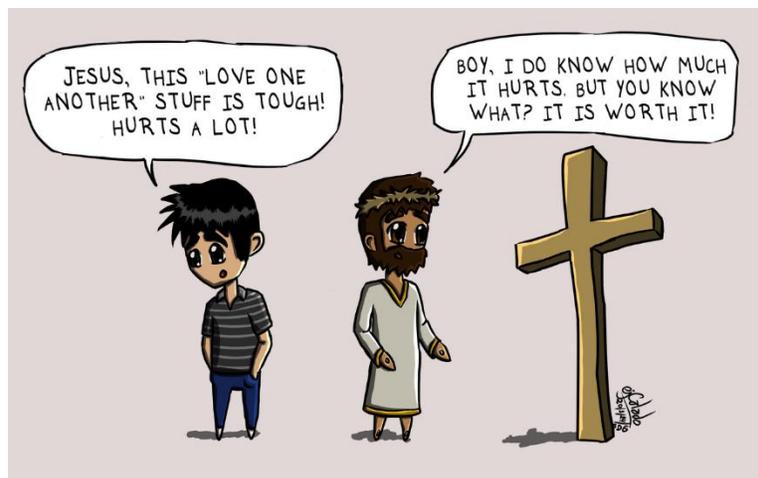
Data Driven Insights into Demographic Change in the St. Mark's Community

Josh Vermaas

Beyond the visible timeline in the sanctuary, your transition team has been hard at work developing materials to take the pulse of our community in faith. In the coming weeks, the congregation will be surveyed to assess church priorities, strengths, and potential areas for improvement and growth over the coming year. However, it is also instructive to look back at some of the larger demographic trends within the neighborhood surrounding St. Mark's and Aurora as a whole. The transition team had the pleasure of discussing this with Rocky Piro, urban planner, Executive Director at the Colorado Center for Sustainable Urbanism, and Pastor Bev's husband.

Your transition team has compiled data from the past three censuses (1990, 2000, and 2010) in addition to the 2017 American Community Survey from the census tracts within about 1 mile of the church, bounded by Colfax to the north, I-225 to the east, Alameda to the south, and the Denver/Aurora boundary to the west. This community surrounding St. Mark's is now home to over 40,000 residents, with substantial population growth in the 1990s as DIA was built and some of the nearby military installations were decommissioned. This growth has resulted in demographic changes in the surrounding neighborhoods, with the neighborhood becoming majority-minority in 2000, and the Hispanic population projected to constitute a majority of the population soon. The census data also reveals that the neighborhood is younger than first anticipated, with the largest demographic cohorts over the studied timeframe always being under 40, and fewer residents of retirement age now than there were in 1990. The housing stock also reflects this trend, with roughly two-thirds of the occupied housing units occupied by renters rather than owners. For the interested, a pdf version of these plots is available over the internet at <https://bit.ly/2XTz6R3>.

Taken together, I am struck by the opportunities these demographic shifts create for positive community engagement opportunities with our neighbors. As rents continue to rise, pressure on our neighbors in need will increase commensurately, and the church may need to adapt its offerings to better serve those in need of a helping hand or otherwise ostracized. Similarly, the youth of the neighborhood invite us to be creative in further developing relationships with working parents in need of childcare or other assistance to make ends meet. I invite you all to prayerfully consider these findings as we work together to guide our path towards the future.



From the desk of the Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Kinna Nordstrom

Summer Camp Recap!

July was all about Summer Camp, and the 100 kids from our community, plus the 30 people from Serve Boldly who came to serve alongside us! 130 snacks, 130 lunches, 130 crafts, 130 cups for drinks, 130 Thrivent shirts... It was a lot, and it was a lot of fun!!! This year we hired Apprentice of Peace who led morning stretching and breathing exercises, and led workshops for our 8–10 and 11–17 year-olds. The whole week we talked about PEACE and tools to help us create a more peaceful community: Leadership, Creativity, Wellness, and Skilled Trades (or unique gifts). Then we wrapped up the week at Del Mar Pool for a pizza and pool party! A HUGE thank you to everyone who volunteered, offered financial gifts, let us borrow coolers, and prayed for us. It was yet another successful Summer Camp for the books (my 6th one with this community!).



Check out the photo wall outside of Miss Kinna's office, and online in our St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Aurora CO group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/160730297290928> for more pictures from this year's summer camp.

Baby K Shower

Thank you to everyone who showered my husband and me with congratulations, smiles, hugs, gifts, cards, and prayers! Thank you especially to Michele Gohl, Shannon Walsh, Fanus Tampubolon, and Mary Bourque for throwing us a gorgeous baby shower on July 21! My husband and I were honored to receive such beautiful messages and gifts from you all as we prepare to welcome home our first child. Please continue to keep us in prayer as we anxiously await the arrival of Baby K. We can't wait to introduce him to everyone!



SMLCW News

Mary Stephenson, President

Here we are entering the month of August already—where has the summer gone?

The RMSWO Fall Gathering is scheduled for September 20–22 in Albuquerque, NM. St. Paul Lutheran will be the host church and the theme is “UNSOLVED MYSTERIES of Religion” based on Ephesians 4:4–6. Please remember this is NOT a convention so NO elections will take place. Registration forms and information packets are available on the credenza outside the main sanctuary entrance. The plan is to carpool for those planning on going; you will be contacted regarding this at a later date.



SMLCW is responsible for refreshments on Sunday, August 11. This is a change in date from a previous discussion.

I hope you marked December 7 on your calendar for our annual SMLCW Christmas Party.

The next Board meeting will take place on Monday, August 26 at 4:00 p.m. in the church library.

Looking to this month, we know the days will be warm and sunny. We can hope for rain to bring much needed moisture to the ground and plants. God provides us with all we need.

August Blessings to All!

Serve Boldly



For six weeks from the end of June to the start of August St. Mark’s (along with St. Stephen’s Episcopal) shared our space with Serve Boldly’s youth mission groups. The groups came here from Minnesota, Kansas, Texas, Iowa, Arizona, Kansas, Texas, and North Dakota to engage in mission in the Aurora-Denver community, including helping with our Summer Camp, local food banks, and other outreach organizations. If you stopped by the church during the hours and days the groups were here, you may have heard about their service work, the ‘thrill’ of visiting Casa Bonita, or the hard work that the on-site coordinators Brynn and Kelly put in as they oversaw the various activities and preparations from week to week. Miss Kinna and Diana Mendia put in many HOT hours in the kitchen preparing meals three nights a week for each group. We are grateful for all Serve Boldly has contributed to our community and hope that all who spent time here this summer returned home with a renewed spirit for serving others.



continued bottom of next page

Please Keep in Your Prayers

We welcome your requests for prayers for persons in need or prayers of thanksgiving for blessings received. Please note that prayer requests will remain on the list for four Sundays; a request may be extended by contacting the church office.

Recent hospitalizations, illnesses, and concerns:

Jim Arensen (*home from hospital*)
Keith (*Diana Ratliff's son, health*)
Jeannie Blom (*former member, hospitalization*)
Doris Day (*Sandy Day's sister-in-law*)
Rich Rusk, Sr. (*lung issues*)

For the faithful departed and those who mourn:

Family of David Pedersen (*Ellie Weaver's uncle*)

For those diagnosed with cancer or long-term illness:

JD Hines (*recovery from car accident*)
TJ Russel and family (*friends of Chelsea Thompson*)
Isaiah Daniels (*Ollie Daniels' grandson, deployed to Kuwait*)
Darrell Hesselius (*incurable health problem*)
Brian Hodgson (*health*)
Pastor Matthew Weber (*physical rehab*)
Elaine Heberlein (*Marlis Feller's sister, hospice*)
Sandy Day (*health*)
Jeff (*Hugo Redlin's son, health*)
Jeff Martin (*health*)
Karen Arensen (*hip issues, upcoming surgery*)
Christine Slape (*friend of Brian Hodgson, cancer recurrence*)
Kevin Dominguez (*son of Mary Ann Dominguez, health issues*)

For homebound members and friends:

Don Snook
Lillian Ripper
Collie Kandt
George and Anna Devers
Arlene Selk
Gerry Redlin (*Alzheimer's*)
Clare Pankratz
Mark Heflin

Rick Parsons (*friend of Diana Ratliff, cancer*)
Cogie Elzea (*sister of Sara Jensen, health*)
Luci Stephenson (*Bill Stephenson's mother, health concerns*)
Ollie Daniels (*pain and breathing problems*)
Vivian Ryden (*Anne Barger's mother*)
Sally Lynch (*breathing issues*)
Marie Calaway (*mother of Karen Arensen, in hospice care*)
Ann Howell (*cancer remission*)
Patrick Stephenson (*cancer remission*)
Doug Benson (*health*)
Nancy (*sister of Dorie Gerhardt, health*)
Roxanne Knutson (*serious pain*)
Jim Ekberg (*cousin of Chris Elbert, health*)

more Serve Boldly pictures — continued from previous page



Community News

Theater and Theology

After a quiet summer, a new season of Theater and Theology will begin next month with the show “Indecent”—the true story of a play that defied the odds and defined a community—in the Space Theater (in-the-round) on Tuesday, September 10. If you are interested in attending, please contact Marcia (303-921-9440) or Dan Bollman (303-921-9312 or danmarboll@cs.com) by the ordering deadline of Tuesday, August 20.



Thank you

I would like to say thank you for the beautiful garden angels that I got from Sally Lynch (as advertised in last month’s newsletter); they look beautiful in my garden. She also gave me a beautiful planter and a base—thank you, Sally!
—Susan Saeugling



God’s Work. Our Hands in July

Thank you to the helpful and generous people of St. Mark’s for their contributions and helping hands for our neighbors on Monday July 7, 8, and 12. The Aurora City Park guests were waiting for us and hungry. We used every sandwich! Your donations of food items and time were greatly appreciated! —Claudette Gilbert, *Social Concerns Representative*

Thank you to all who helped: Sara Jensen, Rose Kvern, Ellie Weaver, Bernette Douin, Marcia Daugherty, Ryan and Michele Gohl, Patty Costello, Susan Tami Whitcomb, Lydia Scott, Dawn Ramos, Irene Seelmeyer, Abner Sanders, Dorie Gerhardt, Mary Stephenson, Susan Saeugling, Clark Gilbert, Karen Arensen, and Laura Garcia



Council Corner

Council Highlights—July 9, 2019

Pastor Bev led an opening prayer.

Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary reports were reviewed and accepted.

Pastor Bev has been busy writing grants for help with support of ESL and many other things. She has been working to get a group of clergy together to discuss possibilities for collaborative youth ministry, has updated Kinna's Letter of Agreement, is engaged in coaching Interim Ministers group, Transition Team work, and much more.

Transition Team meets every other Saturday. They are working to clarify the identity of St. Mark's and working on the demographics of the church.

Old Business

Fire and carbon monoxide alarms have been purchased, now working to get them installed.

A committee of Patty, Dorie, and Shannon have revised the personnel policies. The council reviewed it and made a few small changes.

New Business:

Usage request approved for the Kiwanis Club to use the parking lot for distribution of peaches on August 10.

We are still in need of a building/grounds chairperson/committee.

Cynthia Robles of Aurora Warms the Night has asked if they can park their shower trailer on our lot during the summer and maybe fall months when it is not being used elsewhere. After much discussion we agreed on a one-month trial.

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Summarized Report of Income and Expenses

Submitted by Bill Stephenson, Treasurer

<u>June, 2019</u>			
<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Total Income	\$18,806.50	Total Income	\$97,137.21
Total Expenses	-\$15,790.29	Total Expenses	-\$95,597.72
Net Income	\$3,016.21	Net Income	\$1,539.49
BUDGET COMPARISON OF ENVELOPE OFFERING			
<u>Monthly Budget Amount</u>	<u>Actual Current Month</u>	<u>Budget Year to Date</u>	<u>Actual Year to Date</u>
\$13,718.63	\$12,377.40	\$82,311.78	\$71,520.65
Over/Under Budget	-\$1,341.23		-\$10,791.13

WORSHIP LIFE AT ST. MARK'S

August 2019

Sunday, August 4, 2019 ~ 8th Sunday After Pentecost

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

Sunday, August 11, 2019 ~ 9th Sunday After Pentecost

* *Second Sunday of the month – food collection for St. Mark's Pantry and Aurora Interfaith Community Services*

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part today in assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

Sunday, August 18, 2019 ~ 10th Sunday After Pentecost

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today, in the assembly, we are surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses." In the word and in the holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

Sunday, August 25, 2019 ~ 11th Sunday After Pentecost

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

Worship Service Schedule - August 2019

As of time of publication; subject to change

Greeter:

Jim & Karen Arensen

Lector:

4th: Patty Costello

11th: Mary Katherine Smith

18th & 25th: Sara Jensen

/Clark Gilbert

Communion Assistants:

Jackie Kirk

4th: Patty Costello

11th: Mary Katherine Smith

18th & 25th: Tyler Gohl/Clark Gilbert

Assisting Ministers:

4th: Mary Katherine Smith

11th: TBD

18th: Patty Costello

25th: Richard Schnier

Ushers

Randy Jensen

Brian Hodgson

Ellie Weaver

Patrick Stephenson

Weekly Attendance

July 2019

July 7th 72

July 14th 59

July 21st 54

July 28th 63

Happy Birthday!

August 2 Diana Ortt
Jean Rose

August 10 Angel Dominguez

August 11 Ken Barger

August 12 Laura Coté

August 15 Lillian Ripper
Paula Kerezsi

August 17 Dorothy Parker
David Mackey

August 19 Mary Crum

August 21 Genevieve LaBonde

August 23 Anne Barger
Elias Dominguez

August 27 Jacqueline Kirk

August 29 Chris Elbert

September 4 Tommy Lopez

September 5 Bianca DeLong

Happy Anniversary!

Clark & Claudette Gilbert
August 3, 1968

Robert & Teilene Bliss
August 4, 1996

Ryan & Michele Gohl
August 6, 1994



Neil & Rose Kvern
August 27, 1961

Bill & Mary Stephenson
August 29, 1970



St. Mark's Lutheran Church
111 Del Mar Circle
Aurora, CO 80011



Phone: 303-366-9702

Website: www.stmarksaurora.org

Email: admin@stmarksaurora.org

*Called by the Spirit.
Equipped to Serve. Sent to love all!*

If you wish to change how you receive our monthly newsletter *The Messenger*—whether it is via email or hard copy (either by picking up at the church or by receipt in the postal mail system)—please email admin@stmarksaurora.org or call the church office 303-366-9702.

August 2019 Highlights

- 13th Council Meeting
- 18th Faith Day at the Rockies
- 26th Church Women's Board Meeting

St. Mark's Council Members

Ryan Gohl—President
rlgohl@comcast.net

Bill Stephenson—Treasurer
wstephj@comcast.net

Patty Costello—Financial Secretary
papasrover@gmail.com

Ellie Weaver—Secretary
jweaver553@aol.com

Claudette Gilbert—Social Concerns/ Fellowship
claudettecgilbert@gmail.com

OPEN—Building/Grounds

Shannon Walsh-Vermaas—Youth
shannon.m.walsh.1@gmail.com

Dorie Gerhardt—Parish Ed/Women
dorie53@comcast.net

Terri Maniscalco—Stewardship
tlmaniscalco@comcast.net