



The Messenger

VOL. LXI, ISSUE XII

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

December 2019

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

Thanksgiving Pie Social

Susan Saeugling

We gathered in The West Room and enjoyed thirteen pies—and a delicious pumpkin dessert cake with a pie under layer—as well as ice cream, coffee, and tea. It was a nice gathering to enjoy each other's company after a wonderful sermon from our visiting Pastor Tyg Taylor. We appreciate the contributions of Ellie Weaver, Rusty Bliss, Susan Saeugling, Mary Katherine Smith, Ann Howell, Mary Crum, Rose Kvern, Marcia Daugherty, Norma Duncan, Joan Gustafson, and Jean Rose in bringing pie, and Bernette Douin in bringing the dessert cake. And thanks to Claudette Gilbert, Ellie Weaver, and Bernette for all your help with setting up and cleaning up, I'm very thankful for all your help.



From the desk of the Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Kinna Nordstrom

Affirmation of Baptism

Our Affirmation of Baptism class has 13 students! Dorie and Kinna are very excited about this class. If you are interested in the material we are using, our main focus is the book *Manna and Mercy* by Daniel Erlander. Then Kinna uses supplemental materials from *re:form*, and the book *PoWeR SuRGe*.

Meet our students:



Left to right: Natalie Simanoengkalit, Andraïne and Andrea Sinaga, Carlos Ferrufino, Santiago Mendia Guerrero, Natasha Simanoengkalit



Kalani Heath



Anderson Sinaga & Rolando Ferrufino



Ellie Bourque

Not pictured: Alicia Lopez Azael Muñiz Timothy Pardosi

RAZZLE DAZZLE CHRISTMAS

AURARIA CAMPUS
MINISTRY
FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, DEC. 14, 2019

3PM

Dazzle Jazz Club



St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic Church invites you to support your local campus ministry!

In 2018, young adults asked for safe space to talk about our experience as people of color and immigrants. We then created Auraria Campus Ministry with House for All Sinners and Saints and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

We hold sacred space for young adults, people of color, and immigrants to explore our faith as black, white, brown, and mixed folk. We're one of Auraria's queer-affirming faith groups.

\$20 per person

Call 303-839-5100 to
buy tickets

To buy tickets online,
go to
dazzledenver.com
then type "Razzle
Dazzle" in the search
box

Dazzle Jazz Club
1512 Curtis St., Denver
80203



It's Official! OHANA Youth are doing their tamale fundraiser again.

To order, please fill out a form in the center room (by the coffee) or email Kinna: [@gmail.com](mailto:kinna@ohana.org).

Orders are due by Sunday, December 8. They will be ready for pick up Sunday, December 22, just in time for Christmas! If you need to make other arrangements for pick up, you'll need to contact Kinna directly. We accept cash, check, card, PayPal or Venmo.



Join OHANA Youth on Christmas Eve at 5:30pm for an Intergenerational Christmas Pageant! We want to have young people leading most parts of the worship service, but we also need adults to be a part of the pageant (no rehearsal necessary). We look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus together, and remind ourselves that we are all a part of the Nativity, just as we are!

SMLCW News

Mary Stephenson, President

It is hard to believe we are entering the final month of 2019. It only seems like yesterday we were beginning a new year and here we are about to start another.

The most important date to remember is our annual **Christmas Party** on Saturday, December 7, 1:00–3:00 p.m. We will have refreshments, a short interactive program with singing many Christmas carols, and good fellowship. Please be sure to sign up on the list found on the Narthex office counter. We want to have plenty of goodies for all to enjoy. We are asking each attendee to please bring as a benevolence offering: socks, gloves or non-perishable food items for our food pantry. Plan now to celebrate this beautiful season of Christmas with your sisters in Christ.

Looking ahead to future plans, our annual **Bake Sale** will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2020 following the worship service. It is always located in the hallway just outside the library. We always allow early purchases but remember not to eat your goodies in church!

So many changes take place throughout each year. Some are good and some are not what we want. But with God in control we can't go wrong. Many of you have heard Patty Costello is re-locating to Oklahoma very soon. She has served on the Women's Board for several years and took over as our Treasurer when her dear mother passed away. We will miss her among not only the women's events but our entire church family. Thank you for your time with us and may God bring you safe travel and peace in your new location.

As we move forward into a brand-new year, we reflect back on the past. I have said before in many articles how I see each new year as a gift from God. After all, He just gave us 365 days to enjoy, celebrate, and experience and here He is giving us yet another set of 366 days. Enjoy each and every day of the Christmas season and look ahead to the gift of 366 days from God.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED HAPPY NEW YEAR!

To my St Mark's family,



*My new address will be:
712 N Laurel Ave
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
303-437-4939 cell*

I write this note with much appreciation and gratitude to you, my extended family. I am embarking on a new chapter in my life away from all that I have known. I grew up here amongst you (literally birth till present) and now the Lord is taking me to new adventures in Tulsa, OK. I will be moving closer to my family by God's creation. Please keep Lisa in your prayers as her battle with cancer is just beginning. I will be able to walk this journey at her side through all of peaks and valleys.

I will treasure you in my heart always. If you are ever down that way please come see me. My door is always open with a cup of tea or coffee in hand. Thank you for all of your love and support during my time with you. I will be praying for guidance and discernment that a pastor be placed into our church that was chosen with purpose and leadership to move this congregation forward. My last day to worship will be December 1.

*My best to all of you with love,
Patty Costello*

Council Corner

Council Highlights—November 12, 2019

Pastor Bev led an opening prayer.

Secretary's minutes were reviewed and amended. Treasurer and Financial Secretary's reports were reviewed and accepted.

Patty reported on all the groups renting space in the church and where they stand with their payments.

Council reviewed the proposed budget and number of pledges; it was determined that we need more pledges.

The Transition Team presented their report and answered questions from the council. A *Ministry Site Profile* report was given to council for review. It is being completed by the Team.

Sarah Moening from the Bishop's office will attend the January council meeting to meet with the council, Transition Team, and the Call Committee.

Ryan has received a signed grant from the Foundation to help pay for the floor.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Bev will be on vacation November 18–December 14. Pastoral care will be handled by Pastor Barb Lemke November 18–23 and December 1–14, with Pastor Neil covering November 24–30.

Pastor Bev has requested that her last Sunday be December 22 and her last worship services be on December 24.

New Business:

Kinna and the OHANA Youth are doing another tamale fundraiser so they are busy collecting orders. An Affirmation of Baptism class began November 10 and will run through May 10, 2020.

Council voted to accept Patty's offer to continue with her Financial Secretary duties for the remainder of her term after her move to Oklahoma.

Stewardship's *Time and Talent* sheets will be given out on December 1 and collected during worship on December 15.

Usage Requests:

- It was voted to allow Purple Mountain Karate to move to the Fellowship Hall as they have outgrown the West Room. They will also add a belt class every Saturday night 5:30–8 p.m. Also approved was a request for a one-time use of the Fellowship Hall on the evening of November 24.
- The Indonesian congregation requested the use of Sanctuary on December 7 at 5 p.m. until they are through. Council agreed.

Call Committee

Pastor presented the council with *Phase 111 of The Call Process* and a printout of what our constitution requires for a call committee.

Council then submitted names for a Call Committee. People will be contacted and asked to serve.

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Stewardship Report

Terri Maniscalco, Stewardship Chair

Stepping Up in 2020 is off to a slower start than in years past. So far we have only received 47 pledges with a total of a little over \$107,000 which is only 59% towards our 2020 budget. For those who have turned in their pledge cards *we thank you!* If you haven't yet, feel free to contact me or the church office. They can also be emailed in.

The *Time and Talent* sheets will be handed out Sundays, December 1 and 8, and will be mailed to those who are unable to attend those services. The *Time and Talent* sheets need to be turned in Sunday, December 15, which happens to be the same Sunday as our Congregational Meeting.

Stewardship for Advent and Christmas

Our thoughtful practices for Advent and Christmas not only make for good stewardship of your time, talents, relationships and money, they also help us to draw near to Our Lord and experience God's greatest gift to us—His Son, Jesus.

Many of us cherish everything about the Christmas season—except those incessant advertisements that tell us to buy this and that. We ask, “Where is Jesus in all this commercialism?” This is the right question to ask. Though it asks us to examine every aspect our lives, stewardship particularly challenges us to question the role money plays in our personal lives and our culture.

Christmas presents are wonderful expressions of love that make both giver and recipient feel good. At the same time, we want to be wary of advertising's lure to make us overspend, or to think that the cost of our gift is proportionate to our love. Do we think about this as we are giving our gifts to God and St. Mark's?

Most of all, we need to be sure that the main point of our Christmas is not the gifts we give, but the gift we receive from God, his love, forgiveness and his Son. Here are a few ideas:

- Attend worship regularly in Advent and the Christmas season.
- Pray about your *Time and Talent* sheet and how you can step up for next year.
- Prayerfully read Advent daily devotions.
- Give of your time—not just now, but all year long.
- Play religious themed Christmas music.
- Instead of buying a present, make a donation to a charitable organization in honor of your loved one.
- Make a generous year-end contribution to this congregation.
- Pray about our congregation's mission and ministry together.
- Pray about our future together as Christ's Church.

May you find God's favor now and all of the year ahead.

Blessings and a big thank you for being a part of this congregation and for helping with Stepping Up in 2020.

Summarized Report of Income and Expenses

Submitted by Bill Stephenson, Treasurer

October, 2019			
<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Total Income	\$10,789.30	Total Income	\$151,513.09
Total Expenses	-\$18,220.18	Total Expenses	-\$167,402.24
Net Income	-\$7,430.88	Net Income	-\$15,889.15
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	\$9,590.30	\$137,186.30	\$111,806.95
Over/Under Budget	-\$4,128.33		-\$25,379.35

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting—December 15, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

All members, please plan to attend! At this meeting, the congregation will:

- Review the last year of life together - highlights as well as challenges
- Approve the proposed budget for 2020
- Appoint one male representative to Synod Assembly 2020 (May 1–2, 2020 in Broomfield, CO for Metro East Conference)
- Appoint three members to serve on the Nominating Committee

Those willing to be a candidate for consideration for the Synod Assembly or Nominating Committee are asked to please contact either Ryan Gohl or the Office Manager in advance of the meeting.

Notes from the Office

Mary Katherine Smith, Office Manager

Directory Updates

The new directories are in! If you have not yet picked up your copy, please contact the office or feel free to stop in during regular office hours. With the cost of \$1.10 in postage to mail a copy, please help with good stewardship of our monetary resources so that the need to mail out directories is limited to those who are physically unable to visit the church. Thank you.

So far I have received word of only one bit of missing information in the new directory. **Please add to your copy that Lydia Scott's phone number is (303) 751-3866.** Please submit any corrections, updates, or additions to the office by either leaving a

note in my mailbox or e-mailing them to: admin@StMarksAurora.org.

Poinsettia Chart

The sign-up sheet to sponsor poinsettias for our Christmas Eve worship services is now posted by the Flower Chart in the entry hallway and is filling in quickly. If you would like to provide a plant, you have the choice of three colors (red, ruby frost, and glitter) and three prices (8 ½" pot—\$25; 6 ½" pot—\$10.50; or 4 ½" pot—\$6.25). Payment is to be made to St. Mark's in a regular flower envelope.



Community News

A Time of Wonder – a Holiday Family Sing-Along

Augustana Arts and the Colorado Women's & Men's Chorales, joined by the Colorado Saints Chorale, perform on Saturday, December 7 at 2:30 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran Church (5000 E. Alameda Ave., Denver). The concert will be followed by a festival including games, cookie decorating, and photos with Santa. The music includes stunning choral classics such as Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, as well as caroling favorites. Tickets are only \$10 for adults and \$2 for children. Use code RMS25 to receive 25% off tickets at www.AugustanaArts.org.

Augustana Lutheran Church Festival Christmas Concert

Featuring the ALC Chancel Choir, Augustana Ringers, AVE, and Stratus Chamber Orchestra, this concert will take place on Sunday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m. and ALL ARE WELCOME! There is no cost to attend, but tickets should be reserved at www.AugustanaArts.org.

Vista Peak Winter Celebration

With special Performances by the Vista PEAK Choir students and "LEGACY," the Winter Celebration will be at All Saints Lutheran Church (15625 E Iliff Ave, Aurora, 80013). It is \$10 a person, with all

proceeds going directly to the students' trip to South Dakota, and tickets can be purchased at the door. The food will be soups and chili, with dessert, salad, and bread to supplement.

Aurora Warms the Night Inaugural Dinner Fundraiser

December 6, 2019, 6 p.m., at the Village Exchange Center (1609 Havana St, Aurora, 80010)—Reserve your table today (\$50/ticket) at www.aurorawarmsthenight.org.

The Lutheran Chorale Holiday Concerts

Sunday, December 8 at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

You are invited to welcome the Advent/Christmas season with a concert of familiar carols presented by The Lutheran Chorale on Sunday, December 8. The afternoon concert will be at 3:00 p.m. in the beautiful Chapel of the Good Samaritan at SCL Lutheran Hospital (8300 W. 38th Avenue in Wheat Ridge), and the evening concert will be at Concordia Lutheran Church (13371 W. Alameda Parkway in Lakewood) at 7:30 p.m. No tickets are necessary, although a freewill offering would be appreciated at the door. The concert at Concordia will also feature a bake sale and silent auction prior to the concert, beginning at 5:30.

St. Mark's Events & News Tidbits

Seasonal Decorating

Church decorating for Christmas will be on Saturday, December 7, 2019, starting at 9 a.m. We will need volunteers to bring in the decorations on Friday afternoon at 4 p.m.

On Sunday, December 22, we will need some volunteers to please stay after worship to help with the installation of the pew candleholders for our Christmas Eve services.

Lastly, please save the date for undecorating on Saturday, January 11, 2020, starting at 9 a.m.

Worship Helpers Needed

If you are willing to serve as an usher at one of our Christmas Eve worship services, please see the sign-up sheet on the long counter or contact the office.

Also, if you know of any months or weeks in 2020 where you would prefer to serve in one of the worship assistant roles, or you know that you will not be available, please notify the church office to help in planning assignments for the new year.

Thank you.



Staff Appreciation Gifts

As in years past, we are accepting appreciation gifts for the church staff. If you would like to contribute, please place your gift in the offering plate and mark it "Staff Appreciation." The gifts collected will go to: Rose, Betty, Kinna, Pastor Bev, and Mary Katherine as our 'Thank You' for their dedication and hard work.



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:

Rocky Piro (*Pastor Bev's husband, hematoma on elbow*)
 Jeannie Blom (*former member, eye infection*)
 Doug Benson (*recovering from foot surgery*)
 Vernita Wild (*recovery from fall injuries*)
 Jeff Martin (*home, recovering from hospitalization*)

For the faithful departed and those who mourn:

Family of Robert Lopeman
 Family of Richard Rusk

For those diagnosed with cancer or long-term illness:

Susan Saeugling (*digestive system issues*)
 Chuck Martell, II (*Lou and Bubbles' son, heart issues*)
 Virginia Martell (*Chuck's wife, Alzheimer's*)
 Jean (*Jackie Kirk's sister, cancer*)
 Jeanell Carlson-Bjorkman (*former member, post-cancer removal treatments*)
 Lisa Wild (*friend of Patty Costello, kidney cancer*)
 Cindy Lenzen (*Doris Seline's daughter, health*)
 Doreen Goldsberry (*Doris Seline's daughter, breast cancer*)
 Isaiah Daniels (*Ollie Daniels' grandson, deployed to Kuwait*)
 Darrell Hesselius (*incurable health problem*)
 Brian Hodgson (*health*)
 Sandy Day (*health*)
 Jeff (*Hugo Redlin's son, health*)
 Rick Parsons (*friend of Diana Ratliff, cancer*)

For homebound members and friends:

Colleen Graham	Lillian Ripper
Arlene Selk	Clare Pankratz
Mark Heflin	Gerry Redlin
George Devers	Don Snook and Trish Kulp

Christine Slape (*friend of Brian Hodgson, cancer recurrence*)
 Cogie Elzea (*sister of Sara Jensen, health*)
 Kevin Dominguez (*son of Mary Ann Dominguez, health issues*)
 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 maintenance treatments*)
 Patrick Stephenson (*cancer maintenance*)
 Nancy (*sister of Dorie Gerhardt, health*)
 Roxanne Knutson (*serious pain*)
 Jim Ekberg (*cousin of Chris Elbert, health*)

WORSHIP LIFE AT ST. MARK'S

December 2019

Sunday, December 1, 2019 ~ First Sunday of Advent

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

Sunday, December 8, 2019 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

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

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Sunday, December 15, 2019 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Sunday, December 22, 2019 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

Monday, December 24, 2018 ~ Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Sunday, December 29, 2019 ~ First Sunday of Christmas

St. Mark's Women will lead us in a celebration of and reflection on Christmas centered around lessons and carols. *There will be no communion at this service.*

Happy Birthday!

Dec. 2	Arlene Selk	Dec. 25	Abner Sanders
Dec. 4	Patty Costello	Dec. 26	Kyler Duncan
Dec. 7	Clare Pankratz	Dec. 27	Jacob Gohl
Dec. 11	Brian Hodgson	Dec. 28	Christel Loftesnes
Dec. 13	Rebecca Nicodemus	Dec. 29	Carol Capps
Dec. 16	Sandra Day	Dec. 30	Colleen Graham
Dec. 17	Rose Kvern Teresa Maniscalco	January 1	Angel Black
Dec. 18	Betty Falk Hugo Redlin	January 2	Marlis Feller
		January 5	Sara Jensen

Happy Anniversary!

Carl & Elaine Stanger
December 26, 1976

Worship Service Schedule - December 2019

As of time of publication; subject to change

Communion Assistants:

Joan Gustafson
Susan Tami Whitcomb

Assisting Ministers:

1st & 15th: Laura Cote'
8th: Mary Katherine Smith
22nd: Name TBD

Ushers

Randy Jensen
Clark Gilbert (backup)

Greeter:

Susan Saeugling
Dorie Gerhardt

Lector:

1st & 15th: Laura Cote'
8th & 22nd: Karen Arensen

1st & 15th: Ellie Weaver
8th & 22nd: Marcia Daugherty
1st & 15th: Michele Gohl
8th & 22nd: Patrick Stephenson

Weekly Attendance November 2019

November 3 rd	87
November 10 th	115
November 17 th	83
November 24 th	82



5:30 p.m. Family-oriented worship service

10:30 p.m. A service of Lessons and Carols

Both services will include candlelight and the Eucharist.

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.

December 2019 Highlights

- 7th Church Decorating
 SMLCW Christmas
 Party
- 10th Council Christmas
 Party
- 15th Semi-annual
 Congregational
 Meeting
- 24th Christmas Eve
 Worship at 5:30 &
 10:30 p.m.
- 25&26 Office Closed

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**
 claudettegilbert@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