

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Upcoming Events

You will be notified of all future events by email as soon as we are informed.

Council Members:

President – Diane France
Vice President – Georgia VanDyke
Secretary - Lori Roney
Treasurer - Debbie Palmatier
Members - Jim Brigadier, Lisa Bartholomew and Deb Roberts

Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Family of Reuben Mickle, Jr.
Family of Bob Albertsons
Family of Marie Lofaro
Family of Barry Zach
Stan Katinsky
Bessie Crowell
Tamara Guerrero
Tristan

THE CORONAVIRUS SITUATION!!



**HAVE A
BLESSED EASTER!**

The Sin Virus

We are hearing a lot about viruses lately and I thought I would remind us of what they are, how they affect our lives, and the final outcomes.

The dictionary defines a virus in three ways. First, it is a submicroscopic infectious agent that is capable of growth and multiplication only in living cells and causes diseases in humans, animals, and plants. A second definition is a computer program disguised as an innocuous program or file that produces copies of itself and inserts them into other programs so that when they are run, the virus will perform malicious actions destroying data and software. The third one I found most interesting, a virus is something that poisons the mind or the soul.

We have become very successful at, but still struggle with, biological viruses as is the case in our current pandemic. Everyone is susceptible to them and when infected, many may be cured. Yet sometimes there are residual effects that remind us of their ability to damage. There are also the fatalities that remind us of their ability to destroy.

We have in recent decades become versed in “computer viruses”. They also have the ability to damage and/or destroy. So much in our lives depend on computers and their programs running as designed, a virus can cause serious disruptions or consequences that may lead to irreversible damage or destruction.

Both of these, as we know and/or are learning about, can lead to serious financial and economic impacts. They can impact our routines and our lives in ways we did not imagine. Just having what we need seems to depend on economic stability and financial security. Though we have a responsibility to work towards these goals, the Declaration of Independence tells us: *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

As I stated, the third definition says the most. A virus is something that poisons the mind or the soul (and I believe both). The virus of sin, which poisons the mind and the soul, began in the Garden of Eden. As with the other two viruses it too requires a living (or running) host in order to grow and multiply, and cause *dis-ease* among the masses. Like the other viruses, it has the ability to, and does, spread worldwide and infecting everyone. So far it has not been able to be controlled or eliminated but a cure has been given to eliminate the damage and destruction it does to the host.

God has bestowed the cure for this virus through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. To those who trusted and believed in Jesus, He told them ‘your sins are forgiven’. To all those who confess and claim Jesus as their Lord and Savior, He washes them clean and gives them eternal life with Him.

We may never eliminate any virus. We may never have a cure to eliminate the damage or destruction of those that affect our physical beings or electronic devices. We DO have a cure that removes the damage and destruction caused by this Sin Virus...keep Jesus Christ in your daily regimen of personal care and you will discover true life, liberty, and happiness. This will help you deal with the other viruses of this world that you encounter as well until we gather together in God’s Kingdom which is virus free. Thanks be to God!

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave



****The 23rd Psalm****

The Lord is my Shepherd – *That's Relationship!*

I shall not want – *That's Supply!*

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures – *That's Rest!*

He leadeth me beside the still waters - *That's Refreshment!*

He restoreth my soul – *That's Healing!*

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness - *That's Guidance!*

For His name sake - *That's Purpose!*

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death –

That's Testing!

I will fear no evil – *That's Protection!*

For Thou art with me - *That's Faithfulness!*

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me - *That's Discipline!*

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies –

That's Hope!

Thou annointest my head with oil – *That's Consecration!*

My cup runneth over – *That's Abundance!*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life –

That's Blessing!

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord – *That's Security!*

Forever – *That's Eternity!*

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

IT'S TIME TO PRAY... AGAIN

I pulled into my driveway, waving at my neighbor Myriam and her little girl Elizabeth. Over the years, Elizabeth had grown accustomed to our spontaneous chats lasting longer than the promised “few minutes” and morphing into prayer meetings. She climbed the tree planted in the center of their front yard, dangled her legs over a branch, and busied herself while her mother and I spoke. After a while, Elizabeth hopped down from her roost and ran to where we stood. Grabbing our hands, she smiled and almost sang, “It’s time to pray... *again*.” Even at an early age, Elizabeth seemed to understand how important prayer was in our friendship.

After encouraging believers to “be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power” (EPHESIANS 6:10), the apostle Paul offered special insight on the crucial role of continual prayer. He described the necessary armor God’s people would need during their spiritual walk with the Lord, who provides protection, discernment, and confidence in His truth (vv. 11–17). However, the apostle emphasized this God-given strength grew from deliberate immersion in the life-giving gift of prayer (vv. 18–20).

God hears and cares about our concerns, whether they’re spoken boldly, sobbed silently, or secured deep in a hurting heart. He’s always ready to make us strong in His power, as He invites us to pray again and again and again.

XOCHITL DIXON

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE | EPHESIANS 6:10–20

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

INSIGHT

Four times in Ephesians 6:18–20 Paul asks the Ephesian believers to pray, twice asking them to pray he won’t be fearful. What might make him fearful? The answer is in the preceding verses where he clarifies against whom we fight our battles. The battle isn’t against our visible enemies—those who may give us tangible resistance. Instead, we fight against our enemies in the spiritual realm. Paul, however, has also outlined the way to combat those spiritual forces—by putting on the armor of God (vv. 10–17). God provides the armor, but He works through our prayers. J.R. HUDBERG

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

April Birthdays:

Jerry Bowman	Apr. 1
Pat Becker	Apr. 3
Nikki Gordon	Apr. 5
Julie Sammons	Apr. 5
Carolyn Tompkins	Apr. 11
Marie Cater	Apr. 11
Hannah Martin	Apr. 19
Diane France	Apr. 20
Sandi Johnson	Apr. 23
Maurice VanDyke	Apr. 24
Gabby DeRocher	Apr. 25
William Gordon	Apr. 28
Virgil Cater	Apr. 30

April Anniversaries: None

A Prayer for Protection During the Coronavirus

Lord, we admit that we are afraid. The spread of the coronavirus is happening rapidly and throughout the world. We pray for healing for those who are sick. We pray for those who have lost loved ones into death. We pray for protection. We come to your throne of grace asking for you to stop the spread of this virus. We ask that our family, loved ones, and communities be protected and not become sick. We pray for medical providers. We pray for leaders, government officials, and those in authority that they would have the knowledge and desire to make decisions in the best interest of the people they serve. We pray for those in the media that they would give us information we need without creating needless fear or panic. Lord God, you are in control of all things and we place our lives into your hands. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit we pray. **Amen.**



Egg-stra facts

- Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they've become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus' empty tomb on Easter morning.
- The early Christians of Mesopotamia began staining eggs red in honor of Jesus' blood shed on the cross. Red eggs remain part of Greek Orthodox celebrations today.
- For Lent, some families used to give up eggs and dairy, so they prepared a pancake feast on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. They solved the egg surplus by hard-boiling them in various broths, which led to colored eggs.
- In medieval times, churches held "egg-throwing" festivals. The priest threw a hard-boiled egg toward the choir boys, who tossed it back and forth. When the clock struck 12, whoever was holding the egg got to keep it.
- In some European countries, children go from house to house to collect Easter eggs.
- Each year, the PAAS Dye Co. sells more than 10 million egg-coloring kits, which consumers use to decorate 180 million eggs.
- The tallest chocolate Easter egg ever produced weighed 16,000 pounds – more than an elephant!

**IT IS
FINISHED...**
Paid in Full!