

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

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I'm tellin' Mommy. You're goin' over her head."

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Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Family of Winter Shaul
Family of Rick Campbell
Family of Charlotte Bell
Don Wilkerson
Anne Albertson
Bonnie (Sandy Johnson's Care Provider)
Tyler Campbell
Jenny & Erin in Wyoming
Jim Marquit
Mona (Mona's Café)
Marie Czysczon
Austin Roney

**All Those Making Critical Decisions!
THE CORONAVIRUS SITUATION!!**

**HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY!!!**



How Long Lord, How Long?

Waiting. It is never easy. It always seems to be longer than we want it to be and, at the same time, longer than we think it is. Living in a culture of life in the fast lane we seem to have gotten ourselves into a big hurry where our patience is gasping for life. We can't wait for the little curser on the computer to stop spinning. We can't wait for the water to boil as we look on expectantly. We can't wait for this storm to be over. It is in the uncertainty of which way the wind will blow and what it will blow our way that holds us captive in the bonds of frustration and fear. We don't know why it is taking so long. We are deeply concerned about everyone's safety, health and welfare. At the same time, we fear the adverse economic affects the duration of this storm will have.

"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." – *Romans 5:3-5*

There are many rising up in our world who are planting, nurturing, and spreading hope. They have come to fully understand the meaning of the great commandment.

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." – *Matthew 22:36-40*

In this time of tribulation what many are longing for is hope. Some find that their patience is waning as they wait for these times to pass. As it is written, when we learn to persevere, it will show what we are made of. When that character, that inner part of us, the Holy Spirit that has been poured into our hearts shines forth in this time of darkness, then we are giving others the hope they seek, the hope they long for, the hope they need in times like these.

When I was a child, I recall a man, a leader, challenging the world, our world, with these words: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country". This day many among us are not just asking, they are doing. From elementary school children cutting out paper hearts with words of love and hope upon them and mailing them to the medical staff in the hardest hit hospitals in this pandemic, to people working in food pantries and delivering food to the needy and vulnerable in

their communities and to those calling members of their community and members of their congregations just to share some time hearing each other's voices again. There are many ways to show this kind of love. Love that in times of tribulation can yield the blossoming of character. Character that produces hope, and peace, and joy.

Our government is striving to help families and businesses financially during these trying times. Let us see how we might help by making a phone call, volunteering to deliver food or prescriptions through one of the agencies that is directing us on how to safely do so, to giving as we are able to helping our people, God's people, meet their basic needs until this storm passes. We are all called to be God's children, even those who go astray.

One last reminder...one day we will joyfully gather together in our sanctuaries, our houses of God where we come to rejoice and praise God for all that God has blessed us with. Until that day, let us support our parishes, as we are able, to keep the lights on. They are outside the financial support of the government and it is up to us to keep the light house burning bright so that it will encourage everyone that a safe harbor still remains, awaiting everyone as they ride out this storm.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

As Long as It Takes

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

ACTS 1:4-5 (NIV)

THE BOOK OF Acts begins with Jesus telling His disciples to wait. Sometimes when we are waiting for a gift from the Holy Spirit the waiting is the most important active part. Waiting is sometimes more difficult than doing anything—it takes faith and patience. When you're in a period of waiting, turn to the Bible and be assured your faith will be rewarded.

Heavenly Father, I will wait on You for as long as it takes.

Calming the Storm

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.

LUKE 8:24 NIV

Ever feel like you're in over your head? Like you might go under at any point? Are the waves crashing? The winds howling? The thunder rumbling? Take heart—Jesus is in the business of calming storms. Even the most frightening ones.

It's not unusual for caregivers to feel overwhelmed, especially when the boat of their lives is rocking out of control. But Jesus stands at the helm, speaking with great authority to the wind and the waves. "Peace, be still!" He commands.

And as the realization sets in, peace like a river washes over you. He is with you! When you pass through the waters, you will not drown. The storm you're experiencing will subside...in time. Even while the thunders roar, know that His holy calm is coming.

He's more than able to calm whatever storm you're facing.

Dear Lord, I feel like the boat of my life has pitched back and forth. So many times I've felt like I might drown! Father, I ask You to calm this raging storm. Bring peace, Lord, as I rest in Your arms.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

May Birthdays:

Gloria Falcone	May 2
Mary Schaffer	May 8
Claude Brown	May 8
Dennis France	May 11
Debbie Brigadier	May 13
Sharon Nesbitt	May 22
Ed Johnson	May 24

May Anniversaries: None

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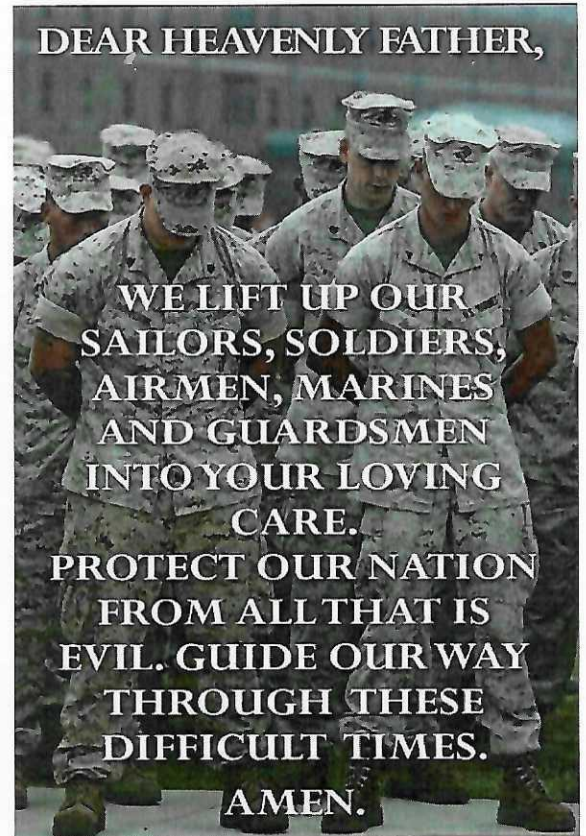
Keep It Simple

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

MARK 12:30-31 (NIV)

JESUS' INSTRUCTIONS ARE simple: Love God and love others. When you live by this Scripture, loving God with everything you have, and caring about those around you, everything else falls into place.

Lord, in this complicated world remind me to keep it simple.



WHEN YOU SEE A VETERAN OR SOMEONE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES, PLEASE EXTEND A HEARTFELT "THANK YOU" TO THEM. REMEMBER, BECAUSE OF THEM, YOU HAVE A COUNTRY IN WHICH TO LIVE IN FREEDOM. PLEASE PRAY DAILY FOR EACH AND EVERYONE OF THEM.