



Sunday, September 6, 2020
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

St. Mark Lutheran Church
1515 S. Harris Rd.
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

stmarkypsi.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vicar Anna is holding regular **office hours on Tuesdays** from 10am to Noon. While you can just drop by if you need to pick up/drop off something at the church building or would to chat, it is recommended that you confirm with Vicar Anna via email ahead of time, just in case she gets called away.

Confirmation Classes will be offered on Zoom this fall, in collaboration with the other Washtenaw ELCA churches. Classes begin in October and will meet from 1-2pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Contact Vicar Anna if you would like to add your child to the class.

The Washtenaw ELCA has just announced **Sunday Adult Faith Formation and Wednesday Social Justice classes** that begin on Zoom in September: Sundays at 10am and Wednesdays at 7pm. The first Sunday class will be September 13; the first Wednesday class is September 16. Other offerings – Bible studies, prayer meditations, and more – are also being planned. Watch for additional details, coming soon.

Volunteer opportunities are available at **Hope Clinic**, including helping with their food distribution efforts and donations of food and health care items.

Sunday School will be offered online by St. Mark at 9:30am on the 4th Sunday of each month, beginning September 27.

Coffee hour at 11:15AM.

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Wherever there is love, there is the presence of God.

Love is intimate and personal but also collective.

Love is communal resistance to practices of evil.

Under systems that destroy, holy is the uprising of the faithful.

The love of God is not passive; neither is it neutral.

Love despises abuse of power. Love practices solidarity with the suffering.

The healing of the world depends on love.

Courageous love. Fierce love. Tender love.

Let us worship together that we may learn the ways of love.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you

OPENING SONG: Gather Us In

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

Gathered Together

Vicar Anna Taylor-McCants

SERMON HYMN: Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether

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CREED: The Creed

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community (*especially*). Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit

(A time of silence as we lift up those on our prayer list.)

- ✠ We lift up especially Frances Brandon, Dusty, Karen Severson, Beth Hall, and Sissy Howard.
- ✠ We continue to pray for Chloe, Richard, Terry, Charlene, Melissa, Mildred, Sandy, Pam, Kevin, Chuck, Ted, Dr. Jim, Denny, Sharon, Mary, Ben, Rick, John, and Barb.
- ✠ May God be with the family and friends of Kathleen Peacock, especially her cousin Kim Bailey, and comfort them in their grief.
- ✠ We ask God to protect and comfort the family and friends of Robin Enck as they grieve, especially his wife, Cate Collins Enck, former St. Mark member.
- ✠ May God bring comfort to the family and friends of Frances Storemski as they mourn, especially her sister and brother-in-law, Nancy and Augie Wallman.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: Make Me an Instrument

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.
Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,
nourish us with this rich drink and food,
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Thank you for continuing to give to the work God is doing through St. Mark Lutheran Church. You can give by mailing your gift directly to the church. You can also give your gift by going online to www.stmarkypsi.com. Your gifts continue to sustain and nourish our ministries here at St. Mark, so thank you.

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Receive this blessing:

Mothering God,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: Isn't He Good?

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

ENCIRCLED WITH PRAYER

- † Recognizing the power of prayer, please join us in praying at home throughout this week for those whose needs are known to us and those whose cares we do not know.
- † We lift up especially Frances Brandon, Dusty, Karen Severson, Beth Hall, and Sissy Howard.
- † We continue to pray for Chloe, Richard, Terry, Charlene, Melissa, Mildred, Sandy, Pam, Kevin, Chuck, Ted, Dr. Jim, Denny, Sharon, Mary, Fran, Ben, Rick, John, and Barb.
- † May God be with the family and friends of Kathleen Peacock, especially her cousin Kim Bailey, and comfort them in their grief.
- † We ask God to protect and comfort the family and friends of Robin Enck as they grieve, especially his wife, Cate Collins Enck, former St. Mark member.
- † May God bring comfort to the family and friends of Frances Storemski as they mourn, especially her sister and brother-in-law, Nancy and Augie Wallman.

Please contact Vicar Anna annataylor@mccants@gmail.com if you need prayer for yourself or those dear to you.

REMEMBER TO JOIN US FOR VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR FROM 11:15-11:45AM

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