



The Messenger

715 24th Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND | www.stmarksgf.org | 701-772-4807

"A Heritage of God's Grace" Since 1910

Member of GIFT of Grace Lutheran Ministry

July 2026



***St. Mark's will not have
worship on Sunday, July 5th.***

***(Worship at Evanger will be at 9am)
(No worship at Walle Lutheran)***

Have a great and safe holiday weekend.



Pastor Karen Young Trenne will begin her interim position for the GIFT parish July 7th. More information will be forthcoming regarding office hours, etc.

Pastor Karen will be in the pulpit at St. Mark's on Sunday, July 12th.

From the Office of the Presiding Bishop

Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry has issued his first in a series of monthly messages that will continue through the end of this year under the title "All Together in One Place." Each message will share a pastoral word, rooted in Scripture, that witnesses to God's presence today, our rich theological tradition and the social teaching that connects us.

(Reprinted from EaND Synod Connections)



All Together in One Place

JUNE 1, 2026

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place” (Acts 2:1).

Every day, I receive emails and messages from members across this church. Many of you share concerns about the state of the world and how faith informs your response to troubling or perplexing events. Sometimes you ask me to speak out more often regarding current affairs, and sometimes you ask me not to speak so much. I cannot answer every message, yet I am learning from you and feel the heartbeat of this church through the concerns, fears and hopes you share with me.

To continue our conversation and respond to what I am hearing from you, I will issue a monthly message through the end of this year in a series called “All Together in One Place.” Each message will share a pastoral word that witnesses to God’s presence today, rooted in Scripture, our rich theological tradition and the social teaching that connects us for life together.

At the first Pentecost, the disciples were guided by the prophet Joel’s assurance that, even in troubling and perplexing times, God is faithfully present.

Our baptismal vocation together is to serve God and neighbor in daily life, fostering “a faith that is active in love, a love that seeks justice, and an insight that strives to discern what is right, good, and fitting” (ELCA social statement *The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective*, 1991, p. 6). Baptism invites us to love our neighbor, to steward creation, to advocate justice and mercy in situations of brokenness, and to seek peace.

As much as we strive to be “all together in one place,” we may not agree on how to do this. The letters I receive testify that we span a beautiful and God-given diversity that invites Lutherans into deep listening, moral deliberation and a certain humility as we seek the common good.

In our differences, we can still be together in one place, when that place is connection in the unity that only Christ gives us (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). We stand in one place when we embrace the dignity of every human being by engaging others with curiosity and respect. We stand in one place when we shake off the immobility of fear to nurture connection in diversity. Our witness to the world embodies 2 Timothy 1:7: “God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.”

Just as those early followers of Jesus Christ experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, may we also trust when the Holy Spirit comes blowing into our lives to connect the body of Christ.

In peace,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's Work, Our Hands

Salvation Army Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry at the Salvation Army is currently very low on food items and personal care items. If you can help, donations can be brought to the church. Or, brought directly to the Salvation Army at **1600 University Drive in Grand Forks.**

Special requests are:

Pasta	Cereal	Soup	Mac and Cheese	Canned Fruits
Instant Mashed Potatoes		Rice		
Shampoo (both men's and women's)		Body Wash		Deodorant
Toothpaste				

Thank you to those who have consistently brought items and placed them in the shopping cart in the Narthex. Those items are regularly taken to the local food pantries.

Highlights from the June St. Mark's Council Meeting

-----St. Mark's Council did not meet in June-----

ST MARK'S FINANCIAL REPORT - 01/01/26 through 05/31/26

BUDGETED GIVING:	\$ 28,566.00
(2025 YTD Giving \$ 34,171.00)	
2026 YTD Fund Income	\$ 52,159.00
2026 YTD General Fund Expenses	\$ 58,762.00
GENERAL FUND <u>Deficit</u>	- \$ 6,603.00



Our Prayers and Sympathies to:

Navy and Oakley Oss, their parents, Matt & Lasha Oss and family, as they mourn the death of their grandfather (Lasha's father), John Kopp.

Tessa Moon Leiseth Reelected Bishop of ELCA Eastern North Dakota Synod

The Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth, Moorhead, Minn., was reelected June 7 to serve a second six-year term as bishop of the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the synod assembly, June 5-7 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, N.D.

The bishop was reelected on the fifth ballot, with 137 votes. The Rev. Joe Johnson, pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Hillsboro, N.D., had 117 votes. A total of 127 votes was needed for election.

Moon Leiseth has served as the synod's bishop since 2020. Previously, she served as interim senior pastor of Horace (N.D.) Lutheran Church from 2019 to 2020 and as interim pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Moorhead, from 2018 to 2019. She was the Southern Africa country coordinator for ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission from 2012 to 2017 and campus pastor of Concordia College in Moorhead from 2008 to 2012. Concordia is one of 26 ELCA colleges and universities. Moon Leiseth also was associate pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in East Bethel, Minn., from 2000 to 2006; youth and family pastor of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Mounds View, Minn., from 1998 to 2000; and intern pastor of Baudette (Minn.) Lutheran Parish from 1996 to 1997.

Moon Leiseth received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Concordia College in 1992 and a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., in 1998. Luther is one of seven ELCA seminaries.

Reprinted from the ELCA Website

Abiding Memorials Ministry Please remember that if you have any requests for project funds, they should be submitted to them the last week of each quarter. This will give them sufficient time for all members to review the paperwork. Requests should be sent to Iver Buchmann. Thank you!



The Parents of Loss group will meet on Tuesday, July 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel at St. Mark's. This group is for all who are grieving the loss of a child or grandchild, regardless of age. They meet here the 2nd Tuesday of each month.



MARK THESE UPCOMING EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Men's Breakfast – Thursday, July 2nd at **9:00 am (Please note change)**

GIFT Council – Monday, July 13th, at 5:30pm at Evanger

St. Mark's Council – Tuesday, July 14th, at 6:30pm

Parents of Loss – Tuesday, July 14th, at 7:00pm in the chapel

July Birthdays and Anniversaries...

Birthdays:

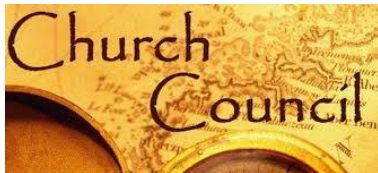
2 Marilee LaMont
 9 Kathy Mutchler
 12 Darci Bohm
 19 Joseph Swenson
 20 Adam Bohm
 20 Lillian Larson
 21 Lynn Gilbraith

Anniversaries:

14 Sandra & Brad Gerszewski
 22 Kathren & Brett Thompson
 29 Audrey & Jim Glick



(Please contact the church office if you have any corrections.)



President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Mark Peterson
 Iver Buchmann
 Rose Keeley
 Marsha Oss Art Ruud

Interim Pastor: Pastor Karen Young Trenne
Ministers: Every member of the congregation
Missionaries: Willie & Annie Langdji

Office: 701-772-4807 **Office Email:** stmarkselca@msn.com
(Office Hours will vary – please call ahead)

Websites: St. Mark's www.stmarksgf.org
 GIFT www.giftofgracegf.org



Please look for our logo and "Like" us on Facebook at St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran
 Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.



Eastern North Dakota Synod
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 Quilting	2 9:00 Men's Breakfast (new time)	3	
5 NO WORSHIP @ ST. Mark's	6 7:00 Scouts	7 Pastor Karen begins interim	8 10:00 Quilting	9	10	11
12 10:30 Worship (Pastor Karen)	13 5:30 GIFT Council	14 6:30 Council	15 10:00 Quilting	16	17	18
(Callie Stadem)	7:00 Scouts	7:00 Parents of Loss				
19 10:30 Worship (Pastor Karen)	20 7:00 Scouts	21	22 10:00 Quilting	23	24	25
26 10:30 Worship (Pastor Karen)	27 7:00 Scouts	28	29 10:00 Quilting	30	31	