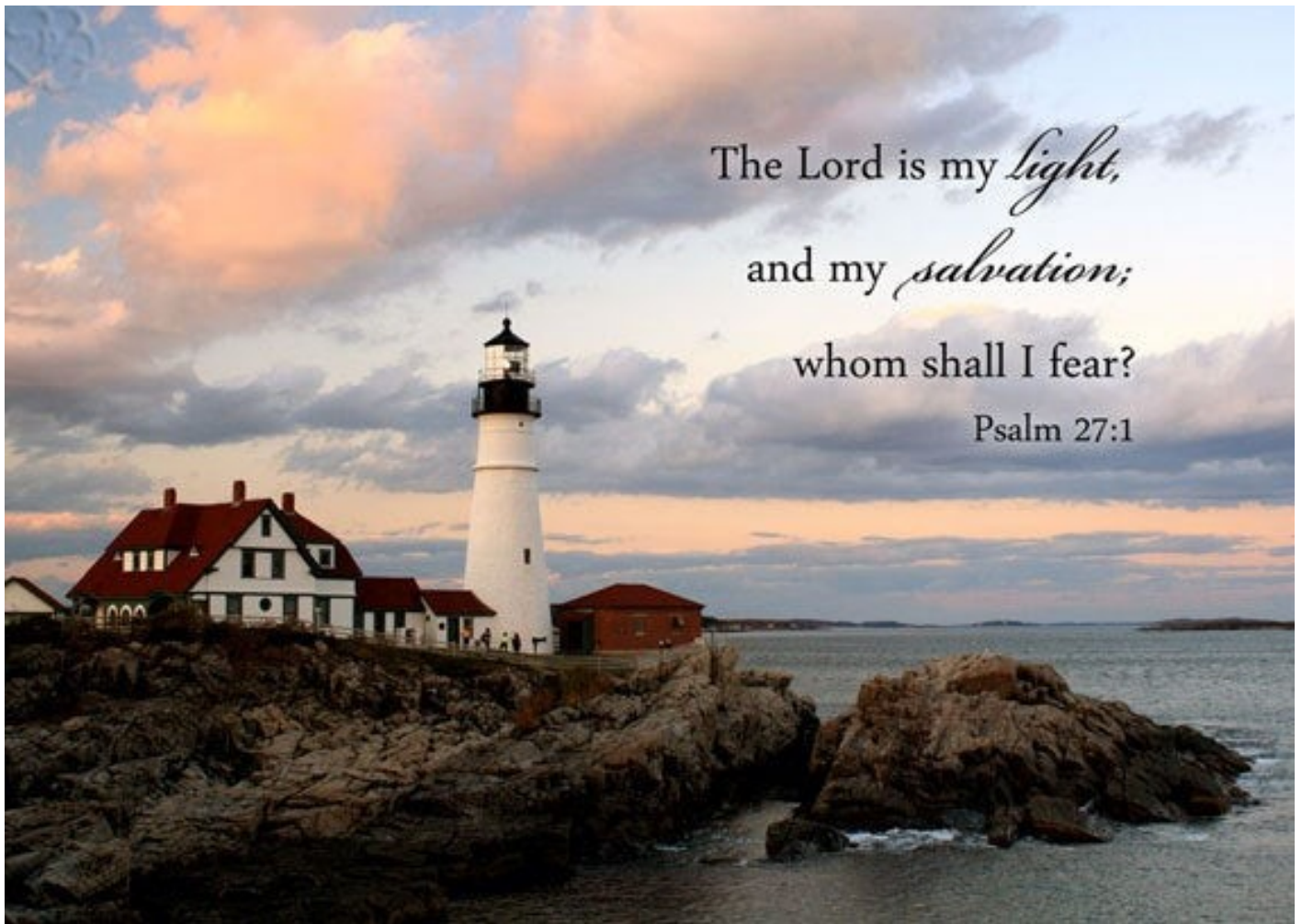




St. Mark's Good News

August 2020



The Lord is my *light*,
and my *salvation*;
whom shall I fear?
Psalm 27:1

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church
409 White Horse Pike Oaklyn, NJ 08107
officemanager@stmarksoaklyn.com www.stmarksoaklyn.com



From the Pastor- Black Lives Matter!

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. ¹³ Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 1:13-14

Yes, I will proclaim that I believe “Black Lives Matter!” I have heard the disdain that some people have against the BLM movement. Some will say that they believe that all lives matter, not just black lives. I couldn’t agree more. All life is sacred and holy to our Lord, the Creator of the Universe. God created all things, humans included, to live in harmony. Humankind has however messed things up by creating hierarchies that makes one group consider themselves superior to another.

When people use the “all lives matter” phrase with me, I must confess that I immediately think that they do not understand the BLM movement. These same people often tell me that they are not racist. But according to Ibram X. Kendi, the opposite of “racist” isn’t “not racist”. It’s antiracist. An antiracist will confront power and policy to equalize all people, all races. A racist will allow the racial inequities to continue. We all may be racist and antiracist at different times. But imagine a world where all people would strive to be antiracist.

If the BLM movement upsets you, I would ask if you’ve looked at their mission statement. It says: *“the Black Lives Matter (BLM) mission statement is “to build local power and to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes.”* The mission statement shows that the primary agenda of the organization is to fight for the rights of its target audience. There are two important components related to this mission statement: A) Improving communities, and B) Improvement of lives.

“BLM” doesn’t mean that no other lives matter or are not worthy of attention. But black, brown, and all people of color have been historically targeted for demise. Whether it is in the lack of resources for predominantly black schools, the inequity of housing and equal opportunity in employment, people of color have tried to wake white America up to the realities with which they live. Many “white” schools have great programs for students to prepare for SAT’s. Do the primarily “black” schools offer the same programs? I doubt it. They are set up for the status quo, unfairly held back from the same opportunities of higher education and a future livelihood. This is just one example.

I would like to offer something to this faith community. I would love for us to have a book study on Kendi’s book. We can gather via zoom, and I will be happy to moderate. I would be interested in how we as a congregation can grow into our own mission statement that says “Share Hope”, by learning, and how we might become advocates in the work toward racial equality. You can go online to purchase your copy of the book. If you are interested in becoming part of a weekly discussion group, please let me know. The group can jointly decide how much material we will cover each week, when we will meet, etc. Please send an email to me at:

pastor@stmarksoaklyn.com and let me know if you are interested. I would like to start in early September, so let me know, and make sure you order your book.

In Christ,
Pastor Jay

LET GO - LET GOD

As children bring their broken toys, with tears, for us to mend
I brought my broken dreams to God, because He is my friend.

But then instead of leaving him in peace, to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help, with ways that were my own.

At last, I snatched them back and cried,
“How could you be so slow?”
“My Child,” He said, “What could I do?
You never did let go.”

Author: Loretta P Burns

Come & Go Communion

Thursday, August 13, at 6:00pm

On the Church Parking Lot

(weather permitting)

Please wear a mask.

Be aware of Social Distancing!

Bring your own chair.

And your own bread/cracker & liquid to sip.



STEWARDSHIP

Many of you have already shared concern about making sure that St. Mark's continues to receive financial support during this time. Thank you! Indeed, this will be an especially important time to be sure that we continue to receive your offering, gifts, and tithes. Please help by continuing to make your financial offerings.

Here is how:

1. **Mail.** Send a check

Mark the envelope Attention Financial Secretary.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church 409 White Horse Pike Oaklyn NJ 08107

2. **Autopay with your Bank**

Through your Bank's online portal or phone app you can set up regular payments to be made in the amount and schedule you choose. Then the bank sends a check to the church on your behalf at no charge to you (usually).

3. **Church Website**

There is now a "button" on the top of the home page of our church website where you remit your offering electronically. [Www.stmarksoaklyn.com](http://www.stmarksoaklyn.com)

4. **Church Offering website**

Use the link on our web page or you can use this website. Copy & Paste into your favorite browser.

<https://www.churchofficegiving.com/App/Giving/stmarksoaklyn>

Thank you so very much for your continued faithfulness and generosity to help enable the continued ministry of Jesus in this place through us especially during this time.

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Jay Berry, Pastor

George Akerley, Director of Music

Dave Dixon, Sexton

Karen DeFrank, Office Manager

ST. MARK'S 2020 COUNCIL MEMBERS

President – Verna Panaccio Vice President – Bill Emerson

Treasurer – Ray Alkins Financial Secretary – Ray Alkins

Recording Secretary – Lynne Rogers

Lorraine Carey - WELCA Mark Dill - Property Dave Dixon

Ginnie Donato - Parish Life Bill Emerson – Christian Ed

Pam Gallus – Faith in Action Kristen McDonald

Lynne Rogers - Caring Ministries Kurt Skibbe

Christi Tallent - Outreach Marie Viereck - Worship & Music

Riley Jakubowski - Youth Member

Jesus' health concerns...

Are people of faith today as concerned about the physical health of God's people as Jesus' concern in the upcoming text? Matthew 14 recounts Jesus feeding the multitude, providing for the physical need of food for all that were hungry. Again and again Jesus cares for the health of those in need.

As we have learned during the COVID-19 pandemic that improving access to health care helps to improve public health for all New Jerseyans. By getting more people covered and giving them greater access to quality care, we can improve the health and well-being of all of God's people.

Currently the New Jersey legislature is debating legislation that will bring in more than \$300. Million to support health care in New Jersey. This bill **S2676/A4389** requires funds to be used to increase affordability, reduce racial disparities, and decrease the number of uninsured in our new in our new State Health Exchange that opens in November.

The Rev. Alyce McKenzie professor of Worship at Perkins School of theology wrote in Patheos in July 2011, "This story motivates us to get up out of our comfortable chairs and throw ourselves into offering our resources on behalf of a needy world. It calls us to remember and to anticipate. We are to stand in the story, looking back and looking forward... We are to stand, looking back, re-experiencing who God has been in the past. We are to stand looking ahead with faith in who God will be and what God will do in the future. This is the dynamic of *anamnesis* (active remembering) that undergirds participation in both the Passover and the Lord's Supper."

Active remembering is participatory. An activity that is both remembering where we have been in the midst of this health crisis, and engaging in future measures to care for those who are most vulnerable. During this pandemic, we have stood in the shoes of the disciples: surrounded by human need, faced with huge challenges, and felt over whelmed. God has been with us, and promises to be with us still.

With your advocacy efforts, we can address our neighbor's need of affordable health care. This legislation **S2676/A4389** would allow New Jersey to implement our own Health Insurance Assessment (HIA). The Health Insurance Assessment (HIA) is a federal fee on health insurance companies that was established in 2014 to help fund the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This fee is set to expire on January 1, 2021, giving states the opportunity to take on the assessment, and in so doing capture the funding without raising insurers' payments. States that implement their own HIA have the ability to spend the funds however they see fit, providing them the flexibility necessary to meet their own unique health care needs. Governor Phil Murphy first proposed the HIA for New Jersey in his Fiscal Year 2021 Budget.

Are we motivated to share our voices as we stand in the shoes of the skeptical disciples on the brink of a miracle? Follow this link, advocate for NJ's Health Insurance Assessment so that we improve public health and ensure all residents can lead healthy lives. Follow to take action today! <https://p2a.co/yXeF5Lv>

Want to learn more about NJ's Health Insurance Assessment? <https://www.njpp.org/blog/new-jersey-can-act-now-to-make-health-care-more-affordable-the-health-insurance-assessment-explained>

For the complete article, "You Want Us to Do What?" By Dr. McKenzie <https://www.patheos.com/resources/additional-resources/2011/07/you-want-us-to-do-what-alyce-mckenzie-07-25-2011>

From <https://www.leannj.org/blog>

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Oaklyn Community

Food Pantry

Thank you to all who donated to the Food Bank in July. With your help, 55 households received breakfast and dinner bags, along with fresh fruit and vegetables. The volunteers received quite a bit of money donations at the Collingswood Farmers Market. They used those donations to purchase \$10 gift cards for the Foodbank clients. Also, the South Jersey Food Bank stopped in during Tuesday's distribution to share a fresh veggie recipe and talk about healthy eating.

The next dates for food pantry distribution
are August 17 & 18.

On Saturday, August 15, Food Pantry volunteers will be at the Collingswood Farmers Market to collect donation of fresh produce for the food bank. Non-perishable donations can be left in the bin outside the Oaklyn Baptist Church. The bin is emptied frequently!

The food pantry needs:

Cereal
Canned Fruit
Canned Soup
Jelly
Pasta
Canned/Jarred pasta sauce
Mac & Cheese
Baked Beans
Snacks such as granola bars,
individual packages of pretzels
or chips

!

**Thank you
for your support!**

July/August Outreach Project: School Supplies

Outreach will continue to collect school supplies for Oaklyn school, Urban Promise and Nursery School. We will have a basket out by Gathering Room doors on Sundays from 10:30 to 12:30PM. You can also bring items on August 13th to the Come & Go Communion Service.

We are looking for the following:

Pencils, erasers, pencil box or pouch, pencil sharpener, 5 inch blunt point scissors, glue sticks, crayons, wide ruled 1 subject notebooks, 2-pocket folders, loose leaf filler paper, 3 ring binders, tissues, hand sanitizer, lunch bags, back packs, Post-It Notes, composition books, dry erase markers, book covers, highlighters, tissues, baby wipes, 3x5 index cards, printer paper

On-Going Outreach Projects

- Can Tabs
for Ronald McDonald House
 - Box Tops for Education
 - Change for Change
 - Coups for Troops
 - Almost Home Animal Shelter
- DISCONTINUED:***
Bottle Cap Collection

Where to find our Sunday Service

<https://www.facebook.com/StMarksOaklyn/>

<https://www.stmarksoaklyn.com/churchtv>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIRv7z4h5b1-i4S68Hmkygw>

<https://twitter.com/stmarksoaklyn>

The Amazon Smile logo is displayed on an orange rectangular background. It features the word "amazon" in black and "smile" in white, with a curved arrow underneath "amazon" pointing towards "smile". Below the logo, the text "You shop. Amazon gives." is written in a smaller font.

Do you buy items online from Amazon?
Amazon will contribute a small percentage of each sale to a charity or non-profit of your choice. St. Mark's is on their list. Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/21-0652118 Or look for St. Mark's Oaklyn in Amazon Smile. Thank you!!



St. Mark's has a very active Facebook Page. Look for St. Mark's Lutheran Church Oaklyn ELCA. Like and Follow us! And share with your Facebook friends.

Our Sunday Worship service is broadcast live at 10 am on Sundays. You can watch it any time that's convenient for you. Each Monday evening at 7 pm join Pastor Jay for Prayers and Reflections.

One more thing - we have a private Facebook page called St. Mark's Church Oaklyn Prayer and Support Group. You must request to join. It is open to all members and friends of the congregation, but only those who request to join can view the page.



CARING MINISTRIES

Due to the Corona virus pandemic, many of us are home alone for an extended time. Caring Ministries has been busy calling and sending cards. If you would like a call, please let the office know, and we will make sure that you are contacted. Likewise, if you would like to make calls to check on your fellow parishioners please give the office a call, or email Lynne at caringministries@stmarksoaklyn.com. Thank you.

COUPS FOR TROOPS

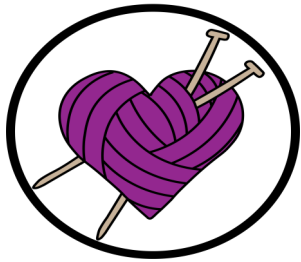
Steve Marino reports he just sent in
Sending \$10,194.75 worth of coupons.

Thanks for your help with this!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer shawl group will probably
have at least 50 blankets finished by
the end of summer.

We're trying to reconnect with the
Lourdes/Virtua group now that the
Collingswood Farmers Market is
reopening. We still have plenty of
yarn available if anyone is interested
in joining us.



St. Mark's Library

Have you been reading during these past few
months, when we must stay at home?

Judy Rayser is hoping for some donations to
our church library. Most of the books in the
library have been around for a while.

If you have books to donate, please give Judy
a call. She will set up a time to meet you at
the church.



The church may be closed, but it's not CLOSED. Thank you to the following.....

Dawn Errickson, who sends birthday cards to everyone.

Dave Dixon, who has been deep cleaning the Nursery School floors, rugs, tables, chairs, toys, ...
you name it, he is cleaning it!

The Food Pantry Committee, who continue feeding people.

Marie Viereck, who checks the mail, counts the offering, and makes bank deposits.

Ray Alkins, who keeps track of the bank account and pays the bills.

Rich Dornisch, who helps with the technical side of Sunday Services.

The Pandemic Response Team, who is prayerfully and thoughtfully devising a plan for Sunday
services to resume.

George Akerley, who continues to provide our beautiful music for our Worship.

And Pastor Jay, who continues to guide and lead.



August Birthdays

- 1 - Grace Earl Kunkle
- 5 - Christi Tallent
- 11 - Rich Dornisch
- 13 - Isabelle Cunningham
& Karen DeFrank
- 15 - Gabrielle Varga
- 17 - Kristen McDonald
- 18 - Leo Lin
- 19 - Remy Powell
- 21 - Gale Lewin
- 25 - Rich Logan



- 26 - Averie Cunningham
- 27-Joelle Jakubowski

September Birthdays

- 1 - Traci Goldman
- 3 - Betty Springman
- 5 - Paul Fiorelli
& Linda Koengetter
& Erma Williams
- 9 - Donna Johns
- 14 - Wm Paul
- 17 - Millie Rhoda
- 18 - Linda Johns
- 19 - Alvena Stults
- 21 - Delores Whilldin
- 22 - Dorothy Armstrong
& Jane McConnell
- 27 - Don Daly
- 29 - Ray Alkins
- 30 - Bill Emerson



Very Best Wishes
from your Church Family!

Prayer List:

Dottie Armstrong, Dorothy Buffington, Kay Carpenter, Paul & Vickie Fiorelli, Diana Gregg, Dave & Marie Jack, Phyllis Johnson, Ken Larsen, Alma Lockhart, Judy Logan, Nancy Marino, Al Mayes, Elaine McCann, Jane McConnell, Dorothy Morten, Radelle Reed, Millie Rhoda, Vickie Shannon, Betty Springman, Rich Dornisch, Nicholas Ellis, Julia Elsasser, Michelle Hickman, Roy Hoover, Ruby Mitchell, Bill Rogers, Kurt Skibbe, Douglas Wesh Soden, Joanne Soden, Cynthia Terres, Sandie Unruh, Marjory Weidner, Rodney Gilliam, Joyce Hoover, Sammie Sorensen, Ardyth Terney, Ed Barger, and family & friends of Joan Keown

Military Prayer List:

General John Kline

Our College Students:

Madisen Harvey- Ursinus College;
Lauren Morgan- St. Joseph's University;
Samantha Sorensen - U of Delaware;
Zachary Sorensen- Villanova University;
Stephanie West- The College of NJ,
Katie Morgan - American University

***If you would like to add someone
to the prayer list
Please let the office know
with a phone call or an email.*