



Saint Mark Lutheran Church

45-725 Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744 • (808) 247-4565 • www.StMarkHawaii.org

JULY

Aloha St. Mark Family,

What a mighty God we serve! I am ecstatic to begin my Calling as your Pastor and I thank God for the privilege of sharing life and ministry alongside all of you. I know that God has great plans for us!

I wanted to look back a bit and rejoice in the path God used to bring us to this point. I recently reviewed the words that Yal Lim offered at my Ordination five years ago. On that day, Yal officially spoke my formal recommendation for Pastoral ministry by saying:

“Dan Truesdell, a son of St Mark Lutheran Church, has been aided in his preparation for the Office of the Holy Ministry by our encouragement, gifts, and prayers.”

A son of St. Mark Lutheran Church. What a special title to bear! Although a decade has passed since we last ministered together, you have remained in my prayers often. Moreover, I definitely have felt the power of your prayers for us as my family saw God work through seminary and in our first two Callings.

Looking back even further I remember the farewell you gave us many years ago when we left to start seminary. I had explained to God that I would never serve as a Pastor because I was only willing to be a Navy Chaplain. It is comical (and dangerous) to tell God what you will or will not do for Him. Proverbs 16:9 tells us “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.” Our Lord must have smiled as He established my steps by watering the ministry seeds that had been planted by you, his beloved disciples at St. Mark. Your eternal impact – as the special body of believers at St. Mark - anchored me in faith for the Call to Pastoral ministry. I never imagined God would Call me back to St. Mark, but seeing His well-laid plans I now know that God has prepared His Church for exactly this moment in time when we will once again serve side by side!

My family is also so excited. Becky attended her first worship at St. Mark about fifteen years ago when I brought her as my girlfriend. I remember being so excited for her to meet my Church family. Together St. Mark shepherded us through dating, marriage, and the birth of our first daughter. We loved that first baby that God gave us (and still do), so we had a couple more babies during seminary. Savanna (11), Kaiya (8) and Christian (5) are thrilled to begin at St. Mark Lutheran School. Christian education for our kids is God’s amazing answer to many years of prayer. What a blessing to have such a vibrant and fruitful ministry through the gifted staff of our school!

So... that’s the path God used to bring us to this point. In response to His beautiful plan, we’ve got lots of work to do together.

Romans 12:9 commands us to “let love be genuine.” Philippians 1:9 prays that “our love would abound more and more.” I have already experienced your genuine love for one another and seen it abound. We have many people in our community who desperately need that genuine and abounding love which comes only through Christ Jesus. I cannot wait to watch God increase our love for one another while we also share the genuine love of Jesus with our friends, neighbors, grocery clerks, bank tellers, postal carriers, mechanics, dentists, cobblers, chimney sweeps and anyone else we meet! 1 Thessalonians 5:24 reminds us that we have the power of God to accomplish this task: “He who Calls us is faithful. He will surely do it!”

Let’s get started...

Grace and peace,

Pastor Dan





Pictures from SMLC Installation Service

Installation Service for Pastor Dan Truesdell was held on Wednesday, July 1st at Saint Mark Lutheran Church. We were blessed to have Pastor Mitch Gowen from Our Savior officiate, as well as Pastor Christian Rassmussen from Our Redeemer, and Pastor Lloyd Wilweber attend. What a joyous way to start off the first day in July! We welcome Pastor Dan, his wife Becky, and their three beautiful children, back home to our Saint Mark Ohana! It's so nice to have you back!





Pictures from SMLC Installation Service





Missionary Update from Uganda

Aloha, Supporters of Janine LeGrand's Health-Education Ministry in Uganda

"Now we will live." "I have heard that more than once."

The quotations above are from Janine's email yesterday. Her distribution of cornmeal, maize, and beans is possible from your donations to her SAMS Missionary Special Project: COVID-related food relief through the Diocese of Masindi-Kitara.

Janine sent me this update, to share with y'all. At the end, I've typed excerpts from her January-June 2020 ministry during the coronavirus pandemic in Masindi-Kitara diocese. As always, Janine is busy doing a mighty work for the Lord.

"Early in the year, much of my focus was on preparing for the March medical outreach [quarterly, by OneWorld Health]. We set up locations, visited the sites, did trainings and made sure everything was in place. Then a few days before the US team was to depart for Uganda, the trip was cancelled. This was the first impact of Covid-19 here. That led into the next phase, Coronavirus-related health education, which increased more and more as the worldwide problem grew. For example, I have been working to educate people on hand washing. Teaching how to build a low-cost handwashing station to the catechists, plus building one at my gate as an example to the community. Teaching preventive measures, stressing their importance, and educating people about Covid grew in importance as the problem grew. Additionally, I helped the clinic with PPE (protective personal equipment), even making face shields and water-resistant aprons, as PPE was hard to buy. Also, there has been a tremendous amount of incorrect or fake information coming in on social media (which a surprising number of people, especially community leaders, access due to very cheap phones here). I have made it a project to monitor a number of platforms and correct misleading or dangerous information.

We have endured over 75 days of a very strict government-ordered lockdown, where it is illegal to drive a personal car without an essential vehicle sticker. Going out after curfew at night would risk getting shot by security forces. All but a few essential businesses were shut down. Mostly the only thing you were allowed to buy was food.

Here poverty is a big issue; and, many people live off of day-to-day earnings. Even those people who had jobs and were highly respected, ended up struggling for food. For example, school teachers are among the educated and respected people; but, at the local private school, the last time teachers received any money was in February. When the schools were suddenly closed, parents stopped paying anything. So, the schools stopped paying staff. There is no unemployment or stimulus payments here.

I started off helping a few of my neighbors who were without food. As the scope of the problem grew, with almost everyone having no income, I set up a project through SAMS for food aid. I also applied and got a World Relief Grant from SAMS. These were all funneled through the Diocese - with some food being given out through government distribution and some delivered through the church to the overlooked needy of all faiths.



Missionary Update from Uganda Continued...

Here the government rule is against individuals handing out food. The rules were designed to stop those with political ambitions from gaining favor through gifts. By the President's order, anyone who causes a crowd to gather, by giving out food, is to be charged with attempted murder. Despite this, it was hard for me to say, "No" to hungry people who came to my door... so, I helped. We also worked on giving out food through church and government, too. The numbers of people coming (completely without my publicizing anything!) increased to the point where I had eighty to one hundred people in groups outside my house asking for food. And, they were beginning to get unruly and not follow the spacing I was asking, etc. So, I had to stop giving out food on a personal level. It was an anguishing decision to have to make - to abruptly stop and simply depend on distributions through the church, and food donated to the government. It broke my heart to say, "No" to my neighbors. But, the crowding around my gate was a danger to them; and, I risked being taken to jail.

I have had people to whom we gave food respond, "Now, we will live." Many people were completely out of food and money. Fortunately, now the government is reducing the lockdowns; and, people are now able to work and travel. There are still sectors where people can't work, though. Schools, bars, churches, etc. are still closed. I have had some additional donations to my Special Project Fund; so, today we bought maize meal - enough to distribute a 20lb.+ bag to each of the church leaders in the Diocese. With no church services, and the collections, many churches are receiving very little money or gifts for their leaders.

This morning I got a message that the Diocese plans to reopen our Headquarters office for administrative work, two days from now. (Tomorrow is the Heroes Holiday.) I spent most of today developing a protocol for a safer reopening and also had a meeting with leadership, urging them to either not open or to delay until they can implement a protocol with all needed things in place. Health-wise, we are still very much on the rise of the curve and the majority of the health crisis is still ahead of us. But, the nation is easing lockdown as it has become intolerable... people were starting to starve. Church gatherings remain closed indefinitely; and, schools for at least another month. The schools will re-open just for those students about to graduate. Motorcycle taxis (the very common transport) still cannot carry passengers. Curfew remains in effect. COVID continues to spread; and, I expect it will overwhelm the health centers, despite all the many preparation efforts. Love, Janine"





July Servant Schedule

Date	Elder	Lectors	Acolyte	Keiki Message	Media Tech	Ushers	Sunday School
Sunday July 5	Teresa	Pastor	Elder	TBD	Jason	Teresa, Rick	8:30am - Adult Sunday School
Sunday July 12	Yal	Pastor	Elder	TBD	Bruce	Yal, Mary Ann	8:30am - Adult Sunday School
Sunday July 19	Kristy	Pastor	Elder	TBD	Jason	Kristy, Nathan	8:30am - Adult Sunday School
Sunday July 26	Anthony	Pastor	Elder	TBD	Bruce	Anthony, Bill	8:30am - Adult Sunday School

** As a reminder, there will be no bulletins distributed. After service refreshments will also be cancelled until further notice. Communion will be distributed with new guidelines and safety precautions **

Prayer Requests

- ◆ *Housebound: Jinny Johnson, Jim Tripp, Harold Brinkopf, Gloria Shimoko, Rhonda Chaffin*
- ◆ *Missionaries: Beckendorfs, Stovers, Janine Legrand*
- ◆ *Military: Matt Leech*
- ◆ *Comfort: Jeff Wegner's Friends & Family who are dealing with his loss*
- ◆ *Kathy Skouborg, Jason's Aunt, who is having surgery to remove pancreatic cancer*
- ◆ *Sally Brady, who is recovering from back surgery*
- ◆ *Please continue to pray for our State, Nation, and world as we battle against Covid-19*
- ◆ *Please pray for Saint Mark Lutheran Church and School as we navigate during this difficult time*
- ◆ *Blessings: Pastor Dan & Becky Truesdell returning to our Saint Mark Ohana*





JULY ***BIRTHDAYS***

Announcements

- 7/3 Hana Rupnow
- 7/7 Michael Chaffin
- 7/8 Patsy Seo
- 7/10 Rose Miyasaki
- 7/11 Janice Ha
- 7/16 Ben Chaffin
- 7/16 Mildred Hill
- 7/17 Daniel Ha
- 7/17 Bobby Lane
- 7/18 Louise Wolcott
- 7/21 Joshua Chaffin
- 7/21 Paul Macri
- 7/28 Randall Hoffman
- 7/28 Robert Rupnow
- 7/29 Harriet Young

- ◆ **9:30am Worship Service & 8:30am Bible Classes/ Sunday School is now OPEN!** Please wear a mask, practice social distancing and NO hugs, Mahalo!
- ◆ **After Worship Snacks/Fellowship** will be cancelled until further notice to successfully maintain social-distancing and safety.
- ◆ **Worship Team** will be meeting every Thursday night @7pm, SMLC Choir practice is temporarily cancelled until further notice.
- ◆ **Singers & Instrumentalist needed for Worship Team!** If you are interested in joining please contact the Church Office for more details.
- ◆ **Midweek Study/ Prayer Warriors** will resume on July 8 with Pastor Dan! Please join us every Wednesday @ 10am in the Church Sanctuary. Just bring a bible, pen, and a smile!
- ◆ **SMLC Food Bank is OPEN again!** Our Food Bank is available every Saturday, **except for July 4th**, from 8am -10am. Volunteers welcome! If you wish to volunteer please contact the Church Office.
- ◆ **Family Promise will be cancelled for the rest of 2020** in previous years we have held Family Promise in June and December, but unfortunately with the current state of events surrounding Covid -19 it has been cancelled till 2021. Even though it is cancelled there is still a GREAT need for donations. Donations can be made through their website at www.familypromisehawaii.org
- ◆ **Offering Reminder:** An offering bowl will placed at the back of the church during our 9:30am service. You may also make a donation online through our church website. Simply visit www.stmarkhawaii.org/donate.html to make a donation.



- 7/16 **McMinn**
- 7/20 **Seo**
- 7/29 **Murata**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Normal Office Hours Tuesday - Friday 8:30am - 12:30pm			1 5:00pm - Installation Service w/Pastor Dan, available also on FaceBook Live	2 7:15pm - Worship Team	3	4 Independence Day Happy 4th!!! **Food Bank Cancelled**
5 8:30am - Sunday School 9:30am- Worship/Fellowship 10:45am - SMLC Choir Practice (Cancelled until further notice)	6 7:00pm - Board of Outreach	7 7:00pm - Elder's Meeting	8 10:00am - Bible Study/ Prayer Warriors	9 6:00pm - Board of Ed. Meeting 7:15pm - Worship Team	10	11 8:00am - Food Bank
12 8:30am- Sunday School 9:30am- Worship/Fellowship 10:45am - SMLC Choir Practice (Cancelled until further notice) 11:00am - Parish Ed. Meeting	13	14	15 10:00am - Bible Study/ Prayer Warriors	16 7:15pm - Worship Team	17	18 8:00am - Food Bank
19 8:30am- Sunday School 9:30am- Worship/Fellowship 10:45am - SMLC Choir Practice (Cancelled until further notice)	20	21 6:00 pm - Church Council Meeting	22 10:00am - Bible Study/ Prayer Warriors	23 7:15pm- Worship Team	24	25 8:00am - Food Bank
26 8:30am- Sunday School 9:30am- Worship/Fellowship 10:45am - SMLC Choir Practice (Cancelled until further notice)	27	28	29 10:00am - Bible Study/ Prayer Warriors	30 7:15pm- Worship Team	31	Normal Office Hours Tuesday - Friday 8:30am - 12:30pm