



Saint Mark Lutheran Church

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June

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

I couldn't help writing one more article. I thought the May article was my last one, but here I am again. When I wrote my May article I didn't know if Pastor Dan Truesdell would accept the Call to serve as your next pastor or not. Well, of course now we know. I am truly excited for you that he did accept the Call and will begin his ministry among you in July.

In the meantime, I'll be helping out from a distance. Actually, I'm taking social distancing to a whole new level. So, since my departure from Kaneohe Governor Ige has lifted the restriction on churches being able to gather together once again. Of course, that means that you were able to gather again for the first time in a couple of months on May 31st Pentecost Sunday. Some refer to Pentecost Sunday as the Birthday of the Christian Church. What a great day to join together while maintaining proper distancing. No snacks? That's a bummer!

Beginning yesterday your Elders will be leading worship and continuing to care for you as you may have need in my absence. Be assured, though, that Pastor Dan will be here soon! I've spoken with him on various occasions and he is excited to get started here. I did forget to tell him how to reactivate the drinking fountain when it quits working. Someone else will have to tell him about that.

I do hope that both church and school will be fully operational very soon. You have some amazing ministry opportunities ahead of you. You're poised to lay out your vision of ministry and then attach some "legs" to it. I'm confident that you have a bright Christ-centered future. God does have plans for you right here in Kaneohe. I think that one day you, along with many others, will look back on the events of the past few months and see how God used that time and our condition to accomplish His work in ways we didn't know or realize. He is still the Lord of the Universe, the Lord of the Church, and the Lord of our lives.

You are blessed with a dedicated staff of teachers and all connected with the school. I have been impressed with the level of professionalism that I've seen, but also with a love for our Lord and desire to share Jesus with their students. David Gaudi's leadership is nothing short of extraordinary. You are blessed to have him as Head of School. I truly enjoyed working with him during my time here and will miss our occasional chats and especially faculty devotions. One of the newest members of the staff is Debbie Jenkins our church secretary. Debbie joined the staff just a few weeks before my arrival so we both learned the ropes together. She is an amazing hard-working dedicated member of the staff. She kept me laughing a lot especially when her favorite lizard would jump off the bookshelf toward her. Her scream would stand the hair up on my head (if I had any). She is truly a smart and very capable part of the church staff. Pastor Dan will appreciate her.

This is likely my last message to you as your pastor. It has been an honor and privilege to serve our Lord Jesus here at Saint Mark Lutheran Church and School. You have blessed me and Sharon in amazing and wonderful ways. We cherish the friendships that we've made and plan to keep in touch with you. We carry many wonderful memories of not just events, but people. We will hold you in our prayers for God's continued love and blessings for you. I wish we could have had the opportunity to say a proper good-bye, but that's okay. You reside in our hearts and that's the most important thing. So, to our Saint Mark 'Ohana we say Aloha 'til we meet again.

In His service,

Pastor Les





Missionary Update from the Beckendorf Ohana

Dear Friends,

Greetings again from Botswana.

Well, I guess this will be a short update; with the pandemic going on and being in lock-down nothing has really been happening here to report on. We are very grateful that Tim got us fairly well stocked up before everything closed, so we have been doing well. Some essential services have been open, and there has been opportunity to order food from some warehouses -- with a few glitches: we have ordered twice from the one place and never have gotten our orders; but friends of ours ordered four kilograms of chicken legs (about five pounds) and received 22 kg of legs (about 48 pounds). We were glad to help them out with their extra. On the other hand, we ordered ten boxes of matches from a different place and received 100 boxes and so can share those. God has been good, and has supplied all our needs (though it makes me wonder what is coming that we need so many matches!).

Botswana is starting to open up a little more (only six active cases of the virus right now), though rules could be tightened again if the number of people getting sick spikes. The problem is that the new rules for businesses and public places are hard for most businesses to implement, so many of them are just not opening or are having very restricted hours. That makes it chancy to try and go out and get things done since we still need to request permits to leave our house which are shown at all police check points. Hopefully these restrictions will be further loosened in the near future.

Work-wise we aren't sure what the translators are up to. Splash and Moronga were supposed to upload their completed work every Friday, but so far Moronga has only been able to accomplish this once; Splash, not at all. We are thinking this is due to technical problems; communication has been very difficult with them. We are praying that work is still actually being done, that it's just a case of not being able to upload it to where Tim can see it. It should be interesting to see what has been done when they can all get together again.

Otherwise the pandemic really hasn't affected our family too much, homeschooling is still happening whether the boys want to do it or not.

Praises: - Thanksgiving for supplies and friends who share.

- Thanksgiving that we and the translators can work from home.

- Thanksgiving that we have a lot of space in which to be 'locked down' (a farm).

Prayers: * Please pray that the translators and Tim would be able to continue work, each on his own (typically the translators are much more productive when they work in a group).

* Please pray that our team will reach our goal for the year.

* Please pray for Botswana, that the virus spread would be minimal and people would take precautions.

Thank you again for all of your prayers on our behalf.

Tim, Lisa, Aaron & Andrew Beckendorf





Mahalo and Farewell to Pastor Les

On behalf of all of us here at Saint Mark Lutheran Church and School, we would like to have the opportunity to thank Pastor Les for all of his love, commitment, and sacrifice towards our congregation, students, and staff. Although this is not the send-off we would've wanted to give, as we say here in the islands *A hui hou* Pastor Les! Until we meet again...



To Pastor Les and Sharon,

Words cannot describe how thankful I am to have had you both at Saint Mark to help us during our time of transition. You jumped right into our midst and very quickly, it seemed as though you had been here all along. You will always be Ohana at Saint Mark and I hope to see you back for a visit soon. I personally was thrilled to learn that relatives whom I'd previously only met at large family reunions were moving to Oahu for a while. I am grateful for the time we had to get to know each other and become not just better acquainted, but good friends. What a blessing you are!

With fondness and aloha,

Kristin

*Pastor Les,
You came and touched our hearts,
Now you have to leave.
But wish you happy days ahead.
And a prosperous life indeed!
You will be missed!
Aloha & Mahalo,
Kau'i & Keaka*



Mahalo for your commitment and love towards our congregation! We enjoyed getting to know you and Sharon! Love, The Lanes

Thank you for crossing an ocean to bring good news of hope and love. I appreciated the recorded messages.

Alice Myli





Mahalo and Farewell to Pastor Les



Dear Pastor Les,

Words cannot express how much I appreciate your calm presence and wise guidance for our Saint Mark Church and School over the past ten months. I thank the Lord for sending you to us.

with your love, understanding, patience and spiritual leadership when we needed it most, including during a pandemic! I pray that our Lord will continue to bless you and your beloved family,

and that we will meet again someday.

Mahalo palena 'oe (gratitude without measure),

Louise

Pastor Les & Sharon,

We pray for your health and well-being for many years to come.

May God Bless you both!

Aloha, Mark & Dar Fink

Pastor Les, Thank you so much for your time here at St Mark. We could not have asked for a better, or smoother, transition. We wish you and Sharon the best, as we all ride out the pandemic. We hope you will come back, so we can see you again, and give you a proper send-off!

Jason and Kiyo Menarchik



To Sharon and Les,

Lot's of wonderful memories in such a short time!

Love and miss you two,

Yal





Mahalo and Farewell to Pastor Les

Pastor Les,

Thank you so much for all that you did while you were here and what you continue to do for ST Mark.

God truly blessed us with you!!!

God Bless,

Randy

We will never forget the "Augsberg Confession." We really enjoyed our lunch this past March. Mahalo nui for all you have done for St. Mark. Mahalo nui to you and Sharon and your next "Great Commission" project.

Aloha 'oe!

Richard & Susan

Dear Pastor Les,

The fourth grade class would like to thank you for all you have done for our school this past year.

We will miss your care and guidance. Aloha.

Miriam & the 4th Grade Class

Aloha Pastor Les,

God really blessed us when he sent you to St. Mark. I enjoyed all your chapels, your smile, your positivity and lessons. In the short months that you were with us a lot has happened and you stood by us and reminded us to keep our faith. I want to personally "Thank you" for all that you gave to our church and school. You will be missed by us all. Come back and visit us next time you're in Hawaii!

Mahalo,

Mele Manu





SMLS 8th Grade Graduation

Congratulations to all of our 2020 8th Grade Graduates! Even amidst Covid-19 and Social Distancing SMLS Faculty & Staff did an amazing job in providing a great send-off for our SMLS 8th Graders. Wishing all of our graduates much success in High School! We will miss you all...





June Servant Schedule

| Date | Elder | Lectors | Acolyte | Keiki Message | Media Tech | Ushers | Sunday School |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday June 7 | Mike | Teresa | Elder | None | Bruce | Elder | Cancelled until further notice |
| Sunday June 14 | Jason | Teresa | Elder | None | Jason | Elder | Cancelled until further notice |
| Sunday June 21 | Kristin | Kathy | Elder | None | Scott | Elder | Cancelled until further notice |
| Sunday June 28 | Mike | Jason | Elder | None | Jason | Elder | Cancelled until further notice |

** As a reminder, there will be no bulletins distributed. After service refreshments will also be cancelled until further notice. **

Prayer Requests

- ◆ *Please pray for Rob Rupnow's mom who turned 94 on May 12, he is hoping to visit with her this summer. Also, please pray for his brother who suffers from extreme depression.*
- ◆ *Please pray for Noah Schuetz and the rest of Darrell Schuetz's friends and family as they grieve his passing.*
- ◆ *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*
- ◆ *Please pray for our Home Bound Church Members: Jinny Johnson, Jim Tripp, Harold Brinkopf, Gloria Shimoko and Rhonda Chaffin*
- ◆ *Please pray for our Missionaries: Beckendorfs, Stovers, Janine Legrand*
- ◆ *Please pray for our Military Church Member Matt Leech*
- ◆ *Thank you for the blessing of our new Pastor, Dan Truesdell*



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------|-----------------|
| 6/2 | Bruce Schmidley |
| 6/4 | Joe Schmidley |
| 6/4 | Noah Schuetz |
| 6/8 | David Gaudi |
| 6/18 | Dara Leech |
| 6/22 | Matt Leech |
| 6/25 | Richard Knake |
| 6/27 | Mark Fink |



Announcements

- ◆ **9:30am Worship Service is now OPEN!** Please wear a mask, practice social distancing and no hugs, Mahalo!
- ◆ **Worship Team & SMLC Choir Practice** will resume in June!
- ◆ **Midweek Study/ Prayer Warriors** will resume in July, please be on the lookout for the exact date in the July Newsletter.
- ◆ **Sunday School & After Worship Snacks/Fellowship** will remain cancelled until further notice to successfully maintain social distancing and safety.
- ◆ **SMLC Meetings** will still be conducted via Zoom through the month of June.
- ◆ **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
- ◆ **Annual Voters' Assembly Meeting** will be held on Sunday, June 28 following service.

Happy Anniversary

| | | | |
|-----|--------|------|-----------|
| 6/2 | Lander | 6/13 | Myli |
| 6/7 | Lane | 6/26 | Schroppel |



JUNE



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|---|--------|---|
| | 1 | 2 7:00pm - Elder's Meeting (Held via Zoom) | 3 10:00am - Bible Study/ Prayer Warriors (Cancelled) | 4 Worship Team - Time TBD | 5 | 6 8:00am - Food Bank (Cancelled) |
| 7 8:30am - Sunday School (Cancelled) 9:30am - Worship/Fellowship 10:45am - SMLC Choir Practice (Cancelled) | 8 7:00pm - Board of Outreach (Held via Zoom) | 9 | 10 10:00am - Bible Study/ Prayer Warriors (Cancelled) | 11 6:00pm - Board of Ed. Meeting (Held via Zoom) Worship Team - Time TBD | 12 | 13 8:00am - Food Bank (Cancelled) |
| 14 8:30am - Sunday School (Cancelled) 9:30am - Worship/Fellowship 10:45am - SMLC Choir Practice (Cancelled) | 15 | 16 6:00 pm - Church Council Meeting (Held via Zoom) | 17 10:00am - Bible Study/ Prayer Warriors (Cancelled) | 18 Worship Team - Time TBD | 19 | 20 8:00am - Food Bank (Cancelled) |
| 21 8:30am - Sunday School (Cancelled) 9:30am - Worship/Fellowship 10:45am - SMLC Choir Practice (Cancelled) | 22 | 23 | 24 10:00am - Bible Study/ Prayer Warriors (Cancelled) | 25 Worship Team - Time TBD | 26 | 27 8:00am - Food Bank (Cancelled) |
| 28 8:30am - Sunday School (Cancelled) 9:30am - Worship/Fellowship 10:30am - Annual Voters Assembly Budget Meeting | 29 | 30 | | | | Normal Office Hours Tuesday - Friday 8:30am - 12:30pm |