



THE MONTH OF JULY 2018 AT ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH



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WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY:
Sunday morning at 10 am - Service with Communion

WORSHIP

Worship Format for the Summer

During the summer, as we worship at one service at 10 am, we will use a variety of worship formats - the formats that we normally use at the 8:30 and 11 am services. Please use this opportunity to get to know someone who regularly worships at "the other" service.

On **Sunday, July 15**, we will enjoy the picnic that we postponed in June due to bad weather. Worship will be indoors but join us on the lawn for fellowship and a celebration of Pastor Tim's birthday which will happen later in the week!!

ST. MARK'S CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMP

Our very popular Christian Summer Camp began on **Monday, June 11** and runs through **Friday, August 17**. Please speak to Kathy Cosentino or Melisa McDaid for more information. During the week beginning **July 16**, a Vacation Bible School, for St. Mark children ages 3 to 10, will be part of our Summer Camp Program. The combined group of St. Mark children and our camp children always enjoy themselves during this combined time.

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

When you read this, in late June, Pastor Tim, our youth leaders and youth will be preparing to go to Houston for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. We pray that they will have a safe and uplifting trip. Thank you to all who made financial contributions to help support this wonderful experience for our youth. This month, our Christian School made a contribution of \$3,000 and that very generous gift has made our expense and income numbers balance.

FROM PASTOR TIM NESS

In the beginning: A short reflection on Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning...". Before all that is, before all that was, before all that ever would be.

"In the beginning when God...". Before all that is, before all that was, before all that ever would be, there was God. Before time, before space, before planets and galaxies and atoms and molecules and cells and microorganisms, there was God. Before war and peace, before kings and countries, before plants and animals, there was God.

"In the beginning when God created...". God's first action (at least according to Genesis) is creation. To call out of nothing, everything. To weave order out of chaos. To explode the universe outward. Eventually, in what would take billions of years, yet perhaps seemed just a blink of an eye for the divine, you were formed.

So much happens in the first chapter of Genesis. It is full of deeply beautiful images of creation. Yet the most powerful truth of this chapter, and even the whole book, is contained in the first six words: "In the beginning when God created..."

Creation is still unfolding. Appreciate its beauty, and do everything you can to care for the little slice of it that God has given us.

Pastor Tim