

## Stories from the Pews:

Hello to my St. Mark's Family! It's been so long since we've been able to worship together: I miss seeing everyone, but please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

While the doors at St. Mark's may be closed, this congregation is far from silent! There is much work going on behind the scenes, as we continue to be In Mission for Others.

I saw an example of this mission work in action this past week. A group of eager volunteers met at St. Mark's on Friday to set up a Nativity display, Christmas tree and lights. They decided this would be a beautiful way to share the true Light of Christmas with our community! And, I know firsthand it's doing just that....

The day the display was set up, Kelsey and I decided to go for an evening walk. I suggested we walk past the church so we could see the newly set-up nativity scene, and off we went. As we approached the church, we could see the display, and the lights that had just come on to illuminate the scene. Just then, a young family (Mom, Dad, young daughter and baby in a stroller) was leaving Inspiring Minds and walking home. As they approached the church, the little girl (who was about 4) saw the nativity scene, and became very excited. "Mommy!" she exclaimed, "Mommy, it's the Jesus Place! Can you take my picture?" With that, she ran up to the nativity scene and stood beside Baby Jesus in the manger. She asked her mother again to take her picture, to which Mom hesitantly said, "Well sweetie – I'm not sure the people who put that up would want us to take a picture." In my heart I was thinking Yes! That's exactly what 'the people who put that up' want; we want you to take a picture with Jesus! I was going to go over to the family to tell them exactly that, when Mom pulled out her phone and, with her daughter smiling her best smile beside the Baby Jesus, she took the picture.

Such a beautiful moment!! It was so genuine, so sweet; and it made me happy to see our St. Mark's Christmas display speaking to people in our community (including people as young as 4!), and bringing them some Joy. Yes, the doors at St. Mark's may be closed, but this congregation is far from silent!

As we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, may our 'Jesus Place' at St. Mark's make you a Smile, and bring you a similar feeling of Joy and Peace.

Susan Cook-Scheerer

*Thank you so much Susan, for sharing your heartwarming story. It sure brings a smile 😊*

*See photos below...*



Special Thanks to Dave Neeb for creating our "Jesus Place" and hanging the wreath.



Thanks Paula for sending a photo of our lighted "Jesus Place".



Many Thanks to  
Karen Doerner  
Elaine & John Mohr  
Irene & George Hosea  
for setting up and decorating our Christmas  
Tree in the front window at St. Mark's for ALL  
to enjoy during the Christmas Season.



*(Sorry I forgot to take photos of these folks in action)*

