

HOSPITALITY IS AN ESSENTIAL TRAIT OF THOSE WHO FOLLOW JESUS:

“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.” Mark 9:37

HOSPITALITY IS BEING A GOOD ‘HOST’ AND ALSO CARING FOR PEOPLE IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY EXPERIENCE HEALING (THINK ‘HOSPITAL’).

IT IS AN ATTITUDE OF WELCOME THAT ALLOWS **ALL** PEOPLE (EVEN STRANGERS) TO LET DOWN THEIR WALLS AND FEEL SAFE. IT IS WAY OF **SEEING** PEOPLE THAT VALUES AND HONORS THEM.

HOSPITALITY OFTEN OPENS THE DOOR FOR PEOPLE TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS. THIS IS HOLY WORK FRIENDS! AND IT IS JOYFUL WORK TOO!



St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran  
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## A guide to being a **GREETER**



Sharing a smile,  
a handshake  
and the welcoming spirit  
of the church.





Worship at St. Mark's during Palm Sunday

**A greeting bestows both value and honor upon the one who receives it.** From the very first moment someone comes to St. Mark's, we want them to know God loves them. That's why there are at least two greeters at the door (or outside if necessary) helping people into the building and welcoming them into worship. Greeters say hello to old friends but they also exchange names with guests and connect them with others.

**Greeters treat everyone (yes everyone) with graciousness.** They avoid satire or smart remarks, because those can easily be taken the wrong way. Greeters are friendly and smiling. They look people in the eye and tell them they are glad to see them. Whole families can be greeters and it is a great way to teach (and learn) about hospitality. Greeting also takes place as people leave the building. People other than the pastor can shake someone's hand!

## GREETERS - FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Have you ever thought about being a greeter at St. Mark's? Greeters don't only say, "Hello". They remind us that we can see God's presence in the face of another. They welcome and invite individuals to join a community. They help set the tone so that people may hear the good news of grace.



### Tips and suggestions for greeters

- \* **arrive** 20 minutes early; look over the bulletin and check with the head usher or pastor about any special events or needs for that day. Be especially aware of events that bring guests.
- \* **wear a St. Mark's name badge** and share your name with others even before asking theirs. This communicates openness to a relationship instead of simply "mining" for information.
- \* **place yourself in the front entry**, or outside if weather permits. Help people with doors especially in windy or wintery conditions.
- \* **welcome visitors** and relay any information they volunteer (such as name or address) to the church office so that we can make contact later.
- \* **communicate a positive attitude** with your whole body. Smile, offer handshakes, make eye contact, face people when saying hello. These things tell others they are valued and cared for. Imagine receiving the greeting you are offering. How would you like someone to welcome you?
- \* **take time to show children** where the worship bags are and tell them about children's time, Sunday School, how the offering works, and that Holy Communion is for all who come with an open hand.
- \* **help connect** those with special needs with the ushers. Let them know we have wheelchair assessable seating and restrooms.
- \* **tell visitors** the locations of essential things like restrooms and water cooler. Connect them with ushers and others - introducing them by name. Reconnect with them following worship.
- \* **welcome every person** with grace and kindness, especially those who may have been absent from worship for a time. They are vulnerable and you have the opportunity to help them feel safe.
- \* **Worship with the congregation** but at the sharing of the peace, look around and be sure everyone is included. Move around if necessary to greet others.
- \* **Connect again with visitors after worship.** Be proactive in getting to know people but also be aware of social signals that indicate someone isn't ready for a long conversation.