



# MARK TIMES

December 3, 2017 + The First Sunday of Advent



*Celebrating 40 Years in God's Grace + Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future*

## Pastor's Annual Report

For us here at St. Mark, the past year has been bookended by two major events: last year at this time we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the founding of this congregation, and just a month ago, we joined with Lutherans around the world to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Through the journey we have been reminded of who we are as Lutherans and who we are called to be in this particular time and place. It has been a journey indeed of "*honoring our past, and embracing the future.*"

We look to that future with an eye of **uncertainty**, with concerns about the state of our nation & world, carrying grief from the loss of beloved family members and friends, and irregular attendance/involvement in church worship and activities that mimics the wider Church.

But we also look to that future with **hope**. Not only do new faces abound at St. Mark, but our worship, our partnership with St. George's, & our charitable ministries remain vibrant points of light shining forth.

In our first reading today, the prophet Isaiah declares, "**O LORD... we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.**" We may not know what's in store for us in the future, but we can be assured that God's hands continue to mold and shape us to carry the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ in the best ways for our people in this place and in this community.

Since the last annual meeting, I have made approximately 165 pastoral visits (not including phone calls or text messages), conducted 116 services of worship, led or participated in 87 education activities, and attended 46 administrative meetings, nine youth events, and 24 fellowship/service events.

I **continue to be so very honored to serve as your pastor**, and I remain ever grateful for your support, patience, challenges, ideas, and willingness to do what is needed to help not only me and my family, but our brothers and sisters in Christ with whom we share this community.

May God continue to mold us and fashion us into the image of Christ.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**TODAY! DECEMBER 3, 10:30AM**

**COUNCIL NOMINATIONS** (\*denotes incumbent)

Secretary: **Janet Jacquot**

Treasurer: **Greg Martens**

Financial Secretary: **Frank Dressel\***

**Barb Wurdinger\***

Pastoral Care (male): **Gary Weshinsky**

Pastoral Care (female): **Bonnie Schaefer\***

Property: **Tom Partelow\***

Synod Assembly Voting Members:

Adult Male: **Brian Moeller**

Adult Female: **Andrea Moeller** Youth: **Grace Moeller**

**COME ONE, COME ALL!** Many are needed to help prepare both the church and the chapel for Christmas.

**DECORATING** days will be Saturdays, **December 16 and 23**, 9am. Lighten your busy schedule by including an hour of work at church on Saturday. Let it be a part of your anticipation during this Advent season. -*Kathy R.*



**Advent Evening Prayer returns THIS Wednesday (December 6).** We will enjoy the lovely **Hold-en Evening Prayer** service on **December 6 and 13**, followed by the **Blue Christmas** service on **December 20**. All services are at **7:00PM in the church**.

NOTE: due to declining attendance, **we will not host the traditional soup suppers** before evening prayer this year. If this is something you miss, please let us know so that we can reassess for the next time.

**Christmas Flower** donation envelopes are in the hymnal racks. **Donate any amount & take the flowers with you after worship.** Thanks for making our church especially beautiful for the Nativity of Our Lord.



**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Wednesday	7:00PM	Holden Evening Prayer
Thursday	7:00PM	Bell choir
	8:00PM	Voice choir
Friday		TURTLEs Game Night @Pastor's
<b>Sunday, 12/10</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>The Divine Liturgy</b>
	10:20AM	Coffee Hour
	10:30AM	Sunday School
	10:30AM	Adult Forum: <i>Rick Steves' Luther &amp; the Reformation</i> , Pt. 2

**Offerings for November 26, 2017**

<b>Sunday worship attendance:</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>General Fund Donations</b>	<b>\$2,954</b>

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
11/27-12/2	\$2,954	\$8,055.31	<b>-\$5,101.31</b>
YTD	\$145,695.70	\$157,698.40	<b>-\$12,002.70</b>

**Join us for Christmas Caroling**

On **December 10**, St. Mark choirs invite you to join them in singing Christmas carols to those unable to get out and about. We will catch a quick lunch **after the education hour** and then go singing. **All ages are welcome to join in the fun.** A sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall that will help us know how to arrange car-pools.

**Jr. & Sr. TURTLEs Game Night!**

Come to Pastor's house THIS Friday at 6:00PM for games, food & fun! Bring a drink to share & \$5 for pizza. RSVP to Melanie!

**Sunday, December 10, 2017****READINGS:**

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

**LOOKING AHEAD****WORSHIP SERVERS****Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Brian M. Robison**Assisting Minister:** Greg Guenther**Acolyte:** Grace Moeller**Crucifer:** Keith Kniepkamp**Chalice Bearer:** Barb Wurdinger**Lector:** Jim Montgomery**Ushers:** Rex Rothgangel & Jim Montgomery**Angel Tree**

St. Mark members are encouraged to join again with St. George's & **Lutheran Child & Family Services**, to provide Christmas gifts for children in need. The **Angel Tree** is up in the Welcome Area/narthex, and there are still names left. **Take the info sheet** for the child you want to provide gifts for and take a **gift card with the info tag on the back**. Return the gifts unwrapped (if you can include wrapping paper for later, it is appreciated!). Print the child's name and information on a tag and attach to each gift. Place the gifts with tags and paper in one bag (if possible) and leave it on the last two pews on the far left of the church, or bring them to the church office. If you have multiple bags please be sure the required info is attached to each bag. The **loose spending limit is \$50 per child**, and **NO USED GIFTS**. Please **return the gifts by NEXT Sunday, December 10**.

**Photo Consent Form**

In the interest of Internet privacy, we have created a form to sign if you do **NOT** wish to have **your photo** or **your child(ren)'s photo** published on St. Mark's **Facebook page or website**. Without this form signed, we will assume that it is okay to post photos of you from the various events and so forth we have at St. Mark. The form is available on the St. Mark table.

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