



MARK TIMES

January 21, 2018 + Third Sunday after Epiphany



From Your Pastor...

A couple of Sundays ago, I was drawn to an editorial in the paper by David Brooks of the *New York Times* titled, “**How would Jesus drive?**” and it proved to be a rather thought-provoking missive on an activity we don’t usually consider being part of our Christian vocation: **driving.**



Mr. Brooks notes that in his New Year’s Eve sermon, Pope Francis reminded listeners “that the **people who have the most influence on society are actually the normal folks**, through their normal, everyday gestures being kind in public places, attentive to the elderly. The pope called such people, in a beautiful phrase, ‘**the artisans of the common good.**’

Small deeds, he said, ‘express concretely love for the city... without giving speeches, without publicity, but with a style of practical civic education for daily life.’

The pope focused especially on driving, praising those people ‘who move in traffic with good sense and prudence.’

Driving means making a thousand small moral decisions: whether to tailgate to push the slowpoke faster, or to give space; whether to honk only as a warning or constantly as your all-purpose show of contempt for humanity.

Driving puts you in a constant position of asking, Are we in a place where there is a system of self-restraint, or are we in a place where it’s dog eat dog?

Driving puts you in a constant position of asking, Are my needs more important than everybody else’s, or are we all equal? BMW drivers are much less likely to brake for pedestrians at crosswalks. Prius drivers in San Francisco commit more traffic violations. People who think they are richer or better than others are ruder behind the wheel.

Driving also puts you in a position where you are periodically having to overrule your desire for revenge. When somebody cuts you off, you want to punish the jerk and enforce all that is right and good. But that only leads to a cycle of even worse driving, so it’s better, as Francis would say, to turn the other cheek. **How would Jesus drive?**

Driving puts you into social situations in which you have to co-construct a shared culture of civility, and go against your own primeval selfishness, and it does so while you are encased in what is potentially a 4,000-pound metal weapon.

...I’m going to try to remember one lesson when I hit the road... **I’m potentially an artisan of the common good.**”

Pastor at ELCA Extravaganza

Pastor and Melanie will be in Houston from this **Thursday, January 25 through Monday the 29th** for youth ministry continuing ed and to prepare for the **ELCA Youth Gathering** in Houston this summer.



In Case of Pastoral Emergency

Please contact Seminarian **Brian Moeller** at **618-792-0835.**



St. George’s White Chili

The tradition continues! **White chili** will be sold on **Super Bowl Sunday (February 4)** from noon until 3:00PM in the parish hall. Proceeds will benefit Beacon Ministry.



Adult Forum: Beacon Ministry

Today we welcome **Mike Stidham** from Beacon Ministry to talk about the work they do on behalf of the local needy. When we ended our Financial Crisis Fund, the remaining monies went to support Beacon’s assistance program, which we continue to support through regular contributions.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday	2:00PM	Fiber Arts @Westfield
Thursday	7:00PM	Bell Choir rehearsal
	8:00PM	Choir rehearsal
Thurs. 1/25- Monday, 1/29		<i>Pastor at ELCA Extravaganza</i>
Sunday, 1/28	9:00AM	The Divine Liturgy
	10:20AM	Coffee & Fellowship
		No Adult Forum
	10:30AM	Sunday School

Sunday, January 28, 2018

LESSONS:
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

WORSHIP SERVERS

Presider & Preacher: Seminarian Brian Moeller
Assisting Minister: TBD
Acolyte: Renee Southers
Crucifer: Keith Kniepkamp
Chalice Bearer: Mike Murakami
Lector: Don Muller
Ushers: Jim Jolley & Roland Jacquot

Offerings for January 14, 2018

Sunday worship attendance: **73**

General Fund Donations	\$2,151
Coffee Fund	\$50
Food Pantry	\$10
Fiber Arts	\$10
Anita Shafer Memorial	\$40

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
1/1-1/6	N/A	\$517.52	N/A
1/7-1/13	\$2,345	\$809.78	\$1,535.22
1/14-1/20	\$2,151	\$13.36	\$2,137.64
YTD	\$4,496	\$530.88	\$3,965.12

Trivia Night 2018!
Lutheran Campus Ministry in St. Louis hosts its annual **TRIVIA NIGHT** on **Saturday, February 3, 2018**. We need you for our biggest fundraiser of the year! The cost is \$20/person with teams of eight. Register in advance at www.lcmstl.org/trivia or by calling (314) 863-8140. The doors open at 5:45pm and play begins at 6:30pm. (Bethel Lutheran Church, 7001 Forsyth Blvd).



LST course at St. Mark Cancelled

Due to low pre-enrollment, the Lutheran School of Theology in St. Louis course titled “CHRIST AND CULTURE REVISITED” has been withdrawn.

Franklin School Lunch-Makers are in need of protein items, chips, and fruit in quantities of 12. The holidays depleted their resources. A new sign-up sheet is on the counter in the coffee area in the Parish Hall and is for all of the holidays until the end of the school year.



Cards & Calendars!

We are gathering greeting cards & calendars (new or used) to take to our friend in St. Charles who creates books and other crafts for children here & abroad. Please place your items in the box near the St. Mark table through next Sunday, 1/28. Thanks for your donations!

Electronic Giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to St. Mark, **even when you're out of town**. Please contact the church office to learn how you can participate!



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