



# MARK TIMES

February 4, 2018 + Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



## From Your Pastor...

Today's Gospel passage (Mark 1:29-39), which includes the healing of Simon's mother-in-law, made me realize that we haven't had a **healing service** since **July**. We have been holding that service on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, but the last three have been occupied by Reformation Sunday, New Year's Eve, and my attendance at the ELCA Extravaganza last weekend. April 29 is our next opportunity - and I think we're in the clear!



When I introduced the healing service at St. Mark back in 2012 (I think), I was so worried that no one would come forward that I asked particular people to do so anyway just to "break the ice!" It turned out that such concerns were completely unnecessary, as half of the assembly came forward for prayer, laying on of hands and anointing, and the next time, nearly everyone came forward. The service addressed a need that some people may not have even realized they had. Few opportunities in my ministry offer the depth of peace, humility and honor as when God uses my hands and those of my colleagues in the work of healing.

The Gospels are filled with accounts of Jesus' ability to heal the sick and deliver the troubled. It seems that everywhere he went, people flocked to him because of his authority over diseases and demons. Perhaps they came for healing, but they stayed for his message. Clearly, Jesus' healings, awesome as they were, played a more important role: they opened the door for him to preach the gospel.

Friends, *anything* we do in the Church should open the door for people to experience the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ. Healing services, education classes, morning fellowship preparation, even committee & Council meetings - these things & more provide myriad opportunities to preach the gospel of God's love. So let's take advantage of all the chances we're given!

*Brian Brian*

## St. George's White Chili

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



A lovely **quilt** is being raffled to benefit the youth. **Tickets are \$5 each**, with the drawing at the Valentine's dinner. See Julie V. for tickets!

## Valentine's Dinner

The youth-hosted Valentine's dinner for the congregation will be held on Saturday evening, **February 17**. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall or call the office to make a reservation.



## Lent is Coming Soon!

**Tuesday, February 13:** Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper, hosted by St. George's (Parish Hall)



**Wednesday, February 14:** joint Ash Wednesday liturgies with the distribution of ashes at **9:30AM and 7:00PM** (church)

**Fridays starting February 16:** Stations of the Cross at **St. Luke's, 12:10PM**.

**Wednesday, February 21:** Mid-week Evening Prayer for Lent begins (church)

\*If you have an opinion on whether we should host **soup suppers** before Wednesday evening prayer, please let Pastor Brian know!



Attention Trekkers! This month's "**Star Trek Saturday**" will be **NEXT Saturday, February 10** at **5:00PM** at Pastor Brian's house. Bring a snack to share!

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Thursday	7:00P	Bell Choir rehearsal
	8:00P	Choir rehearsal
Friday		<i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>
Saturday	5:00P	Star Trek Saturday at Pastor's house
<b>Sunday, 2/11</b>	<b>9:00A</b>	<b>The Divine Liturgy</b>
	10:20A	Coffee & Fellowship
		Adult Forum: <i>The Messiah in the Old Testament</i> , by Pr. Brian
	10:30A	Sunday School

**Offerings for January 28, 2018**

<b>Sunday worship attendance:</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>General Fund Donations</b>	<b>\$1,764.71</b>
<b>Food Pantry—Darrel W. Mem.</b>	<b>\$100</b>

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
1/28-2/3	\$1,764.71	\$7,584.50	-\$5,819.79
YTD	\$9,965.71	\$15,775.90	\$5,810.19

**Confirmation Schedule**

The Spring session will continue to cover the books of the Old Testament.

Upcoming class dates:

- February 11**                      **March 18**
- February 25**                    **March 25**
- March 11**

**Schaaf Lecture 2018**

The Schaaf Lecture committee is pleased to announce that this year's lecture will be held on **Saturday, March 10** at 7:00PM. The lecturer will be the **Rev. Dr. Ralph Klein**, professor of Old Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology since 1983. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Klein to St. Mark!



**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Sunday, February 11, 2018**

**LESSONS:**

- 2 Kings 2:1-12
- Psalm 50:1-6
- 2 Corinthians 4 :3-6
- Mark 9:2-9

**WORSHIP SERVERS**

- Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Brian M. Robison
- Assisting Minister:** Greg Guenther
- Acolyte:** Renee Southers
- Crucifer:** Keith Kniepkamp
- Chalice Bearer:** Barb Wurdinger
- Lector:** Jim Montgomery
- Ushers:** Rex Rothgangel & Jim Montgomery

*A Note from Brooke Schaefer:* As most of you know, I am involved in an organization called *Dance Marathon* at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Dance marathon is a 12-hour “Dance event” that raises money for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals while hanging out with the miracle children & hearing their personal stories. Did you know that 212,000 children are admitted to Children’s hospital in Omaha every year? This year, the University of Nebraska has set out to raise \$212,000, or \$1 for every child admitted to Children’s a year. My personal goal this year is \$1,500 and I am hoping to exceed that goal for the kids. This is the event I look forward to the most and I can’t believe it is my final year! If you want to donate to this amazing cause, you can do so online or by cash or check (to Bonnie Schaefer). If you would like to pay online or would like more details about Children’s Miracle Network Hospital and Dance Marathon, please don’t hesitate to text/call me at (618) 402–1643 or email (brookeschaefer@outlook.com) Thank you so much for your support!

**Food Pantry Spotlight** item for

February is **canned meats**. SPAM, ravioli, canned chicken – any type of canned meat product is useful! Bring items to the Welcome Area on Sundays or to the church office during the day. Thank you!



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