



MARK TIMES

December 2, 2018 + The 1st Sunday of Advent



Annual Meeting Today! After worship we will hold our annual congregational meeting in the chapel. We will hear reports from committee and ministry chairs, vote on the annual budget, and elect new council members. All confirmed members are eligible to vote.

No Adult Forum today so members can attend the Annual Meeting.

Jr. & Sr. TURTLES Game Night at Pastor's house **THIS Friday, December 7** from **6-9PM** for games, food & fun! Bring a game to share. RSVP to Melanie!



Confirmation Class Continues Today with discussion of **The Lord's Prayer** through Luther's *Small Catechism*.



Advent Evening Prayer returns **THIS Wednesday (December 5)**. We will enjoy the lovely **Holden Evening Prayer** service on **December 5 and 12**, followed by the **Blue Christmas** service on **December 19**. All services are at **7:00PM in the church**.

Join us for Christmas Caroling

On **December 9**, 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.** Jill has a sign up sheet to help us arrange carpools.

"Angel Tree" We're joining again with St. George's & **Lutheran Child & Family Services**

to provide Christmas gifts for children in need. **Take an info sheet** from the back table in the Welcome Area for a 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 9**.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DECEMBER 2, 10:30AM

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS (*denotes incumbent)

President:	Greg Guenther
Vice-President:	Keith Kniepkamp
Financial Secretary:	Charlie Duncan* Tim Richards*
Pastoral Care (male):	Ken Woodrome
Pastoral Care (female):	Jan Richards*
Evangelism/Social Min.:	Ann Martens
Christian Education:	Anita Robinson
Youth:	Jan Dressel

Synod Assembly Voting Members:

Adult Male:	John Andersen
Adult Female:	Danielle Tribout
Youth:	TBD

Pastor's Annual Report *(abridged; full version in Annual Meeting packet)*

"How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?" Thus begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians that is our New Testament selection for this First Sunday of Advent, and it very aptly illustrates what I have felt about our community of faith here at St. Mark in 2018.

One of the biggest and most significant events in our congregation's history occurred in August when our sister congregation, Peace Lutheran, closed its doors and nearly 100 members transferred to St. Mark (**we welcomed 113 new members** overall in 2018). Our average worship attendance soared from 71 per Sunday to 108 per Sunday after the transfers. I thank God for the graciousness of all members, those long-time and those newly transferred, as we continue to work through the transition process. And I thank God for all those who have helped to make the transition as smooth as anyone could hope: the Church Council, our Altar Guild, the office managers from each church (Randi and Donna), the Peace Relocation Committee, and all of our members who have been so welcoming and understanding.

I thank God for the opportunity to attend the **ELCA Youth Gathering** in Houston in July with my wife Melanie three amazing young people (Braden V., Renee S. & Ethan C.).

I thank God for all of the planners, helpers, and speakers for the 11 **Lynn Schaaf Memorial Lectures**, which concluded in March with a final lecture given by the Rev. Dr. Ralph Klein on "Reformation Roots."

I thank God for the special grace given to Abby, Mitchell, and Jordan who received their **First Communion** in May.

Death has been an unwelcome, yet close companion in 2018. Few of us were spared the pain of losing members, family and friends this year. I had the honor of walking with some of these through the 8 **funerals** I officiated since the last annual meetings, as well as others attended.

Through November 28, I have made approximately 129 pastoral visits (not including phone calls or text messages), conducted 123 services of worship, led or participated in 72 education activities, and attended 62 administrative meetings, 10 youth events, and 14 fellowship/service events.

Indeed, how can I thank God enough for this calling to serve you in this time and place. Your graciousness knows no bounds, and I can imagine no better place for me and my family to call our church home.



Offerings

November 25, 2018

Sunday worship attendance: 110

General Fund Donations: \$4,469

Month to Date

November Offerings: \$17,299.65

Expenses: \$21,905.96

Difference: -\$4,606.31

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison

Assisting Minister: Greg G.

Acolyte: Grace M. **Crucifer:** Keith K.

Chalice Bearer: Barb W. & Braden V.

Lector: Jim M. **Ushers:** Danielle T. & Jim M.

Basket Holders: Abby M. & Grace M.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 (*psalm*)

Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

Weekly Health Tip! The first week of December is **Hand Washing Awareness week**. While washing your hands, sing the ABC song, which is the right amount of time to spend washing your hands. Wash your hands often, especially while cooking or ill.

There's a chill in the air! The Evangelism/Social Ministry committee will be collecting children's **gloves, hats, and socks** for those less fortunate this winter. Collection continues until **December 16**. Put your donation in the **blue tub** in the **Welcome Area**.



Monthly Charitable Donation November's Evangelism/Social Ministry charity designation is for the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land**. You may add to this donation by writing a check to St. Mark with "ELCJHL" in the memo line.

Church Decorating days will be Saturdays, **December 8 and 22**, 9am. Lighten your busy schedule by including an hour of work at church on Saturday. Many are needed to help prepare both the church and the chapel for Christmas. Let it be a part of your anticipation during this Advent season. -Kathy R.



Food Pantry Needs **canned fruit, bar soap, dish detergent, and laundry detergent!** If you're able to donate any, please bring it to the Welcome Area or to the office. Thank you!



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

Monday, 12/3	2:00PM	Fiber Arts @ Westfield Manor
Wednesday	7:00PM	Holden Evening Prayer—Church
Thursday	7:00PM	Bells rehearsal
	8:00PM	Choir rehearsal
Friday	6:00PM	Jr./Sr. TURTLES Game Night at Pastor's
Saturday	9:00AM	Church Decorating
Sunday, 12/9	9:00AM	The Divine Liturgy
	10:20AM	Coffee & fellowship
	10:30AM	Sunday School
	10:30AM	Adult Forum: <i>Heresies & Schisms in the Early Church: Pelagianism & Nesotrianism</i>
	11:30AM	Lunch, then caroling for homebound members

WE PRAY FOR THE ILL AND CONFINED

St. Mark Parishioners

Ken Augustine
Kathryn Bjornstad
Gary Dozier
Mike Foppe

Lila Frerichs
Geri Jolley
Bob McConnell

Don Muller
Tim Richards
George Shafer

Bea Whiteside

Family and Friends

Lavone Alvarez (friend of the Hinkles)
Judy Betz (friend of Mary Skifton)
Marilyn Billings (aunt of the Martens' family)
Joe Bohnenstiehl (nephew of Amanda Kilzer)
Christine (Private prayer request)
Hudson Combs (family of Robinsons)
Johnell Cook (stepmother of Carolyn Simard)
Cheryl Ellison (mother of Julie Valerius)
Katrina Fenner (friend of Art Engelage)
Joni Giordano (friend of Barb Wurdinger)
Asia Graham (friend of the Kilzers)
Margy Groennert (aunt of the Martens')
Stephanie Groennert (cousin of the Martens' family)
Arlene Hunt (friend of the Robisons)
Imogene Kuykendell
(friend of Lucy Montgomery)
Pat Likness (mother of Jan Dressel)

Allen & Mary Jane Martens (uncle/aunt of the Martens' family)
John Martfeld (friend of Ruth Carnaghi)
Dorothy May (mother of Jan Richards)
Pr. **Ron** Neustadt (friend of St. Mark)
Jim Outland (family of Anita Robinson)
Tim & Missy Partelow & family (brother of Tom)
Jeff Pence (brother of Pam Clark)
Darnell Rideout (stepfather of Mike Cardoza)
Eileen Robertson (niece of the Shafers)
Darrell Robinson (husband of Anita Robinson)
Dave Schaaf (former parishioner)
Stefanie Schroeder (friend of St. Mark)
Jo Smith (friend of the Moellers)
Kris Whitley (sister to Kim O. & Kathy R)
Cody Willard (friend of the Duncans)
David Wilkey (son of June Isselhardt)
Linda Wisley (sister of John Downing)
Jane (friend of Julie Valerius)

THANKSGIVINGS AND INTERCESSIONS

We pray for those who celebrate their birthday this week:

Kim Ott (12/3), **Helen** Campbell (12/4), **Noah Murakami** (12/4), **Bryan Newton** (12/4),
and **Ann Martens** (12/7)

We pray for those who celebrate their wedding anniversary this week:

Michael & Rachel Guenther (12/3) and **Jamie & Brandon** Perry (12/7)

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