

The Lion's Roar



News about the ministry of St Mark Lutheran Church – Yorktown, VA

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January 2018

**Jesus was about thirty years old
when he began his work.
—Luke 3:23a**



Pastor's Corner



Joseph was thirty years old when he traded the amazing technicolor dreamcoat of his youth for a starring – and salvific – role in the government of a famine-fearing Pharaoh (Genesis 41:46). David was thirty years old when he replaced Saul as king (2 Samuel 5:4). And – as noted above – Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his public ministry. It's a biblically auspicious birthday: turning thirty. Well, happy thirtieth birthday to us!

Saint Mark Lutheran Church is in the middle of a great birthday season: we marked five hundred years of our Reformation last October, and we'll mark fifty years as a congregation in Yorktown this coming May. But as of the first of the year, we also note a too easily overlooked anniversary: the thirtieth birthday of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (born January 1, 1988).

Our ELCA has three parents: we are the child of the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Lutheran

Church in America. The histories of our Lutheran predecessors are a wily tale of immigrants and evangelism committees, slowly coalescing Scandinavians and Finns and Germans and Slovaks into one body of Christ. At our birth in 1988, suddenly 300-year-old Pennsylvania Dutch congregations were the same *Church* as Lutheran African refugee congregations. Miraculously, we're descended directly from the progressive Nordic state churches *and* the comparatively conservative Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. From our beginning, we've been a motley crew: our unity has always been in our shared discipleship under Jesus Christ our Lord (because we haven't always agreed on much else).

A shared experience of grace from the God who meets us eye-to-eye in Jesus: that's what's let us grow for thirty years as one body in Christ together. And that deserves a bit of recognition. Our three decades haven't come in the easiest times for "mainline Protestant" Christians – but we've carved out a witness that currently serves as the axis point for a broad sharing of full communion among many Christian traditions.

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Thank you for your generosity in all the staff Christmas gifts, we appreciate your thoughtfulness!

News

Stewardship Corner: Blessing vs. Gift

I was reading an essay, recently written by Charles R. Lane, in which he discussed the difference between these two ideas. We have heard it said, "...that all we have is a gift from God." The idea being that we live by the gracious hand of God, not from our own accomplishments. Let us stop and think about what we mean when we use the word "gift". Christmas has just passed, and during this time we exchanged *gifts* with friends and family. We went out and purchased the *gift*, wrapped it and gave it. And when we gave the *gift* we essentially transferred the ownership of the item. This isn't the way it is with God and us!

God created all that exists and God has made it available to us to care for and help prosper God's creation. In a sense, God has made us stewards of what God has created. We can get an idea of what a steward was and did by looking at Scripture. A steward did not own what he had been given charge of. Instead, the steward was given authority and responsibility over the item(s); and the steward was to care for the possessions of the owner, both for the benefit of the owner and for the benefit of other people who depended on the owner for their well being.

In a few short months, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of St Mark. Quite a milestone, and yet for many of us St Mark is a *blessing* to us from God through others who had a vision of a Lutheran congregation here that would be in service to God's people. A community of believers that would support and uplift one another and spread the Word of God. The membership of the community has changed as the years have passed and yet St Mark continues as a community of believers spreading the Word of God and serving God's people. We do not own this *blessing* from God; but we are placed here as stewards of St Mark to care for it and make it prosper in doing God's will amongst God's people.

In 1 Peter 4:10, Peter calls us to be "...good stewards of the varied grace of God." When we stand before the "Owner of Creation" what will be our answer to the stewardship of God's grace?

Red Cross Blood Drive

Mark the date on your calendar – **January 23, 2018!** St Mark will be sponsoring their first blood drive for 2018 from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. By donating blood we are giving the "gift of life" to someone in our community. If you have any questions you can ask Dan Silvis or contact the Red Cross online.

"How Many For Dinner?"

Katie Luther would frequently ask her husband, Martin this question since it was a fact that starting on their wedding night, June 13th, 1525, when Andreas Karlstadt, Luther's rival no less, fleeing the Peasants' War and seeking shelter, banged on the door of the Black Cloister, the Luther's home, just before midnight. It wasn't long before the forty cells in the monastery were occupied by out-of-town guests, students, professors, theologians, political and religious refugees, nuns and monks escaping their cloistered life, and Katie and Martin's own six children, Luther's nephew, Katie's aunt, and other relatives!

The evening of January 31st, 2018 at 5:00 PM, the 50th and Reformation Celebration Committee invites you to join us at St Mark Café for a celebration of Katie Luther's life with our great "Reformer", Martin Luther and her 519th birthday! We will be having a rib dinner, Martin Luther's Malt from Saucony Creek Craft Brewery in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, birthday cake, and a Chancel Drama dealing with Katie Luther's life, Reformation's Rib, which is one of the loving endearments Luther called his wife.

We will be hosting the author of Reformation's Rib, the Reverend James G. Cobb and his wife Judy at the dinner. Rev Cobb and Judy are "retired" in Williamsburg after having been the Dean for Church Vocations and Lifelong Learning at Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg, PA. He has served parishes in Norfolk (First Lutheran); Annapolis, MD; Fredericksburg, VA; Grand Rapids, MI; and most recently the interim pastor at Trinity Lutheran in NN. He has served various synodical leadership roles in Virginia and Michigan and is the author of several publications and books.

Magi Fund: Thanks

From time to time we are blessed to see the "hand" of God at work amongst His people!!! St Mark through the Magi Fund has benefited five families – seven adults and nine children with gifts to help them through difficult situations and circumstances. We have paid three rents; numerous utility bills; and covered other financial obligations that allowed these families to have a sense of calm and peace during the Christmas season. A very sincere and heartfelt thanks is extended to each of you that made donations to the fund that enabled St Mark to show the love of God. A very special thank you goes to Sandy Hopkins and the Bazaar Committee and all its members and participants for the contribution of all their proceeds to the Magi Fund. Such generosity is overwhelming and demonstrates how we are to love one another. Thank you St Mark!!

PJ's Faith Fable: The Old Alligator and the Manatees

The old alligator was very big and very strong. If a fully-grown man stood on another man's shoulders, he still wouldn't be as tall as the old alligator was long. That same old alligator weighed more than five grown men put together, and maybe more than six or seven. It was the biggest and strongest alligator of them all.

The old alligator slept in the sun and swam in the water. Wherever the old alligator went, all the other animals went away. But the hungry old alligator watched them always with old, cold eyes, and – if ever they were close enough – surprise! The old alligator chomped one fast chomp and bit one fast bite, then swallowed and smiled and swam out of sight.



The old alligator was big enough and strong enough to surprise just about anything it met. The old alligator surprised little fish and fast frogs and tough turtles and slithery snakes. The old alligator reached out of the water and surprised birds and herds of deer – and it was clear that the old alligator always got its way.

The old alligator enjoyed having power. It was fun to watch the other animals cower and give the old alligator the right of way – until, one day, a multitude of manatees

meandered into the waters of the old alligator. The manatees swam right in the old alligator's path.

They gathered in front of the old alligator to graze the water grass. They blocked the spot where the old alligator liked to climb out of the water and rest in the sun. They floated over the old alligator's head and overshadowed its old, cold eyes. And they weren't afraid of the old alligator's surprise.

The fish and the frogs, the turtles and the snakes, the birds and the deer: they were all very clear when they yelled to the manatees: "Get out of here! There's danger to fear!" All the animals pointed to the old alligator, but the manatees did not seem to mind. The manatees were as big as the old alligator – and just as strong – so gently they nudged the old alligator to move it along. And, although the old alligator wasn't used to being told what to do, it couldn't ignore a big manatee or two, or a multitude.

But now what? Would the big, strong manatees surprise the fish and frogs and turtles and snakes and birds and deer like the old alligator did? There *was* a surprise: the manatees didn't have their eyes on anything more than grazing and floating like they'd always before. The manatees stopped the old alligator's surprises by gently nudging it off its pedestal: what would've happened if the other animals had ever tried to do that?

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

—Romans 12:18

Financial Snapshot for November

| | Nov 2017 Actual | Nov 17 Budget | Difference | | 2017 YTD Actual | 2017 YTD Budget | Difference |
|------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Income | \$41,815 | \$45,224 | (\$3,409) | | \$436,347 | \$452,240 | (\$15,893) |
| Expenses | \$45,389 | \$45,224 | (\$165) | | \$434,577 | \$452,240 | \$17,663 |
| Difference | (\$3,574) | \$0 | (\$3,574) | | \$1,770 | \$0 | \$1,770 |

- Income for November was below budget by \$3,409.
- Expenses for November were above budget by \$165.
- Year-to-date our income is \$1,770. For this same period last year we had a deficit of \$6,905.

Stewardship for the month of January

8AM Holy Communion **Jan. 7** 11AM Holy Communion 8AM Holy Communion **Jan. 14** 11AM Holy Communion

| | Acolytes | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Judy Theodosakis | Communion | |
| Judy Theodosakis | Lector | Dan Landis |
| Tom/Tammy Williams | Tellers | Tom/Tammy Williams |
| | Sacristy | Margret Walian |

| | Acolytes | Crystal Becraft |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Val Sommer | Communion | |
| Val Sommer | Lector | Carol Schuster |
| Monte/Audrey Correll | Tellers | Monte/Audrey Correll |
| | Sacristy | Margret Walian |

8AM Holy Communion **Jan. 21** 11AM Holy Communion 8AM Holy Communion **Jan. 28** 11AM Holy Communion

| | Acolytes | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Communion | Dan/Pat Silvis |
| Dan Silvis | Lector | Sarah Miksa |
| Dan/Pat Silvis | Tellers | Dan/Pat Silvis |
| | Sacristy | Margret Walian |

| | Acolytes | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Stephenie Gregg | Communion | |
| Gary Williams | Lector | Louise Schneck |
| Gail Teigeler/Charles Rossi | Tellers | Gail Teigeler/Charles Rossi |
| | Sacristy | Margret Walian |

Please, if you are intersted in learning more about helping during worship, call the office and speak with Megan Crummitt or Pastor Joel. We are in special need of folks signing up to help Acolyte, Usher, Communion Assistant and to help with Altar Care. Thank you!

If you would like to participate in Worship as a Lector, Acolyte, Communion Assistant, Sacristy Duty, or Usher, please sign up in the notebook on Megan Crummitt's Desk or call her at the church: 898-4395.

Updates

Associate Pastor Call Committee

The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) was sent to the ELCA and the Virginia Synod. Pastor Christine Roe completed and returned the reference form. The MSP is now approved and available online for prospective candidates to review. Although one candidate name has been received, the committee is waiting for the Synod office to provide additional names of potential candidates before beginning the review process. Bishop Humphrey is working to provide additional names - possibly one from Indiana and one from Texas. The committee has received suggestions from members of the congregation. Seminarians graduating in 2018 will be assigned to regions in mid-February. We are waiting to learn if any will be available within the Virginia Synod. The Call Committee last met on December 11th and took a break for the Holidays. The committee will resume meeting in January.

Sine Nomine Concert Series

The Virginia Handbell Consort performed on Saturday evening, December 9th. The enthusiastic audience arrived amidst falling snow which made for a magical evening. The next concert in our series will be guitarist, Peter Griggs (New York City), on Saturday evening, February 10th at 7 PM. Peter has received awards from the National Endowment for The Arts (Composer Commissioning Program), Meet the Composer, the New York State Council on The Arts, and the Mary Flagler Cary Trust. To learn more about Peter please see his Face Book page and his web site. https://www.facebook.com/pg/Music-by-Peter-Griggs-153923438322427/about/?ref=page_internal and <http://pgriggs3.wixsite.com/music>.

50th Anniversary

Three dozen members of the congregation and friends enjoyed a wonderful evening with the Virginia Symphony on November 3rd as the orchestra played the Reformation Symphony. On January 31st Café St Mark will feature a menu of ribs for the dramatic presentation of Reformation's Rib accompanied by Martin Luther's Malt Lager. Watch for information about a karaoke-poetry and open mic night in February. Look for sign-up sheets and check the The Roar each month as well as the The Mark in the Sunday bulletin, and the St Mark Weekly E-News. Remember to check the changing bulletin board displays each month that highlight ministries and activities in the life of St Mark Church. The December display focused on our outreach ministries, and the January display will highlight Lutheran liturgy.



January Birthdays

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Ron Shurtleff | 19 Nancy Harvin |
| 3 Emma Bulich | 19 Elizabeth Moser |
| 3 Erich Buss | 20 Alaina Anderson |
| 5 Ray Farr | 21 Charles Little |
| 6 Tai Behel | 22 Marie Crouch |
| 7 Paul Schultz | 22 Joan Farr |
| 10 Sabina Tilghman | 23 Carlton Hardy |
| 11 Adam Leschinger | 24 Abby Leschinger |
| 11 Rosalyn Marickovich | 26 Jackie Valvo |
| 11 Abigail Speth | 28 Matt Creelman |
| 11 Jonathan Volk | 28 Tom Rinderle |
| 12 Matthew Bulich | 30 Andrea Schultz |
| 12 Samuel Livingston | 31 Alisen Courtemanche |
| 14 Sharon Johnson | 31 Chris Gangitano |
| 14 Pat Silvis | |
| 18 Debbie Larson | |

January Anniversaries

| | |
|----|------------------------|
| 8 | Jean & Joe Montfort |
| 10 | Bob & Maribeth Ocock |
| 19 | Audrey & Monte Correll |
| 21 | David & Nancy Knoll |
| 21 | Carol & John Schuster |



Notices

Congregational Meeting

We will hold our annual congregational business meeting on Sunday, January 28th 2018. As has been our custom recently so that we can worship together, we will have a single worship service at 10:00 AM on the 28th followed by the congregational meeting at 11:30 AM. When the meeting is complete, we'll adjourn to the Narthex for a pot-luck lunch. Please mark your calendars for this Sunday with a different worship schedule and very special congregational meeting.

The meeting agenda will include:

- A celebration of “burning the mortgage” as we complete the last payment on our mortgage in January - Hurray for all of us in this accomplishment!!
- A vote on modifications to our Constitution – These are mostly grammatical changes to conform with the standard constitution for ELCA congregations. Council has reviewed and approved the changes and a copy of the constitutional changes is available in the church library for your review before the meeting. (Hmmm...sounds like homework doesn't it?) You can also request an electronic copy (PDF) by emailing Ann Dartt at parishadministrator@st-mark-elca.org.
- An update on the progress of the call committee for our Associate Pastor.
- Presentation, discussion, and a vote on the 2018 budget – This is a big year for changes in our budget as we will have paid off the mortgage and will grow our ministries supported by our General Fund. The ministerial growth includes an Associate Pastor, support for the administrative costs of our ministries beyond the walls of Saint Mark such as the Ecuadorian Mission, and creation of a capital fund line item to faithfully care for our physical facility which supports all our ministries.

Please plan to attend and participate in this important meeting in the life of our St Mark family.

Duane Melson, Council President

Kairos Ministry

Kairos #38 at Nottoway Prison on November 16th – 19th was a tremendous success thanks to the prayers lifted up in support of Kairos #38; the financial donations given to support the program; the agape posters provided by our youth; and the 219 dozen cookies made by St Mark! This class was small with only 31 residents responding and 27 of them completing the program. This small response was due to the number of volunteers we had available – only 19 men were available to carry the program to Nottoway.

- Continued in next column

Kairos Ministry Cont.

-Continued from prior column

But we serve an awesome God! God's grace and Word were presented to Kairos #38 and to hear their joy and thankfulness was a blessing and evidence of the power of the Holy Spirit. We will be completing the program this month with a one-day instructional program on small group sharing – we call it Prayer & Share. And it is designed to help them help each other through prayer; discussion of Scripture; and ways of helping each other through difficult times by being present for one another and listening to each other. Seeds of God's grace have been sown in a “dark and difficult” place and the Holy Spirit is caring for them! The Christian community at Nottoway is growing and changing lives for God!! All this happens because of your commitment and love of our Lord! Thank you St Mark!

Pastor's Corner Cont.

-Continued from front page

We've come into our own as a “thinking” Church – standing before God, each other and the world (Bible in hand), we ask how God's grace is setting us free to serve one another in love. Some say we've traded Christ for the culture around us, others accuse us of close-minded bigotry hiding behind uncontextualized Bible verses: we say we're a family like any other, wrestling to be faithful with the God who's holding us together despite our inner conflicts and contradictions. And, letting go of our self-justification, we show Christ's gospel is alive and at work.

We have history & hope. We have real lives & real faith. And we've been growing in Christ for thirty years – which brings us to this auspicious time. Like Joseph at thirty, how will we feed this starving world? Like David at thirty, how will we lead by the peace and justice of God? Like the Christ who gives us his name as the Church, how will we serve this world – *how will we die and rise for it* – how will we begin our work? It's time. Happy birthday!

In the peace of Christ – who's brought us thus far on the way,

Pastor Joel

January Calendar

(Calendar is subject to change. Check our online calendar for updates).
EVERY SUNDAY (Unless otherwise noted):

Worship with Holy Communion: Sanctuary, 8:00 AM
Cafe St Mark Full Breakfast: Narthex, 9:00 AM
Sunday School Youth and Adult: 9:30 AM
Worship with Holy Communion: Sanctuary, 9:30 AM
Worship with Holy Communion: Sanctuary, 11:00 AM

| Date | Day | Event | Time | Place |
|------|--------|------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1 | Mon. | OFFICE CLOSED | | |
| 2 | Tues. | Preschool Returns | | |
| | | Clergy Cluster | 12:00 PM | Offsite |
| 4 | Thurs. | Koinonia Group | 7:00 PM | Library |
| 6 | Sat. | Men's Breakfast | 9:00 AM | Narthex |
| 8 | Mon. | Catechumen Night | 7:00 PM | Library |
| 9 | Tues. | Dorcas Circle | 9:30 AM | Library |
| | | Office Staff Meeting | 2:00 PM | Library |
| 11 | Thurs. | Ecuadorian Committee | 6:30 PM | Room 216 |
| 14 | Sun. | Second Sunday Home Communion | 12:30 PM | Offsite |
| | | Council Meeting | 12:30 PM | Library |
| 15 | Mon. | Office and Preschool Closed | | |
| | | Newsletter Deadline | | |
| 16 | Tues. | Preschool: Open House | 6:30 PM | Preschool |
| 18 | Thurs. | Koinonia Group | 7:00 PM | Library |
| 23 | Tues. | Blood Drive | 1:00 PM | Narthex |
| 25 | Thurs. | Preschool Winter Party | 10:50 AM | Preschool |
| 26 | Fri. | Preschool Winter Party | 10:50 AM | Preschool |
| 28 | Sun. | Combined Worship | 10:00 AM | Sanctuary |
| | | Congregational Meeting | 11:30 AM | Sanctuary |
| | | Potluck | 12:30 PM | Narthex |
| 31 | Wed. | Cafe Rib Night | 5:00 PM | Narthex |

Giving Statements
 will be sent out in
 January and will
 include giving up to
 December 31, 2017

OFFICE CLOSED:
 Mon., Jan., 1st
 for New Years Day
 and
 Mon., Jan., 15th
 for MLK Day

WEEKLY EVENTS

Youth Bells
 Sundays: Sanctuary, 4:00 PM

Confirmation Classes
 Sundays: TBD, 5:00 PM

Knitting Group
 Mondays: Library, 10:30 AM

GPS Bible Study
 Mondays: Library, 1:00 PM

Men's Breakfast/Bible Study
 Tuesdays: Narthex, 7:30 AM

Lady Lutherans
 Tuesdays: Library, 1:00 PM

Yorktown Chorale Rehearsal
 Tuesdays: YC Room, 5:30 PM

Quilts of Honor
 Wednesdays: Rm. 216, 2:00 PM
 (Resume January 10)

Wednesdays at 3 Prayer
 Wednesdays: Sanctuary, 3:00 PM

Café St Mark
 Wednesdays: Narthex, 5:00 PM

Men's Bible Study
 Wednesdays: Library, 6:00 PM

Adult Bells
 Wednesdays: Sanctuary, 6:00 PM

Adult Choir Practice
 Wednesdays: Music Room, 7:00 PM

Liturgical Arts Group
 Thursdays: Room 216, 10 AM

A New Year's Poem for pondering and for praying for the people of St Mark as we step into this 50th Anniversary year...1968~2018!

Holy Spirit, Help and Savior

Don't be anxious – it's not you who speaks
But the Holy Spirit
Who helps us when we're weak.

At dawn you soothe my heart's relentless restless beat.
You greet me, and my fears subside. Your calming spirit
Helps me when I'm weak

Midday pulls and tugs with each demand I meet –
But when I pause, your peace spreads through me when I hear,
“Don't be anxious; it's not you who speaks.”

When evening's darkness draws me in, it's you I seek,
My refuge, my worries' answer.
My longing heart hears you whisper, “Don't be anxious.
It's not you who speaks, but within, the Holy Spirit –
Help and savior when you're weak.”

By Christy Lehman Lumm
Based on Mark 13:10-11

A musical setting of this text will be offered as part of our 50th Anniversary celebration in May!

St Mark Lutheran Church
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smlconline.org

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