

The Lion's Roar



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

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***Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.
—Galatians 5:1a***



Pastor's Corner



If we were to gather Lutherans from around the world today – almost half a millennium after the beginning of the Reformation – and ask each other what is central to our faith, our hope and our love, how would we answer? We might throw around phrases in Latin: *simil iustus et paccator – soli Deo gloria!* We could recite the fourth article of the Augsburg Confession. Maybe someone would hum a few bars of *A Mighty Fortress*.

But I bet none of that would happen. I bet most of us would paraphrase something that simply says we're liberated by God's grace. And to be "liberated by God's grace" wouldn't be a bad summation.

This month I'm excited to take the spirit of St Mark to Windhoek, Namibia – location of the twelfth global assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Every six years or so, the member churches of the LWF gather to worship and explore what we have to offer as good news for this world as particularly Lutheran Christians. And we'll be gathering under the banner

of being "Liberated by God's Grace."

I'll be there as a witness to who we are: that we are free people, that we have been given a future, that we're a church trying to discern what is beneficial because all has been made open to us by God's life in Christ. I'll be there to acknowledge from the global outskirts of Washington DC to the deserts of southernmost Africa that it is one God who gives us meaning by freeing us to love each other as Christ has loved us. And I'll be there as a witness that it's by grace – by God's love to real people – that any of us get to be real people in this real world. And in this witness, I'll speak your names and carry your faith to let people know that in our small corner of southeast Virginia, there is a pocket of community where good news is making a difference, making us free, making us St Mark Without Walls.

What would you like me to add to the witness? What may I carry from you to this assembly, to this Lutheran microcosm of the one holy catholic and apostolic church? How do I translate your boundless, generous love?

Let me know, because I'll be taking you with me. This is most certainly true.

In Jesus' love and peace,
Pastor Joel

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With Thanksgiving for our Bishop Jim Mauney

By the Rev Chris Price, Assistant to the Bishop

In 1988, the Rev Jim Mauney began his service as an Assistant to Bishop Bansemer; and in 1999, he began his service as our bishop within our Virginia Synod. During the years of his ministry, he has honed a vision that has inspired and equipped us to be Ambassadors for Christ; visited our congregations to celebrate a milestone in joy or to comfort in times of grief; led "Pharaoh, Pharaoh" to the delight of generations of our youth at Winter Celebration; worked with countless

call committees; journeyed three times to Papua New Guinea; led eighteen synod assemblies; become a senior and respected member of the ELCA Council of Bishops; and in his gregarious, warm, and sensitive ministry to us, put about 25,000 miles a year on his synod car! Bishop Mauney has done everything in the name, by the grace, and in the love of Jesus. As we prepare for the leadership of a new bishop, we raise our thanks and share our love for the faithful ministry of Bishop Mauney!

Preschool Board Announcement

In November 2003 I began a wonderful relationship with the St Mark Lutheran Church Preschool as the Preschool Board Chair. Working with this group for 14 years has been an opportunity to work with many parents and church members to assist the Preschool staff in making decisions to improve the school and give back to St Mark Lutheran Church in ways that will help all our children. I have seen children bloom in a nurturing, Christian environment surrounded

by loving teachers, assistants and volunteers. I will be retiring from this position following our May 2017 meeting. I am pleased to announce that Mandy Hunt has accepted the role as Board Chair beginning this summer. She has already worked in the classroom as a substitute teacher so she has a first-hand working knowledge of the school, curriculum and values. Thank you for all the support I have received over the years as your Preschool Board Chair.

Sincerely,
Anne Baumgartner



Virginia Synod Assembly: Election of the Bishop

by Sandy Hopkins

Last Fall a survey was available for members of every congregation in VA to fill out sharing their thoughts about the new bishop. The results are online. We would encourage you to check the results of the survey by going to www.vasynod.org/resources/transition-team. As you read the results, ask

yourself: "What were the top three gifts those who completed the survey felt were most important for our new bishop to possess?" If you agree or disagree with these results, let Phil and Sandy Hopkins know. They will represent St. Mark at the Synod Assembly.

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**PJ's Faith Fable:
The Ducklings, the Fawn, and the Joey Opossums**

In her nest by the shallow water of a swamp, the mallard duck waited for her first brood to hatch — and nearby in the thicket, a doe expected to deliver her first fawn.

And high in the tree branches, a jill opossum was ready to labor for the very first time.

Suddenly the eggs began to hatch in the mallard's nest. The good mother duck helped and herded her softly feathered ducklings into a neat line, guiding them to the water's edge. The strong ducklings all swam as if they were made to explore the world.

"I wonder where my little joeys will explore," wondered the jill opossum — and as she watched the ducklings, suddenly the doe delivered her spindly, spotted fawn. The good mother doe licked her little fawn and helped it stand on long and wobbly legs, feeding it on rich warm milk. The quick fawn took delicate steps as if it were made to undertake anything.

"I wonder what my little joeys will accomplish," wondered the jill opossum — and as she watched the fawn, suddenly the jill opossum was in labor herself. Her little joeys were tiny and pink and weak. They could not swim and they could not stand. They had no soft feathers and no spotted fur.

The little joeys used all their might to crawl into a pouch on the jill opossum's belly. Inside the warm pouch, the exhausted little joeys fell asleep. The jill opossum did not feel like a good mother: her babies were not strong like the ducklings or quick like the fawn.

But the duck said to the jill opossum, "What a good mother you are! Your little joeys used their strength to explore the world, and they found a safe pouch on your belly to keep them safe! I have no pouch to keep my ducklings safe, so I take them to swim from the day they are born."

And the doe said to the jill opossum, "What a good mother you are! Your little joeys were quick to trust you to keep them safe! Now your joeys can rest and nurse on rich milk while they grow strong; my little fawn must quickly undertake standing and walking to stay safe in the world".

And so the jill opossum realized that the ducklings and the fawn and her own joey opossums all had good mothers: each received what was needed to explore and undertake the gift of life.

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit...
To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for
the common good.
(1 Corinthians 12:4, 7)*



Financial Snapshot for March

	Mar 2017 Actual	Mar 17 Budget	Difference		2017 YTD Actual	2017 YTD Budget	Difference
Income	\$38,916	\$45,224	(\$6,308)		\$81,144	\$90,448	(\$9,304)
Expenses	\$42,142	\$45,224	(\$3,082)		\$89,489	\$90,448	(\$959)
Difference	(\$3,226)	\$0	(\$3,226)		(\$8,345)	\$0	(\$8,345)

- Income for March was below our budget by \$6,308, due to pledged income being under budget.
- Expenses for March were under budget by \$3,082.
- Our total deficit for March is \$3,277 and our deficit for year-to-date is \$8,345.

Stewardship for the month of May

8AM Holy Communion	May 7	11AM Holy Communion
Tai Behel	Acolytes	
/ Beckett Behel	Communion/Jr.	
Gary Williams	Lectors	
Tom & Tammy Williams	Tellers	Tom & Tammy Williams
Kristen Holden/Judy Theodosakis	Sacristy	Jackie Jefferis / Shirley Krause

MOTHER'S DAY		
8AM Holy Communion	May 14	11AM Holy Communion
Tai Behel	Acolytes	
/ Beckett Behel	Communion/Jr.	
	Lectors	Art Pedersen
Monte & Audrey Correll	Tellers	Monte & Audrey Correll
Kristen Holden/Judy Theodosakis	Sacristy	Jackie Jefferis / Shirley Krause

Bulletins: John & Anne Booze, in honor of Mother's Day

8AM Holy Communion	May 21	11AM Holy Communion
Tai Behel	Acolytes	
/ Beckett Behel	Communion/Jr.	Dan & Pat Silvis
	Lectors	Louise Schneck
Dan & Pat Silvis	Tellers	Dan & Pat Silvis
Kristen Holden/Judy Theodosakis	Sacristy	Jackie Jefferis / Shirley Krause

Holy Communion: Dan & Pat Silvis in honor of Evelyn Porter's birthday (Pat's mother)

8AM Holy Communion	May 28	11AM Holy Communion
	Acolytes	
	Communion/Jr.	
	Lectors	
Gail Tegeler / Charles Rossi	Tellers	Gail Tegeler / Charles Rossi
Kristen Holden/Judy Theodosakis	Sacristy	Jackie Jefferis / Shirley Krause

Bulletins: Dan & Pat Silvis in honor of granddaughter Samantha Moore's birthday

If you would like to participate in Worship as a Lector, Acolyte, Communion Assistant/Junior Communion Assistant, Sacristy Duty, or Usher, please talk with Pastor Joel or contact Cathy Caffacus the church office: 898-4395.

Announcements

Pastor Shannon Anderson, daughter of Mel and Peggy Anderson, was installed as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Waldorf, Maryland on April 7, 2017. This is Pastor Shannon's third church since she was ordained in 1996. Her former parishes were in San Francisco and Seattle. She and her husband and 2 children (Sara, 5 years, and Willa, 20 months) live in Lexington Park, MD, where he is pastor of Good Samaritan Lutheran Church. Pastor Shannon has been working part-time for the Metro Synod.

The Anderson family became part of St Mark when they moved to York County in April, 1969. Shannon grew up at St Mark and is the first member to be ordained in the ELCA from our congregation.

The York County Church Women United will host the May Fellowship Meeting at St Mark Lutheran Church on Friday, May 5th, beginning at 10:00 AM, in the narthex. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up on the kiosk if you can provide a dessert for the luncheon. All women are welcome!

Meals for church families in need: If you would like to sign up to provide pre-cooked meals we can keep in the freezer to share with families in need (after loss of a loved one, illness, etc.), please contact Mary Little: 757-877-3769 or the church office: churchcomm@smlconline.org.

A big thank you from Council to everyone who filled out a survey! We received 71 surveys, representing 122 total respondents. The Council Retreat in March was dedicated to reviewing the results and developing action plans based on the responses received. Based on the results, we identified four major areas where we need to focus first:

- Examine the possibility of calling an Associate Pastor, with a likely focus on youth and family ministry
- Investigate options for expanding our parking lot, or finding other ways to significantly improve our parking situation
- Forming an active Evangelism Committee
- Developing a list of priorities and costs for maintenance and improvements to our existing building.

We will have more details to report at the June 25 Congregational Meeting. While these four areas are our initial focus, it is in no way meant to imply that other comments and ideas will be ignored. Once again, thank you all for your responses and suggestions – and as always, reach out to any member of Council with questions or concerns!

Reformation Symphony - Nov 3, 2017. Sign up on the kiosk to join a group to attend the VA Symphony performance of the Reformation Symphony. The group rate is \$53.10 and tickets will go on sale in July.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays

1 Carolyn Darden	16 Rodney Robinson
3 Renee Volk	17 Bette Faye King
4 Clifford Collier	19 John Ernest
5 Barbara Pettigrew	19 Alexander Yankowski
7 Briar Ernest	20 Harper Doherty
9 Brody Borgstrom	21 Monte Correll
9 Jessie Larson	21 Alex Volk
9 Samuel Ziegenfus	22 John Michael Cummings
10 Barbara Schmidt	24 Jon B. Benson
11 Una Shurtleff	24 Logan Short
12 Jim Irwin	25 Jerry Held
12 Maria Walker	27 Michael Stevans
14 Todd Quarles	28 Cecelia Kern

May Anniversaries

1 Bruce & Jalene Breeger
1 Ray & Ruth Breeger
1 David & Linda McIntire
3 Walt, Jr. & Karen Marchlewski
7 Cecelia & Jeff Kern
11 William, Jr. & Catherine Luinetti
19 Anne & John Booze
20 Rebecca & Russell
26 Carole & John Beal
28 Christine & Steve Roe

Congratulations!

MUSIC AT ST MARK

When the Lent and Easter seasons were mostly in front of us, we were looking ahead to the music that would help us worship and celebrate the glory of the forty days. Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday now ring in our ears and our eyes are on Pentecost and a return to the “green” season.

Shouts of acclamation on Palm Sunday!



The Gospel of John...
Reading and organ interpretations

Dramatic, beautiful, choral
rendition of “Kyrie Eleison” on
Maundy Thursday

Good Friday Tenebrae Service sung
entirely without accompaniment with
beautiful passion hymns lifted in song



Easter Sunday full-hearted sung proclamation of
“Jesus Christ is Risen Today!”



For all the special music that was planned, practiced and offered by so many, the voice of the congregation was of particular interest to me. Many of the “regular” service pieces of music seemed to be strong and heartfelt. The kyrie on Easter Sunday was so very rich. Of late, the singing of the nunc dimittis has been especially full, and the newest piece of music in this liturgical setting, Canticle of Praise: Glory to God, is providing a wonderful bit of freshness and rejoicing during this Easter season.

As we enter these next few weeks let us continue to celebrate the death and rising of our Lord Jesus Christ with our voices; spoken, sung, whispered and shouted. Let us rejoice in how we at St Mark use our God given gifts of music to proclaim the glory of the forty days and beyond.

Greta Melson

May Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY (Unless otherwise noted):

Worship with Holy Communion: Sanctuary, 8:00 a.m.
Cafe St Mark Full Breakfast: Narthex, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School: Classrooms, 9:30 a.m.
Worship with Holy Communion: Sanctuary, 9:30 a.m.
Worship with Holy Communion: Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.

Date	Day	Event	Time	Place
2	Tuesday	Clergy Cluster	12:00 PM	Offsite
2	Tuesday	Preschool Board Meeting	7:30 PM	Library
4	Thursday	Prep for Church Women United	10:00 AM	Kitchen
4	Thursday	Koinonia Group	7:00 PM	Library
5	Friday	Church Women United Meeting & Lunch	10:00 AM	Narthex/Sanctuary
6	Saturday	Men's Breakfast	9:00 AM	Narthex
7	Sunday	Council Meeting	12:30 PM	Library
9	Tuesday	Dorcas Circle	9:30 AM	Library
11	Thursday	Ecuadorian Committee	6:30 PM	Library
14	Sunday	MOTHER'S DAY	-----	-----
14	Sunday	Second Sunday Home Communion	12:30 PM	Offsite
16	Tuesday	Blood Drive	1:00 PM	Narthex
17	Wednesday	SKYPE Session w/ Ecuador	4:00 PM	Narthex
17	Wednesday	Last Café St Mark of the Season!	5:00 PM	Narthex
18	Thursday	Koinonia Group	7:00 PM	Library
21	Sunday	General Assembly Commendation 50 Yr Anniversary	11:00 AM	Sanctuary
21	Sunday	Worship & Music Board	6:00 PM	Library
24	Wednesday	Preschool 4 Yr Old Graduation	Time TBD	
25	Thursday	Preschool End of Year Celebration/Last Day of School 2s & 3s		
29	Monday	MEMORIAL DAY - Church Office Closed	-----	-----

WEEKLY EVENTS

(Please check the monthly calendar for changes due to holiday schedules and closings)

Youth 4 Bells

Sundays: Sanctuary, 4:00 p.m.

Youth +5 Bells

Sundays: Sanctuary, 5:00 p.m.

Knitting Group

Mondays: Library, 10:30 a.m.

GPS Bible Study

Mondays: Library, 1:00 p.m.

Men's Breakfast/Bible Study

Tuesdays: Narthex, 7:30 a.m.

Yorktown Chorale Rehearsal

Tuesdays: YC Room, 7:00 p.m.

Quilts of Honor

Wednesdays: Rm. 216, 2:00 p.m.

Café St Mark

Wednesdays: Narthex, 5:00 p.m.

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays: Library, 6:00 p.m.

Adult Bells

Wednesdays: Sanctuary, 6:15 p.m.

Adult Choir Practice,

Wednesdays: Music Room, 7:30 p.m.

Liturgical Arts Group

Thursdays: Room 216, 10 a.m.

Lady Lutherans

Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.



Sunday Church School September- June

All Classes begin at 9:30 AM

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	(Pre-school [3 years] – K5)
Rotational Sunday School	(1st – 5th graders)
Quest Class	(6th, 7th and 8th graders)
Senior High Class	(9th – 12th graders)
Adult Sunday School	

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