

March 3, 2024

St Mark Lutheran Church, Yorktown  
Weekly News and Prayer Concerns



**GPS/Acts Pause This Week:** While Pastor Joel attends a continuing ed course via Zoom this week, our GPS and Acts Bible studies will pause. For folks missing their time here during the week, consider joining us for soup and our Lenten Holden Evening Prayer at 6pm on Wednesday! (PJ remains local for pastoral care needs.)

**St Mark — Global Connections:** As a community of faith, St Mark has a strong history of sharing faith across borders and cultures. Our partnership with Ecuador and our support for youth in China have helped us link our lives with God's children in far away places; our preschool, our relationship with Family Focus, and our support for Natasha House and local schools have done the same to connect us with God's people in our midst. A few summers ago, our synod's outdoor ministries at Caroline Furnace brought Pastor Nahum to visit us and share God's blessing from Namibia in southern Africa. And last autumn, Pastor Joel and the Rev Seminarian Andy Taminger were able to attend the Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Krakow, Poland — sharing prayers with Christians from earth's every corner. We are honored to share the good news of Christ with this worldwide community! And in the coming months we'll keep the party going/growing! We'll continue our support for the children we love in South America and Asia! Pastor Nahum plans to visit us again from Namibia this summer, continuing to build our friendly relationship! In August, youth ministers from the Lutheran Church in Slovakia (who welcomed PJ and Andy during the LWF Assembly last September) will join us for worship while they visit the US! There doesn't seem to be a spot in this beautiful world where Christ isn't opening a place for us as God's people to connect!

**Soup or Bread for Wednesday Nights During Lent:** We have 3 more Wednesday evenings during Lent (starting at 6pm) that we will gather for a simple soup and bread dinner followed by a Holden Evening Prayer. If you plan on joining us and would like to bring a pot of soup or loaf of bread, please let the office know. ☺

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** We had another wonderful, successful blood drive last Wednesday! Thank you to all who came to donate and to Beth Griffin and Tom Teigeler for their time as volunteers during the drive. Save the date for our next blood drive on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 12-5pm.

**"They laid hands on him and arrested him" (Mark 14:46).** Throughout Lent, we remember that Jesus was arrested, held captive and could not free himself. Our incarcerated Christ calls us to care for God's life wherever people are imprisoned — even ourselves — publicly or privately, by hidden sins or by systems of justice. This Lent we will use prayers and liturgical resources from *Hear My Voice: A Prison Prayer Book* as we seek the Christ whose life and love will set us free.

**RIP Medical Debt:** Our Joyful Generosity "Pink Envelope" offering throughout Lent is for RIP Medical Debt, a program that raises funds to pay off people's medical debt (for cents on the dollar) to help keep them out of bankruptcy, offering a new beginning to those imprisoned by debt. We join four other ELCA congregations between Williamsburg and Newport News for this Lenten endeavor to support our neighbors across the Peninsulas Conference.

Please remember these recent St Mark prayer requests (Prayer requests will generally be listed for 2 weeks. Please re-add names after 2 weeks, if needed):

**Members in our Prayers**

**Healing & Strength:** Mel Anderson, Sonny Forbes, Sharon Johnson, Maribeth Ocock, Amy Schwarz, Andy Shurtleff, Kim Walsh  
**Deployed Military:** Alex Koch  
**Discerning & Learning:** Rev Seminarian Andy Taminger

**Friends and Family in our Prayers**

**Healing & Strength:** Ann Marie, Anne, Carol, Clint, Courtney, Dean, Debi, Della, Dick, Flora, George, Judith, Lakevia, Lindsey, Margit, Pamela, Sharon, Trina  
**Hope:** Gina  
**Eternal Rest:** Nicholas

**Congregations in our Prayers**

Our Saviour's, Norge;  
Peninsula Vineyard Church;  
Presbyterian Church (USA);  
St Mark's Lutheran Church, Roanoke

**Calendar at a Glance:**

**St Mark Keeps Open Office Hours: M-F, 10am-3pm**

**Sunday 3/3**

9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion  
*Coffee between services*  
10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion  
12:00pm What's Up Zak?

**Monday 3/4**

9:30am Women of Faith Bible Study (*Room 115*)  
10:00am Office Staff Meeting  
10:30am Stitching with Friends (*Conference Room*)  
10:30am Monday Morning Matins (*Chapel*)  
1:00pm No GPS Bible Study (*resumes March 11*)  
7:00pm Troop 306 Meeting

**Tuesday 3/5**

9:00am Garden Stewards  
4:00pm Ecuador Meeting

**Wednesday 3/6**

8:30am Spirit Walkers (*Yorktown*)  
11:00am No Acts of the Apostles Bible Study  
*(resumes March 13)*  
1:00pm Quilters (*Room 216*)  
6:00pm Simple Soup, Bread & Holden Evening Prayer  
6:30pm Pack 595 Meeting

**Thursday 3/7**

9:00am Garden Stewards  
10:00am Liturgical Arts Guild  
5:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (*Music Room*)

**Friday 3/8**

No Scheduled Events

**Saturday 3/9**

9:30am Same Page Book Club

**Sunday 3/10**

9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion  
*Coffee between services*  
10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion

**Readings March 10, 2024**

*Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19;  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22*

**Save the Date:**

**Simple Soup, Bread & Holden Evening Prayer**  
March 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm

**Christ & Cherry Blossoms in DC**  
April 9<sup>th</sup>

**Staff Contact Information**

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