St Mark Lutheran Church, Yorktown
Weekly News and Prayer Concerns
November 8, 2026

the Mark

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—2 Timothy 4:11b

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Shifting Worship Perspectives: To protect organists' hearing and to help musicians hear music more naturally within our sanctuary, we'll notice the organ console has shifted to a spot beside the choir today. It may move slightly from week to week (*the console is on wheels*) as we find where it best supports worship for us. Flexibility in our worship space is a gift we have to meet different needs at different times: a model of faith through life!

Decorating for Advent: After worship on Sunday, Nov 22 we will begin decorating for Advent. We need hands and hearts to hang greens and wreaths, to decorate trees and set out nativity scenes. Thanks for helping to prepare a festive season! (Help to bring décor in from sheds on Nov 15 is welcome too!)

Caroline Furnace: Wild Women Retreat, 10th Anniversary! Sip local wines and ciders while enjoying the peaceful beauty of the Shenandoah Valley at Caroline Furnace. Unwind with old and new friends in a relaxed atmosphere. Stay for the full retreat experience, or join us for a memorable Saturday full of good conversation, community and connection. Questions? Interest? Talk with Stephenie Gregg or Jackie Jefferis.

Christmas Crafts & Wrapping Party: On Sat, Dec 5, we'll be festive in the narthex. Come make or bring gifts to wrap! All ages and friends are welcome (donations of gift wrap are too)!

Attention Committee & Ministry Leaders! Please submit 2026–27 budget requests to Amanda as soon as possible so our council can prepare next year's ministry budget proposal!

Ecuador Bazaar – November 14, 9–3pm: Come for a fun day of shopping and community at a Bazaar to support the *Refugio de Los Sueños* in Quito, Ecuador! Browse a variety of vendors, enjoy BBQ and baked goodies, and try your luck at our raffle. To help make the bazaar a success, sign up in the narthex to donate baked goods for the Bake Sale or volunteer to help with the event. Drop off baked goods Friday, Nov 13 from 3–7pm.

An Advent Evening of Song and Sacred Reflection will be shared with St Mark and our friends from Pastor Joel om Sunday, December 6 at 4pm. With original carols and poems composed for our community, Pastor Joel will explore Mary, Joseph and the Christ Child who bring us "good tidings of great joy" and "peace to God's people on earth." Bring a friend, sit back, sing along, settle peacefully into Advent peace.

Operation Christmas Child is one way to extend our love to children across the globe. Fill a box with small gifts for a boy or girl. Boxes are shipped to more than 100 countries, along with material from Franklin Graham's *Samaritans' Purse* to tell recipients about Jesus Christ. Please return boxes by Nov 18.

Ministry Growing Community: Thanks for returning your Estimate of Giving cards to help us plan for Ministry Growing Community in 2027! And thanks for plans still being made!

Prepare the Way! Check out (but please don't yet walk on) the new sidewalk to our preschool entrance! This will help our students and families safely move from cars to classrooms! ☺

Joyful Generosity (Pink Envelopes): As it becomes cooler outside, the congregations of our region again support PORT as an emergency shelter for unhoused neighbors. Our pink envelopes will support this vital shelter with the safety and nutritious daily bread it serves to God's people. Pink envelopes are outside the sanctuary doors.

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

Peace & Strength: Peggy Anderson, Martha Butcher, Matt Butcher, Lin Hines, Sharon Johnson, Betty Neher, Amy Page, Tom Rector, Al Schweizer, Brenda Stabler, Fred Stanley

Friends and Family in our Prayers

Peace & Strength: Alexi, Anthony, Barbara, Bella, Cheryl, Christine, Debra, Jamie, Jenny, Jerry, Nancy, Nova, Ryan, Sarah, Terri, Trina
ELCA clergy ordained from St Mark: Andy, Christine, Laura, Shannon, Suzanne, Travis
Eternal Rest: Debra

Congregations in our Prayers

Trinity Lutheran Church in Newport News along with:
The Office of the Bishop and our Virginia Synod;
Grafton Baptist (Harris Grove);
United Methodist Church;
St Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, Luray

Calendar at a Glance:

St Mark Office Support: M-F, 10am-3pm
Please call 757-898-4395 to make an appointment!

Sunday 11/8
9:00am Eucharist Worship Service
Sunday School & Coffee Hour between services
11:00am Eucharist Worship Service
12:30pm Council Meeting
Monday 11/9
9:30am Women of Faith Bible Study
10:30am Stitching with Friends (*Conference Room*)
1:00pm GPS Bible Study (*Conference Room*)
6:00pm Troop 306 Meeting
Tuesday 11/10
9:00am Garden Stewards
Wednesday 11/11
8:30am Spirit Walkers (*Yorktown Beach*)
11:00am Book of Esther Bible Study (*Conference Room*)
Thursday 11/12
9:00am Garden Stewards
6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday 11/13
No Scheduled Events
Saturday 11/14
9:00am—3:00pm Ecuador Craft Bazaar
Sunday 11/15
9:00am Eucharist Worship Service
Sunday School & Coffee Hour between services
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12:15pm Confirming Connections

November 15, 2026

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Today's flowers are given by Danielle & Galilee Neubauer
in honor of Joel's birthday.

Coffee hour between Sunday services is a time to grab a bite to eat, enjoy a morning coffee, meet or make a friend. This month we look forward to Fall flavors on Nov. 15 & pies on Nov 22! Sign up on the kiosk or by using this QR code. →

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