



St. Mark Lutheran Church (ELCA) of Charlottesville, VA

DECEMBER 2017 CROSSMARKS

A Reconciling in Christ congregation • Lutheran Campus Ministry at UVA • St. Mark Lutheran Preschool
www.stmarklutheran.org • 434-293-3311 • office@stmarklutheran.org

THANK YOU, ST. MARK!

First, I want to be very transparent and tell you that offerings and pledges greatly help us to be a church with a mission.

We have big plans for St. Mark. We just decided to offer insurance to all full-time employees of the preschool.

We are hoping to add part-time staff positions to support our youth and children. It is part of our baptismal promise to all our children.

We want to make our ministries stronger and our worship more vibrant.

We want to make sure that all can feel not just welcomed here but fully included, so we are planning to add an accessible restroom and an elevator.

We hope to continue to pay off our HVAC loans. When we are free of debt, we are free to focus on mission and ministry.

This year reminded us more than ever that we need our church to be a place where we come to find and provide comfort, hope and purpose. In times of tragedy and trial, we come together and find strength and light where is darkness. We are thankful for that.

We want people who enter here to immediately know that we love and care for this place as if it would be our own home. If you have any suggestions or passion to help us make this a reality, we really want to hear from you. This is your church.

This church is for ministry and for worship, and all who enter here should know they are called to join us in that ministry. This place belongs to Christ.

I want to say thank you for all the offerings, all the people who filled out ministry forms, all the pledge cards returned. These offerings will help us plan and do mission and support St. Mark ministries.

May the experience of giving and commitment give us a chance to remember what we have received before we move into the Advent season of expectant joy.

Thanks for prayerfully considering giving your offering and pledges.

Thanks be to God for all God has offered to our lives.

Thanks be to God for you and for all you mean to St. Mark.

- Pastor Viktoria

St. Mark Lutheran Church, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone, is a people called by God to be servants of all people; to experience God's saving grace through faith; to come together as the body of Christ in worship and celebration of the gifts of God; and to reach out to those outside the church with witness to the loving grace of God through Christ Jesus. To answer this call, our mission will include reaching out to and beyond the members of St. Mark.

ADVENT SEASON – Council President Duane Osheim

The first Sunday in Advent is December 3. We, of course, are joyfully awaiting the celebrations of Christmas, but we should also remember that Advent, like Lent, is meant to be a period of prayerful reflection.

A previous pastor once urged us to take time as we prepared for Christmas to consider God's gifts to us. At Mission Council's last meeting, Pastor Viktoria led us in just such a reflection. She asked us what we most appreciated about being part of this church— Tony discussed this in a recent Children's Sermon. Tony mention the sharing of the Peace, the recognition of all the people who are part of our congregation or who are worshipping with us. Others expanded on this mentioning the Lord's Supper which connects us with God and with our community. We gather at the table not because of our virtues, but because God calls us just as we are. And we reach out to others just as they are.

We realize that having been blessed by God, we should go out into our community. As Paul said (Colossians 3:16-17), "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,.... And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."



WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

December 3 – First Sunday of Advent: Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Isaiah 64:1-9 • Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 • 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 • Mark 13:24-37



December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent, Advent Musical celebration at worship: John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

Isaiah 40:1-11 • Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 • 2 Peter 3:8-15a • Mark 1:1-8



December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent: "Rejoice always," begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11 • Psalm 126 • 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 • John 1:6-8, 19-28



December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve: God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 • Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 • Romans 16:25-27 • Luke 1:26-38



December 31 – First Sunday of Christmas: In the psalm all the natural world praises God, including all humanity, male and female, young and old. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we speak of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

Isaiah 61:10—62:3 • Psalm 148 • Gallatians 4:4-7 • Luke 2:22-40

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

All are invited to join us after worship **next Sunday, December 3** for **tree decorating** and snacks! Please bring a snack or heavy appetizer to share as we trim the tree. Parents, please note that a special guest will join us – **St. Nicholas!**



The Women's Book club will be meeting for dinner instead of discussing a book this month. We will be going to Shadwell's Restaurant on **Monday, December 4 at 6:30**. In January we will be back at the church to discuss Wild Swans by Jung Chang.



Pastor Viktoria warmly invites **ALL parents** and all who are or have been involved with our **youth ministry** to talk with her about our hopes and plans for this ministry in the future. She wants to hear about your needs and plan ahead to fulfill this important mission. Please join her **after worship on Sunday, December 10** for coffee, snacks and discussion. Nursery care will be provided for children of all ages.



Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, December 10 at 2pm**, when Thrivent will be holding two workshops in Fellowship Hall at St. Mark: Retire Wisely; and Parents, Kids and Money Matters (for kids ages 6-10). All members from the area Lutheran churches are invited to attend, Thrivent member or not. Cookies, coffee and conversation will also be provided - see you there!



Please join us **Monday, December 11 from 7-8pm** at Trinity Irish Pub on the Corner for **Beer & Hymns!** We will meet on the **second Monday of each month** for singing and fellowship with members of our church, members of other area churches, and of course, the UVA community. Hope to see you there!

Christmas poinsettias are available for purchase for **\$15** each to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season. Sign-up **by December 15** on the sheet posted outside the office, make checks payable to St. Mark, note "Poinsettia" on the comment line, and leave in the Office Manager's box or the offering plate. Please consider purchasing a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one.



THANK YOU to everyone who signed up to provide a Christmas gift to our two families at the **Shelter for Help in Emergency (SHE)**. Please remember that gifts are due back to the church by **Thursday, December 14** for an early delivery on the morning of December 15. Thank you again for your generosity this Christmas!



ELCA Good Gifts – World Hunger Appeal: More Alternative Gift Opportunities! Check out the display in the narthex for ideas for more alternative gifts this holiday season. Catalogs are available with many possible gift options to benefit people around the world. There are also cards to send to notify those you choose to honor in this way at Christmas time. Questions?—talk to Laurel McClurken.



Each holiday season, St. Mark anticipates and relies on a seasonal increase in contributions. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work now and throughout the year. If you need a convenient way to make **recurring contributions** or plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our **electronic giving option**. To set up a recurring giving schedule, please complete a paper authorization form (found in the alcove in the narthex or in the front office) and return it to the church office. Thank you for your generosity and support!

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR A VERY SPECIAL SUNDAY MORNING

Our St. Mark Choir Presents

*An Advent/Christmas
Musical Celebration*

*Sunday, December 10, 2017
10:15 am*

*A beautiful and meaningful service of Hymns,
Choral Anthems, Instruments, Solos, and Readings*

**Bring your family, friends, and neighbors
to this festive worship service!**



Please mark your calendar for these events in December – ALL are invited!



Sunday, December 3 - First Sunday in Advent

Tree decorating and snacks after 10:15am worship.

Parents, we will have a special visitor to greet your children!

Wednesday, December 6

Advent service at 6pm, soup and study at 5:30 in Welcome Hall outside sanctuary

Take a break from the holiday rush and create space for the presence of God
in the midst of the sacred season.

Saturday, December 9

Preschool St. Nicholas Pancake Breakfast and Shoe Drive at 9am

Please RSVP: office@stmarkpreschool.net

Sunday, December 10 – Second Sunday in Advent

Advent/Christmas musical celebration during worship at 10:15am

Wednesday, December 13

Advent service at 6pm, soup and study at 5:30 in Welcome Hall outside sanctuary

Sunday, December 17 – Third Sunday in Advent

worship at 10:15am

Wednesday, December 20

Blue Christmas service at 6pm, soup and study at 5:30

in Welcome Hall outside the sanctuary

Christmas can be a stressful and difficult time for many people. Whether it be the loss
of a loved one, the change in a family situation, or worries at work, many people
just do not feel the joy of the Christmas season.

Sunday, December 24, 4th Sunday in Advent, Christmas Eve

morning worship service at 10:15am

family worship at 5pm and candlelight service at 11pm

NOTES FROM THE GARDEN: Red Berry Spectacular!

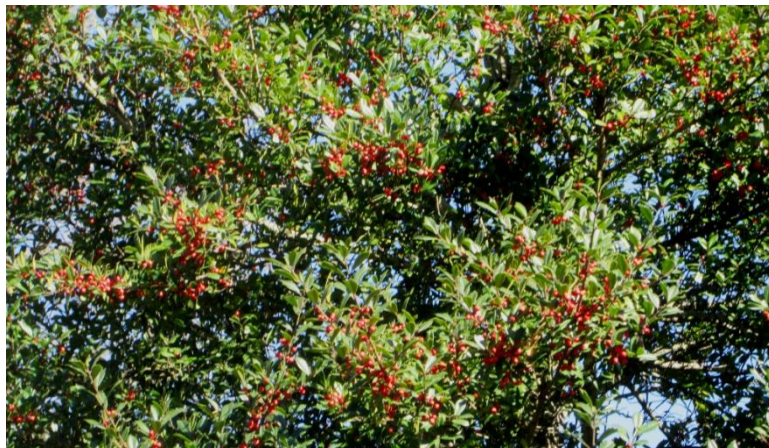
It seems like only a moment ago it was spring and the garden was alive with vibrant color, yet once again fall has come and after its bust of lovely color, the garden is ready for its long winter nap. Nonetheless, there is one spectacle to enjoy all winter long: the wonderfully brilliant red berries of the three Foster's Hollies (*Ilex x attenauta* "Fosteri") planted in the perennial garden. As you no doubt have noticed in past years their fruit is quite prolific, loved by the birds, and very attractive, providing great color all winter long. The **Foster's Holly** is a hybrid between two native American Hollies of which there are over a thousand varieties, some becoming trees while others grow barely a foot tall; if they have berries they may be red, black or yellow and their leaves may be smooth-edged or the traditional spiny-edged "holly-shaped" leaves. Unlike the American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) that can grow up to forty or fifty feet high, the Foster's Holly is much **smaller and more compact** growing just twenty to twenty five feet high with a spread of eight to twelve feet. The one in the garden beside the main door was planted almost thirty years ago and now shades some of the perennial flowers that formerly were in full sun.

While in most species of hollies male and female flowers are borne on separate plants with only the females bearing fruit, the Foster's Holly is self-fertile, producing **fruit by self-pollination**. In the spring it does have small white 4-petaled flowers that are lovely, but fairly inconspicuous, so you have to look closely to see them. It grows best in full sun, but will tolerate partial shade. You will note that the one planted about fifteen years ago beside the middle door in a fairly shaded location does have fewer berries than the one planted about the same time in a much sunnier location by the education wing garden. It likes moist well-drained soil, but is very tolerant of drought once it is established so I have not had to water it during dry spells.

Hope you enjoy the delightful red berries of the three Foster's Hollies this winter! Their red berries matured in late October and are ready to delight your eye now! A final note for the year: hope you now have a nice big pile of **mulched leaves** from all the raking you did in your yard – they will certainly make your plants happy next year!



- Helen Ida Moyer, volunteer with the Piedmont Virginia Master Gardeners



PRESCHOOL



Merry Christmas and holiday greetings from the preschool! This is such a special time of year to celebrate traditions with family and friends. On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, we began a new tradition in the preschool by inviting families to join us for a "Festive Family Feast!" We had originally scheduled this event as a potluck and then decided that making another holiday dish

is the LAST thing busy parents need to be doing at this time of year! Instead, the children all worked together with Nana to make "Friendship Soup" and parents/family members joined us for lunch in the Fellowship Hall. It was a lovely event and one we'll look forward to in the years to come. A tradition in the making!

We'd like to invite you to join us on **Saturday, December 9th at 9:00am** for another tradition - the "St. Nicholas Pancake Breakfast and Shoe Drive!" This is an opportunity for families of the preschool and members of the parish to come together in fellowship, celebrate the holidays and share in a collaborative effort to collect shoes for children and adults in need in the Charlottesville area. St. Nicholas will be on hand to pass out oranges to the children and of course, a delicious pancake breakfast, with all the trimmings (including vegetarian sausage!)

On Sunday, November 12th, the congregation voted to approve the 2018 Preschool Budget and in doing so, ushered in health insurance benefits for all full-time faculty and full-time employees of the church. The response to this decision has been a resounding "YES!" The teachers have expressed their gratitude, saying to me and to others "I feel so valued!" Thank you for this gift!

I pray that you have a wonderful Christmas and that the joy of our Savior, born in a manger, would be with you now and always.

- Carla Moody, Preschool Director

THE LISTENING PROJECT

In November we welcomed at our worship service **Elaine Whitney**, the vice president of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA. She visited our congregation to worship and to listen to leaders, teachers and lay people. She shared gifts of communion elements of wine, grape juice and wafers and participated in our worship as a communion servant.

Why is listening so important? Her synod and congregation is engaged in a special project with our community. The listening project provides one-to-one online prayers and listening to our community. In the wake of violent and traumatic events of August 12, the UVA community and residents of Charlottesville have struggled to regain balance and a sense of normalcy. The news cameras have gone away but our community continue to press for a racially-equitable environment. The listening project is an expression of being Lutheran and being Church for the sake of the world. When natural disasters occur, we do not hesitate to act. We have the power to act and help our neighbors in distress by engaging in listening, dialogue and prayer.

For more information, please contact:

Elaine Whitney
9985 Folsom Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95827

Psalm 25: 15-17

15 *My eyes are ever on the Lord,
for only he will release my feet from the snare.*
16 *Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.*
17 *Relieve the troubles of my heart
and free me from my anguish.*

CHARLOTTESVILLE EVENTS

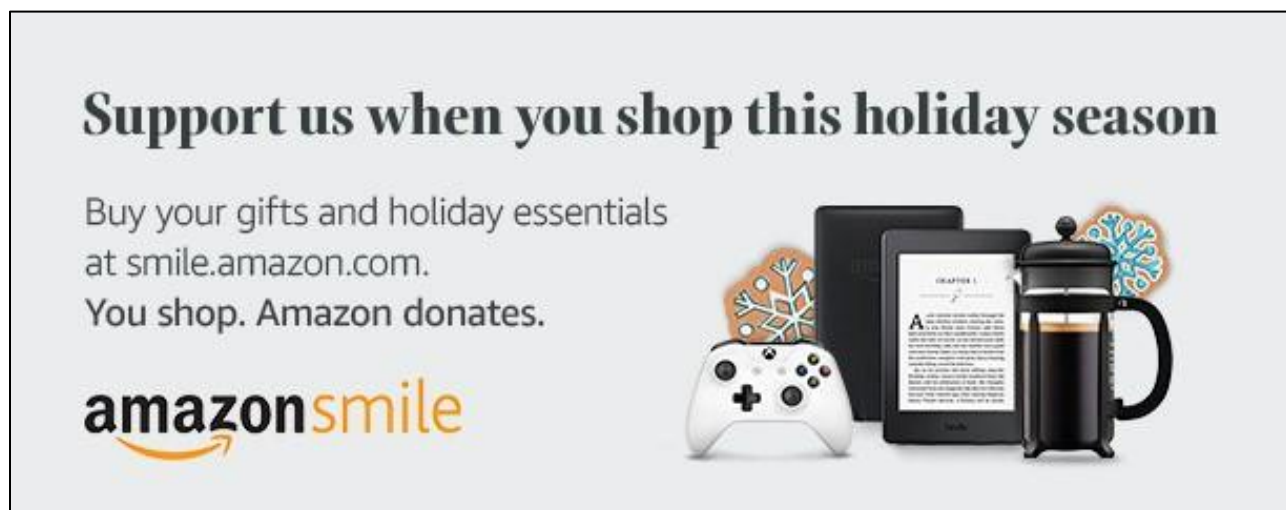


Join **The Oratorio Society of Virginia** for this beloved Charlottesville tradition and family favorite on **Saturday, December 16 at 2:30 Or 7:30pm**. Music Director Michael Slon conducts a 90-person chorus composed of some of the community's finest singers.

In what's become an anticipated and delightful Oratorio Society custom, two guest youth choruses will perform during the concerts. Moreover, there will be an opportunity for the audience to join in the singing with the chorus, so that everyone can "sing in" the holidays together! An accompaniment of brass, organ, and percussion rounds out what is sure to be a vibrant and heart-lifting performance.

Bring your whole family and share in the warmth and beauty of an Oratorio Christmas. Tickets are available through the Paramount Theater box office or from chorus members.

GIVING A GIFT THAT DOESN'T COST YOU A THING



Amazon will give .5% of your purchases back to St. Mark when you shop at Amazon. Here's how:

- Log in with your usual Amazon login and password at **smile.amazon.com** (or login directly at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-4620294> and start shopping!)
- Select St. Mark Lutheran Church from the list of organizations.
- Shop! That all there is to it. The shopping experience and pricing is the same as at the regular amazon website, but you must always shop from smile.amazon.com.

The **new rocking** chair in the narthex was purchased with funds from the AmazonSmile program. We will soon have enough money accumulated for a second chair. We'd love your help in purchasing more!

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING



Let Pastor Viktoria know if you are interested in attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering.

More information and registration can be found at:

www.elca.org/YouthGathering/registration/congregational-registration

MISSION COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS –November 2017

- Interviews are being held for the position of youth and family ministry.
- The Mission Council intends to submit to the congregation a 2018 budget recommendation that includes a 0.1% increase to our benevolence budget for the Virginia Synod.
- A preschool governance group is being formed to study the preschool/ congregation relationship.
- The annual congregational meeting is called for January 28th, 2018. At that time reports will be adopted, mission council members elected, and the congregational budget approved.
- It is thought that Evangelism and Preschool governance will both be a focus for next year.
- Tom Hecmanczuk will be the Council liaison to Mutual Ministry. The group will meet every other month.
- At the December meeting we will work on ‘staffing’ the committee structure that we adopted in the summer, as well as continuing the discussion about HVAC loan.



Jean Goeppinger	December 2
Elizabeth Milligan	December 3
William Werner	December 3
Kara McClurken	December 7
Grant Burks	December 9
Laurel McClurken	December 9
Erin Burks	December 12
Kathryn Wagner	December 12
Anne Carter	December 17
Joby Giacalone	December 17
Jack Robbins	December 18
Lewis Horton	December 20
Yvonne Osheim	December 27
Zoe Maruna	December 28
John Anderson	December 29
Josef Isakson	December 31
Nicholas Isakson	December 31
Madeleine Jones	December 31



	Offering	Attendance
October 1	\$4,800	93
October 8	5,308	88
October 15	2,934	94
October 22	1,572	83
October 29	5,909	86

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

Bishop Bob Humphrey, in consultation with the Synod Council, has announced a new plan for synod staff beginning on January 1st, 2018. The plan is designed to provide as much support as possible in helping congregations, rostered ministers, institutions and agencies and the wider church meet the challenges and take advantage of new ministry and mission opportunities. Bishop Humphrey said, "We are excited about and committed to building bridges that connect the richness of our past with the amazing potential God has in store for our future."

To that end, the plan includes a full-time Assistant to the Bishop living in the Southwest, a full-time Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop living in the East and the Bishop living in Harrisonburg. All will serve the entire synod while being strategically located. **Pastor Dave Delaney** will focus on the synod's trademark ministries and institutions serving Youth and Young Adults. The Synod offices will continue to be located at Bittle Hall, Roanoke College and at First Lutheran Church in Norfolk.

The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, M.Div, S.T.M has accepted the call to serve as Assistant to the Bishop. Pastor Bayer Derrick has served as Pastor of St. Philip Lutheran Church, Roanoke since her ordination in 2007. In addition, she is a Visiting Professor of Religious Studies at Hollins University. She intends to continue in this role on a limited basis in addition to her responsibilities as Assistant to the Bishop.

Pastor Bayer Derrick is passionate about the gospel and about God's call and command to love God and love our neighbors. She is committed to and an innovative leader in ministries of social justice, equality, accompaniment – globally and locally, Christian formation, youth and more. She is also deeply committed to our Synod, the ELCA, and our ecumenical and interfaith partnerships. Pastor Bayer Derrick offers wonderful complementary skills, perspective, and experiences that will significantly expand and enhance our mission and ministry in the Virginia Synod, ELCA.

We are deeply grateful for the ministry of all our staff, especially those leaving at the end of the year:

- **Pastor Chris Price**, having served as a part-time Assistant to the Bishop (in the East), will be retiring. He has been tremendously helpful, inspiring and supportive to staff, rostered ministers and congregations throughout our Synod in so many ways.
- **Deacon Mindy Reynolds** has organized key ministries for building and supporting healthy leaders and churches in our synod through the re-introduction of the Healthy Congregations initiative and Pastoral Leadership Consulting Groups; she held an active leadership role on our Ministerium Team, implemented Synod Council's policy regarding boundary trainings, and worked collaboratively with Portico Benefit Services and other denominations to provide services and offer events that promoted health and wellness. She also has served above and beyond her part-time Call in support of many synod-wide events and programs.
- **Lisa Allagas** has served as part of our support staff in the Salem office and we are very appreciative of all the ways she has been a blessing to us.

With deep gratitude, we wish Chris, Mindy and Lisa God's richest blessings.

Becky Walls, Emily Pilat, Tammy Kasper, Richard Hoffman and **Skip Zubrod** will continue to serve our synod in similar capacities from the Salem office and **Lenae Osmondson** will move into a full-time administrative position serving out of the Norfolk office.

The next steps will be taken in cooperation with the ELCA Division for Mission to Call a Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) who will also serve as an Assistant to the Bishop. That process will include a nationwide posting of the position and interviews before a Call is issued.

MISSION COUNCIL MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Duane Osheim *	President	977-6952	oshe1m@icloud.com
Sara Bon-Harper *	Vice President	981-1096	sarainvirginia@yahoo.com
Laurel McClurken *	Secretary	973-6320	laurel.mcclurken@gmail.com
Pat Dwiggin*	Treasurer	301-938-0759	pdwiggin@gmail.com
Laurene Nelson *	Finance Sec'y	244-0145	lmlnelson.1400@cpmcast.net
Lewis Horton *	Past President	974-7549	lohorton56@gmail.com

COMMITTEE LIAISONS:

Sara Bon-Harper	Child Protection Policy	981-1096	sarainvirginia@yahoo.com
Lewis Horton	Congregational Life	974-7549	lohorton56@gmail.com
Tom Hecmanczuk	Finance Mutual Ministry	227-2766	thecmanczuk@comcast.net
Tony Marbury	Discipleship, Preschool, Worship & Music	284-3259	cmunc8r@gmail.com
Laurel McClurken	Congregational Care, Social Ministry	973-6320	laurel.mcclurken@gmail.com
Amanda Nelsen	Property	612-790-2349	amandanelsen@hotmail.com
Duane Osheim	Education Ministries, Worship & Music	977-6952	oshe1m@icloud.com
Lois Shepherd	Preschool	249-4489	lois@loisshepherd.net
Pastor Viktoria Parvin*	Pastor	540-840-5426	pastorviktoria@stmarklutheran.org

ST. MARK STAFF

St. Mark Lutheran Church (ELCA) of Charlottesville, VA

www.stmarklutheran.org

The office is open T-F 8:30am – 2:30pm

Pastor: Viktoria Parvin

pastorviktoria@stmarklutheran.org

Director of Music Ministry: Kristi Van Doorn

kristi@vandoorn.us

Director of Youth and Family Ministry: OPEN

Office Manager: Nancy Kliewer

office@stmarklutheran.org

Church custodian: Abraham Dabie

Nursery Coordinator: Ashley Smith

St. Mark Lutheran Preschool: A Ministry of St. Mark

www.stmarkpreschool.net

The preschool is open from 6am – 6pm

Director: Carla Moody

director@stmarkpreschool.net

Assistant Director: Tami Sharff

office@stmarkpreschool.net

Resource Teacher: Kristen Wray

Co-Teachers: Christina Thompson, Sonja Vaughn, Patricia Peterson, Debbie Jo McGowan

Part-time co-teachers: Ashley Smith, Elizabeth Sutherland

Kitchen Manager: Lynn Hewson

VIRGINIA SYNOD, ELCA Roots & Wings



DECEMBER

Volume 9, Issue 12-December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BINGO MONTH 	WRITE A FRIEND MONTH 	Resources: Unique Holidays used from Holiday Insights 			1 "An apple a day, keeps the doctor away." Today make that apple a red one. Enjoy! 	2 Make tonight a FAMILY FUN NIGHT. Plan a special dinner, play games together, and/or watch a movie. Share your blessings of being a family.
3 Read Mark 13:24-37 	4 Santa begins his list for his gift giving for Dec. 24. Make sure your name is on the "nice" not the "naughty" list. 	5 Jesus wants us to be faithful in sharing the love of Jesus. Discuss with your family ways that you continue to show others God's love. 	6 Make tonight a FAMILY FUN NIGHT. Plan a special dinner, play games together, and/or watch a movie. Share your blessings of being a family. 	7 Ask a parent to help you search the internet to find out about this important event in our nation's history. 	8 Chocolate or blondie, with or without nuts, fudge or cake, brownies are the bite sized delicious morsels that satisfy our sweet tooth! Enjoy your favorite today! 	9 Instead of buying Christmas cards this year, with your parents permission, use coloring supplies and construction paper to make your own Christmas cards.
10 Read Mark 1:1-8 	11 Baptism leads us into a life of loving God and serving our neighbor. Ask your parents to share with you about your baptism. 	12 These beautiful plants are the "flower" of Christmas. Ask a parent to help you find out about this unique plant. 	13 In a cup or cone, plain or with sprinkles, chocolate or vanilla, it's always a good day for ice cream. Visit your local ice cream parlor and enjoy it your way. 	14 Make tonight a FAMILY FUN NIGHT. Plan a special dinner, play games together, and/or watch a movie. Share your blessings of being a family. 	15 Ask a parent to help you search the internet to find a simple recipe to celebrate this special day. 	16 Peanuts, pretzels, raisins, everything tastes better with chocolate. Pick your favorite snacks and cover them with melted chocolate. Yum, Yum!
17 Read John 1:6-7, 19-28 	18 Whether you use a recipe or purchase them from the store, make this a family activity and make your favorite type of cookie for dessert. 	19 God sent Jesus to be like us to show us how to live our lives loving God and loving others. Discuss how your family shows their love for God and others. 	20 Wish everyone a Merry Christmas by going door to door singing the songs of the holiday! Have fun! 	21 Ask a parent to help you search the internet to find out more about this unique day. 	22 Sunday's scripture talks about God's love for us in the Old Testament, beginning with Moses. During family devotions tonight, share some Old Testament stories of God's love. 	23 Make tonight a FAMILY FUN NIGHT. Plan a special dinner, play games together, and/or watch a movie. Share your blessings of being a family.
24 Read Luke 1:26-38 	25 Celebrate Jesus' birthday today. Happy Birthday Jesus! 	26 Everyone was so excited that Jesus was born. Share with your family why you are glad that Jesus was born. 	27 If you didn't get snow for Christmas, get the family together and make your own. 	28 Celebrate this day by getting the family together and playing your favorite card game or learning a new one! 	29 Make tonight a FAMILY FUN NIGHT. Plan a special dinner, play games together, and/or watch a movie. Share your blessings of being a family. 	30 Everything tastes better with bacon. Try something new and add bacon. Tasty!
31 Read Luke 2:22-40 	CHRISTMAS DAY 		Make Cut Out Snowflakes Day 	Card Playing Day 		Bacon Day

December 2017

St. Mark Lutheran Church, Charlottesville, VA
(434) 293-3311 (bold=church activity)

Every Sunday – CoDA 6-8pm (SR)
Every Monday – Chess Club 6:30 pm (N)
Every 2nd Monday Sept-May) – Beer & Hymns 7pm Trinity Irish Pub on The Corner
Every 3rd Monday – Worship & Music 5pm
Every 4th Monday – Discipleship 5pm (L)
Every 4th Monday – Women's Book Club - 7:00 pm - (L)
Every Mon thru Fri – Narcotics Anonymous ~ 12:15 pm – SR
Every Tuesday – FCA prayer group noon-1pm (L)
Every Tuesday - 12 Step Group 5:15 pm (SR)
Every 1st Tuesday – 12 Step for Women 5:30 pm (L)

Every 2nd Tuesday - Mission Council Meeting– 7:30pm (L)
Every Wednesday – 12 Step for Women 5:30pm (SR)
Every Wednesday (Sept-Apr) Choir 7pm (Sanctuary)
Every Wednesday - SAA Group - 7:30pm (SR)
Every 2nd Wednesday – SAA study group 6:30pm (L)
Every Thursday - TM Sindhi 4 ~ 6pm (U)
Every Thursday - CoDA 7:30pm (SR)
Every 3rd Thursday – Preschool staff meeting 12:15-2:45 (L)
Every Friday – FCA Prayer Group 11:30am (U)
Every Saturday - AA Group – 9 pm - (SR)

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
3 ADVENT 1 9am Sunday School 10:15am HOLY COMMUNION with tree decorating after worship 6pm CoDA (SR)	4 12:15pm NA (SR) 6:30pm Women's Book Club to Shadwell's 6:30pm Chess Club (N)	5 Noon-1pm Fellowship of Christian Athletes (L) 12:15pm NA (SR) 5:15pm 12-Step Group (SR) 5:30pm 12-Step for Women (L)	6 12:15pm NA (SR) 5:30 12 Step for Women (SR) 5:30pm Advent soup and study 6pm Advent worship service 7pm Choir Practice 7:30pm SAA Group (SR)	7 12:15pm NA (SR) 4pm TM Sindhi (U) 7:30pm CoDA (SR)	8 11:30am Fellowship of Christian Athletes Prayer Group (U) 12:15pm NA (SR)	9 9am St. Nicholas Pancake Breakfast 9pm AA Group (SR)
10 ADVENT 2 9am Sunday School 10:15am HOLY COMMUNION w/Advent music celebration Parent meeting after worship 2pm Thrivent workshops (FH) 6pm CoDA (SR)	11 12:15pm NA (SR) 6:30pm Chess Club (N) 7pm Beer & Hymns at Trinity Pub on the Corner	12 Noon-1pm Fellowship of Christian Athletes (L) 12:15pm NA (SR) 5:15pm 12-Step Group (SR) 7:30 Mission Council (L) -	13 12:15pm NA (SR) 5:30 12 Step for Women (SR) 6:30pm SAA Study Group (L) 5:30pm Advent soup and study 6pm Advent worship service 7pm Choir potluck 7:30pm SAA Group (SR)	14 12:15pm NA (SR) 4pm TM Sindhi (U) 7:30pm CoDA (SR)	15 11:30am Fellowship of Christian Athletes Prayer Group (U) 12:15pm NA (SR)	16 9pm AA Group (SR)
17 ADVENT 3 9am Sunday School 10:15am HOLY COMMUNION 6pm CoDA (SR)	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 12:15pm NA (SR) 5pm Worship & Music (L) 6:30pm Chess Club (N)	19 Noon-1pm Fellowship of Christian Athletes (L) 12:15pm NA (SR) 5:15pm 12-Step Group (SR)	20 12:15pm NA (SR) 5:30 12 Step for Women (L) 5:30pm Advent soup and study 6pm Advent worship service 7:30pm SAA Group (SR)	21 12:15pm NA (SR) 4pm TM Sindhi (U) 7:30pm CoDA (SR)	22 11:30am Fellowship of Christian Athletes Prayer Group (U) 12:15pm NA (SR)	23 9pm AA Group (SR)
24 ADVENT 4 CHRISTMAS EVE 10:15am HOLY COMMUNION 5pm Family worship 6pm CoDA (SR) 11pm Candlelight worship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 12:15pm NA (SR) 6:30pm Chess Club (N)	26 Noon-1pm Fellowship of Christian Athletes (L) 12:15pm NA (SR) 5:15pm 12-Step Group (SR)	27 12:15pm NA (SR) 5:30 12 Step for Women (L) 7:30pm SAA Group (SR)	28 12:15pm NA (SR) 4pm TM Sindhi (U) 7:30pm CoDA (SR)	29 11:30am Fellowship of Christian Athletes Prayer Group (U) 12:15pm NA (SR)	30 9pm AA Group (SR)
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 10:15am HOLY COMMUNION 6pm CoDA (SR)	Preschool reserves the Fellowship Hall Weekdays from 9am – noon, 3 - 5pm					

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	December 3, 2017	December 10, 2017	December 17, 2017
Welcome/Announcements	Sara Bon-Harper	Tony Marbury	Tom Hecmanczuk
Crucifer/Acolyte, Chalice Bearer	Izzy Hecmanczuk	Nora Giesecke	Sylvie Bon-Harper
Ushers	Richard Sundberg, Marcy Wisbauer	Tom Teisberg, Marco Escobar	Ali Griffith, Lewis Horton
Nursery	Nora Giesecke	Will Hecmanczuk	Anna Bon-Harper
Assisting Minister	Tony Marbury	Paul Huffman	Constance Johnson
Reader	Karen Love	N/A	Ginny Nelson
Altar Guild	Sandy Werner	Linda Imhoff	Elaine Oakey
Greeter	Karen Love	Anita Jones	Linda Imhoff
Children's Moment	Tony Marbury	Tom Hecmanczuk	Christa Escobar
Counters	Jack Milligan, Mark Giesecke	Constance Johnson, Lynn Stephenson	Christa Escobar, Lois Shepherd
Snack	Linda Imhoff, Corinne Courtney	Sue Ann McCarty, Marcy Wisbauer	Christine Giesecke, Caroline Hecmanczuk
Friendship Coffee Set up/Clean up	Lisa Veale/Caroline Hecmanczuk	Charlotte Owen/Kara McClurken	Yvonne Osheim/Kara McClurken

	December 24, 2017 10:15am	December 24, 2017 5pm	December 24, 2017 11pm	December 31, 2017
Welcome/Announcements	Duane Osheim			Laurel McClurken
Crucifer/Acolyte, Chalice Bearer	Crosby Horton, Lewis Horton	Katharina Ravichandran		Crosby Horton, Lewis Horton
Chalice Bearers		H. Imhoff, A. Carter, P. Dwigings		
Ushers	Tom and Will Hecmanczuk			John and Anita Jones
Nursery	Nate Kiewer	N/A	N/A	Rebecca Giesecke
Assisting Minister	Ginny Nelson	Yvonne Osheim	Tony Marbury	Bill Roberts
Reader	Jeff Werner	Christa Escobar	LaurelMcClurken	T. Marbury, P. Marbury, N. Giesecke, D. Osheim
Altar Guild	Marcy Wisbauer	Corinne Courtney	Patty and Tony Marbury	Heidi Jones
Greeter	Duane Osheim	Sue Pickett	Lois Shepherd	Dick Rabe
Children's Moment	Tony Marbury	N/A	N/A	Anna Bon-Harper
Counters	Tom Hecmanczuk, Mark Giesecke	N/A	N/A	Mark Giesecke
Snack	Karen Love, Corinne Courtney	N/A	N/A	Yvonne Osheim, Nancy Kiewer
Friendship Coffee Set up/Clean up	Amanda Nelsen/Bill & Linda Roberts	N/A	N/A	Kara McClurken

	January 7, 2018	January 14, 2018	January 21, 2018	January 28, 2018
Welcome/Announcements				
Crucifer/Acolyte, Chalice Bearer	Aidan Carter	Izzy Hecmanczuk	Nora Giesecke	Sylvie Bon-Harper
Ushers	Richard Sundberg, Marcy Wisbauer	Tom Teisberg, Marco Escobar	Ali Griffith, Lewis Horton	Tom and Will Hecmanczuk
Nursery				
Assisting Minister	Tony Marbury	Paul Huffman	Constance Johnson	Nano Masters
Reader	Lewis Horton	Gail Milligan	Linda Imhoff	Laurene Nelson
Altar Guild	Sandy Werner	Linda Imhoff	Elaine Oakey	Marcy Wisbauer
Greeter	Carolyn Rader	Jennifer Dwigings	Christine Giesecke	Paul Huffman
Children's Moment				
Counters				
Snack	Kathryn Stephenson, Amy Robbins	Carolyn Rader, Sue Pickett	Heidi Jones, Dave Zentmyer	Patty Marbury, Joyce Garver
Friendship Coffee Set up/Clean up				
Flower Delivery				