



The Marker

VOL 45 NO 3
February 14, 2018

790 Marion Street NE • Salem, Oregon • 503.588.0141 •
stmarksalem.org

SUNDAYS AT SAINT MARK

8:30AM

Celebration Service
(Lounge)

9:45AM

Forum, Sunday School
& Godly Play

11:00AM

Traditional Service
(Sanctuary)

Entering The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday, February 14th, begins the annual Lenten journey to the cross. New Lenten devotional booklets for this year are available in each narthex area. During Lent, Saint Mark will again have the opportunity to worship mid-week on Wednesdays at 12:05 noon followed by a light lunch or in the evening at 6:30 p.m. with Holden Evening Prayer. And, Saint Mark's labyrinth will be available each Wednesday.



If you are able to help with the **soup lunches on Wednesdays**, please let Deb know or sign up on the bulletin board near the church office. Thank you!

Welcoming
ALL IN CHRIST

Journeying
TOGETHER IN FAITH

Reaching
OUT IN SERVICE

Pastor's ReMarks ...

In the church, the Lenten season has been a time of repentance and fasting extending even to worship. The Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days of Easter, rather, they are "Little Easters." Yet there is a sense in which – like Christmas decorations – we need to give things a rest. After Christmas, we put the lights, crèche, and ornaments away. We know where they are. We anticipate putting them up again but we would not want them up all year. When we retire something familiar for a season, recovering its use has a way of making it "new" for us. Taking a rest from something gives a rhythm to worship as well.

One of the traditions of Lenten worship is the omission of the word "alleluia." Based on the Hebrew word, *hallelu yah*, meaning "Praise the Lord," or "Praise Yahweh," alleluia has been a word of praise to God going back to the Psalms of David. Originating at least from the fifth century in the western church, omitting alleluia in Lent developed into the custom of actually bidding it farewell in the Middle Ages. Some would bury the alleluia banner in a coffin on the church grounds after elaborate procession.

Today many churches bury or "hide" the alleluia during Lent as we did during the children's sermon on the Sunday before Lent, Transfiguration Sunday. Other churches carry a ceremonial alleluia banner out of the church on Ash Wednesday. The suspension of singing or saying the word "alleluia" in Lenten worship encourages us to reflect on the quality of our baptismal faith. I see it as a kind of burying this word in our souls for forty days until at Easter, it breaks open its shell and is given full voice at the resurrection.

We fast in Lent not simply for the sake of self-denial. The Lenten fast is always directed toward the promise of fulfillment, the promise that our hunger will be satisfied. So as we bury our alleluia, we wait for the day of its rising up once again. As we let go of things that hinder us or take on disciplines to help us in these forty days, they too are like seeds planted within that will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit we so long for in our lives. May your Lenten journey be a fruitful one.

Shalom,

Pastor Charles

Inter-Generational Lenten Fair

Forum for Sunday , February 18th, will be a time to **come and explore the "I am" statements of Jesus and ideas for making this Lent's journey even more meaningful**. All ages are invited to the Fellowship Hall (downstairs) for a variety of different experiences and stations. Did you know that folded arms are a symbol of prayer? - come bake up your own pretzel! Walk the labyrinth or create a special egg with Lenten symbols. Join the fun as we begin this Holy season of the church year.

Young Organists' Concert

This year the Young Organists' Concert will be held on Sunday, April 8th, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. (note the date change!) This is an annual concert that you will not want to miss if you have not attended in the past. Young organists from around the Salem area perform! And, what talent we have!



Women's Retreat, 2018 April

The annual St. Mark Women's Retreat will be April 27-29, 2018, at Bella Beach on the Oregon Coast. Outreach Coordinator Deb Mantey will be our facilitator, and this year's theme will be "Creating Balance in the Midst of Life's Challenges". We always have such a great time; so be sure to mark your calendars!

Mid-Week Lenten Themes

The theme of our Lenten Mid-week services is "A Lenten Journey to the Easter Vigil." Here are the Biblical stories we will ponder:

Feb. 21 - Creation

Feb. 28 - Flood

March 7 - Deliverance at the Red Sea

March 14 - Salvation freely offered to all

March 21 - Deliverance from the fiery furnace

President's Day

The church office and child development center will all be closed on Monday, February 19th, in observance of President's Day. Regular hours resume on Tuesday, February 20th.

BookMarkers

Are you ready for some good books? The St. Mark book group began meeting again in September to discuss the book selection for the month, share some light refreshments, and enjoy each other's company. You're encouraged to join us each month or whenever you can. We meet from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month in the church Library.



March 11 **The Death of Jim Loney** by James Welch
Discussion Leader: Dan VanOtten

April 8 **Before the Fall** by Noah Hawley
Discussion Leader: Phil Caudill

Luther House News

Lutherfest 2018

Mark your calendars! Lutherfest will be on Sunday, February 25th, 2018, from 2:00 - 4:30p.m. at the Boulder Falls Center in Lebanon, Oregon; the doors will open at 1:30 p.m. This year we are excited to feature cheeses from at least three creameries who have not participated in Lutherfest before. We will again have a photo section for you and your friends to capture the moment in a biergarten-style setting. Tickets are on sale now, and can be purchased online from the Luther House web site by February 16th.

Lilies and Memorials

Each year we collect funds for our Easter lilies and our special memorial garden. Every year a lily cross is assembled and hung over the cross above the altar. It is a gorgeous reflection of the Risen Christ! If you would like to participate, simply make a donation and let us know who you would like to be remembered in the memorial garden. On Easter morning we have a booklet included in our bulletin that names all those being remembered. Deadline to donate is Monday, 26th at 12 noon. Envelopes are in the pew racks for your donations. Please don't forget to let us know who is being remembered; if we do not see anything written, we assume it is given "in memory of loved ones".

Poor People's Campaign

You have an opportunity to be a part of a new grassroots movement in Oregon called the **Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival.** An informational gathering and potluck will be held at Saint Mark on Thursday, March 1st, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.. Please RSVP to mbeemer@wraphome.org.

Financial Report - January

	December	Year-to-Date
INcome	\$27,717.16	\$27,717.16
EXpenses	<u>\$(33,649.45)</u>	<u>\$(33,649.45)</u>
Total	\$ (5,932.29)	\$ (5,932.29)

Remember, the congregation approved (at the annual meeting) \$71,421.56 of investments to offset this year's budget. No transfers have been made to date.

Annual Congregational Meeting Result

On Sunday, January 28th, the congregation approved a General Fund budget of \$407,098 and a St. Mark Child Development Center budget of \$292,996 for 2018.

Four Council members were elected: newly elected were Brandis Piper and Matthew Tenney, re-elected to a second term were: Janet Opdahl and Barbara Schnabel.

A six-member **Nominating Committee** was elected consisting of: Jean Baumann, Mike Conley, Geri Hall, Brent Morace, Carolyn VanOttten and Dee-dee Walters.

Also, three persons were elected to serve as **delegates** to this year's Oregon Synodical Assembly in April: Kay Mitchell, Kathleen O'Brien and Jim Walker.

Women's Bible Study

This month's Women's Bible Study will meet on Thursday, February 15th, at 9:30 a.m. in the lounge. Join us as Joyce Peters will be our hostess. Bonnie Nelson will be our Study Leader and will use the Gather magazine for January/February, teaching on Multiple Meanings. All are welcome!

New Addition to Recycling at Saint Mark

We now have a bin in the recycling closet near the elevator (east narthex) that will collect printer cartridges (any size ... bin will be adjusted to the size as needed). Thank you for continuing to help us stay GREEN!



Habitat for Humanity Home Dedication

What a happy occasion for the Ramos-Gasca family to get their Habitat for Humanity Faith Build keys to their new home Saturday morning! Thank you St. Markers for your help and support to make this happen. The family is so very grateful to everyone who helped realize their dream.

CREATION AND DELIVERANCE

(graphic designs of Old Testament texts
about God's covenant with the people of Israel)

CRAIG GERKE, ARTIST

BALCONY GALLERY @ PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 14—MARCH 30, 2018

[1525 Glen Creek Road N.W., Salem, OR 97304](#)

Schedule a tour: Call church office, [503-362-8500](tel:503-362-8500)

YOU ARE INVITED:

"Lenten Art of Deliverance,"

service of responsive prayer with Pr. Joe Hughes,
art presentation and gallery tour led by Joel Nickel
Sunday, February 18, 2018, 7:00 pm

Need a ride? Call or text Ed Brandt, [503-917-1326](tel:503-917-1326)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS....

+ Craig Gerke, Portland, is a member of St. James Lutheran Church
+ Joel Nickel, Salem, will also present black & white images of Lenten texts
in the February—March Balcony Gallery exhibit.

In addition: View Nickel's "Out of the Blue" paintings and enamels
February and March 2018 at Keizer Community Center Gallery, [930](tel:503-930-XXXX)
[Chemawa Road NE, Keizer, OR 97303](#)—Monday through Friday, 8 am—5
pm. (Closed on 2/19/18.)

Artist's reception—Friday, 2/16/18, 7-9 pm at Community Center

Worship Information**Worship Attendance:**

Sunday, January 28 - 8:30 a.m.: 36
 Sunday, January 28 - 11:00 a.m.: NA
 Sunday, February 4 - 8:30 a.m.: 30
 Sunday, February 4 - 11:00 a.m.: 82
 Sunday, February 11 - 8:30 a.m.: 31
 Sunday, February 11 - 11:00 a.m.: 103

Kairos Community Lunch

Sunday, January 28: 123
 Sunday, February 4: 52
 Sunday, February 11: 75

BUS DRIVER - February

Miriam Lowrie

Church Staff E-mail**Pastor Charles Mantey**

pastorcharles@stmarksalem.org

Theresa Sawtell-Davie

Parish Administrator

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Melonie Watson

Director – Child Development Center

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On the Web:

stmarksalem.org

Welcoming
ALL IN CHRIST

Journeying
TOGETHER IN FAITH

Reaching
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