



# The Marker

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October 11, 2017

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

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## SUNDAYS AT SAINT MARK

**8:30AM**

Celebration Service  
(Lounge)

**9:45AM**

Forum, Sunday School  
& Godly Play

**11:00AM**

Traditional Service  
(Sanctuary)

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*To be your*  
**PRESENCE**



### **Stewardship Sunday "To Be Your Presence"**

Mark on your calendars now Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, as Saint Mark's Stewardship Sunday. An introductory letter was sent this past week. Another letter with a commitment card will be mailed to each home in the parish so that you might prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Saint Mark in the coming year

of 2018. You can bring your commitment card and place it in the offering plate earlier than the 22<sup>nd</sup> if you need to, or you can mail it in to the church office.



## Pastor's Remarks...

I would like to lift up for you the verses of our stewardship hymn this year. Read them carefully.

*To be your presence is our mission here,  
to show compassions face and list'ning ear,  
to be your heart of mercy ever near, alleluia!*

*To be your presence is our mission bold,  
to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,  
to be your hands of justice, right uphold, alleluia!*

*To be your presence is our mission blest,  
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,  
to be your voice of hope, your love expressed, alleluia!*

*We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,  
to serve your people is our call and choice,  
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice, alleluia!*

A key word in these verses is that word "presence." If you look up that word in the Bible you will find that it is used many times in the Psalms most often referring to God's presence. What is it like to come into God's presence?

Psalm 16:11 – "In your presence there is fullness of joy."

Psalm 95:2 – "Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving."

Psalm 100:2 – "Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing."

To be in God's presence brings a sense of joy, of thanksgiving, of gladness. But then there is consternation at the thought that that presence might be withdrawn:

Psalm 51:11 – "Do not cast me away from your presence and do not take your holy spirit from me."

## ReMarks ... continued

Then there is a sense that the presence of God permeates everything. The famous line from Psalm 139:7 tells us, "Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?"

And finally, there is the other side of God's presence that we must not overlook.

Psalm 114:7 – "Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob."

I like the song because it makes clear that you and I are to be the joyful, glad and awesome presence of God in our world, our community and our family.

Christ is the one who is present when we show compassion's face and listening. Christ is present when we feed the poor and shelter the homeless. Christ is present when we speak and act for justice to those oppressed offering hope in a fearful and often violent world.

You and I are Christ's hands and voice, God's very presence. That is our mission at Saint Mark. We are a mission congregation in downtown Salem. It is a mission that can only move forward through your extravagant generosity.

Each year around this time we ask you to prayerfully commit your financial resources to that mission. October 22 is Commitment Sunday. I pray your generosity may be extravagant as God's generosity has been toward you. In that worship, God's special presence will be there through Word and Sacrament. Your presence there in worship moves our mission forward to strengthen our witness.

In God's mission, we, the church, rejoice. Alleluia. Amen.

## Disaster Response

Saint Mark responded to Hurricane Harvey and Irma with much enthusiasm to help! On October first we sent \$850 for Irma, \$1,770 for Harvey and \$350 for either one, for a total of \$2,970. This does include \$1,000 from the Saint Mark Endowment fund (\$500 for Irma & \$500 for Harvey). **We are now taking gifts to help those in Puerto Rico from the affects of Hurricane Maria.**

## Welcoming all in Christ, Journeying together in Faith, Reaching out in Service

When I began attending Saint Mark in the autumn of 2015 I felt welcomed. There were so many who greeted me, a stranger, with nothing but warm smiles and salutations. I spent time with Pastor Charles telling him what had brought me to the steps of Saint Mark. Our conversation lasted over an hour. In the end, Pastor Charles let me know I had a place in the church and that the congregation would be delighted to have me.

Then began my own spiritual renewal with Journey of Faith. It was amazing to gather weekly with such a diverse group of people. Different genders, ages, marital statuses, occupations, political beliefs, and different faith perspectives. My faith grew wider in such a rich way, and my heart became softer and even more open. It was so refreshing to see faith as arms wide open compared with so many who often experience or express faith with folded arms.

Pastor Charles shared an opportunity for me to give rides to a faithful, longtime church member, Ray Erickson. These weekly car rides formed a friendship that is so dear to not only me, but to my children as well. A simple service opportunity became an enriching experience. Countless times Ray and I have reflected on the divine intersection of our lives and the similar roads we have been on in life. This was not based on my own merit, but based on what Saint Mark has instilled in me.

I was welcomed in Christ, led on a journey of faith, and the chance to serve found me. Amidst a world of folded arms, let us show ours wide open.

In the peace and love of Christ,

Ben Howden  
Council Member

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*Welcoming*  
ALL IN CHRIST

*Journeying*  
TOGETHER IN FAITH

*Reaching*  
OUT IN SERVICE

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## **We're getting so close to Children's Time!**

Thank you to Rachel Peterson for being willing to coordinate the Children's time between the children's sermon and communion. This will be offered for children 6 months to pre-K age. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help. We need a copy of your current background check before we can start. The goal is to have enough help so volunteers are utilized once a month (with always 2 adult helpers). We could use a few more willing caregivers. Please let Rachel, Deb, or Theresa know if you can to spend 20 minutes with these little loves.

## **Women's Bible Study**

Women, have you been looking for a Women's Bible Study? Come join the group on the third Wednesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge. The lesson from the magazine Gather will be used as the study guide. This month Mary Alice Bjork will lead us on the second article of the Apostles' Creed. Kathy Nordmark will be our hostess. ALL women are welcome. (We are no longer Martha Circle. Class starts at 9:30 a.m., and we are generally done with class and refreshments by 11:00-11:30 a.m.)

## **New Members!**

Saint Mark welcomed new members this past Sunday, October 8th. Please welcome:

### **Lili Harris**

1767 Schoolhouse Court NW, Salem, 97304  
808.223.2168

### **Matthew Tenney**

212 Muirfield Avenue SE, Salem 97306  
503.991.35745

### **Will & Jenna Kurka**

3670 Hawthorne Avenue NE #203  
Salem, 97301  
Will: 507.828.9404  
Jenna: 320.237.4352

### **Olga Valdes**

4960 Turquoise Ave SE #104  
Salem, 97317

## **Calling all Saints and Sinners!**

As a way to celebrate Luther's "simul iustus et peccator" (at the same time saint and sinner), you are invited to an intergenerational Reformation Party, Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come dressed as your favorite saint or sinner and bring an appetizer or snack to share- there will be fun for all!

## **Congregational Meeting**

On **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**, Saint Markers are asked to meet at **9:45 a.m. for a Congregational Meeting** to vote on the need for a new piano in the Sanctuary.

## **Grand Piano Purchase Proposed for Saint Mark Sanctuary**

Staff pianist Kelly Carlisle, choir director Judy Linder, and organist, Tim Bibelheimer submitted a letter to the Church Council proposing the purchase of a concert grand piano to replace the baby grand in the sanctuary. They said the current piano, a memorial gift from the 1990s, needs more frequent tuning and maintenance, has sluggish keyboard action, and is too small to fill the room with sound for worship.

The musicians located a pristine concert grand consigned by a private owner at Classic Pianos in Portland. If new, this piano would cost at least \$125,000. Discussions with the owner and a salesperson brought the price down to \$44,900. The store placed the piano on hold pending council and congregational consideration.

The musicians suggested that it could be funded using an old memorial gift, a new bequest, and several donations already promised. Also, a "Buy a Key" fundraiser could enable others to contribute. The church general fund would not be involved.

The Church Council voted to refer the piano proposal to the congregation. A forum at 9:45 a.m. will be held on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, to explain the proposal and answer any questions. The council scheduled a Congregational Meeting on this single issue for Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 9:45 a.m.

## **Altar Flowers**

The New Altar Flower Chart for 2018 is now available. There are also a few dates remaining open in 2017. Call us in the church office if you want to fill one of these dates: November 12, 22 or 26; December 10, 17 or 31. If you've never done this before, call and speak with Theresa, and she will let you know how easy it is to provide flowers that enhance worship. Thanks.

## **Communion Assistants Needed**

Have you been thinking of how nice it would be to participate more fully in worship? Being a Communion Assistant is one of the easiest and less time consuming ways to do that. What a meaningful gift to the Saint Mark community. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Charles, Deb, or Theresa. If you would like some instruction, it can be arranged at a time that fits your schedule.

## **Annual Peace Lecture to Explore Uniting into a *Movement of Movements***

The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Salem Peace Lecture will take place in Willamette University's Hudson Hall, located in the Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center on the Willamette University campus, at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 25, 2017. As always, there is no charge. George Lakey will deliver this year's Salem Peace Lecture. His topic will be "Opportunity Knocks: Unite Around a Vision for Justice, Equality, and Democracy." **It has also been described as "the most fun economics book you've ever read." Every year Salem's Peace Lecture Committee presents a leading peace speaker to the Mid-Willamette community free of charge. At that time, a leading local peacemaker is also honored with the Peacemaker of the Year Award.** This year's honoree will be Jayne Downing, Executive Director of Salem's Center for Hope and Safety, **which provides a safe refuge and support to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.** For additional information, please contact Karen Wood of the Willamette University Office of the Chaplains, (503) 370-6213.

### **FORUMS FOR FALL**

- **10/15 - 9: 45 a.m. Congregational Meeting** - To consider the purchase of a Grand Piano for the Sanctuary
- **10/22 -- The Bullying Syndrome** -- The impact of bullying behavior has become a serious issue in our schools. It also has had a devastating effect in the youth who spend time in cyberspace. How to help victims and deal with perpetrators is an ongoing dialogue that is spreading to many communities. One of those communities is the schools. Kelly Carlisle will share his perspective and provide information on how the Salem School District is trying to address this growing and increasingly destructive activity.
- **10/29 "Three Artists of the Reformation"**: Three artists are listed on the calendar of commemorations in the ELW (April 6): Matthias Grünewald (+1528), Albrecht Dürer (+1528), and Lucas Cranach (+1553). Each of them played a pivotal role in the visual art of the Reformation--Grünewald with his Isenheim altarpiece, Dürer with his woodcuts and etchings, and Cranach with his paintings of Lutheran theology and the "social reformation." We will examine some of their art work with an eye toward its meanings and impact. Presenter: Pastor Joel Nickel



## Project UnderWear

Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network (SIHN) families biggest need is underwear! To date we have collected over 200 **pairs** of new underwear for SIHN!!! Thank you. Please keep up the good



work and donate more brand new, any size, men, women, boys, girls sizes! There is now a basket in the collections closet (near the elevator) for your donations. Any questions? Call Alisa Higgins at 503.851.7851. Thank you!

## MUSIC FEST

Sunday, October 29 - 4:00 p.m.

at

Saint Mark Lutheran Church

with

Christ the Good Shepherd & Holy Cross Lutheran Churches

and

Festival Chorale Oregon & Salem Community Chorus

## 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 pm the second Sunday of each month in the church Library.



Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>

**The Moon and Sixpence by W. Somerset Maugham**

Discussion Leader: Jeanne Innis

## ARTISTS OF THE REFORMATION ERA

Artists of the Reformation Era will be presented by artist/theologian Joel Nickel on unday, October 22, at 4:00 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church in the sanctuary, 1525 Glen Creek Road N.W. Please RSVP before Friday, October 20 to + Matthias Grunewald (1470–1528), + Albrecht Durer (1471–1528), + Lucas Cranach (1472–1553), Peace Lutheran Church Visual & Liturgical Arts Committee: Voice / text [503-917-1326](tel:503-917-1326), e-mail [edgarbrandt@q.com](mailto:edgarbrandt@q.com). We welcome your ideas / questions. Also, the new Peace Lutheran Church BALCONY GALLERY features the work of 20th century Hungarian American artist Erno Koch Sunday mornings throughout October. Also, the gallery will be open on dates and times at your request: Tel. [503-917-1326](tel:503-917-1326). **CALL TODAY!**

**Worship Information**

**Worship Attendance:**

Sunday, October 1 - 8:30 a.m.: 30  
 Sunday, October 1 - 11:00 a.m.: 94  
 Sunday, October 8 - 8:30 a.m.: 22  
 Sunday, October 8 - 11:00 a.m.: 90

**Kairos Community Lunch**

Sunday, October 1 - 72  
 Sunday, October 8 - 69

**BUS DRIVER - October**

Jeanne Innis

**Church Staff E-mail**

**Pastor Charles Mantey**  
 pastorcharles@stmarksalem.org

**Theresa Sawtell-Davie**  
*Parish Administrator*  
 office@stmarksalem.org

**Melonie Watson**  
*Director – Child Development Center*  
 cdc@stmarksalem.org

**Deaconess Deb Mantey**  
*Outreach Coordinator*  
 outreach@stmarksalem.org

**Brian Smith**  
*Maintenance*  
 maintenance@stmarksalem.org

**Peter Hoelter**  
*Web Page Coordinator*  
 webcoordinator@stmarksalem.org

**On the Web:**  
 stmarksalem.org

*Welcoming*  
 ALL IN CHRIST

*Journeying*  
 TOGETHER IN FAITH

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