



The Marker

vol 44 no 24
December 13, 2017

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)

Christmas Worship at Saint Mark

Sunday, December 24th

5:30 p.m. Family Worship

10:00 p.m. Candlelight, Carols
and Communion.

Monday, December 25th

10:00 a.m. Worship-Christmas Day

Sunday, December 31st

11:00 a.m. Worship - New Year's Eve



Welcoming
ALL IN CHRIST

Journeying
TOGETHER IN FAITH

Reaching
OUT IN SERVICE

Pastor's Remarks...

As many of you know, I was in Texas recently for a sad occasion – the funeral for my nephew, Seth. I haven't been to Texas in December since we moved to the northwest 25 years ago. Though the weather was pleasant, much remains clouded as to the cause of Seth's death.

As I was driving through the familiar land of my childhood and youth, I would cross the Guadalupe River and various other rivers as they meander their way to the Gulf of Mexico. It turns out that there is a prominent river in our Advent lessons each year: the Jordan River where John the Baptist is baptizing. His offering baptism was unusual because at that time it was mainly proselytes who were baptized – those converting to Judaism. But John was doing a new thing. His water baptism for everyone was meant to prepare the way in people's hearts for the coming of the Messiah.

I know that Seth was baptized and now rests in God's arms but the reality of grief remain. Advent and Christmas can be a time where some feel that the world is force-feeding them merriment. For many, however, this is a time of year when grief weighs heavy, where the sound of tears would be more comforting than the sound of laughter. What holds us up though and gives us courage for the next day is not merriment or misery but hope – Advent hope.

It is the hope that John the Baptist proclaimed to the people gathered around the Jordan River. Someone is coming, he says, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. We know that Christ has come and continues to come and work in us in our times of joy and in our times of sadness.

Seth's last name happens to be Jordan. I will think of him always as gathering around that river which flows from the city of God, the river in whose waters we have all been baptized, the river which flows through all our hearts and makes us one together by the Spirit.

Whether this is a season of gladness or of sorrow for you, know that Christ is coming to you, creating new life in you each day, desiring to do a new thing in you. I wish you the blessings of Advent Hope and Deep Peace which is the Christ Child's Christmas gift.

Shalom,
Pastor Charles

Forums

December 17 From our UNICEF collection of prints we shall examine images of Mary from the Norwegian school and the Austrian school, which are displayed in the lounge. Then we shall read and respond to a poem by Kay Ryan titled "Crib". Discussion led by Marjory Lange.

December 24 On the eve of our Lord's birth we shall examine what Dante's vision of Mary as it is early presented in the "The Inferno" and culminates in "The Paradiso". Led by Dr. Marjory Lange, Professor of English at Western Oregon University.



Advent Mid-Week Worship with Lunch

We will once again have a mid-week worship service at 12:05 noon during the Advent season. Join us on Wednesday: December 20 for our last mid-week worship and then a light-lunch afterwards in the fellowship hall. The labyrinth is available from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Marker

This is the last issue of The Marker in 2017. See you again on Wednesday, January 10th!

Habitat for Humanity

Home dedications are scheduled - The Faith Build for the Ramos-Gasca family will be held Saturday, January 27, 10 a.m.; the Heroes with a Heart Build for the Wuelfing family will be held Saturday, February 3, 10 a.m. We hope you can join us in celebrating these long-awaited homes for these families.

Church Office Closed for Holidays

The Church Office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 25 & 26 for Christmas. And, on Monday, January 1st for New Year's Day.

Merry Christmas From Your Staff

All of us on your church staff and CDC staff wish to extend to each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Safe New Year!



Sunday school needs your help

With Advent upon us and cold weather settling in, our thoughts naturally turn to helping and caring for others. The Sunday school students at St. Mark Lutheran have a long tradition of reaching out to our Kairos community prior to Christmas - creating and sharing Christmas cards, care packages, and carols. We could really use your help in the form of donations for the care packages. Donations of apples, oranges, protein snacks, granola bars, string cheese, hand warmers, and travel sized toiletries including toothbrushes and toothpaste would be so helpful and appreciated. We will be serving our 120+ guests on December 17th and would ask that any donations be brought to the church office ahead of that time. Thank you so much!!

New Family Life Committee

We'd like you all to meet our new Family Life Committee! Our mission is to create a supportive and welcoming family atmosphere for the families in our congregation (and for any families we haven't met yet). We will work to ensure that all events support and accommodate families, thereby increasing involvement and attendance of those with young children. We'll be hosting regular family events and representing family interests to promote inclusiveness. Our task is to ask ourselves, "what are we doing to make sure families feel supported and at home at Saint Mark?" There is space available on the committee if you'd like to be involved! If you are interested in joining this Family Life Committee please chat with Allie West, Rachel Martin, or Rachel Peterson.

Financial Report - November

	November	Year-to-Date
INcome	\$25,794.15	\$328,107.80
EXpenses	<u>\$(33,509.57)</u>	<u>\$(349,654.88)</u>
Total	\$ (7,715.42)	\$ (21,547.08)

With Sympathy

Saint Mark has received word that long time member, Myrtle Harris died this past week on December 5th in Salem, Oregon, at age 96. She is survived by three sons, Charles, Andrew, and James, along with 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. She was married to Wes Harris, Saint Mark's former Choir Director, for 57 years. Before her dementia set in she was very active in the Marker crew and at Helping Hands.

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.



Jan. 14

My Grandmother Asked me to Tell You She's

Sorry

by Fredrik Backman

Discussion Leader: Roe Kvarsten

Feb. 11

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Discussion Leader: Diane Painter



Pillow Dresses!

Last summer, Hands of Comfort sent pillowcase dresses and britches to Haiti with a team of youth from Redeemer Lutheran Church. We recently received a thank you note and photos from them: "During this time of Thanksgiving we want to send you a special thank you for helping the orphans in Haiti. We so appreciate the work you did to create the wonderful dresses, and the girls in the orphanage are enjoying them so much. Your giving heart is a real Blessing from God. May our Lord Jesus in turn Bless you richly. In Christ, The Redeemer Haiti Mission Team"

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 - theme to be decided later. We always have such a great time, so be sure to mark your calendars!

New Member Orientation

As we start the new year we have several friends who are ready to become part of the Saint Mark community. A New Member Orientation and luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, January 7th. Meet in the Library at 12:30 p.m. for a time to learn more about the ministries of this congregation and ways to connect with them. The current plan is for new members to be received on January 21st. Welcome!

Luther House News

Lutherfest 2018

Mark your calendars! Lutherfest will be on Sunday, February 25, 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. For the second year, the Lutherfest Traveling Trophy will be presented to the congregation with the most guests in attendance. Consider buying a table of 8 for \$350 to enjoy the afternoon with seven of your friends! Consider buying a \$50 individual ticket as a Christmas gift for that hard-to-shop-for person in your life.

Rite of Installation

On Sunday, January 21st, at 3:00 p.m., Pastor Mike Ostrom will be officially installed as pastor at Luther House. The service will feature the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer liturgy, gifts of students, and worship leadership by Oregon Synod staff. A special offering will be collected to support the ministry of Luther House. Join us for worship and a reception afterwards.

Quilts of Valor

We want to honor the service of the men and women in the Saint Mark congregation who are military veterans. Are you a veteran, or know a veteran at Saint Mark? If so, please complete the following survey.

Veteran's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Military Branch Served: (circle one)

Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force,
National Guard, Reserves, Coast Guard

Dates Served: _____

Rank: _____

Please return form to the church office, ATTN: Fran Krogh

Worship Information

Worship Attendance:

Sunday, November 26 - 8:30 a.m.: 21
 Sunday, November 26 -11:00 a.m.: 84
 Sunday, December 3 - 8:30 a.m.: 39
 Sunday, December 3 - 11:00 a.m.:110
 Sunday, December 10 - 8:30 a.m.: 25
 Sunday, December 10 -11:00 a.m.:105

Kairos Community Lunch
 Sunday, November 26 : 102
 Sunday, December 3 : 56
 Sunday, December 10: 57
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BUS DRIVER - December
 Verne Deplois

Church Staff E-mail

Pastor Charles Mantey
 pastorcharles@stmarksalem.org

Theresa Sawtell-Davie
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 office@stmarksalem.org

Melonie Watson
Director – Child Development Center
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On the Web:
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Welcoming
 ALL IN CHRIST

Journeying
 TOGETHER IN FAITH

Reaching
 OUT IN SERVICE



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