



The Marker

VOL. 47 NO 34
November 25, 2020

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

SUNDAYS AT SAINT MARK

Visit Online Worship

Join us at: YouTube,
emailed to you and/or
Saint Mark facebook
page!

Worship
(online)



Thanksgiving Eve Worship - TONIGHT

We will have our annual Thanksgiving Eve worship this evening, Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00 p.m. A link will be sent to you on you-tube. With the Covid pandemic it is especially a good time to stop, meditate, relax and be thankful for all of our blessings.



"Grab and Go" Adventfair

Come for a "Grab and Go" Advent fair this Saturday, November 28th from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. Members will be able to come to Saint Mark to pick up Advent candles and a wreath base, devotionals, Good Gifts catalogs and more! This Advent may be one of the most impactful as we ponder the meaning of waiting for God's presence coming as Immanuel. Come choose your devotional and Advent activities.

We suggest parking in the lot, ring the doorbell and Deb will let you walk through picking up items on your "one way direction" to the side Sacristy door going out. ***If you are able to bring some greens, holly, etc. in advance, please let Deb know.***

Words of EnCOURAGEment ...

November 18

A long time member of Saint Mark, Stella Dowd, passed away on Sunday. She died of complications with corona-virus. She was 100. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Special prayers for Shiloh, Audrey Schackel's granddaughter. She is almost 2 1/2 and has tested positive for COVID-19. Also for her mother, Reina, who is five months pregnant and father, Keith, both who have also tested positive.

Here is our Synod Bishop's message on the governor's latest mandates:

Beloveds,

I have extremely important news of which I want you to be aware. This week, Governor Brown and state health officials have announced statewide and county-specific restrictions in an effort to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. These restrictions go into effect on Wednesday, November 18th and are in place until December 2nd. Please see below for the details of the new orders by state and county. You can read the [full order here](#).

Dear ones, I know this is hard. I know we are all tired of this. I know we want to celebrate Thanksgiving and the season of Advent with warm hugs and our loved ones in our homes. Sadly, this year, with nearly 6,000 new cases of COVID-19 diagnosed across the state last week, it is clear gatherings can and are putting the health and lives of our family and friends, and the lives of the family and friends of others at risk.

Yesterday, Dr. Esther Choo, an emergency medicine physician at Oregon Health & Science University, joined Gov. Brown at a press briefing and gave an emotional plea for members of the community to adhere to the new restrictions, saying:

"Right now, we're asking you to be our heroes"

She said it will help save her life and the lives of her family members, neighbors and friends, and the essential workers across the state as cases continue to rise putting many hospitals near capacity.

So, I ask you to practice love, to practice safety, and to practice patience. Patience is an important part of the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal 5:22) In fact, the words patient, patience and patiently are used 35 times in the New Testament, each time as an aspect of Christ-like love. Again and again, followers of Christ are called to be patient, especially as we await the coming of Christ this Advent.

Patience, however, does not mean to sit and do nothing as we wait. Patience means to be active in this world, living in hope-filled faith in God, taking faith-filled risks that are responsive to the Spirit's presence in our lives. Patience is daring to stay in the place we are, as hard as it can be sometimes, and seeking God's glimpses of life in the situation while trusting that something hidden will become manifest to us. It does not mean staying stuck in death-filled places where there is no hope, but unless one's life is truly at stake, it does mean sticking it out as we live God's activity in the present world, nurturing the times in the same way a mother nurtures a child growing in her.

This kind of Holy Spirit presence, waiting yet active in the already/not yet, can't be done alone. We need the support, encouragement, love and forgiveness of God and of one another. so here are three ideas for practicing patience together. First, by simply breathing with one another in silent meditation. Second, by praying to God with each other for the patience we need. And third, by practicing gratitude, intentionally looking for, naming out loud with someone, and thanking God for what God is already doing in our lives. Remember that patience in Christ requires practice: the more we do it, the better we get at it.

November 19

We received this call for support from Lutheran Disaster Relief concerning the devastating hurricanes that have struck Central America. You may, if you wish, donate directly or through Saint Mark noting on your check "Central American Hurricane Relief." We are blessed to have an international relief organization that goes where the need is around the world.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Dear friends,

On Nov. 2, Hurricane Eta, a powerful Category 4 storm, hit Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala. Throughout Central America, at least 171 people died. Winds as high as 150 mph caused power outages and structural damage while heavy rains caused catastrophic flooding and landslides, damaging homes, crops, roads and bridges. Just two weeks later, Hurricane Iota made

landfall in Nicaragua, 15 miles from where Hurricane Eta had made landfall. Iota was the first Category 5 hurricane of the 2020 season, but it weakened to a Category 4 hurricane as it made landfall. It brought strong winds and rains to areas already devastated by Hurricane Eta, hampering any ongoing recovery.

To assess the immediate needs and initiate a response, Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with many companion churches and ecumenical partners in the region, including ACT Alliance, Iglesia Cristiana Luterana de Honduras, Comisión de Acción Social Menonita, Church World Service, Iglesia Luterana Augustina de Guatemala and Iglesia Luterana de Nicaragua "Fe y Esperanza." While the extent of the damage is not yet known, we will accompany devastated communities from immediate relief through long-term recovery. This is an important part of Christ's call on our church.

Please give today. Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those whose lives have been devastated by hurricanes Eta and Iota. Gifts designated for "Hurricane Response" will be used entirely (100%) for direct response until it is complete.

Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes. Please join me in prayer and partnership, and stay connected to the latest events and our response to this and other disasters through our [Facebook](#) page.

As a follow-up to the earlier email today concerning the hurricanes in Central America, Maureen and Phil Caudill send this prayer request for two children they sponsor there.

Pastor Charles,

The two little boys that Phil and I sponsor live in communities that were in the path of the recent hurricanes in Guatemala.

We have heard from World Vision that they can't get into the villages to assess the condition of the children because all the bridges are out, and flooding continues. They will contact us directly to let us know if the children and their families are safe once they can enter the devastated areas.

For now, would it be ok to ask St. Mark for prayers for Darwin Garcia-Ramos (5yrs. old) and Robin Par-Tun (7yrs. old)?

Thank you.
Maureen

November 21

Here is your link for the worship service this weekend. It will be available starting at 4:00 PM on Saturday: https://youtu.be/_dZznIGQhVc

Be sure to listen to another awesome duet with Kelly and Susan in the prelude and the Bell Choir as special music playing later in the service.

November 22

We ask that you would keep these sisters of our faith community in your prayers:

- Janice Henry is recovering from a fall and a broken collar bone
- Kathy McGee is recovering from hip fracture surgery and will be in rehab
- Adelaide Piper has been ill and her parents, Kayla and Brandis, have asked for your prayers

November 23

We ask your prayers for Maureen Waligora. Her father, Joseph Sheean, recently passed away at the age of 94.

The First Sunday of Advent is around the corner. For the four Sundays of Advent we will live zoom our services. This will be followed by a brief coffee hour. (Perhaps better described as a coffee moment.) Then we will have Advent forums immediately following for about twenty to twenty-five minutes all on the same zoom call. All services will be recorded and will be able to be viewed by Sunday afternoon.

Here is the schedule:

Advent 1, November 29 -	Marjory Lange on Advent Poetry
Advent 2, December 6 -	Deb Mantey on Saint Nicholas
Advent 3, December 13 -	Deb Mantey on Santa Lucia
Advent 4, December 20 -	Marjory Lange on Christmas Poetry

I am excited about experimenting with these forums. I hope you will take the opportunity be a part of them.

November 24

Advent is almost upon us. For the zoom service this Sunday at 10:00, I would invite you to have your Advent candles in place so that you might light your Advent candle when the candle is lit in the service. If you would like candles to build your own Advent wreath, come by Saint Mark this Saturday for a "Grab and Go" Advent fair from 11:00 to 1:00.

There will be candles, a wreath base, devotionals, Good Gifts catalogs and more. Greens and holly will also be available.

The TREE OF GIVING will look a little different this year due to COVID restrictions. The Backpack Buddies children at Hoover Elementary will have a brighter Christmas with your help. Instead of asking each member to take a gift tag and a purchasing a gift, volunteers from our congregation are willing to purchase gifts and gift cards for these children. We aim to support 65 children with either gifts or gift cards worth \$25. This involves 47 families altogether to which we hope to offer a gift food card up to \$30 as well.

Consider supporting one or more children and/or families so that we can make this Christmas, darkened by COVID, a little brighter. Please make your checks out to Saint Mark marked "Tree of Giving". Thank you! You may also give through the Saint Mark home page through the "GIVE" button. The dropdown box includes a Tree of Giving category. It would be most helpful if we could receive your gifts by December 14.

Be of good courage. Christ is with you.
Pr. Charles

GRATITUDE! HERE AND NOW

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2

Lord, lead us to a more grateful heart. Amen

"Tree of Giving" Donations

Instead of an actual "Tree of Giving" please donate to the church in helping to make a child's Christmas a special one! We have 65 children's names from the Backpack program at Hoover Elementary School that will receive gifts or gift cards. All donations need to be sent to the church marked "tree of giving" by Sunday, Dec. 14.

Getting to Know You

Joanne Sandhu

Saint Markers are likely to know me as a lector and a leader in our Gratitude! Ministry and Journey of Faith.

My church family may not know that I love middle school students and spent much of my life with them as their English teacher. A Portland girl, I was married for 46 years to Balbir (Bill) Sandhu, of Punjab, India. Always interested in a larger world, I serve on the Board of WE (Water and Education) Care International, a Salem non-profit helping promising students in rural Kenya.



Like many others, I regard Saint Mark as my home away from home. I'm grateful for the worship at Saint Mark, its beauty and dignity, its reverence and joy! Just 22 when I first visited here, I was transformed by the power of Bach and other classical masters, organ music new to me. Through the years, paintings and sculpture appropriate to the liturgical seasons have engaged and stirred me. Most of all, the people here are my friends and brothers and sisters in faith. In this uncertain and uneasy time, the anchor that our family of faith offers gives me gratitude and hope.



Advent Worship & Forums

During Advent this year we will hold our worship services on Sunday mornings at 10 am with Zoom! Plan to have a brief coffee time afterwards and then a Forum. Beginning this Sunday, November 29th, the first Sunday in Advent.

November 29 - Presenter: Marjorie Lange	Topic: <i>Advent Poetry</i>
December 6 - Presenter: Deb Mantey	Topic: <i>St. Nicholas</i>
December 13 - Presenter: Deb Mantey	Topic: <i>St. Lucia</i>
December 20 - Presenter: Marjorie Lange	Topic: <i>Christmas Poetry</i>

Advent is time of preparation!
Join us as we have mid-week worship (via you-tube)
each Wednesday during Advent
(December 2, 9, and 16) at 12:05 p.m.

A link to the service will be sent to you each week.

Council Affirms "Freeze"

The Church Council again reaffirmed in November that the congregation would not gather for worship inside the building but continue Zooming and You-Tube worship during this time. The Governor has issued a 2-week freeze on gatherings and our Oregon Synod Bishop, Laurie Ceasar Larson has highly recommended we follow those guideline to keep us all safe. The pandemic is higher now in December than it was in March as we started this contagious and highly deadly illness.

New On-Line Giving Platform

Saint Mark has changed the company through which we receive online donations. We are now working with [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly). Any recurring giving that you may have set up with our former company has been discontinued. If you wish to give to Saint Mark online simply go to our webpage, stmarksalem.org and click on the "Give" button. Or you may go directly to the giving page here: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2685479> . You do not have to sign in or log-in in order to give. Thank you for your support.

G R E A T I S T H Y
Faithfulness

We are very grateful for your continued support of the ministries of Saint Mark. This year's Gratitude campaign for 2021 has resulted to date in pledges of \$222,582.32 from 65 units. We believe another 11 units will pledge \$40,440.00 if they continue at their current giving level.

We also have approximately 18 units that don't pledge but normally will give about \$25,040.00. The total we anticipate receiving for next year at this date is **\$288, 062.32 with 94 units**. As good as this total is, it is still short of the current proposed budget request. While we may have cuts to the proposed budget made before presenting a budget to the congregation in January, 2021 we will still be balancing the budget by drawing on out LFA/Hitchcock investment funds.

This year during the pandemic your giving has continued and gone well beyond any expectations we might have hoped for. Thank you! You have enabled Saint Mark to continue to pay its bills.

If you have not pledged, we hope you will take the time to continue giving Gratitude for all that God has given each of us. Then, prayerfully consider your gifts: emotionally, physically and monetarily that you wish to commit to Saint Mark during 2021. Fill out a pledge card or call the church office and let us know your commitment. If you did not get a pledge card and would like one, please call the church office and we will mail one to you.

Embracing One Another in Prayer

- *Morning Lighting of the EnCOURAGEment Candle*
- *Evening Lighting of the Gratitude Candle*

At this time when we are physically apart from one another, as we are able and willing, pause to light a candle (battery-powered or flame) and be quietly in prayer.

- In the morning, meditate on the *Light of EnCOURAGEment*, perhaps focusing on a Scripture verse or a word or a hymn that uplifts our spirit.

- In the evening, meditate on the *Light of Gratitude*, reflecting on our day and its blessings. May this simple act of lighting candles help us connect with God, with one another; and unite us in hope, joy and peace.

Suggested Verse for Meditation: Psalm 119:130

¹³⁰The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

Pandemic Isolation Continues

As this Covid pandemic is ramping up here in Oregon and across the world, please consider taking a minute to call someone ... especially if you are thinking about them. Sometimes that "minute" of contact makes all the difference in our/their attitude and well-being right now in this time solitude. Several members in retirement homes (or those living at home alone) are feeling the isolation more than others. They are alone (no spouse) and/or having meals in their apartments so there is little to no contact with others.

November Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries

Birthdays

2 - Fran Krogh	11 - Nels Haugen	21 - Cathy Ross
Tara Martin	13 - Kathleen O'Brien	23 - Wade Pries
5 - Charlie Arnest	17 - Marek Waligora	28 - Arthur McKurdy
Marie Arthur	18 - Jenna Kurka	29 - Darlene Anderson
7 - Orion Davidson	David Rayl	31 - Christine Baker
9 - Mary Brooks	19 - Nate Martin	Alisa Higgins
Zoe Hallett		Elijah Klampe
Katie Wood		



Wedding Anniversaries

December 28 - Roger & Karen Clark

Week of _____

GRATITUDE!

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 NIV

Daily Blessings/Reflections

❖ **Today I am grateful for...**

❖ **Today I ask God...**

- Listen and talk to God in prayer
- Pray for our Saint Mark community, staff, city, state, nation, and world.
- Call, text, or email others, especially those living alone.
- Surprise someone with a note or card.
- Worship regularly online and eventually in person.
- Explore the hymnal. Sing or memorize favorite hymns.
- Explore books of the Bible. Memorize favorite verses.
- Write or scrapbook your faith story.
- _____

G R E A T I S T H Y *Faithfulness*

**I /We offer my/our part
in gratefulness and love
for God's faithfulness to
all. This is what I can do
from home during the
time of Covid-19.**

Any further comments?

How To Zoom

In order to participate you have to download onto your computer, tablet or smart phone the Zoom app. To participate simply sign up -

<https://zoom.us/signup> and email Pastor Charles that you would like an invitation. Pastor Charles will send out an email that includes an invite with a link. You might want to give it a try before hand so you know your camera and microphone are working. Try this: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360000163266-Test-Zoom-Room-Setup>

-

Amazon.SMILE

Saint Mark is now on Amazon.Smile! Use: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-0417819> to help us with donations! Use your own Amazon account but when you check out, look to see if you can donate to your favorite charitable organization ... US! Thank you in advance for any donations that might come our way (only some items you purchase will apply!).

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

Judy Linder

Choir Director
choirdirector@stmarksalem.org

Susan Johnson

Organist
organist@stmarksalem.org

Chris Bjork

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

Reaching
OUT IN SERVICE



790 Marion Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

stmarksalem.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 83
Salem, Oregon