

The Marker

VOL. 50 NO 8
March 6, 2024

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

SUNDAYS AT SAINT MARK

Worship

Join us at: YouTube,
Emailed to you and/or
facebook page!

Worship - 10:00 AM
IN PERSON and live-
streaming!



Lenten Worship

You are encouraged to share your Lenten pilgrimage with worship at 6:30 p.m. each week. We are rotating with our fellow Lutheran congregations at their places of worship: **March 6 here at Saint Mark**, March 13 at Holy Cross, and March 20 at Christ the Good Shepherd.

Lenten Soup Supper

Tonight at our March 6 Mid-Week Lenten worship service, Saint Mark is hosting a Soup Supper at 5:45 p.m. before the worship service at 6:30 p.m.

We are looking for 4-5 more crockpots of soup. **Could you provide a crockpot of soup for March 6?** Let Theresa or Pastor Heidi know as soon as possible. Coffee/tea/water and rolls have already been donated.

Comment ... Update on Our Sanctuary Pews

In case you haven't noticed, we haven't moved any pews yet! Several months ago, we had discussed reconfiguring our pews for greater accessibility and more leg room between rows. All systems were "go;" we initially thought we would have this done this past fall, relatively quickly and inexpensively. We have learned, however, that the project is more involved than we thought. More time, more labor expenses. Since learning this, we have changed our approach and the plan now is to tackle it in two separate stages.

Stage One: Increase Accessibility. Create an open row and modify some pews in the middle of the sanctuary to make new spaces specifically for improved seating and movement for people who use wheelchairs and walkers. This stage only affects a small number of pews. We plan to proceed with this work this spring.

Stage Two: Increase Legroom. Our sanctuary pews are 7" closer together than the recommended standard! Getting more space between rows is certainly possible but it won't be quick or cheap. Significant time is needed for moving every pew out and back in and addressing floor anchoring systems. The timeframe for this stage is as yet undetermined and will need to wait until we have secured the funding.

Many thanks to all who have helped to support this effort.

Kelly Carlisle, Chairperson
Worship & Music Committee

GRATITUDE GIFTS GRACE

Simplify, slow down, be kind. And don't forget to have art in your life – music, paintings, theater, dance and sunsets.

Eric Carle

A Future with Hope!

A Daily Devotional Available

Printed copies of *The Seed of Joy*, a daily devotional guide for 2024, are available in each narthex. If you need one mailed to your home, please call the church office and request one.

March Forums (approximately 11:15 a.m.)

March 17 – *Endowment Trust Proposed Change* – Endowment Committee
with Judy Boyd, Chairperson

March 24 - *The Artwork Around Us* – Alice Kirk, presenter

Men's Ensemble Concert Donations Update

At the incredible Men's Ensemble Concert last Saturday evening, February 24, donations of \$2,452 were collected for Saint Mark's Social Ministry Committee to help with the homeless, hungry and needy. On February 28, a \$270 electronic deposit from Tithe.ly from seven individuals was received. Balance to date is \$2,722. We are so thankful for the generosity of those in attendance.

Care for Creation Committee

The church library now has a section devoted to earth sustainability and care for creation. We have 10 books currently and hope to build the collection. Here are a few of the offerings:

- *Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability, and Peace*
by Vandana Shiva, 2005
- *Coming Home to Earth* by Mark Bocker, 2016.
Mark Bocker was pastor at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Beaverton,
Oregon
- *How to Give Up Plastic: A Guide to Changing the World, One Plastic
Bottle at a Time* by Will McCallum, 2019
- *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*
by Suzanne Simard, 2022
- *Sacred Nature: Restoring Our Ancient Bond with the Natural World*
by Karen Armstrong, 2023

If you have other book suggestions, please let us know. We are especially interested in books for grades 1 – 12. Send your suggestions to careforcreation@stmarksalem.org or put them in the Social Ministry Committee box in the conference room.

Notes from the Council, February 2024

Gretchen Flesher Moon, Council Secretary

The Council met on Tuesday, 20 February. Pastor Heidi led the Council in a shared devotion based on the Lenten devotions, Tending Joy: What is something that reminds you of God's faithfulness, even in the midst of a storm?

Treasurer Verne reported on the January income and expenses. January income was \$42,399.27 or \$10,674.01 above budget. January expenses were \$34,099.53, or \$2,374.25 above budget. For the month, income exceeded expenses by \$8,295.76. Year-to-date, pledges are ahead of budget. All investment funds gained in January.

Council agrees with Property and others to table the moving of any pews until after Easter, and probably not until May.

The Call Committee will soon meet with Bishop Laurie's designate Juan Carlos to receive another slate of candidates.

Council approved a lease contract to be offered to the Oregon Child Care Coalition for several rooms in the education wing. Upon signing the lease, OCCC will spend March and April preparing their space, hiring staff, and enrolling children and make its soft opening May 1. At request of Finance committee, income from rent will go to the LFA/Hitchcock fund for 2024.

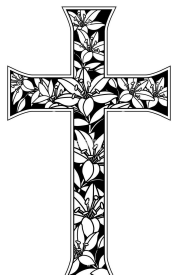
Council approved several fundraisers for 2024 on behalf of the Social Ministry Committee.

A new member class is scheduled for Sunday, 25 February, with 7 expected participants.



Spring Forward THIS Weekend

YES! This Sunday, March 10 --- Just a reminder that it is time to move your clock forward one hour for Spring this Saturday night when you go to bed.



Easter Memorial Flower Garden

At Easter, Saint Mark enjoys many lovely flowers that make a garden and a cross of lily blooms. After worship that morning, the flowers are then available to everyone who attended worship to take home! Included in the Easter bulletin is a booklet with the names of those who donated and the names of those being remembered. We hope you will choose to donate. Please let us know your name, the name(s) of those you would like honored

(still living) or those in memory (departed), along with your donation and we will include you in the booklet. The deadline to donate and still be included is Monday, March 25, at 12 noon. Questions? Call Theresa in the church office. Thank you.

Labyrinth in Lent

The labyrinth is up in the chapel and available to walk. Whenever the church is open, please feel free to take a few minutes to have some quiet and meditative time.

Safe Sleep Current needs

A basket at Saint Mark is available for donations.

- **Food** - breakfast cereals, milk (you can freeze milk!), butter, coffee, powdered creamer
- **Operating supplies** - toilet paper, paper towels
- **Miscellaneous** - 4 slice toaster, small potted flowers to plant outside



Habitat for Humanity

Four new homes are under construction in East Salem by Habitat for Humanity. Applications are being accepted until March 15 from families who want to partner with Habitat with the hope of being selected to purchase one of these affordable (3 bedroom, 2 bathroom) homes. Stop-by the table near the entrance to the lounge for more information and applications. If you know someone who might like to apply, please take a brochure and application packet for them.



Personal Care Kits for Lent

During Lent we are called to walk together with Christ and reflect on the self-giving love of his death on the cross for us all. Let us not forget our brothers and sisters in need throughout the world that Christ calls us to serve. The Hands of Comfort group with the help of the congregation is collecting items to put together personal care kits. People suffer each day because of lack of basic hygiene. In refugee camps and in poor communities a few simple items can mean the difference between sickness and health. As we travel on our Lenten journey, help give a simple gift of Care to help people stay clean and healthy and walk with dignity.

We especially need bars of mild soap and toothbrushes. Other items needed are nail clippers, combs (no rat tail, please) and bath towels. Any donations may be placed in The Hands of Comfort basket in the church northeast entrance closet off the narthex or in the white basket in the west narthex. We are grateful for your support of this mission to help our brothers and sisters in need.

Church Council Retreat
Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Choir Recruiting Members

Saint Mark Mighty Choir has resumed! Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. for this Lenten Season. We invite each Saint Mark member to consider joining the ensemble...if you love to sing...come join us and lend your voice in worship! Please reach out to Jim, Kelly, Susan, and Kent if you have any questions. We rehearse from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. and will be singing each Sunday through April 7 for Lent, Easter, and our final Service of Song. If you can make most of the rehearsals and most of the Sunday services, you are welcome to join! Sing with you soon!



A Meditation

March 1

We are so brief.
A one-day dandelion.
A seedpod skittering across the ice.
We are a feather falling from the wing of a bird.
I don't know why it is given to us to be so mortal
and to feel so much.
It is a cruel trick, and glorious.

Louise Erdrich



BookMarkers

The next BookMarker's group meeting will be Sunday, March 24, at 3:00 p.m. in the Library at Saint Mark. Jeanne Innis will be presenting this month's discussion on *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. You are encouraged to join the group anytime a book sounds interesting to you.

Saint Mark Recycles, Reuses, & Reduces

This page is dedicated to reminding you of a few ways that Saint Mark earned its EarthWise certification and to ask you to help us continue to be a good partner in our world:

RestStop – donate bottled water, Gatorade; Keurig coffee/tea/cocoa, individual packets of non-perishable items for snacks or quick microwaveable meals for First Responders.

Plastic/Metal Bottle Caps - donation box for collecting plastic/metal bottle caps

Helping Hands -- donate clothing and household items (they are distributed at no cost to the needy)

Lions Club -- donate used or new eye glasses

SafeSleep United -- Personal care items for women and children seeking shelter): Hair ties, Hair brushes, Razors, Protein bars, Sunscreen, Cute socks, Band-aids, Washcloths, Small notebooks/pens, Sudoku or crossword puzzle books, Nail clippers, Nail polish, Bottles of water.

Used Batteries & Used Printer Cartridges -- bring in used batteries and/or printer cartridges so they can be recycled - any size

Lutheran World Relief / Hands of Comfort Supplies --- various items requested throughout the year: quilting material and notions; school supplies; and personal hygiene items

Aluminum Can Pull Tabs -- these pull tabs are collected and turned in for their cash per pound, and the funds then are donated to help pay for dialysis patients' treatments. A NEW basket for your tabs is now available! Please bring your tabs in a plastic bag.

Styrofoam - Clean and dry Styrofoam blocks that snap when bent only. No popcorn please. We deliver this to the appropriate place (e.g.: Fresh Start Market) for recycling since not all recycling sites accept styrofoam.

Non-Perishable Food Items -- donate canned fruit, vegetables, meats or packaged items, and we deliver them to the Marion/Polk Food Bank for the needy

Cans and/or Bottles - donate empty cans and bottles for Backpack Buddies
- blue bags with Saint Mark's identification are available to make sure funds are deposited correctly.

These items are neatly gathered in labeled baskets in the East Narthex closet. Thanks to all who help care for God's amazing gift of our planet.



Calendar for this Week

Sunday, March 10

9:00 a.m. Sunday Church School
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Forum
1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
7:00 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous

Monday, March 11

1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Salem Community Chorus Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 12

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous

Wednesday, March 13

10:00 a.m. Mindful Meditative Movement (Zoom)
10:00 a.m. Finance Committee
2:00 p.m. Family Promise Coordinators Meeting
5:45 p.m. Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship at Holy Cross

Thursday, March 14

9:00 a.m. Hands of Comfort
4:00 p.m. Reconciling In Christ/ Racism Committee
4:00 p.m. Property Committee
6:00 p.m. CERT
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous

Friday, March 15

12:30 p.m. Care for Creation (Zoom)

Saturday, March 16

8:00 a.m. Oregon Music Teacher's Association Recital
10:00 a.m. Girl Scouts

Sunday, March 17

9:00 a.m. Sunday Church School
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Forum
1:00 p.m. Oregon Music Teacher's Association Recital
1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
7:00 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous

TITHELY online donations may be made on our webpage:
stmarksalem.org
 or <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2685479>

Or by using this QR code:



On the Web:

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Marker newsletter deadline ...
 12 noon, each Tuesday prior to printing
 on Wednesdays

Bulletin deadline ... 12 noon, each
 Wednesday prior to printing on
 Thursdays

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Welcoming
 ALL IN CHRIST

Journeying
 TOGETHER IN FAITH

Reaching
 OUT IN SERVICE



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED