About the Visiting Theologian Program

“Faith seeks understanding”—so said Anselm, Saint, Archbishop, and Theologian. Saint Mark’s Visiting Theologian Program seeks to promote understanding among the faithful, not only within the parish of Saint Mark, but also within the wider church as a gift to the entire Salem community.

Since the early 1970’s, Saint Mark has welcomed more than thirty distinguished theologians into the Congregation’s life of worship, learning and service. Teachers of church history, ethics, Bible, culture, art, theology, liturgy and sacramental life have enriched our community’s deliberation on what it means to believe in the God of Israel and live accordingly. The ecumenical community, including students at Willamette University, Western Oregon University and Mount Angel Seminary have participated.

By means of visiting teachers, Saint Mark hopes to encourage lively reflection and faithful action within the Congregation and all faith communities, inviting broad participation in the program for the sake of mutual appreciation, growth in common understanding and service.

“For with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light.”
—Psalm 36
This year’s Visiting Theologian:  
**Dr. Mark Allan Powell**

Mark Allan Powell is Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio and an internationally known biblical scholar. He is editor of the HarperCollins Bible Dictionary and author of more than 25 books on the Bible and religion, including the widely used textbook, *Reading the New Testament* (Baker Academic). He has also written in the areas of spiritual formation (*Loving Jesus*), stewardship (*Giving To God*), and homiletics (*What Do They Hear? Bridging the Gap between Pulpit and Pew*). Powell’s DVDs *How Lutherans Understand the Bible* have received widespread use throughout the ELCA and were excerpted for inclusion in the Lutheran Study Bible (Augsburg Fortress).

---

**Schedule of Events**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>Kick-off Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Doors open at 7:00PM</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>Gathering &amp; Refreshments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30AM</td>
<td>Morning Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOON</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30PM</td>
<td>Afternoon Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SATURDAY PROGRAM TOPIC:**

*A Living Word: Why the Bible Means Different Things to Different People*

All Christians say the Bible is the word of God—but they often understand the message of the Bible differently. Prof. Mark Allan Powell will share with us the different ways that well-known Bible stories are understood in various countries, and will reflect on what this tells us about how we (and other people) understand the Bible. We can almost guarantee that you will learn some things about stories that you have never thought of before—and you will be left to consider possibilities for those stories to take on new meaning you might have otherwise missed.

**SATURDAY PROGRAM TOPIC:**

*Faithful Living & Joyful Giving: Surprisingly Good News About “Stewardship”*

What the Bible actually teaches about stewardship—time, talents, and treasures—is surprisingly good news! With good humor and a high degree of self-disclosure, Bible scholar Mark Allan Powell traces his journey from being a notoriously bad steward who hated the church’s annual “fund-drives” to discovering the biblical pathway “from duty to delight.” As presented in the Bible, stewardship is not just about fund-raising: it is a way of life—and for many of us, it just might be the way to a better life!

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30AM</td>
<td>Homilist at Sunday Worship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One worship service this Sunday at Saint Mark

---

**Event Information:**

**COST:**

All events are **free** and **open to the public**.

**LOCATION:**

Saint Mark Lutheran Church  
790 Marion Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

---

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Pastor Charles Mantey  
info@stmarksalem.org  
503.588.0141  
stmarksalem.org »