



SAINT MARK
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAKING OUR MARK

January 2017

Special points of interest:

- Cookie Purge
- Pastor's New Year Message
- Council Update
- Calendar
- Service Volunteers
- Financials
- Mission
- Birthdays



The Great Cookie Purge

On Sundays January 1st & 8th, we invite you to bring your remaining Christmas cookies to church for fellowship hour and “purge” them from the house.

After a few weeks of the wonderful holiday treats, most of us are ready to have the temptation of eating them gone. Bring them to church and enjoy a final treat with friends and celebrate the epiphany cookie free!



St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Pastor

Walter A. Wietzke

550 West Seventh St.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

E-mail
secretary@saintmark.info

Website www.saintmark.info

Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Holy Communion is celebrated the 1st & 2nd Sunday of each month

Fellowship / Education
Hour
after service

Have a question? Concern?
Office: (651) 224-0228

Executive Committee

President	Jackie Brueggemann	651-291-7960
Secretary	Mary Miller	651-483-0671
Treasurer	Nancy Redlin	612-270-7127
Cong Liaison	Candy Petersen	651-249-1981

Committee Chairs

Education	Lisa Weicht	651-442-4289
Property	Holly Goldschmitz	651-283-2804
Evang/Mission	Robin Martinson	651-483-4429
Worship	Dianne Testa	651-227-4047

Church Staff

Bonnie Jellinek	Organist
Julia Jackson	Bookkeeper
Martin Brueggemann	Choir Director
Holly Goldschmitz	Secretary
Carol Gall & Janet Blair	Custodians

Pastor's New Year Message

January 1 is the Name Day of Jesus... a ritual that proclaims that from the first day of the New Year on... everything I do and say is in the Name of Jesus. New Year's Day is also a day of Resolutions, making new ones... right? Most resolutions are likely to be personal improvement resolutions, such as doing more exercise, watching our diet, better habits... Are you making some?

I know so many people who throw up their hands and say "Why even try?" "I always break them..." and I say "So what? - they're still worth it!" Life is never the notion that "it's all or nothing." Living is a constant matter of degree. And a little, even a little is better than nothing. So make resolutions!

At least for the period of time that you hold to them and even if you break one, - how you 'still' reflect on how it affects you - it's all worth it. All the Resolutions we make: some for Health, others for Happiness, and some for Character. There is growth available - spiritual growth, intellectual, social, emotional, physical. Prayer and charity...

Look, we all need Ritual Days, starting points, ending times, decision times. January 1st is one. January 6th, Epiphany is another...

Rituals provide reasons or maybe excuses to do something new and different. And they reoccur each and every year... We need rituals to help our resolves. Don't get discouraged "if it seems you're constantly making the same resolution."

Chances are if you look back, you've learned a little bit... you're not in the same place and the fact is - the ones that you've made and kept and the ones you have broken... all of them - may have benefited others... like "angels unawares".

In the Name of Jesus, in the Year of 2017, I make this Resolution..."

A Happy and Blessed New Year to Us All! Pastor Walt

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind.
 To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."
 — Calvin Coolidge

Update from the Church Council

Typically during the month of January each year we hold our Annual Financial Meeting. That meeting will occur on Sunday January 22, 2017, following worship.

PLEASE put this important meeting and date on your calendars and plan to attend.

At that meeting we will review our actual revenues and expenses for all of 2016 and present the proposed budget for 2017. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to learn more about our cost saving measures and vote to approve or reject the budget.

In the fall of 2016 we held “cottage meetings” and I had indicated in the November newsletter that I would be providing all of you with a recap before the end of the year, however, additional feedback is still being received and our task team wants to ensure that we have captured all of the submitted thoughts and ideas before we move forward. As always, please know that you can always reach out to me with any and all questions and concerns, or feel free to use the suggestion box in the fellowship hall if you choose to remain anonymous.

The position of Volunteer Coordinator has been eliminated, effective 1/1/2017. This position was faithfully held by Kath Hillier ever since we moved back into our building following the fire in

**Annual Financial Meeting
Sunday, January 22nd following service.**

Council continued

December of 2014. We very much valued the work that Kath took on for all of us, but in light of our cost saving measures, this position was a luxury we can no longer afford. In addition, the choir will meet less frequently and plan to provide special music just a few times throughout the year, so the choir director position has also been scaled back. That role is filled by Martin Brueggemann. Finally, the position of church secretary, currently held by Holly Goldschmitz, is being scaled back from twenty to twelve hours per week. New office hours will be posted soon as Holly and Pastor sort out the details.

One of our current council positions is now vacant, that of Liturgical Liaison, this was filled by Mary Fashner. Mary has resigned from the council and Altar Guild as she is transferring her membership to Immanuel Lutheran. We very much appreciate all of the creative and hard work Mary shared with all of us and we wish her nothing but Godspeed.

Thanks and Happy New Year,

Jackie Brueggemann

**PLEASE
put
this
important
meeting
and
date
on
your
calendars
and
plan
to
attend.**

SUN	MON	TUE
<p>1 Communion</p> <p>9:30am Service</p> <p>10:30am Fellowship</p> <p>12:00pm FAL Service</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00pm AA</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30am Service</p> <p>10:30am Fellowship</p> <p>12:00pm FAL Service</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00pm AA</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30am Service</p> <p>10:30am Fellowship</p> <p>12:00pm FAL Service</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:00pm AA</p>
<p>22 Financial Meeting</p> <p>9:30am Service</p> <p>10:30am Fellowship</p> <p>12:00pm FAL Service</p>	<p>23</p> <p>3:00pm– 7:00pm</p> <p>Loaves & Fishes</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00pm AA</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:30am Service</p> <p>10:30am Fellowship</p> <p>12:00pm FAL Service</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:00pm AA</p>

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 8:30am Bible Study	5 7-9 Square Dance	6	7
11 8:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Full Council Meeting at Church	12 7-9 Square Dance	13	14 9:00am Square Dance Brunch 6:30pm Square Dance
18 8:30am Bible Study	19 7-9 Square Dance	20	21
25 8:30am Bible Study	26 7-9 Square Dance	27	28
Feb 1 8:30am Bible Study	2 7-9 Square Dance	3	4 10:00am Altar Guild

JAN	Usher	Reader	Fellowship
1	John & Rose Cook	John Durant	Cookie Purge
8	Brueggemann Family	Gary Brueggemann	Cookie Purge
15	Rick & Candy Petersen	Candy Petersen	
22	Michael & Robin Martinson	Bonnie Jellinek	
29	Dorothy LaFrooth Kathy McGuire	Myra Larson	

Children's Puppet Show

A big thank you to everyone that helped the children create a wonderful Christmas Story Puppet Show!

From helping make props, learning and singing songs, directing and getting the set put together, Thank you!

Altar Flowers and Fellowship Hosts

The new 2017 **Altar Flower sign up** chart is now on the Narthex wall.

Each week, two bouquets are available for \$15.00 each. Please sign up for one or both bouquets for a Sunday to commemorate a special day with your church family.

A **Fellowship Host sign up sheet** is also up in the Fellowship Hall on the bulletin board. Please sign up for a Sunday to host treats for one day after service.

Each Sunday, these two items rely on member volunteers to happen.

ST. MARK FINANCIAL SUMMARY
 YEAR TO DATE CHANGE ON OVERALL FINANCES SINCE 1/1 = DECREASE OF \$31,711

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCES												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Checking Accounts												
General	\$15,296	\$22,173	\$21,456	\$20,686	\$24,258	\$18,207	\$18,280	\$16,241	\$13,753	\$21,531	13,952	
Capital Campaign	\$2,432	\$1,487	\$2,003	\$2,003	\$1,147	\$1,405	\$1,405	\$1,274	\$1,274	\$2,079	7,028	
Fire Fund	\$34,649	\$13,364	\$12,047	\$11,781	\$11,842	\$11,856	\$11,856	\$10,710	\$10,710			
Funeral	\$1,476	\$1,476	\$1,476	\$1,476	\$1,476	\$1,476	\$1,793	\$1,793	\$1,793	\$1,793	1734	
Memorial	\$8,652	\$8,667	\$8,658	\$7,188	\$7,678	\$8,569	\$8,559	\$10,102	\$10,104	\$11,814	14,870	
Total	\$62,505	\$47,167	\$45,640	\$43,134	\$46,401	\$41,513	\$41,893	\$40,120	\$37,634	\$37,217	37,584	

INVESTMENT & SAVINGS ACCOUNT WITHDRAWALS												
Thrivent Investment Withdrawals YTD \$15,000	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
CC Savings Withdrawal \$1,000								\$1,000				
Transfers to Investment \$10,710										\$10,710		

Operation Christmas Child

We have received word from Samaritan's Purse that some of our shoeboxes have been delivered to children in Tanzania!

Some of the Shoebox gifts collected in the United States in 2016 will be delivered to **152,760 children** in Tanzania. Praise God that over 808,395 children have received a shoebox since 2000, when Operation Christmas Child began distributing gifts here.

- Tanzania has 52 million people and is located in East Africa
- 44% of the population is 14 years old or younger.

The Sheridan Story

Over 200,000 children in the state of Minnesota live in food insecurity and do not always know if they will receive their next meal. The Sheridan Story's purpose is to respond to this need by closing the weekend food gap between Friday and Monday, when children are not able to participate in the free or reduced meal programs at school.

Commonly called backpack programs,

St Mark will be collaborating with a group in the West Seventh area and commit one Friday a month to ensure that our neighborhood kids are well fed, even on the weekends. Watch for more info soon!



Happy January Birthdays!

Week of Jan 8-14	Bonnie Jellinek
Melanie Wood	Week of Jan 22-28
Ramona Nelson	Geraldine Salzwedel
Week of Jan 15-21	Jerry Smith
Ron Fogel	Week of Jan 29-31
Nathan Arnold	Elena Mena
Ethan Stevens	Alice O'Brien
Dianne Testa	Gloria Opsahl



New Office Hours

**Beginning in 2017 the
secretarial hours will be**

Tuesday– Thursday

From 9:30 am– 1:30

**Please call or email the office as
always for any need other than
Pastoral and Holly will respond
during the days above.**

**Please leave a phone message
for any Pastoral Care need and
Pastor Walt will return your call.**

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In the City for Good