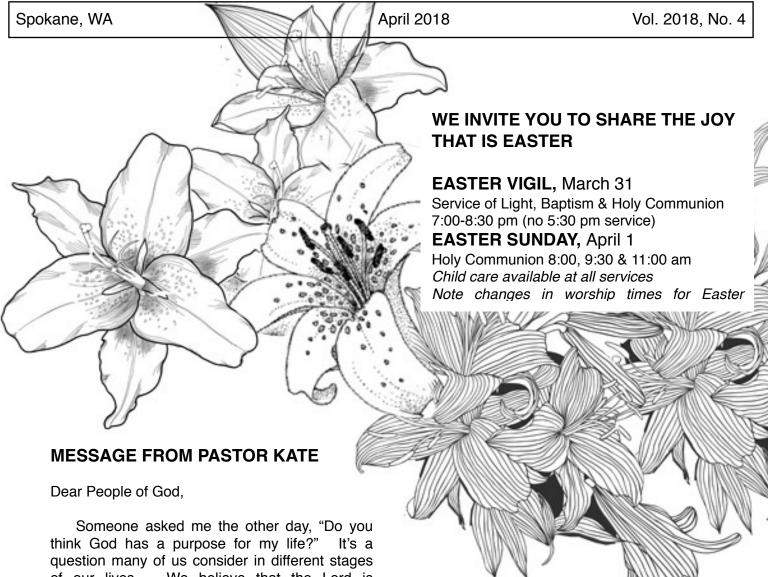
IC XC NI KA CHURCH St. Mark's Lutheran Church Church St. Mark's Lutheran Church Church



question many of us consider in different stages of our lives. We believe that the Lord is interested and involved with us but we don't always understand how that works. Sometimes this question is just a general feeling we have. Sometimes it is more pressing when we are trying to make decisions about significant directions to take.

Our Lutheran background has a deep history of considering God's purposes in our lives by talking about "vocation" or "calling." But those words may seem like "church words" that don't connect well with everyday living. Martin Luther believed and taught that the work the

Lord has given us are the places and people to which we are called. Perhaps we've lost the sense of being able to serve God in the ordinary commitments we have.

There is an exciting opportunity for our congregation to explore the ways we live as God's people in our daily lives. The "Communities of Calling Initiative" is a five-year program continued next page

developed by the Collegeville Institute. Fourteen congregations (of different denominations) across the country will be selected to participate. Grant funds from the Lilly Endowment will be available that may be used for books, resources, speakers, webinars, consultants and other possible expenses.

Pastor Martin Wells (a member of St. Mark's and recently retired from 18 years as our synod bishop) is shepherding us through this initial process of discernment. You will have an opportunity to hear more about the project from him at an adult forum this spring. The pastors, church council, and staff are considering whether this might be a good time for us to be involved in such a project. We have scheduled a day-long retreat in April to discuss, reflect, pray and then decide if we should apply. We would hear in August if we are accepted. The program would begin with training for our leadership team in the fall of 2018.

Congregations who are selected would design a new ministry or enhance existing ministries that support people's participation in God's work in their daily lives. The Communities of Calling website describes the initiative as partnering with congregations in helping people "deepen their awareness of God as the source of their callings," and inviting them "to use the Spirit's gifts for service and mission at home, work, and in the community." Pastor Eric and I think that this focus would fit so well with who we are as a faith community and the areas in which it would be healthy for us to grow.

Over the past eight years, the Collegeville Institute has brought together theologians, social scientists and pastors to study, research, and reflect on the general calling to discipleship of all believers and the particular callings of individuals. Through that work they have witnessed "how individuals and communities can be transformed when they see their lives as part of God's purposes in the world."

That brings us back to the question I was asked, "Do you think God has a purpose for my life?" Yes, I think God has a purpose, and often many purposes, for our lives as followers of

Jesus' way. In the days of the early church, people who lived by Jesus' teachings were called "People of the Way" and the faith they held came to be called "The Way." Most of us want to be people who live according to "The Way." We may have a chance, if we decide to pursue this initiative and are selected for it, to grow in our understanding and faithfulness as "People of the Way."

Blessings,

Pastor Kate

NOTE THIS!



The St. Mark's call committee voted unanimously, on March 19, to recommend Pastor Edwin Weber for call to our congregation. Pastor Edwin was here March 16-18 for interviews with the pastors and the call committee. He also had a chance to meet with the staff. That Sunday, Pastor Edwin introduced himself at the worship services and led the opening liturgy. In between the services, people had a chance to meet Pastor Edwin and his fiancé Freddie Hampton.

There will be a specially called congregational meeting on **Sunday, April 15, at 12:00 pm** after the second service for the purpose of voting on the call for Pastor Weber. After the call committee's recommendation, the next step requires a call from the congregation by written ballot at a congregational meeting. Please plan to attend and participate in this process. If you have any questions, you may speak to a call committee member or one of the pastors.

Call committee members include Cynthia Moore, Dave Tanner, Harmony Farness-Young, Mark Nelson, Liz Grosen, Brett Hauber, Barb Belstad and Bruce Nelson.

MONEY MATTERS

	February	2018 Operating Budget - Year to Date						
Fund	Giving	Giving	Expenses	Budgeted	Net - YTD			
General	\$ 55,186.66	\$ 103,659.23	\$ 121,013.87	\$ 141,082.83	\$ -17,354.64			
Mortgage	\$ 7,343.00	14,056.69	\$ 11,714.00	\$ 11,714.00	\$ 2,342.69			

February, as the year's shortest month and still usually deep into winter, typically has some of the lowest giving numbers, so the negative total in the General Fund is not unexpected. Many of us wait patiently for springtime to look for signs of renewal and increased ease to travel outside our homes.

Please remember that if you are looking for convenient, consistent, and carefree giving, Simply Giving might be just what you need. It enables you to have your checking account automatically deducted for the amount you decide, and it goes straight into St. Mark's account. Don't hesitate to call me at the church; I can answer any questions you might have or set you up with this very quickly.

With Easter around the corner, we appreciate that many in our congregation will give a special Easter offering, so I feel confident that these numbers will improve. Happy Easter! See you in church.

Loris Stupel Financial Secretary 747-6677 finance@stmarks-spokane.org

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

The St. Mark's church office will be closed on Friday, March 30 and Monday, April 2.

CHURCH COUNCIL

St. Mark's church council will meet on Monday, April 9, at 7:00 pm in the conference room.

CHANCEL CHOIR

St. Mark's chancel choir rehearsals are on **Thursdays at 7:15 pm** in the music room. If you are interested in singing in the choir we'd love to have you. If you have questions please contact Debbie Hansen at 838-8730.

WHITWORTH WOMEN'S CONCERT

The Whitworth University Women's Choir, under the direction of St. Mark's member Debbie Hansen, will perform their spring concert at St.

Mark's on Sunday, April 29, at 3:00 pm.

Admission is free and the concert will last about an hour. All are welcome!

NEW MEMBER DINNERS, INQUIRERS' CLASSES

New member dinners and Inquirer classes start **Sunday**, **April 8**, and continue on **April 15**, and **April 29** (please note change due to scheduling conflict) at **5:00 pm**.

Each week we have dinner together with one of our pastors, staff members and a few church members, followed by informational classes about the Lutheran faith and what we do here at St. Mark's. We encourage our members to share this information with anyone who might benefit.

If you are considering becoming a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church on **Sunday**, **May 6**, please call or email Loris Stupel at 747-6677 or finance@stmarks-spokane.org.

SUNDAY - APRIL 22ND



2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

Dinner & Auction



SILENT AUCTION,
HORS D'OEURVRES,

LIVE MUSIC AT 5:00PM

DINNER & LIVE AUCTION AT 6:00PM

Featuring Live Music
BY THE
JUSTIN JAMES BAND

TICKETS: \$30/PERSON OR \$200 FOR A TABLE OF 8



SUNDAY, APRIL 22 Tickets on sale now!

St. Mark's youth are heading to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston soon! They need your help in procuring auction items for their *Hoedown to Houston*

auction and dinner. Please talk with Susan Hagen or Wendy Fry if you have a donation.

- Airline Vouchers
- Time Shares
- Time at your Lake Cabin
- Gift Certificates (restaurants, shops, salons, spa)
- Artwork
- A Round of Golf at your favorite course
- Sports or Play Tickets
- Sports Memorabilia
- Jewelry
- Handcrafts
- Hotel Discounts
- Sporting Goods
- Home Décor
- Fine Wine
- Surprise us!

BUS DRIVE UPDATE

We are inching closer to our goal of purchasing a new shuttle bus for St. Mark's. Please check out the thermometer posted in the narthex to see our progress. Donations of all sizes will help us to realize our dream of a new, safer vehicle for St. Mark's!



Learning for All Ages

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS!

All kids ages three years through sixth grade are welcome to join us here at St. Mark's on June 18-23 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. At Shipwrecked VBS, kids discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms. Shipwrecked is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences as kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Registration will begin in May. Be on the lookout!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, April 1 and April 8 due to Easter and Spring Break. Classes will resume on **April 15** with a new Godly Play story. Happy Easter!

BLESSING OF NINTH GRADE CONFIRMANDS

Parents, mark your calendars! Blessing of the ninth grade confirmands will take place at worship on **Sunday, April 15, at 10:45 am.** Watch for more information in your mail.

ADULT FORUM / BIBLE STUDY Conference room, 9:45 am

April 1: Happy Easter, no Forum

April 8: Gabe Brennan, "Always Being Made

New: The Campaign for the ELCA"

April 15: Louise Stonington, "Citizens Climate Lobby" **April 22:** Pastors, "Jesus: The Revolution of Love"

April 29: Pastor Martin Wells, St. Mark's Initiative** **May 6:** Pastors, "Salvation: Abundant Life Now"

May 13: Pastors, "Cross: Where God Is"
May 20: Pastor Martin Wells, St. Mark's Initiative

**April 29: St. Mark's congregation is in a discernment process of whether to apply for a five-year grant from the Collegeville Institute. This grant would support a major initiative at St. Mark's on the Reformation notion of "vocation," the calling of members into lives of response to God's gift in baptism.

This forum will introduce the notion of vocation, outline the grant opportunity, and will seek member feedback. Please come and assist with helping us set our direction at St. Mark's!

Social Ministry Opportunities to Serve

If you feel the calling to get involved with some projects at St. Mark's, here are a few groups you can check out. Just remember, you are never committed for a life time! You can enjoy it for as long as you want and work with some great people in the process.

SPEAR is an after school and summer program for low income youth in the East Central district. The kids get food and clothing and help with homework if needed. St. Mark's helps them go to summer camp and to the local swimming pools. Caring people are always needed to share your gifts of time.

Shalom Ministries/Dining with Dignity is a feeding program that feeds the homeless. Dinner is served by St. Mark's on the fourth Monday of each month and breakfasts are served Monday through Thursday, 7:15—8:45. Come see how appreciative the hungry are to have a hot meal.

St. Ann's Sunday Lunch is a lunch program where St. Mark's cooks and serves a meal at St. Ann's Catholic Church every six to eight weeks. St. Mark's next commitment at St. Ann's is Sunday, April 15. Please let Donna Evenson know if you are interested. She can be reached at 434-4940 or gdevnson@yahoo.com. Many hands make the meal more enjoyable for everyone. A special thank you to Advent Lutheran Church, who through a small grant from an endowment, gave St. Mark's \$ 250 to help St. Ann's pay for a new commercial refrigerator.

All Saints Lutheran in Browne's Addition serves a meal every Tuesday evening. St. Mark's helps to serve this meal every fourth Tuesday. Come help and see what community is all about.

Bite2Go is a project that St. Mark's has been involved with for two years and has had great support from our congregation. A Bite2Go kit is a sack of shelf stable food that goes home with a child that is on the free or reduced price lunch program at a school. St. Mark's supports

Franklin Elementary. Individual members of the congregation each sponsor one child at the school, and this year we sponsored 41 children. Volunteers are always needed to pick up the kits at 2nd Harvest and deliver them to the school. Thank you St. Mark's for being so supportive this year.

Items always needed for **Crosswalk** and **SPEAR** are hygiene products and food high in protein. **SPEAR** also has a need for baby clothes and supplies for some of the SPEAR families.



IS CLIMATE CHANGE REAL?

That should get your attention! Join us at 7 pm on Sunday, April 15 in the fellowship hall for a showing of the documentary "Chasing Coral". This award-winning film shows how a one-degree rise in sea-water temperature has killed 26% of the Great Barrier Reef's coral in a single year.

We will also talk about Citizens Climate Lobby, a non-partisan group promoting a carbon tax initiative which could reduce carbon emissions to 50% of 1990 levels, while adding 2.8 million jobs to the American economy. CCL has 20 chapters in Washington State, and over 400 worldwide.

Our speaker will be Louise Stonington, a retired lawyer and science teacher from the Seattle area, who has dedicated herself to climate change education. Louise will also be conducting our Adult Forum on the morning of the 15th.





NEW EASTER HANGINGS ADDED

Easter worshippers at St. Mark's will find a sanctuary full of lilies to celebrate the Resurrection. In addition to the traditional fresh flowers, two new hangings will cover the back walls of the chancel. Pastors Eric and Kate commissioned these works from artist and St. Mark's member Hulda Bridgeman, using a

donation from Pastor Eric's father, Duane Dull of St. Louis Park, MN.

The works are each six feet square, and include hand-dyed and digitally printed silks. In the designs, the cross of Good Friday recedes into the background, overwhelmed by an exuberance of lilies expressing resurrection and life.

CUT HERE							
2018 GRADUATES							
We will be listing the 2018 graduates in the June <i>Messenger</i> . Please fill out the information below, to be included in the newsletter, and return this form to St. Mark's either by placing it in the offering plate or dropping it off at the church office <i>no later than Sunday, May 13</i> .							
GRADUATE'S NAME:							
Plans for further education:							
On Sunday, May 20, we will celebrate with Prayers and Blessings for the Graduates at the 10:45 am service. Graduates and their families, please plan to attend.							
Yes, I plan to be at the worship on May 20 at 10:45 am.							
No, I do not plan to be at the worship on May 20.							

YOUTH NEWS

SAINT MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
UPCOMING EVENTS...

Questions about Youth Programs at St. Marks? Call Susan Hagen 747-6677 Church 220-7250 Cell phone Or Calvin Moore 844-6460 Cell phone Or by email at youth@stmarks-spokane.org

Also:



High School Foot Golf Event April 29th

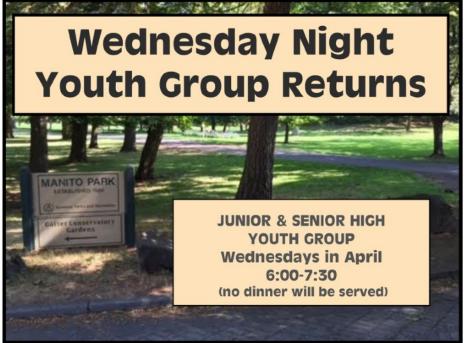
"He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'





9th Grade
Confirmation Retreat!
Friday, April 13th

We will have dinner at
Old Spaghetti Factory
followed by games at
the Church and a viewing
of the film Luther.



Calendar of Youth Events

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter Sunday		3	4 B	5	6	7
8 Café Night with a purpose 7-9	9	10	11 6:00-7:30 Junior & Senior High Youth Group	12	13 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat	14
15 Junior High Chiller 3:00-5:00 pm	16	17	18 6:00-7:30 Junior & Senior High Youth Group	19	20	21
22 Dinner and Auction 6pm	23	24	25 6:00-7:30 Junior & Senior High Youth Group	26	27	28
29 High School Foot Golf	30					





Saturday, April 21st 2018

at the Historic Davenport Hotel

The 34th Annual Chocolate & Champagne Gala

Champagne, Chocolate, Dinner & Auction

A fun evening that supports a serious cause

All proceeds support the
Sexual Assault & Family Trauma Center
and other programs of
Lutheran Community Services Northwest

Tickets on sale now ~ \$95.00 www.lcsnw.org/ccgala

Sponsorships available. Auction Donations also appreciated.

Contact Katie at (509) 343-5078 for more information

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you all for the get well cards from the Mary Cares Group. I am doing well and going to physical therapy three times a week.

Sincerely, Jan Nelson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Births

Greta Marie Foster, granddaughter of Bruce and Carol Nelson

Funeral

Ronni Tvedten on March 3, 2018

Sympathy

Prayers for the family of **Ronni Tvedten** at the time of her death

Spring Golden Agers' Day Out April 24, 2018

Presenting Eric E. in Concert at Lutherhaven!



Eric E. is a dynamic performer with a unique ability to engage his audience and make them feel personally involved. With only an acoustic guitar and a clear tenor voice, he performs songs that are remembered and loved by listeners of all ages.

Click here to learn more about Eric E.

He has shared the stage with acts such as Jay Leno, Styx, Air Supply, Bobby McFerrin, Dan Seals, Eric Bibb, Phil Keaggy, Randy Stonehill, Larry Norman, Larry Howard, Susan Ashton, Bill Mize, and many others.

Register today by phone or email

Call Kerri, our friendly registrar Toll Free: 1.866.729.8372 Local: 208.667.3459 ext 119

Email: registrar@lutherhaven.com

Faith and Fellowship Groups

SCRIPTURE & COFFEE

Tuesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24, 10:30 am

This is a Bible-based conversation in the conference room with Pastor Eric or Pastor Kate to study the Scripture texts for the week.

EAT, PRAY, LAUGH

First Tuesday, April 3, 7:00 pm

Eat, Pray, Laugh will meet in the parish house. **All women** are invited to this fellowship group for conversation, laughter, prayer and refreshments.

SATURDAY EVENING POTLUCK

(First, usually) Saturday, April 7, 6:30 pm

On the first Saturday of each month **you** are welcome to join us for a potluck immediately following the 5:30 service. Great food! Great fellowship! Bring your favorite dish and join this fun group!

CANCER SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Second Sunday, April 8, 12:00 noon

This group will meet in the conference room with a light lunch being served. Jane Joseph, RD, will be the speaker. She is a certified health and wellness coach and a licensed facilitator for the "Am I Hungry?" mindful eating program. This group is for those who have or have had cancer and for their family members and friends.

DIAKONIA GUILD

Second Tuesday, April 10, 12:00 noon

Diakonia, an auxiliary of Lutheran Community Services, will meet at Emmanual Lutheran Church in Cheney at noon. We will be their guests for lunch.

SUNRISE SAINTS & SINNERS

Second & Fourth Wed., April 11 & 25, 6:30 am Questions: Roger Chase, 838-1040

This **men's group** meets at The Chalet Restaurant on 30th and Grand Blvd. You'll have lots of laughs and crazy discussions about everything, while having breakfast. All men are welcomed, saints or sinners!

RUTH CIRCLE

Second Thursday, April 12, at 10:00 am

All women are welcome to join us at the church for refreshments, conversation and a brief Bible study led by Pastor Kate or Pastor Eric.

WALKING CIRCLE

Second Friday, April 13, 10:00 am

This group meets on the second Friday of each month. In April we will meet at St. Mark's at 10:00 to carpool to Kendall Yards. **All women** are welcome!

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Third Tuesday, April 19, 7:00 pm Questions: Pastor Eric, 747-6677

This group has great conversation and fellowship with "30ish or younger" folks at Two Seven Public House in Lincoln Heights. One of our pastors will lead a discussion and buy a few appetizers to share.

continued on next page

GROUPS

continued from previous page

EMPTY NESTERS

Third Sunday, April 15, 4:00 pm Questions: Pastor Eric or Susan Hagen, 747-6677

This group is for parents who have voung adults recently out of high school or who will be flying from the nest in the next year or two. The group will meet at the home of Todd and Susan Hagen, 5447 S. Quail Ridge Circle.

BOOK GROUP

Last Wednesday, April 25, 7:00 am

St. Mark's Book Group meets monthly at Forza Coffee in Lincoln Heights. The book for discussion is "Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead. All book lovers are welcome!



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

316 E. 24th Avenue Spokane, WA 99203

SERVICES

Sunday 8:30 and 10:45 am Saturday 5:30 pm Nursery provided all services

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 am-noon,1-4:00 pm

(Friday 3:00 pm)

FAX: (509) 458-2757 office@stmarks-spokane.org

Phone: (509) 747-6677

WWW.STMARKS-SPOKANE.ORG

PASTORS

Eric Dull Kate LePard

MISSION STATEMENT: To share the gospel through worship and service. To be an inclusive community for justice and peace among diverse peoples.

MESSENGER

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Newsletter editor: Hulda Bridgeman (509) 465-9591 hulda.bridgeman@gmail.com