



ST. MARK'S NEWSLETTER THE REMINDER

February 7, 2018

Worship Schedule

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Sunday Mornings

8:15 am Contemporary
9:20 am Sunday Brew
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Traditional

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February 11
Transfiguration
of Our Lord

Shrovetide Concert &
Pancake Supper (4pm)

Wednesday, February 14
Ash Wednesday
12:10pm Worship
6:10pm Worship

February 18
1 Lent

Wednesday, February 21
Mid Week Lenten Services
12:10pm Worship
6:10pm Worship

February 25
2 Lent

Wednesday, February 28
Mid Week Lenten Services
12:10pm Worship
6:10pm Worship



Super Sunday Rescheduled to March 4!



You are Invited and Needed!
One Worship Service at 10am,
Preceded by Sunday Church School at 9am,
Catered Lunch and Meeting
Regarding the Call of an Associate Pastor

What and When: On Sunday, March 4, there will be one Worship Service at 10am, preceded by Sunday School at 9am. After worship, there will be a catered lunch in the Family Life Center. After eating lunch, we will remain at the tables to be led through a process by Sandra Cline, Call Coordinator, NC Synod, for approximately one hour to help us develop a Ministry Site Profile (MSP).

What is a Ministry Site Profile? A MSP is a document that is compiled from congregation member input that will help inform and guide the call process. The Synod representative will facilitate our conversation to get your input on our current strengths and celebrations in life and ministry; our future opportunities and needs for life and ministry, and the personality and ministry skill set you think we need in a second pastor.

What is the Purpose of a Ministry Site Profile? The MSP will be used to assist the Call Committee (not yet appointed) in their search for a candidate to match our congregation's strengths, needs, and profile for a second pastor, and will be a resource for potential candidates to learn about us and our expectations for an Associate Pastor.

Why Your Presence is Important: Your voice and input individually and as a community related to calling a second pastor are valued and very important. The MSP will be used by the Call Committee in their search on behalf of the congregation. **This is your opportunity to help guide and to inform that process.**

Calendar Highlights

Please check monthly/weekly calendars for times.

Shrovetide Concert & Pancake Supper (**February 11**)
Ash Wednesday Services (**February 14**)
St. Valentine's Day (**February 14**)
Food Pantry Donations (**February 18**)
Women of the ELCA Bible Study (**February 20**)
Women of the Vine Movie Night (**February 20**)
Lent 2018 Mid Week Services (**February 21—March 21**)
Super Sunday Rescheduled (**March 4**)
Daylight Saving Time Begins (**March 11**)
Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mark's (**March 12**)
Passion / Palm Sunday (**March 25**)
Maundy Thursday (**March 29**)
Good Friday (**March 30**)
Easter Vigil (**March 31**)
Easter Sunday (**April 1**)



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Services

February 14

12:10pm & 6:10pm



Shrovetide Concert & Pancake Supper
February 11 at 4pm

Sigmon Stringers

*Pancake Supper after Concert
in Family Life Center*



Lenten Meals on Wednesdays

February 14—March 21

Supper will be served in the Family Life Center from 5:15—5:55pm. Please join us for the meal each Wednesday before the 6:10pm worship service.



Sunday, March 4

Sunday School at 9am

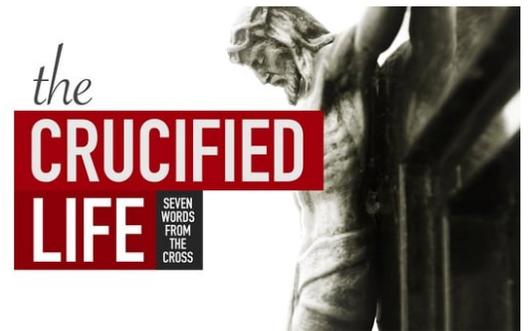
One Worship Service at 10am

**Catered Lunch and Meeting
Regarding Call of Associate Pastor**

Lent 2018 Mid-Week Services
Beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 14
12:10pm Service with Holy Communion
6:10pm Service Preceded by Supper in the Family Life Center at 5:20pm
“The Crucified Life: Seven Words from the Cross”

The observance of Lent evolved over many years in the early church that grew out of preparing candidates to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. It was an extended period of preparation through instruction, examination, and prayer. Candidates explored seriously their identity both as sons and daughters of Adam and Eve under the Law, and more importantly their identity as daughters and sons of Christ given by grace – given by Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit in Holy Baptism.

Our Lenten discipline follows that of the early church. Lent recognizes, by grace through faith, that we are not all who we are called to be nor are we who we are called to become. We all are a work of formation in progress. Our 40 day journey is a call to daily drown, to know and feel contrition for, and to repent – to turn from sin; and a call to put on the mind, character, and attributes of Christ. Both activities – “putting off” sin and “putting on” Christ are the privileges of the baptized granted by grace and the work of the Spirit.



Jesus said to his disciples: “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23). As we take up the discipline of the crucified life for ourselves we will gather at the foot of the cross each week to listen to and to learn from Christ the Crucified in his last seven sayings from the cross. My prayer is that God will renew and transform our lives, will deepen our relationship with Him, and with each other as the body of Christ.

“The Crucified Life: Seven Words from the Cross”
Midweek Services at 12:10pm (Holy Communion) and 6:10pm

- ◆ **Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, February 14**
“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)
- ◆ **Midweek 2: Wednesday, February 21**
“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)
- ◆ **Mid-Week 3: Wednesday, February 28**
“Woman, behold, your son!...Behold, your mother!” (John 19:26–27)
- ◆ **Mid-Week 4: Wednesday, March 7**
“I thirst.” (John 19:28)
- ◆ **Mid-Week 5: Wednesday, March 14**
“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46)
- ◆ **Midweek 6: Wednesday, March 21**
“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” (Luke 23:46)
- ◆ **Good Friday: Friday, March 30 (Only at 8pm)**
“It is finished.” (John 19:30)

Global Outreach

Announcing 40 Days of Giving for Disaster Relief

The season of Lent is often an occasion for self-reflection, prayer and fasting. Lent is a time for Lutherans to think about repentance, suffering and Jesus' death on the cross, even as we hope for the resurrection on Easter. Lent is also a time to think about those who suffer in our communities.



Each year St. Mark's Global Missions Team puts out a challenge to our congregation which impacts many lives. Last year, St. Mark's raised \$4600 for World Hunger during the *40 Days of Giving* campaign. This money was taken to the NC Synod meeting, where an anonymous donor matched these funds! This year's *40 Days of Giving for Disaster Relief* is a way to respond to those in the aftermath of disaster.

Similar to those who give blood, one pint may not seem like much but it has the potential to save more than one life. Combined with other gifts, the impact can be far reaching. Global team leader, Glenn Morrison will address the congregation about how we can help during the next 40 days. This year we hope to use the funds for wherever we feel is the greatest need. The goal is \$5000. If you wish to donate to the *40 Days of Giving for Global Disaster Response* campaign, please write checks to St. Mark's with *40 Days of Giving* on the memo line.

Local Outreach

Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mark's Monday, March 12, 2:30—7pm Family Life Center



One pint may not seem like much but in 2017, Red Cross Blood Drives at St. Mark's, collected 127 pints, which has the potential to save up to 381 lives! Reserve a time today by contacting the church office (828-459-2161 or lisa@smarklc.org) or www.redcrossblood.org.

A Note From Claremont Elementary

A sincere thank you for the recent donation of \$200 to our school cafeteria. This donation will be used to reduce the outstanding balances that a few of our students have accrued this school year. Many of our families continue to face stressful times in providing for their child to have a nutritious lunch. Through your generous donation, these families will be alleviated of the expense. Thank you!



Backpack Program at Claremont Elementary



Team members from St. Mark's packed backpacks at Claremont Elementary on Thursday, February 1. They will pack again on February 15. Our packing team fills backpacks in November and February. Team members are Rocky Miller, Rebecca Haddock, Evelyn Setzer, Bill Dotson, Norman Morrow, Dianne Dison.

Food Donations on February 18 for ECCCM and St. Mark's Pantry

The third Sunday of the month is the designated Sunday when St. Mark's asks for non-perishable food donations for the Food Pantries. Please place donations in bin at the Parish Hall entrance to the sanctuary.



Leadership

Council Meeting Minutes from January 5

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Roll Call

Present: Terry Hefner, Nicky Setzer, Carol Schaefer, Gigi Sigmon, Edie Connor, Tanya Stephenson, Angela Brown, Tiffany Caudill, Marcheta Campbell, David Tucker, Pastor Gary Haddock

Excused: Scott Ramsey, Barry Bumgarner

Approval of December Minutes

Pastors Report—written

Action Items—Installation of new council members.

- ◆ Elected officers- President: Nicky Setzer, Vice President: Terry Hefner, Treasurer: Edie Conner, Secretary: Angela Brown
- ◆ Approval to add Lisa Underwood to St. Mark's checking account as she is acting financial secretary.

Finance Report—bills are paid

Team Reports

Global Mission, Support—verbal reports

Liaisons:

- ◆ Worship and Music: Carol Schaefer
- ◆ Support: Gigi Sigmon
- ◆ Fellowship: Marcheta Campbell
- ◆ Finance: Edie Connor
- ◆ Memorial: Nicky Setzer
- ◆ Technology: Barry Bumgarner
- ◆ Learning- Tanya Stephenson
- ◆ Witness/Social: David Tucker
- ◆ Youth: Scott Ramsey, Tiffany Caudill, Marcheta Campbell
- ◆ Global Mission: Terry Hefner
- ◆ Congregational Care: Angela Brown
- ◆ Preschool: Scott Ramsey

Old Business—None

New Business—Congregation participation in the call of an Associate Pastor on February 4 after 10am worship service.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Women of the ELCA Bible Study

The next Women of the ELCA Bible Study is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20 at 11am in the lounge. The study uses *Gather* magazine. All are welcome!

St. Mark's Quilt Mission Tuesdays, 10-12pm

The Quilt Mission meets every Tuesday, 3244 W. Main Street, Claremont, except when the Women of the ELCA Bible study meets.

Women of the Vine Events



On Tuesday, February 20, the group plans to go to the movies.

On March 20, the group has scheduled an event at "Hip Hip HooWray" in Conover.

Contact Tamarah Hefner (828-459-7053) for details.

NC SWO Spring Retreat (March 9-11) Kure Beach Retreat Center Kure Beach, NC

"Bad Girls of the BIBLE: Part Two"

Women marvel at the "Good Girls" in Scripture. We admire the faithfulness of Ruth, the courage of Esther, and the humility of Mary. Yet, when we look in our hearts, we may find the selfishness of Sapphira, the deception of Delilah, or Jezebel's pride instead!



Let's learn from our biblical sisters, and by God's grace, choose a better, more redemptive path. We will share valuable insights, practical lessons, and memorable stories. At this retreat, we will also share good food, fellowship and fun! Register early! Brochures are available at the sanctuary doors.

Financial Update

Memorial Gifts to St. Mark's

In memory of

Kermit Cloninger by JoAnn Hampton

Kermit Cloninger by Nancy Wilfong

Avery Kornegay by Shirley Harwell

Cobb Sigmon by Jean Sigmon

Cobb Sigmon by Shirley Harwell

"Blessed Abundantly; Share Bountifully"



Time

Talent

Treasure

Worship Attendance

January 28: 135 February 4: no service

Ministry Financial Update

<u>Reported as of December 31</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Receipts	54,271.79	366,266.30
Expenses (<i>including payables</i>)	41,271.49	352,364.73

Congregation Care

Food Serving Ministry Information

What is the Food Serving Ministry? The Food Serving Ministry falls under the umbrella of congregation care. The food serving ministry team prepares a meal for the family after a funeral.

Who is involved? Both men and women are welcome and encouraged to be involved in this ministry. If you would like to join, please contact one of the leaders listed below.

How do food groups work? Currently there are 4 food serving groups with approximately 26 members in each group. They are set up on a rotation to cover funerals as they occur.

How do food group members know when and what to prepare? You will receive a One Call with details about the funeral and which group is serving. The group leader may or may not call you to bring something specific.

2018 Food Group Chairpersons

Group 1: Rebecca Haddock, Linda Hewitt

Group 3: Elaine Simmons, Sue Karen Falls, Denise Arndt

Group 2: Ginger Carpenter, Exie Little

Group 4: Libby Brown, Cathy Sigmon

Please Remember in Prayer the Families Of

- ◆ Catherine Elizabeth Sigmon (January 31), sister-in-law of Inabelle (J.D.) Little
- ◆ Dorothy Walker Smith (January 29), mother of Melanie (Kyle) Sigmon, Bishop Tim (Wendy) Smith, Carol (Trip) Beaver; grandmother of Emma (Nick) Blossom, JoAnna Sigmon, Mary Catherine Sigmon, Clark (Brittany) Sigmon

With Heartfelt
Sympathy

“Reflections on Lent”

By NC Synod Bishop Tim Smith

The penitential seasons of Advent and Lent have always been renewing for me. They are headed somewhere, for all their reservation, to something hopeful and joyous. Even more appealing to me is their invitation to discipline. Sometimes, I fear, we Lutherans are so steeped in the absolute grace of God, the ultimate inefficacy of our works, and the freedom of the Gospel that allows us to “sin boldly”—our justification—that we neglect the spiritual disciplines to which the Gospel calls us, or else we set them aside as one optional part of our whole life rather than the essence of our whole life in Christ, i.e., nurturing that relationship with Jesus as he freely comes to us.



Bishop Tim Smith

“Lent” actually comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word “Lencten,” as in “lengthen,” referring to the lengthening of days or springtime. It begins on Ash Wednesday, 40 days (not counting Sundays—always days of resurrection) before Easter. Easter on April 1 this year, and Ash Wednesday is February 14: April Fools’ Day and Valentine’s Day! The sermons practically write themselves this year! The date of Easter fluctuates, determined as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox, which means the first Sunday after the first full moon in spring. Lent is about spiritual renewal and growth. For me, spiritual renewal boils down to paying attention to the truth of God’s claim on us in baptism, paying attention to God’s presence in our lives, and paying attention to opportunities we have each day to be the presence of God for others.

The word “Christian” appears in the New Testament only twice. The word “disciple” occurs 269 times! “Discipline” and “disciple” come from the same root. To be a disciple is to be a person of discipline. To pay attention. To focus. ELW’s “Invitation to Lent” announces to the congregation on Ash Wednesday, “As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, works of love, self-denial, quiet meditation—the disciplines of Lent—help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to begin on this solemn first day of Lent to recommit yourselves to this struggle.”

Many find that “giving something up” for Lent is a helpful and tangible practice of such discipline and a constant reminder of the ultimate sacrifice of Christ to which this season is heading. Some prefer to take something on instead of giving something up, but, let’s face it—it’s the same thing! Every “yes” is a “no,” and every “no” is a “yes.” If we add something to our plate, something else, therefore, won’t fit on the plate. One year I wrote a short thank-you note each day during Lent to people whom I really appreciate but whom I had never really adequately told. In any case, the disciplines of Lent are never intended to imply earned righteousness; they are meant to be our response to God’s great love for us in Christ. They do not bring God closer to us. They bring us closer to God.

Lent is intended not as morbidity but as the Church Year’s dose of reality therapy. In our introspection, the deeper we look inside, the more darkness we discover. We are mortal, and in the meantime we are sinful. Lent drives us inward so that the ugliness we find in there drives us outward to the saving work of Christ, accomplished in the cross and resurrection. The core of the Christian message is the gospel (“good news”), which presupposes the bad news of sin and death and the power of the devil. Ash Wednesday reminds us of our mortality, that we are dust, and its extended confession and lack of absolution reminds us of our sinfulness, calling us to repentance, to turning back to God. Our own life of suffering servanthood as we live in this relationship is our discipleship in the world.

May Lent’s call to discipline and renewal to you be less of a heavy burden and more of a gracious invitation to “return to the Lord your God.” It’s where we belong and where we are most authentically the beloved ones we are created and redeemed to be!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
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longmyra@ymail.com (704-213-7623)
Randyl Abernathy: Preschool Director
stmarkspreschool@charter.net (828-459-2873)
Lisa Underwood: Church Secretary
lisa@smarklc.org (828-459-2161)
Mike Baker: Church Sexton
mikebaker411@bellsouth.net
Katie Hamann: Interim Youth Leader
katie@smarklc.org

Congregation Council

2018	2019	2020
Terry Hefner	Angela Brown	Barry Bumgarner
Scott Ramsey	Edie Connor	Tiffany Caudill
Carol Schaefer	Gigi Sigmon	Marcheta Campbell
Nicky Setzer	Tanya Stephenson	David Tucker

Congregation Council Meeting

Council meets on February 19.

Newsletter Mailing

The next mailing will be on February 21.

Church Office Hours

Mon - Thu, 8:30am - 4:00pm; Fri, 8:30am - 12:30pm

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