

# LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE



ST. MARK LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

September 2017

## Message from Pastor Katy Fast

### Growing In Faith Together



*“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”*

*Deuteronomy 18:18-19*

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#### CONTACT PASTOR KATY

Pastor Katy is excited to get to know members, visitors, and those in our community. To contact her or to set up an appointment please call or text (727) 808-4684. You may also contact her via e-mail at [pastorkatyfast@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkatyfast@gmail.com) or follow her (PastorKaty Fast) on Facebook.

#### “Like” Us on Facebook

Scan this QR tag to get to St. Mark's Facebook page or search for St. Mark Dunedin.



School is back in session! Here at St. Mark we can tell by the students chattering in line between classes, the boisterous conversations had over the lunch table in our Fellowship Hall, and the shouts and sounds of youth running and playing games outside. It's life-giving to hear the sounds of the charter school here on campus. It's also a great reminder and call – it's as if God is saying “It's time for us to learn and grow together, too! Come feast on my Word with fellow disciples and fix these words on your hearts. Come teach them to your children and learn of my love and grace.”

Here at St. Mark this fall I'm looking forward to several upcoming opportunities for us to grow in our faith together! First, starting **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**, I will be leading a Bible Study on Sunday mornings for people of all ages on the book of Acts. Acts of the Apostles (as it's also called) is a New Testament book that is a sequel to the gospel of Luke. Riots. Jailbreaks. Shipwrecks. Stonings. Miracles galore. Daring escapes. Empires in revolt and world turned upside down. All because of a wandering rabbi and his ragtag band of followers who claim he was raised from the dead. Using Faith Inkubators Cross Generational material we will dive in and explore the stories that led to mission and evangelism in the hearts and actions of the first apostles.

(continued on next page)

Then, once a month *WE* will engage in a mission project to our Pinellas County community. This project will sometimes take place on Sunday mornings in conjunction with the Sunday morning Bible Study. A schedule of days and times for the fall should be out soon. For our first week together (September 10<sup>th</sup>) we will begin our study of Acts in the large conference room at 11 a.m. and then create tied fleece blankets for Religious Community Services Domestic Violence Shelter – The Haven. It's a simple and fun activity that everyone can participate in – no sewing skills necessary. It will help provide warmth and comfort to adults and children who are guests at The Haven. A time is being scheduled to drop off the items and learn more about the ministry that happens there.

I hope you can join us for study on Sunday mornings for this time of Cross Generational Faith Formation – aka “G.I.F.T. – Generations in Faith Together!

Then, in October, I'm looking forward to beginning a weekday book study using the book “Introducing the Lutherans.” This course will be for anyone who is new to Lutheranism, as well as for anyone who grew up Lutheran but would like a refresher on aspects of Lutheran history, beliefs, and mission. I'm considering offering a daytime and evening session, most likely on Wednesdays. Look for more information soon in the bulletin and October newsletter.

Both the bible study and the book study will go through the last week of November til the start of Advent.

Last, don't forget to sign up for our Congregational Retreat at Luther Springs in November! There will be multiple opportunities for people of all ages to grow in faith during worship, bible study, fellowship, camp fires, and much more at our retreat November 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>. More information is available in this newsletter.

God's blessings to you in your growth as God's follower,

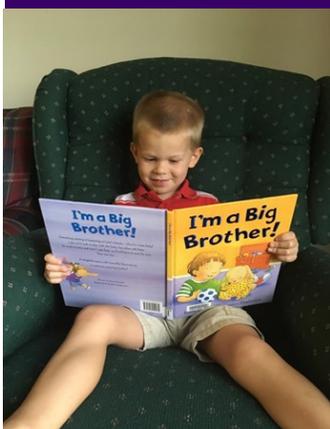
Pastor Katy



We are very thankful to all our St. Mark Family for all their love, prayers, and support during this difficult time since we lost our husband/father Dale Woodworth and mother/grandmother Janet Armstrong.

Love,

The Woodworth and Armstrong families



### Dear People of God,

We have some wonderful news to share with you. As you can see from the picture, John is excitedly reading up on how to be...a big brother! He's starting his studies now since we are expecting a new baby to arrive around March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018! We look forward to sharing this milestone in our family's life with you and are grateful for all your prayers, support, and encouragement as we welcome a new little life to the world.

Love,

Pastor Katy, Bryan, and John Fast

## St. Francis Pet Festival and Animal Blessing



The St. Francis Pet Festival and Animal Blessing will be held on **Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** at Crest Lake Park (201 S. Glenwood Ave, Clearwater, FL 33755). St. Mark is teaming up again with St. Paul's Lutheran, St. Matthias Lutheran, Grace

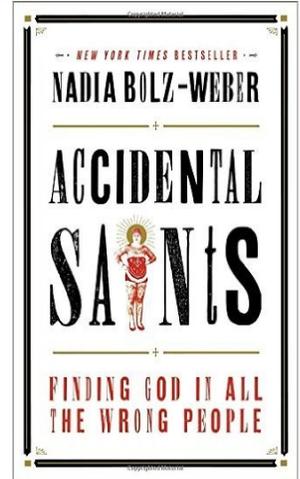
Lutheran and the Skycrest Neighborhood to host a free pet festival for our communities. The event has expanded this year and in addition to a wonderful animal blessing by our Pastors, we will have food vendors, rescue organizations with adoptable pets, pet vendors and much more. This year the event will be collecting donations for a local charity – Sun Coast Organized Animal Relief (S.O.A.R.) based in St. Pete. They have a pet food pantry that assists pet owners who are in need. St. Mark will be collecting donations September 10<sup>th</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup> to bring to the event on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Drop off your donations in the church Narthex or on the day of the Pet Festival. Then bring you, your pet, and your family to the Pet Festival on October 7<sup>th</sup>! Volunteers will also be needed the day of the event. If you're interested in helping, contact the church office or sign up in the Narthex!

### **Pet Food Pantry Needs:**

- Cat Litter
- Cat Food
- Quality brand dog food
- Pet toys
- Pet treats

## Daytime Book Club

Grace Lutheran Church, located at 1812 North Highland Avenue in Clearwater, is starting a book club for those who prefer a book club during the day. They will meet the first Wednesday of each month, beginning **September 6<sup>th</sup>**. Just as St. Mark has invited Grace to its evening book club, they invite anyone preferring a daytime book club to attend on Wednesday, September 6 from 9:00 until 11:00 am. We will read the same book as the evening book club, *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Please bring your own book and try to finish by September 6. Finish or not, you are welcome to come. Enter through the Fellowship Hall door on the side of the building with the curved driveway. Email Vicki Eis ([veis49@yahoo.com](mailto:veis49@yahoo.com)) with any questions.



## Contra Dance September 23rd

Come, bring your friends and join the fun on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> as we have a harvest time get together in the Social Hall with a dinner and an evening of Contra Dancing. Contra Dancing is easier than Square Dancing and fun for all ages. We will meet up at 5:30 pm, have some dinner at 6:00 pm and start the dance at 7:00 pm. St Mark Church will provide the fried chicken. We ask attendees to bring a dish to share, following these suggestions: If your last name begins with A

-M bring a vegetable side dish and if N-Z bring dessert or a fruit dish. **No dishes with nuts please!** Bottled water will be available as well as Beer/Wine for a nominal charge. Sign-up sheets for the event are in the Narthex. If anyone is available to come help the Fellowship Team set up the tables in the Social Hall on Friday evening, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30PM, please indicate so on the sign-up sheet. Hope to see you there!

*Contra dancers in Peterborough New Hampshire*

## St. Mark Fall Blood Drive

St. Mark will host its fall blood drive on **Sunday, September 10, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. for a projection to collect 5 units** All donors will receive a FREE OneBlood Cancer Awareness T-Shirt and a wellness check-up including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening! Plus all donors will receive a special offer from Crayola Experience- purchase one admission ticket and receive a 2nd admission FREE.



## WELCA at St. Mark

**WELCA** meets on Tuesday, September 5th at 10:00 a.m. in the large conference room of the church office. You are invited to join us and bring a friend.

**WELCA Christian Service** – The group usually meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. and will meet again September 19, 2017. We will be assembling layettes on Tuesday, September 26, at 10:00 am. Come join the fun.



## Supplies Drive Ends September 10

The St. Mark school supplies drive will end September 10th. Donations of **wide rule composition books** (specifically) will be greatly appreciated. Other items needed include:

Glue sticks, #2 pencils, black dry erase markers  
 Pencil erasers (cap style)  
 Yellow, purple or red folders (25 of same color)  
 Facial tissues  
 Hand sanitizers  
 Plastic zip-lock type bags (all sizes)

Please note that many of these items can be bought at the “dollar store” for less than at regular retail stores, thus offering a greater value for the money spent. A more detailed list of supplies by grades is located in the Narthex. Thank you for participating.



## St. Mark Bible Study

The Bible Study is Tuesday, September 11th and we will be discussing The Apostles' Creed. Session one: We believe in God.....The Apostles' Creed was developed as a teaching tool for faith and also a way to standardize the faith. Please join us as we discuss this first of 3 sessions on the Apostles' Creed. We'll read Philippians 2:1-16 and the first article of the Apostles' Creed. All are welcome. Please join us at 10:00 am at St Mark in the large conference room of the church office.



## Responding to Hurricane Harvey

### A message from Interim Bishop Marcus Lohrmann

Dear friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus.

Many of you have likely been following the images and stories coming to us from Houston and the surrounding areas as the rains from Hurricane (now Tropical Storm) Harvey hit historic levels. Even as I reach out to those in my network more directly impacted, I am sensitive to all those who may be waiting to hear about friends and family. First of all, know that my prayers and the prayers of the synod staff continue to be with you and with all who are impacted by this disaster.

As the reports of devastation and destruction continue, there is often a strong impulse to respond through action. I encourage you to pay attention to this impulse, as it is one way the Spirit draws us together with our brothers and sisters in Christ and with all those in need. The Apostle Paul reminds us, “whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith” (Gal. 6:10). Bishop Michael Rinehart, bishop of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, and his staff will continue to communicate about what kind of help is needed. At this time, financial donations to relief and rescue agencies are the most helpful. With financial support, relief and rescue agencies can more confidently navigate the on-the-ground realities.

**Lutheran Disaster Response**, the ELCA’s coordinated disaster response agency, has a long history of faithfully responding to disasters and staying involved through every phase of response, recovery, and rebuilding. LDR works with local partners to ensure ongoing and quality support is provided over the long-term. 100% of donations to LDR designated for “Hurricane Response—United States” will be used for disaster response.

For some who have lived through a hurricane (or several), the stories and images coming from Texas may trigger memories and emotions of your own experience of storms. Be patient and gracious with one another, creating space for healing and prayer through deep listening and conversation. Don’t hesitate to reach out if you need to talk to someone.

While the impulse to respond is now, I encourage all of us to continue to pay attention to the long-term needs and opportunities for care and support.

As we continue to stand with one another through all the storms of life, we take strength and courage from the God who is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Together with you in Christ,

+Marcus Lohrmann

## The Shock of the Loss

*When we lose someone we have loved deeply, we are left with a grief that can paralyze us emotionally....When they die a part of us dies too.* Henry Nouwen in "Bread for the Journey"

I once read about a man in Florida who was driving home when a large sinkhole beneath the street suddenly opened and swallowed his car. He didn't get hurt, but he was dazed and confused. For a while he didn't know where he was or what had happened to him. He later said. "One minute I was driving in my own neighborhood on a bright sunny day, and the next minute I was at the bottom of a deep, dark hole with the world caving in on me."

This story reminds me a little of what it's like when a loved one dies. One minute your loved one is alive, and the next – gone. Your world suddenly comes crashing in, and you are left dazed and confused.

One of the first reactions after a loved one dies is shock. What happened is so terrible, so painful, that their minds and emotions are overwhelmed. One woman told me, "I went suddenly numb. I couldn't think or feel anything. My mind was a blur. Everything went in slow motion and I was functioning on autopilot."

*Dazed...confused...bewildered...panicky...disoriented...paralyzed...surreal preoccupied.* These are words people have used to describe their shock. Based on your own experience, you could probably add a few words of your own.

It's very common to experience denial during shock. On one level we know it's true, of course, but on another level, we can't believe it – we don't *want* to believe it! This can't be happening. There must be some mistake. There must be a way to fix things. We think and we hope that we'll wake up and our loved one will still be alive.

Shock is a built-in response to the loss of a loved one. It can even be a blessing because it cushions us against the blow by blocking some of the emotional pain until we're more ready to handle the full impact of our loss.

This is why some people seem so calm and composed at the wake or funeral of a loved one. Their shock may serve as an emotional anesthetic during a time of unimaginable pain. One mother told me that she found herself comforting other people at her son's funeral. She said, "It was almost as if the funeral was for someone else's son, not my own."

Even if a loss is expected, people can still experience shock. One man told me, "I felt shock when the doctor told me that my wife's cancer was terminal, and then when she died, the shock returned. Even though I knew she was going to die, it was more than I could handle when she did."

Don't let shock scare you. If your mind is a blur, if you feel numb, if it all seems like a bad dream, or if you keep expecting your loved one to call or walk through the door, you're probably experiencing shock. Shock is a very normal response when you've lost someone you love.

*Journeying through Grief* (Book 1, Chapter 2) by Kenneth Haugk

**St. Mark Lutheran Church**

1120 Curlew Road  
 Dunedin, Florida 34698  
 Phone: 727-733-0474  
 Fax: 727-736-2357  
 email: [stmark@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:stmark@tampabay.rr.com)  
[www.stmlc.com](http://www.stmlc.com)

The Rev. Katy A. H. Fast

Cheryl Burton, Music Director and Cantor  
 Willie Hobbs, Office Administrator  
 Jim Boyter and Beverly Entwisle,  
 Property Stewards  
 Regina Hickey, Bookkeeper

**Worship Time**  
 Sundays — 9:30 AM

**Office Hours**  
 Monday—Friday  
 8:00 am—3:00 pm

**The Mission of St. Mark**

*Gathered around Word and water, bread and wine,  
 we spread God's Word by living our faith daily and  
 welcoming all with open hearts and minds.*

**Our Statement of Welcome**

*St. Mark is a spiritual community that celebrates the gifts of God that empower us to engage in the struggles of life, to care for each other, and to serve Christ where we work and live.*

*We welcome the participation of people of all ages, faiths, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, educational backgrounds, and economic conditions – all who want to join in community to honor God and be of service to people. We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God and by the grace of God is called a "child of God."*

**St. Mark Congregational Retreat Registration**

The retreat will take place from Friday, November 3rd (7: 00 pm) through Sunday, November 5th at 12:00 noon. We will be staying at the beautiful Luther Springs in Hawthorne, Florida. All are welcome! Pets are even welcome to come along if you tent or R. V. camp. To register for the event, please fill out the form and return it to the church office with at least 50% as a deposit. A registration form can be found on the table in the Narthex or you may download it from the homepage of the St. Mark website ([www.stmlc.com](http://www.stmlc.com).) Registrations are due by September 24,

**St. Mark's New Website**

St. Mark has a new website that is compatible with Mac's, PC's, iPads, iPhones, Android and other mobile devices. When you have the opportunity, please go to [www.stmlc.com](http://www.stmlc.com) to check it out. You are welcome to make suggestions that the website software can accommodate right from the website!

**LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

## Worship Servers for September 2017

September 3	Assistant Minister:	Jennifer Grumbling
	Ushers:	Joe and Marielle Barberis
	Offering Bearers:	Kaeden Delerme and John Fast
	Acolyte:	Stephanie Anderson
	Lector:	Sue Nelson
	Communion Assistants:	Pastor Connie Bonner and Arnie Dano
September 10	Assistant Minister:	Debbie Woodard
	Ushers:	Pat Croy and Mike Howland
	Offering Bearer	Aleda Dahmer and Nathan Taylor
	Acolyte:	Julia Peterson
	Lector:	Lisa Rude
	Communion Assistants:	Horst Kayser and Carolyn Elliott
September 17	Assistant Minister:	Pastor Klaus Koch
	Ushers:	Debbie Woodard and Bob Salsbury
	Offering Bearers:	Madison Seiter and Emily Seiter
	Acolyte:	Connor Jensen
	Lector:	Emery Horvath
	Communion Assistants:	Robin Bower-Miller and Jennifer Grumbling
September 24	Assistant Minister:	Carolyn Elliott
	Ushers:	Laure and Jay Reed
	Offering Bearers:	Kaeden Delerme and John Fast
	Acolytes:	Emery Horvath and Ainsley Horvath
	Lector:	Richard Dahmer
	Communion Assistants:	:Steve Miller and Wayne Morris
September	Altar Guild: Set-Up:	Janice Froelich
	Clean Up:	GayLynn Horvath and Emery Horvath

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR IN NEED OF SUPPORT:**



Eva Hoenig  
Trish Kitchel  
Julia Peterson  
Lynne Anderson  
Mark Anderson  
Michael Bryant  
Connie McLean (friend of Arnie Dano)  
Leigh (friend of Christine Barberis)  
Marion Dunn (friend of Arnie Dano)  
Frank Ollari (friend of Doris Ullestad)  
Linda Grumbling (mother of Jennifer Grumbling)  
Art Niinisto (brother-in-law of Janet Armstrong)  
Eddie Frederick (friend of the Grumbling/Delerme family)  
Don Werner (friend of Steve Miller and Wayne Morris)  
Karen Aungst (friend of Debbie Woodard)  
Elizabeth K. (friend of Sue Nelson)  
Joe and Justine (co-worker of Julie Kitchen)  
Eric Vehrs (son of Linda Vehrs)  
Dinah Reid (niece of Constance and Henry Chapman)  
Amanda Dungan (friend of Carol Czajkowski)  
Sheldon Rusch (friend of Carol Czajkowski)  
Audrey Bower and family (friends of Carol Czajkowski)  
Tom Conway (brother of Mary VanHaute)  
Elaine Forestier (Emery Horvath's teacher)  
Irene Chernes (mother of Ken Chernes)  
Henry Richie (family of Doris Ullestad)  
Dorothy and Otto Pollei, Jr. (parents of Doug Pollei)  
Laurie Froelich (sister-in-law of Janice Froelich)  
Adam Ruane (friend of Tim and Angela Langenback)  
Vicki Claussen (daughter of Charlotte Claussen)  
Heather Mackin (relative of the Plasketts)  
Michael Kayser (nephew of Horst Kayser)  
Irene Klein (mother of Charles Klein)  
Kaycee Fowler (friend of Trish Kitchel)  
Helen Whitson (mother of Robin Klein)  
Kris Carter (friend of Janet Armstrong)  
Missy Martin (sister-in-law of Suzanne Bryant)  
Carrie Leone (niece of the Walthours)  
Anita Hans (friend of Sue Nelson)  
Heather Booth (daughter of the Plasketts)

**FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE (Family and friends of):**

Millie Adams

**FOR THOSE WHO SERVE:**

Joel Elliott (stepson of Carolyn Elliott - in Germany)

Alexis Grzegorzcyk (friend of Carol Czajkowski - USAF)

Mitch Shellenberger

Tierney Froelich

Rodney Mobley (son of the Nizers - Police Officer)

Calvin Jensen (friend of Carol Czajkowski - US Navy)

Bobby Dusel (friend of Carol Czajkowski)

Steven Klein (USCG)

Sam Palmer (family of the Horvaths)

Andrew Amstutz (friend of the Langenbacks - US Navy)

Andy Bloch (son-in-law of Shirley Polak - Homeland Security)

Steven Plaskett (grandson of the Plasketts - US Air Force Academy)

Monica Tegge-King (daughter of Bernie and Holly - US Coast Guard)

Christopher Tegge (son of Bernie and Holly Tegge - US Army Reserves - Virginia)

Luke Ballesteros (friend of Robin Jo Bower Miller and David Miller - in Germany)

Michael Christenson (friend of Arnie Dano - U.S. Navy)

Greg Burnham (son-in-law of the Nizers—US Navy)

Kori Smeiska (friend of Carol Czajkowski - K. C. Police Officer)

Jason King (son-in-law of the Tegges - US Coast Guard)

Zoe Lekakis (granddaughter of the Nizers - Marines)