

OUR MISSION

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.



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2017

9:30 A.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ST. MARK. Please sign our attendance pad located in each row. We are happy to have you here with us! Please join us for refreshments on the walkway following worship.

WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) - Cookies! Carols! Christmas sharing! Everyone is welcome as we gather at 10:00 am on Tuesday, December 5, in the conference room. All are welcome to join us.

CASA CHRISTMAS PARTY - On Wednesday, December 6, St. Mark members are invited to join the youth of St. Mark for our 17th Annual trip to CASA in St. Pete to host a Christmas Party for some of the young children receiving services from CASA. We will read stories, do crafts, and share in fellowship with the children and their families. If you plan on attending, please sign up in the Narthex or e-mail Jennifer Grumbling. We will meet and depart from St. Mark at 5:00 pm and stop at McDonald's on U.S. Highway 19 for a quick dinner. The event is from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Please bring money for McDonald's on the way (if that is an issue, please don't hesitate to contact Jennifer Grumbling by email (grumbje@gmail.com) or phone ([813-892-9707](tel:813-892-9707))). We are also looking for four volunteers to bake 2 dozen sugar cookies each for the children to decorate while we're there. Please email the office or sign up in the narthex if you are interested in attending or donating undecorated sugar cookies.

ADVENT PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS SERVICE - St. Mark will have a Prayer around the Cross Worship Service on **Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.** Prayer Around the Cross is a meaningful devotional prayer service that was originally developed at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in Washington State. It is a contemplative service filled with music, scripture and silence. As we wait in hope for the coming of our Savior we will gather around the cross, light candles, and center ourselves in prayer. We will lift before God nations around the world, creation, our Pinellas County community, and all who are in need of prayer.

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING - St. Mark's Congregational Meeting is held in two parts. On Sunday, **December 17 following worship** we will meet in the sanctuary to adopt a budget for 2018. You're invited to stay and get updated information on church finances and to ask questions, if you would like. All confirmed members are asked to attend these meetings.

OPENING ON CHURCH COUNCIL Are you interested in being part of our leadership team here at St. Mark? There will be an opening for a three-year term on St. Mark's Church Council starting in February 2018. The Nominating Committee is currently looking for members who might be interested in serving in this capacity. Elections will take place at the end of January. If you feel the Spirit moving you to serve, contact Helen Henwood (helen.henwood@aol.com) or Jennifer Grumbling (grumbje@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE - Sunday, December 17th St Mark's will have a Christmas Open House. Instead of our "progressive" appetizer and dessert Christmas Party for adult members, your Fellowship Team has decided this year to have an Open House here at St Mark. This event is open to all ages as well as friends and neighbors of our members. This is a great opportunity to come and enjoy our beautiful church decorations and socialize with old or new friends while enjoying a variety of refreshments. The event will take place from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm. There will be holiday lights and music as well as some crafts and games for young attendees. The Fellowship team will provide beer and wine as well as non-alcoholic beverages. So that we know how many to plan for, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex which has a check off box for anyone needing transportation. Just like our progressive party, we are seeking volunteers to bring either an appetizer or dessert to share with others. Appetizer/Dessert sign-up sheets are also in the Narthex.

BLUE CHRISTMAS EVENING PRAYER SERVICE - While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. This Blue Christmas service may provide a time and place of solace during the often-frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays. This service will take place on **Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm** and is hosted by **Grace Lutheran Church in Clearwater** - 1812 N Highland Ave, Clearwater, FL 33755.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP - On Sunday December 24th, St. Mark will NOT have its regular 9:30 am worship. Instead, there will be three later worship services. We will have a **4:00 p.m.** Family Service with Communion. We will have a **7:00 p.m.** Traditional Christmas Eve Candle-light Service with Communion and we will have a **9:30 p.m.** Traditional Christmas Eve Candle-light Service with Communion. We hope that you will join us for one of the three evening worship opportunities.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS - Please join us on **Sunday, December 31 at 9:30 a.m.** for another special worship service featuring scripture and music. This is a great way to ring in the New Year.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your daily prayers members and friends of our congregation who are on our prayer list. If you would like to add someone to our congregation's prayers, please call or email the church office or sign the prayer notebook in the narthex.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR IN NEED OF SUPPORT:

Jim Boyter

Steve Boyter

Pastor Connie Bonner

Sue Nelson

Peg Weingart

Trish Kitchel

Michael Bryant

Judy Wallschlaeger (friend of Sue and Darrell Zenk)

Efrain Roman (great grandfather of Milla Grumbling and Kaeden Delerme)

Chelle S. (friend of Jennifer Grumbling)

Jax Cunningham (great nephew of Barbara Woodworth)

Steve Anderson (son of Marilyn Anderson)

Holly and Mark Downing (friends of Suzanne Bryant)

Kurt Dunn (friend of Arnie Dano)

Jeff Phillips (friend of the Chernes family)

Chris Harris (son of Dave Harry)

Sayre Froelich (daughter of Janice and Lee Froelich)

Ernie Smith, Sr. (husband of Phyllis Smith)

Ernie Smith, Jr. (son of Phyllis Smith)

Connie McLean (friend of Arnie Dano)

Marion Dunn (friend of Arnie Dano)

Frank Ollari (friend of Doris Ullestad)

Linda Grumbling (mother of Jennifer Grumbling)

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)

Dinah Reid (niece of Constance and Henry Chapman)

Tom Conway (brother of Mary VanHaute)

Elaine Forestier (Emery Horvath's teacher)

Dorothy and Otto Pollei, Jr. (parents of Doug Pollei)
Vicki Claussen (daughter of Charlotte Claussen)
Heather Mackin (relative of the Plasketts)
Irene Klein (mother of Charles Klein)
Kaycee Fowler (friend of Trish Kitchel)
Helen Whitson (mother of Robin Klein)
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:

Robert A. Mengel, Jr. (uncle of Jennifer Grumbling)

FOR THOSE WHO SERVE (Family and friends of :

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)
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)

Serving The Community of Faith

Assisting Minister: Jennifer Grumbling
Ushers: Rick and Meta Palmer
Offering Bearers: Jack Kinder and Parker Kinder
Acolyte: Ella Horvath
Lector: Sue Zenk
Communion Assistants: Pastor Klaus Koch and Arnold Dano
Bread Baker: Melissa Taylor
Altar Guild: Janice Froelich, Kathie Chernes and Carol Kitchen

Given to the Glory of God:

Presence Candle is in memory of Ann Drafts Koch
by Pastor Klaus Koch and Leona Feldhausen.
Flowers are in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary
by David and Helen Henwood.

This Week at St. Mark

Sunday **Bags of Blessing returned**
December 3 **9:30 am Worship**
 10:45 am Handbell Choir
 10:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study

Monday 7:00 pm Al-Anon
 8:00 pm Ala-Teen Meeting

Tuesday **10:00 am WELCA Meeting**

Wednesday **6:30 pm CASA Service Project**

Thursday 6:00 pm AA
 7:00 pm Al-Anon

Sunday **9:30 am Worship**
December 10 **10:45 am Handbell Choir**
 10:45 am Cross Generational Bible Study

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 is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.



*The Rev. Katy A. H. Fast, Pastor
Cheryl Burton, Music Director and Cantor
Willie Hobbs, Office Administrator
Jim Boyter and Beverly Entwisle, Property Stewards
Regina Hickey, Bookkeeper*

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Office Hours:

Monday –Friday
8:00 am until 3:00 pm

Readings for next Sunday – Advent 2

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:15a; Mark 1:1-8

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Psalm 80 from Psalm Songs Text © 1963, 1986. Music © 1994 by GIA Publications, Inc.

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Communion, “God Shall Gather In”, tune: 18th Century English, adapt. and arr: Alonso

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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.