

## 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.



SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 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.

**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](mailto:helen.henwood@aol.com)) or Jennifer Grumbling ([grumbje@gmail.com](mailto: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 desert to share with others. Appetizer/Dessert sign-up sheets are also in the Narthex.

**ST. MARK BIBLE STUDY** meets on Tuesday December 12th at 10:00 am in the large conference room. We'll gather to discuss and share 4 meditations, designed to help us connect with that same sense of joy that caused all creation to give joyful praise.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** will meet on Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 pm in the large conference room of the church office. Packets are available in the Narthex for your review in advance of the meeting.

**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 Candlelight Service with Communion and we will have a **9:30 p.m.** Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion. We hope that you will join us for one of the three evening worship opportunities.

**GO "TAIL" IT ON THE MOUNTAIN: ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING** - This year, St. Mark's Giving Tree will go from local to global. Once all the tags have been taken off our Giving Tree to be purchased for local families in need, new ornaments with farm animals will take their place! Help us raise funds to purchase a farm through ELCA Good Gifts. A cow, a couple of goats a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training (totaling \$715) will help a family somewhere around the globe achieve a fresh start. **Simply take an ornament envelope off the tree, place your gift inside it, and place it in the offering plate by December 31<sup>st</sup>.** If your gift is in honor of a friend or loved one, cards are available on the table by the tree for you to take. Give a gift that will keep on giving! For more information, please go to the Good Gifts website: [www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts).

**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

Ruth Swan (sister-li-law of Pat Croy)

Heather Booth (daughter of the Plasketts)

Helen Meighen (friend of Doris Ullestad)

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)

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)

**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)

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## Serving The Community of Faith

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**Assisting Minister:** Steve Miller  
**Ushers:** Pat Croy and Mike Howland  
**Offering Bearers:** John Fast and Nathan Taylor  
**Acolyte:** Connor Jensen  
**Lector:** Janice Froelich  
**Communion Assistants:** Robin Bower-Miller and Horst Kayser  
**Bread Baker:** Melissa Taylor  
**Altar Guild:** Janice Froelich, Kathie Chernes and Carol Kitchen

**Given to the Glory of God:**

Thanks to James Harry for helping to provide refreshments today.

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## This Week at St. Mark

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**Sunday** 9:30 am **Worship**  
**December 10** 10:45 am **Handbell Choir**  
11:00 am **Cross Generational Bible Study**

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

**Tuesday** 10:00 am **St. Mark Bible Study**

**Wednesday** 7:00 pm **Advent Prayer around the Cross**

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

**Sunday** 9:30 am **Worship**  
**December 17** 10:45 am **Handbell Choir**  
11:00 am **Annual Budget Meeting**  
5:30 pm **Christmas Open House**

**Readings for next Sunday—Advent 3**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

## 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

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Psalm 85 from Psalter for Worship, Year B Copyright 2008, Augsburg Fortress.

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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.