

# Living As God's People

St. Mark Lutheran Church

March 2018



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lenten Schedule	Pg. 3
Lenten Worship and Soup Suppers	Pg. 4
Holden Evening Prayers and Prayer around the Cross	Pg. 5
Holy Week Schedule	Pg. 6
Easter Sunday Brunch	Pg. 7
Welcome to New Members	Pg. 8
Honeymoon Island Beach Clean-up	Pg. 11

## 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



## Pastor's March Message



Dear St. Mark Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As our family has felt all the more connected to the St. Mark family of Christ over the past year, it's been a joy to announce

that the Fast's ranks will be growing in 2018! Bryan, John, and I expect a new baby boy to arrive on or around March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018. We are trying to anticipate what it will be like to add a new little member to our family and watch our hearts expand in love for this little child of God. It's hard to know exactly what that will be like, but we are hopeful in awaiting the new adventure.

I plan to work up until my due date (or as close to it as I can) and then will be on maternity leave for 8 full weeks. When I return, the first 4 weeks I'm back I will be working part time - covering worship and pastoral care responsibilities, as well as any office duties that arise. I appreciate the support of the Church Council for approving my leave and for all who will help things run smoothly in my absence.

During my time away, Pastor Jon Keiser (who you may remember from the interim period) will be preaching and presiding. He will also be on call for pastoral care emergencies and has a couple of other pastors in our congregation who have agreed to be on call as needed.

---

If you have any needs during my absence, don't hesitate to call the church office. Willie, our administrator, will be happy to connect you with the right person who can provide support or answer questions.

During my maternity leave I will not be answering e-mails, checking Facebook, or responding to phone or text messages on a regular basis. Our staff and council know how to contact me in the case of emergencies, and if you have a concern, again I would encourage you to contact one of our staff or council. As many of you might understand from giving birth or going through a major medical event, it takes time and rest to heal and regain strength and energy. My hope is to focus my time on recovery and care for our newborn son and family, so that my transition back to church life will go as smoothly as possible.

Some of you might be wondering if you'll see our family in worship or at church events in the weeks immediately following the birth and while I'm on leave. At this point we aren't going to make any promises or commitments, just because we don't know how things will be with the new baby. If we do happen to make it, it will be a fun surprise! We promise we'll get to introduce you to the baby as soon as we arrive back from leave.

Our family is so grateful for the outpouring of support from our brothers and sisters in Christ here at St. Mark. Thank you all for your prayers, encouraging conversations, laughter about baby things, and support. Our family will hold you close in our prayers while we are away.

It will be a joy to return to service here at St. Mark sometime in May with a new bundle of joy in my arms!

God's peace,

*Pastor Katy*

---

---

## At the Crossroads

### A Journey through Lent

*Transformation can happen when we are faced with change, challenges, or the start of a new chapter in our journey. Jesus surprises at these crossroads in life with help and hope when we need it most. Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent to hear how Jesus changed the lives of five ordinary folks in extraordinary*



*ways. Jesus met all of these people while on the road to the ultimate place of transformation – the cross.*

- March 7<sup>th</sup>     5:30 p.m. Lent Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall  
                  6:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer and Prayer Around the Cross in  
                  Sanctuary
- March 14<sup>th</sup>    5:30 p.m. Lent Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall  
                  6:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer and Prayer Around the Cross in  
                  Sanctuary
- March 21<sup>st</sup>    5:30 p.m. Lent Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall  
                  6:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer and Prayer Around the Cross in  
                  Sanctuary
-

## Lenten Worship and Soup Suppers



Lenten Soup Suppers are each Wednesday now through March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. Soup Suppers allow members and friends of St. Mark to share light and delicious soups as a way of enjoying Christian fellowship with one another while remembering those who are hungry and would be glad for a simple bowl of soup. Lenten mid-week worship begins at 6:30 p.m. in

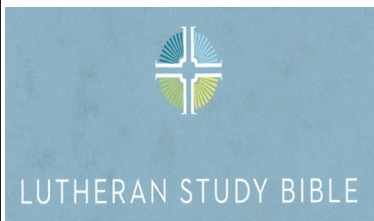
the sanctuary after the meal. Crock pots are available in the kitchen and you are welcome to borrow one! Please stop by the church office or pick up one on Sunday. Volunteers are needed to make soup, help with set up, and help with clean up. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Narthex and you may sign up for as many days as you like.

## WELCA at St. Mark

We will meet Tuesday, March 6, at 10:00 am in the large conference room. Special thanks to all who have generously donated to our Dunedin Elementary School Supplies project. It is truly appreciated.



## St. Mark Bible Study



Session three: The Good Samaritan. Based on Luke 10:30-37, we will discuss how this story has impacted culture, including cultures different than our own. Come join us. We'll meet Tuesday, March 13, at 10:00 am in the large conference room.

## Holden Evening Prayer and Prayer Around the Cross

Our mid-week Lenten worship services have taken on a musical and reflective nature again this year. After our 5:30 p.m. soup supper join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (now through March 21st) for a service of Holden Evening Prayer and Prayer Around the Cross. Written in 1985 by musician Marty Haugen, this lovely setting of vespers follows the traditional form while using contemporary and inclusive language. Prayer around the Cross will be a time towards the end of the vespers service where worshipers are invited forward to pray around a wooden, sand-filled, cross. Candles will be available to light and place in the sand while offering prayers to God. Set aside a little time for reflection and prayer and join us in community and worship this Lenten season.



## Easter Egg Hunt and Resurrection Scavenger Hunt

Easter Sunday at 10:00 a.m. children are invited to gather in the Youth Room to hear the Easter story and hunt for Easter Eggs. The younger children will hunt for eggs in the grassy courtyard and rock waterfall area while the older children will have a hunt all their own! Join us Easter morning to celebrate Jesus' resurrection!



## New Member Welcome



On Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> we will be welcoming fourteen new members (8 adults and 6 children) to our faith community during our 9:30 a.m. worship service. Three of these individuals (1 adult and 2 children) were recently baptized here at St. Mark and all the rest are being welcomed from other congregations across the country. It's exciting to have new disciples walking in faith and sharing their gifts here at St. Mark. Many have already joined a ministry team – helping with our Hospitali-

ty Team, Altar Guild, or Youth and Family events. Please help us welcome the following individuals and families when you see them around St. Mark! Our April Newsletter will include pictures and a little information to help you get to know our new folks better.

Cindy Berger

Carrie, Riley, and Reece Brown

Sunny Goddard

John, Jamie, Jack and Parker Kinder

Gina and Tim Rabe

Craig, Teddy, and Cecilia Zybuuro



**Annual Church Picnic** - Sunday, April 15th, Anderson Park, Shelter #9

**Threshers Baseball** - Saturday, May 5th, Spectrum Field



## Easter Sunday Brunch

Your Fellowship Team is again planning on a sumptuous brunch between our two Easter Sunday Services. Please mark your calendar to join

your fellow members following the 8:30 am service on Sunday, April 1st. We will be providing those delicious cinnamon rolls again this year along with assorted bagels/cream cheese, fresh fruit, decorated hard boiled eggs, juice and the coffee bar. Your Fellowship Team would love a few extra hands to help with either set up or clean up. We will put out sign up sheets in the Narthex but feel free to ask how you might help. Whatever assistance you can offer, it is always appreciated. For more info, talk with Kathie Chernes or email her at [kathiec123@gmail.com](mailto:kathiec123@gmail.com).



## Kennedy Space Center Excursion

**Grace Lutheran Church** is hiring a motor coach (bus) for a two-day trip to the Kennedy Space Center May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Other area congregations

have been invited to join them and you are welcome to get a few friends together to make this a fun spring outing. The cost is ONLY \$149 PPDL. Included in the cost are transportation, entrance into the Kennedy Space Center, one night hotel lodging, and breakfast. What a deal! The organizers at Grace Lutheran would like to fill the bus. So, contact Florence Bencivenga at 727-773-2766 or 727-543-4950 for more information and to make your reservation as soon as possible.

## Holy Week Schedule



### **PALM SUNDAY**

**MARCH 25, 9:30 A.M.**

Palm Sunday is the day we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, one week before His resurrection. As Jesus entered the holy city, he neared the culmination of a long journey toward Golgotha. He had come to save the lost, and now was the time—this was the place—to secure that salvation. Palm Sunday marks the start of what is often called “Passion Week,” the final seven days of Jesus’ earthly ministry. Palm Sunday was the “beginning of the end” of Jesus’ work on earth.



### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**MARCH 29, 7:00 P.M.**

“A new commandment I give you—that you love one another as I have loved you.” On the night he was betrayed, partake of Holy Communion and remember Christ’s call to love one another. You will have the option of having your feet washed in remembrance of Christ’s command.



### **GOOD FRIDAY**

**MARCH 30, 11:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.**

Meditate on the death of our Lord with a traditional Service of Darkness (Tenebrae). We gather to remember Christ’s life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the cross—the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died.





## 2018 United Faiths Walk of Peace

**Sunday, April 8th at 2:00 pm**

**Groups from a variety of faith traditions**

**invite you to join us!**

### Plans:

- ◆ A 2 mile route through Dunedin that begins at John R. Lawrence Pioneer Park at the corner of Douglas and Main St. in downtown Dunedin. People may join or leave at any point on the Walk.
- ◆ Gatherings along the route for reflections on peace by leaders from Jewish, Muslim, and Christian perspectives.
- ◆ If you have questions, contact the Rev. Becky Robbins-Penniman at 727-733-4125 x 206 or [RevSBRP@gmail.com](mailto:RevSBRP@gmail.com)

**Our faith communities are working together because it is our hope that the world might live in peace.**

### St. Mark WELCA and Grace Lutheran Church in Partnership

The group is helping to provide men's and women's clothing as well as toiletries for their homeless outreach project at Grace called Lydia's Closet. This is an ongoing project and you are invited to donate as you are able. Please donate any extra items, including the mini sized soaps and shampoos that you may accumulate from travelling. Small baskets for toiletries and a large bin for clothing are located in the Narthex.



## Church Council and Committees

During St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28, 2018, one new council member was elected. We are pleased to welcome Deborah Woodard to our team of church leaders. At the February 13<sup>th</sup> Church Council meeting officers were elected for the upcoming year. They are listed below. You are always welcome to talk with a council member about a specific topic or issue and provide feedback for the direction and mission of our congregation.

- Helen Henwood      Council President
- Tim Langenback      Vice President and Discovery Academy of Science Liaison
- Pete Horvath      Secretary of Record
- Ken Chernes      Treasurer
- Connie Feig
- Steve Miller
- Susie Peterson
- Debbie Woodard
- Pastor Katy Fast

## Lutherans for Full Participation



ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation has advocated since the 1970s for full inclusion of LGBTQ people in the life of the Lutheran Church.

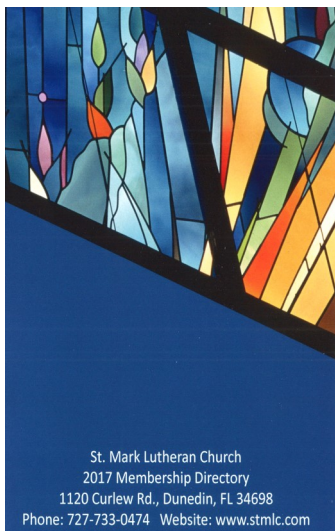
Its Reconciling In Christ Program, begun in 1984, recognizes Lutheran communities that publicly welcome believers of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions, and affirm their place in the Church. The Florida-Bahamas Synod is Reconciling in Christ as well as St. Mark Lutheran Church, Dunedin. Check out the Central Florida Chapter of ReconcilingWorks: ([reconcilingworks.org](http://reconcilingworks.org)) for more information.

## Honeymoon Island Beach Clean-up

Join St. Mark Youth & Families at Honeymoon Island on **Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 a.m. to noon** to help care for God's creation and participate in the Great American Cleanup. The event is led by Honeymoon Island State Park and all ages and ability levels are welcome. Volunteers will be conducting a number of critical projects around the park and we will be joined by others from our community. Please bring with you: appropriate work attire, close-toed shoes, gloves, sunscreen and plenty of water. Sign up through the park system here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080844a9ac23a6fc1-great> and let us know at church by signing up in the Narthex or RSVP'ing to Pastor Katy ([pastorkatyfast@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkatyfast@gmail.com)).



You're encouraged to bring a lunch and join us after the cleanup for a few minutes of devotion and fellowship. Also, when you're entering the park, we've been assured that you will not be charged an entrance fee if you tell them at the gate that you are part of the cleanup. See you at the park!



## Pictorial Directories Are Here!

At long last the church pictorial directories are in! Pick yours up at church in the Narthex on Sunday morning or at the church office during the week. If you are currently out of state and would like a copy mailed to you, contact Willie in our church office (727-733-0474). We hope the pictures and information in these books will help you connect with others in our faith community and bridge relationships between members near and far. Pick yours up today!

**St. Mark Ltheran Church**

**1120 Curlew Road  
 Dunedin, Florida 34698  
 Phone: 727-733-0474  
 Fax: 727-736-2357  
 email: stmark@tampabay.rr.com  
 website: 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.”*

**ELCA National Youth Gathering  
 Houston, Texas June 27 – July 1, 2018**

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live out their Christian faith in their daily lives. St. Mark Lutheran has three youth and one adult sponsor signed up and excited to attend! They are partnering with Grace Lutheran (Clearwater) and St. Timothy’s Lutheran (Tarpon Springs) to prepare and travel to Houston for this faith-forming event.



**LIVING AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

## 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 or remove someone to or from 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:

Steve Miller

Jim Boyter

Cheryl Burton

Trish Kitchel

Michael Bryant

Clayton Stoots (grandson of Barbara Stoots)

Emmy Booth (grand daughter of the Plasketts)

Phyllis Dean (friend of Wayne Morris and Steve Miller)

Ernie Smith, Jr. (son of Phyllis Smith)

Tim Fisher (former ReconcilingWorks Staff)

Charly Hornbrook (friend of Jared Hall)

Donita Holjes (friend of the Plasketts)

Ernie Smith, Sr. (husband of Phyllis Smith)

Jennifer (Nizer) Rakas (daughter of Ray and Charlotte Nizer)

Ethan Gottlieb (grandson of Tim and Angela Langenback)

Heather Booth (daughter of the Plasketts)

Gretchen Woodard (daughter of Debbie Woodard)

Bret R. (friend of Linda Peterman)

Jerriann VanEpern (friend of Linda Peterman)

Judy Wallschlaeger (friend of Sue and Darrell Zenk)

Chelle S. (friend of Jennifer Grumbling)

Jax Cunningham (great nephew of Barbara Woodworth)

Chris Harris (son of Dave Harry)

Frank Ollari (friend of Doris Ullestad)

Eddie Frederick (friend of the Grumbling/Delerme family)

Elizabeth K. (friend of Sue Nelson)

Karen Aungst (friend of Debbie Woodard)

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)

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 (Family and friends of):**

Charlie (family member of the Rudes)

Peg Weingart

Vicki Claussen (daughter of Charlotte Claussen)

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

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

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

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

Zoe Lekakis (granddaughter of the Nizers - Marines)

Joel Elliott (stepson of Carolyn Elliott - 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)

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)

Sam Palmer (family of the Horvaths)

Andrew Amstutz (friend of the Langenbacks - US Navy)

## Worship Servers for March 2018

March 4	Assistant Minister:	Mary VanHaute
	Ushers:	Pat Croy and Mike Howland
	Offering Bearers:	Jack Kinder and Parker Kinder
	Acolyte:	Ella Horvath
	Lector:	Lisa Rude
	Communion Assistants:	Pastor Klaus Koch and Linda Vehrs
	Bread Baker:	Mary VanHaute
March 11	Assistant Minister:	Pete Horvath
	Ushers:	Harry and Beverly Entwisle
	Offering Bearers:	John Fast and Nathan Taylor
	Acolyte:	Kaeden Delerme
	Lector:	Allen VanHaute
	Communion Assistants:	Carolyn Elliott and Arnold Dano
	Bread Baker:	Mary VanHaute
March 18	Assistant Minister:	Steve Miller
	Ushers:	Jay and Laurie Reed
	Offering Bearers:	Max Mitzlaff and Max Krynski
	Acolyte:	Connor Jensen
	Lector:	Emery Horvath
	Communion Assistants:	Robin Bower-Miller and Horst Kayser
	Bread Baker:	Mary VanHaute
March 25	Assistant Minister:	Pastor Connie Bonner
	Ushers:	Jim and Kay Boyter
	Offering Bearers:	Emily Seiter
	Acolyte:	Madison Seiter
	Lector:	Jerry Rude
	Communion Assistants:	Wayne Morris and Steve Miller
	Bread Baker:	Mary VanHaute
March 29	Assisting Minister:	Pastor Klaus Koch
	Ushers:	Mary and Allen VanHaute
	Lector:	Pete Horvath
	Communion Assistant:	Debbie Woodard, Linda Vehrs and Arnold
March 30	Assisting Minister:	Sue Nelson (11:00 am) Mary VanHaute (7:00 pm)
	Ushers:	Pat Croy and Mike Howland
	Lector:	Sue Nelson (11:00 am) Lisa Rude (7:00 pm)
March Altar Guild:	Set-Up:	Janice Froelich
	Clean Up:	Diane Salmon and Connie Feig