

WELCOME TO ST. MARK LUTHERAN

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 OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 9, 2018
9:30 A. M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ST. MARK – We are happy to have you here with us! Please sign our attendance book at the end of each row. We invite you to join us for refreshments in the breezeway following worship.

HOLY GOSSIP SESSIONS - Join us as we dive into the MAKERS video series, "Have a Little Faith," featuring Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber. We'll watch short topical clips that will inspire our study and discussion. We have bi-weekly meetings. This month we will have "The Devil = Your Inner Critic" on **December 13th** and "How the Truth Sets You Free" on **December 27th**. These gatherings will be held at Hackett's Causeway Cafe at the corner of Curlew Road and U. S. Alternate 19 from 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm. If you have any questions or need more info, call, text or email Jennifer Grumbling, 813-892-9707 or grumbje@gmail.com.

ADVENT ON THE WATER - Experience the songs, prayers, and scriptures of Advent against the serene beauty of a sunset on the water. For three Wednesdays in December grab your folding chair and flashlight and meet us at **5:00 p.m.** on the water for Advent worship. On **December 19th** we'll be at the Dunedin Causeway (near the kayak rental) and on **December 12th** we will be at Phillippe Park in Safety Harbor. As darkness unfolds for the day we will enjoy the music of guitars, djembe drum, and maracas as we reflect on how the light of Christ is coming into the world. Services will be led by Pastor Katy Fast of St. Mark Lutheran Church and Pastor Nancy Hauptert of St. Matthias Lutheran Church.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE CONCERT - The Suncoast Bronze Ringers Handbell Ensemble presents "Do You Hear What I Hear" a Christmas handbell concert. St. Mark has members who are a part of this group! Three concerts are planned for December 2018 and the first is on **December 9th beginning at 3:00 pm** at Hope Lutheran Church located at 12321 Canton Avenue in Hudson. For more information find the group on Facebook or call 352-232-1622. Also, see the flyer in the glass case in the breezeway.

ST. MARK BIBLE STUDY - Fear not...God is at work beyond our ability to imagine! We will gather to talk about our fears, great and small, and God's promise - fear not. I bring you good tidings of great joy....yes, the Christmas story. Come explore remaining calm within our busy lives. We'll meet **Tuesday, December 11th at 10:00 am** in the large conference room. Bring your Bible. Copies of the study will be in the Narthex. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AVAILABLE - Please pick up your booklet of envelopes from the Narthex at your convenience. If you would like a booklet of envelopes, you may put your name on the list and one will be provided.

CASA CHRISTMAS PARTY—On **Wednesday, December 12th**, St. Mark members are invited to join the youth of St. Mark for our 18th 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.

ST. MARK'S CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE 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 **Saturday, December 15th from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** There will be holiday lights and music as well as some crafts or games for young attendees. Beer, wine as well as non-alcoholic beverages will be available. 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 that evening. The Fellowship Team is seeking 15 volunteers to provide an appetizer and 5 to bring a dessert. Appetizer/Dessert sign-up sheets are also in the Narthex.

CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING - St. Mark's Congregational Meeting is held in two parts. On Sunday, **December 16th following worship** we will meet in the sanctuary to adopt a budget for 2019. 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.

ST. MARK CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TOUR - Mark your calendars for Saturday evening, **December 29th, at 6:00 p.m.** to hop on board an open air Jolley Trolley and tour local Christmas lights. St. Mark has reserved two trolleys that will take us for a tour of the light displays in the area. We get to determine our tour route so if you have a favorite neighborhood for lights, please let Kathie Chernes know so we can consider it in our itinerary. Free to participate. An offering box will be on board for donations to defray cost. Members are welcome to invite friends or family to join us. Available seating is limited to 60, so participants must sign up in the Narthex. Need a ride to/from St. Mark that night? No problem, just check off transportation column on the sign-up sheet.

Serving The Community of Faith

Assisting Minister: Sue Nelson
Ushers: Rick and Meta Palmer
Offering Bearers: Emily Seiter and Rys Brown
Acolyte: Madison Seiter
Lector: Gina Rabe
Communion Assistants: Carolyn Elliott and Sue Zenk
Bread Baker: Sue Zenk

Altar Guild: Janice Froelich, Grace Herrera and Eddi Ozey

Given to the Glory of God:

Presence candle is in honor of Leona Feldhausen's birthday by Pastor Klaus Koch.

Thanks to James Harry for helping to provide refreshments today.

This Week at St. Mark

Sunday
December 9 8:30 am Sunday School
 9:30 am Worship
 10:45 am Handbell Choir
 10:45 am Refreshments
 11:00 am Prayer Team Meeting
 3:00 pm The Suncoast Bronze Ringers Concert

Monday 7:00 pm Al-Anon

Tuesday 6:00 pm Fellowship Team Meeting
 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday 5:00 pm Advent on the Water (Phillippe Park)

Thursday 6:30 pm AA
 7:00 pm Holy Gossip Session (Hackett's Causeway Café)

Friday 3:00 pm The Suncoast Bronze Ringers Handbell Concert

Sunday
December 16 8:30 am Sunday School
 9:30 am Worship
 10:45 am Handbell Choir
 10:45 am Refreshments
 11:00 am Prayer Team Meeting
 3:00 pm The Suncoast Bronze Ringers Handbell Concert

Readings for next Sunday - 3 Advent

Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

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Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 24th

4:00 p.m. – Family Christmas Eve Service with Communion

7:00 p.m. – Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

9:30 p.m. – Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 30 at 9:30 a.m.

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*

1120 Curlew Road, Dunedin, FL 34698
(727) 733-0474 ~ Fax (727) 736-2357

www.stmlc.com

email: stmark@tampabay.rr.com

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarklutheranchurchelca>

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday

8:00 am until 3:00 pm

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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.