



St. Mark Lutheran Church (ELCA) of Charlottesville, VA

## MAY 2017 CROSSMARKS

A Reconciling in Christ congregation • Lutheran Campus Ministry at UVA • St. Mark Lutheran Preschool  
www.stmarklutheran.org • 434-293-3311 • office@stmarklutheran.org

### BEING THE CHURCH – Council President Duane Osheim

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Some years ago a friend was explaining to a group of us the troubles he was experiencing. “How can we help?” we asked. “Just be the Church,” he responded. At the time I did not know quite what that meant. I was reminded of this recently when we were discussing Martin Marty’s *Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers* in our Sunday School class. After outlining the importance of Christian worship he adds that it is after we leave a worship service that “[We] are to ‘be’ the church, ‘doing what the situation demands,...”

So I found myself thinking again, what does it mean “to be the church?” Well, those who lead or play a key role in our worship are certainly being the church. Without a choir, liturgical assistants, Sunday School teachers, we would be quite impoverished. But still is that all he meant?....

I think when I look around St Mark I do see what “being the church” might mean. I thank those who worked, planned, and carried out the transformation of the St Mark Preschool. They were being the church. At first we were not all convinced this would work, but it did and their

contribution is a blessing to St Mark and to the entire community. And those who organize our participation in PACEM are being the church. This past year Heidi Jones managed our two weeks and we and our guests were all enriched. And yet perhaps even more importantly, there are those who do not wait for St Mark or council to act. They see an opportunity to “be the church.” I am, thinking especially of those who worked with the International Refugee Committee. They informed council and the church of what they were doing, but they never waited for council to lead or to assign a job, they just did it. Our youth member who wrote the bishop about the plight to refugees. She listened to the Holy Spirit and acted. That, of course, is also what Pastor Viktória did when she returned to Hungary to help refugees who were living in a desperate situation.

I think Martin Marty has these people in mind when he says we should “do what the situation demands.” We need to recognize that we all will be given opportunities within St Mark and without “to be the church.” We need only listen to the Holy Spirit and act.

*St. Mark Lutheran Church, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone, is a people called by God to be servants of all people; to experience God's saving grace through faith; to come together as the body of Christ in worship and celebration of the gifts of God; and to reach out to those outside the church with witness to the loving grace of God through Christ Jesus. To answer this call, our mission will include reaching out to and beyond the members of St. Mark.*

# WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

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**May 7 - Fourth Sunday of Easter:** Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us in the midst of the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

Acts 2:42-47 • Psalm 23 • 1 Peter 2:19-25 • John 10:1-10



**May 14 – Fifth Sunday of Easter:** As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today’s gospel includes Jesus’ promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father’s house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus’ mission in the world. As First Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

Acts 7:55-60 • Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 • 1 Peter 2:2-10 • John 14:1-14



**May 21 – Sixth Sunday of Easter:** Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord’s table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

Acts 17:22-31 • Psalm 66:8-20 • 1 Peter 3:13-22 • John 14:15-21



**May 28 – Seventh Sunday of Easter:** In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today’s gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

Acts 1:6-14 • Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35 • 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 • John 17:1-11

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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Please join us on **May 1 from 7-8pm at Trinity Irish Pub on the Corner for Beer & Hymns!** This is a great time for singing and fellowship with members of our church, members of other area churches, and of course, the UVA community. Hope to see you there!



You may have noticed that **nametags** have been updated and the display has been moved near the main entrance. Please take a moment to review your family's name tags. If you need corrections, please write the correct information on the name tag and leave it in the Office Manager's mail slot. Thank you!



Would you like to help Charlottesville's refugees? The **International Rescue Committee (IRC)** will be the Crozet Starr Hill Brewery's Cheers for Charity partner for the entire month of May. \$1 of every pint sold in their taproom will be donated to the IRC. The IRC will host a casual kick-off event (live music, pork BBQ food truck) on **May 5 at 5 pm**. Everyone is welcome.



During the **summer months** of June, July, and August when the St. Mark Choir is not singing, we like to fill as many summer Sundays with special vocal or instrumental music. If you would like to share your gift of music with the St. Mark congregation on a summer Sunday, please let Kristi Van Doorn, Director of Music Ministry know: [kristi@vandoorn.us](mailto:kristi@vandoorn.us).

The Women of the ELCA are collecting **unused greeting cards and stationary or note cards** to be given to Grace Inside for the use of the women prisoners. The prisoners like to send birthday cards and get well messages to friends and family and write letters to them and Grace Inside provides them with the cards.

If you have cards that you don't want or note cards that they could use laying in your drawers or shelves at home and would like them to go to a good cause, this is it. Start looking and see what you can find and **bring the cards to church in June**. We will have a box in the narthex then. The ELCA Women are collecting them at their convention in the summer.



The Women's book club will meet **May 22 at 7:00** in the church library to discuss Peter Taylor's *A Summons to Memphis*. This was a Pulitzer Prize winner about a family in Tennessee. The author was born in Tennessee, but taught at Harvard, the University of North Carolina, and was Commonwealth Professor of English at UVA. Read the book and come out and join us to discuss it on Monday, May 22. All women of the church are invited with their friends.



Cure SMA is very grateful for our quarterly donation of the Sunday School offering. Their note is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the office.

## YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

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Rounding out a full month of fun activities in April, there will be a joint youth group celebration event on Saturday, May 6th at Jump Cville from 10:50 to 1 pm! We will meet at Jump (1005 Gardens Boulevard Charlottesville, VA 22901) at 10:50 AM to jump for an hour before carpooling back to the church to enjoy our packed lunches, share about our lives, and talk about what we would like youth group to look like in the future. Please remember to bring clean socks to jump in! Ticket costs will be covered by the church, but if you plan to attend, please RSVP to Grace Casola ([gmc3sm@virginia.edu](mailto:gmc3sm@virginia.edu)) by Wednesday, May 3rd so that we can guarantee you a ticket. Also, please make sure you have an up-to-date waiver on file with Jump: <http://jumpcville.com/sign-waiver/>.

- Grace Casola, Acting Director of Youth and Family Ministries

## PRESCHOOL

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“Welcome Happy Morning!” age to age shall say!

Easter greetings to each of you from the preschool! Thank you so much for your kindness and support while I cared for my mother. I’d especially like to thank you for the lovely note and the gift cards. These were such a big help and made it possible for

Mark and I to eat together at the hospital or pick up something on the way home. Your thoughtfulness made our life easier and lifted our spirits. Thank you!

I was happy to hear that some of our preschool families attended both Easter activities and services! Thank you for welcoming them into your hearts and into your community of worship.

We’re officially a certified Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom! I hope you’re enjoying the playground as much as the preschool children. Soon, we’ll be working to update the playground with a new, higher fence. This will improve both the aesthetic of the site and make the playground safer for everyone.

As always, thank you for your support of the preschool ministry.

- Carla Moody, Preschool Director



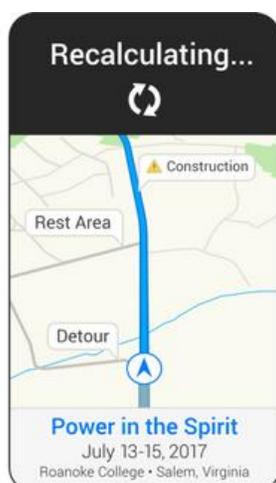
Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Synod Assembly is here! June 9-11 will be our time to get together as the Virginia Synod to fellowship, learn about the wider church, do business, and learn more about worship. Presiding over the Bishop's election and our ELCA representative this year will be **the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla**, Executive Director-ELCA Division of Global Missions.

For more information and to register for Synod Assembly: <http://www.vasynod.org/synod-assembly/>



## ***Power in the Spirit 2017: "On Our Way Reforming!"***



Hosted at beautiful Roanoke College in Salem Virginia, **Power in the Spirit** is an inspirational conference for everyone who wishes to explore God's call to service through joyous worship, Bible study, keynote addresses, workshops, and fellowship. In addition, congregational leaders—teachers, organists and choir directors, choir members, committee or council members, family life consultant, pastors, and others—will find Power in the Spirit nurturing and challenging as they consider their mission and ministry.

The Reformation didn't "fix" the Church. In fact, you might say it's just one example of how we're always "recalculating" our way forward as individuals and as a Church. In that spirit, this year's theme for Power in the Spirit 2017 is: **On Our Way Reforming!**

For more information and to register for Power in the Spirit, <http://www.vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/>

# MISSION COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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At Mission Council's April 11 meeting,

- The call committee recommended to the Mission Council that the name of the Rev. Viktoria Parvin be submitted to the congregation to be the pastor of St. Mark Lutheran Church (ELCA) of Charlottesville VA
- The Mission Council passed a resolution to hold a congregational meeting on April 30, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. for the purpose of calling the Rev Viktoria Parvin as the pastor of this congregation, as well as approving her compensation package.
- Our current treasurer would like to be replaced and so we are looking for a new Treasurer.
- The recent incident at the Preschool that resulted in media coverage was handled quickly and safely. Both the preschool staff and the committee have met and reviewed procedures.
- Membership update: Bill and Linda Roberts --membership status changed from associate to full; Christina Osheim – reactivate full membership



CHURCH  
BUSINESS

	Offering	Attendance
March 5	\$5,927	88
March 12	2,747	72
March 19	4,193	83
March 26	3,490	73

## **MISSION COUNCIL MEMBERS**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

<b>Duane Osheim *</b>	President	977-6952	oshe1m@icloud.com
<b>Sara Bon-Harper *</b>	Vice President	981-1096	sarainvirginia@yahoo.com
<b>Laurel McClurken *</b>	Secretary	973-6320	laurel.mcclurken@gmail.com
<b>Pat Dwiggin*</b>	Treasurer	301-938-0759	pdwiggin@gmail.com
<b>Laurene Nelson *</b>	Finance Sec'y	244-0145	lmnelson.1400@cpmcast.net
<b>Lewis Horton *</b>	Past President	974-7549	lohorton56@gmail.com

### **COMMITTEE LIAISONS:**

<b>Sara Bon-Harper</b>	CPP	981-1096	sarainvirginia@yahoo.com
<b>Lewis Horton</b>	Congregational Life	974-7549	lohorton56@gmail.com
<b>Tom Hecmanczuk</b>	Finance	227-2766	thecmanczuk@comcast.net
<b>Tony Marbury</b>	Discipleship, Preschool, Worship & Music	284-3259	cmunc8r@gmail.com
<b>Laurel McClurken</b>	Congregational Care, Social Ministry	973-6320	laurel.mcclurken@gmail.com
<b>Amanda Nelsen</b>	Property	612-790-2349	amandanelsen@hotmail.com
<b>Duane Osheim</b>	Education Ministries, Worship & Music	977-6952	oshe1m@icloud.com
<b>Lois Shepherd</b>	Preschool	249-4489	lois@loisshepherd.net
<b>Pastor Bill Stewart*</b>	Vice Pastor	962-3587	stewie4215@gmail.com

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### **ST. MARK STAFF**

**St. Mark Lutheran Church (ELCA) of Charlottesville, VA**

[www.stmarklutheran.org](http://www.stmarklutheran.org)

The office is open T-F 8:30am – 2:30pm

**Vice Pastor:** Bill Stewart

[stewie4215@gmail.com](mailto:stewie4215@gmail.com)

**Director of Music Ministry:** Kristi Van Doorn

[kristi@vandoorn.us](mailto:kristi@vandoorn.us)

**Acting Director of Youth and Family Ministry:** Grace Casola

**Office Manager:** Nancy Kliewer

[office@stmarklutheran.org](mailto:office@stmarklutheran.org)

**Church/Preschool custodian:** Abraham Dabie

**St. Mark Lutheran Preschool: A Ministry of St. Mark**

[www.stmarkpreschool.net](http://www.stmarkpreschool.net)

The preschool is open from 6am – 6pm

**Director:** Carla Moody

[director@stmarkpreschool.net](mailto:director@stmarkpreschool.net)

**Assistant Director:** Tami Sharff

[office@stmarkpreschool.net](mailto:office@stmarkpreschool.net)

**Resource Teacher:** Kristen Wray

**Co-Teachers:** Christina Thompson, Charley Schillinger, Sonja Vaughn, Patricia Peterson, Kate Wisbey

**Part-time co-teachers:** Ashley Smith, Elizabeth Sutherland

**Kitchen Manager:** Lynn Hewson