



October 2016

# CROSSMARKS

St. Mark Lutheran Church (ELCA) of Charlottesville, VA • [www.stmarklutheran.org](http://www.stmarklutheran.org) • 434-293-3311 • [office@stmarklutheran.org](mailto:office@stmarklutheran.org)  
A Reconciling in Christ congregation • Lutheran Campus Ministry at UVA • St. Mark Lutheran Preschool

## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

---



Here is the latest news from the call committee:

- Twelve RLPs (Rostered Leader Profiles) were sent to the call committee by Bishop Mauney.
- First round interviews with nine of the twelve candidates originally referred were conducted. One candidate withdrew from consideration and two were selected as primary candidates elsewhere.
- The call committee is scheduled to meet in mid-October to discuss the interviews, and review and select candidates who we want to bring in for second interviews.
- Second interviews will be scheduled for November.

*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

---

**October 2 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost:** A little faith goes a long way is our Lord's point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in water and the word (holy baptism), bread and wine (holy communion), the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 • Psalm 37:1-9 • 2 Timothy 1:1-14 • Luke 17:5-10



**October 9 – Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost -** It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c • Psalm 111 • 2 Timothy 2:8-15 • Luke 17:11-19



**October 16 – Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost:** Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is the encouragement of the Christ of the gospel today. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

Genesis 32:22-31 • Psalm 121 • 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5 • Luke 18:1-8



**October 23 – Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost:** Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God's forgiveness. Keep the faith. God's people—"all who have longed for his appearing"—shall be accounted righteous for Jesus' sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For all this the assembly glorifies God forever.

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 • Psalm 84:1-7 • 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 • Luke 18:9-14



**October 30 – Reformation Sunday:** *We will be using Schubert's German Mass and reading our lessons for the day in German. The St. Mark Brass is working on a special Reformation Prelude. The St. Mark Choir will be singing a brand new Reformation hymn, God Alone Be Praised, written by Susan Briehl and Zebulon Highben. It was commissioned by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians in commemoration of its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1986-2016) and the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation (1517-2017). "God loves us all, both big and small," a child's verse declares. The sins of the world are covered. We are able to stand tall before God our righteous judge because in the person of Jesus "salvation has come to this house"—to our house today. In Christ Jesus God seeks us out to save us.*

Isaiah 1:10-18 • Psalm 32:1-7 • 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 • Luke 19:1-10

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

---

The Women's Bookclub will meet on **Monday night, October 24 at 7:00** in the library at the church. We will be discussing ***Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*** by Jack Weatherford. From the story of Genghis Khan's rise through the tribal culture to the explosion of civilization that the Mongol Empire unleashed, this brilliant work of revisionist history is nothing less than the epic story of how the modern world was made. Read the book and come and discuss it with us. All women of the church and visitors and friends are welcomed.



We are in need of volunteers willing once again to provide a **home cooked meal for our college students** after Church on Sundays! We will also combine this meal with our high school students on occasion. We have no vegetarians this year (that we know of), so anything you make will be greatly appreciated! Please leave all the food in the kitchen during worship service and you do not need to stay to serve or clean up. If you cannot bring the food in on Sunday but would like to provide a meal, please sign up to bring a freezer meal! We will be sure to have someone heat the meal as needed. To sign up to provide lunch, visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0949aa62a1-lsmlunches2>. Thanks so much. The students love these meals on Sundays!

## FALL MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE:

**ST. MARK CHOIR** – If you enjoy singing, consider joining this great group of people who so wonderfully support our worship in liturgy and song. Practice time is on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m., beginning on September 14.

**ST. MARK BRASS** – This fine group of brass players, under the very able direction of Tom Teisberg, play for our festival Sundays and seasonal services.

**INSTRUMENTALISTS** – Whatever your instrument of choice, we can always use your talent in Sunday worship, whether it be a special solo, or help on a choir anthem.

Please consider being a part of our music program at St. Mark. For more information, contact Kristi Van Doorn.

## THANK YOU

---

A note from June Nabors, Lutheran Family Services: *The individuals at the Charlottesville Day Support Center are blessed by the partnership that St. Mark Lutheran Church has given them. The Birthday Baking Kit "shower" in connection with this year's "God's Work Our Hands" project will give our individuals a monthly reminder of your care and generosity. **Thank you** for your leadership and help as we continue to restore the promise that life offers at the day support center.*

## PRESCHOOL

---



Is there anything better than fall in Charlottesville? As we wait for the weather to change and cool down, the leaves have already begun to change and just like the seasons, there are many changes happening in the preschool. To begin with, for the first time since we opened, we have 50 children enrolled in the program! This is a HUGE milestone for us and means that we have grown by almost 1600%! This is a mind boggling number and I'm so grateful for God's grace and provision.

Part of the growth includes a new little friend that came to us through the Jefferson Area CHIP program. Because of your generosity in giving to our scholarship fund and because of the growth in our income, we're able to provide full time care for this family at a deeply discounted rate. YAY! One of our goals has always been to be a school that provides high quality care for families that would not otherwise be able to afford our program. In addition to this family, we have another child, from a single parent household, that is receiving benefits from the scholarship program as well. Your generous donations will ensure that these children have the opportunity to build a firm educational foundation, surrounded by the love of Jesus working through kind and caring teacher hands. This sets them up for a lifetime of opportunity and success!

We continue to move forward with the playground renovations and are looking forward to saying it's DONE in the near future.

Blessings to each of you.

Carla

# YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

---

## Upcoming Events and Reminders

### October Events:

#### Loaves and Fishes Service Project

Join us for a morning of meaningful work as we help to prepare food from the food bank for distribution among our hungry neighbors and community members.

- Saturday, October 15 - Meet AT Loaves and Fishes at 9:15 a.m
- Bring a bag lunch; friends welcome!
- Wear closed toed shoes
- Pick up AT Loaves and Fishes at 1:00 (we'll eat lunch on site following our work there).

October 16: Junior High Youth Group, 12-2:30

October 23: Senior High Youth Group, 12-2:30

### November

November 6: Senior High Youth Group, 12-2:30

November 18-20: Virginia Synod Youth Event: Lost and Found for all students in 7th-8th grade

### December

December 10: Annual Christmas Celebration and dinner at Anne's house for all youth in grades 5-12, plus advisors

December 18: Tree Trimming and Caroling at local assisted living facilities, following worship

December 22: FAMILY EVENT: Gardenfest of Lights in Richmond, VA. Stay tuned for more details!

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

---

**Quality Handicrafts for Christmas Gifts:** St. Mark is buying artisan-made handicrafts, chocolate and coffee through the SERRV catalog, to benefit Lutheran World Relief. There is a catalog in the narthex (marked "St. Mark copy) which you can look through; you can also visit [www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org) to view the online catalog. To ensure a timely delivery, there will be an **order deadline of Sunday, October 30th**. We like to have the shipment available to pick up the Sunday before Thanksgiving, so members who visit family at that time can choose to take these gifts to them. If members complete order forms and the orders are all placed through St. Mark, we don't have to pay shipping costs. St. Mark will donate some money generated by the sale to the malaria relief fund with LWR. Look for a manila envelope marked SERRV Orders with the catalog in the narthex to get an order form and return it there with a check made payable to St. Mark for the cost minus shipping, and "SERRV" in the message field. You can e-mail Rich Leahy for an order form as well.

## MISSION COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

---

At its September 8 and 13 meetings:

- Mission Council continued discussion on committee structures and practices.
- It was requested that the Property committee obtain a quote to replace the carpet in the Narthex area. This is not intended as a long-term solution, but an intermediate step until a larger narthex upgrade is undertaken.
- Preschool Committee will provide a budget update to reflect the opening of a fifth classroom.
- The Executive Committee will be meeting with staff to develop updated job descriptions, discuss this year's activities, overall ministries, and how we can improve.
- Susan Seehaver reminded MC of the 500 Year Anniversary of the Reformation next year and suggested we consider a formal recognition/celebration.
- Lewis Horton mentioned that he had been advised that Bishop Eaton would also be in the area next year visiting Mt. Hebron Lutheran Church in Madison and there may be additional opportunities to consider.

# ELCA NEWS

---

This past Monday was the first of three major presidential debates. National Voter Registration Day occurred just a day later. Thanks in part to this week's political focus, many Americans have joined in conversations centered on the Presidential and local elections occurring this November. How then can we as disciples promote positive civic engagement? ELCAvotes is one such initiative that is working to support conversations and turn to action.

The ELCAvotes initiative was formed to educate, equip, and encourage discipleship as we take part in the electoral process together. This initiative encourages faithful and non-partisan voter participation by providing faith-based resources around voting and the right to vote.

Our faith compels us to attend to the world through the lens of our relationship to God, and to each other. This includes elections! We can live out our affirmation of baptism through the electoral process, as we "serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus," and "to strive for justice and peace in all the earth."

That said, the importance of nonpartisan civic engagement must be emphasized. Faithful civic engagement must follow the law that any participation by churches in the electoral process is strictly nonpartisan. There are many ways we can take part, so long as we educate and conduct ourselves under the laws surrounding our participation in electoral affairs. Here are just a few examples of how you can join in ELCAvotes this election year:

1. Hold discussions and Bible study in your congregation, synod, or campus with a focus on:
  - Our calling, as Lutherans, to take part in and engage with our government
  - The social, economic and political root causes in denying the opportunity to vote
  - How we as a church together can promote dignity and respect and honor all who live in our communities
  - Faithful decision-making
  - Offering prayer for elected leaders and good government
2. Encourage and facilitate citizens to register to vote
3. Follow #ELCAvotes on social media, and join in the conversation online

## Voting Deadlines and Resources

The deadline to register to vote, or to update your address in Virginia is **October 17th, 2016**.

You can go to [elections.virginia.gov](http://elections.virginia.gov) for information on registering to vote, and to register electronically. The site also allows you to check your registration status, view what's on your ballot, find your local polling place, and learn more relating to this year's election.

ELCAvotes has produced a bible study to support these conversations! The latest bible study focuses on Luke 3:1-6 with supporting discussion questions and resources. To access the bible study, go to:

<http://files.constantcontact.com/0d5de1e8001/b482256a-f850-4881-b6ef-978236c5600a.pdf>

ELCAvotes has also created a Civic Participation and Voter Education Guide with the intent to encourage, empower, and equip Lutherans for responsible civic engagement based on their faith values. To access the full guide, go to <http://files.constantcontact.com/0d5de1e8001/44eecb3e-1aa9-41a7-8af0-7f006b29d7fc.pdf>

Lastly, ELCA Racial Justice recently hosted a Twitter chat. There, discussion centered on voting rights, as well as voting faithfully. Catch up with this conversation by following [@ELCA4Justice](https://twitter.com/ELCA4Justice) or [#ELCAVotes](https://twitter.com/ELCAVotes) on Twitter.



# CHURCH BUSINESS

|           | <b>Offering</b> | <b>Attendance</b> |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| August 7  | \$7,298         | 79                |
| August 14 | 9,226           | 79                |
| August 21 | 4,184           | 79                |
| August 28 | 2,071           | 95                |