



A Message from Pastor Hoffman

In the Sunday evening Bible study we have been asking a lot of questions about the Bible and some of our favorite Bible stories as we read through the book Reading the Bible For All the Wrong Reasons by Russell Pregeant. I happen to be thrilled that the group is comfortable asking questions about Scripture and of God. I believe firmly in Gerhard Frost's poem *Let it Live*:

Never kill a question;
it is a fragile thing.
A good question deserves to live.
One doesn't so much answer it as converse with it,
or, better yet, one lives with it.
Great questions are the permanent
and blessed quests of the mind.
But the greatest questions of all are those
which build bridges to the heart,
addressing the whole person.

No answer should be designed to kill the question.
When one is too dogmatic, or too sure,
one shows disrespect for truth
and the question which points toward it.
Beyond my answer is always more,
more light waiting to break in,
and waves of inexhaustible meaning
ready to break against wisdom's widening shore.
Wherever there is a question, let it live

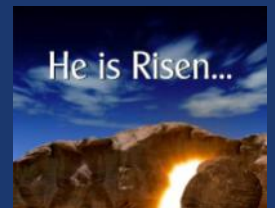
Not everyone is as comfortable with questions as am I or the Bible study group – especially with questions of faith. In fact, not even I was as comfortable with such questions as I am now. I remember dreaming that I died because I wrote a paper questioning God, even going so far as to say God was wrong in a seminary class on the book of Job. Fortunately it was only a dream and by the end of that class I discovered that one could not only question God, but even argue with God and live. Through Job I learned God was big enough to handle our doubts and questions and even fists upon his chest. I still have questions about the book of Job, but I also have a faith that is much stronger because no one, including God, said, “you can't question God”.

I imagine Thomas had a similar Epiphany on Easter Sunday, and the disciples on the road to Emmaus, the disciples hiding in the upper room,

Our Mission:
In joy,
we share
Christ's truth.

**Sunday
Worship**

9:00 am



**Our Guiding
Principles**

1. We trust in God's promises.
2. We base our actions on Christ's love and teachings.
3. We practice spiritual disciplines.
4. We welcome, nurture, and respect each other.
5. We serve our local community, and the world.

Pastor's Message continued

and even the women at the tomb. All of them certainly had questions and doubts. All of them were trying to reconcile what they had seen on Friday with what they had heard from the women and seen for themselves at the tomb. Did they have questions? Tons! And everywhere they turned someone was trying to kill every one of them. Everyone, that is, except for Jesus, who let all their questions live and conversed with them until a bridge to the heart was built and their faith was transformed and they believed as they had never believed before.

May we be open to both the transforming questions and answers of Easter's good news.

Blessings,
Pastor Hoffman

Coming Up At St. Mark!



CELEBRATE
EASTER

April 1

worship at 9am
fellowship time to follow

The graphic features a wooden cross in a field of red poppies under a bright sun with rays. The text is overlaid on the image.



Reminder!

April 22
Please plan to attend the
Congregation Meeting
Immediately following worship

The graphic shows silhouettes of people holding hands in a circle against a dark background with a light glow. The text is overlaid on the image.



Ladies' Lunch Bunch

April 19th at 12:30p
Women's Lunch Bunch at **Sadler's Ordinary**
make your reservations with Elaine Auger

All Ladies are Welcome!

The graphic has a light blue background with a pattern of colorful flowers (pink, blue, yellow, green) at the bottom. The text is in various colors and fonts.

Congregational Council President - David Obedzinski

As we shake off the cold of winter and look to spring for warmth and renewal Easter Sunday greets us and reminds us of the gifts and grace of God in our lives.

Our church's **Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 22nd following our 9 a.m. service** and will include the distribution of our annual report for 2017, reports by committees, and elections for open positions on our church council. Thanks to Karin Reinhardt for leading our nominations committee as they prepare our slate of officers for the election. The installation of officers on the Church Council will take place on Sunday, April 29th during the worship service.

It has been my honor and a pleasure to serve as your President these last two years. Special thanks to Pastor Hoffman, our church Council, committee chairpersons and volunteers for the wonderful work they do on behalf of our congregation every week.

May you and your family have a blessed Easter and April and thank you for sharing Christ's love with us and in the community around the Lutheran Church of Saint Mark.

Worship and Music Committee Update - Deb Gresens

Holy Week will provide the following opportunities for worship:

Maundy Thursday--March 29

Potluck in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Service will follow in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. with Communion, Foot washing, Absolution, Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday--March 30 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil--March 31 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship--April 1 9:00 a.m. Service followed by "sweet treats".

Additional musical happenings at St. Mark:

Calumet Sunday--Sunday, April 15 at 9:00 a.m. Followed by a traditional "Calumet Lunch" in the Fellowship Hall-Grilled Cheese and Tator Tots!!

Cuatro Puntos--Friday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Also...please consider sharing your time and talents with our team. Worship & Music team members are needed in the following areas: Ushers, Acolytes, Altar Guild, Worship Assistants, Lectors, Greeters and a new Prayer Shawl ministry.

Contact information: Deb Gresens at dgrace67@aol.com or 860-267-7192.

Youth Events

Youth events are planned for the 3rd Sunday of the month after Sunday school. Please note these dates on your calendar:

April 15—Movie

May 20—Hunchback of Notre Dame Play

June 17—Event to be determined



⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves....¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality...!



2018 Spring Gathering

Greater Hartford, Central & Eastern CT Conferences

Saturday, May 5th, 2018
8:45 am to 3:00 pm

Zion Lutheran Church
531 Woodruff St, Southington, CT 06489

It's better to build a longer table than a taller fence!

This event is open to all women in all congregations, not only those with womens groups! Please join us and bring a friend! All are welcome!

Cost: \$20 - Includes morning coffee, refreshments, fellowship, a luncheon, two workshops and the closing worship service.

Workshops:

Love in Action based on Romans 12 vs. 9-21 with Pastor Joanna Hertzog Betkoski and Pastor Stephanie Pope.

Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) - providing a safe haven to refugees and immigrants in CT.

*An offering will be taken to benefit both the **NE Women of the ELCA Ministries (NE/WELCA)** and **IRIS- Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services** which is a non-profit refugee resettlement agency in CT.*

Thrivent Choice Dollars For Calumet

If you are a Thrivent member and have Thrivent Choice dollars available to you, please be sure to designate those dollars by the end of March.

Thrivent Choice dollars that come to Calumet are used to keep the cost of camp as low as possible, to provide need-based campership grants, and to keep Calumet strong.

Calumet would be thrilled to receive support from you through these designated dollars.

By Thursday, March 29:

You can designate dollars online at www.thrivent.com.

You can designate dollars by phone by calling 1 800 Thrivent.

Thank You Calumet Nation!
Boom Chicka Boom!



Web site NEWS

Have you checked out St. Mark's Website lately? If you haven't, you should! Lee Hilliard has been hard at work updating the website each week. On the site you can find worship services and times, excerpts from Pastor's sermons, notices about upcoming events, pictures from past events, and links to our newsletter, calendar and facebook page. (Speaking of which, if you are a facebook user and haven't already liked our page, please do so)



Please be sure to thank Lee for all his hard work and then help make his job easier and our webpage even better by letting him know about events and activities being hosted by your committees. And be sure to take pictures so that we can share with the wider world what we are doing here at St. Mark.

Thank you Lee for all your hard work and for helping to spread the word about the ministry of St. Mark!

Fellowship Committee Update - Linda Hilliard

Greetings from Fellowship! On Easter Sunday, you may enjoy coffee cake, fruit and coffee after our 9:00 worship service, as we celebrate our Risen Lord.

Have you ever been to Camp Calumet? If not, we'd like to help. On Sunday, April 15th will be our annual Calumet Sunday. During worship, you will hear testimonials from folks who have experienced the ministry of our wonderful camp. We will sing a few Calumet songs, and will be treated to classic Calumet fair after church: Grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup. Come and hear about Calumet's ministry to people of all ages, year round.

On Friday, April 20th at 7:00 will be another wonderful concert by Cuatro Puntos, our musicians in residence. There will be coffee and fellowship, and a chance to greet people from the community, and the musicians following the music.



Dates in May include: Sunday May 6th, Bring a Friend Sunday, with potluck breakfast, Saturday, May 19th, at 6:30: A Taste of St. Mark, and Sunday, May 20th, Fellowship field trip to The Hunchback of Notre Dame; lunch at church, and then carpool to the 2:00 matinee, featuring our own Adam Tortorello in the title role.

Come join our committee—next meeting is Wednesday, April 4th at 7.

Scrip turns shopping into giving – Linda Obedzinski

There are hundreds of restaurants, retailers, and websites that accept scrip cards. You can earn money for missions while making everyday purchases.

At St. Mark, new orders are due the first Sunday of each month. Cards are delivered two weeks later. A quantity of the most popular cards are also kept on hand for immediate sale.

To place an order, either complete a paper form (available on the Missions bulletin board) and return it to Linda Obedzinski with your check, or set up an account online at www.shopwithscrip.com, using Enrollment Code L9134DFL32694.

The online process allows you to place orders and conveniently pay for them with a debit from your checking account.

For more information, contact Linda Obedzinski at ReachLindaO@cox.net or 860-657-8084.



St. Mark Family Celebrations

April Birthdays

4/10	Brigette Cote	4/19	Denise Stenger
4/13	Betty-Ann Gamer	4/20	Jon Chiu
4/14	Eleanor Jacobs	4/23	Kathy Runquist
4/15	Robyn Ongley	4/24	Jackie Howson
4/17	Dawn Taff	4/27	Alexander Jacobs

April Anniversaries

4/7 Jeffrey & Robyn Ongley

St. Mark Congregational Council & Lay Leadership

Officers

President	David Obedzinski
Vice President	Mike Davis
Secretary	Christine Chiu
Treasurer	Jackie Howson

Sunday School Superintendent

Kathy Runquist

Staff Support Committee

Andrea Clark
Mark Gresens
Ronald Kraatz

Ministry Committee Chairs

Education/Youth	Jon Chiu
Fellowship	Linda Hilliard
Financial Secretary	David Taylor
Missions	Jan Frick
Outreach	Greg Reinhardt
Property	Ron Strine (rotating chair)
Stewardship	Ray Frick
Worship	Deb Gresens
Member-at-large	Carol Weber



The Lutheran Church
of St. Mark

in joy we share Christ's truth

Pastor - Cheryl Hoffman
Minister of Music - Martin Smith
Youth Director- open
Sexton - Scot Butler
Office Manager: Joal Lentz
Ministers—The people of St. Mark

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email: ChurchOffice@StMarkGlastonbury.org

Website: www.StMarkGlastonbury.org

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/LutheranChurchofStMark

St. Mark Event Calendar



2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter Sunday 9a Worship 11:30p Goodness Church 7p Bible Study Annual Congregation Reports due	2 6:30p AA Meeting 8p AA Meeting	3 1-3:00p ESL	4 7p Committee Meetings 7:30p Worship Committee Meeting	5 1-3:00p ESL 6:30p Executive Committee Meeting 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	6	7 6a Goodness Church Prayer Service 8a AA Meeting
8 9a Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:30p Goodness Church 7p Bible Study	9 6:30p AA Meeting 8p AA Meeting	10 1-3:00p ESL 5:30p Confirmation Class	11 7p Congregation Council Meeting	12 1-3:00p ESL 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	13	14 6a Goodness Church Prayer Service 8a AA Meeting
15 9a Worship 10:15 Sunday School Youth Movie Event 11:30p Goodness Church 7p Bible Study	16 6:30p AA Meeting 8p AA Meeting	17 1-3:00p ESL	18 6-10p Jr. Womens	19 12:30p Women's Lunch Bunch @ Sadler's Ordinary Reserva with Elaine Auger 1-3:00p ESL 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	20 7:30p Cuatro Puntos Concert	21 6a Goodness Church Prayer Service 8a AA Meeting
22 9a Worship 10:15 Congregation Annual Meeting 10:15 Sunday School 11:30p Goodness Church 7p Bible Study	23 6:30p AA Meeting 8p AA Meeting	24 1-3:00p ESL 5:30p Confirmation Class	25	26 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Executive Committee Meeting	27	28 6a Goodness Church Prayer Service 8a AA Meeting
29 9a Worship with Council Member Installation 10:15 Sunday School 11:30p Goodness Church 7p Bible Study	30 6:30p AA Meeting 7:00p Diabetes Support Group 8p AA Meeting					

Updated calendar is available at: <http://www.stmarkglastonbury.org/cal.html>



The Lutheran Church of St. Mark

in joy we share Christ's truth

75 Griswold Street Glastonbury CT 06033



Visit The Lutheran Church of St. Mark Facebook page at
<https://www.facebook.com/lutheranchurchofstmark>
Stay current on photos and new events by "liking" us.

If you have a change in your email, phone or address,
please contact the Church Office, (860) 633-1188 or email:
ChurchOffice@StMarkGlastonbury.org



<http://www.StMarkGlastonbury.org>
<http://www.NESynod.org>
<http://www.ELCA.org>