



The Lutheran Church of St. Mark

in joy we share Christ's truth

www.StMarkGlastonbury.org

The Messenger

October 2017



A Message from Pastor Hoffman



Reformation 500

1517-2017

It is finally here – the 500th anniversary of the Reformation – October 31, 2017. This is a little bit of a misnomer, however. Yes, Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany on this day, but this was just one act on one day. Not even Martin Luther could have guessed the controversy this act would provoke. Nor could he have known that the reforms he was seeking to discuss would lead to The Reformation let alone a new and reformed Lutheran church.

Five hundred years later and reformation, that is re-formation is still part of the Lutheran church as we continue to reform, renovate, and restructure as our lives and culture and organization change. But some things haven't changed and shouldn't change. These are the beliefs and principles that form the foundation our faith. Luther uses fifty-five volumes to lay out the entire firm foundation of his Lutheran theology. That's a bit much for anyone but the most dedicated of Luther scholars to digest. Yet, we all require enough of a firm foundation so that our faith can withstand the winds and the rains, the trials and temptations, the valleys and deserts of life. Otherwise, like the house built on sand, our faith will shift with the tides or even worse, collapse when we need it most.

As a pastor one of my primary responsibilities is to build and reinforce your individual and our collective foundations of faith. Mostly this will come through preaching and teaching and administering the Sacraments – these are the principle vows I made when I was ordained and affirmed at my installation. But I believe in teamwork. I have asked the council members to consider how their committees might also take up this theme of building a firm foundation of faith. So, be prepared. You are likely to hear a lot about building a firm foundation of faith in the coming year. And I hope that you will do more than hear about it. I hope that you will engage in the building and grow and strengthen your own foundation of faith. In this way you too can be part of the continuing reformation of the church.

Pastor Hoffman



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.



The Lutheran Church
of St. Mark
in joy we share Christ's truth

75 Griswold Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033
(860) 633-1188 Fax (860) 657-1191
email: ChurchOffice@StMarkGlastonbury.org

Website: www.StMarkGlastonbury.org
Facebook: www.Facebook.com/LutheranChurchofStMark

Pastor Cheryl Hoffman
Minister of Music - Martin Smith
Youth Minister - Christa Conway
Sexton - Scot Butler
Office Manager: Joal Lentz

pstrhffmn@comcast.net
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St. Mark Congregational Council & Lay Leadership

Officers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Financial Secretary

David Obedzinski
Mike Davis
Christine Chiu
Jackie Howson
David Taylor

Ministry Committee Chairs

Education/Youth
Fellowship
Outreach
Property
Stewardship
Missions
Worship
Member-at-large

Jon Chiu
Linda Hilliard
Greg Reinhardt
Ron Strine-rotating
Ray Frick
Jan Frick
Deb Gresens
Carol Weber

Sunday School Superintendent

Kathy Runquist

Staff Support Committee

Andrea Clark
Mark Gresens
Ron Kraatz

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You—from Pastor Hoffman

Dear Members of the Lutheran Church of St. Mark,

How can I thank you sufficiently for the many ways you have welcomed me and helped me to celebrate my arrival here as your pastor? For all the work that you have done to prepare the parsonage, thank you. For all those that helped to bless the parsonage, thank you. For all those that participated in my installation service, thank you. For your willingness to keep saying your names and wearing your nametags, thank you. For your ready acceptance of J and me, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. You have made my transition as easy as moving away to a strange place where I knew no one could be and I am grateful. I am so looking forward to our continued journey together. May you find it to be as much of a blessing as you have already been to me.

Sincerely,
Pastor Hoffman



Stewardship Committee Update - Ray Frick



Stewardship Sunday will be on November 26th, the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend. We are currently in the planning stage, and will let you know more details in the next "Messenger." One definition of stewardship that I read was "Stewardship is how you live your life after accepting Christ." So, it is never too early to examine your blessings from God and what is your proper response.

Ray Frick
Stewardship Chair

Church Council President Update - David Obedzinski

We are blessed indeed!

On September 10th, we officially welcomed and installed our new Pastor. Pastor Hoffman has found a home with us, and we've found a new shepherd in her. My sincere thanks to the New England Synod for their guidance, to each of you for providing more than 50 surveys about our church, to our Survey, Call and Transition Committees for their work over more than a year, to our Church Council for its leadership, Pastor Rolf for his transition work with us, and to all who helped make the Parsonage a home for our new Pastor. My words can't convey how grateful I am so I'll just ask all to consider your own prayer of thanks.



Our season of thanksgiving has truly started early and listening to the sermon of Rev. Patrick J. Rooney during Pastor Hoffman's installation really brought things into focus. We are on a journey of faith, hope, trust and witness and I look forward to the next chapters with all of you.



Congratulations to our Youth Minister Christa and the Berezowskyj family on the birth of Luna in September. We're so happy for them and while they are busy welcoming their new baby to the world a number of us are going to work with Pastor to provide continuing youth programs. One such example of that occurred on September 17th when I joined Pastor to lead a youth event for the first time without my own daughter taking part and I thoroughly enjoyed learning more about our youth and myself. Pastor led some great activities, I shared some juggling lessons and the youth showed me that they have great pizza muffin making skills. I highly recommend volunteering for any of these activities going forward.

One final note is to point out that we're moving our Messenger newsletter back to a monthly schedule beginning with this issue. Please let the church office know if you would like to receive the Messenger by mail rather than by email and remember it's always available on our web site.

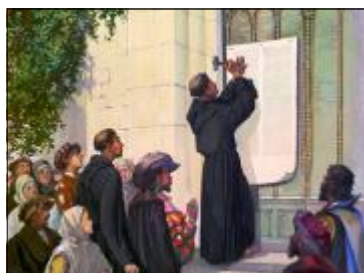


Thank you for sharing Christ's love with us and in the community around the Lutheran Church of Saint Mark.

Sunday October 29th

Reformation Sunday

Our worship this morning will follow the in the tradition of Martin Luther's German Mass and take the form of a Chorale Service meaning the parts of the liturgy will be replaced with hymns. Bring your singing voices, but we will sing in English so knowing German is not be required.



Reformation Sunday is also the traditional date for Confirmation at St. Mark. This year there are three youth who will profess their faith and take responsibility for the vows made on their behalf at baptism. This is an important step in one's faith journey. Please come and support Josh Christenson, Julia Im and Eric Putre as they officially become our brothers and sisters in faith.



Confirmation Sunday

Fellowship Committee Update - Linda Hilliard



Greetings from Fellowship! I would like to invite you to be on the fellowship team. We are planning to hold the events last year that have become favorites, including the Jacob's Well Cabaret concert and fundraiser, with our friends from White Rabbit Theater, the Taste of St. Mark, Women's Retreat at Calumet and Easter Breakfast among them, but anything is possible. I was thinking if we had a team of 4 or 5 people sitting around a table, we could come up with other events that people would enjoy, and that might lend themselves to bringing a friend or 2. Is this an area you are interested in? Let me know!

There is still room at our 2017 Women's Retreat to be held on November 17th, 18th and 19th. Pastor Rebecca Bourret is leading the retreat. See Deb Gresens to register. Don't miss out, it is an inspiration and crazy fun.

A note to committee chair people: The new Fellowship Assignments schedule is posted. If your committee wants to switch Sundays with another for any reason, that is fine.

Youth News - Christa Conway

Hello, and Happy Fall!

I am at home, snuggling with my new baby - Luna Sage Berezowskyj, born September 7th! As I enjoy this time off, I am extra thankful this fall for folks at church who have stepped in to help ensure the teens of our congregation have good times during my leave!

A big thank you to the St. Mark's family for your generous Target gift card and basket of books for our baby! Such love - the Berezowskyj family thanks you!

Thank you to Jon Chiu and Karin Reinhardt who brought Evie and Josh Christensen to Hammo at Calumet on September 8th. It sounded like an awesome time, and a great collaboration with the teens and leaders from Gloria Dei Church in Bristol, CT.

Thank you to Dave Obedzinski and Pastor Hoffman, who provided a great event on Sunday the 17th, Rally Day! Looks like some outdoor fun on a beautiful day, and a service project packing 24 backpacks for Lutheran World Relief!

Thank you in advance to Deb and Mark Gresens for leading our next event, on the evening of Saturday, October 21st - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: St. Mark's Style!

Thanks again to Jon Chiu for teaching our Sunday Morning Conversations class for middle schoolers and high schoolers - every Sunday after the 9:00 service.



I'll be back in November teaching SMConversations and leading a service event in November with Dave Taylor close to Thanksgiving, and on Sunday, December 17th after church, we will have our Annual Christmas Party, with all sorts of holiday fun!!

Enjoy the fall months, and I'll see you all in November!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, October 21st in the evening - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: St. Mark's Style!

November TBD Service Event

Sunday, December 17th - Christmas Party after church!

St. Mark Family Celebrations

October Birthdays

10/1 Matthew Putre
 10/3 Bill Wamester
 10/4 Katie Obedzinski
 10/7 Christopher Auger
 10/8 Erica Gresens
 10/10 Samuel Davis
 10/13 Ellen Webster
 10/18 Fran Kreigenhofer
 10/17 Cheryl Coppola
 10/21 David Taylor
 10/24 Charles Gamer
 10/24 Steven Christensen
 10/25 Katherine Machnich
 10/28 Eleanor Tunney
 10/28 Rebecca Wolfe

October Anniversaries

10/8 Tres & Leslie Mahland
 10/8 Sean & Leslie O'Rourke
 10/13 Jonathan & Christine Chiu

500th Anniversary of the Reformation Celebrations

Information on the many reformation celebrations around the New England synod may be found by visiting www.nelutherans.org/500

Below is a list of some of the events that are closer to us:

October 1—Luther and the Reformation Movie viewing and German dinner—Trinity Lutheran Church in Shelton CT at 4:00p.

October 14—WELCA Reformation Celebration with “Katie Luther” - Christ the King in Holliston MA at 9:00a.

October 20-21—The Arts and Ecumenism, What theology risks in artistic creation—Yale Institute of Sacred Music in New Haven CT

October 29—Commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation—Concordia Lutheran Church in Manchester CT at 3:30p.



Worship and Music Committee Update - Deb Gresens



The Worship Committee met at the beginning of September to discuss fall worship and upcoming fall events at St. Mark's, particularly for the month of October. Look below to see just a few of the things about to happen!

- Friday, October 27 at 7:30 p.m. Cuatro Puntos concert ROOTS AT 40 Journeys of the American Composer in the 20th Century
- Sunday, October 29 at 9:00 a.m. Reformation Chorale Service, Confirmation
- Sunday, October 29 at 4:00 p.m. Reformation Music Festival/Hymn Sing

The next meeting of the Worship and Music Committee will take place October 4 at 7:30 p.m. to plan for Advent and Christmas. If you are interested in being a player on our team, please let me or Pastor Hoffman know.

Property Committee Update - Dave Rutz

The Property Committee's focus during the spring and early summer months continued to be a renovation of the parsonage. The first-floor wood floors were refinished in March. Painting of all the rooms was put off pending color selections by Pastor Hoffman, so it didn't take place until June-July. The other major improvement was to move the washer and dryer from the basement to a corner in the former garage/family room. The improvements were made possible in part by the many donations to the three parsonage fundraisers and the labors of many volunteers over the last 10 months:



Autumn Leaf Window campaign: \$5185
Everything Including the Kitchen Sink: \$5020
Parsonage Sidewalk Brick Campaign: \$800

We have also been busy obtaining quotes for upcoming capital improvements. First up is replacement of the parsonage rear walkway which is literally disintegrating before our eyes. At the same time, the spalling cement on the exterior of the sunroom foundation will be replaced. Updated quotes for roof replacements on the sanctuary and parsonage have also been obtained, but more about that later.

St. Mark is proud to be part of the Glastonbury community and has a mission to serve as an outreach to local groups for approved events. We presently have nine such groups, in addition to the Korean Methodist Church, who regularly use our facilities for meetings. These groups include scouts and numerous support groups, among others.

While St. Mark does not charge a fee for profit for use of the facilities, applicants may make contributions to help defray Church costs for the increased maintenance expense. Annual contributions currently exceed \$11,000.

Preparing for All Saints' Sunday



On Sunday, November 5 we will celebrate the festival of All Saints. At this service we will especially remember those members from St. Mark that have died since last All Saints Sunday. In the weeks leading up to All Saints Sunday, a book will be placed on the table where you pick up your bulletin to which you may add names of others that you would like remembered on All Saints Sunday. All names will be canted at the proper preface during the communion liturgy.

Scrip turns shopping into giving

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

Here's how it works:

- Buy gift cards from the Missions committee at face value
- The committee buys scrip cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a discount.
- The difference funds St. Mark Missions work!



At St. Mark, new orders are due the first Sunday of each month; these 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.

Give it a try and you'll see how easy it is to make an impact! Use your purchasing power for good.

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

Mission Endowment Fund Update - Ron Strine

The Lutheran Church of St. Mark ELCA Mission Endowment Fund Activity Report-July 31, 2017

Description	1st qtr.	April	May	June	July	August
Beginning. ELCA Fund Bal.	\$52,482	\$53,273	\$53,816	\$54,489	\$55,008	55,970
Additions	0	0	0	0	0	
Withdrawal	(1,500)	0	0	0	0	
Market gain (loss)	1,792	543	673	15	963	
Reinvested/qtr.dist.	498	0	0	504	0	
Ending balance	53,273	53,816	54,489	55,008	55,970	
YTD market gain (loss)	1,792	2,336	3,009	3,023	3,986	

St. Mark Restricted Mission Endowment Fund Distribution

Beg. Account Bal.	418	1,288	1,288	1,288	854	854
Additions	1,580	0	0	20		
Mission Acct. Bal.	1,988	1,288	1,288	1,308	854	
Less disbursements:						
ELCA GIFT of Water Well	700	0	0			
Net Mission Acct. Bal.	1,288	1,288	1,288	854	854	

Looking ahead, the Council approved the EIC's recommendation to distribute the balance of \$854 in the Restricted account to the Hurricane Harvey Relief effort.

Please consider a donation to the MEF using your Special Offering envelope shown below.



Getting To Know You - Pastor Hoffman

Names aren't enough. Everyone has a story and I would like to know yours. Starting with the first week in October I will be setting aside some time to have meals with anyone who would like to join me. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway with dates, restaurants and times. I'm going to limit each group to 6 to better ensure quality conversation.

The first opportunities will be:

**Tuesday, October 3, 6:30 PM, Gideon's BBQ Smokehouse
345 New London Turnpike, Glastonbury**

**Friday, October 6, 8:00 AM, Ken's Corner
30 Hebron Ave, Glastonbury**



Please bring your stories and your questions so we can better get to know each other.

If eating out isn't your thing, there will be a second signup sheet for those who would like me to make a home visit. List your name and phone number and I will contact you to set up a time to come to you learn more about you and give you a chance to learn more about me.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

We Are Having A Reformation 500 Bookstore!

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is fast approaching! Do you want to learn more about Martin Luther, his writings, and their impact on Christianity? Do you want to reflect on the ongoing impact of the Reformation today? Stop by our Reformation 500 Bookstore to shop for engaging books on the Reformation for readers of all ages and interests! Save up to 50% plus receive free shipping on all Bookstore titles.

**Stop by the fellowship lounge
on Sundays October 22, 29 and November 5**

before and after church to order fascinating books on the Reformation for you and your family



Our Bookstore is sponsored by Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA. The books will include bestselling biographies like *Luther the Reformer* as well as an atlas of the European Reformations, a graphic novel for young readers, and primary sources from The Annotated Luther series. There really is something for everyone so come check us out.

Minister of Music update - Martin Smith

Music Ministry at Saint Mark is alive and well! It has been a busy few months as the search and call committees finished their process and we met Pastor Hoffman in May; then celebrated our Service on the Lawn, bade farewell to Pastor Rolf and Lois Hedberg in June, followed by several weeks of summer worship with our supply Pastors. September found us planning and preparing for Pastor's installation on September 10, Rally Day, and now preparing for 'Reformation 500,' the great anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of the Theses on the doors at Wittenberg. Our festive worship on Reformation Sunday (Oct 29) will be followed in the afternoon by a Hymn Festival at 4 pm. Our collaboration with the choirs (including handbells), directors and clergy of Saint James' Episcopal and First Church Congregational will make this a very special event. Please mark your calendars! A reception will follow. Blessings to all!

4G: THE GENEROSITY PROJECT



Growing in Grace

Generation to Generation

*"One generation praises your deeds to the next...
Together they celebrate your abounding goodness."*

Psalm 145

4G: The Generosity Project is a lively, interactive fellowship event for all ages that enables the different generations in a congregation to get to know each other, learn from one another, inspire one another and have fun together. During the workshop participants play games, respond to God's story, form a circle of blessing, honor the oldest and the youngest, explore values, faith and giving, share and celebrate the many stories of generosity, and...decorate pigs!

Our Synod is offering three sample 4G Events on Oct. 21-22, 2017:

Saturday, Oct. 21—10:30am-2pm at Triumphant Cross Lutheran Church in Salem, NH

Sunday, Oct. 22—10am-1:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church in Middletown, CT

(Please join the people of Faith for worship at 9:00am.)

Sunday, Oct. 22—4pm-7:30pm at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Charlestown, RI

Your congregation is invited to send individuals or a team of people to one of these gatherings in order to prepare for hosting a 4G Event in your congregation in 2018. These three events will be facilitated by Linda Staats, the ELCA coordinator for The Generosity Project.

Linda will also be training leaders in our New England Synod to serve as 4G facilitators who will work with teams in congregations planning to hold 4G Events in their churches.

Cost: \$5.00 per person (Payable at the door)

For more information or to register for one of these 4G events, please contact:

Martha Whyte at mwhyte@nesynod.org or 339-222-2149

500TH Reformation Anniversary FESTIVAL HYMN SERVICE



Sunday, October 29, 2017, 4 PM
The Lutheran Church of Saint Mark
75 Griswold Street, Glastonbury

Congregational Chorales, Organ Solos, and Choir Anthems
Music by Bunjes, Hogan, Distler, Bach, Rutter, Karg-Elert, and Martin Luther

The combined Adult Choirs of

The First Church of Christ Congregational
Angela Salcedo, *Director of Music Ministries*

The Lutheran Church of Saint Mark
Martin Smith, *Minister of Music*

St. James' Episcopal Church
James R. Barry, *Minister of Music*

All are welcome
Free-will offering to benefit Carol's Closet

Faith Learning Opportunity

Discover Ancient Hindu Wisdoms for a Connected World
In a lecture by Dr. A. V. Srinivasan
Congregational Church of South Glastonbury in the Social Hall
949 Main St., South Glastonbury, CT
860-633-4651
October 3, 2017 at 7:00pm



Topics will cover the rich history of Hinduism and its impact in America. The relevance of basic tenants of Hinduism and its practice in the modern world will provide a basis for further discussion on:

- History
- Core Beliefs and Values
- Sacred Texts
- Hinduism in Practice: Polytheism



OCTOBER 2017

St. Mark Event Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9a Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:30p Goodness Church 7p Bible Study	2 6:30p AA Meeting 8p AA Meeting	3 6:50-9:30a Somerset BNI 12-3p ESL 6:30p Dinner with Pastor at Gideon's BBQ 6:30-9:30p White Rabbit Group	4 7p Committee Meetings 7:30p Worship Committee Meeting	5 12-3p ESL 5:30p Confirmation class 6:30p Executive Council Meeting 6:30-9:30 White Rabbit Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	6 8:00a Breakfast with Pastor at Ken's Corner 6:30-9:30 White Rabbit Group	7 6-7a Goodness Prayer Service 8:30a AA Meeting
8 9a Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:30p Goodness Church 7p Bible Study	9 Columbus Day 6:30p AA Meeting 8p AA Meeting	10 6:50-9:30a Somerset BNI 12-3p ESL 6:30-9:30p White Rabbit Group	11 7p Congregation Council Meeting 6:30-9:30 White Rabbit Group	12 12-3p ESL 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	13	14 6-7a Goodness Prayer Service 8:30a AA Meeting
Pastor on vacation until 10/23						
15 9a Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:30p Goodness Church 7p Bible Study	16 6:30p AA Meeting 8p AA Meeting	17 6:50-9:30a Somerset BNI 12-3p ESL 6:30-9:30p White Rabbit Group	18 6:30-9:30 White Rabbit Group	19 12-3p ESL 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	20 6:30-9:30p White Rabbit Group November Newsletter Submission Deadline	21 6-7a Goodness Prayer Service 8:30a AA Meeting
Pastor on vacation until 10/23						
22 9a Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:30p Goodness Church 7p Bible Study	23 6:30p AA Meeting 8p AA Meeting	24 6:50-9:30a Somerset BNI 12-3p ESL 6:30-9:30 White Rabbit Group	25	26 12-3p ESL 12:30p Women's Lunch Bunch 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	27 8:00a Breakfast with Pastor at Eggs Up Grill	28 6-7a Goodness Prayer Service 8:30a AA Meeting
Pastor on vacation until 10/23						
29 Reformation Sunday 9a Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:30p Goodness Church 4p Hymn Sing 7p Bible Study	30 8:00a lunch with Pastor at Rein's Deli 6:30p AA 7:00p Diabetes Support Group 8p AA	31 Halloween 6:50-9:30a Somerset BNI 12-3p ESL 8:00a Dinner with Pastor at Maggie McFly's				
Updated calendar is available at: http://www.stmarkglastonbury.org/cal.html						



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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>
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