



The Lutheran Church of St. Mark

in joy we share Christ's truth

www.StMarkGlastonbury.org

The Messenger
Summer 2018



A Message from Pastor Hoffman

As many of you know, June 7-9 was the ELCA New England Synod Assembly. I, along with Dave Taylor and Deb Gresens spent those days at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield, Massachusetts with more than 400 of our closest Lutheran friends from the five states in our synod. The theme of this year's assembly was "Stir it up," and as the Bishop said, himself, we most certainly took that theme to heart and stirred things up.

Instead of writing an "ordinary" newsletter article this time around, I thought I would "stir things up" and list some thoughts that I wrote down while at the assembly. These are not in any particular order and I mean nothing more than to share with you words that stirred up the spirit in my own soul.

Joy has no denominational requirements.

Follow me with all of you.

If you don't believe God loves you, you cannot convincingly tell others God loves them.

In the US, churches started through immigration; then grew through procreation. The next phase of church growth has to be through invitation.

Joy begins with you.

Do we love to tell the story or do we just love the story?

The church exists for its non-members.

The Gospel is not what we got to do, but what we get to do.

Your church is holy ground; treat it like holy ground.

Being on an adventure is far more life-giving than being comfortable.

Church is a way of life.

July and August are prime times for vacation – for this pastor included. Vacation is a good time to check out other churches and see what they are doing. Bring back good ideas and help us to learn from their not so good ideas. Vacation is also a good time to keep your ears open for other ways and times and places that the Spirit stirs your soul. What words speak to you – from a book, a song, a sign, your grandchildren? What experience speaks to you – nature, a meal, a visit with old friends?

Over and over again we prayed at assembly: Stir up your power O God or Spirit or Christ and come. As you move through these summer months, may the Spirit of God move about and within you stirring up and renewing your own spirit.

Blessings,
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.

Outreach Committee Update - Greg Reinhardt

The Ask

Last spring the Fellowship Committee sponsored “Invite a Friend to Church” Sunday. The Church council liked this inviting worship service and encouraged the Fellowship to continue holding these services a couple times a year. Certainly this service is commensurate with Christ’s Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. This special Sunday challenges members to be proactive in our commission. The success of these services will depend on all members looking for the opportunity to invite a friend to church.

In an open, welcoming, and diverse society talking about your church is avoided. Some may find the discussion unwanted or even offensive. Who, when, and where someone is invited to join our Sunday worship is going to take some forethought. Who in your life would welcome the Christian nourishment of our community? The opportunity to invite someone is likely to be a fleeting moment in a private conversation, where a short, polite invitation can be made. Count on the Holy Spirit to grow the person’s interest once the seed is planted. Since this opportunity is fleeting, preparation, patience, and then courage to act in the moment are needed. A special Sunday like “Invite a Friend to Church” Sunday, a community event, a youth event, or Sunday School Rally Day may help open the door for your invitation.

All St. Mark members are invited to prepare themselves and be prayerful for the opportunity to invite someone to church. You are also encouraged to discuss faith sharing with the Outreach Committee, Pastor Hoffman, or within your church groups.



Property Committee Update - Dave Rutz

The Property Committee has been busy pursuing the Council priority to “make St. Mark more appealing” by improving the physical condition of our facilities. The following is a summary of the actions that have been or will be taken.

- Classrooms 1 and 2 have been painted. Hopefully we will paint more rooms later in the year.
- A new riding lawn mower has been purchased. The appearance of our grounds will improve dramatically over the next few weeks.
- We held a very well attended cleanup day on May 5th. Winter snow damage was removed and flower beds were raked. You can now actually see through the narthex windows. And now that the Rhododendrons are done blooming, they are receiving a long overdue pruning.
- A new “Welcome “ sign for the main entrance has been ordered to replace the faded sign with a Methodist logo presently hanging by the door.
- Estimates have been received from landscaping contractors on things we might do to improve the appearance of our front lawns. These have now been discussed with Council, along with the need to replace some of the siding on the west side of the sanctuary, finish the painting that was started in 2016 and repair and re-paint the handicap ramp. The Committee will seek Council approval to proceed at the July Council meeting.



Please note!



Pastor Hoffman will be on vacation June 28 through July 19. Pastor Joe Ekeberg will be on call for pastoral care and emergencies. Please call the church office 860-633-1188 or Karin Reinhardt 860-430-1053 if you are in need of pastoral care.

Fellowship Committee Update - Linda Hilliard

Thank you, everyone who participated in fellowship activities this year. People have had an opportunity to express themselves as to activities that they enjoyed in the past, or new activities that they would like to see happen through the Dream Sheets. But, there will also be a meeting of the fellowship committee on Wednesday, July 25th at 6:30. This meeting will be open to everyone, and will offer a chance to brainstorm more ideas. How frequently would you like to have activities? How many pot luck suppers would you enjoy? What about the Martin Luther movie night we had in January, with German food and beverages? Would you like to see more movie nights? How many picnics should we have, and when? Did anyone enjoy the volleyball games we had a few years back?

What about youth events, children's activities, women's group meetings, or men's group meetings? What about Calumet events?

You are all officially invited to plan on July 25th, and to join our committee, which meets monthly on the first Wednesday.

Have a great summer!

Linda Hilliard

Anne Davis, Deb Gresens, Fran Kreigenhoffer



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.



Worship and Music Committee Update - Deb Gresens

June 10—a beautiful flugelhorn and bass duo (Oskar Stenmark) was enjoyed by a small but enthusiastic audience on Sunday evening



In the next few weeks there will be many opportunities to continue to refresh and participate in faith, fellowship and fun activities:

Summer/Fall Concert series to include:

- July 14—Alqui Trio
- November 3--Cuatro Puntos
- TBD--Bass Clef Choir

“Dream Sheet” time!! It’s time to review your dream sheets. Please consider volunteering and sharing your time and talents with our team in one or more of the following areas:

- Calling all musicians/vocalists: Share your musical talents during the summer months while the choir takes a short break
Contact: Martin Smith, Pastor Hoffman or Deb Gresens
- Volunteer: Usher (make your own usher team as a family), acolyte, lector, greeter (always looking for more), Altar Guild, Worship Assistant
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
Contact Deb Gresens or Pastor Hoffman

Looking ahead: Hammo-North, Rally Day, God’s Work, Our Hands-a day of volunteering.
More info to follow.

Contact information: Deb Gresens at dgrace67@aol.com or 860-267-7192.
Next Meeting: August 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Consistent Summer Offerings = Stronger Church - Dave Obedzinski



During the summer months the number and amounts of our member summer offerings usually decrease due to summer vacations and travel. If at all possible, as part of your vacation planning, please consider sharing your offerings with your church before you leave for any extended period of time or at the least remember to catch up on your gifts from God when you return. Our church operations don’t take a holiday and your gifts are important to our programs year-round. Thank you and God Bless! Enjoy the summer.

Education Committee Update - Liz Christensen

The youth of St. Mark's along with some of their friends had a perfect day for their youth event on Saturday, June 16th. The youth and the adults started the day with a fun game of volleyball. They then played a few games of Nukem and had a wonderful barbeque lunch.



After lunch, the youth helped set up the tent for the festive outdoor worship event held on Sunday, June 17th, played a water balloon toss game and then had a rousing water fight.

According to Pastor, going forward the youth outdoor game day will be the Saturday before the worship on the lawn event celebrating grads and dads!

The next youth event will be in August. The youth will be heading off to Six Flags. Date to be determined.

Next Education Committee meeting will be held on Monday, June 25th.



The Lutheran Summer Gathering at Silver Bay

New England Lutherans are welcome and invited to attend **The Lutheran Summer Gathering** at Silver Bay (the Y of the Adirondacks) on Lake George, a fun and relaxing week-long vacation for spiritual and physical renewal.

For 85 years Lutherans have played and prayed together on the shores of beautiful Lake George in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. The Lutheran Summer Gathering has elements of a destination vacation and a camping / retreat experience all-in-one.



Possibilities abound for all ages -- classes and conversation for adults, programs for children, as well as a teen group that adds new friends every year. If you need time alone, there is an Adirondack chair or a labyrinth calling to you. Or you can join in groups of varied ages swimming, playing chair volleyball, worshipping as the sun goes down, or eating s'mores at the campfire.

Our theme for July 14-20, 2018 is Walking With Jesus, featuring Pastor Lee Miller II as Chaplain, Pastors Arden Strasser and Gladys Moore as faculty, and Chris Schaefer as Teen Leader. For more info and registration, please visit www.lutherans-silverbay.org.

Stewardship Committee Update - David Obedzinski

Consider Your Beneficiaries

According to LegalZoom.com and other sources approximately 55 percent of American adults do not have a will or other estate plan in place and the fact is that this number has stayed relatively steady during the 2000s, even as the number of other estate planning documents Americans have -- like medical directives -- has increased.

Getting your will document(s) established has never been easier and online services make such planning even more accessible. Having a will prepared is also one of the least expensive services you can ask an attorney to write for you and your family.

On Thrivent Financials web site at www.Thrivent.com you will find helpful articles that remind you that you've worked so hard to invest your money wisely, carefully planning and saving to help you care for your family and live comfortably throughout your retirement. But in the event that something unexpected happens, it's just as important to have a plan for what happens to your savings and investments. Make sure you understand the importance of having a will and beneficiary planning because the fact is these documents ensure that your wishes are followed rather than the probate court making those decisions.

According to Thrivent, "...While it's advisable to have an estate plan that includes a will, it's also important to make beneficiary designations for each retirement plan account. Many retirement plans will default the beneficiary to either the estate or a spouse. If the beneficiary is an estate, the retirement assets are generally combined with your overall estate and must be distributed from the retirement account within 5 years. Depending on the associated retirement plan document, these assets could end up going through probate court as a part of your estate if not specifically designated in your will and may be subject to estate taxes. Not only does this create more hurdles and paperwork for your loved ones, it can negatively impact the amount of assets available to pass on to your beneficiaries."

It is recommended that you review your beneficiaries once a year on your retirement assets, life insurance policies and other appropriate assets to make sure everything is still consistent with your wishes and current circumstances. Speak with your legal and tax advisor for more information about beneficiary planning and how it fits into your overall estate plan and know that if you choose to include The Lutheran Church of Saint Mark or its Mission Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of your estate plan know that your church community would be very appreciative and it would create a beautiful legacy for your involvement in our church family. Previous estate gifts received by our church over the years have allowed our church to grow and have helped to care for our church property and buildings.

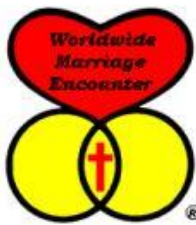


Synod News

Bishop James Hazelwood was elected to a second term as Bishop of the New England Synod at last weekend's annual Assembly, held at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Mass. The Assembly featured representatives from a number of our new mission starts, guests from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, one of our seminary students, and a representative from the Muslim community of Hartford. Uplifting worship services at the beginning and end of Assembly provided capstones to three days of listening, learning, sharing, and fellowship that included two keynote presentations, a dozen workshops and two dozen exhibitors showcasing the many ministries with whom the New England Synod has a relationship.



Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends



Attention Married Couples:

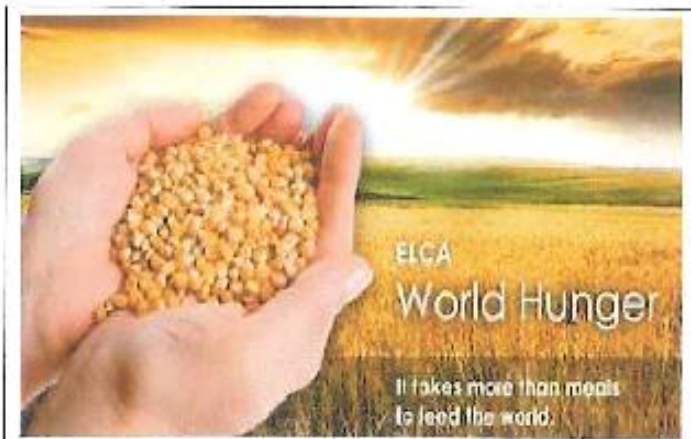
We would never expect a car to run smoothly forever without a tune-up, so why do we expect our marriage relationship to keep running smoothly without a little maintenance? Treat yourselves to a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend! The fall northeast US Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends are:

- September 14-16, 2018 at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis, PA. A great hotel-style facility located in 800 acres of woodlands in the heart of the Pocono Mountains. An hour north of Allentown.
- October 19-21, 2018 at Olmsted Retreat Center. A stunning, hotel-style retreat next to Olmsted Mansion in Allegheny National Forest. 2 hours north of Pittsburgh.
- November 9-11, 2018 at Hampton Inn Berkshires in Lenox, Massachusetts. A lovely hotel beautifully situated on the edge of a 100-acre nature preserve in the heart of the Berkshires. An hour northwest of Springfield, MA.

Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish to help cover expenses and towards the continuation of the program. To be sure to get the Weekend of your choice, sign up at your earliest convenience by going to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and paying the \$100/couple registration fee with your credit card, or marking the option to mail a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net.



St. Mark makes a difference!



ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH, GLASTONBURY, CT

Thank you for your faithful service in sharing your God-given financial resources with the ELCA World Hunger Program! Your generosity is helping people have sustainable lives. Through gifts like yours, people in over 60 countries have better agricultural resources, access to clean water, nutritious food, education for children, effective ways to earn a living and better health care.

According to the ELCA World Hunger Program, your church for fiscal year 2017 has given to the ELCA World Hunger Program

\$2,600.

This reflects #16 in congregational giving in the New England Synod.

David W. Rinas
Pastor David Rinas

Doreen Rinas
Doreen Rinas

Co-Chairpersons

New England Synod World Hunger Team

St. Mark Family Celebrations

July Birthdays

Lydia Shaughnessy July 2
 Laura Pirsig July 6
 Clara Hancock July 10
 Ron Strine July 10
 Mary Anderson July 26
 Bernie Clark July 26
 Ellie Hancock July 30

August Birthdays

Greg Gregonis August 2
 Odin Carlson August 6
 Bill Pirsig August 7
 Ray Frick August 9
 Anand Nethala August 17
 Allen Hill August 18
 Jake Jacobs August 18
 Deb Gresens August 19
 Sarah Davis August 21
 Karin Reinhardt August 21
 Chris Chiu August 23
 Valda Dienavs August 24
 Ginny Rutz August 28

July Anniversaries

Denise & Stephen Stenger July 2
 Deb & Mark Gresens July 31

August Anniversaries

Eleanor Tunney & Ronald Kraatz August 7
 Pr. John and Dorothy Marschhausen August 12
 Nancilee & Don Orend August 13
 Jan & Ray Frick August 26
 Ginny & Dave Rutz August 29

St. Mark Congregational Council & Lay Leadership

Officers

President Karin Reinhardt
 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 Elizabeth Christensen
 Fellowship Linda Hilliard
 Financial Secretary David Taylor
 Missions Jan Frick
 Outreach Greg Reinhardt
 Property Ron Strine (rotating chair)
 Stewardship David Obeedzinski
 Worship Deb Gresens
 Member-at-large Carol Weber



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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 Director- open

Sexton - Scot Butler

Office Manager: Joal Lentz

Ministers- The people of St. Mark

pstrhffmn@comcast.net

msmith568@att.net

churchoffice@stmarkglastonbury.org

St. Mark Event Calendar

July 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9a Worship 11:30p Goodness Church	2 6:30p AA Meeting 8p AA Meeting	3	4 Independence Day-Office closed	5 6:30p Executive Committee Meeting	6 6:30p AA Meeting	7 6a Goodness Church Prayer Service 8a AA Mtg.
8 9a Worship 11:30p Goodness Church	9 6:30p AA Meeting 8p AA Meeting	10	11 7p Congregational Council Meeting	12 2-4p Wedding Rehearsal	13 2-4:30p Wedding 6:30p AA Meeting	14 6a Goodness Church Prayer Service 8a AA Mtg.
15 9a Worship 11:30p Goodness Church	16 6:30p AA Meeting 8p AA Meeting	17	18 6p Jr. Women's Meeting	19 12:30p Women's Lunch Bunch	20 6:30p AA Meeting	21 6a Goodness Church Prayer Service 8a AA Mtg.
22 9a Worship 11:30p Goodness Church	23 6:30p AA Meeting 7p Education-Committee Meeting 8p AA Meeting	24	25 6:30p Fellowship Committee Meeting	26	27 6:30p AA Meeting	28 6a Goodness Church Prayer Service 8a AA Mtg.
29 9a Worship 11:30p Goodness Church	30 6:30p AA Meeting 7:00p Diabetes Support Group 8p AA Meeting	31				

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

St. Mark Event Calendar

AUGUST 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7p Committee Meetings 7p Worship Committee Meeting	2 6:30p Executive Committee Meeting	3 6:30p AA Meeting	4 6a Goodness Church Prayer Service 8a AA Mtg.
5 9a Worship 11:30p Goodness Church	6 6:30p AA Meeting 7p Education Committee Meeting 8p AA Meeting	7	8 7p Congregation Council Meeting	9	10 6:30p AA Meeting	11 6a Goodness Church Prayer Service 8a AA Mtg.
12 9a Worship 11:30p Goodness Church	13 6:30p AA Meeting 8p AA Meeting	14	15 6p Jr. Women's Meeting	16 12:30p Women's Lunch Bunch	17 6:30p AA Meeting	18 6a Goodness Church Prayer Service 8a AA Mtg.
19 9a Worship 11:30p Goodness Church	20 6:30p AA Meeting 8p AA Meeting	21	22	23	24 6:30p AA Meeting	25 6a Goodness Church Prayer Service 8a AA Mtg.
26 9a Worship 11:30p Goodness Church	27 6:30p AA Meeting 7:00p Diabetes Support Group 8p AA Meeting	28	29	30	31 6:30p AA Meeting	

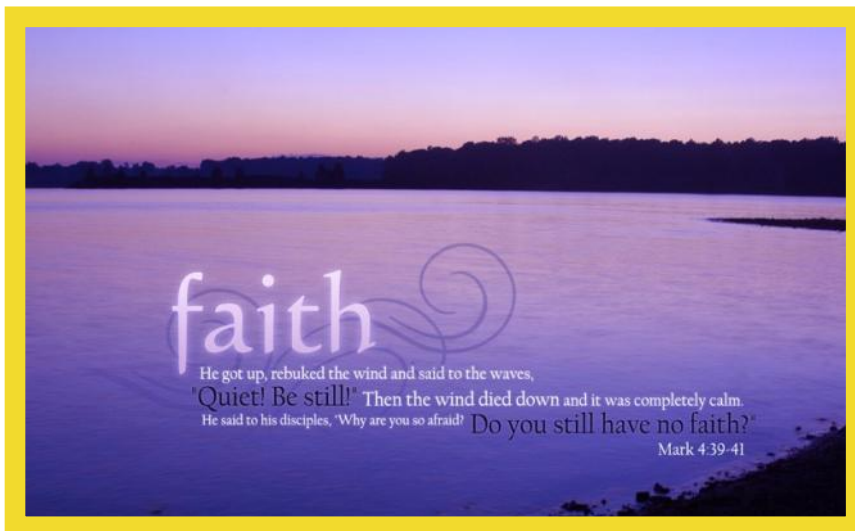
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Visit The Lutheran Church of St. Mark Facebook page at
<https://www.facebook.com/lutheranchurchofstmark>
Stay current on photos and new events by "liking" us.



www.stmarkglastonbury.org

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>