



# THE LION'S ROAR

News about the ministry of St. Mark Lutheran Church • Yorktown, VA

11/1/09 • Vol. 6, No. 11

## *Giving Thanks*



the Pastor's corner

### **Special Happenings**

*(refer to church calendar for other regular classes & meetings)*

#### **Nov. 1**

All Saints Sunday  
Baptisms

#### **Nov. 6**

Peninsula Pastoral Counsel  
Annual Fundraising Banquet  
6:30-9 at Point Plaza Suites

#### **Nov. 22**

Organ Concert • 4 p.m.

That's what we do in November, no? We give thanks, or at least we talk about giving thanks. This time, I really don't want to talk about it; I want to do it because we have a lot for which to give thanks.

Of course this includes the usual things; our homes, our families, our jobs, the tremendous and abundant blessings so many of us have received. We could also include (because it's pretty standard) our nation and the abundance of freedoms we enjoy and, even, take for granted.

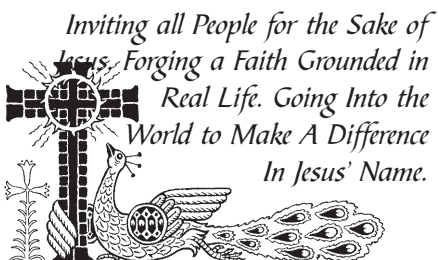
I want to give thanks for one more thing; maybe something we don't always think about when we're in the giving thanks moment. That one more thing is St. Mark and the parish family that calls St. Mark its home. Certainly, there are the financial resources we have available to us, that we have individually committed over the past month to sustain and grow our ministry. But financial resources are only a small part of the story. We are blessed with something far greater than just money in this place. We are blessed with each other, with people who are constantly seeing the world as a bigger place. We are blessed with people whose hearts are broad and deep. We are blessed with people who look at the world as it is today and hope for a greater tomorrow. We are blessed with people who are creative and willing to share their creativity with us for the sake of the work we do in our community. We are blessed with people who see our parish as a jumping off place from which they enter the world, renewed so they may be renewers of the world. We are blessed with people who know we always have room for one more project, one more family and one more opportunity to eat together! We are blessed with people who know we are not perfect and aren't afraid to remind us of this fact.

I'm writing this as I'm getting ready to leave for Ecuador and I suppose that is what prompts much of what I'm thinking as I'm writing. It's hard not to be effusive over people who see their ministry as including and being blessed by children in Ecuador, but also children in China and men in prison and service men and women far from home and people with mended hearts and people who work with our children and youth who are fired up about God.

May God bless our ministry, but not simply for the sake of our ministry. May our ministry be blessed so that it may be a blessing to the world. But may it also be a blessing to each of us personally, so we each know God's presence with us personally and be strengthened by that presence each day as we go out into the world.

Let us give thanks.

*Peace,  
Pastor Gary Erdos*



*Inviting all People for the Sake of  
Jesus. Forging a Faith Grounded in  
Real Life. Going Into the  
World to Make A Difference  
In Jesus' Name.*

## Parish Life in Numbers

- 36 • new pledges were given on Commitment Sunday
- 44 • volunteer hours spent to maintain and polish the bells
- 23 • different parts in a hand bell (not including those that cannot be taken apart.)
- 44 • peanut butter jars were donated for the food bank.
- 50 • dollars will sent a child to school in Ecuador
- 46 • is the Psalm number upon which Martin Luther based his hymn "A Mighty Fortress is our God"

## Attention all Plant Enthusiasts

We're starting a committee to SHARE in maintaining our lovely INDOOR plants. If you have some knowledge and interest, we would LOVE your help in watering and repotting(as needed) our beautiful indoor plants. We water only ONCE a week.

PLEASE contact Monte Correll at 833-3045 or at: correllac@yahoo.com

## St. Paul's Lunch

Keep the date: Members of St. Mark will be preparing and serving lunch to the homeless at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on **Saturday, December 12th.**

## Thank you!

I want to thank the congregation for all their well wishes, cards, and meals and prayers when I had my knee replacement in August. This is such a loving and caring congregation.

I also want to thank you for the use of the walker. I'm doing fine. I will be using my cane for a few more months, but I'm on the way to full recovery.

– Pat Jensen

## Community Outreach

- ❖ Community Outreach Committee has less than 20 St. Mark 40th anniversary ornaments left for sale. These make wonderful keepsakes for baptisms, confirmations and, of course, Christmas! All proceeds have been used to support local health initiatives in our area. Please contact Ann Dartt at 564-8082 to purchase yours today.
- ❖ Adopt-A-Service person for Thanksgiving. Would you like to open your home and share your blessings with those men and women who are far away from their families on Thanksgiving Day? Contact the USO @ 289.5915 (Danis Lensch) or baton689@aol.com
- ❖ Attention St. Mark Bakers. If you would like to bake for the Kairos Ministry, please bring your cookies in zip loc bags to the church on or before Nov 10th. Cookies must be sugar (no sprinkles), oatmeal (no raisins), and /or chocolate chip. To ease your baking, there are tubs of cookie dough available at Costco and local supermarkets. Questions?? Contact Susan Doherty @ 898.0274 or dohertyjands@cox.net.
- ❖ We would like to contact military members deployed to the Middle East. If you have a family member deployed, please contact Susan Doherty @ dohertyjands@cox.net. or 898.0274.
- ❖ OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: We will be collecting shoe box gifts through November 15th. These boxes are distributed by Samaritan's Purse to children in Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.
- ❖ COAT COLLECTION: Community Outreach will be collecting children's and adults coats/jackets (new and gently worn) during the months of November and December. Coats will be distributed to those in need in the Hampton Roads Area.

## Thanks from the Stewardship Committee

A very big thank you to everybody who helped in this year's Stewardship Campaign. More than 60 members of St. Mark made phone calls, stuffed envelopes, cooked and served delicious food, made a wonderful banner and poster, and let's not forget the great church our young people put together for donations. And last but certainly not least, thanks for the many prayers for the success of this year's endeavor. It is only because of the hard work of everybody that we had a very successful campaign. Thanks and Blessings!

## Organ Concert

CLEAR YOUR CALENDAR FOR SUNDAY, **NOVEMBER 22, 2009!!** six (6!) organists will join us at 4:00 pm for a one hour organ concert and hymn sing to dedicate the new addition to our organ. In addition to our own staff organists, Dan and Pat, Janet Giffin, from Crook's Methodist, Miriam Davis, accompanist for the Yorktown Chorale, Heidi Bloch from Christ Episcopal in Smithfield and Paul Keller from First Methodist in Norfolk will each perform a special piece AND lead us in a hymn. A reception will follow so you can meet the guest artists.

## From the Vicar

November is a month that can tend to have a final quiet feel to it before the hustle and bustle of Advent then Christmas begins. It is a time when the light slowly becomes dim and the darkness of night takes its place over day. As the days grow ever cooler the plants (may) begin to go dormant for the winter we are reminded of the end of the life which spring and summer brought forth.

In this darkening month we have quite a few things at St. Mark which remind us of the life and light which God has given to us through Christ Jesus. We gather together in the presence of God to worship and praise God every Sunday. This month we have two feast days which draw our attention to God's redeeming action in the world through Christ. On All Saints Day we remember the saints of every time and place who are examples of God's grace active in the lives of people past, present and future. We give thanks for those saints in this congregation who have gone to join the Church Triumphant. Also, we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King at the end of the month remembering that Christ is our "prince of peace and Lord of lords" who rules heaven and earth now and forever. We remember the promise of a light which conquers all darkness.

In all of these things we see the light of God entering our lives and freeing us to live as called witnesses to his love and power and be a light for others in a world that can be full of darkness. This month St. Mark is living out its call as witnesses through various outreach projects. We will be supporting the Kairos Prison Ministry by making cookies for the prisoners at Nottoway Correctional Facility, reminding them that they are not forgotten by St. Mark or God. Community Outreach is collecting coats and jackets to be distributed to adults and children in need residing in the Hampton Roads area. "Operation Christmas Child" is also underway collecting gifts for children all over the world.

In this month of dimming life and light St. Mark is most certainly alive and living out its call to be witnesses to the world and to love God and neighbor. Filled with love and light of God, the people of St. Mark are letting their light shine before others that they may know and glorify God in Heaven.

*Peace,  
Vicar Chelsea Spencer*

## Youtherans

*Fellowship and Fun for 6th-12th graders*

### November Meeting Dates:

- **Nov. 1st** Youtherans meeting is at the Helenbrook home (6 to 7:30) for a weiner roast
- **Nov. 8th** meeting (6 to 7:30) is at the church for a lesson
- **Nov. 13th** (Friday night) Rock Wall lock-in is set (meet at the church at 8:00 p.m.). Contact Steve Krist 865-8677.

In the summer of 2010 rising 9th and 12th graders will have an opportunity to take a small pilgrimage on their walk with God to the city of N.Y. It will be led by Pastor Erdos. We will be looking for interested youth to sign up as we prepare to meet and discuss this journey. Look for dates in the near future to meet and discuss this. To start learning more about it right now we invite those interested youth to attend Youtheran meetings. See the Youtherans board in the hallway for the calendar.

## Peninsula Pastoral Counsel Annual Fundraising Banquet

The Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center is having their annual fundraising banquet on Friday, Nov. 6th from 6:30-9 p.m. at Point Plaza Suites, City Center, Newport News. The theme is "Cultivating Wellness, Strengthening Community." For more info call 757 873-2273.

## Children Choirs

CHERUB - boys/girls; ages 4 thru 6. Begins Sunday, Sept. 20 from 12:15 to 12:30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR - boys/girls; 2nd-6th grades. Begins Wednesday, Sept. 16th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

YOUTH CHOIR - boys/girls; 7th-10th grades. Begins Wednesday, Sept. 16th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

It's not too late to join the Children, Youth, or Cherub Choirs. We have just begun practice and would love to have more kids. Come make a friend. If you like to sing, come share your voice with us.

Please call me or e-mail for more information. Pat Jensen 369-4991 or Musicpat46@yahoo.com

## Café St. Mark "What's Cooking" Wednesday dinners 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Please RSVP by signing up on the kiosk. **This year we ask that you sign up each time**, we will not be using the ALL sign up as we did last year.



## St. Mark Lutheran Church

118 Old York-Hampton Highway  
Yorktown, VA 23692-4818  
(757) 898-4395  
Fax (757) 898-5446

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### St. Mark Lutheran Church

(757) 898-4395  
Fax (757) 898-5446  
[www.stmark-elca.org](http://www.stmark-elca.org)

#### NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:

Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.

Articles can be e-mailed to [cyndy.brier@stmark-elca.org](mailto:cyndy.brier@stmark-elca.org)

Please include your name and phone number. Thank you!

#### FOOD CLOSET

##### FOOD CLOSET - 2ND SUNDAY

Please remember to bring in your "non-perishable" donations for the York County Food Closet and place them in the baskets in the narthex. To make a financial contribution, place it in one of the white envelopes found in the pew bookrack and mark it accordingly. Make any checks payable to "St. Mark Lutheran Church." Thank you!



### Sunday Worship Opportunities at St. Mark:

**8:15 a.m.**  
Traditional Eucharist with Music

**9:45 a.m.**  
Spoken with Communion by Intinction

**11:00 a.m.**  
Traditional Eucharist with Music  
*(nursery available at all services)*

### Sunday Church School at St. Mark:

Sunday School runs September-June.

All classes at 9:45 am  
**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**  
Preschool (3 yrs) - K-5

**Rotational Sunday School**  
1st-6th Graders  
**NEW 7th & 8th Grade Class**  
**Senior High Sunday Church School**  
9th-12th Graders  
**Adult Sunday School**

### How to Reach Us:

**By Phone or Fax:**  
(757) 898-4395 • Fax (757) 898-5446

**Church Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30 p.m.

**Via email to our clergy & staff:**  
Pastor Gary Erdos  
[pastor@stmark-elca.org](mailto:pastor@stmark-elca.org)  
Vicar Chelsea Spencer  
[vicar@stmark-elca.org](mailto:vicar@stmark-elca.org)  
Patricia Hatton, *Parish Administrator*  
[parishadministrator@stmark-elca.org](mailto:parishadministrator@stmark-elca.org)  
Cyndy Brier, *Parish Assistant*  
[parishassistant@stmark-elca.org](mailto:parishassistant@stmark-elca.org)  
Dan Landis, *Music Director*  
[music@stmark-elca.org](mailto:music@stmark-elca.org)  
Pat Jensen, *Children's Choir Director*  
[youthchoir@stmark-elca.org](mailto:youthchoir@stmark-elca.org)  
June Rossi, *Preschool Director*  
[preschool@stmark-elca.org](mailto:preschool@stmark-elca.org)

**Other contacts:**  
Brian & Karen Taming, *Sunday School Superintendents*  
[sundayschool@stmark-elca.org](mailto:sundayschool@stmark-elca.org)  
Gus Schwarz, *Facility Manager*  
[facilitymgr@stmark-elca.org](mailto:facilitymgr@stmark-elca.org)  
Susan Utne, *Newsletter*  
[pegasusdesign@verizon.net](mailto:pegasusdesign@verizon.net)  
[newsletter@stmark-elca.org](mailto:newsletter@stmark-elca.org)