

THE YOUTHERAN

St. Mark Lutheran Church, 118 Old York Hampton Highway, Yorktown, VA 23692
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Giving

Greetings and Salutations Youtherans!

So, do you have your Christmas lists ready yet? I do, but that's not nearly as important to me as knowing what my family and friends have on their lists. "Why is this?" you may be asking. Well, it's not so that I can compare and "keep up with the Joneses," but it's so I can know what to get them! My favorite part of any holiday is not the receiving of gifts, but the giving (well, that, and the eating!) You may think this is a little weird, but I love seeing the surprised look of the people opening the gifts I have given them when it is not something they are expecting from me. My favorite gift ever...that I gave, and not received...was for my grandmother.

I have one grandparent still alive and she's 93. She lives in an assisted-living facility and there is not too much she needs since the place where she lives does her laundry, cleans her room, provides all meals, and provides evening entertainment. But since she is rather elderly, she gets cold really easily and wears silk scarves almost all the time. She only has a few (and they don't really go with every outfit she wears.) I happened to be in Jerusalem last year at about this time and decided to get her a scarf from there. It was lovely and depicted some of the sites around Jerusalem. When I brought it to her, she absolutely loved it, and whenever she is complimented when wearing it (which is all the time,) she tells the story of how I got it for her in Jerusalem - a place she has always wanted to visit but never did.

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I love the fact that I was able to share a part of my life experience with her. And she is able to share her story of always wanting to go to Jerusalem with others. This is the JOY of Christmas. Being able to share and spread good news. Not just good news about what you've gotten, but the Good News that everyone receives in Jesus - who is given to us this and every Christmas.

I know we don't have a lot of money to buy big and expensive gifts for everyone we would like to, but when you do give a gift, try to make it meaningful for the person who is receiving it. They will be forever grateful and this will bring you great joy - even more joy than getting the thing you most wanted that's on your Christmas list!

Peace and Joy!
Vicar Henefeld



Spread the Word

I am writing to thank everybody for their support in the youth group at St. Mark. As a youth advisor, I feel supported and appreciated when your parent(s) brings you to a youth group meeting, when you are actively involved in the youth group meeting, when you assist in fundraisers, when you work alongside others in the community to volunteer, when you support a function hosted by the church like the Stewardship Committee, when you share your ideas for the group, when your family members give of their time to any of our activities and when other church members support us in our wishes.

Without any of the above items mentioned we would not have been able to have a pool party, have lock-ins, volunteer at the retirement community, volunteer at the SPCA, go on a camping trip, make pies or have a holiday party.

It is only through everyone's support that we will look forward to more youth group meetings, lock-ins, community functions (i.e., bowling, movie theatre, concert,) spaghetti dinners, chili cook-offs, community volunteering, helping out at Relay for Life, youth retreats and going on a mission trip.

In January, all voting members of the church will be invited to a congregational meeting to vote on the annual budget. If you are a confirmed member of the church, you are a voting member. Be sure to make your vote count. Tell others, youth and adults, in the church about what Youtherans is all about. Spreading the word is showing you support each other and appreciate what is happening with us.

Sincerely,
Christine Roe

December Stuff

Here's the rest of what's happening in December:

Sunday, December 2:

- 6:30-7:00 p.m. - Meeting at church

Friday - Saturday, December 7-8:

- 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. - Lock-In at church. Bring your favorite game, video game, and snack and join us for some fun.

Sunday, December 9:

- No Meeting because of the Lock-In

Sunday, December 16:

- 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Christmas party at the Haskin's (see page 4 for info).

Sunday, December 23:

- No meeting due to Christmas

Monday, December 24:

- You are asked to help park cars for Christmas Eve services. If you are interested, talk to an advisor.

Tuesday, December 25:

- Have a very Merry Christmas!!!!!!

Sunday, December 30:

- 6:00-7:30 p.m. - Meeting at church

Advent- Waiting

Wait!

It's the hardest word to hear isn't it? When you're hungry for dinner, you most likely hear "**wait** until your [mom or dad] gets home." You constantly hear "**wait** until so and so gets here before you open that gift." Or, what about: "**wait** a little bit, [she or he] will ask you out, just **wait**." It's the church season of Advent and it's the season of waiting.

If you're like me, waiting makes us impatient. Why do I have to wait all of the time? Why do I have to wait when everyone else has it? I can personally attest that waiting isn't fun, but sometimes waiting is a part of life that we just have to deal with. But I do agree with you, waiting is hard—especially if you're waiting for holiday cookies or presents!

But in Advent, we as Christians try to slow down, wait, and prepare ourselves for the arrival of Jesus. We wait expectantly, remembering that He will come again and will bring life everlasting.

I hope and pray that you will spend some time waiting this holiday season. If nothing else, maybe waiting will help you slow down. When the TV commercials show the latest version of rock band, a really cool computer, or the latest and greatest cell phone, remember that those things bring temporary and worldly happiness. But if we wait for Jesus, just think of all the amazing things that He will give us and still gives us every day. Slow down a little and wait upon the Lord. Sure it's uncomfortable and not a lot of fun, but waiting can teach us things; God can show us things while we wait.

I wish you and your family many blessings this holiday season. Wait and see what God will bring—you won't be disappointed!

Blessings,
Travis



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Music to Try:

Having a little bit of trouble getting into the Christmas Spirit? Try listening to these Christmas Albums by some of the best Christian Music Artists:

Album: Essential Christmas Energy
Artist: Caedmon's Call

Album: Christmas Songs
Artist: Jars of Clay

Album: It's A Wonderful Christmas
Artist: Michael W. Smith

Album: Christmas Offerings
Artist: Third Day

Event News

Winter Celebration

Remember that Sunday, December 30, 2007, is the last day to sign-up for Winter Celebration.

Winter Celebration is a retreat for high school students in grades 9-12. This event is from Friday evening January 25-January 27, 2008. We will travel together to Lynchburg, Virginia, and participate in a weekend-long retreat. We'll leave about 2 or 2:30 p.m. on Friday and return about 4:00-5:00 p.m. on Sunday evening. While at Winter Celebration, you'll get to meet other Lutheran youth from around Virginia, hear skits and songs based on the weekend's theme, and have a chance to show off your talent in the community talent show on Saturday afternoon. There's lots of time for food, fun, and friends, so consider being a part of the fun!!

More information and registration forms are on the bulletin board in the hallway. Let an advisor know if you have questions or concerns!

Because of Winter Celebration, there will be no youth group meeting on January 27th.

Bowling

It's just about time for one of our all time favorite activities—that's right, BOWLING!!!

Come join us on Sunday, January 13, 2008, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. We'll meet at the church by 6:30 p.m. to drive to Twin Pin Bowling at the Naval Weapons Station. We should be back to the church around 9:15 or 9:30 for your parents to pick you up.

The cost for the evening is \$5.00 plus any money you need for snacks. Friends are welcome, but please let us know if you are bringing one so we have enough space for you both!

Christmas Party

We will hold our annual Youtherans' Christmas party on **Sunday, December 16 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** at the Haskin household (320 Hodges Cove Road in Yorktown).

Please bring a snack or drink to share with everyone and a gift under \$10 for our gift exchange!

Directions are on the kiosk and bulletin board at church.

Let an advisor know if you would like to join us and need a ride!



		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January	2008			1	2	3	4	5
		6 6:30 p.m. 12 th Night Dinner	7	8	9	10	11	12
		13 Bowling @ NWS	14	15	16	17	18	19
		20 Lesson at church	21	22	23	24	25 2:00 p.m. Leave for Winter Cel.	26 Winter Cel.
February	2008	27 No Youtherans Return from Winter Cel.	28	29	30	31		
		Lesson Times:	6:00-7:30 p.m.	For Bowling:	Meet at church at 6:30 p.m.	We'll be back about 9:20 p.m.	1	2
		3 Lesson at church	4	5	6	7	8	9
		10 Lesson- <i>Tentative</i>	11	12	13 Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser	14	15	16
		17 Lesson at church	18	19	20	21	22	23
		24 TBA	25	26	27	28	29	

Youth Advisors
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Building Relationships,
Building Communities

Merry.
Christmas

A decorative illustration of holly leaves and berries in shades of green and red, positioned to the right of the word 'Merry' in the 'Merry. Christmas' text.

Would you like to write an article for this newsletter?
Do you have any picture of the youth group that you'd like in this newsletter? Know a good joke or have a good drawing you'd like to share with us? How about a movie or music review?

We'd like to include them here! Please email them to youth@stmark-elca.org by the 20th of March to make sure they will make it in the April edition. Please remember though, this is a church newsletter and all articles must be appropriate!

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stmark-elca.org (click on Youth)

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