



# St Mark's Remarks

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
1008 Franklin Rd., SW  
Roanoke, VA 24016

December, 2019

## carols by candlelight

*A Festival Service Of Lessons & Carols*

**Sunday, December 15th  
at 5:00 p.m.**

Join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with St. Mark's annual Carols by Candlelight service. This year, St. Mark's Choir will be joined by guests Roanoke Chamber Brass, saxophonist Brandon Mock, and conductor Josh O'Dell.

In an effort to live into our mission of loving God and loving our neighbor, we also receive an offering at the service to benefit a local non-profit organization. This year, we have chosen the Child Health Investment Partnership of Roanoke Valley (CHIP). CHIP seeks to connect families in need to health and community resources to help them raise healthy children. We have also chosen CHIP because we know that Christ Jesus told his disciples let the little children come to him, and we believe that God wants wholeness and healing for all of his children, regardless of their age. 100% of the offering received at the service will be donated to CHIP.



We need volunteers to serve as ushers, parking lot attendants, and in other roles. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board in the entry hallway. If you have questions about how you can help, please speak to Jacob Gordon. If you would like to contribute financially, please make checks payable to *St. Mark's Lutheran Church* and indicate "Carols by Candlelight" on the memo line.

### **Intergenerational Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 22 at the 11 a.m. service**

*Calling all thespians, artists, and Christmas-story lovers of all ages!*  
Who is doing this? WHO is YOU!  
Who is invited? Family and friends! Everyone!

St. Mark's will be having a special intergenerational presentation of the Christmas Story on Sunday, December 22 at our 11:00 a.m. service.

We need actors, readers, stage managers, craft help, and seamstresses. And donations of washable paint, large pieces of cardboard, and fabric, especially large pieces (1-2 yds). Please sign up in the entry hallway and indicate how you can help. You may also speak to Janet Shaner or Jacob Gordon if you'd like to help.

Please come—and invite others!—to Sunday School this Advent. We'll have fun working on the pageant and other projects, like making Chrismons. Sunday School meets at 9:45 a.m.



### **Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist Tuesday, December 24 at 8 p.m.**

Welcome the Christ child with carols, communion, and candlelight. Invite friends and family—all are welcome!

## 150th Anniversary Memories

A world leader urged Lutherans everywhere to combat “unbelief” at the annual convention of the Virginia Synod held at St. Mark’s in January 1933. Dr. John A. Morehead, president of the Lutheran World Convention and former president of Roanoke College, spoke at the 104<sup>th</sup> convention of the synod.

According to a report in the Roanoke Times, Morehead said in 1933, “We are confronting great adversaries today. The Lutherans of Germany are feeling the impact of the atheism which is emanating from Russia and the rest of the world is also facing skepticism on every hand. The deeper trouble is the worldliness, the irreligion and the secularism existent about us.” Morehead added, “it is a recognized fact that the power of the church and of the home is waning in America” and he declared that this fact constitutes “a real challenge to churchmen everywhere.” To meet this problem, he urged the immediate formation of study classes and the intensifying of “every Christian activity.” He called for more Christian education and more mission work in order that the “saving salt of Christianity may continue to give inspiration to the world.”

Morehead led Roanoke College from 1903 to 1919 and also served as president of Southern Seminary and United Synod of the South and executive director of the National Lutheran Council. For his work in organizing the distribution of food and clothing for the people eastern Europe after World War I, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize but he died in 1935 before a selection was made. A Wythe County native, he later lived in Salem.

Also at the 1933 St. Mark’s convention, criticism of Lutheran evangelism efforts was voiced by the Rev. S. G. Miller, director of the Iron Mountain School for Boys at Konnarock. Miller said, “we and our Presbyterian brethren have been too great sticklers for form, allowing our Baptist and Methodist brethren to take most of the Southland as their field because we have not dared to venture in...the Southland could have been ours just as easily as theirs.”

Among other significant speakers in St. Mark’s pulpit have been Dr. Frederick Knubel, president of the former United Lutheran Church in America; Dr. Franklin Clark Fry and Dr. Robert Marshall, presidents of the Lutheran Church in America; Dr. Edmund Steimle, Protestant Hour preacher and Philadelphia Seminary professor, and Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, who came to Roanoke to present the Guidepost Magazine Church of the Year Award to St. Mark’s in 1981. Dr. Charles Smith, longtime Roanoke College president, was the supply pastor for a year after the death of Dr. Sieber.

## Garden Cross Anniversary Project



The inspiration for St. Mark’s Garden Cross was the Centennial Cross at Epworth UMC in Norfolk, VA

In September the Property Committee received approval from Church Council to proceed with a garden cross project to close out our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year celebration. Estimates for the scope of work have been obtained from Blue Ridge Monument in Salem. The total cost of work for the cross, crafted of blue granite, base, engraving and installation is approximately \$3,000. The cross will stand at the end of the sidewalk opposite the fountain. The Seal of Martin Luther will be centered in the cross and at the base will be an inscription documenting the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church with appropriate dates indicated.

This project will be funded by donations and we are asking for those interested in participating to contact a member of the Property Committee or Anniversary Committee. This project will bring a great year in our Church to a close; while commemorating our history for years to come. In addition the work will add to the appeal to our garden and columbarium area. Make your donation payable to *St. Mark’s Lutheran Church* and include “Garden Cross Project” on the memo line.

*“This is our greatest struggle that we must keep and hold firm to the word of God; for if it is taken from our hearts, we are lost.”*

*- Martin Luther*

## IN THE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

**We Remember in Prayer...** The following individuals and families were named in prayer in worship during November. Let us continue to keep them in prayer. O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: mercifully hear our prayers and grant to your servants the help which they need that they may experience the healing power of your Holy Spirit. We pray for: Susan Nealon, Peter, Teresa Kincer, Viola Hall, Jeff and Natalie Howard, Tom & Jean, Roy & Joyce, Gary, Carter, Jenny, Kellen, Mitzi Albert, Rick Marmaduke, Brewer Family, Wanda & Sidney Miller, Angela & Allison Dudley, Ester Lutz, Leemon & Jeff Williams, Kimberly Franklin, Lenore Trout, All Veterans, Linda Minnix, Mo Nelson, Lyda Holbrook, Robert Keupp, Pat Keupp, Guy Deel, Danny, Clogene & Mike Armstrong, Harold Shepherd, Joy Brewer, Dana Crouse, Ron & Judy Adkins, Virginia W., Kay Smith, V. Tucker, Robert Christian, Barbara Joy, Barbara McLelland, Kimmy Cox, Charles Downey, Harold Shepherd, Jeanette Bailey, dax & Sheri, Ellie & Joe Binder, Trish, Robert Brill, Joyce Lyle, Jonathon Ugochukwu, M/M Pollard, Janis Erb, Patti Mills, Alma & David Wertz. Amen

### December Birthdays

Members of St. Mark's family celebrating birthdays in December are:

12/1	Suzanne Teichler	12/20	Sydney Spangler
12/2	Judy Clayton	12/21	Ben Armentrout
12/3	Jonah Trout		Lebron Parsell
12/4	Maggie Nelson	12/22	Pat Gibbs
12/5	Virginia Ertz	12/26	Lenore Trout
12/8	Chuck Leiser	12/28	Sue Nutter
12/12	Jacob Gordon	12/29	Jim Weber
12/14	Berkley Wray	12/31	Daniel Dyer
12/17	Ashley Spangler		Bentley Sifers
12/18	Betty Burrows		



### December Baptismal Anniversaries

The following members of St. Mark's family are celebrating their baptismal birthdays in December:

12/1	Kathy Bryant
	Norman House
	Jessica Thompson
12/4	Nick Salem
12/7	Bess Salem
12/16	Becky Whisnant
12/19	Jordan Bryant
12/20	Janet Natt

### Worship Leaders for December

Date	Acolyte	Crucifer	Lector	Greeter	Coffee Hour
<b>Dec. 1</b>	Luke Anders	Caleb Anders	Andy Jones	Jean & Jim Weber	Alex & Judy Adkins
<b>Dec. 8</b>	Lebron Parsell	Jonah Trout	Heather House	Becky Whisnant & Ginny McLelland	Sid & Gail Scott
<b>Dec. 15</b>	Chisom Ugochukwu	Berkley Wray	Carl Jensen	Sharon Huff	No Coffee Hour
<b>Dec. 22</b>	Jordan Bryant	Haley Merritt	Karen Arthur	Amy Spangler & Mary Ann Snider	Betty Jones & Denise Capito
<b>Dec. 24</b>	Lebron Parsell & Luke Anders	Rilee Rodgers	Connie Parsell	Loretta Barnard	No Coffee Hour
<b>Dec. 29</b>	Ben Armentrout	Abby Trout	Cheryl Gordon	Youth	Youth

#### Altar Flowers for 2020

Altar Flowers are available for Sundays in 2020 at a cost of \$40.00 per Sunday. If you are interested in reserving one or more of these dates, please call Kathy in the church office (344-9051).

#### Flower Arranging Class Saturday, December 7 at 10 a.m.

Come join us on December 7th—we'll make a Christmas arrangement to brighten your home for the holiday season. No experience is necessary—just bring something to cut flower stems; everything else is provided. The cost is \$25 per person. If you're interested, please let Jacob Gordon know.

#### Newsletter Articles Due December 11

Newsletter articles for January are due in the church office no later than December 11. Please submit articles by email (preferably) or in type-written form.

**C O M M U N I T Y E N G A G E M E N T**



**Food  
Pantry**

During the month of November, the Food Pantry distributed food to feed 47 families (156 individuals!)

Thank you to the November volunteers: Caleb, Luke, Ralph, and Sandy Anders; Laura Bolton; Thomas Ruth-

erford; Clara Chitty; Shon Thompson; and George Kegley.

**Christmas Food Delivery  
Friday, December 20 at 8:30 a.m.**

Please mark your calendars to help deliver food baskets for Christmas. We will have the names of 40 families from Social Services, 5 from Hurt Park School, and 5 for friends of St. Mark's. The deliveries should take less than 3 hours in total. We couldn't do this important work without the help of volunteers. Please contact George Kegley if you would like to help.



During the month of November the Clothes Closet provided clothing to a total of 55 people.

Thank you to the November Clothes Closet volunteers: Melissa

Anders, Becky Whisnant, Sonny & Charlotte Scholz, Suzy Bubnell, Shirley Dyer, Gail & Sid Scott.

**Help Us Help Our Neighbors  
St. Mark's Food Pantry Needs Donations**

As the holidays and colder weather are approaching there are many individuals and families that are in need of food. St. Mark's Food Pantry wants to provide for all those who seek our assistance. At present, our church food pantry is in need of specific food donations:

- crackers;
- cookies;
- canned meats (tuna, chicken, Vienna sausages, etc.);
- cereal; and,
- canned or boxed milk.

If you are willing and able to help with these items, please place your donations in the barrel located next to the elevator. Monetary donations are also accepted—make your check payable to *St. Mark's Lutheran Church* and put "Food Pantry" on the memo line. All donations are much appreciated!

**Thank You!**

Thanks to Connie Watkins, Bill and Janet Shaner, Gwynn Derrick, Jim Rettinger and Ralph Anders for picking up apx. 1100lbs. of food from the food bank and delivering it to St. Mark's Food Pantry in November.

**N O T E S**

**Thank You**

Dear St. Mark's Church,

Thank you for the scholarship. I am very grateful of all the wonderful community at St. Mark's. This money will go towards buying the textbook for my Senior Capstone Spacecraft design class. Thank you again for your kindness.

- God Bless, Keith Jensen

Dear St. Mark's,

Thank you so much for the scholarship. I am so thankful to have such a wonderful church family and this scholarship will help so much with my continued education. I have recently been accepted into the nursing program at Virginia Western and am very excited. Your thoughtfulness and support mean so much to me.

- Blessings to all, Briana Merritt

**Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, December 1 following worship**

On the agenda: election of new church council members, election of church trustees and the adoption of the 2020 spending plan for mission and ministry.