

FALL
2015

Saints & Sinners

A newsletter for the family and friends of St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Pastor Steve's Devotional

I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh . . . Ezekiel 11:19



Happy New Year!

Yes I know it isn't January 1st but the beginning of September has always felt much more like a new year is beginning than when the calendar moves from December to January. We start a new lectionary year, Sunday school begins again, and new adult education programs are being prepared, the old has indeed become new again. This year in particular we are about to experience a lot of "new". Our building is bursting at the seams with activity as two other faith communities begin to use the resource for their worship, study, and fellowship. We also are welcoming to the pastoral leadership team an intern. Vicar Elaine will spend the next 12 months with us as she takes all her seminary training and begins to shape her pastoral identity. There will be challenges in adjusting to all this "newness" but more importantly an opportunity to begin again, using

the challenges we are presented with to stretch us and help us to grow. When you think about it isn't every day, every hour, every moment an opportunity for us as Christians to put to death our old ways of being and an opportunity to be resurrected as better people? As people who have experienced the grace of God we are now freed to share that grace with others.

***It is indeed a
"Happy New Year!"
Steve***



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Intern Introduction

Greetings!!! My name is Vicar Elaine and I will be the intern here at St. Mark's from September 1st 2015 until August 31st 2016. I live in Belleville and am married with 2 daughters. I have 2 dogs and 3 cats. My oldest daughter Leah is 16 and is in Belgium this year on a rotary exchange. Maud is my younger daughter and is 9 ½ and will be starting French immersion this fall. Ross is my spouse and works at Loyalist College in Belleville. The dogs are Wimsey (a 1 year old Irish Wolfhound) and Poppy a 6 year old Italian greyhound. The cats are Fred (11), Magee (5?) and Jenny (2).

I am looking forward to being the vicar here and to becoming fully immersed in the life and worship of St Mark's and the larger Kingston community.

*"The vision will be fulfilled In its own time.
If it seems slow in coming, Wait for it,
For it will surely come. (Hab2:3)*

*And as we wait, May all things work together
For good (Rom 8:28)*

*May we be blessed With wisdom
And discernment And determination
And patience, May we take the time
To grow in grace Day by day.
Amen*



Student Luncheon

Sept 20
Oct 25
Nov 15

BBQ
Soups On!
Wok This Way
(stir fry)

These are the numbers as of July 31:

	Current, Benevolence & Other
Budgeted Year to Date (Jan 1 – Jul 31)	\$77,464.92
Income Year to Date (Jan 1 – Jul 31)	\$70,195.94
Expenses Year to Date (Jan 1 – Jul 31)	\$80,340.04
Deficit Year to Date	\$10,144.10

Bev





**Sunday School will begin
September 14**
and will run every week through October and
November including Thanksgiving.

JAM - Jesus and Me

Our Sunday School or "JAM" begins again this September 13 with the theme "Refugees and Refuge". When you think about it, many prominent people in the Bible - like Jacob, Moses, David, Jesus, and Paul - were refugees at some point in their lives. Has anyone in your family been a refugee? Please tell me the story so I can use it during Children's Chat.

The children and youth will be following the same lectionary as the adults, starting with the Creation story and proceeding through the Bible in roughly chronological order. We'll be relating all the stories to our Refugee/Refuge theme and learning Psalm 46: God is our Refuge and our Strength, a great psalm to memorize for all ages.

The Sunday School preparation materials are really detailed so I invite each of you to take a turn and share your faith with the kids by joining us for a Sunday. It will make a deep impression on them to be taught by someone new.

We'll also begin on a musical about the adventures of Daniel and his 3 friends. The new sound system that we have in partnership with Open Bible Fellowship will come in handy for our performance!

Please remember us in your prayers, Anya

Bible Trivia Questions for Kids

1. What is the first book in the Bible?
2. How many tribes did ancient Israel have?
3. What four books tell about Jesus life on Earth?
4. What is the longest book in the Bible?
5. What is the shortest book in the Bible?
6. How many books are in the Bible? Old Testament? New Testament?
7. Which NT book has Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount*?
8. Who was Jesus' most famous cousin?
9. What was another name for the Apostle Paul?

Answers:

1. Genesis
2. 12
3. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
4. Psalms
5. 3 John
6. 66 total,
39 OT & 27 NT
7. Matthew
8. John the Baptist
9. Saul of Tarsus

On speaking to Jerry Eicher

I spoke to Jerry Eicher, Jennifer's husband, this morning and he gave me permission to share what he told me. Daily life is full of difficulties for Jerry. Because of an operation to unclog the blood vessels to his eyes, his retinas were scarred and he cannot see straight lines as being straight. He also has double vision and checkered vision as the result of his progressive ataxia, a brain disease which causes numbing, dizziness, and motor impairments. Being in a car is very disorienting and upsetting to his body, and walking is very slow.

Nevertheless, Jerry thanks God for each new day. He says that getting older means slowing down, and that does two things. It opens our eyes to how much we need the Lord. And it causes us to notice things we sped by in our younger years. One thing that Jerry appreciates is nature. The animals can tell that something is wrong with him, and they don't fear him. Sometimes they seem to single him out and comfort him. The squirrels watch him refill the feeder without running away. Once, a robin pretty much walked alongside him as he made his way down the sidewalk, stopping every time Jerry stopped. A cat once followed him down the street, and a new neighbour's dog came and lay at his feet.

Jerry's son-in-law has made a custom bathroom for him, and Jerry is able to do some cooking and some painting. He still enjoys making wonderful music on the piano. It is a struggle to get outside every day, but Jerry is a fighter and wants to retain his abilities for as long as he can. While he does, he appreciates every blessing sent his way.

Anya

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7***

Update on the Interchurch Refugee Project (ICRP)

The refugee crisis is desperate and getting worse, but together we are making a difference for one Syrian family. Since our formation as a coalition of downtown and Seaway Lutheran churches in March 2015 we have begun the process of sponsoring "Abu Zaid" (a pseudonym to protect his identity), his wife and three young children, his parents, and his single brother, all living at risk. On June 15, we received word from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) that our sponsorship application had been accepted. We now wait for the family to be interviewed at the Canadian visa office in Beirut, undergo medical exams and receive settlement orientation sessions. If all goes well, we can expect them to arrive in Canada as soon as June 2016.

In the meanwhile we are actively fundraising. We have already reached one half of the \$80,000 budgeted for their travel costs and support. Upcoming fundraising events include a garage sale at St. Mark's on 12 September, a Syrian dinner hosted by Chalmers UCC on 26 September, and a concert featuring marimba player Kyoko Ogado on 4 October at St. Mark's. We are also looking for newish used computers, printers and bicycles. Please contact Anya at hagemana@econ.queensu.ca if you can help. Brochures to share with family and friends are available from the church office. Another important way to help is to ask local candidates at election events and/or write party leaders about refugee issues. Questions for candidates can be found at <http://www.cpj.ca/2015ElectionBulletin>

Narrative Lectionary

September 13	Garden of Eden Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 2:4b-25 Human beings are to till the garden; man and woman in companionship <i>(Mark 1:16-20 or Mark 10:6-8)</i>
September 20	Isaac Born to Sarah Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 The promise of Isaac's birth to an aged Sarah and Abraham brings laughter <i>(Mark 10:27)</i>
September 27	Jacob Wrestles God Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 32:22-30 Jacob wrestles with an angel. Receives the name Israel, for he strives with God <i>(Mark 14:32-36)</i>
October 4	Moses and God's Name Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 1:8-14 [15—2:10]; 3:1-15 Israel is in slavery and calls for help. God calls Moses to bring release <i>(Mark 12:26-27a)</i>
October 11	Hear O Israel Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9 Ten Commandments Love the LORD your God with all your heart and soul and might <i>(Mark 12:28-31)</i>
October 18	Ruth Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost	Ruth 1:1-17 Ruth is a foreigner who finds belonging among God's people. "Where you go I will go, your people will be my people, your God will be my God." <i>(Mark 3:33-35)</i>
October 25	David Anointed King Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150 David becomes king over all Israel. Brings the Ark of the covenant to Jerusalem with song making Jerusalem a place of worship. <i>(Mark 11:8-10)</i>

The Lutheran Church is the oldest Protestant Christian tradition, dating back to the Protestant Reformation and the person of Martin Luther. On **October 31, 1517**, Luther, a Catholic monk, posted his 95 Theses as a challenge to the doctrine and practices of the Roman Catholic Church, hoping to reform the practices he felt were inconsistent with scripture.

November 1	Kingdom Divided Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29 Rehoboam and the need for servant leadership; the kingdom is divided <i>(Mark 10:42-45)</i>
November 8	Elijah at Mount Carmel Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 18:20-39 Elijah calls fire from heaven on Mount Carmel to reveal God's presence <i>(Mark 9:2-4)</i>
November 15	Hosea Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	Hosea 11:1-9 God's passionate love for his children; despite their disobedience he cannot give them up. <i>(Mark 10:13-14)</i>
November 22	Isaiah's Vineyard Song Christ the King Sunday	Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5 Israel is pictured as a vineyard. God looks for the fruit of righteousness but finds only injustice. God promises a faithful king who will judge with righteousness. <i>(Mark 12:1-3)</i>

Coming to
Adult Education
This Fall



Federal Election Resource 2015

www.elcic.ca/documents.2015ElectionResource.pdf

Information prepared by several Canadian ecumenical organizations, this identifies a range of priority issues, offers sample questions you can ask of candidates, and provides links to resources where you can learn more about these particular issues

In anticipation the federal election this fall, WICC has produced the **2015 Federal Election Resource** in concert the Canadian Council of Churches, KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, Citizens for Public Justice, Candian Foodgrains Bank, Project Ploughshares and the Church Council on Justice and Correction. We invite you to use this resource to:

- think through your own election priorities;
- call a group together to prepare for meetings with candidates;
- go deeper into issues you care about and work on them with others;
- organize and participate in all-candidates meetings in your riding.

We encourage you to participate fully in this significant event, drawing on the deep wells of your faith, values and convictions to advance care for land, air and waters, affirm the life of all people, and work for justice and peace.

We also encourage you to make sure you, your friends and family are ready to vote.

The **Elections Canada web site** has information on how to make sure you are registered to vote, what identification will be accepted at the polls, and accessibility for voters.

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Don't forget to forward copies to family and friends.