

The Parish Voice

January 2016

Floyd Willis
Lutheran Parish

January Calendar

- 7-Thursday, 10:00 am, St. Mark Bible Study
- 10-Sunday, after service, St. Mark Council
- 14-Thursday, 10:00 am, St. Mark Bible Study
- 21-Thursday, 10:00 am, St. Mark Bible Study
- 28-Thursday, 7:00 pm, Christmas Eve Worship at Zion

From the Pastor



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write this after coming home from a performance of Handel's Messiah by the Floyd Community Chorus and Floyd High School Choirs. It was wonderful to see people of all ages on the stage, professional singers and amateurs, putting words and melodies to the miracle of Christ's birth. It was moving to hear the words of scripture set to beautiful music – prophetic words that we have been hearing each Sunday during the season of Lent: “The voice of him who crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” “Every valley shall be exalted and hill made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.” “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,

and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.” This 18th century work, combining Handel's music and the words of the King James Scripture, somehow fast-forwards through time to express a 21st century longing for Christ to return and redeem a broken world.

In the light of the chaos in our world, of the pain and suffering in our community, of the struggles each of us endures every day, I am thankful for the gift of faith kindled in us this Christmas: faith that what the prophets wrote of has been fulfilled, faith that this Christ-child born in Bethlehem is re-born in us this holy season, faith that he will gather the broken pieces of this world and make them whole, faith that he shall reign forever and ever.

In Christ,

Pastor Linda



Happy Birthday

- 6 -Tom King
- 8 -Chick Fox
- 9 -Barbara Triplett
- 11-Dylan Perdue-Underwood
- 18-Bonnie Outten
- 20-Lee Ann Farley
- 24-Sybil Chrisman
- 27-Daniel Bower

" And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. "

Ezekiel 36:26

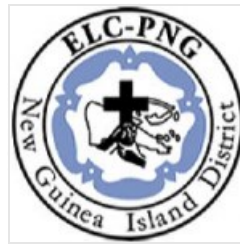
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
We exceeded our goal of purchasing 50 mosquito nets to fight malaria in New Guinea!

Mission Support to the Virginia Synod—Where Does Your Offering Go?

- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**
 We seek to support our rostered and lay leaders through continuing education events, boundary training, and building collegial relationships.
- **SUPPORT FOR CONGREGATIONS**
 The healthy congregations program, stewardship training, conference gatherings, and resources for calling a new pastor are all provided to support the local expressions of the church...your congregation!
- **SYNODICAL YOUTH MINISTRY**
 Youth events, which span from middle school to high school, help students grow in their own relationship with God, articulate their faith, and experience a gospel centered community with friends from all over the state.
- **FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS**
 It is important to continue to form your faith throughout the spectrum of life, that is why we provide resources and events for families with young children and for adults, such as ACTS and Power in the Spirit.
- **MISSION PARTNERS**
 We have partnerships with Lutheran Family Services of Virginia, GraceInside Prison Ministry, Roanoke College, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Caroline Furnace Camp, Hungry Mother Retreat Center, Virginia Lutheran Homes, and National Lutheran Communities & Services.
- **CAMPUS MINISTRIES**
 College students are being invited to deepen their relationship with Jesus at academic institutions in 12 cities across the state.
- **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**
 Our primary global partner is Papua New Guinea where we provide scholarships for seminary students and school fees for pastor's children.
- **ELCA AND LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION**
 39% of mission support received by the Virginia Synod is sent on to support the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the Lutheran World Federation who work to share the Gospel in the US and across the globe.

Papua New Guinea Partnership

As Ambassadors for Christ, The Virginia Synod continues to build a partnership with the New Guinea Islands District (NGI) the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (PNG) that began with the ELCA's (Mission 90) emphasis in the early 1990s. Every ELCA synod has a companion assigned to them and some have adopted additional partners. Three other synods (North Carolina, Central States and NW Lower Michigan) have partnerships with a PNG district. Our growing relationship with the NGI District of PNG has been the VA Synod's primary global mission emphasis since 1990.



Synod Contact:

Diane Giessler,

Coordinator of Companion Synod Program

(540) 745-3667 zephyr@swva.net.

Click here to link to the [ELCA Global Mission](#)

Ways To Become Involved in Your Church

Join the Choir—Be a Lector for One Sunday—Attend the St. Mark Bible Study

Provide flowers for the sanctuary for one month—Pray

Help carry a Christmas tree and hide the Easter eggs

Serve as a Fellowship Host for one Sunday....no cooking talents required

Provide funds to keep the Sanctuary Candle burning brightly

Plants some flowers in the spring—Rake some leaves in the fall

Participate in the Women of Zion group—Help with the children

Let the Pastor know when you need prayers and when you need help

Be a Greeter for one month—Help with the Oak Grove ministry

Come to Church and Grow with your Church Family

Many Thanks... To Michael and Rhonda Daiber and to Walt for the effort that went into Zion's replacement of windows in the fellowship hall, the duct and heating systems



"Leaf it to the Kids"

It was 45 degrees and a cold breeze was blowing when I pulled into Zion's parking lot. As soon as I opened the car door, all I could hear was laughter. The entire Blue Mountain School community..parents, teachers and children were in the oak grove behind the church, wildly raking massive piles of leaves and hauling them away in tarps.. Kids were jumping in the piles, all sizes and ages....raking, jumping, laughing. It was a glorious sight. If you seen any of them, be sure to

Council Members

St. Mark

Jean Harmon

Laura LeRoy

Billy Motley, President

Beth Smith

Vickie Sowers

Zion

BJ Bauermeister

Michael Daiber

Bill Gardner, President

Marty Holliday

Tom King

Marjorie Wells

Joint Council

Vickie Sowers,

President

Floyd Willis Lutheran Parish

PO Box 37
Floyd, Virginia 24091
Phone: 540.745.2096
Email: zionstmk@swva.net

St. Mark Lutheran Church
5655 Floyd Hwy South, Willis—Service at 11:15 am

Zion Lutheran Church
135 Needmore Lane, Floyd—Service at 9:30 am

Pastor's Office hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays
10:00 am—1:00 pm

ALIVE IN CHRIST, CHRIST ALIVE IN US

Check us out on the web at
floyd Lutherans.weebly.com



*Grateful for fine,
feathered friends*

Sunday Servers

Sunday Servers are needed for the new year. Can you serve your church for a day or for a month? Your time, talent and treasure are needed. Opportunities to serve include providing for flowers, sanctuary candles and serving as altar guild or providing sanctuary care; serving as fellowship hosts by making coffee and bringing in finger-foods, serving as lector to present the readings and welcoming the congregation by serving as greeter. You are needed!!

Funny Bone

- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.
- If I've told you once, I've told you a million times don't exaggerate!
- A dog thinks: 'Hey, these people I live with feed me, love me, provide me with a nice warm, dry house, pet me and take good care of me ... **THEY MUST BE GODS!**'
A cat thinks: 'Hey, these people I live with feed me, love me, provide me with a nice warm, dry house, pet me and take good care of me ... **I MUST BE A GOD!**'

Newsletter submissions for February would be greatly appreciated and are needed by January 20th.