

The Parish Voice

December 2017

Floyd Willis
Lutheran Parish

December Calendar

- **6-Wednesday, 5:30**
Advent Supper and
Worship
- **7-Thursday, 10:00**
am, St. Mark Bible
Study
- **13-Wednesday, 5:30**
Advent Supper and
Worship
- **14-Thursday, 10:00**
am, St. Mark Bible
Study
- **17-Sunday, 3:00**
pm, Community
Chorus Christmas
Concert, Zion
Lutheran
- **20-Wednesday, 5:30**
Advent Supper and
Worship
- **21-Thursday, 10:00**
am, St. Mark Bible
Study
- **24-Fourth Sunday in**
Advent Worship,
10:30 am, St. Mark
- **24-Christmas Eve**
Service, 7 pm, Zion
Lutheran
- **28-Thursday, 10:00**
am, St. Mark Bible
Study

Read the Bible in a Year

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dec 1: 1Cor 9-11 | Dec 17: Philippians 1-4 |
| Dec 2: 1Cor 12-14 | Dec 18: 1 Timothy |
| Dec 3: 1Cor 15-16 | Dec 19: Titus |
| Dec 4: 2Cor 1-4 | Dec 20: 1 Peter |
| Dec 5: 2Cor 5-9 | Dec 21: Heb 1-6 |
| Dec 6: 2Cor 10-13 | Dec 22: Heb 7-10 |
| Dec 7: Acts 20:1-3; Rom 1-3 | Dec 23: Heb 11-13 |
| Dec 8: Rom 4-7 | Dec 24: 2 Timothy |
| Dec 9: Rom 8-10 | Dec 25: 2 Peter; Jude |
| Dec 10: Rom 11-13 | Dec 26: 1 John |
| Dec 11: Rom 14-16 | Dec 27: 2/3 John |
| Dec 12: Acts 20:4-23:35 | Dec 28: Rev 1-5 |
| Dec 13: Acts 24-26 | Dec 29: Rev 6-11 |
| Dec 14: Acts 27-28 | Dec 30: Rev 12-18 |
| Dec 15: Colossians; Philemon | Dec 31: Rev 19-22 |
| Dec 16: Ephesians | |

The Advent of our Lord

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord. - Luke 1:45

What kind of God is this, who gives faith to believe such promises? Who births the Savior of the world through this one whom the world does not know? Who creates not just at the beginning but without end?

O God, give us the faith of Mary, faith to believe in your audacious promises. Faith to hope for the Savior born among us, the one who brings peace and compassion and justice to our waiting hearts, to a world that does not even know it is waiting. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come!

In the promise of the coming One, Pastor Linda



Sunday Servers Needed

Please sign up to
serve your parish
at St. Mark and at
Zion

Lectors
Fellowship Hosts
Sanctuary Candle
Flowers
Altar Care
Greeters
Bakers of Cakes

Council Members

St. Mark
David Harmon
Laura LeRoy
Billy Motley, President
Mike Smith
Vickie Sowers

Zion
BJ Bauermeister
Michael Daiber
Bill Gardner, President
Marty Holliday
Jack Wall
Rebecca Jackson
Marjorie Wells

Joint Council
Marty Holliday, President
President

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern."

-Mother Teresa



Special Services for Advent and Christmas

Holden Evening Prayer Service and Supper
Wednesday evenings, Dec. 6, 13, 20,
5:30 pm supper, 6:00 pm service
First Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship
December 24, 10:30 am
St. Mark Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 7:00 pm
Zion Lutheran Church
Bring A Dish Reception Following

Happy Birthday

4-Michael Smith
5-Eric Root
11-Lorraine Dunn
14-Curtis Pleasant
16-Joe Sowers
18-Luke LeRoy
21-Phyllis Poff
22-Mary Lester
27-Judy Weitzenfeld

Happy Anniversary

14-Kamala Bauers and Jack Wall
28-Paula and Eddie Harris

The Story of Silent Night—By Dick Smolinski

Father Joseph Mohr sat at the old organ. His fingers stretched over the keys, forming the notes of a chord. He took a deep breath and pressed down. Nothing. He lifted his fingers and tried again. Silence echoed through the church. Father Joseph shook his head. It was no use. The pipes were rusted, the bellows mildewed. The organ had been wheezing and growing quieter for months, and Father Joseph had been hoping it would hold together until the organ builder arrived to repair it in the spring. But now, on December 23, 1818, the organ had finally given out. St. Nicholas Church would have no music for Christmas. Father Joseph sighed. Maybe a brisk walk would make him feel better. He pulled on his overcoat and stepped out into the night. His white breath puffed out before him. Moonlight sparkled off the snow-custed trees and houses in the village of Oberndorf. Father Joseph crunched through the snowy streets to the edge of the little Austrian town and climbed the path leading up the mountain. From high above Oberndorf, Father Joseph watched the Salzach River ripple past St. Nicholas Church. In the spring, when melting snow flowed down the mountains and the river swelled in its banks, water lapped at the foundation of the church. It was moisture from the flooding river that had caused the organ to mildew and rust. Father Joseph looked out over the Austrian Alps. Stars shone above in the still and silent night. Silent night? Father Joseph stopped. Of course! "Silent Night!" He had written a poem a few years before, when he had first become a priest, and he had given it that very title. "Silent Night." Father Joseph scrambled down the mountain. Suddenly he knew how to bring music to the church.

The next morning, Father Joseph set out on another walk. This time he carried his poem. And this time he knew exactly where he was going -- to see his friend Franz Gruber, the organist for St. Nicholas, who lived in the next village. Franz Gruber was surprised to see the priest so far from home on Christmas Eve, and even more surprised when Father Joseph handed him the poem. That night Father Joseph and Franz Gruber stood at the altar of St. Nicholas Church. Father Joseph held his guitar. He could see members of the congregation giving each other puzzled looks. They had never heard a guitar played in church before, and certainly not during midnight mass on Christmas Eve, the holiest night of the year. Father Joseph picked out a few notes on the guitar, and he and Franz Gruber began to sing. Their two voices rang out, joined by the church choir on the chorus. Franz Gruber's melody matched the simplicity and honesty of Father Joseph's words. When the last notes faded into the night, the congregation remained still for a moment, then began to clap their hands. Applause filled the church. The villagers of Oberndorf loved the song! Father Joseph's plan to bring music to St. Nicholas Church had worked.

A few months later, the organ builder arrived in Oberndorf and found the words and music to "Silent Night" lying on the organ. The song enchanted him, and when he left, he took a copy of it with him. The organ builder gave the song to two families of traveling singers who lived near his home. The traveling singers performed "Silent Night" in concerts all over Europe, and soon the song spread throughout the world. Today, cathedral choirs and carolers from New York to New Zealand sing the simple song that was first played in a mountain church in Austria on Christmas Eve nearly 200 years ago.

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

Sunday Servers



*Grateful for the
celebration and
reflection of
Christmas*

Lectors at St. Mark, Zion:

3-Billy, Virgil
10-Brook, Bill
17-Jack, ***Volunteer Needed***
24-David, Marty
31-Laura, ***Volunteer Needed***

Hosts at Zion:

3-Margie
10-(Bday) Marty and Carter
17- ***Volunteer Needed***
24- Bring-A-Dish Reception
31- ***Volunteer Needed***

Sanctuary, Altar, Flowers: Pat and Jim

Cake at St. Mark: Phyllis Poff
Zion Altar Guild: Rhonda Daiber
Zion Flowers: Women of Zion
Zion Greeters: Ginny and Bill Gardner
Zion Candle: Cheryl Spangler

***Please sign up. Volunteers Needed for
December and January positions.***

Funny Bone

Angel Thoughts from Elementary School...

- Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else. Mitchell, 7
- Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter. Jared , 8
- It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to heaven then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes. Matthew, 9
- My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science. Henry, 8
- When it gets cold, angels go north for the winter. Sara,6
- Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the kid get over it. Vicki, 8

Newsletter submissions would be welcome! Email by 20th of each month.