

The Parish Voice

January 2018

Floyd Willis
Lutheran Parish

January

Calendar

- 4-Thursday, 10:00 am, St. Mark Bible Study
- 11-Thursday, 10:00 am, St. Mark Bible Study
- 18-Wednesday, 5:30 Advent Supper and Worship
- 25-Thursday, 10:00 am, St. Mark Bible Study

Blessings

On the way back from work every evening, more often than not there would be a homeless man standing at the exit of the freeway. He looked to be in his late 40's but was probably a lot younger. He had shoulder length straight black hair a short beard, and he was of average stature. His eyes were what struck me the most about him, they were brown and they had a sparkle. Like an inside light that was beaming out of his eyes. His eyes, I thought, represented the man in general. People say they can tell a lot from a person's eyes. It was certainly true in his case. He always waved at every car, he was always happy and smiling and sometimes almost dancing.

Every day after work I would remember to gather any spare change, and put it aside to give to him if I saw him. A feeling of joy would come over me every time I saw him, as I came off the ramp. He had that effect. I'd quickly roll down my window and give him the coins. Occasionally the red light would be on for a minute and we would ask each other about our day. His answer would always be the same, "I'm blessed!". I knew what his answer was going to be every time, yet I would still ask. It amazed me that even in his situation of being homeless he was so positive, and his answer would remind me of how blessed I was; a single mother of four amazing kids, with a place to call home and with a job to provide for my kids.

Then one day I was called into my boss's office and was told that I was being laid off due to the economy. A feeling of worry engulfed me, and for the rest of that day all I could think of was "how am I going to provide for my kids, how am I going to pay rent, what am I going to do?" Needless to say that on my way home that day I was very sad and upset. I didn't remember to look for my spare change and keep it ready like I usually did. I wasn't feeling the joy as I got off the ramp where the homeless man would be. Yet there he was as always, as I turned the ramp. He set his eyes on me, while still smiling and waving at others. I'd hoped to catch the green light, but I missed it. While I was waiting for the red light to turn, he strolled over to my car. He had a big smile he looked me straight in the eyes and said "today I will give you a dollar". He then reached into his pocket and pulled out a dollar bill. I was blown away. I burst into tears. I wanted to jump out of my car and hug him!

You see that day he gave me more than a dollar bill, he taught me a valuable lesson. No matter what material things are taken from you, no one can take away your choice to be joyful. My ride home was smooth sailing, I had lost my job, had no savings, but I knew I was blessed! Every time I'm faced with challenges, I think of the homeless man's valuable lesson and remember that I am blessed.

— from Kind Spring

Lutheran Family Services of Virginia

Can you help make wishes come true?

Here's what happened last week: Families and LFSVA staff squeeze into a pizza restaurant's festively decorated back room to celebrate the recent adoptions of five children. The wishes that have been fulfilled for children and adults in this room are probably too many to be counted: A wish to have more children in the home. A wish to make a difference in the lives of children with all the odds stacked against them. A wish to keep siblings together. Above all, the wish to belong to a stable, caring, loving home. To have parents who exude strength and safety. To be able to say, as one little girl did when families were posing for photographs, "Can I sit on my daddy's lap?"

Can you donate today to make more of these wishes come true? Lutheran Family Services of Virginia's foster and adoptive families, day-support programs, Family Care Homes, Minnick Schools, and Therapeutic Day Treatment program deliver more than shelter, education and activities. They also answer that longing for inclusion and acceptance felt by even the most vulnerable Virginians.

Your donation will help grant someone's wish to belong.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. " Jeremiah 29:11

Many Thanks

- To all who prepared food for the Christmas Eve service and for the Advent Wednesday night meals
- To all who purchased and packed Christmas decorations and made cookies for deliveries to folks on the Plenty food delivery route
- To all who have contributed to the Community Care Fund so that members of our community may be assisted when needs are great

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



Happy Birthday

3-Leslie Slusher
8-Julie Puuri
9-Barbara Triplett
15-Lola Farley
15-Mindy Farley
20-Lee Ann Farley
27-Daniel Bower

Happy Anniversary

18-Melissa and Scott Branks

Social Statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Church

ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks to assist us in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life. They are meant to help communities and individuals with moral formation, discernment and thoughtful engagement with current social issues as we participate in God’s work in the world. Social statements also set policy for the ELCA and guide its advocacy and work as a publicly engaged church. They result from an extensive process of participation and deliberation and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of an ELCA churchwide assembly.

Peace

For Peace in God's World conveys ELCA teaching on matters related to war, domestic and international security, and the Christian call to be peacemakers. The statement is grounded in the scriptural understanding that God desires shalom (the Hebrew word for complete well-being) for all human beings but that such eternal peace is fragile and imperfect within even the best earthly peace human beings may achieve. Because of the sin-filled reality of earthly life, this statement affirms just war teaching in the service of just peace, with attention to what this means for culture, economics, politics, military conduct and international security.

The statement also recognizes the significant witness of conscientious objectors and others who, as a matter of faith, cannot condone war in any circumstances. It calls all disciples to be advocates for Christian peace-making, one that strives for political alternatives to war, human rights, social justice, control of the arms trade and all means of working for peace in God’s world. This social statement was adopted by the 1995 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.



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
new beginnings*

Sunday Servers

Lectors at St. Mark, Zion:

7-Laura LeRoy, *Volunteer Needed*
14-Tyson LeRoy, *Volunteer Needed*
21-Billy Motley, *Volunteer Needed*
28-Brook Smith, *Volunteer Needed*

Hosts at Zion:

7- *Volunteer Needed*
14-(Bday) *Volunteer Needed*
21- *Volunteer Needed*
28- *Volunteer Needed*

Volunteers Needed for all below:

Sanctuary, Altar, Flowers at St. Mark:

Cake at St. Mark:

Zion Altar Guild:

Zion Flowers:

Zion Greeters:

Zion Candle:

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

Funny Bone

- "I think it would be a good idea." - Mahatma Gandhi when asked what he thought of Western civilization.
- A mother was preparing pancakes for her boys, Kevin 5 and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. The mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, he would say, Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait." Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"
- A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the preacher said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

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