

# The Saint Mark Messenger September



2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

*Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16)*

I write this in a week when racism, hatred, violence and divisiveness ... seem to be prevalent everywhere in this country and around the world.

There is evil and hatred in this world. And it seems to be manifesting itself in horrific and terrorizing ways time and time again. After a week like this past one, when hatred and violence seem to be prevailing, I think it would be easy to wonder if God really cares or if God is even present in this world.

But then ... I see the number of people who are speaking out against racism, and all the "isms" that divide and separate us. From ordinary citizens to corporate America. In the midst of horrific devastation and violence, I see people who step up to help and comfort all who are injured. I see the outpouring of love, emotion, and condemnation from all over the world in the face of such violence and terror.

And in the midst of all that violence and terror ... is God ... working to love, comfort, heal and condemn such evil and terror.

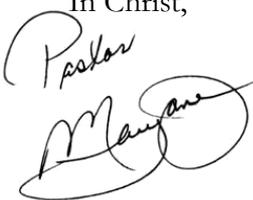
Even though each one of us is a different part of Christ's body, we are *joined and knit together* through Christ. Each one is an integral part to making the whole body function properly. When *each part is working properly*, it *promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love*.

It is the love of Christ that binds us together. Most especially, it is the love of Christ that sends us out into the world to be the face of God's love, mercy and grace. *To speak the truth in love*. To speak out against hatred, injustice, racism and violence.

We need to hold onto the fact ... the promise ... that in the face of the violence, the terror, and the hatred of Good Friday, and Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion, came the promise of Christ's resurrection.

The violence, the terror, the hatred will not win. Because the power of God's steadfast love and unending grace and mercy is far greater than anything else in this world!

In Christ,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature is the word "Pastor" written in a simple, clear cursive. The bottom signature is more stylized and appears to be a name, possibly "M. [unclear]", written in a more fluid, artistic cursive style.

## Message From The Council President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

September already?! Where did the time go? The months just seem to be flying by. I hope everyone enjoyed the summer and had a chance to relax and unwind a bit.

It was an interesting time for Tiina and me as we prepared to downsize and sell our house in Basking Ridge. Peter and Erika are both on their own and we just didn't need all of the space that the house gave us anymore. We're now happily settled in a townhouse in Branchburg. It was a bit sad saying good-bye to the Passaic River which flowed through the woods at the back of our property. However, I still have the memories of many enjoyable canoe trips on the river to take with me.

Now, back to September, my favorite month! There's so much going on. On a personal note, Tiina and I celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Yay! (Where did the time go?) Then on the 27<sup>th</sup> I get to celebrate my birthday. Yay! For anyone who wants to know my age, it's 63. (Where did the time go?)

For Saint Mark, September kicks off a busy fall season. It begins with Rally Day and God's Work, Our Hands Sunday on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Donna Mertz-Burkhardt, our stewardship leader, and Amy Manobianca, our youth and education leader, have some fun and engaging activities planned for the day.

September is also when the Sunday school starts a new season. Amy is looking for teacher volunteers to be part of Saint Mark's vibrant and growing youth program. If you've volunteered in the past, thank you. If you haven't volunteered, consider doing so this year. It's a great way to engage and interact with our children.

*"O God of youth, whose Spirit in our hearts is stirring. Desire and hope for noble lives and true: Give us a spirit steadfast and unerring; With light and love divine our minds endue."* (LBW #510 v1)

This is the start of what's sure to be a wonderful season! There's a lot more to come. I look forward to welcoming everyone back to Saint Mark.

God's Peace,  
Paul Dodenhoff  
Council President

## Welcome Little Sprouts!

On **September 1**, Little Sprouts Learning Center LLC will open a new pre-school and day care center at Saint Mark. This is an exciting and uplifting change as it brings new energy and activity back to the building. The owners of Little Sprouts are Melinda Pullis and Kristen Stahl, both of whom have solid backgrounds in child care development and operations.

Melinda and Kristen spent the summer getting the classrooms ready for the new venture which offers full and part-time pre-school and day care options for children who range in age from 18 months to 5 years. Little Sprouts also offers morning and afternoon wrap-around care for children from kindergarten to second grade. The Learning Center will be open daily from 7:00 am to 6:30 pm.

If you, or someone you know, are looking for an inspiring and nourishing environment for your child, consider Little Sprouts. More information can be found on their website at [littlesproutsnj.org](http://littlesproutsnj.org). You can also reach Little Sprouts by phone at (973) 588-7996. Please keep Melinda, Kristen and the Little Sprouts family in your prayers.

## Morris View Healthcare Center

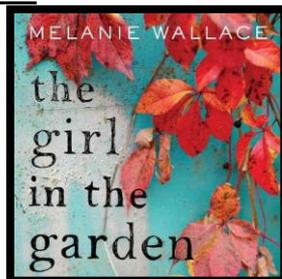
Join us for a worship service at **Morris View Healthcare Center**. The service begins at 2:00 pm. However, we arrive at 1:30 pm to hand out bulletins and prepare for worship. This is always an uplifting and moving experience for all who have participated. The residents always appreciate our being there. The service will include several old favorite hymns which bring special pleasure to all. You will be touched in ways you could never imagine. A few of our regulars are no longer able to attend so we need everyone who is able to come out! **Join us!**

**September 10    October 8    November 12    December 10**



## Saint Mark Book Marks

After a relaxing summer our group is ready to once again delve into some marvelous books. At a specific date in September yet to be determined, we will be discussing The Girl in the Garden by Melanie Wallace. Judy Geller will be contacting our members to choose a date toward the end of the month.



## Rally Day and God's Work – Our Hands Day

Come One! Come All! Celebrate the start of a new year by participating in our worship at Saint Mark on **Sunday, September 10, 2017**. Following a short Worship Service, at 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL for ALL! Scripture, Service, Song, Music, Activities, Games, Crafts, Refreshments and Fellowship! Please come and make this year one of our most exciting times! **Wear your yellow t-shirts!!** Don't have one? Check with Pastor MJ.

## Confirmation

Confirmation instruction will begin on **Thursday, September 14**. Confirmation is not a matter of simply learning or memorizing the foundations of our faith, but seeking a better understanding as to why they are the foundations of our faith and how they guide us in everyday life. It also is gaining a better understanding of our relationship with God and, most importantly, God's relationship with us.

Kristin Smith will begin her second year of instruction. She will be confirmed in the spring. Teddy Eck will begin his first year of instruction.

During a worship service in September, we will ask God's blessing for Kristen and Teddy as they continue their study as part of their relationship with God and their faith journey. We also will rededicate ourselves as a congregation to the ministry of teaching the Christian faith to our fellow members of the body of Christ and most especially to our youth. Please keep all of them in your prayers!

## Community Family Day

Saint Mark will be participating in Community Family Day sponsored by Neighborhood House on **Saturday, September 16** at Cauldwell Playground in Morristown. Saint Mark will be in charge of several of the children's games taking place from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm. The games will be the ring toss, Sponge Bob Squarepants, and Bob the Builder. We need volunteers to help supervise these games and will be calling the congregation to ask for assistance.



Community Family Day is a fun event full of delicious food and good entertainment. We welcome any time you are able to give to this worthwhile event, be it an hour or the afternoon. This is a great outreach opportunity for the members of St. Mark to help make a fun afternoon for the children.

Sheri Anderson  
Social Ministries Chair

## Women's Retreat

*"Tell Out My Soul" - Our Voices in the World* is a women's retreat at Crossroads Camp and Retreat Center. The retreat will be held on two different occasions ... **September 29 - October 1 or October 13 - 15.**

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow called the human voice the "organ of the soul." Let us look, together, at how we express ourselves in a world of constant communication, sound bites, and ear buds. Does each of us have a voice that is distinctively our own? What are we saying when we open our mouths? Which voices are we listening to? Are we aware of the voiceless among us? Are we listening for the "still, small voice" of our loving Creator? Let us find our voices and "hear each other into speech." (Nelle Morton)

Go to <http://crossroadsretreat.com/year-round-programs/womens-retreat/> for more information or to register.

## Hunger Walk

The annual Community Soup Kitchen Hunger Walk will be held on **Sunday, October 15 at 1:00 pm**. Each walker is given the name of a client of the Soup Kitchen with his or her story as to why they need the services of the Soup Kitchen. At various stops along the route, more information about the person is handed out until you have their entire story upon completion of the walk. Please join Pastor Mary Jane for this 5K (3.1 mile) walk!

## Bible Study

**Bible study** will begin again after a summer hiatus on **Wednesday mornings at 10:30am beginning October 18**. We will continue our study of the Acts of the Apostles. Join our laughter-filled and interesting discussions! No prior knowledge or preparation is needed. We learn together! Everyone is welcome! Join us!

## Pastor's Annual BBQ

A good time was had by all! Thanks again to Pastor Mary Jane for hosting a wonderful BBQ at the parsonage on July 20. Not only did many Saint Mark members attend, but we also were delighted that folks from Good Shepherd joined us. Pastor is serving as their vice pastor as they begin the call process for a new minister.

The food, as usual, was soooooo tasty. The variety was such that there was something for everyone. The weather cooperated nicely too.

Thank you, Pastor, for your hospitality and graciousness in inviting all of us into your home for this much-anticipated annual event. It always brings us closer together.

## Our Presence In Cameroon

Jeff Wilson has recruited his sister, Shannyn, to teach at the American school in Cameroon, Africa. He is teaching in the upper school and Shannyn in the lower grades. How wonderful that these adventuresome siblings have a touch of home with the presence of one another.

As you will remember, Jeff is also involved in coaching soccer there, a huge sport in that part of the world. Knowing of Shannyn's athletic and other abilities, we are sure she will be involved in the school in a variety of ways.

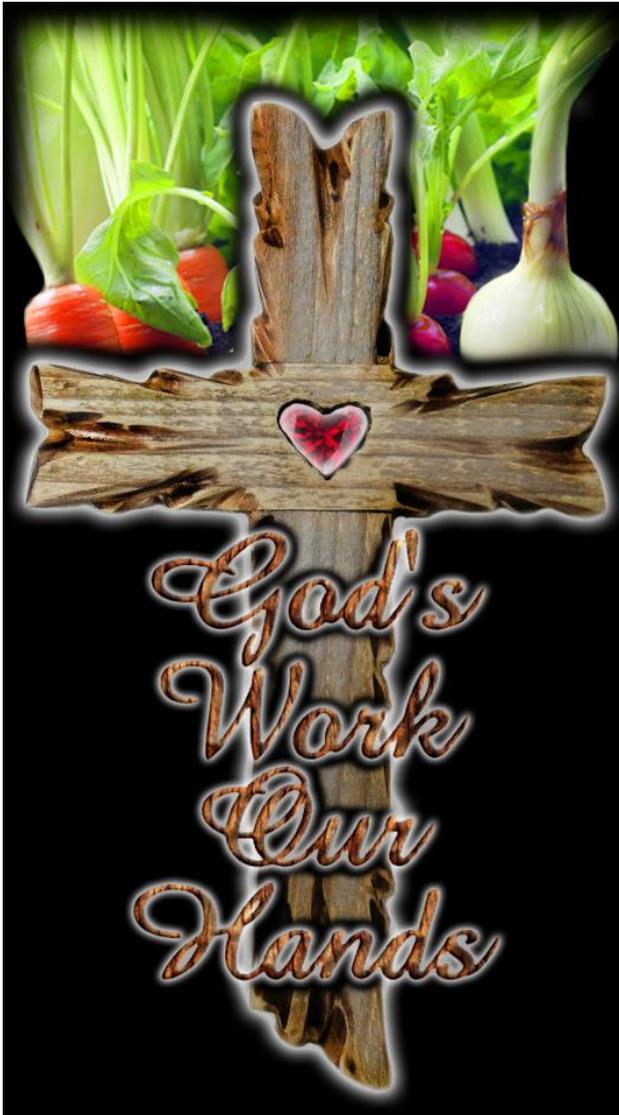
May God bless Shannyn and Jeff as they work across the ocean. May they feel the love of family and Saint Mark friends.

## Giving Garden

In spite of the fact that some people have had to step back from working in the Giving Garden, our Garden continues to grow. Among the crops this year are swiss chard, kale, various lettuce, thyme, peas, tomatoes, strawberries, oregano, zucchini and cucumbers.

Many thanks to Henry Stock, Sue, Shannyn, and Tom Wilson, Bob and Donna-Mertz-Burkhardt, Judy Geller and Cynthia Espinosa who have worked to make the Garden a reality by planting, weeding, watering, harvesting and delivering to the Interfaith Food Pantry.

It truly is a miracle and a blessing from God!



## Kitchen & Bathroom Renovations

What a difference we see in our kitchen and bathrooms! Extensive renovations have been almost completed, and the results are spectacular. New cabinets, stove, and sink have been installed. The bathrooms are totally overhauled, and it is a great improvement. The pictures below attest to the changes. You will be so delighted to see our new facilities.

### Kitchen/Bathroom Project Update

<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
<b>Amount collected through July, 2017</b>	<b>\$47,208</b>
<b>Amount needed</b>	<b>\$12,792</b>



## **A Lifesaving Event**

Our own Bill Lemon had the experience of a lifetime: he saved a young man's life. While outside in his backyard in Hampton Bays on Long Island, he heard a voice out in the creek. One teen was trying to keep his friend afloat. Bill quickly put on swim trunks and plunged into the water, swimming rapidly to the two boys. He managed to get the lifeless youth to shore as the other kid swam alongside. The teen was not breathing and was unresponsive.

Bill's training in the US Air Force kicked into high gear. He instinctively knew just what to do and administered CPR. By the time the ambulance arrived the teen was breathing on his own, albeit with difficulty. He was hospitalized but, as of August 15, he was recuperating at home.

God was with Bill that day. He and Kathy had recently taken a CPR refresher course. They cannot emphasize enough the importance of learning this lifesaving procedure.

The Lemons are still emotional when talking about the privilege he had in saving this boy's life. How many people can say that they have been able to impact a life so significantly?

We are all so proud of you, Bill. You put your own life in peril by jumping into the creek to save another human being. It is what Jesus would want us to do. Thanks be to God, and thanks be to his disciple Bill.

## **Blessings Upon Our Students**

Another school year is upon us. We see evidence of this in our annual school supplies collection for the Interfaith Food Pantry. Let us remember our young people as they go back to class in elementary, middle, high school and college. May God bless their days and their academic efforts. May He be with them always, guiding their social choices and helping them to make good decisions in class and out.

## **Continuing School Supplies Collection**

As has been our tradition, we are collecting school supplies for distribution through the Interfaith Food Pantry to families in need. We will continue this through September.

Please bring in notebooks, backpacks, pens, pencils, loose leaf paper, etc. so that these supplies can be given to those who really need them. Thank you for your generosity.

## Clean Up Day

On June 24 we had a productive Clean-Up Day at the church. Overgrown plants were nicely trimmed in front of the playground, a formidable task! The front sign was weeded and spruced up, front and back. Weeding was done in the Giving Garden. Many thanks to Donna and Bob Mertz-Burkhardt, Judy Geller, Paul Dodenhoff, Henry Stock, and the three Mohs men. The Burkhardts even provided breakfast! Next time plan on joining in so that our church remains in tip-top shape.

## Some Humor From The Internet

### **TEN BEST THINGS TO SAY IF YOU GET CAUGHT SLEEPING AT YOUR DESK**

10. "They told me at the blood bank this might happen."
  9. "This is just a 15-minute power nap like they raved about in that time management course you sent me to."
  8. "Whew! Guess I left the top off the White-out. You probably got here just in time!"
  7. "I wasn't sleeping! I was meditating on the mission statement and envisioning a new paradigm."
  6. "I was testing my keyboard for drool resistance."
  5. "I was doing a highly specific Yoga exercise to relieve work-related stress. Are you discriminatory toward people who practice Yoga?"
  4. "Why did you interrupt me? I had almost figured out a solution to our biggest problem."
  3. "The coffee machine is broken..."
  2. "Someone must've put decaf in the wrong pot..."
- And the #1 best thing to say if you get caught sleeping at your desk...
1. "...in Jesus' name. Amen."

## Messenger Articles

Do you have an article that you would like printed in The Messenger? If so, please contact the church secretary, Sandra, at [ChurchOfficeSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ChurchOfficeSecretary@gmail.com) or 201-264-9558. The deadline to get articles in is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## Birthdays For September

Nina Mohs	September 3	Clark Smith	September 16
Michael Mohs	September 3	John Smith	September 17
Andrew Peterson	September 4	Virginia Neilson	September 21
Clark Smith, Jr.	September 4	Brooke Pinkey	September 22
Raina Lefkowitz	September 6	Geri Monetti	September 23
Richard Stock	September 6	Suzanne Smith	September 25
Katelyn Nagy	September 8	Paul Dodenhoff	September 27
Gabor Nagy	September 10	Dorothy Tureson	September 28
Meridoc Burkhardt	September 11	Matthew Krutman	September 28
Carla Bauer	September 13	Bia Bueno-Mohs	September 28
Tanja Long	September 13	Kristina Qualben	September 29

## Wedding Anniversaries For September

Paul and Tiina Dodenhoff	September 6
Wolfgang and Carla Bauer	September 12
Mark and Lisa Qualben	September 16

## Baptism Anniversaries For September

Donna Mertz-Burkhardt	September 10
Shannyn Wilson	September 15
Anders Lamonica	September 18
Dana Klein	September 22

## September Volunteers

<b>Lector:</b> Paul Dodnhoff	<b>Acolyte:</b> Grace Manobianca
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Judy Geller & Diane Pillion	<b>Teller:</b> Judy Geller
<b>Audio Tech:</b> Pat Auriemma	<b>Communion Assistant:</b> Paul Dodenhoff
<b>Ushers:</b> Judy Geller and Diane Pillion	

## Church Council

<b>President:</b> Paul Dodenhoff	<b>Vice President:</b> Gabor Nagy
<b>Secretary:</b> Ingrid Davidsen	<b>Social Ministry:</b> Sheri Anderson
<b>Stewardship:</b> Donna Mertz-Burkhardt	<b>Property:</b> Henry Stock
<b>Youth &amp; Education:</b> Amy Manobianca	<b>Fellowship:</b> Kirby Chu
<b>Treasurer:</b> Charlene Peterson	

## Church Staff

<b>Pastor:</b> Mary Jane Hastings	<b>Minister of Music:</b> Ralph Petersen
<b>Property Coordinator:</b> Gail Glennon	<b>Secretary:</b> Sandra Trost
<b>Volunteer Coordinator:</b> Judy Geller	<b>SS Superintendent:</b> Amy Manobianca



## Saint Mark Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Rev. Mary Jane Hastings, Pastor  
100 Harter Rd, Morristown, NJ 07960  
Phone: (973) 538-3939 Fax: (973) 538-6223  
Web: StMarkLutheranChurch.net  
Email: info@StMarkLutheranChurch.net  
**Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM**  
**Sunday School 9:45 AM**

**MISSION STATEMENT: Worship, Study, Serve**

*"We are a growing community, centered in Jesus Christ,  
reaching out to all people to spread God's Word  
through worship, study, and service."*

