

St. Mark's News

Congregational Meeting on May 20th



St. Mark's will hold a special congregational meeting after worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, to vote on the proposed welcoming statement, which reads as follows:

God is love. St. Mark's Lutheran Church welcomes all who gather here. St. Mark's welcomes you regardless of race or culture, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or relationship status. We welcome all regardless of addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, financial means, or anything that too often divides us. Our community is founded in Christ's love for all.

St. Mark's has spent this last year listening, thinking and praying about becoming Reconciling in Christ. The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program is for Lutheran communities that publicly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. (go to <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/> to read more).

This is a welcome statement for everyone who comes to worship, girl scouts and NA and people seeking food and clothing and language classes.

The statement will go on our website, our promotional materials and our doors, and our congregation will be listed on the reconciling works website as a congregation that is a safe and welcoming community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

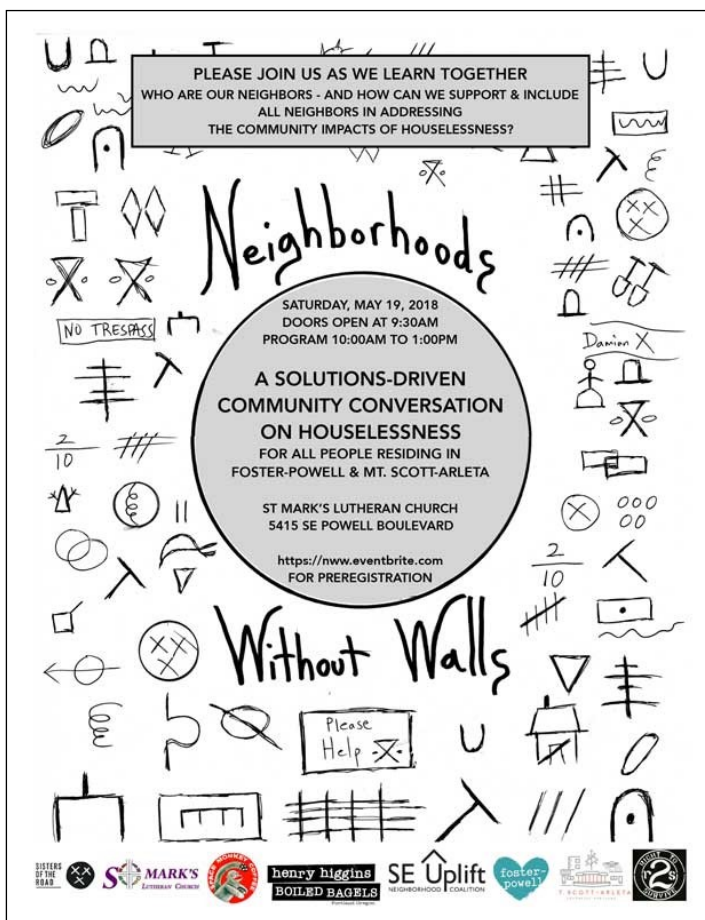
Support a Sacred Space Booth



This Sunday and next everyone coming to worship will have the opportunity to make a donation towards the costs of the Sacred Space booth at the Portland Pride festival next month. The Sacred Space booth is staffed by both

clergy and lay volunteers, offering prayers, communion, and blessings to people who have been all too often excluded by the church.

This year, in addition to the corner booth and communion, our costs will include temporary tattoos reading "You are loved" and much glitter.



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE LEARN TOGETHER
WHO ARE OUR NEIGHBORS - AND HOW CAN WE SUPPORT & INCLUDE
ALL NEIGHBORS IN ADDRESSING
THE COMMUNITY IMPACTS OF HOUSELESSNESS?

Neighborhoods Without Walls

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018
DOORS OPEN AT 9:30AM
PROGRAM 10:00AM TO 1:00PM

**A SOLUTIONS-DRIVEN
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
ON HOUSELESSNESS**
FOR ALL PEOPLE RESIDING IN
FOSTER-POWELL & MT. SCOTT-ARLETA

ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
5415 SE POWELL BOULEVARD

<https://www.eventbrite.com>
FOR PREREGISTRATION

SISTERS OF THE ROAD MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH henry higgins BOILED BAGELS SE Uplift foster-powell RECONCILING WORKS

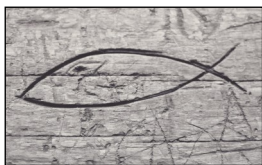
Happenings at Our Church

Classical Up Close



It was *warm* Wednesday evening. Nonetheless, neighbors and guests packed the sanctuary for "Classical Up Close: Oregon Symphony Musicians on the Loose." The music was, as always, outstanding, and the give-and-take between audience and musicians was informative and fun. Pastor Elizabeth reports that it was especially sweet to speak with people who remember her from year to year, and to hear community members thank St. Mark's for its hospitality and warm welcome.

Easter Bible Study Update - Acts



Each Sunday during this Easter season our Bible Study is recounting the experiences of the disciples immediately following Jesus' death and resurrection. The readings tell of the life of the early church and its growth through its witness and encounters with a wide range of people. Acts records a number of times where disciples find themselves in unexpected situations with unexpected results. As Mark tells us at the end of his gospel, Jesus is out there and on the loose, and there is no telling what will happen next.

Blessing of the Quilts



Quilts from our St. Mark's Quilters group were spread out in the Sanctuary and then blessed at the end of the service on April 29th.

Quilts have played a major part of Lutheran World Relief's mission since our founding in 1945. That means, for over 70 years, quilters across the country have lovingly stitched thousands upon thousands of quilts for distribution as part of LWR's many projects. Their quilts have traveled all over the world, from Peru to India to Tanzania, providing warmth and comfort to millions of families.



If you would like to make a donation to the Food Pantry and wondered what would be good we are in need of canned soup. It's always nice to give families a couple of cans of soup but we have run low.. Thanks!!

Easter 2018



**Jesus said to her,
"Woman, why are you weeping?
Whom are you looking for?"** John 20:1-18

It takes time. It takes time to recognize the truth, even when you see it with your own eyes. It takes time to override expectations, the "givens" in life, to wrestle with the weight of grief. It takes time to recognize Jesus, even when he stands right before you. Slowly, moment by moment, day by day, year by year, the living Lord Jesus finds a place in our hearts and minds. But, it takes time.

There is, I believe, in the heart of every human being competing stories. We have various ways of embracing life shaped by experience, hopes, fears, teaching, witness and experience. Were there only one, clearly true story it would not be so. But it is. So, it takes time (teaching, witness and experience)

In our Gospel reading Mary, Peter and John all have different experiences with the truth there staring them in the face. So do people in our pews and communities today. The lovely thing about John 20 is Mary's encounter with Jesus. She was called by name. She, like you, was sent out to give her testimony. There is no logical argument for the Resurrection. There is no way to convince others that our theology is right, or the only one, or that the Sunday School faith people may find lacking in their adult life has to be maintained. But we can do this - we can be where others are, and call them by name in love - for he has risen, he has risen indeed. And because he lives, we too shall live!

Easter Blessings, Bp. Dave Brauer-Rieke

Easter Parade



ELC at Work in the World

Black Women Bishops Are Making History in Lutheran Church



America's largest Lutheran denomination made history this weekend with the elections of two African-American women as bishops.

The Rev. Patricia A. Davenport holds the distinction of being the first African-American woman bishop in the 3.5 million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Her election on Saturday made her the bishop of the ELCA's Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, a region that includes the city of Philadelphia.

One day later, the ELCA's South-Central Synod of Wisconsin elected Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld as bishop.

"This is good news for the ELCA," Eaton told HuffPost in an email. "Both women are leaders who have served our church for years. I think God is opening our eyes to see the giftedness of people of color. I am excited and honored to serve with them."

The ELCA is the fifth-largest Protestant denomination in the U.S., with 9,300 congregations divided into 65 synods.

First Lutheran Women Ordained into Ministry in ELCT in Thailand



A member church of the Lutheran World federation (LWF), has called its first women into the ordained ministry of word and sacrament.

The ordination of Rev. Jongkolnee Sampachanyanon Sim and Rev. Somporn Kulachote on 27 April represents a significant milestone in the four decades of ministry in the ELCT, LWF Area Secretary for Asia Rev. Dr Philip Lok Oi Peng says. "Women have been involved in church ministry for many years, they served as evangelists and preachers and practically performed all the duties of pastors except for the holy sacrament. Therefore the church has recognized their contribution and affirmed their calling."

Both Rev. Jongkolnee and Rev Somporn are converts to Christianity. They received their initial theological training at the Lutheran Seminary in Thailand. After completing studies, they were assigned to congregations in different parts of the country.

The ELCT joined the LWF as a member in 1994. The church has 5,000 members worshipping in 56 congregations and outreach centers.