



The Lutheran Church of St. Mark

in joy we share Christ's truth

www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org

The Messenger

Fall 2026



A Message from the Church Council President



David J. Obedzinski,
Church Council
President

Ours is a joyful and hopeful journey as we work to call a new pastor for our church.

On October 25th our candidate for the part-time pastor position at our church will preach to our congregation at our Sunday service at a special start time of 8:30 a.m. This service will not be televised and we encourage all of our members to attend.

Immediately following that service we will meet as a congregation and a representative of the New England Synod will lead our Congregational meeting to call a new pastor and approve their compensation package. If all goes to plan we may have a new pastor before the year ends.

On Saturday, October 24th you have the opportunity to meet our candidate in the church hall where we will hold a meet and greet reception beginning at 6 p.m.

Thank you to Dave Taylor and the Call Committee for their work and to the Church Council for their follow-up work on the proposed compensation package that we believe will work based on the gifts our members contribute with their ongoing and annual gifts. Thank you for your ongoing generosity in our offering plate.

Please keep praying for Saint Mark as we hopefully close out the search chapter and begin a new chapter of spiritual leadership and renewed outreach and growth for our church.

The people are the church, and in our church our people are amazing in sharing their gifts of time and talent. However, I did want to bring to your attention a few places where we could use some help. These are positions of leadership where other members have stepped in temporarily to help but really need someone to step in, learn the ropes, and lead the committee.

Presidents message continues on page 2.

Our Mission:
In joy,
we share
Christ's truth.

**Sunday
Worship**



9:00am

**Our Guiding
Principles**

1. We trust in God's promises.
2. We base our actions on Christ's love and teachings.
3. We practice spiritual disciplines.
4. We welcome, nurture, and respect each other.
5. We serve our local community, and the world.

Council President - *continued*

Fellowship – A Chairperson is needed to supervise the weekly fellowship teams, providing refreshments after services, and organizing other fellowship activities connected to ongoing programs.

Worship & Music – A Chairperson is needed to work with the Pastor and Music Minister, planning for what's needed at worship services, and coordinating the teams that help make the services happen.

Website & Social Media assistance – Our current webmaster will be leaving our church soon and we are looking to update our website and strengthen our social media presence in and around our community. We welcome one or more people to work with Ellen in our church office on this

If any of the above opportunities sound interesting to you please let me know at hofstrafan@msn.com or text me at (860) 805-8198 and I'll call or text you back.

Peace and Love,



Time & Talents

Join us for
REFORMATION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 25
8:30am



Our Candidate for Pastor will be presiding & preaching!
Don't forget to wear RED!



followed by a
Special Congregation Meeting

Please note there will be no Zoom on this day.

Minister of Music - Martin Smith

Music is a discipline, and a mistress of order and good manners, she makes the people milder and gentler, more moral and more reasonable.

- Martin Luther



How good it is to have fall back again! As much as I love summer and the warm weather, it is great to have the activities of this season return. The one that gives the most joy to me personally to me personally is having the choir back! Choral music is one of the richest experiences of music and I hope that you may savor it as much as those who sing do! We have only begun rehearsals a few weeks ago, yet we are already preparing music for Reformation and All Saints' Sundays. We plan to welcome back the lovely Emma Ross, flutist-friend of mine, who has been our guest on several occasions. Please join me in thanking her for her generous gift of talent she shares with us.

Soon it will be Advent and Christmas to prepare, and other new beginnings, like a new pastor to welcome. I trust we will greet this new beginning with songs of joy and celebration.



**Join us for
BIBLE STUDY
In-Person or via Zoom
Sundays
5:00pm**

We are watching season 3 of "The Chosen."
For more information, please contact Jan Frick.

Worship & Music

Worship & Music - Ray Frick, Linda Obedzinski, Leslie O'Rourke, Lee Hilliard, Martin Smith, John Prosen, Deb Gresens

*Shout to the Lord
Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King...
~Darlene Zschech*



Update:

The Worship & Music committee has been meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. Each meeting focuses on Sunday service, upcoming events and festival Sundays.

**Setting to be used for each Sunday of the month

**Possible alternatives to the “traditional” Sunday settings

**Stewardship kick-off with Breakfast Church 11/8

**Principal festivals:

Reformation Sunday 10/25-Pastoral Candidate to preach

Congregational Meeting will follow service.

(Meet & Greet Saturday, 10/24, 6:00 p.m.)

All Saints Day 11/1

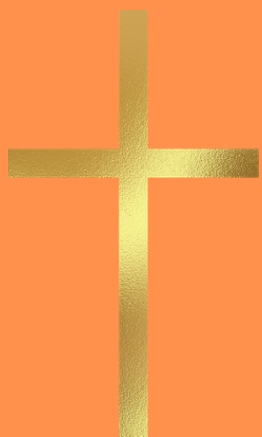
Thanksgiving 11/26

Advent 11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20

Christmas Eve 12/24

Christmas 12/25

Starting October 18,
the Saints book will be
on the usher stand. Please clearly
print the names of any person(s) you
would like to have remembered.



**If you can't be here in person,
please join us for Sunday worship
via Zoom.**

**The link can be found on our website:
www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org**

Date	Video	Audio	 If you are intereste in helping out or if you have any questions, please contact Lee Hilliard.
October 11th	Lee		
October 18th	Ronald	TBD	
October 25th (Reformation)	Lee		
November 1st (All Saints)	Lee		
November 8 (Breakfast Church)	Lee		
November 15th	Ronald	Dave R.	
November 22nd	Ray	Mike	
November 29th	Dave T.	Lee	



DATE	LECTOR	PRAYER LEADER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	SET-UP
October 11th	Betsy	Carol	Mark C.	Wendy
October 18th	Mark G.	Deb	Leslie	Dottie
October 25th Reformation	Valerie	Linda O.	Mike	Ginny

If you are interested in helping out or if there are any questions, please contact Mike Davis.

Missions

Coat Collection

The ministry of Carol's Closet at St. James will once again be collecting coats for November, December, and January. We at St. Mark have been supporting the Carol's Closet ministry over many years, as the needs of our neighbors are ever present. If you have any spare coats that are in good condition, then please consider donating them. You can bring them to church and leave them in the Carol's Closet baskets located in the St. Mark coat closet. If you have any questions, then please contact Jan Frick.



Weekend Food Packing and Delivery

St. Mark participates with other faith based organizations in town through Glastonbury Links Together to provide food for elementary aged children who are at risk of food insecurity over the weekend. Now that school is underway, our first food packing will happen the week of October 5th and delivery will be on Friday, October 9th.



St. Mark's Garden

Well the growing season is almost over, and it's so good to report that St. Mark's garden produced lots of veggies again this year. A huge thank you goes out to Eleanor Tunney and Linda Hilliard who both managed the garden and delivered the produce to the Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) food pantry. While the garden is obviously seasonal, the need for food donations to the MACC food pantry and also to the Glastonbury Food Pantry never ends. The Glastonbury Citizen has recently been publishing a list of needed items. Please consider dropping off nonperishable food items in the Narthex and these will get delivered. For more information, please contact Jan Frick.



Photos by Eleanor Tunney

Mission Endowment Fund

Your Mission Funds at Work!

This year, strong earnings on the Mission Endowment Fund that St. Mark has invested through the ELCA enabled us to send \$3,000 in grants to organizations doing good locally, regionally, and globally. Here is how those funds were allocated.



Reach out to those in need

Nonprofit	Amount
Lutheran World Relief	\$1,000
Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services)	\$500
Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC)	\$500
ELCA World Hunger	\$450
Lutherans Restoring Creation	\$300
Community Child Guidance Clinic	\$250



Serve the Lord with Gladness



**This November
purchase a Bloomin' 4 Good
bouquet at Stop & Shop
55 Oak Street, Glastonbury
and \$1 will go to
St. Mark
Hunger Relief Programs**

Offering Counters

DATE	TEAM MEMBERS
Oct. 11th	Dave O., Bernie, Leslie
Oct. 18th	Dave T., Lee
Oct. 25th	Dave T., Ronald
Nov. 1st	Andrea, Betsy, Ellen, Valerie
Nov. 8th	Mike, Mark G., MarK C.
Nov. 15th	Ray, Jule
Nov. 22nd	Dave O., Bernie, Leslie
Nov. 29th	Dave T., Lee



Making Your Offering Electronically by Venmo

Your Church Offerings can be sent directly via the App or Application:
Venmo@stmark-Glastonbury.

For questions on how to use Venmo,
contact Dave Taylor at 860-796-1678.

Thank you for keeping your offerings current so that our church can operate
effectively for our congregation.

Stewardship

God's Grace --> Our Grace

While Stewardship has been a seasonal activity at St. Mark, in God's kingdom, it is an attitude of gratitude and a heartfelt expression of honoring God. Expressing one's gratitude and thankfulness for God's blessings can take many forms and financial Stewardship is only one of the many. Time and talents are certainly sincere expressions in response to God's grace to us.

After becoming Stewardship chair and penning the letter in the mid-year statements, Dave O. asked if I would write a Messenger article about how to give. So, St. Mark accepts cash, checks (personal, bank, and from OCD's), stocks, and VENMO. You may give weekly, monthly, annually, or anytime that works for you. You may give at the service, mail it, or drop your gift off. However, while that answers the how, it's not really the answer that drives the giving impulse.

If you have heard even one of John's sermons, or most of them, then you realize the underlying, and most of the time obvious, theme is God's grace. One sermon in particular he used a phrase like "God's graciousness to us allows us to be gracious to others." That is the theme of this year's Stewardship emphasis, which explains this article's title: God's Grace leads to Our Grace. And that answers the how you should give. In response to God's gifts of salvation, creation, your talents, etc., then you will respond generously to giving of yourself to God's work. Of course, our lives are not free of pain and difficulties, but God's salvation is guaranteed. In thanks, we can give to the needs of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. And the needs exist right in our communities. This month, Carol's Closet distributed household items to 125 people just in Glastonbury. Glastonbury Links Together continues to address food insecurity.

Stewardship Sunday will be celebrated at the November 8th breakfast church. It promises to be a memorable service with more music than usual. You don't want to miss it. Leading up to the service, we'll ask some of our members to give personal reasons why they support our community. I've already shared how much your love, support, care, and prayers are so appreciated by Jan and myself during her back condition and surgery. Are you willing to share your story?

Ray Frick
Stewardship Chair



Fellowship Teams



GF & Friends

Jan
Anne
Linda O.

Deb's Team

Deb
Leslie
Betsy

Folk Group Friends

Lee
Valerie
Dave T.

Godfellas

Mark G.
Ronald
Mike
Bernie

Dottie's Team

Dottie
Ginny
Lila

Amigos& Amigas

Andrea
Carol W.
Ellen Z.
Al M.

October Coffee Hour Schedule



10/4 Deb's Team
10/11 Dottie's Team
10/18 GF & Friends
10/25 Godfellas



November Coffee Hour Schedule



11/1 Amigos & Amigas
11/8 Folk Group Friends
11/15 Deb's Team
11/22 Dottie's Team
11/23 GF & Friends



Faith & Family Night at the YardGoats

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Many thanks to Linda Hilliard for your many years as Chair of the Fellowship Committee. Your enthusiasm for community has helped bring us together. We wish you many blessings in your future endeavors!



Eclectica Concert October 4th at St. Mark

Property Committeee

Property Committee-Dave Rutz, Jule Beer, Leslie O'Rourke, Andrea Clark, Deb Gresens

Fall, leaves, fall

by Emily Bronte

Fall, leaves, fall; die flowers, away;

Lengthen night and shorten day;

Every leaf speaks bliss to me

Fluttering from the autumn tree.

I shall smile when wreaths of snow

Blossom where the rose should grow;

I shall sing when night's decay

Ushers in a drearier day.



Updates:

**Repairs-Ramp and roof have been repaired. Thank-you Dave R and Jule.

**Parsonage walk-through completed. TBD-a date for cleaning the parsonage.

**Carpets in the nursery were cleaned.

Upcoming:

**SAI Silent Retreat-The SAI group will be having a silent retreat, in the Sanctuary, on Saturday, October 10, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At 12:30, the group will move to the Fellowship Hall for lunch.

**Fall Clean-Up-The church and grounds will be "spruced up" Saturday, October 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Things to Remember:

**Ps. Park and parishioners worship in the Sanctuary every Sunday at 11:30.

Many Sundays the group shares a meal in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

**The SAI Center of Hartford uses the Sanctuary every Sunday, from 2:30-6:30 p.m. Classrooms in the education wing may also be used for instruction.

**Numerous community groups use our classrooms and the Fellowship Hall on a weekly and/or monthly basis. Please refer to the master calendar posted on our website for specific groups, times and spaces used.

Care for Creation

The Pollinator Garden



Health issues prevented a timely start for preparing the pollinator garden, which pushed it into July when the temperature was in the 90's. (End of whining.) This garden is critical to the lifecycle of the monarch butterfly. Monarchs fly north in May and June and spend the summer laying eggs, living only 2 weeks. This cycle of egg-laying and dying continues until the end of September when the last of the eggs are laid. The last batch of monarchs (the season's great- great-great-great grandchildren) fly south, some as far as Mexico, and live 6–8 weeks, giving them time to arrive at their winter home and lay more eggs. This makes the last summer generation the most important. It is critical that the habitat should not be disturbed during this period as St. Mark makes its final contribution to the declining monarch population. This is the last caterpillar I saw. It's probably safe to trample all over the garden in late September. Mind the flowers, please.



The Vegetable Garden

When Jan Frick became ill I also took on the vegetable garden. Two gardens in 90-degree weather was a bit much. (End of whining.) Linda Hilliard took over for a few weeks, and then I returned to perform the heavy duty chores. There is more to gardening than harvesting and photo ops.

Care for Creation - continued



Hundreds of aphids were removed using an organic soap solution.



A baking soda solution was used to remove and prevent blight.



Sadly, some squash plants did not make it.

The vegetable garden was supplemented with vegetables from the Ronald Kraatz vegetable garden, and there was an abundance of kale, herbs, eggplant, and peppers from the church garden. Many thanks to Dave Taylor for delivering the vegetables to MACC. (He volunteers at the soup kitchen on a weekly basis.) Many thanks also to Carol DeLuca for rescuing me by helping with the removal of weeds. Carol and I have also formed a partnership in the beautification of the parsonage flower beds.



Dave Taylor with a very heavy load.



Some of the Kraatz tomatoes.



Linda's granddaughter helping with the harvest.

Blessed be God who is our bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Eleanor Tunney

October & November

Birthdays and Anniversaries

October Birthdays

10/1 Matthew Putre
 10/4 Kate Obedzinski
 10/17 Fran Kreigenhofer
 10/21 Dave Taylor
 10/24 Charlie Gamer
 10/27 Dottie Marchhausen
 10/28 Eleanor Tunney
 10/30 Marianne Greissle

October Anniversaries

10/8 Leslie & Shaun O'Rourke

November Birthdays

11/5 Dave Rutz
 11/7 Elaine Zimmermann
 11/9 Aaron Fernandez Castro
 11/17 Santiago Fernandez Decker
 11/29 Thomas Krystopa, Jr.

November Anniversaries

11/1 Eleanor & Frederick Jacobs, Jr.
 11/4 Charlie & Betty Ann Gamer
 11/30 Richard & Susan Taff



★
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★
THANK
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★
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YOU
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★

Thank you to Eleanor Tunney for your tireless work on the St. Mark gardens and the parsonage grounds. It was wonderful to see all the birds, bees & butterflies in the pollinator garden!



Calumet's Fall Quilt Retreats

OCTOBER 26-29, 2026

NOVEMBER 1-4, 2026

NOVEMBER 4-6, 2026



Instructor Connie Wisneski will guide you through a work-shop beginning a new pattern. She'll make sure you know exactly what's what. Before you come to camp, Connie provides all the participants with the picture of the quilt, the particular supplies you'll need, and ways for you to ask any questions you have. You can come with a quilt that you're already working on come for the fellowship!



Scan the QR
code for
more info !



Calumet's Women's Weekend

NOVEMBER 6-8, 13-15 & 20-22, 2026



Each weekend has a different flavor even though all weekends have the same theme. Why? There is a different chaplain, different entertainment, a different community of women! But all of them are special and so loved by all who come and enjoy the time away.



Come enjoy breakfast buffets, yummy lunches and a special Saturday evening candlelight dinner, followed by evening entertainment. There will be yoga, massages, devotions, walking opportunities, craft time and nap time!



Scan the QR
code for
more info !





October 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				VRABE 01 11:00am VRABE 5:30pm SA Meeting 6:45pm	02 AA Central Valley 7:30pm	03 AA Meeting 8:00am
Worship 04 9:00am followed by Coffee Hour Korean Church 11:30am Sai Center 2:30pm Concert 4:30pm	VRABE 05 9:15am AA Freedom 6:30pm S. Anon Nutmeg 7:00pm	Matins 06 9:00am VRABE 11:00am W & M Mtg. 5:00pm VRABE 5:30pm	07 VRABE 9:15am Vespers 7:00pm	08 VRABE 11:00am VRABE 5:30pm SA Meeting 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm	09 AA Central Valley 7:30pm	10 AA Meeting 8:00am Sai Center Silent Retreat
Worship 11 9:00am followed by Coffee Hour Korean Church 11:30am Sai Center 2:30pm Bible Study 5:00pm	12 VRABE 9:15am AA Freedom 6:30pm S. Anon Nutmeg 7:00pm	13 Matins 9:00am VRABE 11:00am VRABE 5:30pm	14 VRABE 9:15am Vespers 7:00pm	15 VRABE 11:00am 5:30pm Lunch Bunch 12:30pm SA Meeting 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm Rapid Response 7:00pm	16 AA Central Valley 7:30pm	17 AA Meeting 8:00am
Worship 18 9:00am followed by Coffee Hour Korean Church 11:30am Sai Center 2:30pm Bible Study 5:00pm	VRABE 19 9:15am AA Freedom 6:30pm S. Anon Nutmeg 7:00pm	Matins 20 9:00am VRABE 11:00am VRABE 5:30pm	21 VRABE 9:15am Vespers 7:00pm Council 7:30pm	22 VRABE 11:00am VRABE 5:30pm SA Meeting 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm	23 AA Central Valley 7:30pm	24 AA Meeting 8:00am St. Mark Fall Clean-Up 9:00am Candidate & Member Meet & Greet 6:00pm
Reformation Sunday 25 Worship 8:30am followed by Congregation Meeting Korean Church 11:30am Sai Center 2:30pm Bible Study 5:00pm	26 VRABE 9:15am AA Freedom 6:30pm S. Anon Nutmeg 7:00pm	27 Matins 9:00am VRABE 11:00am VRABE 5:30pm	28 VRABE 9:15am Vespers 7:00pm Council 7:30pm	29 VRABE 11:00am VRABE 5:30pm SA Meeting 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm	30 AA Central Valley 7:30pm	31 AA Meeting 8:00am

Please see www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org for an updated calendar.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
01 <i>All Saints Day</i> Worship 9:00am followed by Coffee Hour Korean Church 11:30am Sai Center 2:30pm Bible Study 5:00pm	02 VRABE 9:15am AA Freedom 6:30pm S. Anon Nutmeg 7:00pm	03 <i>Election Day</i> Matins 9:00am	04 VRABE 9:15am Vespers 7:00pm	05 VRABE 11:00am 5:30pm SA Meeting 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm	06 AA Central Valley 7:30pm	14 AA Meeting 8:00am
08 Breakfast Church 8:30am Korean Church 11:30am Sai Center 2:30pm Bible Study 5:00pm	09 VRABE 9:15am AA Freedom 6:30pm S. Anon Nutmeg 7:00pm	10 Matins 9:00am VRABE 11:00am 5:30pm	11 VRABE 9:15am Vespers 7:00pm	12 VRABE 11:00am 5:30pm SA Meeting 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm	13 AA Central Valley 7:30pm	21 AA Meeting 8:00am
15 Worship 9:00am followed by Coffee Hour Korean Church 11:30am Sai Center 2:30pm Bible Study 5:00pm	16 VRABE 9:15am AA Freedom 6:30pm S. Anon Nutmeg 7:00pm	17 Matins 9:00am VRABE 11:00am 5:30pm	18 VRABE 9:15am Vespers 7:00pm Council 7:30pm	19 VRABE 11:00am 5:30pm Lunch Bunch 12:30pm SA Meeting 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm Rapid Response 7:00pm	20 AA Central Valley 7:30pm	28 AA Meeting 8:00am
22 Worship 9:00am followed by Coffee Hour Korean Church 11:30am Sai Center 2:30pm Bible Study 5:00pm	23 VRABE 9:15am AA Freedom 6:30pm S. Anon Nutmeg 7:00pm	24 Matins 9:00am VRABE 11:00am 5:30pm	25 VRABE 9:15am Vespers 7:00pm VRABE 9:15am	26 <i>Thanksgiving</i> SA Meeting 6:45pm	27 AA Central Valley 7:30pm	28 AA Meeting 8:00am
29 Worship 9:00am followed by Coffee Hour Korean Church 11:30am Sai Center 2:30pm Bible Study 5:00pm	30 VRABE 9:15am AA Freedom 6:30pm S. Anon Nutmeg 7:00pm	Come, for the dusk is our own; let us fare forth together, With a quiet delight in our hearts for the ripe, still, autumn weather, Through the rustling valley and wood and over the crisping meadow, Under a high-sprung sky, winnowed of mist and shadow. <i>From November Evening</i> by Lucy Maud Montgomery				



Saint Mark Congregation Council and Lay Leadership

Officers

President	Dave Obedzinski
Vice President	Ronald Kraatz
Secretary	Betsy Crayton
Treasurer	Linda Obedzinski
Financial Secretary	David Taylor

Members-at-large

Jule Beer
Jan Frick
Leslie O'Rourke
Carol Weber

StaffSupportCommittee

Andrea Clark
Mark Crayton
Mark Gresens (Chair)



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(860) 633-1188

email: ChurchOffice@SaintMarkGlastonbury.org

Website: www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/LutheranChurchofStMark

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/stmarkglastonbury

Interim Licensed Lay Minister - John Prosen

Minister of Music - Martin Smith

Office Manager - Ellen Topel Dougherty churchoffice@saintmarkglastonbury.org

Sexton - Dan Dickau

Ministers- The people of St. Mark

msmith568@att.net



The Lutheran Church of Saint Mark

in joy we share Christ's truth

75 Griswold Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Enter
his gates
with
thanksgiving...

Psalm 100:4



Visit The Lutheran Church of St. Mark Facebook page at
<https://www.facebook.com/lutheranchurchofstmark>
Stay current on photos and new events by "liking" us.

If you have a change in your email, phone or address,
please contact the Church Office, (860) 633-1188 or email:
ChurchOffice@SaintMarkGlastonbury.org



<http://www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org>
<http://www.NESynod.org>
<http://www.ELCA.org>