

NEWSLETTER



Saying Grace

In a recent essay, Washington Post columnist Michael Gerson said, it is often difficult to apply theological doctrines to public policy. But if there is one area where the teaching of the Christian faith is utterly clear, it is in the requirement to care for the vulnerable stranger. According to Hebrew scriptures: "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, you must not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born." In the New Testament, Jesus employs compassion for an abused, reviled foreigner (a Samaritan) as the test and definition of neighborly love. This points to the central calling of Christians to love God and love neighbor. It is no accident that Jesus drew upon the ancient Hebrew scriptures when asked what is the greater commandment. He knew that life flourishes when love is at the center; love for God and love for neighbor. What is at stake in the current crisis at the border of Mexico and the United States? Love is at stake - and this is why

Christians cannot be silent when children are separated from their parents and placed in detention centers as is current practice. Is it legal, is not the final question for Christians. The final question is whether it is in accord with love of God and love of neighbor. If a practice - such as the separating families - is against the love of neighbor then it must be fiercely opposed by the followers of Jesus who are called to love our neighbors. It is neither just, merciful nor kind to enact policies that will ensure long term harm to children and families. In fact, as Gerson reminds us, our scriptures call us to give special attention to the most vulnerable. Who is more vulnerable than a child fleeing with her parents from violence, poverty and danger? I hope that our prayers will align with practices to ensure a change in the laws, in order to protect the most vulnerable.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy



PRAY FOR OUR YOUTH
AND ADULTS WHO WILL
BE GROWING IN SPIRIT
AND SERVICE THIS
SUMMER!

Appalachia Service Project: Jack Karakashian, Olivia Kaufmann, Brandt Kaufmann, Jeremiah Whitney, Nicole Bratton, Maggie Welsh, George Casper, Estelle Casper, Keith Eaton, Emily Eaton, Anna Cappellina, Rhiannon Hill. Adult leaders: Diane Wirono, Stewart Edwards, Brent Shoemaker, Amie Gribbins, Jocelyn Callister, Sarah Rosemond (wife of Brook Shoemaker)

Montreat Youth Conference: Jack Karakashian, Maggie Welsh, Olivia Kaufmann, Brandt Kaufmann, Seta Whitney, Jeremiah Whitney, Hannah Haledjian, Rhiannon Hill. Adult leaders: Stewart Edwards, Katry Harris, Diane Wirono

Mission @ Massanetta (middle school mission trip): Luke Welsh, Elena Laguna, Casey Kenreich, Elizabeth Lai, Mari Clark, Matthew Cappellina, Zach Haledjian, Lucas Alexander-Moak, Isaac Gilchrist, Sofia Turkman, Yoko Carbera. Adult leaders: Scot Clark, Bebel Delgado



WORSHIP SCHEDULE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2

One service at 10:00 am.
One Room Church School for
ages 4-3rd grade.
Nursery care will still be
provided.





LEGACY 3 CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We began the Legacy Campaign 3 with a goal of \$350,00 to grow our roots in Christ and secure God's House for the future. That goal included a tithe of 10% toward mission to help our neighbors. We embarked with faith in God and confidence in your generosity and support for our congregation.

On behalf of the Legacy Campaign 3 team and the session, with gladness and gratitude I am happy to report to you today, that we have received \$370,675 in pledges over a three year period. Thank you! Thank you! It's a marvelous response to the grace of God in our lives and the work of the Holy Spirit.

- Pastor Roy

ONE ROOM CHURCH SCHOOL

We are once again asking for volunteers to lead a few One Room Sunday School classes this summer. For those of you who may be new to Saint Mark, there is no Children's Sunday School from Memorial Day to Labor Day. During this time, One Room



Sunday School occurs on all Sundays as long as we have a volunteer to lead. One Room is for all children ages 4 - Third Grade. The children join us for worship and then depart prior to the sermon and return before the benediction. We will be using a similar curriculum as last year. Please review the available dates and sign-up on-line at:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0A48ADAA2CA0FC1-onerom1



WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY?

This summer, the Library Ministry Team will be busy with several projects in our Saint Mark Library. We will focus on reviewing our children's collection and on general collection development. In addition, we will highlight a variety of different topics over the coming weeks. Please make sure to stop by the library frequently throughout the summer months and check-out books for your summer reading enjoyment.

- The Library Ministry Team



CHOIR UPDATE

Summer Choir If you'd like to sing in the choir, but can't commit to weekly rehearsals, then perhaps you'll consider summer choir. We only meet briefly before the 10am service each Sunday to rehearse for that service. We won't sing an anthem, but rather, help teach new hymns, or add harmony, or simply provide strong leadership for the congregation.

Chancel Choir will resume it's fall schedule Thursday, Sept. 6. New members will be loved and appreciated!

Contact Jeff with questions:
jeffdmusic@gmail.com



NOTES FROM THE SESSION

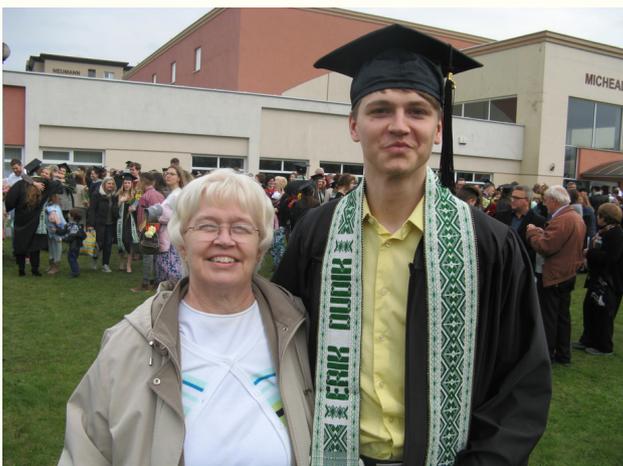
(Quill of the Clerk is what we used to call this column)

In our May meeting, the Session continued preparations for 1:1 meetings with Saint Mark members that will begin in the fall. The intent of these meetings is getting connected with each other on a deeper level.

The Session voted to approve the disbursement of the remaining Saint Mark House funds of \$19500 to Family Services for the purpose of upgrading their IT infrastructure.

More information on Family Services is available at www.fs-inc.org.

The Session was happy to receive 8 new members and 3 confirmands in May.



UPDATE FROM PERSONNEL MINISTRY TEAM

The session and the ministry teams have been working over the last several months, with our pastors, to work out details for Pastor Roy's vacation and Pastor Shelby's maternity leave. Shelby will be on maternity leave from the end of July through the middle of October (approximately).

If you have a pastoral concern during this time, the first step would be to call the main office and speak with Christina Stefanelli.

Any questions you may have can be directed to Lyn Hill, of the Personnel Ministry team.



GLOBAL MISSION MINISTRY UPDATE

Becky and Eric Hinderliter are pictured at the LCC International University 2018 graduation with Erik D. Eric Hinderliter had returned to teach an economics course for the spring semester. Becky and Eric are retired PCUSA co mission workers who taught and mentored students at LCC for 15 years and were generously supported by Saint Mark through Global Mission. Erik D is a student Saint Mark has supported through scholarships since he was a freshman. Erik is from Ukraine and graduated as a business administration major. Erik was on the soccer team at LCC. He plans to work at a Bible camp in Vilnius and then return to Ukraine where his father is a pastor. As with many students from this part of the world, plans after graduation are uncertain just now.



and leadership awards. Since then he obtained a MS in finance from the Simon School of Business at the University of Rochester, N.Y. in May 2017. He now works as an analyst for Citi Bank.

Valeriya B from Ukraine, graduated from LCC in April 2017 where she was vice president of the LCC Student Council. She now works as a project assistant for the European Youth Parliament in Berlin.

AN UPDATE ON OTHER SM SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS:

Vitalija S graduated from LCC in 2016 with a degree in business and obtained best Economics thesis