

How Beautiful Are the Feet

Sharing our faith is one of the most important things we are called to do as God's people. When we share our faith we do so in the context of our own story, our own life. Faith stories encourage, build up, give hope, convey love and express gratitude. They help to build relationships with one another and, in doing so, help to build and strengthen the community of faith. They direct our attention beyond ourselves and to the resurrected and living Lord Jesus.

This month we are beginning a series called "How Beautiful Are the Feet." It is inspired by Romans 10.

St. Paul writes, "For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

Each month a different person in the congregation will "bring the good news" in the form of their faith story—at least part of it. As you read their story you may come to know them a little better. Through their testimony of God's active presence in their life, you may come to know God better, too.

This month we hear from **Jackie Carmack**. Thank you, Jackie, for bringing this good news! Jackie says:

My faith journey began in a very unorthodox manner. I never saw either of my parents in church, but I do remember seeing my mother reading from a Bible off and on. I spent summers with my grandmother who lived in the country and we attended a Methodist church.



Jackie Carmack

When I was about 11 yrs. old, and had taken piano lessons for 2 years, and the pianist was absent, Grandmother would offer my services. Since "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" was the only song I knew...the congregation would sing that hymn three times.

My aunt took me to Virginia Heights Baptist Church with her from time to time and on one occasion I was attending evening services after a Baptist Young People Meeting. I was sitting in back of the church with a group of kids about my age when the minister called for anyone who would like to join this church to come forward. The other kids dared me to go up front. Me, never to turn down a dare walked down the aisle. On our way home that night my aunt said, "Do you know what you did tonight?" This was the beginning of my faith journey.

The day of my baptism, I was really scared because I was to be immersed in water and I had always been afraid of having my head covered with water. As I descended the three or four steps, and as the water touched my skin, I have never felt such calm. I have re-

membered that feeling all these years as I felt God's presence in my life.

Throughout the years I have continued to know God's presence and raised my own children to know it, too. From the evening of Nov. 23, 1949 when I walked out of St. Mark's Church (newly married), we were the nucleus of a family who would fill up a whole pew on Sunday morning. We attended Sunday School and as the years passed by I held every leadership position in the church, starting with Luther League leader, all committees at one time or another; including property and President of Council. While my husband travelled in his job, I was busy being a full-time mom and a devoted member of our church. God led me where he wanted me to go. I depended on him, my faith grew and grew.

From this vantage point of 92 years old, I am so glad that God has led me to this promised land...I am so happy, I have no worries, I don't want for anything. I have my big happy family consisting of five children, eleven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and seven in-laws. And to show that my cup runneth over, I have 200 plus friends, neighbors, and staff at Brandon Oaks who show their love every day. I start my day with devotions, thanking God for being my rock, Jesus Christ for being my fortress and the Holy Spirit for being my guide. My prayer ends with "I lift my eyes to the hills from which cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth. He will not suffer your foot to be moved, he will neither slumber nor sleep."

My faith continues to grow because I know God is in charge!



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday will be Sunday, September 9, 2018. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

This year, we have organized a service project for our congregation with **Lutheran Family Services of Virginia**, called **Birthday-in-a-Basket**. LFSVA has a need for birthday baskets for their adult program. The adult program provides group homes for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities who are 18 years or older with a caring environment for individuals to thrive! Currently, they have a total of 28 individuals living in group homes in Roanoke, Salem, Bedford, and Amherst that would really benefit from the Birthday-in-a-Basket project.

We will be assembling Birthday Baskets for Lutheran Family Services after the church service on Sunday, September 9th during a Birthday themed party in the Fellowship Hall. Baskets and all of the remaining items such as decorations, party favors, etc. will be provided to fill up the baskets.

Monday, September 17th @ 9:00am Lutheran Family Services Group Home Tour & Delivery of Birthday Baskets. Leah Shank, Development Coordinator with Lutheran Family Services will be at St. Mark’s on Monday, September 17th @ 9:00am to pick up the Birthday Baskets from “God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday. After loading the baskets, we will head out with Leah, to visit a LFS Group Home in Roanoke. We will have the opportunity to learn more about their program while delivering several of the baskets to Group Home residents in Roanoke. Please meet at St. Mark’s at 9:00am on 9/17 if you would like to participate.



Fall Fun Day

When: Sunday, September 30 from 12:00 noon—3:00 PM

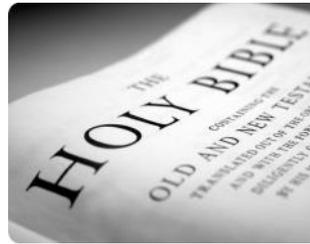
What: St. Mark's annual fun day for the whole family is soon approaching. Invite your friends and neighbors for bounce houses, food, and games. Volunteer helpers will be appreciated! Speak with Jen Armentrout for more information.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation for youth in grades 6—8 will begin on Sunday, September 23 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the ACT classroom.

Confirmation Participants should bring a bible (any bible that you will actually read will do!), energy and an open mind. We will be partnering with the confirmation youth from St. Philip Lutheran to make our time together even more fun! Speak with Pastor Armentrout if you have any ques-

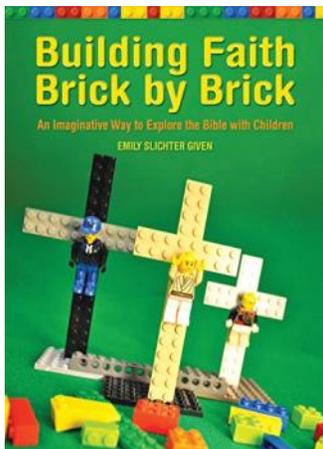


MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Monday-morning Bible Study will resume on Monday, September 10th at 10:00 a.m. in the library.

We gather to read and discuss the scripture lessons for the coming

Sunday. Feel free to take some time on Monday mornings for scripture, prayer, and fellowship. Speak with Pastor Armentrout for more information.



BUILDING FAITH BRICK BY BRICK: A CREATIVE WAY TO EXPLORE THE BIBLE WITH CHILDREN

We are using a new Sunday School program this year called "Building Faith Brick by Brick." This is an educational program which helps kids learn the stories of our faith and tell them in fun and creative ways. The creator of the program, Emily Slichter Given, tells the story of one child, Riley.

She writes, "There is always that story, that child, who shows us the face of God. For me that person is Riley (5 years). Riley struggled with creating anything related to the story and had a one-track mind that only wanted to pray for dead dinosaurs. After five weeks of disconnect, something remarkable happened. We gathered as a group for prayer, storytelling, and reflection on the building questions. We looked at suggested images—as we often did—but this time something was wholly and holy different. Riley worked and worked, digging deep into his bucket, clearly on a mission. When it came time to display and discuss his work with me, he proudly

presented a tiny creation consisting of three LEGO® pieces. It looked like a tiny clam shell with a single LEGO® figure nestled inside. After five long weeks, Riley slowly spoke the wisdom of the ages, 'It is Jonah. The big fish wasn't angry. The fish was a helper. This is Jonah and the whale. He was waiting. Waiting for God. Sometimes you need to wait for God, Ms. Emily.' I was standing in the presence of a pint-size prophet. The Word of God revealed itself in a few plastic pieces. It can happen anywhere if we are willing to show up, be present to our children and wait for God."

What do we need from you? **LEGOS®!** Do you have LEGOS® that you would like to donate? If so, please bring them and leave them in the first floor classroom across from the restrooms.



Kick-off Sunday School Potluck Picnic for **every-one** after worship on September 16th. Dress casual and be prepared to sit outside (weather permitting).

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SIMPLY GIVING®

We continue to offer electronic fund transfers as an alternative to using your offering envelopes on Sunday. Participants may specify that offerings be transferred weekly on Monday or monthly on the 1 or 15.

Making electronic payments can be a helpful way to keep your giving current especially when you are able to be present for worship.

The program is free to participants and the church. Member enrollment forms for new participants are available in the church office.

Those already participating do not need to complete another enrollment form, but should notify Financial Administrator Kathy Bryant if they wish to make any changes to their current giving.

Strong Start Envelopes:

Everyone is encouraged to use the Strong Start for Mission envelope to help our ministries have a great start at the beginning of the year. Our goal is to have 100, generous \$52 gifts.

We are reminded that regular use of offering envelopes assists the financial secretaries with their record keeping. Those who give electronically are reminded of the special offering envelopes throughout the year.

GENERAL INFORMATION



Did you know? That you can donate to the church just by using your Kroger Plus Shopper's Card. Go to kroger.com to sign up today.

Kroger Community Rewards -Giving More Back to the Community!
Kroger is committed to helping our communities grow and prosper. Year after year, local schools, churches and other nonprofit organizations will earn millions of dollars through Kroger Community Rewards. Kroger Community Rewards makes fund-raising easy.. All you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! Sign In or Create an Account to Enroll. Once signed in you can enroll or update your Community Rewards under your Account Settings.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

For October are due in the church office by Wednesday, September 19. Please submit articles by email (preferably) or in written form!

THANK YOU NOTES!!!

—To Pastor James, and all St. Mark's Members: Thank you for all the cards, calls, and visits to me. You all are and will remain in my thoughts and prayers. I cannot express how much my church family means to me, Much love to all!!!! Dorothy Lord

—A HUGE THANK YOU to Loretta Barnard, Howard Barnard, Betty Burrows, Carol Jensen, Suzy Bunnell, Charlotte Scholz, and Nan Keenan for helping with the newsletter and for volunteering in the church office,. Your help is very much appreciated!!! Kathy Bryant, Office Administrator, St. Mark's

September Baptismal Anniversaries

We give thanks to God for the gift of new life through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. In September we give thanks and celebrate with:



9/11 Rilee Rodgers
 9/15 Laura Bolton
 9/17 Emma Pillis
 9/18 Teddy Dyer
 9/21 Audrey Belcher



September Birthdays

Members of St. Mark's family celebrating birthdays in September are:

9/2	Pastor Armentrout	9/15	Janet Natt
9/6	Susy Bubnell	9/17	George Arthur Emma Pillis
9/8	Marilyn Holzschuh Charlotte Sieber	9/19	Carol Jensen
9/12	Linda Anderson Caroline Sink	9/22	Jean Weber
9/13	Isabella Wray Kathy Bryant	9/23	Sidney Miller Lauren Quesinberry
		9/24	Ricki Painter
		9/26	Joel Ugochukwu
		9/27	Kelsey Gentry Chi Chi Ugochukwu

WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES

Worship Leaders for September

Date	Acolyte	Crucifer	Communion Assistant	Lector	Greeter	Coffee Hour
Sept. 2	Lebron Parsell	Caleb Anders	Tim Jones	Connie Parsell	Herb & Charlotte Scholz	Nan Keenan
Sept. 9	Ben Armentrout	Haley Merritt	Lois Ashby	Jennifer Armentrout	George Kegley	Brad & Lauren McDaniel
Sept. 16	Luke Anders	Eric Armentrout	Patti Mills	Virginia Ertz	Becky Whisnant & Barbara McLelland	Jean Weber
Sept. 23	Berkley Wray	Trinity House	Connie Parsell	Eric Mills	Sue Nutter	Ginny McLelland & Pat Gibbs
Sept. 30	Jonah Trout	Abby Trout	Teresa Stowasser	Nan Keenan	Youth	Youth

We return to the fall worship schedule on Sunday, September 9.
 Worship at 11:00 am

OUTREACH OUTLOOK



manna boxes

Our New Feeding Ministry Has Begun

Manna Boxes is the new feeding ministry of St. Mark's in partnership with Feeding America Southwest Virginia and the Roanoke City Police Department to provide temporary, non-perishable food items to individuals or family units.

As Roanoke's first responders; fire, police, EMS personnel respond to calls and encounter individuals or families without food or the means to get it—particularly in the middle of the night—a pre-prepared Manna Box will be delivered to that home within hours providing a measure of food to temporarily sustain the recipient(s) until they can connect with social service agencies to get the long-term help they need.

The great news is that the first Manna Box has gone out! The greater news is that you can be a part of this fantastic ministry. Feeding American Southwest Virginia is providing canned lunch & dinner items for the Manna Boxes. Your food donations of the following would be very helpful:

- shelf-stable milk / milk substitutes
- unsweetened apple sauce or other fruit cups
- Dried fruit cups
- Whole grain, low-sugar cold cereals, Corn Flakes, Cheerios
- Peanut butter or other nut butters
- Pop tarts or other breakfast bars
- Vienna sausages

HELPFUL TIPS:

- ⇒ Canned food with pop-top lids are better than those which require a can opener
- ⇒ Avoid food packaged in glass
- ⇒ Do not donate food which is past the expiration date.

THE FOOD PANTRY

During the month of August, the Food Pantry distributed food to feed 220 individuals. Thank you to the August volunteers:

Caleb, Scott, Luke, McKinley, Melissa, Ralph and Sandy Anders, Clara Chitty, Laura Bolton, Suzy Bubnell, Judy Adkins, George Kegley, and Martha Eddleman and Connie Watkins.

THE CLOTHES CLOSET

During the month of August the Clothes Closet provided clothing to a total of 65 (7

new) individuals. Thank you to the August Clothes Closet volunteers: **Sonny & Charlotte Scholz, Suzy Bubnell, Shirley Dyer, Melissa Anders, Kathron Richards, Gail & Sid Scott, and Martha Eddleman.**

Special Thanks to: George Kegley, Wanda & Jim Rettinger, Ralph, Sandy, Caleb and Luke Anders, and Connie Watkins for picking up food from the food bank and delivering it to St. Mark's Food Pantry in August.

IN THE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

PRAYER MATTERS

The following individuals and families were named in prayer in worship during August. Let us continue to keep them in prayer. We pray: O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers and grant to your servants the help of your power that they may experience the healing power of your Holy Spirit. We pray for: **Russell & Nancy Dyer, Norman, Butch, Mike & Brittani, Sidney & Wanda Miller, Shirley Aynes, Teresa Kincer,**

David, Shawn & Alma & Shawn Wertz, and Allison Dudley, Steve Tomason, Marilyn Holzschuh, Maggie Nelson, Jonathon Ugochukwu, Blake Medding, Neil, Shirley Simmons, Brain Sledd, Tom & Jean, Beth, Eddie Watkins, Kimberly Franklin, Sue, Frances, Ron Adkins, The Family of Bill Hayden, Harlee King, Carol Schmauder, Leigh Colls, Jamie Jackson, Courtney Gravely, Timothy Wright, Edith Reese, Casey & Jamie Prasser, Ann, The Family of Jackie & Lee Williams, Family of Loise Reese, Family of Paul Wittenbraker, Lenore Trout, Cindy Young, Tom Oliver, Dax and Sheri Carter, Johann Kraker, Lori Lass, kara, Jeff Howard, Lavonia Craft and Family, Glen, Sam Kozicky, Catherine, Nathan Peters, Mikel and Kaely, Mike Whiteside, John Holt, Cecil Woolwine, Dedi Spradlin, Family of Sue Ogier, Dylan Davis, Lisa Mayfield, Maria Urbina, Sharon Huff, Dorothy Lord, The Overstreet Family, Sonja, Lori Ratliff and Mark Huff, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.