



Founded on the Word ... Focused on the Cross

Glorify God, Grow in Grace, Go with the Gospel

St. Mark's Lutheran Weekly Newsletter December 5, 2021

Ponder This For A Moment

"Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself ... Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down" Proverbs 26. Read through the rest of chapter 26 for more intense words having to do with gossip and fools.

From God's Yellow Pages

Spiritual guidance direct from God – let your fingers do the walking through the Bible ...

This Week – Afraid ... Psalm 34:4; Matthew 10:28; 2 Timothy 1:7; Hebrews 13:5,6.

Sunday Morning Worship

8:00* (also live streamed) & 10:45 AM

Monday Worship resumes on Jan 10

*Note: Due to the School's Christmas Service on December 12, the 8:00 AM Service will begin at **8:30 AM**

Upcoming Special Worship Services

Midweek Advent: December 8 & 15 at 6:30 PM
(Supper each week starts at 5:30 PM)

School Christmas Service, 12/12: **8:30** & 10:45

Christmas Eve: 5:00 PM (indoors), 8:00 PM*

Christmas Day: 10:30 AM with Holy Communion

New Year's Eve: 5:00 PM with Holy Communion

* Christmas Eve planned for outdoors, weather permitting, bring your own chair

Purpose Of The Advent Candles

The Advent wreath and the candles are for the purpose of preparation and focus, focusing our minds and hearts on the true meaning of Christmas. The first candle (blue) is the prophecy candle (candle of hope), symbolizing the Old Testament prophecies of the coming of the Savior (Genesis 3:1-15; Romans 15:12-13).

The second candle (blue) is the Bethlehem candle (candle of preparation), symbolizing the coming on earth of Jesus (Isaiah 40:1-11; Luke 3:4-6). The third candle (pink) is the Shepherd candle (candle of joy), symbolizing the coming of the Savior into our hearts and life through the Word (Jeremiah 23:3-8; Luke 2:7-15). The fourth candle (blue) is the Angel candle (candle of love), symbolizing the final coming of the Savior in glory for the judgment (Isaiah 9:1-6; Luke 2:10b-11). The fifth candle (white) is the Christ candle, symbolizing the fulfillment of prophecy concerning Jesus the Savior (Jn 1:29).

Hymns Part Of The New Hymnal

Lamb of God, pure and holy ... Let all things now living ... Let me be yours forever ... Let us all with gladsome voice ... Lift high the cross ... Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's head ... Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word ... Lord of glory you have bought us ... Lord, take my hand and lead me ... Lord, thee I love with all my heart ... Lord, to you I make confession ... Lord, when your glory I shall see ... Love in Christ is strong and living

Teacher Calls Update

On Sunday, November 28, we extended two Teacher Calls: Andrea (Michael) Baird from Christ-St. Peter School in Milwaukee, WI was called for Kindergarten and April (Ian) Schaefer from Mt Olive School in Appleton, WI was called for JrK. Please keep these Ladies and their families in your prayers.

Keep In Prayer

Fumiko Stark, medical tests; the following for healing of body, recent medical attention needed: Mary Bartelt, Helen Bishop, Barb

Gunter, Ed Hartog, Susan Kroner, Gail Verthein,
Greg Wiese

Christmas Wreath Pickup

If you ordered a fresh Christmas Wreath, it will be available for pickup on Dec 5th in the Library.

Community Connections Event

On December 18 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM we will be lighting up the Campus as part of our Christmas celebration and the community is invited so pass the word. The event is our 'Nativity Drive Through' as people can stay in their vehicles, enjoy a cup of coffee or hot chocolate while seeing and hearing the Christmas Story. We will be collecting canned food and other items which our area Food Pantries can use. Mark your calendar. *Think about who you would like to invite to drive through our campus and celebrate Christmas with us. Invites are available in the church Lobby, or direct them to our website.*

A Friendly Reminder For This Sunday

The California International Marathon is scheduled to take place on Sunday, December 5. Please plan your drive to Worship Services that day accordingly, in particular for those south of Oak Ave and east of Fair Oaks Blvd. Typically Greenback closes at 6:55 and Madison at 7:15.

New Starting Point in January

If you would like to review the basics of our Christian faith, or if you would like to invite someone to become familiar with our ministry, we will be offering a new Starting Point Session (BIC) starting Tuesday, January 11th, at 6:30 PM. Weekly Sessions will go until 8:00 PM. Contact Pastor K if you have questions.

Celebration Of Ministry Save The Date

We are blessed to have a vibrant ministry here at St. Mark's. God's mercies among us can be seen on a daily basis. This mercy includes the opportunity to partner together in order to

carry out our purpose as a church: to build up one another in our relationship with Jesus, and to share 'our' Jesus in a variety of ways with the Community. A special celebration of our ministry is scheduled for Sunday, February 20th. Various ministry opportunities will be highlighted throughout the Campus. God be praised!

NwP2 Update

Our ten-year goal (2021-2030) to eliminate our Mortgage (\$770,000 as of 12/2020), to establish and maintain a Tuition Assistance Fund, and to prepare for Campus Improvement Projects is bearing fruit thanks to God's generosity through you. So far in 2021 we have received just over \$134,000 in gifts for NwP2, plus we have received special gifts for a specific purpose of NwP2. Our Mortgage currently is at \$694,000 ... we have been adding to the principal each month, reducing the monthly interest owed. Our TAF has been blessed to date with over \$83,000 in gifts, \$46,500 of this is being applied to families for the 2021-22 School Year (our goal is to start each School Year with at least \$50,000 in the Fund). Over \$38,000 has been given toward Campus Improvements, and just in time as we have had some unanticipated but necessary improvements to make (ex: repair of the Glulams / church outside Columns), along with anticipated projects such as resurfacing the parking lot and new HVAC for Building 3. To God be the glory as we focus on being good managers of His gifts to us.

Men's Conference In AZ

The first annual Arizona/California *Men of His Word conference* will be held on Saturday, **January 22, 2022, in Phoenix, AZ.** The theme is "More than Conquerors." Please join us for a day of fellowship, encouragement, worship, and learning. Breakfast and lunch are included. A keynote speaker kicks off the conference, and you'll be able to choose from 8 different breakout sessions. The conference is open to all

men who would like to grow spiritually, be inspired by God's Word, and fellowship with Christian brothers from the Southwest. For more information, or to buy tickets for the event, visit <https://www.MenofHisWord.org/2022-phenix.html>

(Local Men's Conference tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2022 at St. Mark's)

SMYBL Registration

Registration is open for the St. Mark's Youth Basketball League (SMYBL). Boys and girls from Kindergarten through Grade 2 are eligible to participate in this youth basketball program held on weekends in January and February. More information about SMYBL can be found at school.stmarkslutheran.com/SMYBL. If you have questions, contact Mr. Wahl.

How To Make A Donation Of Stock

People have asked if it is possible to give a gift of Stock or Equities to help support the ministry of St. Mark's. The answer is "Yes." If interested, please consult with your Financial Planner or Broker on what is needed on your end to do this; also, please speak with Mr. Chuck Klunker or Pastor Kolander to receive the information your Broker needs from St. Mark's to help simplify the transaction.

SCRIP Can Help With Your Gifting

With Christmas shopping on the minds of many and if you are looking for gift cards to share, consider buying the cards through our Scrip program. At no added cost or deduction from the card value, St. Mark's School benefits from such purchases of Scrip. For a list of Vendors included in the Scrip program, contact Stacie or Linda in our office.

Ministry Financial Plan Update

Offerings received since July 1, 2021: \$261,839
Goal for July 2021 – December 2021: \$300,000

River City Chorale Concert

The River City Chorale will be at St. Mark's on Sunday, December 5th at 4:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased by going to the RiverCityChorale.org (go to the link "Concerts") or at the door the day of the Concert (price of ticket higher at the door). Please note this from the RCC website: *In order to protect our patrons, staff, and performers from the current substantial transmission rate of Covid-19 in Sacramento County, the River City Chorale has instituted the following requirements for our live concerts; these are subject to revision as we get closer to those dates. All performers and staff must be vaccinated. Before entering the concert venue, patrons must show photo ID and vaccination card/phone copy or documentation of a negative Covid test within the last 72 hours. All patrons, staff and performers must wear masks indoors. Thank you for your cooperation with these safeguards. After two years, we are certainly looking forward to seeing you at our 2021 Holiday Concert!*

Something Else To Think About

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" ... CW # 55 ... John Francis Wade copied manuscripts by hand. This Song was first written in Latin and then translated into English. Once the Duke of Leeds heard it ... well, the rest is history. What words of this Song resonate with you?



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