



Founded on the Word ... Focused on the Cross

**Glorify God, Grow in Grace, Go with the Gospel**

## St. Mark's Lutheran Weekly Newsletter

**September 25, 2022**

### **Ponder This For A Moment**

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters" Psalm 24:1-2. *When is the last time you have given thanks to God for what you think you made possible to possess?*

### **Sunday Morning Glorify & Grow**

8:00\* & 10:45 Worship (\*livestreamed)

9:15 Sunday School (meet in Chapel)

9:30 Bible Discussion for Teens / All Ages

09/26, Monday Worship, 6:30 PM (the Chapel)

*On Sunday, October 2, we welcome Pastor Joel Nitz as he will be sharing God's Word with us during the Worship Service and during the Bible Study Hour. He had been serving as a Pastor in Olympia, WA. Recently he accepted the Call to be our WELS World Missionary in Vietnam. This is an exciting opportunity the Lord has opened up to us and we will be able to hear firsthand what his work will entail, along with what led to this opportunity.*

### **Scripture Readings for October 2**

Isaiah 52:7-10

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

Luke 15:1-10

### **From God's Yellow Pages**

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

***This Week – Forgiveness ...***

Mark 11:25-26, Ephesians 4:31-32

### **Sunday Bible Study**

We are wrapping up 'Lifestyle Witnessing' on September 25, keeping in mind this style of witnessing Christ is not optional.

Starting in October ... What document best summarizes the most important doctrinal positions of the Lutheran Church? Many would choose Luther's 95 theses, written in 1517. The theses, though they are powerful statements of protest against Roman Catholic errors, are more of a starting point for the Lutheran Reformation of the 1500s. They narrowly address issues related to the sale of indulgences, purgatory, and work-righteousness. The Augsburg Confession, however, written in 1530, does much more. The Augsburg Confession is a unique summary of Lutheran beliefs carefully prepared by leading theologians. At the Diet of Augsburg it was read and presented to Emperor Charles V from the German princes as a statement of Biblical truth and a proposal for unity in the Christian faith. Dr. Gregory Bruck, representing the German princes, then said, "Most gracious Emperor, this is a Confession that will even prevail against the gates of hell, with the grace and help of God." The Augsburg Confession became the main statement of belief for the Evangelical Lutheran Church. It has never been withdrawn. On October 9 and continuing through November, we will study and discuss the history, the contents, and the importance of the Augsburg Confession. Through this study we will examine the important features of the Confession and many of its 28 articles. Some of these include our Church's position on Original Sin (II), Justification (IV and V), the Church (VII and VIII),

Baptism and The Lord's Supper (IX and X), Confession and Repentance (IX and X), and much more. You are invited to join us to have your faith strengthened by meditation and discussion of the truths of God's Word.

### **Prayer Warriors**

*"Christians, while on earth abiding, let us never cease to pray... (CW 408).* Give thanks for the rain we have received. Pray for those impacted by storms out in the Atlantic, and elsewhere. Ask the Lord to prosper the WELS effort to open 100 new missions over the next 10 years while being able to enhance 75 ministries as we look forward to the WELS 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025.

### **WELS Women's Retreat 2023**

A WELS women weekend is scheduled for January 20-22 at Mt. Hermon in the Santa Cruz mountains. This retreat, hosted by the women of Apostles Lutheran Church in San Jose, will allow us to join with others from the NorCal/NV area to feed on God's Word. Guest Speaker: Kristi Meyer, a Professor at WI Lutheran College. Details and registration forms will be available on the Information Shelf in the church Lobby.

### **LWMS Corner – Missions & You**

LWMS Mission box offerings will be collected every Sunday in Sept. for our offerings to be sent for the Fall Rally collection. If you wish to write a check, please make it payable to: Ladies Mission Society. Thank you for your continued generous support of our special projects that support our missionaries.

*Spiritual Darkness To Light* is the theme for the LWMS Redwood Circuit Fall Rally, Saturday, October 15 at Christ Lutheran Church in Lodi. Sign up by *October 2* at the LWMS bulletin board. Guest speakers are Gary and Beth Evans, Central Africa Medical Mission. Continental breakfast is 8:45 to 10:00 AM. Rally is 10 AM to 3 PM including worship, business, Bible study,

and lunch. Medical mission pictures from the 59<sup>th</sup> LWMS Annual Convention in Rochester, NY are on the shelf.

*Befriend A Mission* is a 2-year assignment program in which we remember our home and world missions/missionaries on special occasions and any time. Our home mission assignment is Grace Hmong Lutheran Church in Kansas City. Rev. Ger Lor is pastor. His birthday is September 28. If you would like to send a card and message, his address is 5104 Garfield Ave. Kansas City, KS 66102. For more info on Grace Hmong Lutheran Church, go to their website.

### **Community Connection Events**

If you will be attending 'Sunday Funday' at Rusch Park on September 25, check out our St. Mark's School setup. If you would like to help with this recruitment effort, contact our Vice-Principal, Tyler Wahl.

Our next big on-campus community connection event is scheduled for **Saturday, October 8**. This is our friendly Cook-off Event. **At this point save the date, and if interested in entering the 'cook-off' competition you can check out the details on our website under 'Connect ... Special Events.'** **If you are interested in volunteering, contact Erin Donoho at churchadm@stmarkslutheran.com.**

School Recruitment Event, October 28 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM ... This event is open to the public, is advertised in our community, and is very well attended. Last year we had about 400 people on our campus! This is a great way for people of our community to learn more about our church and school! There are two different ways you can help! The first: bring your vehicle, decorated or not, and pass out candy (sign up at schooladm@stmarkslutheran.com); the second: donate a bag or two of candy (donations can be dropped off at the office during the day Monday

through Friday or on Sunday mornings). This year we will be giving away an AMAZON FIRE HD8 to the trunk/vehicle that is the best decorated.

Our Sierra Circuit WELS Churches will be having a special Reformation Service & Meal on October 30 at 4:00 PM, which will be held at St. Mark's.

#### **Live Nativity Coming In December**

If you would be interested in helping out with our annual Live Nativity, being one of the Characters presenting the Christmas Story or helping with set up and take down the day of the event, please let Erin Donoho know by emailing her at [churchadm@stmarkslutheran.com](mailto:churchadm@stmarkslutheran.com) or by calling the church office (916.961.7891 ... you can leave a message for Erin with Stacie).

#### **Ministry Financial Plan Update**

Offerings received since July 1, 2022: \$122,686  
Goal for July 2022–December 2022: \$300,000  
Mortgage Balance: \$628,000  
Lion's Legacy Endowment: \$46,555  
TAF: \$46,409 (after 22-23 Assist given) ... *Thank you – we have been able to offer \$80,000 in tuition assistance since we started the TAF in 2021*

#### **Dates/Events to keep in mind...**

*September 25, Sunday Funday at Rusch Pk*  
*October 8, Community Cook-off, 4-7 PM*  
*October 15, LWMS Rally in Lodi*  
*October 28, School Recruit Event, 6-8 PM*  
*October 30, Area Reformation Service, 4:00 PM*



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To connect to the auto giving option:



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