



Founded on the Word ... Focused on the Cross

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

## St. Mark's Lutheran Weekly Newsletter

**November 27, 2022**

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

"Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. <sup>5</sup> Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare" Psalm 40. *Are you seeing your 'glass' half empty or half full?*

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

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

No Sunday School on 11/27

9:30 Bible Discussion for Teens / All Ages

No Monday Worship until 01/09/2023

### **Scripture Readings for December 4**

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

### **Midweek Advent Worship**

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM (11/30, 12/07, 12/14)

Supper each week starts at 5:30 PM

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

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

*This Week – Humility ... Luke 18:9-14;*

*Philippians 2:3-11*

### **Sunday Bible Study ... Main Area**

Series on the Augsburg Confession ... This document is an excellent summary of the most important doctrinal positions of the Lutheran Church, and pivotal Reformation material. This Study concludes on 12/04.

### **Sunday Bible Study ... Teens**

The Apostle Paul has nothing in common with us; it is a different world. If that is what we think, then we definitely need to be engaged in this discussion of Romans. We meet in the Gathering Space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level of the church.

### **Prayer Warriors**

*"Christians, while on earth abiding, let us never cease to pray... (CW 408). God be praised for giving us hope, as well as a future, which can help us stay focused on what we need to focus on day after day because one day that next day is not going to come as it has. For God keeping His promises ... as we begin to zero in on Christmas once again – the promise in sending a Savior, Christ the Lord. Ask God to bless all our church/school activities (worship and events) coming up in the weeks ahead.*

### **Church Connect Events**

*ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT, Sunday, Nov. 27, at 6:00 PM in the church. Women and girls of all ages are invited to share "Five Little Words" – our Advent devotion theme this year. Invite friends to join you as we, together, prepare our hearts for Advent and Christmas. There is a sign-up sheet in the Lobby. Please sign up and indicate what you plan to bring and how you can assist with this year's program. Welcome in the new church year with your sisters in faith.*

*Brunch To Welcome New Members ... All Members are welcome to a Brunch on Sunday, December 11, starting at 9:15 AM in the MPC for the purpose of formally welcoming those who have joined our church Family in 2022. You are welcome to bring food to share (baked or*

bakery). If planning to attend, please sign the sheet in the Lobby or email Linda at [lhalfhill@stmarkslutheran.com](mailto:lhalfhill@stmarkslutheran.com). You can also let Linda know what food you are planning to bring.

*Chili Cook-Off Connect Event ...* Sunday, January 22 @ 12:30 PM in MPC. Join us in the cold of winter with some warm chili! The Chili Cook-off is a social event with an opportunity to showcase your favorite chili recipe. Bring your homemade traditional chili or give it a twist for interest, it's your choice! There will be plenty of space for the kids to play and we'll all vote for chili category winners. RSVP with Kaisa Miller, [miller.kaisa@gmail.com](mailto:miller.kaisa@gmail.com), so we have enough cornbread and salad!

#### **Community Connection Events**

*River City Chorale Concert ...* The River City Chorale will be at St. Mark's on December 3 & 4 at 4:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased by going to [rivercitychorale.org](http://rivercitychorale.org) (go to the link "Tickets") or at the door the day of the Concert (price of ticket higher at the door).

*Live Nativity Coming In December ...* Who are you thinking of inviting to this Event on our Campus? Direct people to our church website to learn more about it. We also are doing a food drive at this Event, so thank you ahead of time for your donation of canned goods to help keep our local food pantries supplied. Event is December 10, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

And ... *Do you or your family love to sing Christmas carols? Do you love to sing, but can't join the Sunday choir? **Join the Nativity 'angelic' choir!** We need members to sing during St. Mark's Live Nativity on December 10 from 5-7 PM. There's a sign-up sheet near the Women's Ministry and Lutheran Women's Missionary Society bulletin board in the Lobby.*

#### **LWMS Corner – Missions & You**

On the following Sundays you will have an opportunity to send a greeting to the three Missionaries assigned to our congregation to receive words of encouragement. Christmas Cards will be available for you to sign and write a brief message (if desired). November 27, December 4 and 11.

#### **Men's Rally in AZ**

The 2nd annual Arizona/California *Men of His Word conference* will be held on Saturday, **January 21, 2023, in Phoenix, AZ**. The conference theme is "**Man Up! In a man-down world.**" 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 want to grow spiritually, be inspired by God's Word, and fellowship with Christian brothers from the AZ/CA district. Last year we had 168 men registered from 9 states, representing 43 congregations. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.menofhisword.org/2023-phoenix.html>. **Early Bird discount pricing is now available.** (Note: The 2023 NorCal Men's 'Faith in Motion' Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 18 at St. Mark's.)

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

Offerings received since July 1, 2022: \$226,575  
Goal for July 2022–December 2022: \$300,000

#### **Don't Forget About Scrip**

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, our St. Mark's Tuition Assistance Fund benefits from such purchases of Scrip. For a list of Vendors included in the Scrip program, contact Linda or Stacie in our office.

**Dates/Events to keep in mind at St. Mark's ...**

*Nov 27, Advent by Candlelight, 6:00 PM*  
*Nov 30, midweek Advent supper, 5:30 PM*  
*Nov 30, midweek Advent worship 1, 6:30 PM*  
*Dec 1, Digging Deeper Discussion, 6:30 PM*  
*Dec 3, River City Chorale, 4:00 PM*  
*Dec 4, River City Chorale, 4:00 PM*  
*Dec 7, midweek Advent supper, 5:30 PM*  
*Dec 7, midweek Advent worship 2, 6:30 PM*  
*Dec 10, Live Nativity Event, 5:00-7:00 PM*  
*Dec 14, midweek Advent supper, 5:30 PM*  
*Dec 14, midweek Advent worship 3, 6:30 PM*  
*Dec 24, Christmas Eve Worship, 5:00 PM*  
*Dec 24, Christmas Eve Carols, 8:00 PM*  
*Dec 25, Christmas Day Worship, **9:30 AM***  
*Jan 1, New Year's Day Worship, **9:30 AM***

**A Friendly Planning Reminder ...** The California International Marathon is scheduled to take place on Sunday, December 4. 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.



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*To connect to the auto giving option:*



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