



Founded on the Word ... Focused on the Cross

Glorify God, Grow in Grace, Go with the Gospel

St. Mark's Lutheran Weekly Newsletter

March 24, 2024

Ponder This For A Moment

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" Proverbs 3. *The ways the Lord wants us to live are not complicated, what complicates them is what? See also 1 John 5:3.*

Glorify & Grow: Sunday March 24

8:00* & 10:45 Worship (*live streamed)

9:15 Sunday School (meet in Chapel)

9:30 Bible Discussion for Teens / All Ages

Monday Worship resumes April 8 at 6:30 PM

Scripture Readings for March 24 & 31

Palm Sunday / Easter Sunday

Zechariah 9:9-12 / Job 19:23-27

Hebrews 12:1-3 / 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Mark 11:1-10 / Mark 16:1-8

Holy Week Worship Services ... Maundy

Thursday (Jesus celebrates the Passover, He is arrested, He gives a command to love) with Holy Communion at 6:30 pm. Good Friday at 1:00 & 6:30 pm (late Service with the Seminary Chorus, Fellowship Meal starting at 5:00). Easter Sunday at 8:00 & 10:45 AM with Holy Communion. On Easter Sunday, from 9:15 to 10:30, we will be having a Pancake breakfast in our Multi-Purpose Center.

From God's Yellow Pages

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

This Week – Friends Fail ... Psalm 41:9-13; Luke 17:3-4; Romans 12:14,17,19,21

Growing in Grace Bible Studies

Sunday mornings ... We plan to wrap up discussion on one of the Apostle Paul's Prison

Letters, Philippians, under the theme – Joy in Christ even amidst the heartaches. There will not be Study on Easter Sunday. On April 7 we will be looking at 'Stewardship Gems.'

For our young ones - Sunday School starts out in our Chapel at 9:15 with the singing of a variety of songs (all ages invited to join in on the singing).

New Member Reception ... On April 7, in between the Services, we would like to welcome those who have joined our church family over the past few months. Enjoy the opportunity to get to know them and they you while eating tasty treats. *Also, this will be an opportunity for all Members to update 'your' picture for our church Directory.*

Prayer Warriors

"Christians, while on earth abiding, let us never cease to pray... (CW 408). Lord Jesus, you promised to comfort those who mourn and to satisfy those who hunger. In time of trial remind me of your cross, where you endured the curse of my sin. When I am weak, teach me to depend on you for strength. At your own time, deliver me from suffering and distress.

Seminary Choir Coming West ... The WELS Seminary Choir will be joining us for our Good Friday Worship Service on March 29 at 6:30 pm. While in our midst we will be providing them with a meal starting at 5:00 pm, this meal is open to our Congregation.

Connect Events ...

Easter Egg Hunt ... As we approach Easter, we're gearing up for our next Community Connection event, the annual Easter Egg Hunt. It'll be held on Saturday, March 30th from 10 am

to noon on the church & school grounds. We will be serving sandwiches, chips, and cookies for lunch, with funds provided through a Thrivent Action Grant. This is a big community event, so we're looking for some assistance from the congregation with both donations and volunteers. Donations include: small candies and toys (think Oriental Trading) to put in the plastic Easter Eggs (preferably not chocolate since that could melt if it's a warm day), and larger prizes to be handed out when the children find the special resurrection eggs. A large purple box is available in the Narthex for you to drop donations. Volunteer opportunities include: set-up (starting at 8 am), clean up (after noon) and helping with various tasks during the event. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please speak with Kaisa Miller or Cameron Rowe.

Easter Breakfast ... We are looking for food & volunteers for the Easter Breakfast on March 31st. The plan is to have a Pancake Breakfast with sausages (provided by St. Mark's), and we'd like members of the congregation to bring fruit, pastries and other breakfast items to share. Help with set-up, serving and clean-up would be appreciated. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please speak with Linda Halfhill or Cameron Rowe.

LWMS Corner – Missions & You

Redwood Circuit LWMS is April 20 at Good Shepherd in Vallejo. Sign up by April 7 on the sheet on the shelf under the bulletin board. At the rally we will be electing new officers to replace those who have completed their terms. Updating on wording of the current bylaws will be voted on. This will not change the meaning. See copy on the LWMS shelf.

Guest speaker is Pastor John Holz, serving in the Native American Mission in Arizona. Previously he had served in Zambia for 11 years and in Malawi for 14 years.

To send Easter greetings to our Befriend a Mission assignments, see pictures and addresses on the bulletin board. Home missionary is Pastor Lucas Callies in Iowa. World missionary is Pastor Daniel Kroll, Malawi.

Teacher Call Updates ... Kari Barksdale (husband James) has been called to serve as our Teacher for Jr Kind. & Kindergarten. She is currently serving at Calvary Lutheran School in Dallas, TX. Our Principal, Darren Vogt, has returned the Call to CrossLife in Pflugerville, TX; we give thanks he and his family will continue serving among us. Our Vice-Principal, Tyler Wahl, has received a Call to consider teaching at Christ-St. Peter School in Milwaukee, WI; please reach out to him with your words of encouragement. *Just a reminder Teacher Calling 'Season' in our Church Body goes from October 15 through April 15, Teachers are eligible to receive two Calls per Season. If we do not receive a Teacher from another School (or what we call 'the Field'), we can request to receive a Graduate from Martin Luther College (filled as Graduates are available).* Pastor Kolander has received a Call to serve as an Associate Pastor at St. Paul's in Mauston & Adams-Friendship, WI (a multi-site ministry in central WI).

Legacy Soiree Notice ... Tickets are still available to purchase for the 2024 Legacy Soiree – May 18. This event helps fund our 'Tuition Assistance Fund.' The event includes a meal served by Texas Roadhouse, a Live/Silent Auction, and a Play by our Students called "A Whole Latte Love". Tickets cost \$35 per seat or \$185 per table that seats 6-7. This event is for adults, childcare will be available. Please contact Stacie in the office to purchase tickets or to find out more about the Soiree.

Ministry Financial Plan Update

Offerings received since July 1, 2023: \$468,585

Goal for July 2023–June 2024: \$600,000

NwP received fiscal year: \$88,234

NwP Goal for fiscal year: \$144,000

Note For Thrivent Members

If you have Investments or Insurance through Thrivent Financial you are eligible to apply for the following:

1) Action Team Grants (filling out a form on the Thrivent website can provide \$250 for one of our Community Connect Events). Contact Cameron Rowe at churchevents@stmarkslutheran.com to see which Events are still eligible. Thrivent 'members' can be eligible for up to 2 Action Team Grants per year.

2) Choice Dollars (Thrivent Products earn points which can be turned into financial gifts to a Ministry of your choice, including St. Mark's or Martin Luther College) ... the deadline for 2023 Choice Dollars is March 31st (this is an annual opportunity). To learn about how you can direct your 2023 Thrivent Choice Dollars, go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

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

Mar 28, Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 pm
Mar 29, Good Friday Meal in MPC, 5:00 pm
Mar 29, Good Friday Services – 1:00 & 6:30 pm
Mar 30, Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 am
Mar 31, Easter – He Has Risen!
Apr 7, New Member Reception
Apr 20, LWMS Rally in Vallejo
Apr 27, Men's Conference at St. Mark's
May 5, Examination & Confirmation, 10:45 am
May 18, St. Mark's Legacy Soiree, 6:00 pm



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