

Reflections

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 9

JANUARY 2011

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Sunday Morning is Two Hours

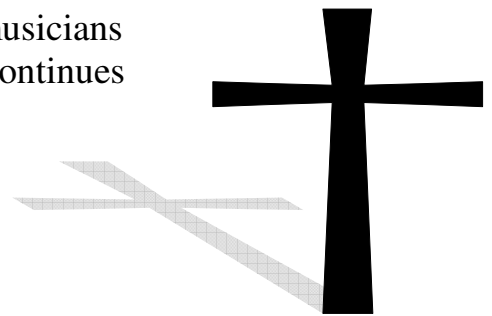
A football game lasts longer. A baseball game can last much longer depending on the pitchers. A basketball game usually goes longer. A concert is usually longer depending on the intermission. You can't drive to Chicago or Detroit in two hours. It can take you longer than that to get through security at an airport these days.

Two hours is all we ask - one hour for study and one hour for worship. If you go to the 8:30 service, it is one hour for worship and one hour for study.

I know some of you are thinking that worship usually goes more than one hour. That is true, but Learning Hour is usually only about forty-five minutes, so it works out about right.

Why not make a New Year's Resolution that says you are going to make Sunday morning two hours at St. Mark?

You can look forward to some great worship as the musicians and worship leaders all do their jobs and Pastor Meyer continues his Sermon Series the Christmas Gift.



A monthly publication reflecting on past events and promoting upcoming events in the St. Mark faith community.

St. Mark Lutheran Church
1934 52nd Street SE
Kentwood, MI 49508

IRA Rollover Passes for 2010 & 2011

If you own an IRA and are over age 70 1/2, you must transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to St. Mark Lutheran Church. You may not have taken your 2010 required IRA distribution and may reduce your income taxes with an IRA charitable rollover. Even if you have taken your required IRA distribution, you still may find the IRA charitable rollover a very convenient way to make a year-end gift. Thanks very much for your support. Check with your financial advisor about how to do it and what benefits you can receive.

How does this all take place?

from LEA *Shaping the Future*,
(3rd in a five-part series by Rev. William Beckmann)

It happens in the Lutheran school, where the Gospel is shared in word and action by more than the daily devotions, chapel service, and religion class.

Certainly, public schools do try to teach morality and values. A popular program, *Character Counts*, seeks to do just that. But like other similar programs, it faces a major handicap: It cannot teach how morality can be attained. For example, a school can teach that greed is wrong, but it cannot turn to the Gospel which frees one from the power of self. With values changing as they do, public schools turn to clarifying values rather than establishing them. The Lutheran school exists to help parents, the primary communicators of Christian faith and values to their children, do their job.

Professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, from 1920-1953, Dr. John H. C. Fritz had this to say about why he wanted a Christian school for his children: “A physician writing in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* wrote, ‘I believe that in the child’s early start on an unbalanced diet, in the long continued total or partial absence of essential food elements, we see the explanation of many of the metabolic disorders of middle life.’

“What is true in respect to the body is true also in respect to the soul. The spiritual deficiencies and disorders in later life can, as a rule, be traced to the total or partial absence of essential elements in early training or to an unbalanced diet in early life, that is, a training which did not take care of the whole man.”

(Next: What is the Lutheran school advantage?)

Learning Hour

Three new classes are starting - Answer Academy and Justification, Liberty and Faith - a Study of Galatians, and Parenting is HEART Work.

Answer Academy will answer some questions like: Where did God come from? What's wrong with Darwin's teachings on natural selection? How old is the earth - thousands or millions or billions of years? What about the "Big Bang?" Where did the "races" come from? **Pastor Meyer will be the facilitator of this video class in Chapel Hall.**

Justification, Liberty and Faith - A Study of Galatians will cover the most important teachings of the Bible. This relatively short book has a lot of content "stuffed" into it. It stands as an eloquent and vigorous defense of the Biblical truth that people are justified by faith in Jesus Christ - nothing more and nothing less. This epistle is often referred to as "Luther's Book," because Martin Luther relied so strongly on this letter in his preaching, teaching, and writing. It has also been referred to as the "Magna Carta of Christian Liberty." **Chris Rubino will be the facilitator for this study in Room 204 - across from the Nursery.**

Parenting is HEART Work Based on a study of the word "heart" in the Scriptures, "Parenting is HEART Work" applies these findings to the parent/child relationship. This is a practical class revealing nine functions of the heart and several strategies for helping children change on this deep level. Those who have read the book say it was very helpful. **Jon Krueger is the leader and this class will meet in the Conference Room.**



Advent by Candlelight

We hope that your Christmas was blessed with many opportunities to reflect on God’s love for you. One of those opportunities at St. Mark was the first Sunday evening in December and the event was Advent by Candlelight. Those of us who participated and those of us who attended were truly blessed by the talents and efforts of many people to start us on our celebration of our Savior’s birth.



We wish to thank the music director, Obe VanderTol, the Choir, the Praise Team, the musicians, the hand bell ringers, and the vocalists for sharing their talents and abilities to enhance our worship that evening. Through music, word and song and in beautiful ways they presented to us the true meaning of Christmas: God sending us His Son to earth to be our Savior. We appreciated their concert very much.

We also wish to thank the hosts and hostesses for the evening. They set beautiful tables and served delicious desserts to continue the festive mood.

Still more thanks go to the people who shared their nativity scenes with us. They displayed their manger scenes in the upstairs hallway, which we renamed Nativity Way, to help us focus on our reason for the evening’s event. We heard many say they appreciated that very much and some want to add their scene next year.

So many helped in other ways: To decorate the church, the Narthex, and outside for Christmas. Others helped with set up and take down of the equipment in the Gym, making punch and coffee, caring for toddlers in the Nursery, and care for school-age children . We thank you all for your help and willingness to give of your time to make this evening so enjoyable.

If you missed Advent by Candlelight this year, please keep it in mind for next year.

Women’s Ministry Committee for Advent by Candlelight

* * * * *

Wednesday Evening Women’s Bible Study

This winter, the Women’s Wednesday evening Bible Study will be studying the life of Queen Esther through the book, “Becoming a Woman God Can Use: A Study of Esther.”

Esther was a Jewish orphan who became the queen of Persia! She was then able to user her position to save the Jewish people. We can learn through her how to become a woman God delights to use, no matter what our circumstances.

The class will begin on Wednesday, January 12th from 6:30-8:00pm in Room 204 (Across from the Nursery). Child care is available.

* * * * *

Another Year Is Dawning

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

**Every New Morning**

By George Edward Noe

Dear friends, consider every new morning
A beautiful, blessed one this year of 2011.
Let us be caring to others, knowing
It is God's will that we are alive.

For God works His miracles each new day,
Let us always praise our awesome God above.
When we pray, thank God for another chance
To love more and more, yes, the word is Love.

A good New Year's Resolution is to be aware
Of what God desires from you and also me!
And through prayer we will find out as His
Plan of Amazing Grace opens and we see!

No need to be distressed or confused when you
Have God in your life every year and every day!
Dear friends, I will end this poem and you will
Have more time this 2011 to pray!

Submitted by: Sandy Pillsbury

HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2011

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Scrappin' Winter Weekend

January 14th (1pm - 12 midnight)

January 15th (10am - 12 midnight)

Come and go as you please, but be sure to join the fun & fellowship, food & prizes, and plenty of crafting at St. Mark! It's a fundraiser for St. Mark School's 7th & 8th Grade Class Trip to Washington, D.C.

Price is \$35 and includes table space, meals & drinks, several prize drawings, snacks, free make-n-take projects, much needed "girl time," and a door prize!

To reserve your spot, please send a check for \$35, made out to Dawn La Vigne to the Church or School Office. You'll receive a confirmation and more detailed info about the weekend. For more info, please contact Dawn.

****Donations for this fundraiser will also be appreciated.**

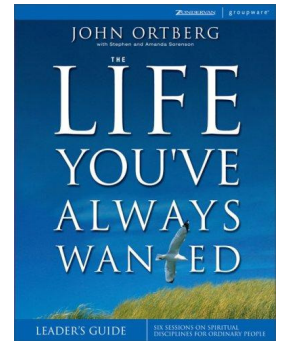


January

Sunday	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
Elders 8:30	Ambriz/Eden	Worch/Broecker	Galloway/Hop	White/Eden
Elders 11:00	Galloway/Rubino	Hop/Schramm	Vaughn/Schramm	Plainte/Rubin
Communion Elders		Steghuis/Ambriz		
Usher Team 8:30	Weih	Seddon	Symons	Johr
Usher Team 11:00	Rolf	Ainsworth	McClenathan	Rolf
Greeter Team 8:30	Symons	Seddon	Broecker	Larson
Greeter Team 11:00	Rubino	Rubin	Rutty	Vaughn
Altar Guild	Trombley/Broecker	Trombley/Broecker	Bruce/Galloway	Bruce/Galloway
Bulletin Folders	January 14 Frobel/Heldt	January 21 Glendenning/Weih	January 28 Larson/Domire/ DeHoag	<i>February</i>
Coffee Hour Help	Rutty/Krueger	Rubin/Sauer	Tafel/Heldt/Frobel	White/Baldwin
Nursery 8:30	Trombley/Trombley	Sauer/Oosterhouse	Klug/Mahon	Mahon/Shumate
Nursery 11:00	Felt/Stevenson	VanZweden/Rolf	Munyon/Bahr/ Gehrls	Ambriz/ Galloway
Sound	La Vigne/La Vigne	Vaughn/Vaughn	Sauer/Gilcher	Worch/Baldwin

The Life You've Always Wanted

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study will be reading a book entitled The Life You've Always Wanted. It is about the heart of Christianity: Transformation - God's power to bring change and growth to you.



The author shows us that Christianity is about Christ's character becoming etched more deeply into our own character. He writes about the spiritual disciplines to strengthen us and help us grow. Some of the chapters include the topics on change, training vs. trying, an unhurried life, and life beyond regret.

The first actual class will be Tuesday, January 18th at 10:15-11:30am. The cost of the book is \$12.00. Please make checks out to Laurie Meyer. Child care will be provided.



Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.

"Worship for Shut-Ins"

Channel 54, DISH Channel 54, Comcast Channel 21, & Direct TV Channel 377

January 16 – Matthew 3:13-17, "Christ's Baptism for Us" by Rev. James Elsner, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church-Hudson, IN Jesus was baptized by John. But why? Did he need forgiveness? The Baptism of Jesus is important, because of what it means for us.

January 23 – Matthew 4:12-25, "Turn on the Light!" by Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker, Emanuel Lutheran Church-New Haven, IN Jesus came to bring light to a sin-darkened world. He let the light shine on Him by His preaching, teaching and miraculous signs, to show Himself to be Christ.

January 30 – Matthew 5:1-12, "Blessed in Christ" by Rev. Daniel J. Brege, St. Paul Lutheran Church-Decatur, IN As life brings us low, in Christ we are blessed. He, who was brought low for us, bestows upon the lowly His ultimate blessings. The greatest blessings are forgiveness and life eternal.



SAINT MARK MEMORIAL FUND UPDATE

Between March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2010
the following contributions were given:

IN MEMORY OF MIM WAUBEN:

Dorothy Heldt	Holly Weih
Elaine Bruns	Sharon Bruce
Paul and Sandy Pillsbury	Gerrie Glendenning
Jeffrey and Patricia Thomas	Ruth Asselin
Fred and Linda Fish	Kathy Felt
Al and Nancy Vander Laan	Shirley Locklin
Dan and Deb Coch	Doris Drake
James and Judith Czanko	Paul and Ellen Godbold
Jim and Jera Laidlaw	Judy Nobis
Lee and Carmen George	David and Karen Gehrls
Elva Kohtz	Nancy Welch
Mary Sell	Leon and Carol Greiner
Cynthia Dellinger	Timothy and Julie Ainsworth
Howard and Carolyn Rubin	John and Shirley Schlegel, Jr.
Donald and Arlene De Boer	Roger and Rita Johr
Phillip and Sue Wauben	
Andrew and Kerri Kazmierski	

IN MEMORY OF CINDY KENNEL:

Barbara Crumpton

IN MEMORY OF GARY W. LARSON:

Martha Larson-Hinkle

IN MEMORY OF HAROLD AND RUTH PRICE:

Martha Larson-Hinkle

IN MEMORY OF JERRY S. PRICE:

Martha Larson-Hinkle



The following expenditures were made from the Memorial Fund between March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2010:

- ◆ Purchase of a Portable Gas Grill
- ◆ Purchase of additional Padded Folding Chairs

Living Stones..... walking in the Light

When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." ~John 8:12



During these short, darker days of winter, we turn our focus to **The Light** of the world and on a season connected to light, Epiphany. Epiphany comes from a Greek word, meaning "to show forth." The season begins on January 6th and commemorates the showing forth of the Infant Jesus to the Wise Men, the first Gentiles to worship Him. Depending on the date of Easter, there may be as many as six Sundays, or as few as one, in the Epiphany Season. (The season is longer this year, with Easter being celebrated on April 24th)

This is a great time to remember we are called "to show forth" the light of life we have by grace. In the Sermon on the Mount, as recorded in Matthew 5:14 & 15, Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Along with the "enlightenment" process of education, our students will experience field trips to the Lollipops Concert given by the Grand Rapids Symphony and to Pando for an enjoyable day of tubing. The 2nd Quarter marking period comes to a close on 1/20, marking the halfway point of the school year. Basketball season is in full swing with our Boys' A (7th & 8th) and B (4th - 6th) Teams playing a couple of games a week; Jr. Basketball (Kindergarten through Grade 3) playing on Friday nights; girls and boys participating in Mustang Basketball at Hoop City; and hosting our Annual Boys' B Tournament at the end of January. Students in Kindergarten through Grade 4 will sing at the 8:30am worship service on January 23rd. Students and families in Preschool through 8th Grade are collecting money in baby bottles, as we support Grand Rapids Right to Life and Lutherans for Life, (our monthly Chapel offering project for January).

We encourage you to "let your light shine" at this time of year and throughout the years ahead. We are grateful for your continued prayers and support. May our good and gracious God continue to guide and bless you, using you as a blessing to many others.

Joel Bahr, Principal



Mark your calendars for June 20-24, 2011! Camp Moosefeather Falls will come to St. Mark, along with Kody, Pola, Camp Guide Tom, and many other guests!!

CAMP is a fun-filled week for children 4years to 5th grade. Please consider helping in some way to plan CAMP or serve at CAMP this summer! You will be glad you helped!!

Watch for planning meetings to begin soon! Contact Chris Stodola 455-5320 or cstodola@smls.net to share in the fun!

*“Sharing Christ...
Transforming Lives”*

St. Mark Lutheran Church
and School

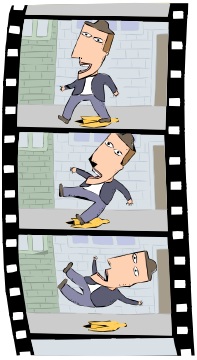
1934 52nd Street SE
Kentwood, MI 49508

Return Service Requested

Phone: 616-455-5320
Fax: 616-455-8487
School Phone: 616-281-7892
School Fax: 616-281-1543

“SHARING CHRIST
TO CONNECT PEOPLE
TO GOD AND ONE
ANOTHER.”





CHICK FLICKS ARE BACK!

**“A League of Their Own” is the flick we’ll see and discuss
on Friday, January 28, 7:00pm in The Pit Stop**

We’ll have the usual fresh-popped popcorn, pop, candy and a Bible-based discussion. Women of all ages and their friends are invited to this free event each month, so come and bring a relative, friend or neighbor.

Upcoming date: February 25 - “Amazing Grace”

Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Winter Day-Retreat at St. Mark -- February 19th!

Plan to be with us to welcome others to this special LWML event which will feature a most popular special speaker, Elaine Bickel, a Christian humorist, motivator, and author, and a delicious soup & salad bar luncheon. If you can’t stay for the whole day, plan to hear Elaine during at least one of the sessions she’ll present – morning or afternoon.

If you’ve never heard Elaine speak, please accept this invitation from those who have: She’s TERRIFIC!!! Come and join us!



Have you seen the TV show “Hoarders”?

Oh, yah!

Just don’t get caught ON it!

Clean those closets!! And that basement!! Then do the garage and the attic, too!!

Start now and bring it all to



THE ST. MARK WOMEN’S MINISTRY ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Monday, April 4 - Thursday, April 7 in the St. Mark Gym

Drop-off Days: Monday & Tuesday --- Sale Days: Wednesday & Thursday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Holy Communion 8:30 am Traditional Worship 11:00 am Contemporary Worship	3 3:30 pm SMLS Boys' Bball Practice 6:30 pm Full Throttle Mtg 6:30 pm St. Mark Adult Co- ed V-Ball 7:00 pm Gamblers Anony- mous 7:00 pm Gam-Anon	4 1:00 pm Quilters 8:00 pm Al-Anon	5 8:30 am SMLS Chapel 3:30 pm SMLS Boys' Bball Practice 5:00 pm Mustang 5th/6th Gr Girls' Bball Practice 5:45 pm Supper Club 6:30 pm Wednesday Night Activities 7:00 pm Praise Team	6 SMLS Boys' Basketball 4:00 pm B Team Game 5:00 pm A Team Game 5:30 pm TOPS 6-15 pm WMLHS Girls' Var. Bball Practice 6:30 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Mustang 5th/6th Gr. Boys' Bball Practice 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	7 4:00 pm WMLHS Boys' JV Basketball Game 6:00 pm SMLS Junior Bas- ketball	8 1 New Year's Day
9 8:30 am Traditional Worship 9:45 am Learning Hour 11:00 am Contemporary Worship w/Children's Church 11:00 am SRTM High Oc- tave Worship	10 3:30 pm WMLHS Boys' Var Bball Practice 6:30 pm St. Mark Adult Co- ed V-Ball 7:00 pm School Council 7:00 pm Gamblers Anony- mous 7:00 pm Gam-Anon	11 1:00 pm Quilters SMLS Boys' Bball Games 4:00 pm B Team 5:00 pm A Team 8:00 pm Al-Anon	12 8:30 am SMLS Chapel 3:30 pm SMLS Boys' Bball Practice 5:00 pm Mustang 5th/6th Gr Girls' Bball Practice 5:45 pm Supper Club 6:00 pm Thrivent So. Ch. Board Mtg. 6:30 pm Wednesday Night Activities	13 3:30 pm WMLHS Boys' Var Bball Practice 5:30 pm TOPS 6:00 pm 4 Better or 4 Worse Ministry Open House 6:30 pm Handbells 6:30 pm SRTM Service on Thursdays 7:00 pm Mustang 5th/6th Gr. Boys' Bball Practice 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	14 1:00 pm Scrappin' Winter Weekend begins 6:00 pm SMLS Junior Bas- ketball 6:30 pm SRTM Girls' 4 God ketball	15 9:00 am Confirmation Semi- nar: Early Communion 10:00 am Scrappin' Winter Weekend continues 5:00 pm SRTM Flameproof Guys Nite
16 Holy Communion 8:30 am Traditional Worship 9:45 am Learning Hour 11:00 am Contemporary Worship 12:30 pm Oakcrest Worship	17 3:30 pm SMLS Boys' Bball Practice 6:30 pm St. Mark Adult Co- ed V-Ball 7:00 pm Gamblers Anony- mous 7:00 pm Gam-Anon	18 1:00 pm Quilters 3:30 pm WMLHS Girls' Var Bball Practice 6:00 pm Al-Anon Board Mtg 8:00 pm Al-Anon	19 8:30 am SMLS Chapel 3:30 pm SMLS Boys' Bball Practice 5:00 pm Mustang 5th/6th Gr Girls' Bball Practice 5:45 pm Supper Club 6:30 pm Wednesday Night Activities 7:00 pm Praise Team	20 3:30 pm WMLHS Girls' Var Bball Practice 5:30 pm TOPS 6:30 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Mustang 5th/6th Gr. Boys' Bball Practice 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	21 6:00 pm SMLS Junior Bas- ketball	22
23 8:30 am Traditional Worship 9:45 am Learning Hour 11:00 am Contemporary Worship w/Children's Church 11:00 am SRTM High Oc- tave Worship	24 3:30 pm WMLHS Boys' Var Bball Practice 6:00 pm SMLP VIP Night 6:30 pm St. Mark Adult Co- ed V-Ball 7:00 pm Gamblers Anony- mous 7:00 pm Gam-Anon	25 1:00 pm Quilters 3:30 pm WMLHS Girls' Var Bball Practice 6:00 pm SMLP VIP Night 7:00 pm Board of Directors 8:00 pm Al-Anon	26 8:30 am SMLS Chapel 3:30 pm SMLS Boys' Bball Practice 5:00 pm Mustang 5th/6th Gr Girls' Bball Practice 5:45 pm Supper Club 6:30 pm Wednesday Night Activities	27 3:30 pm WMLHS Boys' Var Bball Practice 5:30 pm TOPS 6:30 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Mustang 5th/6th Gr. Boys' Bball Practice 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	28 St. Mark Boys' B Team Bas- ketball Tournament	29 St. Mark Boys' B Team Bas- ketball Tournament 9:00 am SRTM SHAPE Retreat
30 8:30 am Traditional Worship 9:45 am Learning Hour 11:00 am Contemporary Worship 12:30 pm SRTM Pt. Crew Retreat	31 3:30 pm WMLHS Boys' Var Bball Practice 6:30 pm St. Mark Adult Co- ed V-Ball 7:00 pm Gamblers Anony- mous 7:00 pm Gam-Anon					

January 2011