

Reflections

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 11

MARCH 2011

PROCLAMATION 2011 NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Whereas, God commanded His ancient people: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. *You shall teach them diligently to your children*, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deut. 6:4–7); and,

Whereas, our Lord Jesus Christ gave His Church this joyful mission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you*. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt. 28:19–20); and,

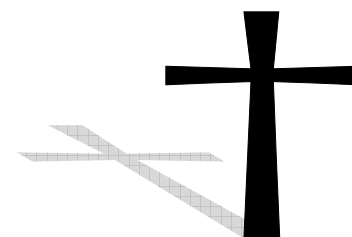
Whereas, the Word of God calls all people to “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. *For the promise is for you and for your children . . .*” (Acts 2:38f); and,

Whereas, Martin Luther was a bold advocate of Christian schools, and the training of young people for honorable vocations, and wrote, “Consider Christ himself, how he draws little children to him, how urgently in Matthew 18 he commends them to us and praises the angels who wait upon them, in order to show us how great a service it is when we train the young properly” (“To the Councilmen . . . That They May Establish Schools,” 1524; *Luther’s Works* 45:47–78); and,

Whereas, children are God’s precious gifts to us, and he has placed in our hands the responsibility for their spiritual as well as temporal welfare; and,

Whereas, one of the objectives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is to “aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools . . .” (LCMS Constitution, Article III); and,

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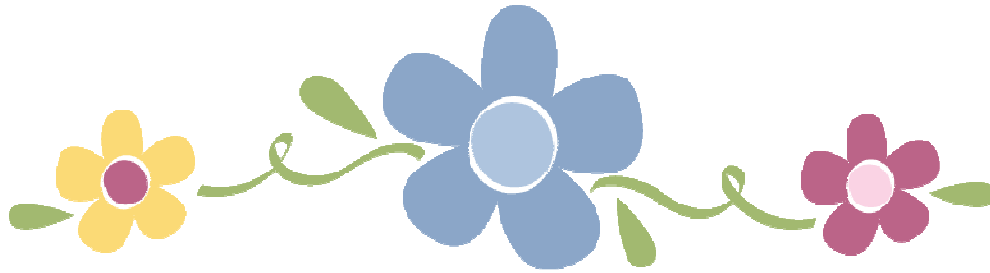
A monthly publication reflecting on past events and promoting upcoming events in the St. Mark faith community.

St. Mark Lutheran Church
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Whereas, the 2,400 Lutheran Early Childhood Centers, Elementary Schools, and High Schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are served by dedicated and caring teachers who assist Christian parents in rearing and training their children to believe in Jesus Christ and to love their neighbor; and,

Whereas, the theme, “Securing Each Child’s Future—Making Disciples,” is based on the words of our Lord, “If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31b, 32); therefore, be it *Resolved*, That March 6–12, 2011 be officially proclaimed as National Lutheran Schools Week in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



“Worship for Shut-Ins” - Sunday Mornings, 11:30am

(Channel 54, DISH Channel 54, Comcast Channel 21, Direct TV Channel 377)

March 6 - Matthew 17: 1-9, "Transforming Experiences " *by Rev. Karl Frincke, Concordia Lutheran Church~Fort Wayne, IN* God showed the three disciples-Peter, James & John - Jesus' true identity. Not only was Jesus' appearance transformed, Jesus transforms us, too.

March 13 - Matthew 4: 1-11 "God's Way, Not Ours" *by Rev. Daniel J. Brege, St. Paul Lutheran Church~Decatur, IN* We are tempted, and often want to do things our way instead of God's way. Thanks be to God that in our place the Savior was tempted, and yet He always did things God's way. God's way can often be difficult. Ultimately, Jesus defeated the tempter as He followed God's way and went to the cross for our eternal salvation.

March 20 - John 3: 1-17 "A Designer Faith?" *by Rev. James L. Elsner, Prince of Peace~Hudson, IN* Do you want to be in control of your spiritual life? Many folks want a "designer faith" that suits their needs and tastes. But God calls us to "faith in the Designer" - that's true, saving faith founded only in Jesus Christ.

March 27 - John 4: 5-26 "I've Got A Secret" *by Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker, Emanuel Lutheran Church~New Haven, IN* We all have secrets but God knows them all. We are to confess our secret sins to God, receive His forgiveness, and live as God's forgiven and redeemed children.



Women's Ministry Annual Garage & Bake Sale April 6-7

Have you seen the TV show "Hoarders"?
The best way to NOT get caught on that show is.....clean out your closets and your basement, then do the garage and the attic, too!

Get it all together and bring it to the
ST. MARK WOMEN'S MINISTRY ANNUAL GARAGE & BAKE SALE
Bring clothing, appliances, and everything in between!

Got an old iron? We'll sell it! Got an old wedding dress? We'll sell it!
Got an old set of skis? We'll sell it! **WE SELL EVERYTHING!**

Drop-off Days are:
Monday & Tuesday, April 4 & 5,
9am-7pm

**The Sale is in the Gym on
Wednesday & Thursday, April 6 & 7,**
9am-7pm on Wednesday,
9am-1pm on Thursday



Sign up at the poster in the Reception area to work at the Sale or to donate baked goods. Please bring baked goods donations to the Church Kitchen by noon on Tuesday, April 5, so it can be packaged before the Sale opens on Wednesday at 9am.

All donations are tax deductible, and forms to verify your donation will be available.

*Don't forget to set your
clocks **AHEAD** one hour
on **March 12th!!***



How Do Congregations and Their Pastors Support the Lutheran School? And, Does It Make a Difference in the Health and Future of the Church That Congregations Support Schools?

from LEA *Shaping the Future*, 5th in a five-part series
by Rev. William Beckmann

When church and school are united in ministry- a seamless ministry- outreach to the community is a given. A seamless ministry looks at the school as an outreach ministry of the congregation. As one family in the congregation where I worship said, “We came for the school and stayed for the church!”

The Lutheran school reaches out to families who do not have a living faith in Jesus Christ, becoming a mission outpost that shares the caring Christ. It is amazing how children bring that message home to their parents.

The Lutheran school reaches out with the Gospel, but it is also an arm that reaches in as well. The Gospel can become real when the child reaches home and shares his/her faith and parents have faith conversations with the family. Consider this: at the dinner table the first grader tells the family, “We learned a new prayer to say when we eat. Can I say it now?” Or, at the funeral home, the fourth grader tells everyone within listening distance, “Grandpa knew Jesus loved him.”

In the past, Lutheran schools served well to preserve the language of the fathers and plant the faith in the hearts of the young. Today, Lutheran schools continue to plant that same faith while reaching out into the community. Bill Cochran, Executive Director of LCMS Schools writes, “Lutheran schools celebrate their unique ministry to children and the families they serve. We have an opportunity to share the message with the community in which our schools are located... that Lutheran schools are Christ-centered, academically strong, and respectfully operated.”

Rev. William Beckman is Co-Director for Children’s Ministry at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Batavia, Illinois.



Painting a Picture for You

Most curriculum materials tell Bible stories and help children learn the facts of the story, and then offer some sort of application of the story.

But the picture I would like to paint for you is something we have been doing at WKSJ for a couple of years: Bible study for children. When we think of Bible Study, we usually don't think of it in connection with teaching children. We rely on the Bible story method mentioned above. But, at WKSJ, we are again doing a BIBLE STUDY. We are looking at Scripture word by word, verse by verse, and section by section.



In our study of the Gospel of John we have spent four weeks just on the first chapter! This is what our Kindergarten to 5th grade students have studied.

In small groups we read the entire chapter and created a pictorial storyboard of the chapter.

We used different colored pencils and marked important words in the chapter.

We counted the number of times those words were used and talked about the significance of those words.

We learned what John was talking about when he used the term "The Word".

We shared the importance of the word "Light" in this chapter.

We recorded what the chapter had to say about Jesus through events, and actions, and words of others in the verses.

We studied what John the Baptist said about Jesus.

We discovered what the first disciples had to say about Jesus.

If you could, picture small groups of children, sitting on the floor, each with their own copy of the first chapters of John and a handful of colored pencils. They are searching the Scriptures for answers to questions posed by their leaders. They are drawing or recording those discoveries in different ways, and then coming together in the large group to share what they have learned with others.

I wish you could see their heads buried in Scripture, hunting for verses, and then sharing what they think the verses said. It is amazing! It is real study. It is really digging into the Word. It has been my experience that children rise to challenges placed before them. We too often give them "scripture light" when they can handle more. Do they grasp completely every concept we talk about? No. Do they remember every tool we give them? No. Are we growing children who are learning and practicing the skills to study the Bible? YES!

Chris Stodola, Children's Ministry Director

Kids Need Parents - NOT Friends

"How many interviews did I give and say, 'You know what's important between me and Miley is I try to be a friend to my kids'? I said it a lot. And sometimes I would even read other parents might say, 'You don't need to be a friend, you need to be a parent.' Well, I'm the first guy to say to them right now: You were right. I should have been a better parent. I should have said, 'Enough is enough--it's getting dangerous and somebody's going to get hurt.' I should have, but I didn't. Honestly, I didn't know the ball was out of bounds until it was way up in the stands somewhere." Billy Ray Cyrus, who says his daughter Miley Cyrus' Disney show "Hannah Montana" "destroyed" his family. (GQ Magazine via CBS News)

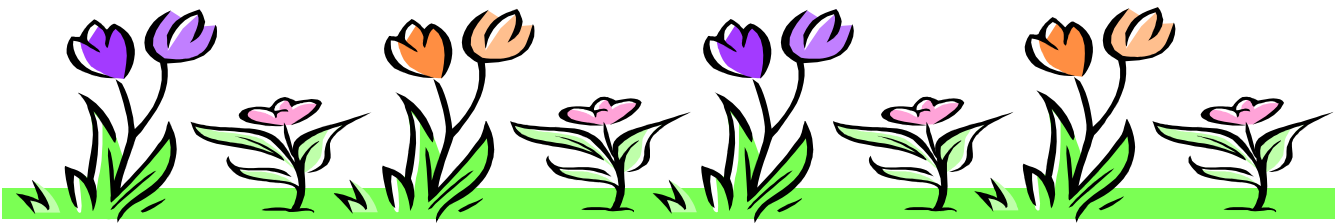
At St. Mark, we have been telling parents repeatedly that they should act like parents. We have had various programs and courses on parenting. We have had some sermons series on the importance of Christian parents and Christian homes.

The above quote shows what can happen when that does not happen. None of us will be as famous as Billy Ray Cyrus nor will our children become anything like Miley Cyrus – Hannah Montana. But we all have the job of being good parents to our own children, not friends.

March Birthdays

Who's Serving For Wednesday Lent Services

	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Elders	White/Schramm	Plainte/Worch	Rubin/Vaughn	Broecker/Rubino
Ushers	Rolf	McClenathan	Johr	Seddon
Greeters	Rubin	Vaughn	Larson	Seddon
Sound	Trombley	LaVigne	Worch	LaVigne
Altar Guild	Drake/VanderTol	Rabe/Drake	Rabe/Drake	Kain/VanderTol



Who's Serving in March

Sunday	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
Elders 8:30	Ambriz/Eden	Stegehuis/Ambriz	Pillsbury/Galloway	White/Worch
Elders 11:00	Galloway/Hop	Rubino/Eden	Plainte/Hop	Vaughn/Ambriz
Communion Elders	Rubin/Broecker		Schramm/Stegehuis	
Usher Team 8:30	Weih	Seddon	Symons	Weih
Usher Team 11:00	McClenathan	Ainsworth	Rolf	Ainsworth
Greeter Team 8:30	Symons	Seddon	Broecker	Symons
Greeter Team 11:00	Rubino	Rutty	Rubino	Rubin
Nursery 8:30	Thompson/Worch	Trombley/Trombley	Sauer/Oosterhouse	Klug/Mahon
Nursery 11:00	Evele/Winkler	Felt/Stevenson	VanZweden/Rolf	Munyon/Bahr/Gehrls
Altar Guild	Drake	Rabe/Drake	Rabe/Drake	Kain/VanderTol
Sound	Worch/Baldwin	Vaughn/Vaughn	Sauer/Gilcher	Knorr/Baldwin
Bulletin Folders	March 4 Evele/Tafel/Mahon/ Fahey	March 11 Frobel/Heldt	March 18 Glendenning/Weih	March 25 Larson/Domire/ DeHoag
Coffee Hour Help	VOLUNTEER?! VanZee/ Glendenning	Rutty/Krueger	Rubin/Sauer	Tafel/Heldt/ Frobel

Good Times for Living Stones



The end of January had our elementary students enjoying a day at Pando tubing. The weather was beautiful, with a little snow and the temperature in the 20s. What a great time! “A Night to Shine!” – our semi-annual Forensic/Speech event was postponed for nearly 10 days in February due to weather. The event was an enjoyable evening of food and fellowship, as more than 30 students gave recitations to a full house. Regarding the weather, some say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, or comes in like a lamb and goes out like a lion. Whatever- this year March brings us Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. Let us focus our hearts and minds on Jesus, the Lamb of God and the Lion of Judah.

“Going back” to January, our chapel offering projects were Lutherans for Life and Grand Rapids Right to Life. A *baby bottle bank* drive raised more than \$575 for Grand Rapids Right to Life, and more than a hundred dollars was also given for Lutherans for Life. Pastor Meyer baptized one of our 7th graders, Devin, at a chapel service in February. It was a great time for the rest of our student body to witness and to celebrate with Devin.

March brings St. Mark the annual celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week, March 7 through March 13. The week’s theme is Securing Each Child’s Future – Making Disciples and is based on John 8:31b, 32..... [Jesus said] *“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* Among other activities, on Monday students will have the opportunity to don their favorite team’s colors or logos. They will also break from their work to enjoy a movie. Tuesday has students dressing in costumes and enjoying a fancy lunch. On Wednesday, which is Ash Wednesday, we will be dressing up for worship. Students will also “move up” one class and get a preview of next year. Thursday allows students to come to school in pajamas, and they will have a team-building exercise constructing forts in the gym. Friday is *Hat Day* and the faculty/staff plays the upper grades in an annual volleyball showdown. On Saturday, Lutheran schools in our region join together at West Shore Lutheran, Muskegon for “*Ed Fest*”, a day of worship, class presentations, art work, a spelling bee, Bible Bowl, chess competition, a talent show, etc. Sunday worship will include our elementary students singing at the 11am service. We will host an open house for prospective students and their families in the early afternoon following worship.

In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist said about Jesus, “Look! The Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.” Scripture also refers to Jesus as the Lion of Judah, the Root of David who has triumphed. It is Jesus who made Himself a sacrifice to take away our sin and rose victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil that we share with children and their families. This sharing is part of the process of making disciples. And “Making Disciples” is not only part of this year’s theme

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for National Lutheran Schools Week; it should be familiar to members of St. Mark congregation. The words of Matthew 28:19 are in print right behind our altar, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." The phrase "Go Make Disciples" (1986) is printed in stone on the outside entrance wall of our church. Good times? Time spent with God..... because God is good....all the time.

Joel Bahr, Principal



Lent Worship and Activities for Children

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 9. For the six weeks following Ash Wednesday we have some special activities planned for children.

Ash Wednesday-No WKSJ-Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00pm

Sundays-Special Lenten Children's Church Series

Children's Church will be held every Sunday during Lent during the 11:00am service. Each week we will focus on a different part of the Passion story. The children will participate in worship, crafts, and games, as well as take home a simple family devotional activity.

March 13-Predictions and Promises

March 20-Jesus Plans His Own Parade

March 27-Praying in Gethsemane

April 3-The Verdict-Guilty or Not?

April 10-The End of Starting Over

April 17-Palm Sunday-no Children's Church

Good Friday for Children

On Good Friday, April 22, 7:00pm, we will again offer a special Worship service for children. The children's activities and worship will take place during the adult worship service. We will have craft activities, snacks and games, but we will also have a very special time of worship and prayer.

We offer this child-friendly worship because the adult Good Friday worship can be overwhelming for younger children. Children 4 years-5th grade are welcome to attend this child friendly service.



“March Madness Scrappin’ & Craftin’ Meet” Friday, March 18th - Saturday, March 19th

YOU are invited to join us! It will be another weekend of fun & fellowship, food & prizes, & plenty of crafting!

Here is *YOUR* chance to help out SRTM and also get lots of scrapbooking/crafting done!

But you don't have to 'scrapbook' to attend, **ANY** type of crafting project is welcome (knitting, beading, stamping, stained glass, etc.)

What's Included?

6ft table & chair per person - Freebies - ALL your meals, bottled water, lemonade & Coffee - Prize drawings - Snacks - “FREE” make-n-take projects - much needed 'girl time' - and a chance to win a great door prize

Also available for your use will be a table full of punches, a Cricut, a texture embosser, & lots of scrapbooking tools.



Cost?

Only \$35 a person!

Invite a friend to join you & make it an extra-special 'girls-crafting-weekend!' If you would like a table grouping together, please let us know when you register!

Time & Place?

Friday, 2pm - 12 midnight & Saturday, 10am - 10pm
St. Mark Chapel Hall

Can't arrive until after work? That's fine!

Come & go as you please, your spot & supplies are reserved for you!

Reservations?

Send a check for \$35 to reserve your table. Make it out to SRTM and send to: Robin Verburg, St. Mark Lutheran Church 1934 52nd St SE Kentwood, MI 49508

Once your check is received, we will lock in your spot & send you more info.

Can't attend but want to help?

We'll need plenty of donations to make this a successful fundraising event.

Just contact Linda Campbell at: stmarkcook@yahoo.com
for a list of items you can help out with.



Come on...

**You *KNOW* you want to join this fun weekend...
put the date on the calendar & treat yourself
to some craftin' time!**

*“Sharing Christ...
Transforming Lives”*

St. Mark Lutheran Church
and School
Return Service Requested

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“SHARING CHRIST TO
CONNECT PEOPLE WITH
GOD AND ONE
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