

# Reflections

## Someone is Watching...

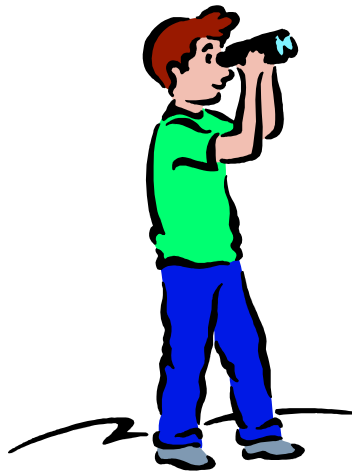
Hey, Dads, Someone is Watching You!

On a recent Sunday, the dad of one of our first graders came to Route 252, Junction 123, and brought a ladder, a tool belt with a hammer and other assorted tools, a board, a script, a Bible time costume, and a couple of cans of Silly String.

He entered the room with a crash and a bang and interrupted the class to repair some ceiling tiles. We questioned him and found that he was there to tell us how four friends had made a hole in the roof of a house to lower their friend to Jesus. They wanted Jesus to heal their friend. Our repairman told us how roofs were made in Bible times, and even brought his quick fix roof repair in a can. He sprayed the hole, and all of us and Gordy, the puppet, to the delight of the kids. All this while sharing the message of the day, Jesus is a Body and Soul repairman!

After the Bible event the kids went to their small groups to talk about and apply what they had learned. As they settled in, our repairman's son said with great pride, "My dad was so funny!"

This child may not remember all of the important parts of the Bible event and all of its application, but he will remember the example of his dad participating. He will remember his dad took time to be a part of his faith education. He will remember the laughter and the fun that was had by him and his classmates at church. He will remember his dad was more than happy to dress up and be kind of silly for him and the other children. And when he grows up and has a family of his own, he will have had an example of a godly dad to follow.

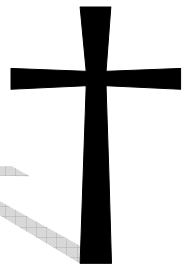


Dads, men, you are so very important in the faith walk of children. Your example, your daily walk with God, your prayer life, your Scripture reading, your coaching/teaching in this area of a child's life is crucial. Yes, take time to coach and lead your child's activities, but also take time to be a faith coach. It's important. It has eternal rewards.

Chris Stodola, Children's Ministry Director

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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  
1934 52nd Street SE  
Kentwood, MI 49508

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

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

### **February 6 - Matthew 5:14-16 - "Shine the Light "** *by Rev. Daniel D. Schumm, Carmel Lutheran*

*Church~Carmel, IN* "You are the light of the world". What Jesus ascribes to Himself in one of His great "I AM" statements, He also ascribes to those who are His followers. As Jesus has made an eternal difference in our lives, so also are we to live our lives in such a way that it might make an eternal difference in the lives of others.

### **February 13 - Matthew 5:21-22 - "Guilty But Forgiven"** *by Rev. Karl Frincke, Concordia Lutheran*

*Church~Fort Wayne, IN* Jesus shows us that we are really sinful people, but He does so that we may realize our need for Him and seek what He alone can give: forgiveness!

### **February 20 - Matthew 5:38-48 - "Fulfilling the Law"** *by Rev. Daniel J. Brege, St. Paul Lutheran*

*Church~Decatur, IN* With the Law alone, we are led to despair; but Jesus kept the whole Law for us, and by this obedience and by His obedience to His Father in going to the cross, we are saved. This "double" obedience of Christ is an essential part of the Gospel.

### **February 27 - Matthew 6:24-34 - "The Kingdom First"** *by Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier III, Concordia*

*Theological Seminary~Fort Wayne, IN* Based on the Gospel reading, the message includes three points:

- I) that the world does not seek first the Kingdom of God;
- II) God wants us to seek first His Kingdom;
- III) God promises to take care of our earthly needs.

## Don't Mention Age (D.M.A.)

Our next D.M.A. event is **Wednesday, February 9 at 1:00pm** in East Chapel Hall.

Gals & guys, please bring your own sandwich to go along with Hannah's very own recipes for Clam Chowder & Vegetable Beef soups, and be sure to save room for some yummy desserts.

Don't forget your lucky rabbit's foot, or pair of socks, or whatever for a rowdy game of BINGO and take home a prize or two. You DEFINITELY aren't going to want to miss this event.

If you have any questions, please contact Holly Weih..

## What Is the Lutheran School Advantage?

from LEA *Shaping the Future*,  
4th in a five-part series by Rev. William Beckmann

Milo Brekke, drawing from data compiled for “A Study of Generations,” determined that students who attend Lutheran schools:

- Evidenced greater clarity on the way of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ
- Have more biblical knowledge
- Report a much fuller devotional life
- Are more active in witnessing to others about Jesus and His church
- Have a balanced doctrine (neither liberal nor ultra conservative)
- Practice reasonable respect for authority
- Are more likely to be forgiving with other people, yet know that such acts will not earn them salvation

The Lutheran school offers the congregation and its pastor some unique opportunities for Word and Sacrament ministry. The school provides a powerful witness to the community about support for children and youth. It offers opportunity to teach the faith to children of all families of the congregation and is a major player in a congregation’s evangelism outreach. The educators and staff of the school provide a larger professional talent pool for the many ministries and programs of the congregation. The church’s music ministry is enriched through involvement of children in the church’s worship life. The school offers opportunity for fellowship by gathering school families for various school and church events, as well as additional worship opportunities through school chapel, faculty devotions, and special school services.

Not the least of the blessings of the Lutheran school is its opportunity for outreach. If early schools were interested in educating their own, the Lutheran school today is interested in reaching parents who are searching for a solid spiritual foundation for themselves and their children. Many churches have found that their best evangelism tool is their Christian school.

(Next: 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?)



## FIRM FOUNDATION CLASS

### A New Opportunity!

Sundays, 4:00-6:00pm beginning February 13, 2011

Would you be interested...

In learning more about how much God loves you?

How He cares for you and your family?

How heaven is a real place where God wants you and your loved ones to live forever?

The Firm Foundation Class is offered regularly through the year here at St. Mark. Hundreds have had their lives changed through this exciting adventure into God's Word.

Pastor Meyer will be starting this new session beginning Sunday, February 13, 2011 from 4:00-6:00pm. The sessions are informal, no cost, no commitment, no obligation - just come and be spiritually blessed!

We are living in very difficult times, and indications are that they will become even more trying. Surely, we need a Savior for our sins and an Almighty God who loves us, forgives us, strengthens and guides us, and finally, when life is over, takes us to His home in heaven forever! That is really what this Bible course is all about.

PLEASE invite a friend! PLEASE bring a friend and join in this exciting Bible study course starting, Sunday, February 13, 2011 at 4:00pm. The classes will last about 5 weeks. I hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Meyer at 455-5320 or [tmeyer@smls.net](mailto:tmeyer@smls.net).

## Prelude to Becoming a Deacon

I just completed a successful interview conducted by the Committee for Deacon Qualifications at the Michigan District Missouri Synod office in Ann Arbor Mi, bringing me even closer to becoming a licensed Deacon at St. Mark. I just have to complete one more Deacon Class, Christian Caregiving, and I will have completed the final of thirteen classes required for licensing as a Deacon.

Over the last year and a half, I have taken the following classes: Old Testament, New Testament, Doctrine One, Doctrine Two, Church History, Worship, Leadership, Office of the Ministry, Reaching The Not Yet Christian, Homiletics, Greek, Teaching the Faith, and, as mentioned earlier, Christian Caregiving. During this time I have read over forty books, wrote over fifty papers; compiled demographic information into a PowerPoint presentation, translated a chapter from the Gospel of John from Greek into English that included diagramming sentences, and finally preparing sermons and Bible studies for presentation. It has been a challenging time for me, but also a time that I have seen a growth in my knowledge and understanding of the Word and a growth in my relationship with my Savior, Jesus Christ. I guess there is truth in the statement that there is no gain without pain. I believe that God is preparing me for the challenges of being a Deacon at St. Mark as He helps me grow in wisdom and into a more loving servant for His church.

My role as a Deacon at St. Mark will include doing liturgy, hospital, nursing home and shut in visits, conducting Bible studies, and filling in for the Pastor when needed. In summary, I will be a servant to God and the people at St. Mark.

I look forward to the Deacon commencement at St. Mark on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4 PM. Two other deacon candidates, Bill Gatz and Roger Sassaman, will commence with me, and I know they will find the people at St. Mark as I have to be warm, loving and compassionate in their faith. Please keep me in your prayers and I hope you can be there for the commencement.

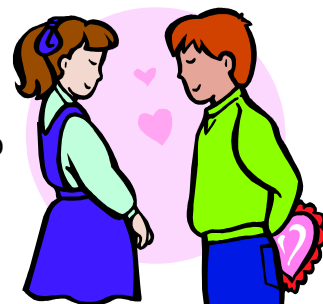
Your brother in Christ,

Pastoral Assistant Chris Rubino



## Valentines Day – A Time to Love

Years ago, Ann Landers published a survey taken by parents of children of all ages. The question was this: "If you had to do it over again, would you have children?" 70 percent of the parents surveyed said, "No." Most of the "No" responses came from parents with babies and parents of teenagers. Some of us might be shocked with that survey, and then again, if our true feelings were known, we might at times agree with the 70 percent.



Another example that some of us can identify with: Bill told his wife right after they got married that he wanted no children. At the age of three he had a dog named Murphy. He loved Murphy deeply. He and Murphy were always together. Murphy was his prized possession. When Bill was four years old, Murphy disappeared. He either ran away, was stolen, or was killed, but the fact is that Murphy never returned.

Bill loved Murphy so much that he was deeply hurt, and, from that day on, Bill never loved anything like that again. So, when Bill grew up and became married, he vowed he would never have children, because he knew he had a great capacity to love and love would result in being hurt, and Bill didn't want his child to hurt him.

Now, on the one hand, we can say that Bill was selfish. On the other hand, we can come to this very important conclusion: To really love, you must love enough to permit someone to hurt you. To give you an idea of how open one becomes to be hurt, listen to these words. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered. Love keeps no record of wrongs."

I say that such a love opens you up to be hurt by the one you really care for. I am sure that there are at least a few men and women who have built a wall around themselves because they were hurt by someone they loved. You opened yourself up, you revealed your true feelings, you gave yourself to someone, and he or she hurt you. And now, today, you find it difficult to love again.

A woman says, "I won't be hurt again," and she gives up on the marriage. A teenager says, "I won't be hurt again," and he or she runs away. A husband says, "I won't be hurt again," and he clams up.

The Holy Spirit speaking through Paul says, "Love keeps no record of wrongs." Love pays the price of being hurt. Love will go on loving regardless of what others do. Love will realize in advance that there will be hurt. True love is worth the hurt!

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The Bible is the story of God loving people. God placed two people in the Garden of Eden. They were not placed there as robots. They were not mechanical. They had free wills. God said, "I'll love you enough to permit you to hurt Me. I'll be open enough to let you hurt Me. I'll reveal to You my perfect plan. I'll open to you the deep mysteries of heaven. I'll walk with you as a Brother. I'll love you with everything I have, knowing that you can hurt Me." And they did!

The only way God could love people was to permit them to hurt Him, and everyone did, but He still loved.

We love one another because God has loved us. Like our heavenly Father, we love, knowing full well that at times we will be hurt in the process of it all. And that is why Saint Paul closes his love chapter with these words in verse 13, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

Pastor Meyer

## CAMP...CAMP...CAMP

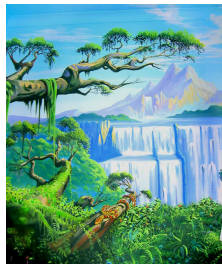
It's time for CAMP...planning that is!

Are you interested in being in a part of a creative process?? Tired of boring meetings with people who just *don't* want to have fun??

Then we need **YOU** to help us:

Plan cabins, write skits, write corny Kody & Pola "bear" jokes, choose songs, recruit helpers, pick out T-shirt logos & colors, and tons more.

Won't you please help with this VERY important children's "outreach" ministry?? Please contact Chris Stodola at 455-5320 or [cstodola@smls.net](mailto:cstodola@smls.net) for more information.



**Women's Winter Retreat**  
**Saturday, February 26, 2011**

***Faith in the Midst of the Jungle***

**Elaine Bickel**, well-known humorist and inspirational speaker, will remind us to “walk by faith and not by sight” during a few hours of renewal, fellowship, laughter and encouragement!

**Where:** St. Mark Lutheran Church  
1934 52<sup>nd</sup> St. SE, Kentwood

**Time:** 9:30am registration, and concludes @ 1:30pm

**Cost:** \$10, includes luncheon

**RSVP:** to Doris Frobel, no later than **Tues., Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>** please.

***Gifts of Love ~ Ingathering:***

These will be taken to the LWML National Convention in Peoria, IL this June.

1 New Bath towel, 1 Hand towel, 1 Washcloth and  
a Christian tract or your favorite Bible verse,  
all packed in a clear, plastic, zip-lock bag.

*This event is sponsored by your LWML Grand Rapids Zone and hosted by women from St. Mark, St. Matthew and Redeemer Lutheran churches.*





# Who's Serving in February



Sunday	February 6	February 13	February 20	February 27
Elders 8:30	Broecker/Stegehuis	Eden/Hop	Ambriz/Eden	Hop/Schramm
Elders 11:00	Ambriz/Galloway	Schramm/ Stegehuis	Rubin/Galloway	Rubino/Stegehuis
Communion Elders	Vaughn/Worch		Plainte/White	
Usher Team 8:30	Weih	Seddon	Symons	Johr
Usher Team 11:00	Ainsworth	McClenathan	Rolf	Ainsworth
Greeter Team 8:30	Symons	Seddon	Broecker	Larson
Greeter Team 11:00	Rubino	Rubin	Rutty	Vaughn
Nursery 8:30	Thompson/Worch	Trombley/ Trombley	Sauer/DeHoag	Klug/Mahon
Nursery 11:00	Evele/Winkler	Felt/Stevenson	VanZweden/ Rolf	Munyon/Bahr/ Gehrls
Altar Guild	Marsiglia/Mussehl	Marsiglia/Mussehl	Drake	Drake
Bulletin Folders	<i>February 4</i> Evele/Tafel/Mahon	<i>February 11</i> Frobel/Heldt	<i>February 18</i> Weih/Domire	<i>February 25</i> Larson/ Glendenning
Coffee Hour Help	Pillsburys/ VanZee/Glendenning	Rutty/Krueger	Rubin/Sauer	Tafel/Heldt/Frobel
Sound Console	Trombley/Trombley	LaVigne/LaVigne	Vaughn/Vaughn	Knorr/Gilcher



# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



## “St. Paul & the Spread of Christianity” Seminar

Led by Rev. Dr. Paul L. Maier

Saturday, February 26th

Grace Lutheran Church, Wyoming, MI

9:00am - 3:00pm

Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for students)  
and will include a light luncheon, a Continental breakfast  
& 2 coffee breaks.

To order tickets, please call the office at Grace at 534-0805  
or Email at [gracelc@gracelc.net](mailto:gracelc@gracelc.net)



*“Sharing Christ...  
Transforming Lives”*

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
and School

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SHARING CHRIST  
TO CONNECT  
PEOPLE TO GOD  
AND ONE ANOTHER.

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