

# Reflections

## Bible Study Is Important in Many Ways!

Millions of Bibles are sold or given away every year. It's the world's most popular book, but at the same time the most misunderstood! We must approach the Bible with respect for what it is—God's divine revelation to us. Unless we actually use it, the Bible is no better than any other book on our shelves. Do you realize that if you are a Christian, and have read the entire Bible, you are in the minority? What does the Bible itself say regarding the importance of Bible study? In **Ephesians 6:11**, Paul instructs the believer to, "**Put on the full armor of God**, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." A few verses later in Ephesians 6:17, he explains that part of that armor of God is "... the **Sword of the Spirit**, which is the **Word of God** ...." We should go into battle, with the devil, skillfully wielding a sharp sword rather than fumbling with a butter-knife.

While not an exhaustive list, below are some reasons for studying the Bible:

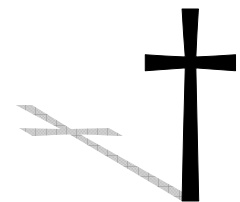
- To learn what it says firsthand
- Personal edification
- To help others
- Better understanding of Jesus
- Because it is God's Word to us
- To know God better
- Avoiding error



## Sunday Morning Adult Study

### To learn what it says firsthand:

One reason to study the Bible is to learn what it has to say firsthand. Considering that the Bible is important to three major world religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – it is worthy of study. In addition, the recent rise of hostile criticism towards the Bible itself, and religion in general, also makes it worthy of study. Sometimes the critics do not always quote the Bible correctly or in context. Knowing what it says firsthand and having some knowledge of the context is helpful in understanding not only current events, but key ideas the Bible addresses, such as the nature and existence of God, the human condition, the biblical pattern of redemption and salvation, and ethics.



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

**Personal edification:**

For thousands of years, the Bible has been read not only as history and God's Word, but also for personal edification. This, of course, is a more meaningful reason for studying the Bible for those who believe in God, but the Bible is also surprisingly edifying for those who do not believe. It is full of individuals facing moral choices, life challenges, and, frankly, situations that are applicable to us even today. As Paul wrote, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (**2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV**).

**To help others:**

But the Bible is not just for us to keep to ourselves as individuals. It is also useful in helping others. We gain centuries of wisdom and are thus able to help others by studying the Bible. Proverbs, for instance, contains general principles and ideas to assist anyone in living their life in a way that is helpful and pleasing to God.

Studying the Bible in order to help others is not just for ministers, priests or pastors, but is something everyone can do. By knowing what the Bible says on different subjects, we can help others through difficult circumstances, encourage them and so forth.

**Better understanding of Jesus:**

For Christians, the Bible culminates in the New Testament account of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Some 2,000 years after the time of Christ, His life and ministry remain relevant even in our contemporary world. Regardless of how one views Christ, like the Bible, He cannot be ignored. Far from being a distant prophet or irrelevant figure in history, Jesus Christ is at Christianity's foundation. Particularly, studying the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John will help anyone gain a better understanding of Jesus and His mission.

**God's Word to us:**

For people the world over, the Bible is God's Word to us. People inspired by God recorded the words that make up the Bible, thus communicating what theologians call special revelation. In other words, God has chosen to reveal Himself not only through creation and conscience, but also specially through Jesus and through His Word. Studying the Bible, then, is a matter of course for those who love God and desire to follow Him.

**To know God better:**

Since the Bible is God's Word, studying it is a way to know God better. Through His words, we come to know not only the nature and attributes of God, but we also come to understand His plan for each of us. In a larger sense, we also come to know God's plan in history, His sovereignty, His providence, His love and more. There is only so much we can learn about God apart from the Bible. But with it we can know God better.

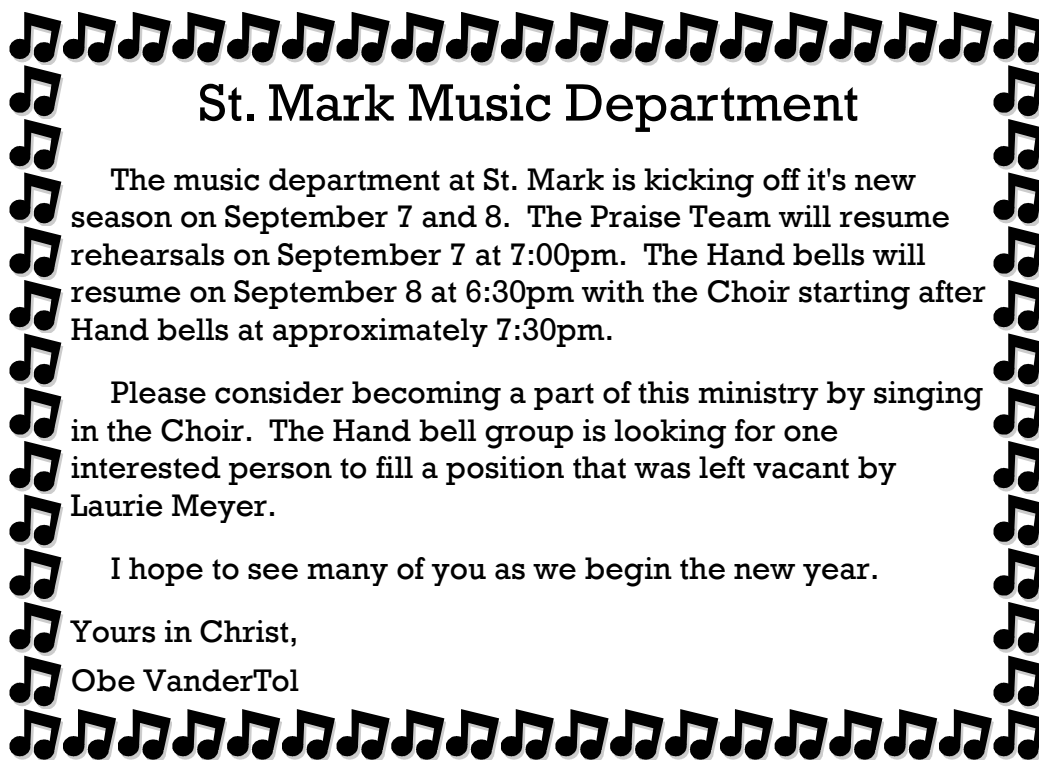
**Avoiding error:**

Studying the Bible also helps us avoid theological error. The Bible tells us, "Watch your life and doctrine closely" (**1 Timothy 4:16 NIV**), adding that we "must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine" (**Titus 2:1 NIV**). If the Bible is our authority for faith and life, then the

inspired words it contains will help us to avoid error. In a pluralistic world, with many religious and non-religious ideas competing for attention, studying the Bible provides us with a firm foundation in God's truth, rather than the errors of the world. Knowing the Bible also helps us respond to error and answer questions that skeptics and others may have about it.

Starting September 18, 2011 we will begin our adult Bible studies again at St. Marks and, for the reasons listed above, I would suggest you attend one of these classes. We will have four adult classes on Sundays between early and late service, and we will also be offering a women's study on Monday's and a men's AM study and a women's PM study on Wednesdays. One of the Sunday classes addresses Christian Apologetics; which is the intelligent presentation and defense of the historical Christian faith. This study will look at faith, God and the **Bible** in helping us to know why we can believe what we believe, in order to help us defend our faith. The question I ask is: How can we have a relationship with God without having a clear understanding of him through His Word...the Bible?

In God we Trust,  
Deacon Chris Rubino



**St. Mark Music Department**

The music department at St. Mark is kicking off it's new season on September 7 and 8. The Praise Team will resume rehearsals on September 7 at 7:00pm. The Hand bells will resume on September 8 at 6:30pm with the Choir starting after Hand bells at approximately 7:30pm.

Please consider becoming a part of this ministry by singing in the Choir. The Hand bell group is looking for one interested person to fill a position that was left vacant by Laurie Meyer.

I hope to see many of you as we begin the new year.

Yours in Christ,  
Obe VanderTol

### *Upcoming events at St. Mark:*

**Oct 18 - 3:30 - 7 - Blood drive at St. Mark....**The simplest reason to donate blood is that it saves lives. Up to three lives per pint, to be specific.

**Nov. 13th - Chili/Soup Cook-Off.** Money will go to our Haiti Mission Trip in January. Get your recipes out, and start looking for your winning chili or soup.



## Nursery News...

Summer is winding down. It is soon time to start thinking about all of the fall and winter activities we have at St. Mark. This first item on the agenda is our schedule for Sunday services. All the volunteers who work in the Nursery, this includes subs, please see the note on the Nursery bulletin board. Also, if any one is willing to help in the nursery during either service on Sunday, help at any of the special functions we have at St. Mark, or want your name added to the sub list, please sign your name and phone number/e-mail address or contact me.

**Parents of children who use the Nursery**, we need your help. If you use the Nursery you need to step up and help out. You know how important the Nursery is to you, therefore you, too, need to help. There are many functions where we need extra volunteers. There is usually a list of these dates posted on the bulletin board in the Nursery. All you have to do is sign your name. So, you see, the needs of the Nursery are ongoing. Without our volunteers, we cannot promise to have the Nursery open each time we have a special function at church.

We continue to need donations. We continually need gently used toys. We need your children's favorite snacks, fruit snacks and fish crackers during the year. We can always use used CDs that are age-appropriate. You can watch for the Servant's Heart for a list of other needs.

A couple of important issues that have to be discussed with all who use the Nursery:

1. The Nursery is for three year olds and younger only.
2. Please have your diaper bags identified with a name tag. Don't expect the volunteers to remember whose is whose.
3. Never leave your child in the Nursery unless you see an adult who is in charge. Some of our youth who help may look 18, but they are not.
4. Unless prior arrangements have been made, only a parent/guardian can pick up a child. Do not send someone in such as a sibling. Our volunteers have a right to refuse to release a child if they are not absolutely sure who is picking up that child. This is so important for the welfare of our children.
5. Do not let your child bring in food, drink or toys into the Nursery. Other children may have life-threatening allergies to certain foods and drink.

We have certain snacks that we may give our children. These snacks are always listed on the bulletin board or you can ask the volunteer. We only allow water to be given to the little ones, unless they have a sippy cup or need a bottle.

Please keep the St. Mark Nursery in your prayers. It is a very special place. Please contact me if you can help or donate. Please contact me if you have any concerns or suggestions.

Sandy Pillsbury, Infant/Toddler Director

### **"SPECIAL" SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sept 11th - Worship** - 10:00am

**"Picnic"** at 11:30am - 1:30pm

(NOTE: Only 1 Service that day)

**September 18th - *Fall Schedule begin:***  
8:30am & 11:00am - *Worship Services*

**"Stop! Look! Listen!"**

to the chatter about DMA  
(Don't Mention Age), **starting on**  
**Wednesday, September 14th at**  
**1:00pm in East Chapel Hall.**

Please bring a dish to pass for our Potluck Luncheon. Call Holly Weih (455-7877) if you have any questions about this or future DMA events. ***Hope to see ya'll there!!***



## Seasonal Change

When I think about this time of the year, I'm reminded of all the things that are going on ... back to school and back to school shopping; kids are starting high school or getting ready for their final year and the same goes for college students, while others are still stuck in the middle somewhere, hoping time speeds up so they can keep moving up; teachers are preparing their classes for the new flock that will be arriving; new season of Fall is coming and the beautiful colors will start to appear; NFL begins; MLB Playoffs are almost here; less vacation because summer is over; and now that the summer is almost over, people will begin to start getting back into "normal" school year habits. Whether or not you're in school, you may be starting to get away from summer habits. People start sticking around more and not going to the cabin every weekend; certain businesses get busier, because of all the traffic school creates; bars and clubs get livelier because the college kids are back; people start coming back to church, hopefully; and so on.

Then again, maybe you aren't starting fresh, or starting something new, like me. I mean for me, most of the year is pretty much the same, except for the summer when I see less people on a weekly basis; but we still have worship on Sunday, and we still have people who need to be called or visited. And so on... Now certainly, this is a new situation, because this fall I find myself at a different congregation for the first time in 4 years. And you, as a congregation, find yourself with a different pastor for the first time in many years. So, in a way, we're going through all of this together.

Wherever you find yourself currently, take in the words of Joshua: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

We are promised that God will never leave us, and He is with us wherever we go, every step of the way, just as He is with all of His people from Adam and Eve all the way to you and me today. He will be with you on the first day of school and on the last day of school. He will be with you on the first day of your new job, and on the day when you finally retire. He will be with you when you are struggling with your health, and He will be with you when you've never felt better. He will be with you on the mountain tops, and He will be with you in the depths and darkness of the valleys. No matter where you are He is with you, and there is no need to fear. There is no need to be fearful of the future, or to be without hope in the present. I know that God is taking care of me in my situation, just as He is taking care of you in yours, and just as He is taking care of St. Mark in its current situation. This is what God has promised to us in His Word. Another promise He gave us, the ultimate promise, is the everlasting promise that is ours through Christ's death and resurrection in John 3, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

We are also promised that wherever we are and whatever we do for God will be blessed. We serve God by loving Him and loving others, as He called us to do in Matthew 22, and 1

Corinthians 15, "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

As disciples, our service to the Lord is not in vain, because of Christ and the everlasting promise that is ours through Him: The promise that God is always with us, and the promise that all who believe will always be with God. New beginnings, ancient message. I look forward to being with you and moving forward together on this journey!

In Christ,  
Pastor Glenn

## Girls of Grace 2011



Saturday, November 12th

Grand Rapids First

9:00am - 4:00pm

\$35 each for 10 or more people

\$5 box lunch

Growing up as a teen in this day and age isn't easy, and the women of Point of Grace have a desire to give teenage girls a renewed sense of confidence, a refreshed spirit, and to see who they are by God's design.

Enter in the Girls of Grace Conference, an exciting one-day event for teenage girls focusing on common age-related issues with a positive Christian message. Some of the topics they will be covering are: about health and body image, healthy relationships, fashion tips, and a fashion show made of girls from the audience. Point of Grace will also share insight regarding love and relationships. Rounding out the overall experience of the conference is an amazing concert by some of the biggest names in Christian music: Point of Grace, Jason Castro, Satellites and Sirens, Dara Maclean, and Meredith Andrews.

**Attention: Crosswalk (5th & 6th) & SRTM (7th-12th) girls.....**I invite you to join me at "Girls for Grace" on November 12th. I think it is a great opportunity for us to go. Girls, be sure to invite your friends, cousins, and moms as well. If we can get 10 people or more, the cost is \$35. Less than that it, will be \$45. If you are interested, please contact Robin today.....at 455-5320 or [rverburg@smls.net](mailto:rverburg@smls.net) to reserve your spot. I look forward to hearing from you!!

*(Worried about the cost? I am looking into some possibilities for Girls 4 God to do some type of fundraiser....more info to come, stay tuned!)*

# WANTED

Good Christian men and women of God, to be a part of the St. Mark Lutheran Church family to serve in the following areas:

**Sound console** (needed for both services, will serve only **ONCE** a month)

**Ushers** (needed for both services, will serve only **ONCE** a month)

**Greeters** (needed for both services, will serve only **ONCE** a month)

**Tellers** (needed approximately every 6 weeks)

**Altar Guild** (please see Doris Drake with questions)

**Coffee Hour Subs** (please see Linda Ruty for details & training)

**Children's Ministry** (please see Chris Stodola with questions)

Supply coordinators

Small group leaders

Children's Church helpers

Game Leaders (Wednesday Nites)

**Youth Ministry** (please see Tom Chester with questions)

Adult Counselors

**Adult /Teen Nursery Workers** (please see Sandy Pillsbury with questions)

**St. Mark School/Preschool** (please see Joel Bahr/Stacie Sorg with questions)

Tutors

Readers

Help w/homework

Substitute teachers

**Qualities needed:** willingness to serve others; love for Christ and **ALL** His children; bright, cheerful smiling faces; we need **YOU!!!**

Won't you **please** sign up today by calling the Church Office: 455-5320; or Email Robin at [rverburg@smls.net](mailto:rverburg@smls.net). Did we mention the great **BONUS** plans?



## Fall Adult Bible Studies

### Sunday Mornings - Starts September 18

**Book of Isaiah: 10:00 AM in Worship Room 202 and is being lead by Deacon Chris Rubino**  
The book of Isaiah is a life-changing encounter with God's Word, by the author whose name meant "the Lord is salvation" - and this was his message for over 40 years. The study addresses the Lord's pronounced judgment on the proud who sought to save themselves. But, through Isaiah, the Lord also comforted the humble with glimpses of the coming Savior; the Prince of Peace who will save us from our sins and bring about our reconciliation with God.

**Christian Apologetics: 10:00 AM in Chapel Hall and is being lead by Pastor Glenn Worcester and/or Head Elder Jeff White** Christian Apologetics is the intelligent presentation and defense of the historical Christian faith. This study will look at faith, God, and the Bible, helping us to know why we can believe what we believe in order to help us defend our faith. We will be looking at what Apologetics IS and Is NOT; and why it is needed.

**Crazy Love: 10:00 AM in Conference Room 205 and is being lead by Jon Krueger.** God is love. Crazy, relentless, all-powerful love. Have you ever wondered if we're missing it? It's crazy, if you think about it. The God of the universe--the Creator of nitrogen and pine needles, galaxies and E-minor--loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love.

And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs, and try not to cuss. Whether you've verbalized it yet or not...we all know somethings wrong. Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do\*s and don\*ts--it\*s falling in love with God. And once you encounter His love, as Francis Chan describes it, you will never be the same. Because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything.

**Book of Psalms: 10:00 AM in Prayer Room 202 and is being lead by Renee Ambriz.** Joy, anger, distress, hope, and trust are some of our heart-cries to God. These are feelings that are expressed in the Psalms. This study will help us learn how to openly express the full range of emotions to God and allow Him to meet our needs.

## Monday Morning Class

### Starts Monday, September 19th



**Friendship - Cultivating the Relationships That Enrich Our Lives.** This study is based on a Women of Faith Series by Margaret Feinberg and is being lead by **Jessi Marsiglia at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room 205.**

One of God's greatest gifts is friendship. God designed us to be in relationship with one another—growing, nurturing, and encouraging each other. When we're intentional about our relationships, it's amazing what God can do in and through us. The scripture verse **Proverbs 27:17** As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another will be the focus of this study

## Wednesday Morning & Evening Classes:

**Out of Nothing: The Word, Creation and Faith: 6:30 AM in Prayer Room and at Red Geranium the first Wednesday of the month, the study is already being conducted by Doug Schornhorst.** The study connects the doctrine of Creation and the doctrine of Justification. The focus is on how the two are interrelated and that one without the other is impossible. The study focuses on being comfortable and confident in the doctrine of Creation.

**Transformation – Letting God Change You from the Inside Out: 7:00 PM in Conference Room 205, 1<sup>st</sup> Class September 21<sup>st</sup> the study is be lead by Kathy Broecker.** This study will help you recognize and cooperate with God's transforming influence in your life. Each session focuses on a critical area He has targeted for change and growth. Session titles: A New Heart, A New Mind, New Ears, A New Voice, New Hands and A New Spine.

### Call Committee Update (August 29, 2011)

The Call Committee has received the Call List from the District Office. We were given the names of twelve pastors to consider. Each candidate packet included a "Pastor's Information Form (PIF)," which gives specific information about education, parishes served, age, etc. It also includes comments from the District President about each pastor.

For eleven of the twelve candidates, the District also included a "Self-Evaluation Tool for Pastors (SET)." The 36 questions in this document give pastors the opportunity to expound on their strengths, weaknesses, position on certain doctrines or practices, and worship style, among other questions.

Using these documents combined with prayerful consideration, the Call Committee members were able to narrow the candidate list to five names. Currently, we are in the process of contacting each candidate, to learn if any or all would consider a call at this time. When those results are known, we will move forward with possible interviews.

Please note: we will not release the names of the five candidates at this time.

The prayers of the congregation are desired by every member of the Call Committee. We also ask that you continue to pray for the man who will be the next Shepherd of St. Mark Lutheran Church, as well as any candidate we are led to contact.

Please feel free to contact any of the Call Committee members with your questions and concerns: *John Salzwedel, Chris Stodola, Aaron Oostindie, Roger Jobr, Scott Eden, Jenni Krueger, Joel Bahr, Melissa Knorr, Fred Fish.*

## “Little Dresses for Africa”

We need help and donations!! The Women’s Ministry of St. Mark (which is every women member of our church) is sponsoring “Little Dresses for Africa” Nights, September 14 & September 21 (Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm).

We need all women to help. If you can’t sew, we will need people to cut, and pin. Many hands will help us reach our goal of 25 dresses.

### Donations are needed:

- Pillow cases (used or new) any color, any size
- Seam binding any color, 1/2 inch size
- Lace or ric-rack any size (to decorate the dresses)
- Elastic 1/4 inch size



Please put donations in the box marked “Little Dresses for Africa” and let’s make little girls pretty.



**Habitat  
for Humanity®**

## Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Partners with Habitat for Humanity

In the Saturday, July 23, 2011 Religion Section of The Grand Rapids Press, there was an article on how area Lutheran churches, including St. Mark, have built 12 homes since 2006, to help the less fortunate in our community. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has funded over \$1 Million toward building these homes in Kent County.

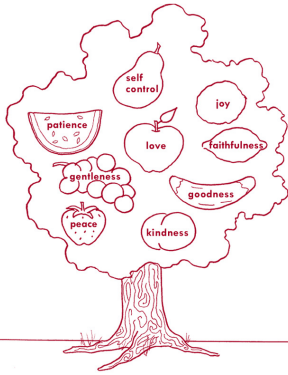
We have another opportunity to show God's love to people in the inner city on Saturday, September 17th, from 8AM-4PM, or whatever time you can give, when we will be doing a one-day service event, including landscaping, porch-rail repair, and painting. The meeting place will be at 445 Delaware St SE, just south of Franklin, between Division and Madison. Lunch will be served. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthax of the church, for your name and phone number. We are hoping for 20-30 volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Rolf at (616) 248-4600 or e-mail at: [rick.rolf@thrivent.com](mailto:rick.rolf@thrivent.com)



Can you cut, trace, sew or tie a knot??  
Then we need YOU!!!

The “Quilters” will be meeting every Tuesday, 1:00-3:00pm in East Chapel Hall starting on **September 13**.

Please come for a time of fun, sewing and fellowship. For more information, please contact Jane Evyle @ 455-4685.



## *Fruit of the Spirit... LOVE*

A number of years ago, a Sunday school superintendent had two new boys in Sunday school. In order to register them, she had to ask their ages and birthdays. The bolder of the two said, "We're both seven. My birthday is April 8, 1976, and my brother's is April 20, 1976." "But that's impossible!" answered the superintendent. "No, it's not," answered the quieter brother. "One of us is adopted." "Which one?" asked the superintendent before she could curb her tongue. The boys looked at each other and smiled, and the bolder one said to the superintendent, "We asked Dad awhile ago, but he just said he loved us both, and he couldn't remember any more which one was adopted."

In Romans 8:17, Paul writes: "Now if we are [God's] children, then we are heirs- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ..." (NIV) Paul's comparison is to adoption. By our faith in Christ we become His adopted brothers and sisters- adopted sons and daughters of God. As fully adopted and accepted children, we share the same inheritance as the begotten Son, Jesus.

Another example...During the war a man died and his two friends desperately wanted to give him a decent burial. They found a cemetery in a nearby village. It happened to be a different Christian denomination than the dead man. When the two friends found the minister in charge of the burial grounds, they requested permission to bury their friend, but the minister refused because the man was not a member of the congregation. When the minister saw their disappointment, he explained that they could bury their friend outside the fence. This was done. Later, they returned to visit the grave but couldn't find it. Their search led them back to the minister and, of course, they asked him what had happened to the grave. The minister told them that during the night he was unable to sleep because he had made them bury their friend outside the fence. So, he got up and moved the fence to include the dead soldier. In Christ, God has "moved the fence" to include us.

In Galatians 5:22&23, the first fruit mentioned as *Fruit of the Spirit*, our school year theme, is love. Love was the motivation in the stories above, and is the "fruit of the month" for the focus of our school in September.

Our "Hymn/Song of the Month" is I Love to Tell the Story, and weekly Bible verses include John 3:16, Luke 10:27, 1 John 4:7&8, Romans 13:8&9, and John 13:34. We encourage you to search the Scriptures and find a little more of what God says about love.

We opened our doors for elementary students to the school year on August 30<sup>th</sup> with about the same number that we ended last June. Preschool begins, after its "Orientation Days" on 9/8 & 9/9, on Monday, September 12 with an expected slight increase in enrollment. We thank and praise God for the opportunities to partner with parents and others in the growth and development of children.

Our school ministry, together with the other ministries of St. Mark, celebrates a "Kick-off" Worship Service on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Girls' A & B Team Basketball gets underway during September and we host a B Team Tournament at the end of the month. School Pictures will be taken before September's end and our PTL will hold its first fundraiser (Entertainment Books) during the month.

We continue to include prayers for our church and school families as part of our "Opening of Day" routine. We encourage your ongoing support and prayers for our students, parents, faculty and staff. May God continue to guide and bless us all----- in, with, and through His love.

Joel Bahr, Principal



## Adopted in Christ

Orphans are a priority to God and adoption is not second-best/last resort/only for the infertile, but God's first-choice, one of His highest priorities, and meant for the Body of Christ to demonstrate the ultimate picture of His love for us.

Mrs. Rebecca Kiessling, an International Pro-Life Speaker and Attorney, was conceived in rape, targeted for abortion, and experienced much ridicule and persecution as a child and young lady. However, she became a Christian, discovered that her life is precious to God and now shares her story. She is a strong and motivated FOR LIFE and ADOPTION advocate.

A presentation will be held at **St. Mark Lutheran Church, on Saturday, September 24 at 6:30pm followed by a dessert buffet.** There is NO cost, but there will be an opportunity for a freewill donation. All proceeds will be used to support *Lutheran Child and Family Services of Michigan-West Region*, and matching funds will be provided by **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**. It is sponsored by the **Lutheran For Life of Grand Rapids**. Reservations are not required.

*“Sharing Christ...  
Transforming Lives”*

**St. Mark Lutheran Church  
and School**

1934 52nd Street SE  
Kentwood, MI 49508

*Return service requested*

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School Fax: 616-281-1543

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SHARING CHRIST TO  
CONNECT PEOPLE TO GOD  
AND ONE ANOTHER.

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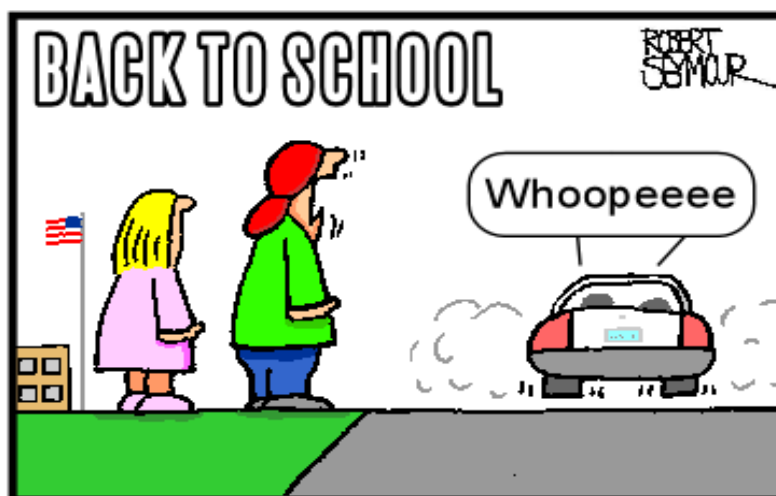
***Please Note:***

Sunday, **September 11th** we  
will be having **one (1) service**  
at **10:00am**. Church Picnic  
will follow at **11:30-1:30pm**  
in the lower parking lot by the  
school playground.

# Who's Serving in...

# SEPTEMBER

	<b>September 4 Labor Day Wkd</b>	<b>September 11</b>	<b>September 18</b>	<b>September 25</b>	
<b>Early Elders</b>	Galloway/ Schramm	Broecker/Seddon	Oosterhouse/ Galloway	Broecker/Seddon	
<b>Late Elders</b>	Rubin/Hop	Plainte/Stegehuis	Eden/Hop	Schramm/ Stegehuis	
<b>Communion</b>	Eden/Ambriz		Plainte/White		
<b>Early Ushers</b>	Seddon	Symons	Johr	Weih	
<b>Late Ushers</b>	McClenathan	Rolf	Ainsworth	McClenathan	
<b>Early Greeters</b>	Seddon	Broecker	Larson	Symons	
<b>Late Greeters</b>	Rutty	Vaughn	Rubino	Rubin	
<b>Sound Console</b>	Trombley	La Vigne	Vaughn	Sauer/Worch	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mussehl	Drake	Drake	Vander Tol	
<b>Bulletin Folders</b>	<b>September 2</b> Evele/Tafel/Mahon	<b>September 9</b> Frobel/Heldt/Ennis	<b>September 16</b> Glendenning/Weih	<b>September 23</b> Larson/Domire/ DeHoag	<b>September 30</b> Volunteers Needed, Please!
<b>Lawn Care</b>	<b>September 1</b> Symons/Symons/ Veltman	<b>September 8</b> Bond/Seddon	<b>September 15</b> Weih/Hopkins	<b>September 22</b> Worch/Jakiel/ Sobol	<b>September 29</b> Symons/ Symons/ Veltman
<b>Nursery - Early</b>	Thompson/Worch	Trombley/Trombley	Sauer/DeHoag	Klug/Mahon	
<b>Nursery - Late</b>	Evele/Winkler	Berg/Stevenson	VanZweden/Rolf	Munyon/Bahr/	



What happened to CRYING?

**Junction 123 (Grades 1,2,3)**

Children in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades will participate in small group and large group activities as they have fun learning and applying God's Word. We will use puppets, dramas, games, and crafts to share God's true stories. The small group activities will encourage them to apply God's Word and enable them to become active disciples.

**Sundays**  
9:45-10:45am

**Mile 4 (Grade 4)**

Yes we have made a change again! With the addition of "Crosswalk" for grades 5&6, we have given our 4th graders their own "preteen" place to learn and grow. We realize they are not yet teens, but they are ready for more than an elementary curriculum. We will be encouraging them to dig deeper and "grapple" with the many issues preteens deal with today.

**Sundays**  
9:45-10:45am

**WKSJ (Ages Kindergarten-Grade 4)**

Workers are present at WKSJ!! (Where Kids Serve Jesus). At WKSJ we put our ministry gifts to work serving others. We participate in the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, make decorations and cards for local assisted living facilities, and we serve in worship through the creative arts. We also help with packaging soup and a variety of other projects at church. We have a lot of fun serving our King!

**Meets Wednesdays**  
6:30-8:00pm

**Children's Church (4yrs-2nd grade)**

Children's Church is offered during the 11:00am service on non-confirmation Sundays during the school year. Children exit the sanctuary just prior to the sermon. At Children's Church your child will **Worship, Pray, and Listen** to God's true stories from the Bible.



**Advent and Lent**

During Advent and Lent we take a "detour" from our regular activities and offer a few special seasonal activities for families.

**Advent**

In place of our regular Learning Hour, on the first Sunday of Advent, families gather together to prepare for the Christmas season. Crafts and cookies as well as weekly devotionals to help your family focus on the reason for the season are part of this fun and meaningful activity.

**Lent**

During the six weeks of Lent, Sunday morning Children's Church is offered each week at the 11:00am service. A special Lenten series is shared during this worship time and children are given a "take home egg" activity to share with their family each week. This take home activity reinforces and applies the lessons from the Children's Church Worship time.

**Good Friday Service for Children**

Good Friday worship is a very important part of our Lenten journey. However, some children are not ready for the solemn, darkened sanctuary, and the creative drama used in this service. Therefore we offer a service just for children during the adult worship. We worship together with songs and liturgy and share the crucifixion story in an age appropriate manner and a reminder that Good Friday was not the end of the story! After our formal worship time has ended, we have time for crafts and games.

**Welcome**

To



ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Children's Ministries

St. Mark Lutheran Church

1934 52nd Street

Kentwood, MI 49508

455-5320

www.stmarkkentwood.org

*Chris Stadala*

*Director of Children's Ministries*



# Route 252 Children's Ministries

And Jesus grew

in wisdom and stature,  
and in favor with God and men.

Luke 2:52

That is our goal in ministry to children and families at St. Mark. We want to partner with you to help your child grow like Jesus did.

From Baptism

Beginnings through Mile 4 Preteen, and the new Cross Walk 5th/6th the

Children's Ministry programs are here to provide ways for your children to grow.

We pray you and your children will join us on "Route 252" to grow in wisdom, and stature, and in favor with God and men.

**CROSSWALK**



Who: 5th/6th Grades

Where: The "NEW" Crosswalk Youth Room

When: Sundays and Wednesdays

Why: To create a bridge between Children's and Youth Ministries.

For More Info: Check the information table outside the Pitt Stop for details!



## Beginnings

### Baptism

This is the first step in your responsibility to teach your child to know our Lord and His great love for them. We offer special resources to help with the spiritual development of the very young child, including ideas on how to celebrate Baptismal birthdays and how to help your young child pray.

### First Bibles

We believe that we grow in our Christian faith as we study the Bible. Classes are offered for parents of children in first and third grades during which they will learn how to help their child use the Bible. At the conclusion of the classes, parents will give their child/children a Bible during a special worship service.

### First Communion

At St. Mark, students are instructed in Holy Communion during fifth grade. These classes help a child to understand the significance and how to participate in the Means of Grace. Parents may then allow their child to attend Communion at a special worship service.



## Nursery

A staffed nursery for infants to 4yrs is offered during worship services, Wednesday evening programs, and as needed for Choir and Handbell practice and other events.



## Toddler Crossing (Ages 2-3)

This is your child's first experience in growing spiritually along with other toddlers. This learning environment with Bible Stories, music, crafts and a snack is tailored to the needs of active toddlers. Parents are encouraged to attend with young toddlers.

Sundays  
9:45-10:45am



## Bus Stop (Ages 4, 5, & K)

Bible story events, games, crafts, and snacks are all part of the Sunday morning experience for this age group. Children will be actively involved in learning and growing in faith. Each activity, including the snack is designed to review and help apply the Bible event to the child's life. Children will also visit with Albie, Judy, and Bubba through fun and silly puppet presentations each week.

Sundays  
9:45-10:45am

# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1	Matt Irons	9/12	Tim Fleisher Lucas Gray Madison Gray	9/21	Doris Eggerding
9/3	Claire Koehler			9/22	Isabella Ambriz
9/4	Nathan Coccia Amy Gray Jacob Halstead Nicolas Halstead Austin Towne	9/13	Kayleigh Coccia Elise Galloway Sheryl Bourzac Steve Hinkle	9/23	Mark Worch
9/5	Gary Elmore Dorothy Heldt Cindra Ochsankehl Jeff Hunt	9/14	Helen Leggett Sue Salzwedel Jeanie Smith	9/24	Jacob Dunn Joseph Dunn
9/6	Autumn Janusz Ellen Kruggel Kaylee McKendry	9/15	Max Anderson	9/26	Joel Bahr Charles Locklin Richard Webb
9/7	Connie Drake Logan Fleisher Jeannie Oliver	9/16	Blake Montgomery Parker Nanzer Scott Smith	9/27	Karen Gehrls Justin Nanzer Gloria Stewart Lauren Stodola
9/8	John Stegehuis	9/17	Garret Harder	9/28	Amy Oostindie
9/10	Dave Gehrls Bryce Backus	9/19	Sandra Hunt Anita Alverson	9/29	Fred Fish Lisa Trombley
		9/20	Obe VanderTol		



## 52nd Street Ministries Children & Youth



### Upcoming Events...

#### September 8

*Maple Creek BINGO* (everyone welcome)  
6:30pm

#### September 16th

*Girls 4 God Overniter* (Grades 7-12)  
8:00pm - 10:00am

#### September 18th & September 25th

*Learning Hour: Route 252, Crosswalk, and SRTM*  
9:45am - 10:45am

#### September 18th

*SRTM D3* (High School Bible Study)  
5:00pm - 8:00pm

#### September 21st & September 28th

5:45 - Supper Club  
6:30 - WKSJ (4yrs-4th Grade)  
Crosswalk (Grades 5-6)  
Full Throttle (Grades 7-8)

#### September 23rd

*Flameproof Overniter* (Grades 7-12)  
8:00pm - 10:00am



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THU

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SAT

# September 2011

<p>4 <b>Holy Communion</b> 8:30 am Traditional Wor- ship 10:00 am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>5 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anony- mous</p>	<p>6 3:30 pm SMILS Girls' Bball Practice 6:00 pm WMLHS Girls' Volleyball Game 8:00 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>7 6:30 am Men's Bible Study* at Red Geranium Café on Kalamazoo Ave. 8:30 am SMILS Chapel</p>	<p>8 SMILS Preschool Orienta- tion 3:30 pm SMILS Girls' Bball Practice 5:30 pm TOPS 6:30 pm SRTM Maple Creek BINGO* 6:30 pm Hand Bells 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>9 SMILS Preschool Orienta- tion</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Church Picnic 7:00 pm WMLHS Opening Worship Service*</p>	<p>12 SMILP First Day of Preschool (4 yrs. &amp; Young 5's) 3:30 pm SMILS Faculty Mtg SMILS Girls' Basketball Game vs. Westshore Luth. 4:15 pm B Team 5:15 pm A Team 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anony- mous</p>	<p>13 SMILP First Day of Pre- school (3 yr. olds) 1:00 pm Quilters 3:30 pm SMILS Girls' Bball Practice 7:00 pm School Council 8:00 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>14 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8:30 am SMILS Chapel 1:00 pm DMA Potluck Lunch 6:00 pm Thrivent So. Kent Co. Board Meeting 6:30 pm Little Dresses for Africa</p>	<p>15 3:30 pm SMILS Girls' Bball Practice 5:30 pm TOPS 6:30 pm Hand Bells 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>16 8:00 pm Girls 4 God Over- nighter (Gr. 7-12) Begins</p>	<p>17 10:00 am Girls 4 God Overnighter Ends</p>
<p>18 <b>Holy Communion</b> 8:30 am Traditional Wor- ship 9:45 am Learning Hour 11:00 am Contemporary Worship 5:00 pm SRTM D3 (Gr. 5- 8)</p>	<p>19 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anony- mous</p>	<p>20 1:00 pm Quilters SMILS Girls' Basketball Game vs. St. Joe's 4:30 pm B Team 5:30 pm A Team 6:00 pm Haiti Mission Trip Meeting 6:30 pm Tae Kwon Do 7:00pm PTL 8:00 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>21 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8:30 am SMILS Chapel 4:15pm SMILS Girls' Basket- ball Game vs. Cross Creek 5:45 pm Supper Club 6:30 pm WKSJ (Gr. K-4) 6:30 pm Crosswalk (Gr. 5-6) 6:30 pm SRTM Full Throttle (Gr. 7-8) 6:30 pm Little Dresses for Africa 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>22 5:30 pm TOPS 6:30 pm Hand Bells 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>23 8:00 pm Flameproof Over- nighter (Gr. 7-12) Begins</p>	<p>24 10:00 am Flameproof Overnighter Ends 6:30 pm WIM - Lutherans for Life Event</p>
<p>25 8:30 am Traditional Wor- ship 9:45 am Learning Hour 11:00 am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>26 4:00 pm SMILS Girls' Bas- ketball Game vs. Our Sav- ior Luth., GR 7:00 pm Gam-Anon 7:00 pm Gamblers Anony- mous</p>	<p>27 SML S/P School Pictures 1:00 pm Quilters 3:30 pm SMILS Girls' Bball Practice 6:30 pm Tae Kwon Do 8:00 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>28 SML S/P School Pictures 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8:30 am SMILS Chapel 5:45 pm Supper Club 6:30 pm WKSJ (Gr. K-4) 6:30 pm Crosswalk (Gr. 5-6) 6:30 pm SRTM Full Throttle (Gr. 7-8) 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>29 3:30 pm SMILS Girls' Bball Practice 5:30 pm TOPS 6:00 pm WMLHS Girls' Varsity Volleyball Game 6:30 pm Hand Bells 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>30 SML S/P Vision/Hearing Screening SMILS Girls' B Team Bas- ketball Tournament</p>	<p>*Off-Campus</p>