



Founded on the Word ... Focused on the Cross

Glorify God, Grow in Grace, Go with the Gospel

St. Mark's Lutheran Weekly Newsletter

December 22, 2024

Spend A Moment With God

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. ² He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. ³ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; ⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope" Isaiah 42. *Celebrate once again this Christmas the hope we have been given.*

Glorify & Grow: Sunday December 22

9:30 Worship (note special time)

8:30 Bible Discussion for all ages

Glorify & Grow: Sunday December 29

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

9:15 Sunday School (meet in Chapel)

9:30 Bible Discussion for All Ages

Thank you everyone for being a Greeter!

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm (in church)

Christmas Eve at 8:00 pm (on the patio)

Christmas Day at 9:30 am

Scripture Readings for December 29

Isaiah 50:4-9

Hebrews 2:10-18

Luke 2:41-52

From God's Yellow Pages

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

This Week – Joy ... Luke 10:20; John 15:11

Growing in Grace Opportunities

Sunday Bible Study ... Main Area –

Personalizing Law & Gospel --- Note: 12/22 will

be meeting at 8:30 in the church, 12/29 back to 9:30 in the church. Thanks for the flexibility in December.

Prayer Warriors

"Christians, while on earth abiding, let us never cease to pray... (CW 408). Give us caring hearts, O Lord, to love and seek the lost. Overcome our fears, and grant us courage to share our hope of salvation with those who have no hope. Make us faithful in our daily life so that all we say and do may glorify you. What are you thankful for this week...Pray about it. Who is on your mind...Pray for them.

From the Worship Arts Committee

Christmas Poinsettia Donations ...

The Christmas poinsettias are \$7 each this year. If you would like to donate toward this, please indicate so on the signup sheet located on the Lobby counter. You can place your donation in the offering box and designate it for "Christmas poinsettias". Thank you for helping to beautify the church for Christmas!

Share A Christmas Ornament ...

We would LOVE our members to fill with beautiful, religious Christmas ornaments a new Christmas tree which will be placed in the front church Lobby. Please share your religious ornaments (such as nativities, crosses, angels, etc.) and hang them on the new tree. The ornaments would be "on loan" now through January 5 (Epiphany Sunday). If possible, label your ornaments on the back using for example a small piece of masking tape so your ornaments can be easily returned at the end of the Season. It will be fun to see all the different beautiful ornaments!

Making Connections --- Opportunities

Carols around the Fire will take place on Christmas Eve at 8:00 pm on our St. Mark's Patio (unless raining).

Brunch To Welcome New Members ... All Members are welcome to a Brunch on Sunday, January 12, starting at 9:15 AM in the MPC. You are welcome to bring food to share (baked or bakery). If planning to attend, please sign the sheet in the Lobby or email Stacie at churchadm@stmarkslutheran.com (if bringing a dish to pass, please indicate that as well).

Change for Life ... During the month of January we will have 'baby bottles' available which can be filled with your loose change. This is a way to assist expectant mothers who do not have a support network; however, they can find it through our WELS 'New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers' outreach center located near Milwaukee, WI. New Beginnings is part of our WELS Christian Life Resource Ministry, which offers assistance to people from conception to end of earthly life. You can learn more about New Beginnings at www.homeformothers.com.

LWMS Corner – Missions & You

New Befriend A Mission assignments for 2025-26 will be announced in the coming weeks. Please remember our current missions/missionaries in your prayers and Christmas greetings. Mission information and addresses are on the shelf and bulletin board. *Please note: 1) World missionary Dan Kroll and his wife live in Lilongwe, Malawi --- For safety reasons in world missions do not use Rev or Pastor in the address. 2) Home missionary, Pastor Lucas Callie and his wife live in Iowa; he serves at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in two locations --- Pictures on the shelf include Korra, a Good Shepherd therapy dog.*

Ministry Financial Plan Update

Offerings received since July 1, 2024: \$281,349
Goal for July 2024–December 2024: \$287,500

Thank Offering Envelopes Available

The 2025 Thank Offering envelopes for the financial support of our ministry at and through St. Mark's are available. **In addition**, please pick up the **Commitment Packet**.

Upcoming Pastor Vacancy ... Pastor K will be here through January; it looks like the AZ-CA District President has a Vacancy Pastor lined up to serve us beginning in February. In January, the District President will meet with us to go over the procedures associated with calling a new Pastor. More details will be shared as that meeting date is determined. *A Vacancy Pastor's focus is to make sure the essentials of ministry are being met until a resident Pastor arrives.*

Save The Date - A Farewell for PK & Jenny

St. Mark's members and friends are cordially invited to a farewell luncheon for Pastor and Jenny Kolander on January 19 at 12:30 pm in the multi-purpose building. Tri-tip and other meat sandwiches, and special desserts will be provided. For those who are able, we are asking you to bring a side dish. Please sign the signup sheet in the church lobby as soon as possible so we can get a headcount, and also indicate what side dish you might bring. We hope you are able to come to the farewell to say goodbye to the Kolanders!

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

Dec 22 – Bible Study moved to 8:30 am

Dec 22 – One Worship Service at 9:30 am

Jan 7 – New GriefShare Series begins, 1:00 pm

Jan 12 – All Member Brunch

Jan 24-26 – Women's Retreat

January – No Monday Night Worship

*Peace came to earth ... Peace has been given to you ...
Peace is to be shared.*



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