



Founded on the Word ... Focused on the Cross

Glorify God, Grow in Grace, Go with the Gospel

St. Mark's Lutheran Weekly Newsletter

January 12, 2025

Spend A Moment With God

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" Matthew 5. *Here is a good reminder to examine what we are doing with the gift of life (physical & spiritual) God has given to us.*

Glorify & Grow: Sunday Mornings

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

9:15 Sunday School (meet in Chapel)

9:30 Bible Discussion for Teens / All Ages

No Monday Worship in January

Scripture Readings for January 19

Isaiah 62:1-5

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 2:1-11

Epiphany Focus ... The Church Worship Season of Epiphany began with our worship on January 5. Epiphany in a nutshell means 'appearing;' Jesus appeared among us, showing Himself to be the Promised One through His speech and His actions. The Season of Epiphany reminds us that Jesus, a helpless infant at Christmas and who walked among people in the form of a servant did at times let rays of divine glory shine through. Jesus is indeed true God (always has been) and true Man (through the incarnation), a

necessary truth for our salvation. The Epiphany Season prepares us for the 'what and why' of Lent.

Growing in Grace Opportunities

Jan 12 – in place of the Study we will be having our annual 'all member brunch' in the MPC

Jan 19 & 26 – Faith Reinforcement as we read through Ephesians

Men's Monday Study is this Monday, January 13 ... 5:00 pm for Pizza and fellowship, 5:30-6:30 for Bible Study. If you are planning to attend, contact Paul Baker so enough Pizza is available; if you have questions related to this Study, contact Paul.

Women's Monday Bible Class starts a new session on January 20. We will be discussing Pastor Matthew Doebler's book "God Loves Nobodies – Good News for Somebody Like Me". *Do you feel like a nobody? It's all too easy to get caught up in the world's race for success, even if you know that Jesus is your source of hope and significance. Pastor Matthew Doebler addresses humanity's constant pursuit of lasting recognition both inside and outside of the church. Using an engaging variety of biblical examples, true-life stories, and humorous pop culture references, Doebler explains how and why Jesus is the eternal solution to your desire to be somebody.* The class meets in the Library Room on the 3rd Monday of every month, except December. Fellowship is at 6:00 pm and the Bible study is from approximately 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Penny Beaushaw has two extra books for purchase. For more information, contact Penny at 916-769-4252.

Making Connections - Opportunities

SMYBL (St Mark's Youth Basketball League) has started up on Campus this month and goes for several Saturdays. We have 100+ participants ranging from Kindergarten through 2nd Grade.

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.

Prime Timers Potluck & White Elephant Gift Exchange ... Feb. 2 at 1:00 pm. Sign up sheet in the back of the Church under the TV.
Is anyone willing to Host? Any questions, please reach out to Carolyn Welch at 916.967.2747 or Betty Martin at 916.206.8574.

Save the Date: *You are invited to a presentation on taxes to be held Monday, February 10 from 11:30 - 1:30. Information will be presented by Nathan Mahnke, a Financial Advisor. Feel free to invite others (non-members too) that might be interested in attending this informative presentation. Lunch will be provided. To ensure we have sufficient materials for everyone, please RSVP to Kitty in the church office or by using the sign-in sheet in the church lobby.*

LWMS Corner – Missions & You

Those who ordered calendars may pick them up from the LWMS shelf. Names are on the envelopes. Payment to Clara includes shipping. Thank you.

Ministry Financial Plan Update

Offerings received since July 1, 2024: \$327,685
Goal for July 2024–June 2025: \$575,120

Thank Offering Statements Available

If you would like to receive a copy of your 2024 Thank Offerings Statement, please contact Kitty at the church office. Statements should be ready after the first week of January.

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

Jan 13 – Pre-Call Mtg (see below)

Jan 19 – Farewell Lunch in the MPC, Noon

Jan 24-26 – Women's Retreat

January – No Monday Night Worship

Note: Pastor Pre-Call Congregation Meeting for Monday, January 13 at 6:30 pm in the church. The AZ-CA District President (Pastor Joel Heckendorf serving at 'Light of the Valleys' in Reno) will lead us through a discussion as he strives to become familiar with St. Mark's and our ministry needs going forward. More information will be shared related to the Vacancy Pastor coming in February; his name is Gary Wong (retired Pastor, now residing in New Ulm, MN --- he is originally from the Bay area). A Vacancy Pastor's focus is to make sure the essentials of ministry are being met until a resident Pastor arrives.



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