



Founded on the Word ... Focused on the Cross

Glorify God, Grow in Grace, Go with the Gospel

St. Mark's Lutheran Weekly Newsletter

January 19, 2025

Spend A Moment With God

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" Matthew 5. *Great advice, but it is more than advice; this is to be part of our identity in Christ. God be praised for the forgiveness we have in Christ as we fall short of this expectation.*

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 26

Isaiah 61:1-6

Acts 4:23-31

Luke 4:16-30

Growing in Grace Opportunities

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

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

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 expected 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 learn more about New Beginnings at www.homeformothers.com. Please place filled bottles on the Lobby Counter.

PrimeTimers Potluck on February 2nd at 1:00 pm. It will include a White Elephant Exchange. There is a signup sheet in the back of the Church under the TV. **If you are willing to host in your home**, or have any questions, **please**

reach out to Carolyn Welch at 916.967.2747 or Betty Martin at 916.206.8574

Sunday February 9th is **Super Chili Bowl Sunday at St. Marks!** That's right, bring your A-game to this hotly disputed contest of who has the best chili around. Stick around after the late service for our chili cook-off in the MPC. Sample every one, vote for your favorite, and you'll be primed and ready to lounge on the couch in the afternoon for that 'other' Super Bowl event.

*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: \$341,712
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.

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

January – No Monday Night Worship

Jan 19 – Farewell Lunch in the MPC, Noon

Jan 24-26 – Women's Retreat

Feb 9 – Chili Cook-off in the MPC

Feb 10 – Pastor & Teacher Calls Mtg*

**Note: The Board of Child Discipleship recommended to the Coordinating Council that we extend a Call to fill the upcoming Teacher vacancy for the 2025-26 School Year as Mrs. Jodi Rowe has accepted a Call to teach at Risen Savior in Pooler, GA. The Council approved the recommendation and will bring a Call List for a Grades 3-4 Teacher to the Church Meeting on February 10, the Call for a Pastor will be extended first. At that meeting, further explanation will be provided related to the Teacher Call.*

Note: Retired Pastor Gary Wong and his wife Maribeth are planning to arrive in Citrus Heights early February. A 'Grocery Gift Card' welcome is being planned (details to come). The Board of Elders are ready to conduct Worship Services until Pastor Wong arrives.



7869 Kingswood Drive * Citrus Heights, CA 95610
(916) 961-7891 * stmarkslutheran.com