



Founded on the Word ... Focused on the Cross

Glorify God, Grow in Grace, Go with the Gospel

St. Mark's Lutheran Weekly Newsletter

February 23, 2025

Ponder This For A Moment

"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? ... God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple" 1 Corinthians 3.

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 February until otherwise notified*

Scripture Readings for March 2

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Luke 9:28-36

Growing in Grace Opportunities

Feb 25 - GriefShare Group @ 1pm

Feb 26 - Adult Choir @ 6:30pm

Feb 27 - JOL Women's Bible Study @ 9:30am

Mar 2 - Jesus Cares Ministry @ 2pm

Join Us for Dinner for 8!

We're excited to announce a new fellowship opportunity at St. Mark's - Dinner for 8! This intimate gathering brings believers together to share meals and meaningful conversation in host homes, following the beautiful example of early Christians in Acts 2:46-47 who broke bread together with glad and sincere hearts. These small group dinners create the perfect setting for developing deeper connections within our church family while enjoying fellowship over a shared meal. Whether you're interested in hosting or attending as a guest, we welcome your participation.

Want to sign up? Find the QR code in the narthex or pick up a paper interest form and

complete. As we launch this new program, we appreciate your patience while we coordinate groups and schedules. For more information, please contact Kaisa Miller at (916) 207-4287 or email miller.kaisa@gmail.com.

PRIME TIMERS ARE BACK!

We had a fun and lively white elephant gift exchange & potluck last on February 2...there were even 3 different white elephants as gifts! We will be having another Potluck + BINGO + Planning meeting after the 2nd service on Sunday, March 2nd at noon.

Everyone is encouraged to come with solid ideas with activities we can do in the coming months. For example, if you think the group should attend a play, come with ideas & details of upcoming plays. You'll be in the Lead, but you'll have all of us to support you.

Some other ideas that were suggested: Game afternoon (instead of at night), Art Museum, River Cats game, Concert, Hot August nights, Movie Night (either at church or movie theater), and possibly a Progressive Dinner.

Do YOU have an idea for a fun group activity? If you're 55+, please bring them on March 2nd. A Signup sheet will be in the Narthex. If you have any questions, you can reach out to Betty Martin.

The 62nd LWMS Annual Convention will be in Tulsa, OK June 26-June 29. The theme is "Sowing The Seeds of Faith." The convention verse is 1 Corinthians 3:6-9. Our home and world missionaries will share how they are sowing seeds of faith. Registration information materials will be on the LWMS shelf when received.

LWMS Spring Rally

Redwood Circuit Spring Rally will be held April 26, 2025 at St. Peter in Clovis. A sign-up sheet will be on the LWMS board. Guest speaker is Pastor Paul Jordan who served as missionary in Pakistan.

At the rally we will be voting for new board members. Positions open for nomination are President, Treasurer, Spiritual Growth Woman, and Spiritual Growth Pastor.

The Clovis Rodeo is also going on that weekend. For more information Friday through Sunday check the website at: clovisrodeo.com. An informal dinner may be held at the church, depending on numbers. We will need a headcount.

Kids C.A.R.E. Project for 2024-2025 in Antigua continues until May 25, 2005.

St. John's Lutheran Church in Antigua serves children in preschool through grade 6. Our children learn about a mission, pray for the mission, and bring offerings. They learn that they too have an important role in sharing the good news about Jesus. There are 3 lessons for each of the three teaching levels: pre-school-grade 1, lower level, grades 3-5 and upper level grades 6-8. The lessons are supported by Sunday schools, other church groups, and family members. More information and lessons for you to copy are on the shelf in the red folder.

SCRIP - Gift Cards thru Raiseright.com

We will be offering Scrip in the Church Lobby every first and second Sunday of the month. We will be placing orders monthly on the 15th. Scrip gift cards arrive within a week or less. If you need scrip at any other time, please don't hesitate to check with us in the office about placing orders. Every rebate we get back helps towards a student that might need tuition assistance to hear the word of god in school.

Gas, Groceries, gifts for others...Scrip carries it all and it doesn't cost you anything extra to spend money you already planned to spend.

***Please note that anyone that already donated gift cards to the Wong's, will be carried over to the next vacancy or permanent Pastor. Thank you again for your generosity and being a part of our St. Mark's Lutheran Family!

Ministry Financial Plan Update

Offerings received since July 1, 2024: \$388,091

Goal for July 2024-June 2025: \$575,120

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

March 5 - Ash Wednesday

March 9 - Lent 1 Service (Daylight Savings)

CONGREGATION UPDATE!!!

Pastor Vacancy. *We got great news last week. Pastor Brad Wright and his wife Susan will be coming to help us during our vacancy. His first Sunday with us will be March 16. We will organize a small welcome and introduction for them, details to follow.*

Pastor Heckendorf, our AZ/CA District president, as promised, has worked with us to make sure we have good coverage until then. On Feb 16, Pastor Dan Waterstradt served us from Light of the Valleys in Reno. We will have coverage from guest pastors through February. On March 9, we are planning to have a lay-led (member officiated) worship service, similar to what was done the first two weeks of February. As a continued reminder, we are encouraged, during this time of vacancy, to embrace the fact that while some aspects of worship may be a little different according to each pastor, we can rest secure in the rock solid message of Law and Gospel which will remain the same.

Calls Status. *On Feb 10, we issued 3 calls for new workers. First, we issued a call to Pastor Dan Olson, who is currently serving at St. Paul's in Onalaska, WI, to serve as our Pastor. Second, we called Mr. Kevin Needham to be our Principal and Teacher. Mr. Needham is currently serving*

*in Saginaw, MI at St. Paul's Lutheran School.
Third, we called Mrs. Katie Olson, who is serving
at St. Paul's in Onalaska, WI, to be our Grades
3-4 teacher. (Yes, she is Pastor Dan Olson's
wife...).*

*We have already connected with each of these
three workers in the last days and helped them
to understand our St. Mark's ministry. Please
pray for these workers as they consider where
best to use their God given talents and abilities
to serve. Please also remember that our Lord
will provide for St. Mark's, just as He has for so
many years, in all our needs.*

Leadership Team. *Especially during these times
of transition, members are encouraged to speak
to the elected leaders of our congregation about
any questions or concerns they might have. This
group of volunteers is dedicated to serving the
ministry of St. Mark's and to communicate as
much as is possible, knowing that this can be a
challenge with all that is going on here right
now. This is also a good time to speak words of
encouragement to our leaders and to be in
prayer for them.*

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