



# Christ is Our Cornerstone!



Lion's Roar – April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
St. Mark Lutheran School

## Upcoming Events at St. Mark ....

Thursday, 25 <sup>th</sup>	Hot Lunch
Friday, 26 <sup>th</sup>	8:25a Chapel 9:30p Morning Moms Hot Lunch
Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup>	6:00p Spring Fling 3:30p Kids Choir 3:45p Golf Club
Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup>	4:30p Examination Rehearsal
Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup>	6:30p Confirmation Examination
Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hot Lunch
Friday, 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Arbor Day

## Hot Lunch Menu



- Thur, April 25** Hot ham on a bun, sweet potato fries, veggies & pineapple
- Fri, May 3** Taco Bake, corn, yogurt, mandarins
- Fri, May 10** chicken patty on a bun, waffle fries, veggies, fruit, and dessert
- Fri, May 17** Kid's Heart Challenge Picnic

## Opening Thought

*"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep.*

*"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me (just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. (John 10:11-16)*

A few summers ago, St. Mark hosted Professor Paul Koelpin from Martin Luther College for a summer family Bible study. Professor Koelpin's focus was on the four Gospels, *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*, and how each of them is unique. We learned when they were written, who was the initial audience, where they gleaned their information while writing it, and what special themes are found in them. One uniqueness of the Gospel of John is that about 90% of John's writing is not recorded in the other three Gospels. He wrote his Gospel much later than the other three so he "filled in a few of the blanks" in Jesus' ministry. One of John's themes in his book is on Jesus' "I am" statements. We will focus on one of those statements today, *"I am the Good Shepherd."*

Three weeks after Easter is Good Shepherd Sunday. Many Christians find their most comfort in thinking about this theme. In Bible days, shepherding was a vital vocation. Sheep need guidance. They need a leader to show them where to find healthy grass to eat. They need a leader to protect them from foes that might harm them. They need guidance to find safe water to drink. Jesus fulfills all these traits. He leads us to the precious truths of his Word in his teaching. *"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:28) The Holy Spirit has brought us to faith, and we believe Jesus' words. *Whoever belongs to God*

*listens to what God says. (John 8:47a) Jesus became a human being and knows the challenges we fight when facing temptations. Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 2:18) What a beautiful picture Jesus shares when he tells us that he is "The Good Shepherd." Most importantly, Jesus shares his greatest truth as "The Good Shepherd" when he shares, "The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." He demonstrates the contrast when comparing his work to the "hired man." When the hired man senses danger, he leaves the sheep behind. "Better that they die, and I save my life," he reasons. But not Jesus. He laid down his life by suffering on the cross to make payment for all of our sins. But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8) Why is the picture of Jesus as "The Good Shepherd" so comforting? We know what we deserve. Every day, we struggle with sin. We carry thoughts of anger and jealousy towards others. We wrestle with addictions that we are too ashamed to admit. We lash out and hurt those who are closest to us through our careless words. We rationalize our sins by thinking that it won't hurt anyone, or that I will only do this one time. We don't always do our best when living our vocations as a spiritual leader for our children. We get lazy and don't do our best when working our jobs. We ultimately realize and know what our sins do to our relationship with God. No, it is your guilt that has separated you from your God, and your sins have hidden God's face from you, so that he does not hear. (Isaiah 59:2) When we use the Ten Commandments as a mirror and see our sins, we find much comfort knowing we have "The Good Shepherd." The apostle John shares this truth in one of his epistles. If anyone does sin, we have an Advocate before the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world. (1 John 2:1b-2) Note well that John tells us that he is the "atoning sacrifice ... for the whole world." Jesus too reminds us, "I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice." As Jesus' sheep we have the opportunity to share the Gospel message with those around us. Consider your friends, your family members, your acquaintances, and your neighbors. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Find the courage to lead these sheep to their shepherd too!*

## Chapel on Fridays/Mission Offerings – Luther Preparatory School



Parents, feel free to join us either in-person or virtually for our morning chapel on Facebook Live on Friday mornings at 8:35 AM. We also take a weekly collection of mission offerings. The fourth quarter our mission offering will support Luther Preparatory School.

Last Week: \$32.15      Quarter to Date: \$123.50

## Bible Trivia

Each week the Lion's Roar will provide a Bible Trivia question. Winners will be announced the following week in the Lion's Roar. Answers can be submitted to your child's teacher who will put them in the basket in the school office. Unfortunately, no one correctly answered that 450 prophets of Baal were slaughtered at Mt. Carmel.



This week's question: Jonah is a type of Christ. Explain.

## Arbor Day – Friday, May 3

Please note the students at St. Mark will clean the school grounds on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please send or bring rakes with your children so we have plenty of tools to properly clean up our outdoor property. Please clearly mark the rakes with your name. All classes will use whatever rakes are on hand.

## Yearbook envelopes are going home today

Please return them to school by next Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thankyou to everyone who has already stopped in to pay.

## Christ Light Schedule

Parents, we encourage you to read your child's Bible history lessons with them. Use many of the parent applications included with each lesson. *Fathers, do not exasperate your children, instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)*

## 4K-5K

Date	Link to Slides	Bible Link	Main Concept	
4-29	46	<a href="#">The Holy Spirit comes to Jesus' friends</a>	<a href="#">Acts 2:1-47</a>	The disciples are given the gift of speaking different languages so that they could spread the Gospel message of Jesus to all. Jesus died to save all people.

## Grades 1-4 - Set 3

Lesson #	Title of Lesson	Date Taught
9B	Jonah	Monday, April 29
10A	Hezekiah Prays for God's People	Tuesday, April 30
10B	Hezekiah Prays for Himself	Wednesday, May 1



## Kids Choir

**Rehearsal Dates:** April: 29 & May 6

**Singing Dates:** Ascension, Thursday, May 9 & Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12 - Both services (singing during the early service and at the beginning of the late service, and then they can leave.)

## Golf Team Practice

Practice days and times.

Monday, April 29 Monday, May 6 Monday, May 13

Practice times are 3:45-5:15 PM



## Enrollment for the 2024-2025 School Year

Please note that registration for the 2024-2025 school year has already begun. Instructions for enrollment will be sent this week with the Lion's Roar. You may also click on the [LINK](#) to view these instructions. **Please note that there is a \$25 discount on the book fee for those that register before May 23. Please also remember to check your address, email & phone information for needed changes.**

## Medical Information Corrections are needed in TADS!!!

Due to the Sacred Heart/Prevea closings, many of you have incorrect medical information in TADS. Please remember to go in to change your children's information.

## TADS Statement for 2023-2024 School Year

Parents, if you want to print a copy of your book fees / school tuition records for tax purposes, it is easy to do. Just follow these steps.

- Step One: Login to your TADS Account at the following address: <https://secure.tads.com/Accounts/Login.aspx>
- Step Two: Click on the Billing Tab.
- Step Three: Click on the "Household Paid Tuition Tax Report" link at the top of the page.
- Step Four: Enter the Tax Year "2023"
- Step Five: Print a copy.



**four Weeks to the**

**end of the year!**

## Don't Forget Schedule PS

As the 2023 tax year recently ended, be aware due to tax law, that your family may benefit from a state tax deduction using Schedule PS. Click on the [LINK](#) to access this form. The state tax deduction is for those who pay tuition to private / parochial schools and could also possibly include the book fee that is paid as well. Contact your tax advisor for more information. If you would like a form pre-filled with St. Mark's Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN), please contact the church/school office.

## Wisconsin Parental Choice Program

- The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program application period will begin on February 1, and run through April 18. All returning children and all new families must apply each year.
- Returning families will also need to provide a valid proof of residency.
- All new families will need to provide a valid proof of residency. They will also need to provide a proof of income. Finish filing your 2023 taxes before applying for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program.

See this sheet for additional information. - [LINK](#) or <http://tinyurl.com/y4dtmr5n>.



### 4K ~ Mrs Smith

The preschoolers have been busy learning about our Earth and how we can take good care of the world God has given us. One day we gathered garbage from the playground and talked about making sure that our garbage gets in the right place. We also know a great song about recycling. Table time activities have included making marble painted earths, a recycled art project, and a fine motor pom-pom "garbage" pick up. In Christ Light we learned about the Holy Spirit coming to Jesus' disciples. We talked about how the Holy Spirit is also in our hearts!

### 5K ~ Mrs Plant & Mrs Wilkins

Wow! We can't believe we are down to the last month of school. The kindergarteners sure are excited for 1st grade and are working hard to get ready for it.

In Reading, we are learning about vowels and the long and short sounds they make. We have also been talking about digraphs and blends and identifying them in sentences and books. The kindergarteners continue to write in their journals with and without prompts. In math, we continue to review addition and subtraction. The children have also been learning to identify coins and their value.

We just finished up our plant unit and are in the process of growing our own flowers. The students learned about the different parts of a plant, the life cycle of a plant and what plants need to grow. There are some new visitors in the kindergarten room. We have 5 caterpillars(larvae) that we are going to watch go through metamorphosis. Currently, they are eating, growing and getting ready to make their chrysalis.

The Kindergarten students have really enjoyed having Mystery Readers come into the classroom. Thank you to all of you that have already come in. If you haven't been able to come in yet but would like to, please let Ms. Plant or Mrs. Wilkins know and we will find a spot for you. The children have also really liked having Mrs. Binczak (our school counselor) come in and read to us and talk about topics like; patience, kindness, sharing, emotions, friendship and more.

We are grateful for everyone who came to the Groundbreaking Event and Art Auction at the beginning of the month. The children did a wonderful job singing, even in the rain. The 4K & 5K classes were also able to praise God with their voices by singing in church on April 14th. We also would like to say a big thank you to the Koestler family for sponsoring a visit from Monty's Traveling Reptile Show. It was so great to see the look of awe on the students' faces as the presenters brought out turtles, snakes and alligators for us to learn about and in some cases, even pet! As the school year is coming to a close, we are looking forward to several end of year events such as, Spring Fling (April 26th), 5K walking field trip to Mitscher Park (May 15th), Kids Heart Challenge (May 17th), Track Meet at UW Stout (May 20th), and Kindergarten graduation/Closing service (May 23rd). Thank you, parents, for all of your support!

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade ~ Mrs Marohn

This month, all of our learning is coming together!

*STEM based Challenge week?* Challenge Accepted! During the short week, we built boats with Legos and floated them in water. Some worked and some didn't, but we problem solved and learned words like buoyancy and density. Then, we challenged ourselves to change our design plans until they floated - success all around!

Next, can we challenge our creativity with some *STEAM based challenges?* Maybe we could try some architectural designs converted to 3D models? Challenge Accepted!

Our challenge is to design a dream school! First, we made our blueprint. Then, we put our ideas into a new format, using 3D shapes to design our school. We have LOVED this! Come check out our progress as we add more detail every day. We may even get a chance to paint our dream schools! Inspiration for this activity is from one of our mentor texts for Language Arts "[If I Built a School](#)" - Click the link or scan the QR code to watch the book read aloud.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade ~ Mrs Seipel

Our class is reading *Where in the World?: World Famous Landmarks*. This nonfiction book teaches about landmarks around the world. After reading each student will choose a landmark for their poster board. These poster boards will be shared with other students on museum day!

The 2nd graders participated in Junior Achievement this past month. Thank you to Sawyer Stallman's aunt, Stacy Erickson, for volunteering to teach the program. The program included lessons on owning a business, paying taxes, identifying coins and making decisions.

In April students were busy writing a variety of poetry! The class enjoyed learning and practicing different types such as a cinquain, shape poetry, 2-word wonder poems and 5 senses poetry!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades ~ Mrs Pitt

We have been busy in the third and fourth grade room. We are looking forward to the Spring Fling on Friday! This week we decorated our horse heads for the event and they all turned out great!

In Wisconsin History, we have been learning about how our ancestors came to this country, and have been working on our family history. The students took home family trees to fill out, and have been enjoying learning about their family heritage. Mr. and Mrs. Sponholz are coming to our classroom next week to tell us about their family heritage in Switzerland.

The students have been really improving their cursive writing-we have been writing our spelling words in cursive, and also our names.

In math, the third graders have been studying graphs and will be moving on to measuring inches, half-inches, and quarter inches.

Our last field trip of the month will be in May. We are planning to go to Irvine Park and to the museum which is just outside the park.

This week we started MAP testing, and will continue for the next few weeks. I will be gone this Friday and the following Monday for a funeral. Mrs. Smith will be teaching for me on Friday, and Miss Henderson will be teaching for me on Monday.

Blessings on your week!



## 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades ~ Mr Micheel

The students in Grades 5-6 continue to grow in their Bible History study. We have been actively studying the divided kingdom of Israel into two nations, Judah (two tribes) and Israel (ten tribes). The LORD provided many prophets during this time to show them their sins of idolatry and to direct them back to the LORD. Two noted prophets were Elijah and Elisha.

For Catechism, we continue to study the Lord's Prayer. We have recently studied the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Petitions. We will be finishing Catechism in a few short weeks. Their final test will be on Tuesday, May 14.

For science, we have made a significant switch. We are finishing the year by studying life science. The students learned about ecosystems and why food webs are more realistic than food chains. They are also learning about animal populations and what are limiting factors that can either increase or decrease populations. All of this will fit very well when we go on our field trip to Hunt Hill on Wednesday, May 8. Be sure to ask the students about all they have been learning in school.

## 4th Grade ~ Mrs Smith

We are working hard on our informational writing in fourth grade. It began with topic selection, then a trip to the library to find resources, now we are busy taking notes, and we will finally put it into paper form. Such an important skill to master!

We finally finished our decimal and fraction units, and are onto geometry and measurement. Two more units mean the end of the school year is almost here!

## 7-8 Grades ~ Mr Niebuhr

The students in grades 7 and 8 have been hard at work with their regular academic courses, but they still have had time to enjoy other experiences and learning. We started off the month with observing different species of reptiles and ended the month with taking a field trip to the Minnesota History Center, Martin Luther College, and Bethany Lutheran College. The students enjoyed a break from the classroom but still found the other activities meaningful and interesting. We have a busy month of May to close out the school year with Arbor Day, Hoops for Heart, and Track Day all coming in the final weeks of school.

