



St. Mark Lutheran Church
3307 State Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701

March 2024

I was glad when they said to me:
“Let us go to the house
of the Lord.” – Psalm 122:1

Worship opportunities...

Sundays @ 8:00 a.m. (Livestream via Facebook or at www.stmark-wels.org, under “Watch Sermons Online.”)

Sundays @ 10:30 am
Mondays @ 6:30 pm

Lent Services @ 11:00am & 6:30pm
Maundy Thursday 11:00 am & 6:30 pm
Good Friday 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm
Easter Vigil 7:32 pm
Easter Worship 7:00 am & 10:00 am

Contact Us

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- Pastor Naumann: 715-214-7880, joel@stmark-wels.org
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- Secretary Tami Jastrow: 715-379-8649 tami@stmark-wels.org

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ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Preparing The Way

Jesus’ Hour of Glory

Jesus answered them, “The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.... Now my soul is troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, this is the reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name! ... And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” (John 12:23, 27-28, 32)

It was June 18, 1940. The German armies under the leadership of Adolf Hitler were advancing in both directions throughout continental Europe. Now, after an arduous Battle of France, the significant nation of the Allied Forces was seeking armistice with Nazi Germany. The Battle of France had ended, and it was obvious to everyone that the Germans would now turn all the fury of its *Blitzkrieg* against Britain. Now Winston Churchill, now just over a month into office as British prime minister, was delivering a speech to the House of Commons. Though matter appeared bleak and troubled days loomed on the horizon, Churchill delivered a speech filled with British defiance and iron-faced resolve in the face of the Battle of Britain to come. Though uncertain how victory against the Germans would be achieved, he justified his confidence in victory all the same. The famous closing line of his speech goes thus:

Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour."

Defining hours so often come in the darkest of times. This would prove true in the British resolve and resistance from this point forward in World War II.

No hour in all of world history could be darker than those hours when the Son of God hung in darkness upon the cross, his life ebbing away under the weight of the world’s sin and the boundless fury of God the Father’s righteous judgment. Indeed, what period in all human history could be worse than when all humanity turned against its Savior, rejected him, and nailed him to a cross? His own people Israel had rejected him as the Christ. They had turned him over to the Romans so that Pilate could sign off on his execution. His disciples has betrayed him, fled from him, and disowned him. Even all the tears of those who mourned for him and the voices that dissented from the proceedings of that Friday could do him no good. On the first century Friday, we—humanity as a whole—killed God.

Jesus didn’t see it entirely that way, however. Sure, the rejection

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March 2024 AT A GLANCE

4—Construction begins

5—Board Meetings

5, 12—Dartball

10—Daylight Savings
Time begins

12—Pastors Circuit
Meeting

—Council

15—Power Hour

24—Palm Sunday

28—Maundy Thursday

29—Good Friday

30—Easter Vigil

31—Easter Sunday

6, 13, 20—Lent Services

6, 13, 20—Afternoon
Confirmation Classes

6, 13, 20, 27—Choir

7, 14—Campus Ministry

7, 14—Lion Hearts

7, 14, 21—BIC

1, 8, 15, 22—Men’s Bible
Study

Meet Our New Members...

The Rhode Family:

Taylor Rhode joined St. Mark after seeking a church and school home for his family. Taylor is a native of Fond du Lac, Wis., where he attended St. Luke's Lutheran Church in nearby Oakfield and Winnebago Lutheran Academy before graduating from UW Stout in 2016.

Taylor works as a Senior Project Manager for Miron Construction in Eau Claire and his wife Alexandra works at Cambridge Senior Living as the regional Admissions & Community Relations Director.

"My wife and I have one child in heaven and two here on earth. Vivian passed away last September at 8 months, Esme is 2 and will be 3 in June, and Theodore who is 4 and will be 5 in February. Alexandra is also expecting with a baby boy planned for June this year."

Taylor's hobbies include spending time with the kids and trying to stop them from destroying the house and screaming. We can all relate!

Welcome to St. Mark!



St Mark School News & Notes

The St Mark School co-ed basketball team will head off to Luther Prep on Friday and Saturday, March 8 & 9. We will host the **annual pep rally** on Thursday, March 7, at 1:30pm.

Members & alumni are welcome to join us!

The school children are very busy these days, preparing for a **Bible Fair**. The fair will be held on Thursday, March 14. Come check out what our children are learning about God & the figures we all know and love in the Bible. Join us from 6:00pm to 7:30pm.

Coming soon!!!

St Mark will be hosting a **ground breaking ceremony and fundraising kick off** on Sunday April 7 at 12:00. All members are encouraged to join in the festivities that day. God has been so good to us!

More information can be found in your mailboxes at church.

St. Mark Ministry Highlights

Public Use of the Means of Grace:

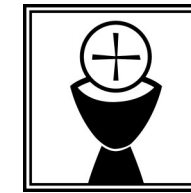
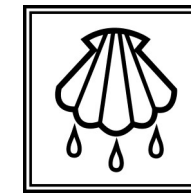
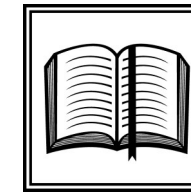
Worship: We averaged 368 worshipers per weekend in February. The Lord's Supper was administered to 624 in February. Membership stands at 794 souls and 625 communicants.

Official Acts:

We say farewell to —

Laura Freels, transfer to Immanuel,
Manitowoc

and Abe & Mariah Ferguson, transfer to Redeemer,
Rice Lake



Holy Week Services:

Maundy Thursday services
@ 11:00am & 6:30pm

Good Friday services
@ 1:00pm & 6:30pm (Tenebrae)

Saturday Easter Vigil service @ 7:32pm

Easter Sunday services @ 7:00am & 10:00am

Easter breakfast will be served between
services

Important Info

If you are interested in joining the St Mark Church Facebook group, please use this link:



by Jews and Romans alike, the abandonment of the apostles, the betrayal of all humanity remained. But it was for this very hour that Jesus came into the world. This was his hour of glory, the hour when he would be delivered up and his life offered for the sins of the world. This was his finest hour.

The events of John 12 take place during Holy Week, perhaps on Tuesday, but we can't know for certain. Nevertheless, Good Friday was looming, and Jesus was determined to go to the cross to fulfill his work as the Christ. While Jesus is in the temple, some Greeks come with this request, "We would like to see Jesus." In this moment Jesus breaks in and says, "Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."

The concept of "Jesus' Hour" is a thrilling, foreshadowing theme that looms throughout John's Gospel. Four previous times in chapters 2-8 John mentions how Jesus' hour or Jesus' time had not yet come, not in chapter 2 at the wedding of Cana, nor chapter 7 when his brothers challenge him to show himself to the world at the festival at Jerusalem, and not in chapters 7 or 8 when the Jews try to seize him while he is in Jerusalem.

But now his hour had come, when Jewish hostility was at its height and Greeks had come to seek him. Now, only days away from the cross, Jesus says, "Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.... And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." Dark though his crucifixion would be, this was Jesus' hour of glory, the hour appointed from eternity by God the Father, the moment in all history when God would draw all people to himself through his beloved Son's atoning death on the cross. Nothing would deter Jesus from his goal. He himself would not shrink back from it, but prayed, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your name!" And in this way God would glorify his name, glorify his Son, and bring salvation to the ends of the earth. Of course, the hour of glory would continue into Jesus' exaltation, his victory over sin and Satan, his resurrection, and his ascension to God's right hand. Now Jesus' hour of glory lasts into his eternal kingdom.

This March we meditate again upon Jesus' hour of glory during Holy Week, March 24-31. As we journey through his passion to the cross and empty tomb, let us find joy and hope in the hour of Christ's glory as we again see that "this was his finest hour." — Pastor Naumann