



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



April 2019

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

*April worship opportunities ...*

Sundays: 8:00 & 10:30 am  
Mondays: 6:30 pm  
Lenten Services: 11:00 & 6:30  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

**Holy Week .....**

Maundy Thursday: 11:00 & 6:30  
Good Friday: 1:00 & 6:30  
Easter: 7:00 & 10:00

Contact Us

Church PH: 715-834-2595  
• Pastor Prah: 715-878-4297, herbprahl@gmail.com  
• Pastor Naumann: 715-214-7880, joel@stmark-wels.org  
• Secretary Barb Krass: barb@stmark-wels.org

School PH: 715-834-5782 | FAX: 715-834-7668

• Principal Micheel: 715-835-6015 peter@smwels.org  
• Mr. Gustafson: 715-600-6432, phil@smwels.org  
• Mr. Sponholz: 715-835-0213, scott@smwels.org  
• Mrs. Seipel: 651-210-5326, marie@smwels.org  
• Mrs. Pitt: 715-577-6418, sharon@smwels.org  
• Mrs. Prah: 715-878-4297, char@smwels.org  
• Mrs. Riebe: 715-878-9413, jenny@smwels.org  
• Mrs. Anason: 715-832-5469, connie@smwels.org  
• Mrs. Knickelbein: 715-834-0254, kristin@smwels.org



This Month  
**AT A  
GLANCE**

- 2- Power Hour  
Boards Meet
- 3 – Lenten Services  
Lenten Supper
- 5 – School Spring  
Fling
- 9 – Pastor’s Conf.  
@Menomonie  
Council
- 10 – Lenten Services  
Lenten Supper
- 11 - PTP
- 15 – Book club
- 18 – Maundy  
Thursday
- 19 – Good Friday
- 21 – Easter Services  
Easter Breakfast
- 22 – Voter’s Meeting

**Loving Hands  
Crucified For Me**

Every tool has its purpose. I cut with a knife, eat with a fork, and write with a pen. And a nail? A nail is used to fasten. Though the crucifixion accounts don’t mention nails by name, Thomas would tell us they were there. He saw their imprint on his risen Savior’s limbs.

The gospels simply record, “They crucified him.” But there was nothing simple about it. Splintery wood and sharp nails, torn flesh and screaming nerve endings, constant pain and slow death, and more were involved in this form of execution. Far worse were the tortures of hell. All of hell’s acid waves that were the wages for the world’s sins washed over God’s Son. I can only guess at what this involved for Jesus as he hung fastened by those nails to that cross.

There’s no guessing, though, as to who pounded those nails through his hands and feet. Calloused soldiers, a spineless judge, a turncoat disciple, hateful country men, all took a swing at the nails with sin’s hammer. So did I! This Lenten season is not going to be what it should until I change the *they* to *I* crucified him. I and my many sins did it!

This Lenten season – and our follow-up Easter celebration - won’t be what it should until I also realize why Jesus let my sins nail him to the tree. It was because he loves me. One of his disciples, after standing beneath Jesus’ cross, wrote later, “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us” (1 John 3:16). How Jesus must love me! How strong must be the love that held him to that cross for me! – and you, too.

*“O all-atoning Sacrifice, You died to make me free.”  
Thank you, Jesus. Amen (CW 138:5)*

## Meet our Newest Members



Is Trunk or Treat a worthwhile tool for outreach? If you ask new member, Joan Detjens, she would say a definite yes! Joan and her husband had moved from Galesville to Eau Claire to be closer to their son here in Eau Claire after he had broken his hip in 2017. That same year he went

to be with the Lord. Trunk or Treat night of 2018, Joan and her daughter-in-law and grandkids participated and were impressed with the friendliness of the pastors and others upon enjoying the inside refreshments. She now worships at late service and attends Lionhearts Bible Class.

Joan grew up in the Racine area and lived various times in California or Wisconsin. She is still settling into her home with her two rescue kitties. She also has a son in Hudson, and a daughter in LaCrosse. There are four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Genealogy, knitting, reading history or mysteries relaxes her. In early spring she will spend three weeks in Maui. Please welcome our sister in Christ.

Recent new member, Josh Loescher, shared his reaction to worship at local churches that preached pure Gospel but no consequences/law; whereas, when he worshipped at St. Mark he heard Gospel and Law which was more like what he heard when attending Salem Elementary School at Stillwater, MN. and worshipping there in later years.



Josh's home town is Osceola where his family worshipped at Grace Lutheran. He attended technical college in New Richmond and now is part of the IT department with Menards. He thrives on ice fishing, riding his Harley, and video games. He says he tends to be more of a private person. He is looking forward to spending a week snorkeling and scuba diving in Mexico this spring.

Josh worships at late service. Please welcome him to our St. Mark family and find out about his trip.

### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Palm Sunday, April 14 -- 8:00 and 10:30, Monday at 6:30

Maundy Thursday -- Holy Communion -- 11:00 and 6:30

Good Friday -- Worship -- 1:00 and 6:30

Festival of the Resurrection -- Holy Communion -- 7:00 and 10:00

Easter breakfast in the Shaker Center

## Upcoming Events

### YOUTH CONFIRMATION

Youth confirmation is the first Sunday in May. This year it falls on May 5 with examination being the previous Wednesday, May 1. Our Confirmands this year are: Jacob Binczak, Jaden Czysz, Julia Hahm, Camryn Kortbein, Jonathan Rust, Caleb Schultz, Skylar VanNurden, Bryce Koenig, Luke Krenz, George Munson, Hank Munson, Grant Paetzold and Lily Schwartz.

### SINGING GROUP TO

**SING HERE** The 24-member traveling choir of St Croix Lutheran High School will join their voices with ours in the 6:30 Lenten service on April 10<sup>th</sup>. We will need 12 host families to house them overnight and give them breakfast. Contact Barb or Pastor Naumann if you can help out.

### CALL DECISION

Mr. Micheel has been led to return the divine call he received to teach Gr 7-8 and serve as principal at Barre Mills /West Salem. May the Holy Spirit continue to use him to advance Christ's kingdom among us!

## St. Mark

# H I L I T E S

### PUBLIC USE OF THE MEANS OF GRACE:

- **Worship:** We averaged 317 per weekend in the month of February. (Adverse weather on Sundays took a toll on our attendance). The Lord's Supper was administered to 501.
- **Baptism:** Isaiah Gustafson (b. 2/21/19) was baptized March 31
- **We transfer** Liz Seelow to Redeemer, Rice Lake
- **We release from membership** Paul Blakey and Frank Phillips, Jared and Zach (moved to New Mexico.)

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR CALLED** Pastor Evan Chartrand, currently serving as recruitment director at Luther Prep In Watertown, has returned our divine call issued to him for this position. So, leaning on the Lord's wisdom and faithfulness to his people, we extended another divine call for associate pastor to Nathan Kassulke, currently serving as one of three pastors at Grace, Tucson, AZ. He and his wife Elizabeth, have four children: 13, 9, 7 and 5 years old. He has served his entire ministry in Tucson. He also serves at a circuit pastor, a part-time campus pastor and as a member of his district's commission on Youth and Family Ministry.

The voters also approved a motion that authorizes the congregation to request our district president to represent our needs to the synod's seminary assignment committee with the hope that a fitting graduate might fill our need. However, with only 26 men available and many more vacancies to fill (many of them having no pastor at all), it will truly take an act of the Holy Spirit to make this happen. But "you never know." So we solicit your prayers, trust the LORD's wisdom and lean not on our own understanding (Prv 3).

**ST. MARK NOMINATION COMMITTEE**, made up of the pastors and the outgoing board members, meets in March to nominate candidates for the various board positions that serve the congregation. We are seeking individuals to serve on the board of elders (need three plus one to fill a vacancy), stewardship (need one), education, technology (one member each), building and grounds (need two), and a congregational chairman. Men, please give an ear when someone from the nominating committee calls you and gives you an opportunity to serve.

*Only one life; t'will soon be past;*

*only what's done for Christ will last*

## School News

### Religion Fair

Each year, St. Mark Lutheran School, organizes an academic fair for our students. This year, St. Mark chose to perform a religion fair on Thursday, March 21. We began the evening with all the students singing, "Hallelujah, our God Reigns." Then the students in Grades 1-2 sang the "Books of the Bible" to the assembly. We continued by playing a brief game of Bible trivia among all the families. Finally, we continued the evening when each grade level participated in a unique way.

The students in Preschool and Kindergarten focused on the fruits of the Spirit that Paul records in Galatians 5:22. Each group of students performed a task that reminded their classmates of one of the fruits of the Spirit. They taught their friends about these fruits at school, and then taught their parents and other special guests in the evening. The students in Grades 1-2 made a timeline for both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Each student contributed an entry for the timeline that focused on either an important event or an important Bible character. The students in Grades 3-4 prepared group projects that were put onto tri-folds. Many students chose to work together on a famous Bible character. They added pictures and a written report. One group even chose one of the student's great-grandfather who served as a pastor. The students in Grades 5-8 prepared individual projects and made oral presentations to their parents and other special guests who attended. All the students prepared written reports and included visual pictures, timelines, and maps to enhance their project.

We glorify and thank our God for blessing us with the gifts and talents to honor him through our work. *We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD.* (Psalm 78:4)