



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



May 2019

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

May worship opportunities ...

Sundays: 8:00 & 10:30 am
Mondays: 6:30 pm

Ascension – May 30th @6:30 pm

Contact Us

Church PH: 715-834-2595
• Pastor Prah: 715-878-4297, herbprahl@gmail.com
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• 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
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• Mrs. Prah: 715-878-4297, char@smwels.org
• Mrs. Riebe: 715-878-9413, jenny@smwels.org
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This Month
AT A GLANCE

- 1 – Examination Service
- 5 – Confirmation
- 6 & 7 – Joint Pastors’ Conference
- 7 – Board Meetings
- 9 – LES Spring Play
- 14 – Council
- 20-21 – Campus Ministry Staff Conference
- 21 – LES Spring Piano Recital
- 23 – Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Call Day Service
- 24 – Last Day of School
- 28 – Tuesday Evening Worship (moved from Monday night due to Memorial Day)
- 30 – Ascension Service

THE EASTER SEASON: A JOYOUS WEEK OF WEEKS

Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20).

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia! So resound the victorious and joyful cries of Christians throughout the world for the forty-nine days (a full week of weeks) of the Easter season. It culminates in the coming of the Holy Spirit to his church on the fiftieth day, Pentecost. Easter is the pinnacle of the Christian church year and the oldest festival and season celebrated by the worshipping church. In the earliest days it was the only festival that was celebrated; additional high points in the life of Christ were added, such as Ascension, Epiphany, the Baptism of Christ, Pentecost, Christmas, etc. Christians wanted to remember Jesus’ resurrection so well that they celebrated it every single Sunday as they gathered for worship. This is how Sunday came to replace Saturday (Old Testament Sabbath day) as the primary day of worship for believers. Christians wanted to daily and regularly live in the comfort and confidence of the real, historical, bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Christians wanted to hold on to this truth and stand on it for a comfort in all suffering, a reason for hope and perseverance, and as a motivation to live now for a risen Christ as we show love toward our neighbor. Jesus’ resurrection likewise gives us confidence, joy, comfort, hope, endurance, and peace to know that our faith is grounded on a living Savior who conquered sin, hell, and the grave for us and gives us the victory in himself. Let us celebrate our true, real, victorious, risen, Lord Jesus Christ.

CALL UPDATE

Pastor Kassulke has returned the call to serve at St. Mark. Here is his letter, dated April 23:

Dear members of St. Mark,

For the last several weeks, I have been prayerfully considering the gifts with which God has blessed me to use in service to him as well as my own sinful shortcomings and weaknesses. I have sought guidance from God’s Word and wrestled with the opportunities and the challenges before both Grace Lutheran Church in Southern Arizona and St. Mark in Eau Claire. After doing so, I have decided to decline the Divine Call extended to me from St. Mark, and I will continue to serve in Tucson.

Thank you to those who discussed the call with me and especially to all who offered prayers on behalf of me and my family. I will continue to pray for the congregation at St. Mark that the Lord would provide another faithful shepherd to guide and direct the ministry there.

In the name of Jesus, our risen Savior and the Lord of the Church,

Rev. Nathan P. Kassulke

We know the Holy Spirit will bless this decision and both congregations. He will also provide St. Mark with the man he has determined and appointed to be our pastor. As was decided by the voters, we will go to the assignment committee to seek a pastor from the graduates of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Call Day is Thursday, May 23 at 10:00 AM.

Meet our Newest Members



Adam Nixdorf and children, Blake and Hannah, moved to the area because Adam secured a position as a mechanic for Chippewa County. He is relieved the heavy snow season is behind them.

Previously he attended a Missouri Synod church in Dorchester. He found St. Mark by researching on line and then visiting St. Mark and other churches a few times and found St. Mark the most compatible.

Adam enjoys watching sports and working on a friend's race car which has won a few races.

Blake is a fourth grader at Altoona. He likes basketball, reading, and solving math problems. Hannah is in 6th grade at Altoona. At this time she is into volleyball, basketball, and playing the recorder.

Adam is dating new member, Rachel Brantner, who recently completed adult confirmation. She is employed with NAU County crop insurance. Rachel enjoys playing volleyball, running, hanging out with friends, and attending Sunday morning Bible study with Adam. They usually attend early service.

Please welcome them to the St. Mark family.



New members Kevin and Beth Baumbach moved to the Eau Claire area after a job move for Kevin, who drives fuel truck for Kwik Trip and is based out of Menomonie instead of LaCrosse. The past 11 years they lived in Galesville and are a transfer from Bethel Lutheran.

Kevin works 12 hours plus per night; consequently, that limits his socialization time. He is a general Mr. Fix it and relaxes with car mechanics, fishing, and four-wheeling.

Beth was a licensed day care provider in Galesville and recently was granted a license for this area. She unwinds with reading or listening to music.

Son Gabriel is a junior at EC North, and Zander, is in fourth grade at Sherman. Both enjoy fishing, golfing, and video games. Last year the family enjoyed a trip to the Grand Canyon. They attend worship at the late service. Please introduce yourself and welcome them to St. Mark.

Upcoming Events

YOUTH CONFIRMATION

Christ's commission to the church is that we make disciples of all nations by baptizing them and by teaching them to obey everything he has commanded us.

Confirmation is one way that the church instructs students on the whole counsel of Christ's teaching. Pray for our confirmands this year. Pray for our confirmands from the last four years. May the Word of God that they have learned continue to take root that they be strengthened and built up in the grace of God unto the end.

Youth confirmation is Sunday, May 5. The confirmation service will be held in the gymnasium at the 10:30 service. Public examination is Wednesday, May 1 at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. The confirmands this year are: Jacob Binczak, Jaden Czysz, Juliah Hahm, Camryn Kortbein, Jonathan Rust, Caleb Schultz, Skylar VanNurden, Bryce Koenig, Luke Krenz, George Munson, Hank Munson, Grant Paetzold and Lily Schwartz. Please keep these catechumens in your prayers and encourage them in their Christian lives as you have opportunity.

St. Mark HILITES

PUBLIC USE OF THE MEANS OF GRACE:

- **Worship:** We averaged 317 per weekend in the month of March. The Lord's Supper was administered to 507.
 - **Maundy Thursday:** 64 and 173 worshiped in the 11:00 and 6:30 services, respectively.
 - **Good Friday:** 250 and 114 worshiped in the 1:00 and 6:30 services, respectively.
 - **Easter Sunday:** 262 and 213 worshiped in the 7:00 and 10:00 services, respectively.
- **Baptism:** Ellyanna Vande Hei (born 3/26/19 to Kyle and Kristin) was baptized on April 21.
- **We release from membership** Gary and Tabitha Radtke.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE Please note the following changes as we transition into the summer worship schedule:

- Sunday worship will change to 8:00 and 10:00 AM beginning on Sunday, June 2.
- Evening worship for Memorial Day weekend is moved from Monday to Tuesday, May 28 at 6:30.
- The last Sunday for Sunday School / Bible Study hour between services is Sunday, May 19.

ASCENSION DAY

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead he ascended into heaven as the victor and conqueror for us. Jesus ascended so that he could be with his church at all times and in all places, as he said in Matthew 28:20, "Surely I am with you always to the very end of the age." Ascension Day is Thursday, May 30. Come and celebrate this significant day in our Savior's work of salvation. We gather for worship at 6:30 PM with the eighth grade graduation during the service.

BLOOD DRIVE St. Mark will host a blood drive on June 11th. Mark your calendars!

OPEN LETTER CONCERNING AN AREA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Members of St. Mark and St. Paul's,

There is a great deal of interest on the concept of establishing a Lutheran high school in the area to serve families seeking a Christian secondary education in Dunn, Eau Claire, Chippewa and other surrounding counties. Those present at the most recent meeting were Bob Buss, Phil Gustafson, Aaron Shulz, Carl Burgeson, Steve and Jean Eckley, Levi and Kari Lentz, and Brent Howe. It was held at St. Paul's, Menomonie, on February 19th this year. [Continued in the next column...]

School News

[Continued from the previous column...] The group believes it would be of great benefit to formalize communication and cooperation for this concept.

Based on discussions on the 19th and further considerations since then, we are seeking approval from both congregations to form a working group of 3 members from each church for the purpose of serious consideration of a high school concept. Each church should name their choices for the membership. Three other proposals were made at the meeting:

1. It would be of benefit down the line to seek resources from the Synod pertaining to the feasibility of a high school.

2. Hold a Telling the Next Generation Workshop. Telling the Next Generation is a ministry provided by the WELS Commission on Evangelism and the Commission on Lutheran Schools. The program serves congregations of the WELS with planning, assistance, and resources for implementation of outreach and harvest strategies utilizing their Lutheran elementary school and/or early childhood ministry. The presenters are WELS church and school leaders who are experienced with conducting school ministries with an outreach focus. God's command is to "Go out and preach the Good News to all creation" and this workshop supports not only the high school mission, but also our current mission in our congregations.

3. Mr. Buss and Mr. Gustafson will gather information from colleagues who have been through the process of establishing a high school.

Please contact Phil Gustafson, a teacher at St. Mark, Eau Claire, with your feedback or questions (phil@smwels.org). Thank you for your time and consideration on this opportunity to further God's Kingdom.

Sincerely,
Bob Buss, Principal, St. Paul's Lutheran School, Menomonie
Phil Gustafson, Vice Principal, St. Mark Lutheran School, Eau Claire