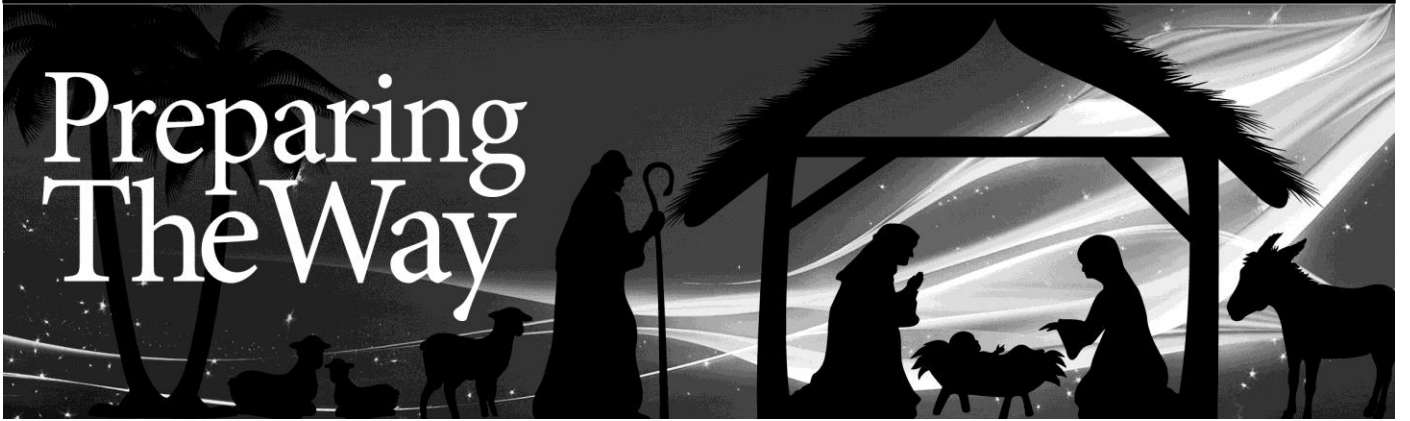
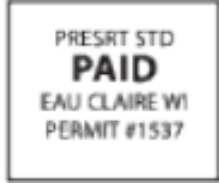




St. Mark Lutheran Church
3307 State Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701



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

December worship opportunities ...

Sundays: 8:00 & 10:30 am
Mondays: 6:30 pm
Advent 11:00 am & 6:30 pm 12/5,12,19/18
Children's Service 12/23/18 @10:30 am
Candlelight Service 12/24/18 @7:00 pm
Christmas Service 12/25/18 @9:30 am

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 - Caroling
- 4 - Morning Moms
- 5, 12, 19 - Advent
- 9 - Advent by
Candlelight
- 11 - Council
- Pastors Mtg
@Chippewa Falls
- 15 - Winter Piano
Recital
- 18 - Power Hour
- 23 - Children's
Service
- 24 - Candlelight
Service
- 25 - Christmas
Service
- 31 - New Year's Eve
w/Communion

KEEPING CHRIST IN ADVENT MAKES FOR A MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS

Make it a personal goal these Advent days to spend a few minutes in quiet devotion and prayer. Then consider these opportunities as well ...

Three **midweek Advent Services** will keep your soul looking upward as you prepare for Christmas worship. Using the theme “**Angelic Advent Announcements,**” your pastors team up with Pastor Pitt of Our Hope to keep you spiritually aware and alert for God’s coming into the lives of his people. Services are at 11:00 and 6:30 on December 5, 12 and 19.

Caroling Do you enjoy bringing the Christmas Good News in song to shut-ins and others? If so, why not join in this Sunday, Dec 2. Gather at church at 1:30, organize into three groups and go to pre-arranged locations to share the hymns and carols of the season. You will meet back at church at 3:00 to enjoy some refreshments.

Advent By Candlelight takes place Sunday, December 9th at 1:30 in the Shaker Center gym. This is especially for women, to be renewed in Christ through his Word in devotions, songs and fellowship. Note that this is an afternoon event. Sign up in the church entry if you plan to attend. Do it soon. Any questions or if you would like to help out in any way, contact Debbie Krenz.

Our annual **Advent / Christmas Hymn Sing** will fit nicely between Sunday services on December 16. While the children rehearse their songs and recitations in the gym, parents and anyone else gather in the back of our sanctuary to sing our requests from the hymnal and Supplement.

A special one-day **Power Hour** with a nativity theme and the catchy title “*Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus*” will be another way to reach out especially to younger children and their caregivers. It is planned for Dec 18 at 9:30. There is no fee, but please register at bit.ly/phchristmas2018 so that enough resources will be on hand.

And finally we come to **Christmas weekend,** with worship services to inspire you with the truth that God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son to give us eternal life - Jn 3:16. May the Holy Spirit bless your Advent opportunities to grow in Christ’s grace and peace.
- Pastor Prah

Meet Our Newest Members

The Howard and Julie Munson family have transferred from Bethel Lutheran of Arcadia to St. Mark to be closer to the many activities in which their three children participate.

Howard is a senior business systems analyst for Ashley Furniture. They live on a small hobby farm and he enjoys biking, skiing, and assisting with the boys' basketball. Julie does freelance business writing for Smart Brief. She finds time for reading and walking when not home schooling their children.

Sophia is a junior, and twins George and Henry are in 8th grade. Sophia participates in Irish dance, cross country running and art projects. George and Henry also are cross country runners and are involved in basketball.

You can welcome them at late service, Sunday adult Bible Class, high school Bible class, or confirmation class. Each of them are enjoying the various Bible studies.



St. Mark HILITES

Outreach 2018 We are making an intentional effort to invite the community to our Christmas services. We are bulk mailing 2,750 invitations to homes in select neighborhoods. An additional 750 are being put in your hands to serve as a "talk piece" with the unchurched and an invitation to them to hear God's Good News from us. This effort is both an opportunity and a challenge. See it for what it is ... Christians (*that's us*) reaching out in love (*that's Christ in us*) to make use of this opportunity. It's timely, too. Researchers tell us that "82% of the unchurched would likely attend church if someone simply invited them." Help yourself to the "A Light in the Darkness" post cards available at church and share them liberally and freely with the unchurched folks you know. Let the best Good News crowd out all the world's talk about Christmas "magic" (there is no such thing; but there is plenty of mystery) and whether the kids are "naughty or nice" (here, too, everyone has been "naughty" when it comes to being acceptable to our holy God); we all deserve to be abandoned hear the it for themselves. Just be sure to invite them.

We Welcome into Membership: Brian and Rachel Tri; Matthew, Gennaveve and Cooper, by transfer from St John, rural Zumbrota. They reside in Durand.

Christian Funeral services were held for Arlys Peterson, who fell asleep in Jesus on October 15.

Public worship averages for October: **389** each weekend; with 580 found assurance of forgiveness in the Lord's Supper.

Replacements are needed for two board members who recently relocated away from Eau Claire for their jobs. Jonathan Schwede has left the Board of Elders (moving to Manitowoc) and Dan Degner (Board of Education) and family recently moved to Idaho.

Snow Shoveling Our Building and Grounds Board is requesting volunteers who would clear the snow off of the sidewalks and entryways of our facility when we have worship services planned. Leaving this labor of love to just a few makes it a daunting task. There is a signup sheet in the entry. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve.

Other Call News Kristin Knickelbein, whom we called to teach on a one-year provision, has accepted the change in the duration of the call from a one-year call to a permanent position.

the Big Picture

The Calling Process Continues Our voters gathered this past Monday evening to extend another divine call for an associate pastor. From a list of candidates provided by our district president, the 18 voters extended a divine call to **Pastor Jason Oakland** of Neenah. A 2004 graduate of our seminary, he has served since graduation as one of two pastors of Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Neenah.

Martin Luther has 936 members, 702 of them confirmed. The church supports both a K-8 elementary school and an early childhood ministry. Pastor Oakland vicared in DeForest. He is married to Kari, who is a teacher at the school. They have a 14-yr-old child.

The call process puts the role of the Holy Spirit front and center. In Acts 1, when the church was choosing a replacement for Judas Iscariot, they presented two qualified candidates and then prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take the place" of Judas. "Then they assigned lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias ..." With that same confidence we look to the Holy Spirit to provide us with an associate pastor at the right time .

New Circuit Pastor **Pastor Roger Quandt** of Ridgeland was appointed to this position, replacing Pastor Feldhus who is moving to Belle Plaine, MN.