



THE LION'S VOICE

Preparing the Way for the Lord

SAINT MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH ■ MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

this month AT A GLANCE

- 1 – One worship service at 9:30am
- 2 – No evening worship service
- 5 – Lion Hearts resumes
- 6 – Men's Bible breakfast resumes
- 8 – Heart in Focus seminar begins
- 11 – Choir resumes
- 12, 26 – Power Hour
- 17 – Church Council
- 19 – Campus ministry Bible study resumes; New Bible Info Class
- 20 – Morning Moms
- 23 – Quarterly Voters meeting

When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him. When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases." (Matthew 8:14-17)

Ah, January, the dead of winter, the cold and snow, and the down-to-business attitude coming out of the Christmas season. This month certainly brings with it a different pace and tone from December. The festive preparations and celebrations of the Christmas season give way to getting back to the normal routine of things.

This also holds true in the church year. December sees the Christian heeding John's message in preparation for the Savior's arrival, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near." The Christmas season is marked by a joyful and festive worship, and some of the best singing of the year; after all those weeks of waiting, repenting, and preparing it is time to celebrate Christ's arrival.

Then the brief Christmas season gives way to the down-to-business season of Epiphany. That little baby we looked at with wonder and amazement on Christmas now proves to the world through his work that he is indeed the Son of God and the Savior of the world who was to come. He demonstrates it through his baptism, through his ministry, and through miracles.

In Matthew 8 we see Jesus getting down to business healing, driving out demons, treating many people's physical and spiritual ailments. Matthew remarks how this fulfills Isaiah's prophecy, "He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases." That's part of the business of Jesus' saving work. It wasn't mere outward appearance that the Son of God was a man. No, in every aspect he was fully human. He bore our sorrows, he comforted us in our illness, he hurt with us, he laughed with us, he ached with us, he grew tired with us, and he was tempted as we are. Christ didn't come merely to live among us in a visible way. He came to be one with us in every aspect of life, to get to the dirty business of rescuing us from our sinful ailment. In all this Jesus demonstrates himself to be the God-Man and our true Savior. He did all this perfectly so that by his life of bearing our weakness and carrying our sorrows we might have the perfect record that God demands. So let us look forward to this down-to-business attitude Jesus brings this Epiphany season. *–Pastor Naumann*



Justin & Kiri Dorn

Kiri Cooney Dorn completed the Bible Information Class at St. Mark, was baptized the end of October, and in November was confirmed. She married Justin Dorn this past year.

Kiri's parents are both in the military; as a result, Kiri calls many places "home". She was born in North Carolina, as an infant/toddler lived in Germany, and resided many years in Oklahoma before settling in the Eau Claire area.

At this time, Justin lives in LaCrosse where he works at the distribution center for Kwik Trip. He enjoys bowling and is a movie buff. Kiri lives with her parents here in EC and does home care for three clients out of AT Home Care based in Thorp. She recently earned a degree in Communications Science and Disorders and anticipates finding a job in the LaCrosse area. She enjoys their two dogs, sewing, knitting, and wood painting.

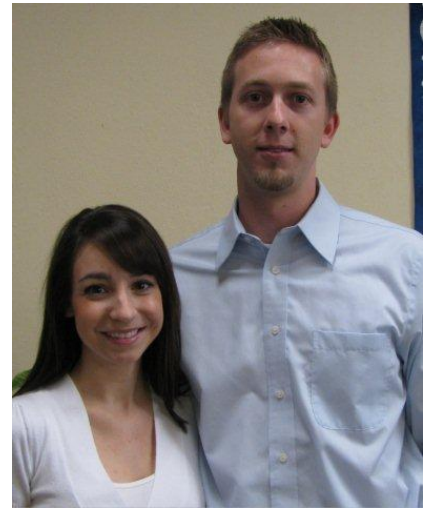
Please warmly welcome, Kiri Dorn, our new sister in Christ.

Please welcome Adam and Robyn Stolt who have transferred here from Christ Lutheran in Pewaukee WI. Adam is originally from Bloomer and moved to the Milwaukee area to attend school. He met Robyn at a Super Bowl party, and both continue to be big football fans.

Robyn went to school in Minnesota and has a degree in interior design. She has talents in art and design, so when she relaxes her interests naturally turn to...scrapbooking!

Adam provides technical support in design and production for RB Scott Company here in Eau Claire. Both enjoy anything to do with the outdoors. They would like to get to know some other couples here at St Mark. Please take the opportunity to introduce yourself to Adam and Robyn.

Who knows, there may be an opportunity for a Packer Super Bowl party?



Adam & Robyn Stolt

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Christmas for Kids was Dec 17th; 45 children attended including 6 visitors and friends. Board of Ed has identified Lions Pride leaders/volunteers for remainder of school year. CMO pledge has been submitted to the synod. New plastic tables are replacing the older, heavy, broken tables in gym with an Elsie Stetzer memorial fund and another private gift. As we approach the May 2012 mortgage refinance opportunity, the Stewardship Board will be holding informational meetings to solicit support and answer questions. New BIC is starting January 19th. All members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with NIV2011 translation. WELS website is an excellent source. Quarterly Voter's meeting Monday, January 23rd at 7:45p.m. Be sure to look for the agenda, reports, and action items in your mailbox soon. Stewardship Board will begin Hearts in Focus personal financial planning seminars Sunday January 8th. Three ring binder with copies of quarterly voters' minutes, constitution, ministry plan, and other reports will be placed in St. Mark library soon for congregations reference. Stay tuned for details, District Mission Board coming to Eau Claire Saturday, January 21st.

CURRENT NEWS & NOTES

THANK YOU! The pastors, teachers, and staff of St. Mark would like to thank everyone for all the gifts they received this Christmas season. What a tremendous blessing it is for us to be at a congregation who shows such love and care for its called workers and staff. Your generosity is truly evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in your hearts and lives.

BLOOD DRIVE Mark your calendars for Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mark gym on Friday February 17, 1-6 P.M. Look for sign up posters in the Church entry in mid January for blood donors, workers and snacks. Contact Pat Culver if any questions.

A NEW BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS Thursday evening, Jan. 19 at 6:30. Pastors Naumann and Prahl will begin the course entitled "New Life In Christ". Now is the time to consider any friends or relatives you know that might be interested, or to consider if you would like to brush up on the basic teachings of Christianity laid out in Scripture. Please contact either pastor if you are interested in going through this BIC.

HEART IN FOCUS SEMINAR Sunday, Jan. 8 the board of stewardship will begin their Bible-based personal finance seminar entitled "Heart in Focus". This six-week course offers an opportunity to examine the issue of money and its various aspects (offerings, savings, budgeting, etc.) in the light of Scripture. The course is open to all—singles, couples, college students—anyone interested in getting a handle on their personal finances. The cost is \$20 for materials, and dinner and child care are provided each week. Contact Jere Schroeder, Scott Kohlwey, or Mike Langreck.

WELS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH RALLY Teens, the international youth rally is coming up. This summer teens from around the synod are traveling to Knoxville, TN for four days of spiritual growth, recreation, and building friendships. The rally dates are June 27-30. Talk to your parents and friends about attending this event. Registration begins February 15 and runs until May 15. Early registration ends March 31. For More information check www.wels.net/events. Now is the time to start considering this youth rally.

QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING will be Monday night, Jan. 23 at 7:45.

PASTOR PRAHL Is out of town Friday, Jan. 6 until Thursday, Jan. 12 for the Conference of Presidents meetings.

USING GOD'S MEANS OF GRACE Nov. weekends averaged **406** in worship, and totaled **569** communed. For Thanksgiving we had **197** in worship.

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. – Mt 2:11

OUTREACH IN PAKISTAN AND NEPAL

Rev. Karl Gurgel will be serving as the Multi-Language Publications' (MLP) publications coordinator for Pakistan and Nepal. In this role, he will help Christians ensure their materials clearly present the Bible's message of salvation.

Rev. Gurgel says, "Pakistan and Nepal are two regions of the world where expatriate American missionaries are not welcome. Without this publication effort the spreading of the gospel would be severely limited in these regions and the Savior would not be widely known."

the bigger PICTURE

Gurgel will also serve the South Asia Administrative Committee and MLP, replacing Rev. Harold Essmann, who retired in the fall.

To reach out to those who can't necessarily read the gospel message, the movie *Road to Emmaus* and 100 Christian hymns have been translated,

WELS

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uploaded to hand-held media players, and distributed in remote villages in Nepal. The media players can

be charged with solar-cell charging stations, eliminating the need for electricity, which is only minimally available in these Himalayan communities.

Rev. Paul Hartman, coordinator of MLP, says, "What we are offering people is a way to see the story and hear the story of Jesus, rather than give them lots of text." He explained that the illiteracy rate is high in some of the remote villages, and by offering the video, MLP can share the Word of God so people can understand the purpose of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

POWER HOUR

"Let Your Light Shine" Come on sport fans! Check out the next session of Power Hour! We will be running track, playing basketball and soccer, and leaping in gymnastics! Along with fun sport activities, we will have songs, projects, snacks and learn about amazing people from the Bible who let their light shine! Parents, grandparents, caregivers and children (ages 0-5) are welcome to join us: Thursdays January 12 (track) and 26 (basketball), February 9 (gymnastics) and 23 (soccer) from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church and School gymnasium. It's free and all are welcome!



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THE LION'S VOICE

SAINT MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship and Bible Study Opportunities for you each week

Saturdays: we gather to worship at **5:30** pm

Sundays: we gather to worship
at **8:00** and **10:30** am

Mondays: we gather to worship at **6:30** pm

9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Class

6:30 pm Wednesday Choir Rehearsal

11:00 am Thursday Bible Class

6:30 pm Thursday Bible Info Class (starting 1/19)

6:30 am Friday Bible Class

Come and feed your faith with the Word!

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

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