



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



January 2019

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

*January worship opportunities ...*

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

Contact Us

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This Month  
**AT A  
GLANCE**

4 – Men’s Morning  
Bible Study Resumes

6 – Sunday School /  
Bible Study Resumes

8 – Board Meetings

9 – Afternoon  
Confirmation Class  
resumes

10 – Lion Hearts Bible  
Study Resumes

10 – WINGS  
Christmas Party

15 – Council

16 – Evangelism  
Team

16, 30 – Power Hour

21 – Voters Meeting

22 – Morning Moms

**The King of the Jews Is a King for You**

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” - Matthew 2:1,2 (EHV)*

As far as important births go, you don’t have many more understated than Jesus’. It seems that not that many people noticed or cared about the birth of the world’s Savior. We know of the shepherds who were told by the angels and whomever the shepherds told. We read of Simeon and Anna who rejoiced when Jesus was brought to the temple. But the birth of the Savior of the world had gone largely unnoticed by the regional “king” Herod and seemingly all the important and mighty in Jerusalem. Here the Jews were waiting for the King of the Jews to be born, the Son of David who would sit on David’s throne forever and reign over a kingdom that would never end. That this king was now born was news to Herod and many others in Jerusalem who were experts in the Scriptures.

These wise men from the east, on the other hand, were very unlikely candidates to know about or even care about the birth of this King of the Jews. They were pretty important people in their own land (whether Babylon or Persia)—very well-educated and wealthy themselves. We cannot say how they knew that this King of the Jews would be so important, that a miraculous star would signal his birth (a fulfillment of Numbers 24:17?), that he would be the Son of God come to earth. Perhaps Daniel had handed down some prophecies to the magi of the east. But they didn’t have the full picture. They had to guess that such a king would probably be born in Jerusalem. Yet based on what they did know and could guess about him, they spent wealth and time, sacrificed convenience, and risked great danger in their travel just to see and worship this King. From what promises they knew of the King of the Jews, they knew he was born for them.

For all the advantages that we have to know Jesus, we have a tendency to take for granted the full revelation of God given to us in the Bible. We often treat with cold indifference or contempt the opportunity to travel only a few miles to find this King in Word and Sacrament week after week. Can we take so lightly the blessings of God’s grace and the full revelation of his saving work as the Jews of Jerusalem did?

Epiphany reminds us that there is nothing ordinary or unimportant about Jesus’ appearing. The King of the Jews had his own miraculous star to announce his birth! Jesus is no king and Savior for only a select few; he is no Savior to be taken for granted. Jesus is a Savior for all nations, to king to all people who alone would defeat this world’s great enemies of sin, death, and the devil by his life, death, and resurrection. God has given you his greatest treasure, his own Son, a Savior and King born for you, yes, even for you. May we rejoice to find it so this Epiphany. - Pastor Naumann

## Call News

**DIVINE CALLS** As of this writing, there is still no decision to report regarding Peter Micheel's call to serve as principal in St. Paul's, Fort Atkinson. We keep him in our prayers and look to the Lord of the Church to do what is best for these congregations.

Pastor Jason Oakland has decided to return the call to St. Mark. We trust that the Lord will bless him in his decision and will also bless St. Mark and Martin Luther congregations. We will plan on holding a call meeting on Monday, January 7 following the evening service. Below is Pastor Oakland's letter returning the call.

21 December, 2018

*Dear Brothers and Sisters, loved by our Lord Jesus:*

*What a wonderful privilege it is when the Lord allows us to consider a choice between two good things! Such was truly the case for me as I considered the divine call you issued to me along with the call I hold to serve at Martin Luther. This process has provided me the opportunity for much prayerful deliberation, personal evaluation, and sanctified discussion with brothers and sisters in the faith. I thank God for that privilege.*

*It is clear to me you have many great opportunities for ministry at St. Mark and in the surrounding community. Your future in Christ is bright, and I trust he will bless you in making the most of those opportunities. Therefore, it is with regret I return to you this call to serve our Lord among you in Eau Claire.*

*I assure you I will continue to keep you in my prayers. I will ask your brothers and sisters in Christ at Martin Luther to do the same.*

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).*

*In Christ,*

*Pastor Jason Oakland*

## Upcoming Events

### WINTER POWER HOUR

A new winter session of Power Hour begins on January 16. The theme of this four-session Power Hour is "Growing Faith Farm," after the encouragement of 2 Peter 3:18, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We invite all children of the congregation and community birth to five years old to hear the good news about Jesus our Savior from sin. Power Hour will every other Wednesday in January and February (Jan. 16, 30 and Feb. 13, 27). Come and see, and invite a friend too.

### GUEST PREACHER

We welcome Pastor emeritus Paul Naumann (our Pastor Naumann's father) as a guest preacher the weekend of January 6. Pastor em. Naumann recently retired from Good Shepherd, Benton Harbor, MI on November 25 and now resides in Saginaw, MI.

## St. Mark HILITES

### PUBLIC USE OF THE MEANS OF GRACE:

- **Worship:** We averaged 357 per weekend in the month of November. The Lord's Supper was administered to 500.
- **Baptism:** Levi Leroy Seipel (born 10/22/18) was baptized in a private ceremony on November 10.
- **We welcome into membership:** Al and Cheryl Vorhees (transfer from Holy Cross, Madison; and Linus and Susie Zillmer (transfer from St. Paul, Tomah, WI).
- **We transfer** Jonathan Schwede to First German, Manitowoc.
- **We release** to their own spiritual care Jonathan and Trisha Schmidt and daughter Madelyne; and Lorelei Ernster and children Lindsay Sherman and Eden Ernster.

**MEETING NIGHTS** Because of how New Year's Day falls, board meeting night will be pushed to the second Tuesday of the month (January 8) at 6:30 PM, and council will be pushed to the third Tuesday ) January 15 at 6:30 PM.

**WORSHIP CHOIR** will practice on January 2 for singing in worship on January 6, will be off for two weeks (January 9 and 16), and then will resume on January 23.

**THANK YOU** The pastors, faculty, and staff of St. Mark would like to thank you members for your very generous outpouring of gifts, greetings, and support this Christmas season. What a joy and privilege it is to serve you at St. Mark and to see your appreciation for the gospel.

**WINGS CHRISTMAS PARTY** Come to the Women In God's Service (WINGS) Christmas party on Thursday, January 10! This year it will be held at Banbury Place - 303 Putnam Street, International Harvester Apartments - Community Room) beginning at 6 PM (Call/text Jennifer for directions or if you get lost 715-797-6494). Bring an appetizer to share and your secret pal Christmas exchange gift. Punch will be served. If you don't have a secret pal, bring a \$10 gift to exchange! There will be a chance to draw for a new secret pal. If you can't make the party, but want to have a secret pal, just fill out a form in the office! This is for all women at St. Mark! Come for food, fellowship, and get to know your sisters in Christ a little bit better! If you would like to carpool from St. Mark, let Jenny Riebe, Jennifer Carter or Barb Krass know.

## the Big Picture

### THE QUARTERLY VOTERS

**MEETING** will be Monday night, January 21 at 6:30 (following evening worship). One of the main items on the agenda will be to set our Congregational Mission Offering (CMO) to the synod. This is the money our congregation, together with the other congregations of the WELS, give to support the overall work of the synod. Among that work is to support mission work at home and overseas, to help support various campus ministries throughout the synod, to subsidize our worker training schools to train ministers of the gospel and teachers to serve in the church, and to support various other synodical programs that help the congregations of the WELS accomplish together what they would not have the resources to accomplish separately.