

Preparing The Way

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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



Preparing The Way

This Month AT A GLANCE

2 – Bd Education
meets at 9:15

4 – Board Meetings

5 – VBS Canvassing

11 – Church Council

Blood Drive (1 – 6)

17-21 – Vacation Bible
School (mornings)

19 – Church Picnic

30 – Installation of
New Officers

Installation of Pastor
Hollmann

He who descended (Jesus at his birth in Bethlehem) is the very one who ascended (after he rose from the dead) higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe. It was he who gave some ... to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ... - Eph 4

HIGHER, or HIRE?

'We finally have our second pastor!' Word reached us from our district president on Wednesday, May 22, that a seminary graduate (one of only 26) had been chosen by the Assignment Committee to fill the vacancy of an associate pastor at St Mark, Eau Claire. The next day his identity was revealed as Synod President Schroeder announced the assignments one after the other: "Michael Hollmann (assigned to St Mark, Eau Claire, WI; associate pastor.". After the Call Service our representatives Mark and Kathleen Brann had an opportunity to interact with him. They learned that he is a graduate of Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School. He then spent four years earning a history degree from nearby Carroll College, followed by two years at MLC and concluding with four years at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. His yearlong vicar service was in Brookings, SD, where the congregation is involved in campus ministry. He is married to Erin (nee Kelly). They have an 8-month-old daughter named Madeleine. Reflecting on the direction his life is now taking, he is both thankful to Christ for his grace and quite humbled by the opportunity to share the saving gospel with us in Eau Claire.

Some might ask, *"How did we get our second pastor? There were no job opportunities posted on the web or in the classified ads."* He did not audition for the position, submit a resume' or send us several sermons on DVD so the congregation could get a feel for him. Although he followed a path of education that developed his spiritual strengths and aroused his desire to serve Christ as a pastor, he did not apply to St Mark specifically. In fact doing so is a negative in matters pertaining to the holy ministry. The time-honored saying is trustworthy and true: the office seeks the man, the man does not seek the office." Why is this true? Stop and consider: if the pastor is self-appointed and under his leadership the church flourishes, would he not be tempted to sinful, selfish pride? But if his ministry struggles, even shrinks in spite of the pastor's good efforts, he could easily be tempted to discouragement, blaming others, even despair. No, when the pastor trusts that not he but the risen Conqueror of Satan, sin and the grave himself chose him to this position, to work in this little corner of the world's population with the confidence that the Holy Spirit. And to do this with eyes wide open to the headship and working of the Holy Spirit. This calling is more than a 9-to-5, punch-in / punch-out arrangement but an extension of Christ himself. This "higher calling" helps the pastor keep an even keel as he carries out the day-to-day duties of his office. He does not get too "down" on days marked by futility, realizing that "the servant is not able his master." In the same breath he does not get

June 2019

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

June worship opportunities ...

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

Contact Us

Church PH: 715-834-2595

- Pastor Prah: 715-579-0072 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

Meet our Newest Members



Linus and Susie Zillmer, recently retired, moved back to the Eau Claire area to be closer to several relatives.

They transferred from St. Paul Lutheran, Tomah. Early in their marriage they were at St. Mark when their daughter was born and baptized by Pastor Prahl. They also have a son and four grandchildren.

They are both retired and live on the NW side of Eau Claire. Susie was a geriatric recreation specialist for VA Hospital in Tomah and at Monroe County Nursing Home. She enjoys quilting, reading, and gardening.

Linus was District Manager for WE Energy. Linus is a 24/7 golf player and is a fan of all sports. They usually worship at early service. Please welcome them to our church family.

Wrap-Around Care Coordinator Needed

St. Mark Lutheran School will be providing wrap-around care to our school families beginning in the Fall 2019. We recognize the challenges that working parents face with childcare arrangements and strive to provide options for our school families. The Wrap-Around Care program will be available for students of St. Mark Lutheran School enrolled in Preschool or Kindergarten. This program is only available on the days the student attends school and will be available from 11:45 AM until 3:25 PM. At 3:25 PM, all students will transition to the After School Care Program, be picked up by the parents, or ride the school bus home. The Board of Education is looking for someone to fill this new position. If you are interested, please submit your resume to Darren Rust, Board of Education Chairman at dcrust@sbcglobal.net by June 9th. Packets of information outside of the church office describing the qualifications, position and job duties.

Upcoming Events

BLOOD DRIVE St Mark will host another Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday June 11 from 1 to 6pm in the Shaker Center. You are encouraged to reserve a donation time by signing up at church or online at www.redcrossblood.org. We also need you to man the welcome table, providing and handing out snacks, etc. Contact Pat Culver for answers to your questions.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS will be inducted into their positions on Sunday, June 30.

MLC SATELLITE CLASS We will once again serve as an off-campus classroom for a summer course given through MLC. The dates are June 5-6.

NEW WEBSITE. Our technology board, together with First Net Impressions (and owners Kyle and Maria Herbert) have rebuilt our St Mark website. Check it out and see its many new features. We offer sincere thanks to those who put in the many hours to bring this project to completion.

ST MARK BACK ON TV Our worship services will again be played on community access channel 993 on Fridays at 1:00 and Sundays at 3:00.

continued from previous page

too “up” when physical successes come easily, as though he deserves the credit for the things that only God can do.

The same applies to Christian teachers. MLC provided the synod’s school with a tremendous outpouring of teacher candidates, 140 in all, filled with teaching knowledge and the Spirit’s fire. Among them is Hannah Carter, daughter of Matt and Jen, who graduated from MLC in May and was assigned to teach Early Childhood level students at Zion, Valentine, Nebraska.

We also take note of the assignment of Shelby Pitt, daughter of Pastor Phil and Sharon Pitt. The risen and ascended Lord Jesus placed her in Saginaw, MI to teach 7th graders at St Paul school there. Note carefully the divine call process at work. Graduates at MLC; the candidates do not interview in front of the congregation or school. They do not negotiate or demand duties or salaries or signing bonuses for their own advantage. Putting it simply, those who serve in Jesus’ harvest field do not go out preaching and teaching for their glory. St Paul stated it well: ***we do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ our Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. ... It is written: ‘I believed; therefore I have spoken.’ With this same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.*** Gospel ministers do not consider the call process as something that limits them. Instead they see it as our ascended, living Redeemer lifting us higher in life, giving us a higher purpose in life, renewing our confidence to a higher level.

O mighty and ascended Lord, draw upward to yourself those whom you send out into our congregations and classrooms. Fill them with your Spirit and the sweet gospel message!

Prahl’s’ Retirement Celebration

After serving in ministry at St Mark since the summer of 1973, Pastor Prahl and Mrs. Prahl will begin retirement at the end of June. We praise the God of limitless love and mercy for the blessings he has showered on them and through them. To that end we will host a retirement celebration in the Shaker Center on Saturday, July 6. We will begin with a devotion in the sanctuary at 1:00 after which you may come-and-go in the gym till 5:00. A short program will take place at 3:00.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE Please note the following changes as we transition into the summer worship schedule: Sunday worship in June, July and August will change to 8:00 and 10:00 AM. Monday worship stays at 6:30.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS Barb will be in the office on Fridays from 8:00 – 3:00. Use the phone listings on this newsletter if you need to make contact with a pastor or teacher.

Vacation Bible School will reach out to kids age 3 through those entering 5th grade. The theme is ***Set Sail with the Son*** and aims to keep the children closer to Jesus every day. VBS is June 17-21 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. If you would enjoy getting the word on VBS out to friends and neighbors, come to church Wednesday, June 5th. Supper will be provided.

The **Church Picnic** is set for Wednesday, June 19, from 4:00-7:00 PM at the Oak Pavilion at Carson Park. Brats, burgers, buns, lemonade and table service will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring along a dish to pass.

The students from VBS are scheduled to **Sing the National Anthem** for the Eau Claire Express game that evening. Since their opponents are the Thunder Bay Bordercats we will also sing the Canadian National Anthem. Church members may purchase tickets by Sunday, June 16. Tickets are \$10, and the deal includes an Express hat. The Express will donate \$3 to St. Mark for each ticket we sell. Tickets and full payments can be ordered either through Katie Dieringer or Peter Micheel.

8th Grade Graduation

St. Mark Lutheran School ended its school year on Friday, May 24. We especially recognize our eight, 8th-grade students who graduated: Jacob Binczak, Jaden Czysz, Julia Hahm, Camryn Kortbein, Grant Paetzold, Jonathan Rust, Caleb Schultz, and Skylar Van Nurden. We wish them God's richest blessings as they transition to high school. *Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.* (Revelation 2:10b)