



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



January 2023

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

January worship opportunities...

Sundays @ 8:00 a.m. (Livestream via Facebook or at www.stmark-wels.org, under “Watch Sermons Online.”)
Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.
Mondays @ 6:30 p.m.

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ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Preparing
The Way

Messianic Psalms and Types of Prophecy

January
2023

AT A GLANCE

- 5—Vision/
Engagement
Workshop
- 8—Special Voters
Meeting
- 10—Council Meeting
- 11—New Bible Infor-
mation Class
- 13—Power Hour &
New Mission
Congregation in Eau
Claire Meeting
- 15—WINGS
Christmas party
- 17 & 31—Morning
Moms
- 29—Quarterly Voters
Meeting

This devotion is part of a continuing series on the Psalms.

Last month we considered how rich the psalms are in prophecies regarding the Messiah. In fact, one of my professors of Old Testament at the Seminary told us that Psalms contains more prophecies about Christ than any other single book of the Bible. (Depending on how you count, Isaiah could contain more, but Prof. Brug went to bat for Psalms.) We call these psalms, fittingly, messianic psalms. But did you know that not all prophecies work the same way? There are actually three different types of prophecy that Scripture may use to point to Christ and his work. This month’s article will focus on these three types of prophecy.

The first type is called *direct* or *rectilinear prophecy*. Direct prophecy is when the prophet is speaking only about Christ. There is no other fulfillment that takes place subsequent to Christ fulfilling it. Psalm 16:9-10 contains a direct prophecy about Jesus, “Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices. Even my flesh will rest securely because you will not abandon my life to the grave. You will not let your favored one see decay.” The apostle Peter used Psalm 16 in his Pentecost sermon, pointing to its direct messianic prophecy to prove that David was speaking about Jesus, not about himself. “I can speak confidently to you about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet...he saw what was coming and spoke about the resurrection of Christ, saying that he was neither abandoned to the grave nor did his flesh see decay” (Acts 2:29-31). Psalm 2 would be another example of direct prophecy, when God says of Christ, “You are my Son. Today I have begotten you” (Psalm 2:7).

The second type of prophecy is *typical prophecy*. This is when a real person, thing, or event points ahead to a similar person or event fulfilled in the New Testament. This is what people mean when they talk about a *type of Christ*. The bronze serpent that Moses lifted up in the desert, for example, was a type of Christ that pointed to Jesus’ crucifixion (John 3:14-15). Psalm 41:9 points to an event in David’s life that was a type of Jesus being betrayed by a close friend who would later commit suicide. David was actually betrayed by a man named Ahithophel, but this event was fulfilled in Judas’s evil work of betraying Jesus.

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Meet Our Newest Members ...

Katelyn Naylor recently joined St. Mark after learning about the church from fiancé Adam Chaulklin who grew up in the WELS. The couple will celebrate their wedding in September. Growing up in Eau Claire, Katelyn earned a degree in graphic design, digital art and photography. She later moved to Chippewa Falls where she is working on a house remodel and is employed by Mason Companies as a product photographer.

"Adam and I had several conversations about what we wanted for our relationship, ourselves and his boys, who now attend St. Mark's school," said Katelyn. "It only made sense for me to join him in attending services, and I found myself feeling at home."

Welcome, Katelyn!



New member, Christian Gauvin, transferred from Mount Olive in Appleton to St. Mark. He lives in the Strum area and works remotely for Explore Information Services, based in the Twin Cities area. As a computer engineer he develops various software programs. He received his original training at Hutchinson Technology in Eau Claire.

Christian became familiar with St. Mark via campus outreach. He enjoys his two Shiba Inu (Japanese bred) dogs and exploring various video games. Christian considers himself an avid indoor type person. We welcome Christian to our St. Mark church family.

Welcome, Christian!



Upcoming Events

VISION/ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP: On Thursday, January 5th from 6:30pm-8:00pm Excel Engineering will be kicking off our Master Planning and will be leading a vision/engagement workshop here at St Mark for all members of the congregation to take part in. They want to hear from you, the members, to help plan for our future with church and school. Please take great consideration to attend this exciting opportunity to meet and engage with the architect.

SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING – Note that there is a special voters meeting on January 8 to decide whether to call another full-time teacher to St. Mark. The rationale was document was emailed out this week again.

NEW BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS: Pastor Naumann will be starting a Bible Information Class (BIC) in the new year. It will start out on Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:00, beginning on January 11 (adjustments to be made at the start of Lent). The class is for anyone interested in knowing more about the Christian faith, for anyone who wishes to become a member of St. Mark, or for members who would like to brush up on the basic catechetical teachings of the Christian faith. The class is a great place to bring all your religion or Bible questions. Please talk to Pastor Naumann if you wish to attend.

POSSIBILITY FOR NEW MISSION IN EAU CLAIRE St. Mark welcomes Pastor Jeff Mahnke (chairman of our Western Wisconsin District Mission Board) for an informational meeting on Friday, January 13 @ 6:00PM. This meeting is especially for members of St. Mark who feel they have the abilities, drive, and desire to plant a mission congregation in the greater Eau Claire area, as part of our synod's "100 in 10" mission campaign (100 new or enhanced mission churches in the next 10 years). Pastor Mahnke is familiar with our current plans to perhaps build a new sanctuary and expand the school. He is confident this mission outreach can certainly proceed alongside our efforts at expansion at St. Mark.

This meeting is really open to all. If you want to hear the rationale for a new church plant, if you think you could play a part as member of the "core group" for a new mission, or if you would just like to help with outreach, please come. Dinner and babysitting will be provided.

WINGS (POST) CHRISTMAS PARTY The WINGS (Women In God's Service--that's all women at St. Mark) will meet on Sunday, January 15 at 5 PM for a gift exchange, appetizers, and fellowship. If you have a Secret Pal, bring her Christmas gift. If you don't have a Secret Pal and would like to participate in a gift exchange, bring a \$5-10 gift. Bring an appetizer, treat, dessert, or whatever you would like to snack on. Drinks will be provided.

This is a great chance to get to know other women from St. Mark. We will have a special guest too, Charlotte Prah, visiting from Colorado! Looking forward to seeing you there. Questions, call or text Jenny Riebe at 715-579-2146.

St. Mark Ministry Highlights

Public Use of the Means of Grace:

Worship: We averaged 401 worshippers per weekend in December. We averaged 186 worshippers for the December Advent services. The Lord's Supper was administered to 388 in December. Membership stands at 786 souls and 603 communicants.

Other Official Acts:

Membership Actions

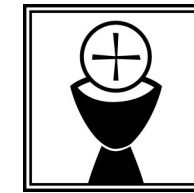
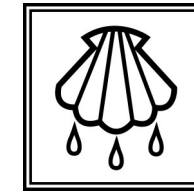
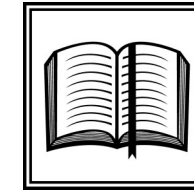
We welcome Austin Schumacher and Dain & Jennifer Heyrman by profession of faith and Casey Schumacher, Sara Mayle, Eli Heyrman, Cole & Stacey Doering by adult confirmation.

We release Timothy, Sheri, Jacob, Abigayle, and Mikayla Runge; and Clay & Lilly Bednar to their own care.

SNOW REMOVAL Buildings and Grounds is looking for volunteers to help with snow removal this winter on the weekends. There is a sign-up sheet right outside the church office that lists dates and responsibilities. For more info please contact Zach Jastrow at 715-864-4811 or zjastrow@gmail.com.

Sign-Ups available Along with the snow removal sheet, several sign-up sheets are out for the new year:

- 2023 Flower Chart
- Jan-June Feed My People
- Men's Morning Bible Study
- Sunday Snack & Brew



The third type of messianic prophecy is a prophecy that contains an *intermediate fulfillment*. Such prophecies speak of at least two future events: first, a partial, incomplete fulfillment; second, the complete fulfillment accomplished by Christ. 2 Samuel 7 speaks of David's son who would sit on his throne after him and build the temple. This was fulfilled intermediately in Solomon, but it was fulfilled completely when Christ, the Son of David, would sit on his throne, rule over an eternal kingdom, and establish the Church as the Lord's house that would last forever. Psalm 8 might be an example of a prophecy with intermediate fulfillment. "What is man that you remember him, the son of man that you pay attention to him! Nevertheless, you make him suffer need, apart from God for a while, but you crown him with glory and honor. You make him the ruler over the works of your hands. You put everything under his feet" (Psalm 8:4-6). This may refer to Adam and to the human race in an intermediate way in regards to our place in God's created order. Ultimately it is fulfilled in Jesus who would assume our human nature and obtain complete dominion over the world which Adam had lost through his fall into sin.

These types of prophecies show us the variety and wonder of finding Christ in the Old Testament, especially in the Psalms. There are many modern scholars who deny the possibility of predictive prophecy. They interpret many messianic prophecies as fanciful or exaggerated language about the kings of Israel that were later applied to a hoped-for Messiah by both Jews and Christians. (When you honestly examine over 300 specific messianic prophecies that are all fulfilled in Jesus, such a denial of messianic prophecy becomes untenable; but that is an article for another time.) This view runs counter to how Jesus himself taught us to read and interpret Scripture. On the first evening after his resurrection, Jesus made it clear how thoroughly Scripture pointed to him: "Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms" (Luke 24:44). In John 5:39 he tells the Jewish leaders, "You search the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them. They testify about me!" May we delight to read, pray, study, and sing these psalms and to readily find Jesus and his saving work in them.