



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



April 2021

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

April worship opportunities...

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

Maundy Thursday, 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m., April 1st  
Good Friday, 1:00 & 2:30 p.m.,  
Tenebrae 6:30 p.m., April 2nd  
Easter Vigil 7:37 p.m., April 3rd  
Easter 6:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., & 10:00 a.m., April 4th  
(8:00 a.m. service is  
livestreamed via Facebook or at  
[www.stmark-wels.org](http://www.stmark-wels.org), under “Watch Sermons Online”)

Contact Us

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April 2021

AT A GLANCE

- 1<sup>st</sup>—Maundy Thursday
- 2<sup>nd</sup>—Good Friday  
Tenebrae Service
- 3<sup>rd</sup>—Easter Vigil  
Service
- 4<sup>th</sup>—Easter Services  
Easter Breakfast  
Easter Egg Hunt
- 5<sup>th</sup>—NO MONDAY  
SERVICE
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Board Meetings
- 12<sup>th</sup> —Morning Moms
- 13<sup>th</sup> — Council  
Meeting &  
Pastors’ Circuit  
Meeting
- 17<sup>th</sup>—LWMS Spring  
Rally @St. Mark
- 25<sup>th</sup>—Quarterly  
Voter’s Meeting
- 26<sup>th</sup>—Morning Moms

“Through him all things were made.”

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

There’s something to be said about finding a different perspective. You could liken this “change of perspective” to holding a diamond in your hand and turning it round and round. The diamond never changes, but you can marvel at its brilliance from a completely different facet, or angle. Doing so only adds to our appreciation of the diamond itself. Yes, perspective adds so much.

Such is the case with the Bible and its teachings.

As we continue our devotional series on the creeds, we will consider here a small line from the Nicene Creed. It’s a phrase that teaches us about creation: *Through him all things were made.* Who is the “him” here? It’s Christ Jesus.

Jesus ... and creation? Isn’t the *Father’s* role in creation one of the first things catechism students learn about the Apostle’s Creed? If you open up a Bible, you will find that the work of creation is particularly attributed to God the Father. However, we also know from the Bible that every external work attributed to the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit is also a work that is common to every person of the Trinity.

How is this possible? Because *each person* of the Trinity has the divine essence entirely, which is incapable of being divided among the three persons. In other words, *you can’t divide the one essence of God.*

Let’s now consider what Scripture has to say about Jesus’ work in creation in particular, and what it means for you.

Colossians 1:16 – “For in [the Son] all things were created ... all things have been created through him and for him.”

John 1:3,10 – “Through [the Word, i.e. Jesus] everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made ... the world was made through him.”

These two passages are why we confess in the Nicene Creed “Through him (Jesus) all things were made.” Paul’s letter to the Colossians and John’s gospel accurately describe the Son of God’s role in the work of creation. It’s certainly a different perspective on creation—a new facet—but true nonetheless!

We find a precious perspective on creation in Genesis chapter one. We see God

speaking the universe into existence. He did not simply use outward power, nor did he rely on billions of years to transform and develop what he "initially made." Each day throughout the account we read: "And God said, 'Let there be.'" And there was.

What do we learn from this? God created with his Word. What does the Holy Spirit reveal to us about this Word? (Hint: Check out John chapter one!) The Word is Christ Jesus! "The world was made through him" (John 1:10). "All things have been created through him and for him" (Colossians 1:16).

These aren't just "high-level" truths for us to ponder and think about. This truth of Christ and creation is a powerful truth for our lives, right now! Christ Jesus, *through whom all things were made*, stooped down and made himself nothing ... to save all of us from our hopeless sinful state. The Word of God walked among us, spoke among us, and sacrificed himself for us.

In view of this mercy, what can possible concern us? What can cause us to despair? What can rob us of our certainty of forgiveness of sins through Christ, the eternal Word of God, *through whom all things were made*? Nothing. We can say in the face of temptation, guilt, or trial: "The Son of God, the one who made all things, died for me and rose again in victory." What a powerful testimony to those who ask you about your hope as a Christian!

-Pastor Hollmann



## Meet Our Newest Members

Laura Rockow

About a year ago Laura Rockow moved from Cumberland to MacArthur Street. Often, she would drive past St. Mark Church and School and enjoyed seeing all the children outside. Laura started visiting the worship services, which led to Bible Information Class, and was recently welcomed as a new member during early service. The love of children led her to teach Sunday School and Vacation Bible School at her home church. Laura also shares that the highlight of her life was to raise her two sons.

Laura has visited many of the major U.S. tourist spots. Her next goals are to visit the Grand Canyon and Alaska. She is employed as a cashier at Festival on Birch. For many years she was an office assistant in Cumberland and Rice Lake Hospitals. Most Sundays she worships at early service. Please introduce yourself and welcome her.

## Upcoming Events

**Easter Breakfast** will be served throughout the morning from 7:15 to 9:45 to accommodate everyone. Menu consists of eggs, bacon, sausage links, hash browns, and pancakes. Members are asked to bring baked goods or fruit. Please sign up if you plan to attend so they know how much food to cook. Looking for volunteers to help set up, cook/serve and clean-up.

**Easter Egg Hunt** for kids ages 0-12 will take place at 11:15 am in the soccer field for the younger kids and around the playground for the older kids.

## St. Mark Ministry Highlights

### Public Use of the Means of Grace:

**Worship:** We averaged 204 worshipers per week-end in February. The Lord's Supper was administered to 279 Membership stands at 798 souls and 599 communicants.

**Devotional Services with Communion:** Members who are in the high-risk category and are worshipping online can set up a time for one of these services if they wish to receive the blessings and promises Christ attaches to his holy Supper. Contact the pastors to schedule one.

**There will be NO Monday service on April 5th (the Monday after Easter).**

### Other Official Acts:

**Membership Actions:** We transfer James and Terri Larson to First Lutheran in La Crosse.

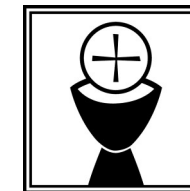
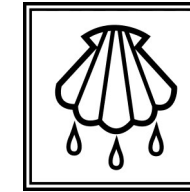
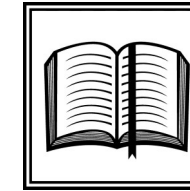
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**Divine Call Returned** Allison Bovee has returned the call to St. Mark to teach all-day kindergarten or half-day kindergarten and afternoon first grade.

**Divine Calls Placed** A call meeting was held on Sunday, March 21st and Ellen Zank was called to teach Kindergarten (full-time) while Jackie Plant was called to teach 1st grade (half-time). Please keep both women in your prayers as they deliberate their respective calls.

**Confirmation** will be held on Sunday, May 2nd at 11:00 am for the confirmands and their families. There will be an 8:00 am and 9:30 am service for the rest of our members.

**Retirement Celebration!** Please join us for a retirement celebration on Sunday, May 23 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the St. Mark Shaker Center (gymnasium) in honor of *Connie Anason* and *Jenny Riebe*, two of our wonderful teachers at St. Mark Lutheran School. We hope that you can join us in helping to show our immense gratitude for the many years of gifts, talent, and love that they've given to our school children and their families. If you'd like to help, please contact Karla Wilkins at [kmwilkins1@gmail.com](mailto:kmwilkins1@gmail.com).



## St. Mark Hosts Spring LWMS Rally



Saturday, April 17, 2021

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
3307 State Street, Eau Claire

Registration begins at 8:00 am

Program at 8:30 am

Lunch to follow at Noon

Speaker Shannon Bohme will talk to us about WELS members working together to carry out Jesus' Great Commission to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28).

Please register in the office by April 12th if you plan to attend.

They are collecting pillow case dresses and hats and mittens as well as any old Meditations you may have. Please drop off in the office.