



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



December 2022

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

December 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.

Advent: December 7 & 14

11:00 am & 6:30 pm

Children’s Service - Sunday, December

18th @10:30 am

Christmas Eve - 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Christmas Day 9:30am

New Year’s Eve w/Communion

6:30 pm

Contact Us

Church Phone: 715-834-2595

- Pastor Naumann: 715-214-7880, joel@stmark-wels.org
- Pastor Hollmann: 715-523-3728, michael@stmark-wels.org
- Secretary Ashley Yang: ashley@stmark-wels.org

School Phone: 715-834-5782 | Fax: 715-834-7668

- Principal Micheel: 715-835-6015, peter@smwels.org
- Mr. Biebert: 715-456-9557, chris@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
- Ms. Jackie Plant : 715-271-9021, jackie@smwels.org
- Mrs. Knickelbein: 715-834-0254, kristin@smwels.org
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- Mrs. Krouse: 612-432-4049, mkrouse@smwels.org



ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Preparing
The Way

December
2022

AT A GLANCE

2nd- High School Bible Study

3rd- Christmas Caroling

6th- Morning Moms Board Meetings

7th- Midweek Advent Services

9th- Power Hour

11th- Jesus Cares Ministry

13th- Council

14th- Midweek Advent Services

16th- High School Bible Study

Social Outing

17th- KICK Babysitting

18th- Children’s Christmas Service

19th- Kids’ Choir Christmas Party

24th- Christmas Eve

25th- Christmas Day

31st- New Years Eve

Prophecies About Jesus – Yes, Even In the Psalms!

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

I still remember it: The sound of the zip from tearing the perforated edges, the feeling of the pop as the paper flap opened, and the taste of the milk chocolate ... “Mmm.” Yes, apparently Advent calendars (the ones with the hidden milk chocolates, of course) can certainly leave an impression on a young kid. The Hollmann house was no exception.

One-by-one the flaps would be opened, revealing the bright pictures accentuating the Advent scene: The travels of Mary and Joseph, the angel chorus for the shepherds, the coming of the Magi to the manger with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh – as inaccurate as that might be.

In the Advent calendar the truth of Christmas and God’s precious gift to humanity in Christ Jesus was being revealed, bit-by-bit. It’s the countdown to Christmas Day – salvation revealed!

Like that childhood Advent calendar, the picture of God’s salvation in Christ Jesus was something unveiled bit-by-bit, throughout human history. Of course, the promise of salvation in a Savior has always been humanity’s possession and hope since the first humans were driven from the Garden of Eden, but *who* the Savior would be, *what* he would do, and *how exactly* he would do it was a mystery for many Old Testament believers.

But God kept to his calendar, his timetable of salvation. Like a child popping open the chocolates from the calendar one-by-one, Old Testament believers over time better understood the *who, what, and how* about the Savior.

Zip, pop, “Mmm” – The Savior would be a descendent of Abraham (Genesis 12:3). *Zip, pop, “Mmm”* – The Savior would be a prophet, a brother Israelite (Deuteronomy 18:15). *Zip, pop, “Mmm”* – The Savior would be one of King David’s descendants, ruling on his throne forever (2 Samuel 7:13). *Zip, pop, “Mmm”* – The Savior would be born of a virgin. (Isaiah 7:14) ... And on and on it went. God revealed the sweet knowledge of salvation in the blood and resurrection of Christ.

Aside from the books referenced above, the book of Psalms plays a crucial role in unveiling more information about the promised Savior. These psalms are specifically labeled “*messianic psalms.*” They are psalms that directly point to Jesus and his work, having been referenced in the

Meet Our Newest Members ...



The Knuth family became connected to St. Mark through the school in 2021-22 and this school year to the congregation via the Bible Information Class. Dad Brandon is a design engineer for Curt Manufacturing, which creates accessories for vehicles. In his spare time he likes to tinker with things that need repair. Mom Jocelyn always wanted to be a mom and enjoys her time with their five children, which she sees as her season of life. For nine years she has been serving as a 911 dispatcher for Eau Claire. Jocelyn shares that both positions require being flexible and multi-tasking..

The family includes 21 year old Lincoln who recently moved into his own home. He is manager of Chipotle and enjoys traveling. Lyric, 18, graduated from Memorial High School and will enroll in a CNA class to help her decide what area would be a good fit for her. She makes and designs jewelry. Ninth grader, Legend attends Liberty Christian School in Chippewa Falls. He is considered an excellent drawer and uses a software program to back up his ideas. He looks forward to a career in architecture. Lennox is a sixth grader at St Mark. He is into sports, especially football and basketball. Also at St Mark is first grader Loyal who is fascinated by anything that moves. He already has his eye on a Dodge Charger. Both Lennox and Loyal are in Sunday School. Jocelyn stated that they are thankful that everything at St. Mark is based on the Bible and centered around Jesus. She also added that it is comforting to be around like minded believers. The family usually worships at the late service. Please welcome them to the St. Mark family.



CHRISTMAS INVITATION OPPORTUNITY It is that time of year where we need to start planning on inviting our friends and community to our Christmas services. We have postcard invitations available on the table outside of the office. Please use them as an opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, family and community members to our Christmas church services.

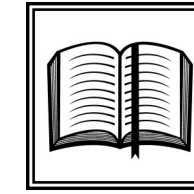
Upcoming Events

CHRISTMAS CAROLING A group of St. Mark members will be singing and spreading CHRISTmas joy by Christmas Caroling for our shut-ins and homebound on Saturday, December 3rd from 1:00-4:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining them plan to meet at church in the Narthex for group assignments/maps and start from there. Any questions, please call Karla Wilkins at 715-864-4607.

SCRIP FUNDRAISER benefiting St. Mark Lutheran School is taking place December 1st-12th. Join us in raising money for St. Mark PTP simply by using gift cards where you're already shopping. It's easy, rewarding and fits perfectly into your busy life. Order forms will be available in the office or Member Center in the Narthex. Orders must be turned in by the end of the school day on Monday 12/12. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Dieringer by text or phone: 715-213-4509 or email fundraising@smwels.org.

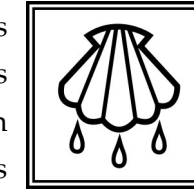
JANUARY 2023 CALENDAR RAFFLE benefiting Cornerstone Lutheran High School. Tickets are now available for purchase. Contact Katie Dieringer (715-213-4509) or Phil Moldenhauer (715-256-7441) if you'd like to purchase or to get some tickets to offer to family, friends, neighbors or co-workers. This is great fundraiser as well as an outreach to others who maybe don't know about the new high school, thank you for your help getting the word out!

St. Mark Ministry Highlights

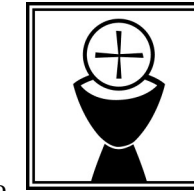


Public Use of the Means of Grace:

Worship: We averaged 323 worshippers per weekend in October. The Lord's Supper was administered to 408 in October. Membership stands at 779 souls and 580 communicants.



Baptisms: August Joe Leffew



Other Official Acts:

Membership Actions: We welcome Zachariah, Katarena, Lowell, Leander and Kallista Seelman who transferred from Good Shepherd– Jacksonville, FL and Kavanaugh Krueger who transferred from St. Peters– Mayville, WI. We transfer Jim and Shirley Christenson to St. Paul's– Menomonie and Brian Robinson to Gloria Dei– Belmont, CA.

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.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION TAKE DOWN Help is needed to take down Christmas decorations on January 3rd starting at 9 am. If you are able to assist, please sign up on the sheet outside of the office.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS BAGS We are asking parents & members if they would be willing to make a financial contribution so we can continue the tradition of providing candy bags to all the kids after the Children's Service. If you are able to help, please drop off your contribution in the office by Wednesday, December 14th. Thank you.

New Testament. Here are some highlights:

God will announce the Christ to be His Son (Psalm 2:7); Fulfillment: Matthew 3:17; Acts 13:33; Hebrews 1:5

The Christ will be resurrected from the grave (Psalm 16:10); Fulfillment: Mark 16:6-7; Acts 13:35

God will forsake the Christ in His moment of agony (Psalm 22:1); Fulfillment: Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34

Christ will be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9); Fulfillment: John 13:18

Christ will ascend to Heaven (Psalm 68:18); Fulfillment: Ephesians 4:8

Christ's enemies will bow down to Him (Psalm 110:1); Fulfillment: Acts 2:34-35

Christ will be the chief cornerstone (Psalm 118:22); Fulfillment: Matthew 21:42; Acts 4:11

These are only a few of a lengthy list! The Psalms are certainly a treasure trove of *specific information* about Jesus and what his work would look like! What does this mean for you? Make no mistake, as real and horrible as our sin is, the appearance of our Lord Jesus and his work is just as real and brings about our forgiveness of sins. Why? Because it was *foretold in history, in these very specific ways*. God the Holy Spirit himself spoke these words for your benefit. Holy Spirit, place these special prophetic words onto our hearts this Advent season as we anticipate the threefold coming of our Lord: His coming in the flesh, his coming on the Last Day to deliver us, and his coming to us now in precious word and sacrament.

– Pastor Hollmann

CHURCH DIRECTORIES HAVE ARRIVED! We still have a handful of directories that have not yet been picked up. If you had your picture taken or submitted a picture for the directory, please pick yours up on the table in the Narthex. Directories have been labeled by last name with a removeable sticker.