



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

October 2023

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

Worship opportunities...

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

Contact Us

Church Phone: 715-834-2595

- Pastor Naumann: 715-214-7880, joel@stmark-wels.org
- Pastor Hollmann: 715-834-2595 (ext. 3), michael@stmark-wels.org
- Secretary Tami Jastrow: 715-379-8649 tami@stmark-wels.org

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

- Principal Micheel: 715-835-6015, peter@smwels.org
- Mrs. Erin Hollmann: 224-730-4350, erin@smwels.org
- Mrs. Knickelbein: 715-834-0254, kristin@smwels.org
- Mrs. Krouse: 612-432-4049, mkrouse@smwels.org
- Ann Marohn: 920-918-6805, amarohn@smwels.org
- Mr. John Niebuhr: 507-766-8702, jniebuhr@smwels.org
- Mrs. Pitt: 715-577-6418, sharon@smwels.org
- Ms. Jackie Plant : 715-271-9021, jackie@smwels.org
- Mrs. Seipel: 651-210-5326, marie@smwels.org
- Mrs. Smith: 701-541-3169, ksmith@smwels.org
- Mr. Sponholz: 715-835-0213, scott@smwels.org



ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Preparing
The Way

October
2023

AT A GLANCE

- 3—Board Meeting Night
- 3 & 4—Circuit Pastors in Rice Lake
- 6—Power Hour
- 8 & 9—Mission Festival
- 15—Jesus Cares Ministry event
- 16—Voter’s Meeting 7:45pm**
- 20—Trunk or Treat
- 27—Blood Drive
- 29—Circuit Reformation Service, St John’s Cornell
- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31—Dartball
- 10, 24 Women’s Bible Study
- 4, 11, 18, 25 – BIC & afternoon Confirmation Classes
- 5, 12, 19, 26—Lion Hearts & Campus Ministry
- 6, 13, 20, 27—Men’s Bible Study
- 13, 20, 27—Morning Moms

The Collection and Arrangement of the Psalter

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

“The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever.” (1 Peter 1:25)

Yes, God’s Word will remain forever. This is God’s promise from Isaiah chapter 40, which St. Peter references in the above verse (1 Pe 1:25). Moreover, as God’s word remains in this world, the Lord has graciously chosen perishable humans to write it, handle it, and preserve it.

A testament to this preservation and management of God’s Word is seen in the collection and arrangement of the Psalter. These 150 psalms are divided into five separate sections, or “books.” We do not know for sure, but some scholars propose the five “books” in the Psalter are intended to mirror the five books in Moses’ Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). Generally speaking, there is an overall progression of subject material throughout the entire 150 psalms—from suffering and complaint (Books I-II), to thanks and praise (Books IV-V).

The following is a brief survey of the topics and distinguishing features of each “book” of the Psalms:

Book I: This first book includes Psalms 1-41. These psalms were authored by King David (c. 1000 B.C.). The major themes found throughout this book are both the suffering *and* triumph of God’s people. The name the “LORD” is used extensively throughout the book. These psalms were very likely used by King David and other musicians for Tabernacle / Temple worship.

Book II: Going hand-in-hand with Book I are the psalms of Book II (Psalms 42-72). Again, King David authored the majority of these psalms. In contrast to Book I, however, the divine name “God” is exclusively used, rather than “LORD.” Taken together, Book I (Psalms 1-41) and Book II (Psalms 42-72), were perhaps an initial collection all on their own, before other psalms were written by later authors inspired by God the Holy Spirit. This is not to say that David didn’t write through inspiration other individual psalms that would later be collected and arranged into other Books of the Psalms (III-V).

Continued on page 3 ...

Meet Our Elders...

Scott Krueger is a member of the Board of Elders. He is married to Danielle and is father to members Joseph and Davina Krueger. The family have been members of St Mark for the past eight years and live in Altoona. Scott is a HR administrator in Chippewa Falls, and Danielle is a Dietitian for Mayo Health on the Luther Campus. The Krueger family is appreciative of the congregation's zeal centered on education and the preaching of Christ crucified. Thank you all for your support of the board of Elders.

Next up is **Adam Nixdorf**. He is married to Rachel and has two children. Hannah is a Sophomore at Altoona high school, and Blake is a Freshman at Cornerstone Luther-High School. I look forward to serving St. Mark as an Elder. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or if you would like to help in any way in service to St. Mark and our LORD and Savior Jesus.

Steve Buss would like to thank you for providing him the opportunity to serve our congregation on the Board of Elders. Steve says "about 4 years ago when relocating to the area after being selected as the next Principal of Altoona Middle School, I was looking for a new church family. After asking around, St. Marks was a strong recommendation. After attending church a few times as a guest with our now college daughter, we both decided St. Marks was great feel and fit for us. My wife Melissa and I have been married for just over 27 years and are enjoying becoming recent empty-nesters. Our daughter Lauren recently graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota and will soon become a band teacher. Our son Mathew moved near us and is enjoying a career as a welder. Melissa and I both enjoy traveling and exploring the outdoors in the forms of hiking, biking, kayaking, and just about any excuse to be outdoors. We've explored all of the amazing state parks and that Wisconsin has to offer and are expanding to neighboring state parks as well as national parks. We both continue to enjoy our roles in the School District of Altoona as the Middle School Principal and Administrative Assistant at Altoona High School."

Jake Spiess (no photo) is on the board of elders. He has worked at Silver Springs Foods for over 15 years as lead maintenance inventory coordinator and enjoys the friendships he had formed while working there. He enjoys biking, lifting weights, running, reading, volunteering, working outdoors, attending Packer/Brewer games, and hunting with his compound bow. His son, Jesse, is currently working at Arby's and is looking at renting an apartment in town. His daughter, Michaela, is currently attending Luther Preparatory School and appreciates the clear focus on academics which the school promotes.



Daniel Baumann is a Store Manager for Casey's. After work he typically is weight lifting, hiking, playing games, and listening to audio books. He enjoys traveling and has plans for future trips. His favorite bible verse at the moment is 1 Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

Mark Fictum is a supply chain manager at Philips Medisize. He likes to hunt, fish and spend time with his family. Two of the Fictum kids are attending Cornerstone this year!



Elders Nixdorf, Buss & Krueger

an

St. Mark Ministry Highlights

Public Use of the Means of Grace:

Worship: We averaged 352 worshipers per weekend in September. The Lord's Supper was administered to 498 in September. Membership stands at 788 souls and 618 communicants.

Other Official Acts:

Membership Actions

We welcome

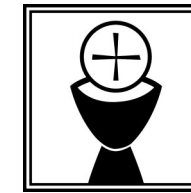
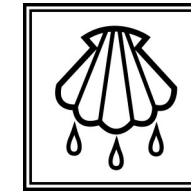
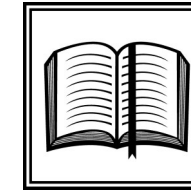
- Kevin Baeb
- Joseph & Kosema Brunner, Rhett & Evangeline
- Amy Meyer
- Leendert & Rosalie Olson, Nikolaus
- Dana & Krystal Sacia, Kaylee & Bryson
- Kayla Schewe & Aerianna
- Hillary Nickel transfer in from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran (Wabeno, WI)
- Brianna Niebuhr transfer in from Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran (West Fargo, ND)
- Chad and Ann (Bryce, Ty, Luke, Caitlin, and Faith) Marohn transfer in from St. Paul's Lutheran (Howards Grove, WI)

Upcoming Events

THE RED CROSS has asked St Mark to sponsor another **blood drive on Friday October 27, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Shaker Center Gym**. Donors please save this date to donate and **encourage** others to give life saving blood that day. There is a great blood shortage. Contact Pat Culver 715-834-8680 with questions. Also asking for help with registration and home baked goodies.

Important Info

If you are interested in joining the St Mark Church Facebook group, please use this link:



Book III: The primary authors found in Book III (Psalms 73-89) are Asaph and the "Sons of Korah." There is also one psalm written by King David. This shows that though the books of the Psalms may follow somewhat of a loose chronological order, it is not a strict chronological order. As to their content, the psalms in Book III focus primarily on the welfare of Israel, Jerusalem, and the Temple.

Books IV (90-106) and V (107-150): These two books share similar traits, including the use of the divine name "LORD," as well as each book ending with its own doxology (Psalm 106 for Book IV; Psalm 150 for Book V). Book IV has a prominent section giving thanks for the LORD's rule and his role as Creator and Preserver. Book V hold the well-known section the "Psalms of Ascent" (Psalms 120-134), including various psalms of praise and thanksgiving near the end of the book.

Church tradition tells us that Ezra, the priest overseeing the spiritual renewal of the Jews in Jerusalem as they returned from exile in Babylon and rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, was the one who made the final arrangements of the Psalms (c. 450s BC). In this way, he brought together all of these inspired words of Scripture, that they be read and meditated upon by the Church throughout time.

Indeed, the word of the Lord endures forever, being written by men "carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pe 1:21). Thank the Lord for his gracious preservation of his holy word through the hands of fallible human beings. Most importantly for you, this eternal word has found its way into your life and your heart, bringing you light and life through Jesus Christ in this dark and dying world.

May the Lord bless you as you continue to read and meditate upon his blessed words in the Psalter.

– Pastor Hollmann

