



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

June 2023

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

May worship opportunities...

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

Contact Us

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- Secretary Tami Jastrow: 715-379-8649 tami@stmark-wels.org

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- Principal Micheel: 715-835-6015, peter@smwels.org
- Mr. Biebert: 715-456-9557, chris@smwels.org
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- Mrs. Krouse: 612-432-4049, mkrouse@smwels.org



June
2023

AT A GLANCE

- 3—Marriage Keys Class
- 3 – Moyle/Jastrow
Wedding
- 11—Biebert Farewell
- 13 – Circuit Pastors
Council Meeting
- 18 – St Mark School
50th Anniversary
- 19-23 – Vacation Bible
School
- 23 – Church Picnic &
Express Game
- 7, 14, 21, 28 – Bible
Information Class

Remember
service times
change on
June 4th.

The Psalms for Our Worship and Life

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

“Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD. Let us give a loud shout to the Rock who saves us. Let us approach his presence with thanksgiving. With music we will shout to him.” — Psalm 95:1,2

Martin Luther said, “No devotional book has ever appeared that is superior to the Psalms. They clearly and prophetically detail the death and resurrection of Christ. The Psalms, inspired by the Holy Spirit, are the songs of his people, his Church, with hearts laid open, praising and lamenting. They are our words of devotion.”

As we consider the various perspectives from which we’ve viewed the Psalms these past months, we quickly realize why they have come to be a consistent and edifying part of our Christian worship. They give us opportunity for praise, lament, comfort, righteous anger, trust, and peace. As Luther rightly notes above, the Psalms are God’s words to us so that we might express ourselves in God-pleasing ways throughout our Christian life—a life that includes both praising and lamenting. They are a “mini-Bible,” a Christian’s companion in life and death.

We have been using the Psalms in our worship now for well over thirty years. And there are no plans for us as a synod or congregation to set them aside anytime soon. Though they are useful for personal devotion (They are God’s Words, after all!), they still play a role in our worship, that we might partake in the old songs of God’s people across the millennia.

The new psalm settings in *Christian Worship* (2021) and *Christian Worship: Psalter* (2021) are intended to provide a variety of richer musical settings for worship, while also keeping older settings of the Psalms for continued use. Moreover, not a few psalm settings have actually been written into a hymn-verse format, allowing the whole congregation to sing the comfort and truths of the psalm together, rather than responsively.

As we continue our Christian journey of service and love—reflecting the sacrificial, saving love of Jesus Christ—let us also continue to sing “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in our hearts for God.” — Colossians?

- Pastor Hollmann

Meet Our Newest Members ...

Welcome to the St. Mark Family

"I do not want to go to school" is never heard at the Robert & Rachel Judson house since their four children began attending St Mark Lutheran School during the 2022-2023 year. Near the end of the school year, all four children were baptized and Robert & Rachel were welcomed by confirmation and profession of faith on April 23rd. The parents both attended the recent Bible Information class.



The family has varied interests and hobbies. Robert was born & raised in Los Lunas, New Mexico. Both Robert & Rachel were homeschooled for their primary and high school years. He earned a degree in digital marketing from CVTC. He is now employed by Riverside Machine and Engineering, where he is the lead marketing specialist. Robert likes to deer hunt and is an avid photographer of God's creation.

Rachel was born & raised in Eau Claire. She recently completed the state boards to earn her right to work as an Emergency Medical Technician, NR/EMT. She spends her leisure time sewing and baking.

Sixth grader Riley enjoys gymnastics. Fifth grader Logan and third grader Colin spend time building and creating with Legos. Thea is in kindergarten and loves cats.

Included in the family photo is Robert's mother. Please introduce yourself to the Judson's, who usually worship at the late service. Welcome Judson's!!

Upcoming Events

Farewell & God's Blessings to Mr. Biebert

As we close the school year, we wish God's blessings to Mr. Biebert. We will host a short social between services on Sunday, June 11th. Mr. Biebert has faithfully served St. Mark for the past three years as our primary 7th-8th grade teacher, athletic director, assistant principal, and Principal in Training Program candidate. We know the Holy Spirit will bless his work as he continues his teaching ministry at Mt. Calvary Lutheran School in Redding, California. We will greatly miss you, Mr. Biebert. Thank you for your dedication to St. Mark! *He himself gave the apostles, as well as the prophets, as well as the evangelists, as well as the pastors and teachers, for the purpose of training the saints for the work of serving, in order to build up the body of Christ.* (Ephesians 4:11-12)

VBS at St. Mark - June 19-23rd

The theme for the year is "Back to Jerusalem." VBS will be at St. Mark from 9:30-11:30 AM each day from Monday, June 19 - Friday, June 23. It is offered to children age 3 - entering 5th grade. Families may register their students by either completing the form on the brochure or registering online using this Google Form. [LINK](#) or <https://forms.gle/2wHxSTSQHxw5NuRR7> Contact Mr. Micheel if you have any questions.

St. Mark Ministry Highlights

Public Use of the Means of Grace:

Worship: We averaged ** worshipers per weekend in May. The Lord's Supper was administered to 533 in May. Membership stands at 800 souls and 427 communicants.

Other Official Acts:

Membership Actions

We welcomed Alaia Lilly, Zoey Riebe, Riley, Logan, Colin & Thea Johnson to the family of Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Robert & Rachel Judson, Robert, Rachel & Adaline Lilly and Brooke Gillard through profession of faith or adult Confirmation.

We bid farewell to no members in May

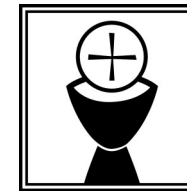
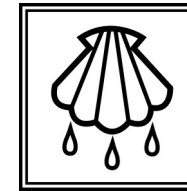
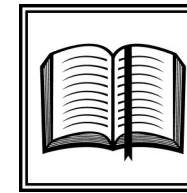
St Mark Red Cross blood drive is Wednesday June 28 from 12 noon to 6 p.m. in the Shaker center. PLEASE schedule a time to come donate blood and encourage family and friends too. Sign up online

at redcrossblood.org. look for St Mark drive.

If questions or help contact Pat Culver 715-834-8680. There continues to be a great shortage of blood! We welcome new donors and will help guide you thru your first donation!

Important Info

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



The 2023 Book of Reports and Memorials from the Wisconsin Synod

The 2023 *Book of Reports and Memorials* is now available online. This book summarizes the activities of each area of ministry over the last year and contains the proposed ministry financial plan for the next biennium. The information in the *Book of Reports and Memorials* will help guide the 400 delegates at WELS' 67th biennial convention, which is being held at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich., July 31-Aug. 3, under the theme "Embrace the Cross—Anticipate the Crown."

"This theme reflects the biblical truth that Christians in this world live under the cross," says WELS President Rev. Mark Schroeder. "We live under the cross in the sense that our relationship with God as his people was brought about by the sacrificial death of our Savior on the cross. Living under the cross also means that we recognize, as Jesus himself told us, that in this world God's church will endure difficulties and trials but that all of those difficulties and trials are intended by God for our eternal good. And when we embrace the cross we can look forward with joyful anticipation to when we and all believers will receive the crown of life."

A highlight of this year's synod convention is the anticipated declaration and affirmation of fellowship with two Lutheran church bodies, one in Uganda and the other in Latin America.

Three memorials are also included in the *Book of Reports and Memorials*. A memorial is a formal request to the synod convention for specific action.

One printed copy of the *Book of Reports and Memorials* is being mailed to each delegate, congregation, and male called worker. These printed copies should arrive by the end of May.

To view the online version of the *Book of Reports and Memorials*, visit <https://welsconvention.net/boram>.

The St Mark copy is in the Narthex.