

Christ is Our Cornerstone!



Lion's Roar – February 22nd, 2024
St. Mark Lutheran School

Upcoming Events at St. Mark	
Thursday, 22 nd	10:00a 4K/5K Cat in the Hat trip 3:30p Girls Cheer A team practice 4:00p Co-ed BB @ Neillsville
Friday, 23 rd	6:00p 4K/5K Open House 8:25a Chapel 9:30a Morning Moms Hot Lunch 12:00p Gr 7-8 Field Trip 3:30p Chess Club
Monday, 26 th	3:30p Girls Cheer B team practice 3:45p Parent Teacher Conferences 3:45p Co-ed BB practice 5:30p Girls BB B team practice
Tuesday, 27 th	3:45p Coed BB practice 5:00p Girls BB B team away
Wednesday, 28 th	11:00a Lenten Worship – Gr 1&2 sing 6:30p Lenten Worship – Gr 1&2 sing

Hot Lunch



- Fri, Feb 23 Ham & cheese sliders, green beans, Pineapple
- Fri, March 8 Pigs in a blanket, baked beans, veggies, applesauce
- Fri, March 15 Tater tot hotdish, green beans, Oranges
- Fri, March 22 Ham & cheese egg bake, french toast sticks, berry & yogurt parfaits
- Fri, April 5 Homemade chicken noodle soup, cheesy bread, veggies, apples

Opening Thought

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? Just as it is written:

For your sake we are being put to death all day long. We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39)

Nick Vujicic has faced many challenges in his life. Nick was born in Australia in 1982. His parents were certainly looking forward to welcoming him into this world until something shocked them when he was born. Nick was born with no arms and legs. The doctors had done many tests during his mom's pregnancy, but never determined that something was wrong. Sadly, if they had known about his challenges, they would have advised Nick's parents to abort their baby. One can imagine the challenges Nick faced as he grew up. Bullying was a normality when he was in school. He felt isolated and even tried to commit suicide by drowning himself. Yet today, Nick is one of the most sought-after motivational speakers who presents to filled arenas and stadiums around the world. If a person Googles, "Life without Limbs" it will soon take the reader to Nick's website. How did a bullied boy who had no arms and no legs and wondered if he had any purpose in life become so famous? Credit the Holy Spirit. Through the Gospel message, the Holy Spirit brought Nick to

faith in his Savior, Christ Jesus. Nick boldly proclaims his faith in Jesus as his Savior from sin and has set a goal to get the Gospel message to 1 billion people by the year 2028. Today Nick is married and God has blessed him with four children as well.

I remember once visiting with a pastor who told me that his favorite words in the Bible were the closing verses in Romans 8. Paul recognized that we live in an evil, sin-fallen world. This world is filled with *trouble, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, and sword*. Sadly, Satan will try to use all of these hardships to separate the Christian from God. This cunning deceiver will whisper ideas that if God truly loved us our lives would not be filled with troubles and turmoil. The devil wants to sift us like wheat.

But Paul goes on, *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us*. Why does Paul call us *more than conquerors*? It is all about Jesus. *This is why the Son of God appeared: to destroy the works of the Devil*. (I John 3:8b) Jesus was born into this world to be subject to the Ten Commandments. He too faced the attacks from Satan. Yet the writer to the Hebrews notes a significant difference. *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin*. (Hebrews 4:15) Jesus kept the Law perfectly, and on Calvary's Cross, the Father made an unfair but necessary trade. *God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him*. (II Corinthians 5:21) Christ suffered and died on the cross to make atonement for all our sins. Three days later he rose from the dead, on Easter morning assuring us that we had been declared justified, not guilty, of our sins. *He was handed over to death because of our trespasses and was raised to life because of our justification*. (Romans 4:25) Christ's work changed Nick Vujicic, and it has changed our lives as well.

Even though Paul identifies us as *conquerors*, that doesn't mean that our lives as Christians will be simple. Instead, Jesus reminds all his disciples, *"If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."* (Mark 8:34) Satan will often use the *Christian's cross*, challenges we face since we are Christians, to try to separate us from God. But remember Paul's closing words, *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord*.

One closing thought that Nick once shared reflects his faith in Christ Jesus, "I've never met a thankful person who was bitter. And I've never met a bitter person who was thankful."

Chapel on Fridays/Mission Offerings – Our Redeemer, Ladysmith, WI

Parents, feel free to join us either in-person or virtually for our morning chapel on Facebook Live on Friday mornings at 8:35 AM. We also take a weekly collection of mission offerings. The second quarter our mission offering will support Cornerstone Lutheran High School.



Last Week: \$44.31 Quarter to Date: \$193.61



Bible Trivia

Each week the Lion's Roar will provide a Bible Trivia question. Winners will be announced the following week in the Lion's Roar. Answers can be submitted to your child's teacher who will put them in the basket in the school office.

We congratulate Larissa W. for being the only person who correctly answered the three parts to the Nazarite vow: Abstain from the fruit of the vine; no contact with anything unclean; and never have the hair shaved.

This week's question: Identify the first time the name Messiah is used in the Bible.

Parent / Teacher Consultations February 26th & 29th

Please note that the second set of Parent/Teacher Consultations are scheduled for Monday, February 26, and Thursday, February 29. [LINK](#) or <http://tinyurl.com/26a3rrd3> The link will be closed on Friday, February 23, at 4:00 PM.

There will be no childcare provided for these conferences. Families will need to do one of three things:

1. Put their children in After School Care
2. Keep their children in the hallway by the room where the conferences are held (seats provided)
3. Make other arrangements.

Midweek Lenten Worship

Please note that St. Mark offers two midweek Lenten services at 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM. Make a point to take advantage of these opportunities to focus on Jesus' suffering and death to earn our salvation.

Christ Light Schedule

Parents, we encourage you to read your child's Bible history lessons with them. Use many of the parent applications included with each lesson. *Fathers, do not exasperate your children, instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.* (Ephesians 6:4)

4K-5K

Date	Link to Slides	Bible Link	Main Concept
2-26	Jesus teaches Peter to Trust	Matthew 14:22-36	Peter shows he trusts then doubts Jesus. We are reminded to put our trust in God at all times.

Grades 1-4 - Set 23

Lesson #	Title of Lesson	Date Taught
1A	Hannah Loves Her Son	Monday, February 26
1B	God Speaks to Samuel	Wednesday, February 28



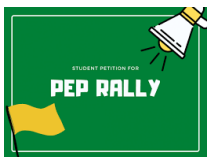
Winter Athletics by Mr. Niebuhr

The season is winding down for the A and B girls basketball teams. The B girls have continued to improve and play hard against several skilled opponents over the past two weeks. The A girls played their final games together this past Tuesday and continued to let their light shine on the court.

Coming up: 2/27 - B away games, 3/8-3/9 - Luther Prep Tournament

Spirit Week & LPS Pep Rally – Monday, March 4-Thursday, March 7

Spirit Week kicks off on Monday March 4th & finishes up on Thursday, March 7th with the pep rally! We would like to invite our St Mark school families & all alumni to attend. The Rally will be held at 1:30pm.



The days of spirit week are

Monday – PJ day

Tuesday – Hawaiian day

Wednesday – Wacky Wednesday (dress in a crazy mixed-up manner

Thursday – Green & Gold day

After the pep rally, if parents attend, their students may go home with them. There will still be bussing that day at the regular time, for the students that normally ride the bus home

TADS Statement for 2023-2024 School Year

Parents, if you want to print a copy of your book fees / school tuition records for tax purposes, it is easy to do. Just follow these steps.

- Step One: Login to your TADS Account at the following address: <https://secure.tads.com/Accounts/Login.aspx>
- Step Two: Click on the Billing Tab.
- Step Three: Click on the "Household Paid Tuition Tax Report" link at the top of the page.
- Step Four: Enter the Tax Year "2023"
- Step Five: Print a copy.

Don't Forget Schedule PS

As the 2023 tax year recently ended, be aware due to tax law, that your family may benefit from a state tax deduction using Schedule PS. Click on the [LINK](#) to access this form. The state tax deduction is for those who pay tuition to private / parochial schools and could also possibly include the book fee that is paid as well. Contact your tax advisor for more information. If you would like a form pre-filled with St. Mark's Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN), please contact the church/school office.

Wisconsin Parental Choice Program

- The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program application period will begin on February 1, and run through April 18. All returning children and all new families must apply each year.
- Returning families will also need to provide a valid proof of residency.
- All new families will need to provide a valid proof of residency. They will also need to provide a proof of income. Finish filing your 2023 taxes before applying for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program.

See this sheet for additional information. - [LINK](#) or <http://tinyurl.com/y4dtmr5n>

Calendar for the 2024-2025 School Year

Please note the 2024-2025 School Year will be sent home today along with the Lion's Roar. Just a few highlights to make note:

- Monday, August 19, 2024 - This is our first day of school for the 2024-2025 School Year.
- Friday, May 23, 2025 - Last day of school for the 2024-2025 School Year.
- Monday, October 28, 2024 - No School 4K-Grade 6 - Virtual Day for Grades 7-8
- Tuesday, April 22, 2025 - No School for 4K-Grade 6 - Virtual Day for Grades 7-8 (Note: This day may be added as an in-person day for 4K-Grade 8 if we have three snow days and two late starts in the winter of 2024-2025)
- Why the two virtual days? It has been noted that while the students may have breaks on parent-teacher consultation days and teacher conferences, the teachers must still meet to fill those responsibilities. By offering two virtual days for Grades 7-8, this will provide the teachers at least two days for professional development/curriculum work / restorative energy. Grades 7-8 are required to meet for 1137 hours of instruction per school year while students in 5K-Grade 6 are required to meet for 1050 hours of instruction per school year. Hours during virtual instruction may be counted towards that total.



WINTER GALA

Cornerstone Lutheran High School had a tremendous turnout for its 2nd Annual Winter Gala! It was humbling to see the turnout. The energy and support were inspiring for everyone in attendance.

Thanks also to our many organizers. So many had put countless hours into the event. We give special thanks to our lead organizers Katie Dieringer and Theresa Hefti!

Most of all, we give thanks to our Lord. He continues to bless Cornerstone in so many ways!



MRS. FICTUM WELL-WISHES

We wish Mrs. Fictum God's blessings as she steps away on maternity leave after this week. We look forward to celebrating the new addition to her family and will miss her while she is away. We also look forward to Mrs. Fictum's return in May.