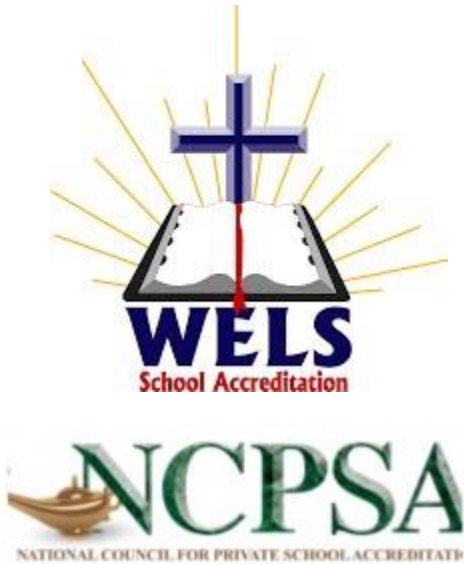
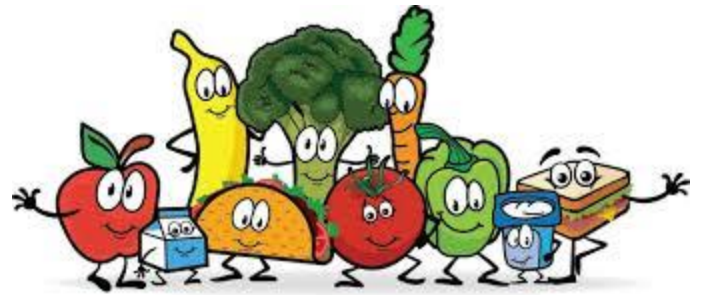


# *God Said it, I Believe It*



## *Lion's Roar* *St. Mark Lutheran School*



**April 8, 2021**

### **Upcoming Events at St. Mark ....**

TODAY: 6:30 PTP

Friday: Chapel

Hot Lunch

Monday: 9:00 Morning Moms

9:00 LPS Visit to St. Mark

### **HOT LUNCH SCHEDULE**

Apr 9: Chicken nuggets, mac & cheese, broccoli, grapes & dessert

Apr 16: Pizza sliders, veggies/salad, pineapple, yogurt & dessert

Apr 23: Ham & egg bake, French toast sticks, applesauce, juice bars

Apr 30: Turkey subs, homemade chicken noodle soup, oranges & dessert

May 7: Taco bake, corn, pears, yogurt & dessert

### **Good Shepherd Sunday**

St. Mark will celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday on Sunday, April 25. The St. Mark students will participate in this service by reciting the words of Psalm 23. Please come to either of the two Sunday services. The students will simply stand by you in their pew and recite the words from where they are standing.

### **Divine Calls**

We celebrate that God in his wisdom moved Jackie Plant to accept the Divine Call to St. Mark to teach half-time first grade next year. We pray that God will bless Ms. Plant's ministry among us. We are truly excited to add her to our team at St. Mark.

Please continue to pray for Ellen Zank of Downers Grove, Illinois, to serve as our Kindergarten teacher next year. Ellen has taught Grades 1-2 in Downers Grove for the past 22 years. We ask God to guide her to a decision that is both a blessing to her and the schools in Downers Grove and St. Mark.

## Opening Thought

During the season of Lent, our weekly devotions will focus on several of Jesus' miracles. All of the miracles will share a common theme. Some would find reassurance that Jesus truly was God's Son who demonstrated his almighty power. While others would respond with even stronger opposition to him. Today we reflect on Jesus' resurrection.

*The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.' See, I have told you!"*

*They hurried away from the tomb, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" They approached, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go, tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me."*

*As they were on their way, there were some members of the guard who went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. After the chief priests had assembled with the elders and had reached a decision, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came at night and stole him away while we were sleeping.' If the governor hears about it, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." After the soldiers took the money, they did as they were instructed. And this story has been repeated among the Jews until this day. (Matthew 28:6-15)*

When I was a child, I often thought that I knew better than God. When I learned the lesson of the rich man and Lazarus, I thought for sure if Lazarus had returned to Earth, then the rich man's brothers would have been brought to faith in Jesus! When Jesus suffered on the cross and his opponents taunted him to come down, I questioned why Jesus didn't do it. I thought for sure if he came down from the cross, then they would really believe that he was the promised Savior! How wrong I was! Even powerful miracles will never soften a hardened heart. Only the Holy Spirit working through the Gospel in both the Word and the Sacrament of Baptism will ever soften the calloused heart. The response on Easter morning reveals this reality. Easter morning brought the climax to the polar opposite responses to Jesus' resurrection. The women were filled with *great joy*. Instead, the chief priests and elders quickly schemed to create a story that explained the empty tomb.

As Matthew recorded the conversation between the posted soldiers and the chief priests and elders, note the irony! Never once in the conversation was the soldiers' story questioned! Never once did they accuse them of lying! Sadly, never once did they ponder with joy what this great miracle, Jesus rose from the dead really means. Instead, even Jesus' resurrection didn't shake their hardened hearts. As Abraham told the rich man in Jesus' story, *"They have Moses, and the Prophets. Let them listen to them. .... If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."* (Luke 16:29, 31)

This is so true in our day as well. I recently visited with someone who was quite upset. After building a relationship with a person over the past several years, she has tried to share the Good News of Jesus with this person. Her friend's response scalded her! The friend told her that she could never convince her to become a Christian! This is a scary, but sad truth. God's Word always works, and it divides people. *In the same way my word that goes out from my mouth will not return to me empty. Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please, and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it!* (Isaiah 55:11) For some, the Gospel message, hardens them in their unbelief! All one has to do is consider Easter morning.

Yet also remember what the Gospel message also did. It brought *great joy*. The women eagerly reported the Good News to Jesus' disciples. The Emmaus disciples *hearts burned*. Mary Magdalene's sorrowful heart was replaced with, *"Rabboni."* He appeared to his half-brother

James and even to the apostle Paul. *Then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles. Last of all, he appeared also to me, the stillborn child, so to speak.* (I Corinthians 15:7-8)  
 Consider what Jesus' resurrection means for you. Jesus had you in mind dear Christian when he told Thomas, *"Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."* (John 20:29)  
 Thank the Holy Spirit. Through the Gospel, you believe that Jesus is your Savior from sin. Through Christ's resurrection, you have the assurance that you stand fully forgiven and are justified before our God in heaven!



**WEEKLY BIBLE TRIVIA** We congratulate Elias H. for being chosen from the list of winners who correctly answered that Simon the Sorcerer felt he could pay money to gain the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This week's question:

In the book of Acts, what vision did Peter receive where God assured him that it was OK to enter the home of Gentiles?

**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)  
 New Book Set: Set 3

Lesson #	Title of Lesson	Date Taught
7A	The Road to Emmaus	Monday, April 12
7B	Easter Evening	Wednesday, April 14

**CHAPEL ON FRIDAYS / MISSION OFFERINGS**

Our final mission offering for this school year is to support Martin Luther College. MLC trains future pastors and teachers for the public ministry in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Please consider the needs of your College of Ministry as you bring your children's weekly chapel offerings.

3/26/21: \$18.01

QTD: \$18.01

## PTP Meeting Meets Tonight



Please note that our final PTP meeting has been changed from **Thursday, April 22, to Thursday April 8**. The meeting has been changed to accommodate the schedule of our guest speaker, Nate Stanley. Nate is a WELS member and graduate of St. Paul's Lutheran School in Menomonie. He attended Menomonie High School, and then earned a scholarship to play football at the University of Iowa. While at Iowa, he was a three-year starter at quarterback for the Hawkeyes. In April of 2020, he was drafted in the 7th Round by the Minnesota Vikings and played on their practice squad this past season.

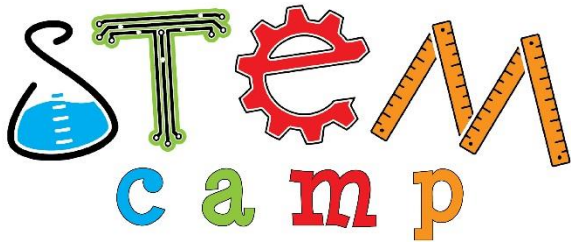
Nate will speak about his own personal life story that has included his active participation in the study of God's Word throughout his high school, college, and now professional career. In addition to our St. Mark parents being invited, we have also invited the St. Mark campus ministry students to attend, and the St. Mark ACTS (Active Christian Teens) high school group to attend his presentation as well on Thursday, April 8, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be in our church sanctuary.

## VBS 2021

Ready, Set, Gold is the theme for VBS at St. Mark in the summer of 2021! VBS will be held on Monday, June 21, through Friday, June 25, from 9:30-11:30 AM. Our goal is to host most of VBS outside on our activity field and playground so our children will not need to wear masks unless we meet inside due to weather.

In order to better help us prepare for VBS, please complete the following form. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Micheel at [peter@smwels.org](mailto:peter@smwels.org)

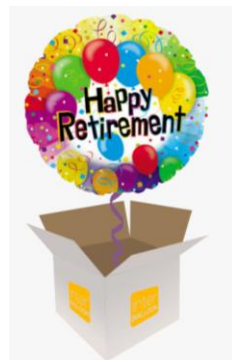
Please complete this link to register online. [LINK](#)



## STEM+ CAMP 2021 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Register your (going into) 3-9th-graders for this summer's most talked about event, STEM+ Camp. The "Power Up STEM+ Camp" runs from July 12-16th, 2021 and is a great way for kids to get into God's word while learning all sorts of fun and fascinating things about Science-Technology-Engineering-Math and The

Arts. Classes are already filling up! Learn more and register at [ecstemcamp.org](http://ecstemcamp.org)



## You're invited:

*Thursday, May 13th from 7:30-8:30 p.m. (following Ascension service) in the St. Mark Gymnasium, to a Retirement Celebration in honor of our two wonderful teachers,*

*Connie Anason (Preschool) and Jenny Riebe (Kindergarten).*

We hope that you can join us for cake and ice cream and wish Mrs. Anason and Mrs. Riebe a fond farewell.

Please join us in showing our immense gratitude for the many years of gifts, talent, and love that Mrs. Anason and Mrs. Riebe have given to our school children and their families. Hope to see you there!



### **School Choice - Application - One Week Left!**

St. Mark has entered the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) for the 2021-2022 school year. Parents, if you remember, we asked you to complete a Google Form last fall indicating first whether you qualified for Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, and second, if you would intend to apply for the program. Based on those results, St. Mark opened a set number of seats and included a few extra to add from the potential community. Attached to this note is a [LINK](#) with the instructions on how to register and apply for the WPCP program. If you would like assistance and even come in to meet with Mr. Micheel to get help completing this application, please feel free to contact him to set a time to come and do this. Just a few notes:

- **Remember the application deadline is April 15!**
- You must have your 2020 federal income tax return completed before applying for WPCP.
- You do have two choices to verify income using either the DOR (Department of Revenue) or the DPI (Department of Public Instruction (DPI)). Based on the information we have received, we **strongly, strongly advise** you to use the DPI method of income verification.
- Remember you will need to provide two sources of information to St. Mark to qualify:
  - Proof of Income: Page 1-2 of your Federal 1040 Form
  - Proof of Residency: The easiest way is to send us a copy of your most recent utility bill or W2 form.

### **Change in income eligibility for school choice program due to American Rescue Plan Act**

Parents, this information may apply to you if you received unemployment compensation in 2020 AND if you formerly didn't qualify for the income guidelines for the school choice program. **If you have already applied to the program and received notification that your application has been verified, you don't need to take any action on this.**

The changes in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 related to unemployment compensation reduce the 2020 Federal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for some parents. Therefore, some students that were not previously income eligible for the Choice program may now be eligible. Please also note that because the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has instructed people who received unemployment compensation in 2020 who already filed taxes not to file an amended return, the AGI on the 2020 Federal 1040 tax form will not reflect the reduction related to unemployment compensation for some parents.

Here is a [link](#) to the income documentation bulletin on the DPI website which reflects this change (see specifically page 8). If you have questions about this information or the impact that it may have on your eligibility for the choice program, please contact Barb Langreck at [blangreck@smwels.org](mailto:blangreck@smwels.org) or via phone at 715-210-1115.

The application deadline to apply for the Choice program is April 15th. Late applications are not able to be accepted.

### Registration for 2021-2022 School Year

Please note that registration for the 2021-2022 school year has already begun. Included with today's Lion's Roar is the school calendar for next year and a list of instructions for enrollment. You may also click on the [LINK](#) to view these instructions. **Please note that there is a \$25 discount on the book fee for those that register before May 27.**



### Meet Your Staff at St. Mark



My name is Carol Rust. I grew up in Bloomer (the Rope Jump Capital of the World!), as the youngest of four children. My Dad worked in road construction, and my Mom is a lifelong homemaker. My home church, where I was baptized and confirmed, was St. John's Lutheran in Eagleton, WI. I met and married my husband, Darren, while I was studying to be a dietitian at UW-Stout in Menomonie. Soon after we got married, we moved to La Crosse so that I could complete an internship and become a "Registered Dietitian" (nutrition specialist). We lived in La Crosse for 12 years before moving to Eau Claire when our son was a baby. We have two precious children: Jonathan (age 15 - a sophomore at Altoona High School), and Julia (age 12 - a 6th grader here at St Mark), AND a 4-year old springer spaniel dog named DJ. My husband, Darren, works as a Business Loan Analyst Supervisor at Royal Credit Union. (He helps people get money to start and run businesses!) I have been the St. Mark Hot Lunch Coordinator (a.k.a. "Lunch Lady") for four years! I love planning and preparing meals that are fun, healthy, and hopefully taste good! The students, parents, and staff at St. Mark are always so supportive and kind, and make my service at St. Mark a joy and blessing. When I am not working, I enjoy singing, reading, puzzles and games, spending time outside, gardening, cooking, time with family, and anything to do with natural health/homemaking/wellness. I look forward to seeing you all on Fridays, and I hope that you have a wonderful rest of the school year!