

God is Awesome



Lion's Roar St. Mark Lutheran School

December 1, 2022



Upcoming Events at St. Mark

TODAY: *Hot Lunch*

1st Grade Field Trip to the Library

3:45-5:15 A-Team BB Practice

Friday: *Chapel*

Spirit Wear Day

3:45-5:15 B-Team BB Practice

Saturday: 9-12 Robotics Club: 6th-8th grade

Monday: 4-4:45 Kids' Choir

5:00-6:30 A-Team BB Practice

6:00 B-Team BB @ McDonell/Regis

Tuesday: 5:00 A-Team BB @ Regis/Messiah

5:30 B-Team BB @ St. Paul's (Menomonie)/Messiah

5:30 Board of Education

Wednesday: 11 am & 6:30 pm Grades 1 & 2 sing at Advent Service

Thursday: 4:00 A-team BB @ St. Pauls-Menomonie

December 9- Mild chili mac soup, Garlic bread, Veggies & dip, Grapes

December 16- Ham, Cheesy potatoes, Green beans, Applesauce

December 22- Pizza- *Activity Fee will pay for this*

January 6- Chicken bowls (nuggets, mashed potatoes, corn, gravy), salad, oranges

January 13- Pizza tot casserole, Garlic bread, Salad, Grapes

School Closings Due to Inclement Weather

With the recent snowfall, we are reminded that there may be a day or two when school is closed due to inclement weather. Please note that St. Mark follows the Eau Claire Area School District. If Eau Claire opens late, closes early, or closes for the day, St. Mark will follow that lead.

St. Mark Spirit Wear Order

Today, Thursday, December 1 is the last day to place your Spirit wear order. The shop closes on Friday 12/2. If you have any questions please contact:

Kylee Staebell at Kyleestaebell@yahoo.com.
<https://cvsports.chipply.com/sm2022fall/store.aspx?apid=2938451&acid=277946>

Opening Thought

I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel. (Genesis 3:15)

The weekly devotional thoughts for the next few weeks will focus on a significant symbol during the Advent season, the Advent Wreath displayed at the front of the church.

The first candle is traditionally called the Prophecy Candle and symbolizes Hope. When considering the many Messianic Old Testament prophecies, one is certainly drawn to the first one that was spoken in Genesis 3.

Adam and Eve had failed. The Triune God had given them an opportunity to demonstrate their faithfulness to him by obeying his command to resist the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Yet Adam failed in taking the spiritual lead and permitted his wife to succumb to Satan's temptations. They doubted God's love and trusted Satan's lies. Using an illustration from a volleyball game, their sin put them on Satan's side of the court and the opposite of God's side. The net of their sins separated them from God. There was nothing they could ever do to fix the mistake they had made. *So then, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also death spread to all people because all sinned.* (Romans 5:12) Adam's sin brought death, eternal death to both them and all their future descendants unless God intervened.

And that he did! How ironic that the first Messianic prophecy was spoken to Satan. God would not leave Eve on Satan's side of the court, but would bring her back to his side of the court. This prophecy foretold the hostility that would always remain between the family of believers and the unbelievers. Finally, this prophecy would be fulfilled by a person, God's Son, who would become human and defeat Satan with a crushing blow. *This is why the Son of God appeared: to destroy the works of the Devil.* (1 John 3:8b) This prophecy set the tone for the rest of the Old Testament as it followed the Messianic line, generation by generation, as God's chosen people grew into a mighty nation. While Israel remained unfaithful to the vows that they made to God at Mt. Sinai, he remained faithful to his promises. He sent prophets to both warn them about their sins but also encourage them of his faithfulness. Here is a small sample of those promises:

- *The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brother Israelites. Listen to him.* (Deuteronomy 18:15)
- *For to us a child is born. To us a son is given. The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders. He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* (Isaiah 9:6)
- *Listen, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, who will reign wisely as king and establish justice and righteousness on earth.* (Jeremiah 23:5)

These prophecies brought the Israelites Hope. Hope, not a wishful thinking, but a certainty that God was serious about his plan of salvation to redeem sinners. Those prophecies would be fulfilled with the incarnation of the Second Person of the Triune God, Jesus himself. *The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.* (John 1:14)

As we see the first candle lit on the Advent candle, we note the symbolism of the Prophecy Candle. Our faith reflects on the precious Old Testament words that pointed ahead to the coming Savior. We also look forward. We note that Christ will return on Judgment Day to separate the believers from the unbelievers. As we wait for this day, we wait in Hope! We wait in certainty knowing that through his work we have eternal salvation in heaven. *Faith is being sure about what we hope for, being convinced about things we do not see.* (Hebrews 11:1)

Chapel on Fridays / Mission Offerings - New Quarter - Support the Ukranian Lutheran Church

Parents, feel free to join us either in-person or virtually for our morning chapel on Facebook Live on Friday mornings at 8:40 AM.

We also take a weekly collection of mission offerings. This second quarter our mission offering will support the Ukrainian Lutheran Church, a church body in which the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod is in fellowship. This church body has certainly faced many challenges in this past year.

11/18/2022: \$27.37 QTD: \$107.22

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)

Lesson #	Title of Lesson	Date Taught
4A	Jesus Shows His Glory	Monday, December 5
4B	Peter Confesses Who Jesus Is	Wednesday, December 7



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.

This week's winner:

Unfortunately no one correctly answered that the Jesus told Simon the Pharisee about two men who owed money. One owed 50 day's wages and the other 500 day's wages. The master forgave both of their debts. The one who owed the greater debt certainly appreciated the generosity more. How important that we thank God for forgiving us the debt of our sins!

This week's question:

Three times Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him in unique situations. Identify those three times.

KICK Babysitting Event

Our KICK youth group will be providing drop-in childcare on Saturday, December 17 from 9 am to noon. Use the time to wrap some gifts, do some shopping, or just relax. No need to register, just drop in anytime from 9am to noon. Christ-centered crafts, snacks, and activities will be provided.



Winter Athletics

We are nearing the end of the boy's basketball season, but there are still a few opportunities to come and watch St. Mark athletes put their God-given talents to good use. They have all put in a lot of hard work during this season to improve their own skills and improve the capabilities of the team as a whole. Keep up the good work boys! Here is a look at next week's basketball schedule:

Monday: B-Team Boys AWAY vs. McDonell/Regis @ Immaculate Conception E.S. St. Mark games at 6:00 & 7:00

A-Team Boys practice 5:00 - 6:30

Tuesday: A-Team Boys AWAY vs. Regis/Messiah @ Immaculate Conception E.S. St. Mark games at 5:00 & 6:00

B-Team Boys AWAY vs. St. Paul's Menomonie/Messiah @ St. Paul's Menomonie St. Mark games at 5:30 & 6:30

Thursday: A-Team Boys AWAY vs. St. Paul's Menomonie @ S.P.M. 4:00

Friday: B-Team Boys practice 3:45 - 5:15

LPS Visit

Please note that Pastor Chartrand, the recruitment director from Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin, will be visiting St. Mark on Tuesday, December 6, in the afternoon. Luther Prep is a dormitory school that provides a foundational Christian education to high school student and encourages the students to consider becoming a future pastor or teacher in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

If you are interested in attending his presentation, information will be delivered about his exact schedule on Monday.



Christmas Practices for Children's Christmas Service

We are scheduled for two Christmas practices that are preparing for the children's Christmas service.

- Practice: Sunday, December 11, at 9:15-10:15 AM
- Practice: Wednesday, December 14, at 5:30-6:15 PM
- Children's Christmas Service: Sunday, December 18, at 10:30AM



Pajama & Book Drive

The St. Mark students collected 60 pajama sets for Family Promises of the Chippewa Valley last week. There was a generous donation of 130 books that will be divided up between Family Promises of the Chippewa Valley and other local facilities in need of books. Thank you to all the families for your donation!

KICK Lock-In

The KICK lock-in planning team would like to thank everyone that attended, as well as everyone who donated money, food, chaperone time, and any other support of the event. There were 32 kids in attendance, and we had a great time singing worship songs, having a devotion, playing group games, watching movies, playing open gym and board games, eating snacks, not sleeping, and having a great time! Thank you also to the staff who shared their rooms, games, screens, and assistance for the event to help make it a huge success!



Cornerstone Lutheran High School Update - Divine Call Returned / New Divine Call Issued

The Holy Spirit guided the Board to call Shawn Herkstroeter, the principal at Faith Lutheran School in Fond du Lac. Shawn once served as the athletic director at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Menomonie so he is familiar with the Chippewa Valley. We trust the Holy Spirit to guide him to a decision that is best for His Kingdom. Please continue to pray for him as he deliberates this Divine Call.

Calendar Raffle

Cornerstone Calendar Raffle Update: The Calendar raffle tickets are now FOR SALE! 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 a great fundraiser as well as outreach to others who maybe don't know about the new high school, thank you for your help with getting the word out!



December Birthdays

- 3- Adia H.
- 4- Zander H.
- 4- Braelynn H.
- 4- Titus N.
- 7- Sawyer S.
- 11- Brynnley H.
- 13- Lance W.
- 16- Sawyer S.
- 17- Harper K.
- 17- Hailey K.
- 20- Camden Y.
- 21- Mrs. Duquaine
- 21- Pastor Naumann
- 22- Jack D.
- 22- Mrs. Pitt
- 28- William C.

Welcome to the St. Mark Family

We continue our weekly family biographies for each of our new school families. Today we meet the O'Brien family: Nate, Jenna, Beckett (age 5 and a 4K student in Mrs. Smith's room), and Everly (age 2).

Nate was born and raised in Ham Lake, Minnesota. He attended the public schools there and graduated from high school there as well. After graduating, he took some college classes in Ely, Minnesota, and then did some landscaping. He then began working for his dad's business, Fasco Incorporated, where he sells security devices primarily to law enforcement. He is able to work from home and plans to take over the family business once his dad retires.

Jenna was born and raised in Watertown, Wisconsin. She attended Trinity-St. Luke's Lutheran School, and then went on to Lakeside Lutheran High School in Lake Mills. After graduating from high school, she went to UW LaCrosse for two years and took general courses. She finished her collegiate degree by attending UW Oshkosh and earning a degree in social work. She worked for nine years primarily working with older adults in nursing homes.

Nate and Jenna met in a unique way. Both families happened to be vacationing in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, at the same time. A Packers' baseball cap started a conversation between the two families, and that is how Nate and Jenna first met. They kept in touch with each other, and



Jenna moved to Minnesota to be close to Nate. After getting married, they lived in Minnesota for a while before finally moving to Eau Claire in May 2021.

Nate's hobbies revolve around hunting and fishing. He especially enjoys big game hunting and has even hunted goats in Hawaii. This fall he just went antelope hunting in South Dakota. Jenna loves to spend time outside walking and playing sports. The primary sports they both play and watch are football and baseball. Finally, they both like to travel and spend time with their extended families.

We welcome the O'Brien's to St. Mark. Please make them feel welcome when you see them.



4K

The preschoolers came back from Thanksgiving break to a room ready for Advent and Christmas. We have been learning that Advent is the special time we take to get ready to welcome Emanuel, the Lord with us. Decorating the class tree, assembling the wooden gingerbread house, and using the wooden Advent wreath are favorite work time activities. It is a blessing to see the joy in their hearts as they get ready for Christmas!

Kindergarten

In kindergarten, we had a busy month learning about friendship, family and Thanksgiving. We also had our 4K- 4th grade play on November 17th. Their hard work paid off, they all did a fantastic job! In reading, we have continued reviewing their 1st and 2nd quarter sight words and using them in our journal writing. The students continue reading and taking home books to read to their families. In math, we have started counting by 10's. We have also been working on addition problems and graphing. As the Advent season begins the kindergarteners will be practicing for the Children's Christmas Service and doing a lot of fun Christmas themed activities and crafts.

1st Grade

The 1st graders have been excelling in their reading and writing skills this month. Their handwriting has improved and they are proud to share their writing. They performed in the Biome Musical and were excited to sing the challenging part in the song "I've Adapted to the Desert." In math, the students have been working on new strategies for adding and subtracting and enjoy trying new ways to do math. Today they went to the public library and explored books. Many got a library card for the first time!

In Science 1st and 2nd graders have been learning about weather. They are daily tracking clouds to see what types they see in the sky. Ask them what type they saw when it was snowing.

2nd Grade

Our class loved preparing for Thanksgiving! We read a variety of Thanksgiving theme books that were fiction and non-fiction and even a play with a turkey. We learned about the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth, MA and about Squanto's life. Students created a cornucopia of blessings.

Our class is now working on Christmas songs and Bible recitations. We are doing an advent Christmas tree to correspond to a Bible symbol.

2nd grade students have worked hard on their 2-digit addition and subtraction! Now they are working on place value.

4th Grade

The fourth graders began their first novel study of the year. We are all enjoying reading Charlotte's Web. They also finished their math chapter on long division. It was fun to see their growth from the first days to the last. Growth is challenging, but rewarding as well.

Grades 5-6 (Mr. Micheel)

The students continue to study both Bible History and Catechism on a daily basis.

In Bible History, the students are studying lessons in the latter part of Jesus' public ministry. Soon we will begin studying lessons that take place during Holy Week.

In Catechism, we continue to study the Second Table of the Law, love for our neighbor. We will be taking our second test on Thursday, December 15, so make sure to urge your children to study carefully for that test.

In Science we have begun using the book once more and are studying recent history. We have been studying space exploration. One highlight is that I showed the students a website that identifies times and locations where they can view the International Space Station. Try finding it with them on some evening. It can be a fun family activity.

5th & 6th Grade (Mrs. Knickelbein)

We're enjoying several projects! Students have been busy in the kitchen presenting what they made, showing off their math, language, and practical skills. Later this week, we will be presenting our Time Capsules, which have been created to demonstrate what our St. Mark, Chippeway Valley, US, and world culture is like in 2022. Some will be opened in 2026! Our 5th-grade math students are working on math skills as they develop a fundraiser to support the Christian education of others.

Battle of the Books

Today we kicked off the Battle of the Books in 5-8th grades. Students picked their teams and were given a list of the books available for next week's draft. Teams will then be able to select from that list as they strategize how to be most successful in the three rounds that are to come. Round 1 will take place on January 25th, 2023. Battle of the books is optional for students, but participating students will be excused from Language Arts homework the week of the competition for each round they are participating in (they are doing extra reading, after all!). That means that those participating in the first round (all participants) will have no LA homework the week of January 23-27.

7th/8th grade

The 7th & 8th grade classroom is decorated with a beautiful plastic tree, wonderful sparkling lights and we are ready for the last few weeks until Christmas.

Our Christlight lessons this last week focused on the question, "How did Jesus show that he was an eager evangelist?" We looked at how Jesus shared the gospel with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, and how we have the tools and knowledge to share the same gospel to those God has put in our lives as well.

In Reading class, we have finished our novel, "Crispin: The Cross of Lead". Students are now working on skits for their final project. The students have been busy writing scripts, gathering costumes and props, and filming skits based on sections of the novel. Next week, we will watch all the skits in chronological order and will have nearly the entire book made into a movie featuring our own St. Mark students!

In U.S. History, we took our third test last week. We have learned about and discussed the events leading up to the American Revolution. We will now be learning about the Revolutionary War and the lasting impact events that occurred during that time have had in our country.

In Science, we have finished up our study on cell division and mitosis. We learned the reasons why our cells need to continually reproduce and the way in which this is done so that all of the new cells that are created are genetically identical to the cells which they came from. In the next chapter we will learn about the reproduction methods of entire organisms. We will talk about the different ways reproduction occurs in different organisms and the ways in which God has allowed for organisms to reproduce effectively in their own environments.