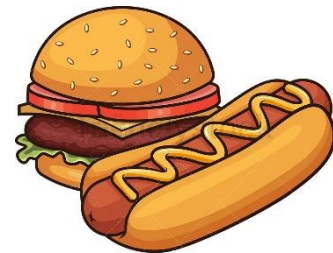


# *It All Began With God...*



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

**May 19, 2022**



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

Friday: Chapel  
Hoops for Hearts  
Camping Trip – Grades 5 & 6 (through Sunday)  
Monday: 9:00 Area WELS Track Meet **Wear your St. Mark t-shirt!**  
Tuesday: 9:00 Morning Moms  
Wednesday: BONUS HOT LUNCH  
6:30 Spring Instrumental/Piano Recital  
Thursday: 6:30 pm Ascension w/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation  
Friday: 10:15 Awards Presentation  
11:00 Closing Service

**May 20** – Hoops for Heart / Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips.  
**BONUS LUNCH DAY!** Mr. Kevin Escher, parent of St. Mark student Matthew Escher, would like to sponsor a bonus lunch day next Wednesday, May 25, in honor of a former St. Mark Student, Emma Fischer, on the purchase of a home using the services of Escher Real Estate. The menu for the special lunch will be sub sandwiches, chips, fruit and dessert. Please thank Mr. Escher for this generous surprise, and congratulate Emma on her new home!



### **End of the School Year Survey**

Parents, as an important part of continuous school improvement, the Board of Education and faculty appreciate gathering input from our parents as we reflect on this school year coming to a close under the theme "It All Began with God" and look forward to a new school year. Please take a few minutes to answer this brief survey. [LINK](#) or use the URL Shortener: [shorturl.at/drCHS](http://shorturl.at/drCHS)

Students entering 5-8th grade are invited to visit their future classrooms to meet new classmates and teachers. If you will be a student at St. Mark next fall, join us Wednesday, May 25th from 2:00-3:15PM.

## Opening Thought

*"If at this time you keep totally silent, relief and deliverance for the Jews will spring up from somewhere, but you and the house of your father will perish. Who knows whether you have become queen for a time like this!"* (Esther 4:14)

Throughout the years, some people have challenged whether the book of Esther should be included in the Bible. One argument is that God's name is never specifically mentioned in the book. Yet today's devotional thought will emphasize why this book is appropriately included in the Bible.

In Daniel 1, King Nebuchadnezzar, the king of the Babylonian Empire, began a series of raids where he carried the people of Judah into captivity. This was a direct consequence of how the people of Judea had forsaken the LORD and worshiped idols. The prophets even foretold such captivity where the Jews would be taken from their homeland. Yet, the LORD promised deliverance. After 70 years, they would be permitted to return once more to the land of Canaan. *This is what the Lord says. After seventy years have passed in Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious word to bring you back to this place.* (Jeremiah 29:10) The books of Ezra and Nehemiah focus on the Jews that returned to the land of Canaan. The book of Esther focuses on the Jews that remained in the land where they had been resettled.

During the reign of Belshazzar, the king of Babylon, the Medes and Persians conquered and defeated the Babylonians. King Cyrus granted the Jews that wished to return a safe passage back to the land of Canaan where they could resettle in their home once more. Sometime later, Xerxes became the king of the Medes and Persians. Esther 1 records how on one occasion while Xerxes was hosting a wild party he demanded that his wife, Queen Vashti, come and entertain his guests with dancing. When she refused, he removed her from being the queen. This created a vacancy in which the LORD guided Esther, an Israelite, to be chosen as the next queen. Esther's older cousin Mordecai had raised her since she had been orphaned as a young child.

Conflict arose between Haman, really the vice president of the Medes and Persian Empire, and Mordecai. Since Mordecai refused to bow down in respect to Haman, he took it personally and gained permission by passing a law to not only kill Mordecai but all of his people, the Jews. Think what ramifications that would play! If all the Jews throughout the world were executed, God's chosen people, the Israelites, would be wiped out. That would also be the end of the Messianic line. The promises of the Savior could not be fulfilled. That is when Mordecai intervened. He pleaded with his cousin, Esther, to approach the King to put a stop to this Jewish Holocaust. Esther had cold feet. She knew very well that, according to the Medes and Persian law, one could only approach the king if one had been summoned. She also knew that she had not been with Xerxes for 30 days. Note well Mordecai's words recorded above. He recognized God's providence, his gentle hand as he guides the events in the lives of Christians. He noted that this could very well be the reason that Esther became queen. He also noted that if Esther didn't intervene that help would come from somewhere else. Esther agreed. She approached King Xerxes and revealed Haman's wicked plot. While Xerxes could not veto the law that was made, he permitted the Jews to defend themselves. This spared the Jewish nation, God's chosen people, and maintained the line of the Savior.

God's providence is a wonderful comfort to our lives as Christians. *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to give you peace, not disaster, plans to give you hope and a future.* (Jeremiah 29:11) While we often go through many troubling circumstances, we find great assurance that God always works for our good. I am sure that all of us can reflect on situations that have happened in our lives where we have wondered why things happened as they did, and yet, later on, we can get a small glimpse of how God blessed that situation. How reassuring that one day when we reach our home in heaven, we will be able to share the hymn writer's words of "What God Ordains is Always Good" when we sing *"Someday I shall see clearly, that God has loved me dearly."*

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE GRADUATION



Our 8th Grade graduation will be a part of St. Mark's Ascension worship service on Thursday, May 26, at 6:30 PM.

## LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - MAY 27

- **Academic/Athletic Awards** - Please note the academic and athletic awards given to students in Grades 4-8 will be distributed on Friday, May 27, beginning at 10:15 AM in the Church Sanctuary.
- **Closing Service** - Please note, the closing service for our school year will begin at 11:00 AM in our church sanctuary. Parents, guardians, and grandparents are invited to join us.



## FINAL CHAPEL

Parents feel free to join us either in-person or virtually for our morning chapel on Facebook Live on Friday mornings at 8:30 AM. We also take a weekly collection of mission offerings. Fourth quarter mission offerings will to Michigan Lutheran Seminary.



5/13/22: \$42.11

QTD: \$224.70

## 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)

Note: New Christ light Book - Book 3

Lesson #	Title of Lesson	Date Taught
13A	God Brings His People Home	Tuesday, May 24, 2022
13B	Job	Wednesday, May 25, 2022



We congratulate Larissa W. for correctly answering that the stone broke the statue to pieces and became a mountain. It represents the Kingdom of God that will last forever.

**This week's question:** Under the reign of King Xerxes, how did Mordecai become a hero?

### VBS Canvassing / Orientation - June 1 at 5:30 PM

Please note that on Wednesday, June 1, at 5:30 PM the students who plan to assist with VBS will have an orientation meeting to go over their responsibilities for VBS. Supper will be provided. Immediately following the orientation, the students will help canvas the neighborhood by putting VBS and Church Fliers on doors in our immediate neighborhood around St. Mark.

**CHURCH/SCHOOL SECRETARY POSITION** We are looking for someone to fill this position as Mrs. Krass is retiring at the end of the school year. During the school year, hours are 8:00 am – 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Summer hours are much less, working every Friday to prepare Worship Folder and Ministry Page for church and other days during the week, as needed. If interested, please contact Mark Roekle at 715-829-6401 or [mroekle@aol.com](mailto:mroekle@aol.com)



### **Kids Heart Challenge and Track Meet**

- Thank you for all of the support and help that many of you are providing for us as we host the Kids' Heart Challenge tomorrow, Friday, May 20.
- Please note that the students in Grades 5-8 will be competing in the Kids Heart Challenge 3 on 3 tournament from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. If you wish to pick up your child at 2:00 PM, you may do so but please communicate that with your child's teacher. Otherwise, the normal pickup or bus transportation will be at 3:25 PM.
- Track Meet - Please note the track meet will be on Monday, May 23. The bus will leave from St. Mark at 9:00 AM. Families that are driving should meet us at the UW Stout Track at 9:45 AM. The outdoor track is at Nelson Field, 1401 5<sup>th</sup> St., E, Menomonie (two blocks east of Broadway and one block south of 13th Ave). **Please have your children wear their St. Mark T-shirts!!**

**VBS - Summer of 2022** Soaring High! is the theme for VBS at St. Mark in the summer of 2022! VBS will be held on Monday, June 13, through Friday, June 17, from 9:30-11:30 AM. In order to better help us prepare for VBS, Click on the [LINK](#) to register electronically or you may complete a form that is being sent out today. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Micheel at [peter@smwels.org](mailto:peter@smwels.org)

### **Church Picnic - Summer of 2022 - June 17**

Please note, St. Mark will again celebrate its annual Church Picnic on Friday, June 17, from 4:00-7:00 PM at the Oak Pavilion in Carson Park. Burgers, brats, buns, and the fixin's will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass and their own beverages.

Following the Church Picnic, everyone is invited to join us for the Eau Claire Express baseball game. The children from VBS are invited to sing the National Anthem and will also be given free admission to the game. All others will pay \$7 for general admission. Please complete the form to order tickets and attend the game. [LINK](#)



### **Registration for 2022-2023 School Year - 32% of Our Families Need to Complete This Step!**

Please note, about 32% of returning families still need to complete this step! Click on the [LINK](#) to view enrollment instructions. **Please note that there is a \$25 discount on the book fee for those that register before May 27.**

### Preparing for Next Fall

- End of June - Expect a summer mailing that will include a copy of the following: Cover Letter, School Handbook; School Calendar; School Supply List
- Early July - Financial Agreements. These will need to be completed by August 9, 2022.
- August 9 - Attend School Registration. Times will be either 10:00 AM-12:00 PM or 6:00-8:00 PM.
- August 23 - First Day of School begins at 8:25 AM. The Opening Service will be at 8:45 AM.

**YOUTH RALLY THRIFT SALE** Just a reminder to save your unwanted items for the thrift sale that will be held in the gym on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds will go to help offset the cost for our youth that are attending the International Youth Rally this summer. **Items can be brought to the gym beginning May 27<sup>th</sup> through June 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Please, no TVs or computers!



Door 4 will be unlocked during the following times:

- Friday, May 27th 11-3
- Sunday, May 29th, Noon-2
- Tuesday, May 31st, 2-7
- Wednesday, June 1st, 2-7
- Thursday, June 2nd, 10-4

# FOCUS ON: The End of the School Year

**4K** We've had a great finish to our year in looking into God's creation of insects. While they aren't everyone's favorite creature, we have learned lots of great facts about our little 6-legged friends.

Both Mrs. Anason and myself consider ourselves so blessed to be able to spend our days with these amazing kids. We will miss the hugs and preschool jokes this summer. May the Lord continue to bless and keep you all.

**KINDERGARTEN** As we approach the end of the school year I just want to say how grateful I am to be teaching God's little lambs here at St. Mark. I told the kindergarteners that I wish I could keep them for another year but I can't because they are so ready for first grade and I really mean that. This class has worked so hard this year and their eagerness to learn new things and do their best has made this year very fun and rewarding.

This last month we continue to work on reading, making words, vowels, addition, subtraction and money. We also learned about plants and insects. The caterpillars in our room are safely in their chrysalis and hopefully they will emerge as butterflies within the next couple of days.

The kindergarteners are looking forward to the end of the year activities: Kids Heart Challenge, track meet and Kindergarten graduation.

God's Blessings on your summer!

**1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE** Our classroom of students is filled with authors! Our class has been busy writing and illustrating books. Last week each student wrote a circle story and this week they are creating their own story.

Today our class sang for the Lion Hearts Bible class. They sang three Psalms and the books of the Bible!

Both classes have completed their math books for the school year! Now we are solving math mysteries and reviewing so we are ready for 2nd and 3rd grade next year!

In celebration of all the songs our class learned this year each student will choose their favorite to sing with the class!

Enjoy your summer days of sunshine!

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE NEWS** Summer is around the corner, and I know all my students are excited to enjoy being home with you! It's hard to believe that this school year is almost done. Thank you for allowing me to teach your children- I've enjoyed every moment! I pray that this summer is a great one for all of you!

We will be cleaning out our desks next Thursday, so please send two large paper grocery bags for your child. They have a lot of things to bring home!

Next Thursday is also our Ascension Service at 6:30. The whole school is learning the Psalm for the service, and will be singing it together.

Next Monday is our Track Meet in Menomonie. I think that the weather is going to be good. If you send sunscreen, I would be happy to help your child put it on any time they want. Please send water bottles, sunglasses, hats, and maybe even a jacket if it turns cold. Thanks to all the parents who are coming to help with some of the events.

God's blessings on your summer! Sharon Pitt

**4<sup>th</sup> GRADE** (Mrs. Smith) We are wrapping up our year in math with a study of geometry. It is proving to be quite a-cute way to end the year! ;)

We also are finishing our novel study of "Island of the Blue Dolphins." We will see how well the 1964 movie version follows the story. (Not to mention how much cinematography has changed in the last 70 years.)

It has been a pleasure working with these special students in the afternoon. Thank you for the partnership you entrust to us here at St. Mark. May the Lord be with you until we meet again!

### **5 & 6 NEWS** (Mrs. Knickelbein)

5th & 6th grade is abuzz with excitement. We're wrapping up the year with some assessments but also bringing out the ukuleles for some extra special music time. Students learned the C and Am chords quickly and some even "picked" up on the F chord.

I would really like to share how much I have treasured having this class of amazing kids this year. I appreciate all of the parents, guardians, and family members who have supported these students and my ministry at St. Mark. Have a wonderful summer!

### **GRADES 5-6 NEWS** (Mr. Micheel)

The students finished their Catechism instruction last week. We praise the Holy Spirit for his work as he grew their faith in the past year. This certainly showed itself well in their written tests they took last Thursday.

For Bible History, we are wrapping up our study of the Old Testament. We spent about two weeks studying the book of Daniel and Esther. Next week we hope to touch on a few chapters of Job and maybe even Ezra and Nehemiah.

Finally, for science, we have been studying both land biomes and aquatic ecosystems. These parts of God's creation fit quite well with the field trip that we took to the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary. Thank you to all of our drivers.

For those that are going on the 5th-6th grade camping trip, make sure that you dress warmly!

**7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE** We are wrapping up most of our classes in the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. We finished up our last Christ light Bible study where we looked at God's Plan to Gather, Bless, and Keep His Elect. For this study, we looked at the letter the Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians while under house arrest in Rome. Paul gives a lot of encouragement to Christians going through the struggles of living in a sinful world. He also reminds the Ephesians that they are part of God's elect, chosen by God from eternity to be a part of his family, remain faithful to God during their lifetime, and be welcome into heaven after their physical death to enjoy the perfection of heaven for eternity. This study was very applicable to students, especially eighth graders as they look forward to summer break where daily Bible study during the school day will stop and they will have the opportunity to start or continue the habit of having their own personal Bible studies to continue strengthening their faith.

In Science, we have wrapped up our last chapter on the states of matter where we looked at how energy affects the movement of the atoms and molecules that make up all matter. We also looked at the different properties and definitions of the states of matter and how substances change from one state to another.

In U.S. History, we have wrapped up our last chapter on the second industrial revolution where we studied the growth of our nation's cities and how different inventions such as the telephone, the lightbulb, the assembly line, a faster method of steel production, and the discovery of how to refine crude oil helped to modernize our nation and turn America's economy into a world superpower. We looked at how industrial titans such as J.D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, Leland Stanford, and Henry Ford impacted our nation's business and economic strength.

As a few of our eighth graders have started touring high schools for next year, it has been encouraging to them to see that they already know a lot of the material they are seeing being taught in the classrooms they visit. Thank you to all the parents, students, and helpers for making another school year possible and allowing it to go smoothly. I pray that everyone has a fun and relaxing summer break so they can return next year excited, and ready to continue their education here at St. Mark!

