

God is Awesome



Lion's Roar St. Mark Lutheran School



Upcoming Events at St. Mark

Thursday: 5pm Girls BB A-team vs. Regis & Messiah
Friday 27th: Hot Lunch
5:30pm Family Game Night
Monday 30th: 4pm Kids Choir
3:45pm Girls BB A-Team Practice
5:15pm Girls BB B-team practice
Tuesday 31st: 4pm Girls BB A & B-teams vs. St John's
Thursday 2nd: 4:30pm Girls BB A-team vs St John's & Messiah
6pm Girls B-team @IC – Regis & Messiah

January 26th, 2023

January 27- HM Chicken Soup, cheesy bread, veggies, oranges

February 3 – Burger on a bun, sweet potato fries, salad, applesauce

February 10 – Lasagna, garlic bread, salad, pears

February 24 – Ham & egg bake, French toast sticks, berry & yogurt parfaits

Opening Thought

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 19:10)

Have you ever lost something and spent significant time trying to find it? We have all been there. After we have found it, we sometimes find it in the most unusual places. Maybe you finally found your glasses when you started scratching your head and laughed when they were on top of it all along. When I was a teenage driver, I often remember losing my car keys. One time I found them in the freezer. My only reasoning was that I must have been bringing in groceries and set the car keys down in the freezer with the frozen items. Finding things in unusual places is something we all can relate to.

This past week your children studied the Bible lesson on Zacchaeus. As Luke pointed out in his Gospel earlier, *When the days were approaching for him to be taken up, Jesus was determined to go to Jerusalem. (9:51)* The time for Jesus' earthly ministry was nearing its end. He came to the city of Jericho which was only about 15-20 miles from Jerusalem. While Jesus was walking through the city, Luke introduces us to a man named, Zacchaeus. *A man named Zacchaeus was there. He was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. (19:2)* Zacchaeus had certainly heard of Jesus. Maybe it was Jesus' miracles. Maybe it was his teaching *as one who had authority (Matthew 7:29)*. At some point the Holy Spirit had been working on his heart, and he was genuinely curious to see Jesus. But so were so many other people in Jerusalem that day. And Zacchaeus had a true issue. He was short and just like a child

trying to see a performer at a standing-room-only concert, he couldn't see the main attraction. Zacchaeus wasn't afraid of what others might think as he did an almost childish thing. His yearning to see Jesus led him to create a plan. *He ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, because he was about to pass by that way.* (v.4) Finally, he could at least see Jesus with his own two eyes.

But Jesus that day was looking for someone that was lost. *When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today."* (v. 5) What amazement and joy, filled Zacchaeus' heart! Not only did he finally get to see Jesus, but he even had the opportunity to open his home to Jesus as well. Note how the Holy Spirit's work in Zacchaeus' soul showed itself through action. *"Look, Lord, I am going to give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone out of anything, I will pay back four times as much."* (v.8) Zacchaeus knew his sins. His conscience had haunted him. What relief he found knowing that Jesus had paid for those transgressions. His repentance showed through. He desired to change the wrongs he had done, not to earn God's favor, but in thankfulness for all that Christ had done.

Not everyone was happy that day. As Jesus was traveling to Zacchaeus' home, Luke notes *When the people saw it, they were all grumbling because he went to be a guest of a sinful man.* (v. 7) That is why Jesus reminded his listeners of his mission. *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."* We too are by nature lost and condemned people. Our sins separate us from the holy God. We do stupid things. We put others down with careless words. Our tempers shine, and we later regret what comes from our mouths and angry hearts. We entertain improper thoughts in our brains. Yes, by nature we too are lost. Yet, that is exactly why Jesus came! He finds us in the most unexpected ways. With a few dribbles of water on our forehead and words spoken in the name of the Triune God, we become his child through Holy Baptism. When we read and listen to God's Word, the Spirit strengthens saving faith. When we gather to receive a small wafer of unleavened bread and a small sip of wine, we also receive Christ's true body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins. *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*

This message is the heart of St. Mark Lutheran School. At St. Mark lost sinners are found by the *Son of Man*. The Gospel message assures all that he came to *save the lost*.

Chapel on Fridays / Mission Offerings – Cornerstone Lutheran High School

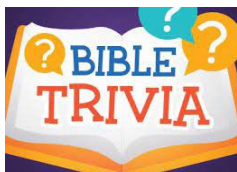
Parents, feel free to join us either in-person or virtually for our morning chapel on Facebook Live on Friday mornings at 8:40 AM. We also take a weekly collection of mission offerings. This third quarter our mission offering will support the Cornerstone Lutheran High School, our new high school which will open its doors this August. A new blessing for our area!

1/13/2023: \$37.42 QTD: \$111.80

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)

Lesson #	Title of Lesson	Date Taught
11A	Mary Anoints Jesus	Monday, January 30
11B	Jesus Rides into Jerusalem	Wednesday, February 1



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:

We congratulate Riley J. for being chosen from the list of winners who correctly answered that Zacchaeus promised to give half his wealth to the poor and pay back four times to amount to those he cheated.

This week's question:

How many denarii (a day's wages) was the bottle of perfume worth that Mary used pour on Jesus' head and feet?

Sports News

We had our first home games for B-Team on Tuesday this week, and our first home games for A-Team on Thursday. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered on those nights to help our home games run smoothly. For parents who haven't met their volunteer requirements, please sign up using the link provided in either of the emails sent out or the link posted on the St. Mark PTP's Facebook page. Please contact Chris Biebert at chris@smwels.org if you have any issues or questions regarding the sign up.

Do you or someone you know have golf clubs laying around that are no longer being used? If you do, please contact Chris Biebert, or bring them to school in person. They will all be put to good use by students of St. Mark as part of the new golf club starting this Spring. Any and all clubs would be appreciated, left or right handed, youth, men's, or women's clubs, no matter their age or condition. Here are the events for next week

Monday, Jan 30th: Girls A-Team practice 3:45-5:15 / Girls B-Team practice 5:15-6:30

Tuesday, Jan 31st: Girls BB Home games vs. St. John's Neillsville B-Team @ 4:00
A-Team @ 5:00

Thursday, Feb 2nd: A-Team Home vs. St. John's Neillsville/Messiah St. Mark games at 4:30 and 6:30 / B-Team Away @ Immaculate Conception Elem. vs. Regis/Messiah St. Mark games at 6:00 and 7:00



Family Game Night

PTP is hosting a family game night tomorrow evening at 5:30-8pm in the Shaker Center. Come for a fun evening of board games with your St Mark family. Pizza, veggies & drinks will be provided. Please bring your favorite board game & a snack to share (optional).

KICK Open Gym

All students in grades 6-8th are invited to the KICK youth group open gym on Sunday, January 29 from 3-5 pm. Feel free to bring a snack to share. If you have any questions, please contact Kristi Smith.

Battle of the Books

Round 1 of Battle of the Books took place yesterday, 1/25. Two teams had a bye and four teams advanced to the next round. We congratulate the Goofy Goombas, Cocomelon 4 Life, Conductors, and I'll Tell You Later on advancing to the next round. Thanks to all the teams who participated! Round 2 will take place on 2/22 at 2:15 PM.

Don't Forget Schedule PS

As the 2022 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 need St. Mark's Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN), please contact the church/school office.

TADS Statement for 2022-2023 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 "2022"

Step Five: Print a copy.

Wisconsin Parental Choice Program - Registration is Open February 1st

The open enrollment for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) began today. The open enrollment is February 1 – April 20. If you plan on applying for a school choice voucher at St. Mark, please apply during the open enrollment. Please do so sooner rather than later.

All families, both new families and continuing families, must apply each year in the Online Application System (OAS) for their student to continue in the program.

Click on this [LINK](#) URL: <https://tinyurl.com/58s3fjts> for some more information.

Board of Education Meeting - February 7

In keeping with the School Choice responsibilities, St. Mark is required to inform parents of two opportunities to come and meet with the Board of Education. The second opportunity is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, from 6:00-6:30 PM. The Board of Education meeting is in Room 12 in our school.

Parent-Teacher Consultations - February 8 or 13

Please note that parent teacher consultations are scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, and Monday, February 13. You can sign up for a consultation by using this [LINK](#). You may also use this URL: <https://tinyurl.com/ybefbn9a> Please note, the signup for the consultation will be closed at 8:00 AM on Monday, February 6.

Cheer for LPS Pep Rally

If you are interested in cheer for the pep rally, there will be a practice on Friday, February 10th in the gym from 4-6pm. Cheer is open to girls in the 3rd – 8th grades

LPS Pep Rally - Thursday, March 2

The rally for the LPS tournament will be on Thursday, March 2nd. We would like to invite alumni to attend. The Rally will be held at 2:30pm.

Social Studies Fair - Thursday, March 9

Please note, St. Mark has scheduled its annual Academic Fair for Thursday, March 9. Participation is expected. More details will follow in the coming weeks. Please note, students in Grades 3-8 will be making presentations in the evening at our school.



School Alumni & Families

We are preparing a concert for this spring entitled "Through the Decades" on May 11th. We are hoping to find concert programs from 2008 and before. If you have any of these in your personal collection, would you please bring them into the office or email a copy to tami@stmark-wels.org? We will make a copy & will not keep your mementos.



Cornerstone Lutheran High School Update

We celebrate the Holy Spirit's direction as he moved Mr. Chad Marohn to accept the Divine Call to Cornerstone Lutheran High School as its first principal. We trust the Holy Spirit to bless his ministry among the high school students in the Chippewa Valley.

We also thank the Holy Spirit's guidance as he has led Mrs. Emily Fictum to accept the Divine Call to teach part-time at Cornerstone Lutheran High School beginning next year. She will be teaching both music and language arts at the high school.

The faculty is certainly starting to take shape, and the excitement is building as Cornerstone opens its doors for the first time in 207 days!



Ticket Sales end for Cornerstone's FIRST Gala January 29th! No

tickets will be sold at the door. Your ticket provides an evening of fun and fancy February 11th at the Florian! We can't wait to enjoy the night with you! See Cornerstone's Website to purchase tickets and read more about the exciting entertainment that night!

<https://www-cornerstonelhs-org.site.atfni.com/gala.phtml>



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.

Class News

4K

The preschoolers have been busy learning about the winter and the arctic. The snow mounds on the playground have been a huge hit when we are able to go out for recess. I am amazed at the progress the students have made in the first half of the school year. They have all grown in so many ways!

5K

The kindergarteners have enjoyed doing winter activities this month. I think they have also enjoyed the snow days we've had. We were able to have our Christmas/pizza party when we returned from break.

The 4K and 5K classes took a field trip to Festival Foods earlier this month. We had a behind the scenes tour and got some treats along the way. We had been talking about our community in Social Studies so it was fun to see a local grocery store that is a part of our city.

Our Class read the book *The Mitten* by Jan Brett. We did several math, writing and reading activities around the book but they especially enjoyed acting out the story. We even invited the 4k class to watch our performance.

The kindergarteners are also very excited that our 100th day of school is coming up soon. If we don't have another unexpected day off, we will be celebrating our 100th day of school on Monday, February 6th.

1st Grade

The 1st graders have been working hard on new math concepts of place value with tens and ones. It's been fun using numbers to 100 without having to count by ones. They have been tested on sight words, and they are impressed with how many more words they know! We have been reading many fairy tales and have enjoyed reading the books we received from the Usborne Book Fair that mix up the fairy tales. We have stretched our brains to notice similarities and differences in the books. Their biggest accomplishment this January has been learning Luther's Morning Prayer!

1st & 2nd Grade Science

In the previous unit of Science, students did experiments to notice how magnets repel or attract. A couple second graders even noticed that one of the magnetic toys had the north and south pole mislabeled. This week we begin a new unit on Sound. The students will continue to record information on several sound experiments during this unit.

1st and 2nd Grade Social Studies

In social studies our classes are learning about Native Americans. We are learning about them by their regions and creating a book with the homes of each group.

2nd Grade

The 2nd graders love playing and digging in the snow at recess time!

Our class is proud to finish the first math book for 2nd grade! Yahoo! 2nd graders have worked hard to master 3-digit addition! They are now working on 3-digit subtraction.

Our class is learning about Laura Ingalls Wilder. We look forward to going to the Laura Ingalls Wilder play at the Pablo on Friday February 3rd!

3rd and 4th Grades

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that January is almost over! On February 14th, we are going to go bowling at Bowl Winkles. Please send back the information sheet, and let me know if you can chaperone and drive! The students have been bowling in phy. ed, and I know they will enjoy this field trip!

In science, we are studying volcanoes and earthquakes. We should be done with the science book soon! We started our Regions book, and are studying the four states of the Southwest. In math, we are still working on multiplication and division. The students are really getting good at their math facts!

Have a blessed and safe February! Mrs. Pitt

4th Grade – Mrs. Smith

The 4th graders have made it halfway through their last lower grade year! They have been working hard with fractions in math. (We've been talking a lot about pizzas and pies!) We are almost done reading the novel "Charlotte's Web." We will end the study by watching the movie.

5th & 6th Grades – Mr. Micheel

You mean that I can use Bible History to teach the literary term, Irony? Absolutely. Grades 5-6 have been studying the days of Jesus' ministry in Holy Week: Teaching Tuesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. There are many examples of irony! Ask them to share a few with you. Also be sure to ask them what Old Testament prophet has many Messianic prophecies about events during Holy Week!

For Catechism, we have made a significant shift. After spending most of the school year studying the Ten Commandments, we have now begun studying the Triune God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What a special week this week's is, as we have studied Christ's two natures and his three-fold office!

Finally, in science, we have been studying our Solar System. Ask them about the model that we are making of the Solar System that is drawn to scale. It truly left some jaws dropped in amazement at God's power and his creation!

5th & 6th Grades – Mrs. Knickelbein

Glow Day took place last Friday. In the afternoon, we learned about Greek and Latin roots meaning light and glow, created found poetry, learned about chemiluminescence and bioluminescence, made glowing drinks, and had a great time playing Glowing Chutes and Ladders Trivia.

We have a new friend, a betta fish named Galileo, or Leo for short. As we learn about caring for betta fish, students are demonstrating their understanding of an author's purpose. Soon we will be guessing what each student's purpose for writing is as students share their writing about bettas.

Keep an eye out for Social Studies Fair Project work. Students should be locating resources soon. This may require a trip to check out the newly redone library to pick up some books with parents or caregivers. Please help your child stay on top of deadlines for this project. The first deadline is tomorrow, Friday, January 27th. Students need to have their topics selected by then.

7th & 8th Grades

In the 7th & 8th grade classroom, we have finished our ChristLight study titled, "Learning to Know Jesus." We saw how Jesus is not only our Savior from sin, but also our Good Shepherd, constantly guiding and protecting us in our lives here on earth until we reach our home in heaven. We have now started a study titled, "Chosen by God." This study will focus on the doctrine of election. This doctrine, when used correctly, provides a believer with comfort and assurance of our place in God's family.

In U.S. History, students have been presenting on a signer of The Declaration of Independence that they chose. The presentations have gone great so far. The students have found some very interesting details about the lives of some of our country's founding fathers. I am looking forward to hearing the rest of the presentation this week.

In Science, we have finished our chapter on Meiosis. This incredible process is how God created our bodies to function in order to produce the necessary cells that an organism needs to reproduce. This process is what allows for all of the genetic variation we see in this world, and it gives organisms the ability to adapt to a changing environment over time. As we wrapped up this study, we also talked about how people of the world will use a lot of this "good science" to try and "prove" evolution. In our next chapter, we will be learning about genetics.