

St. Mark

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reach, Teach, Rejoice!

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS=Caring and Conservative)
3930 S. 19th Street Lincoln, NE 68502, Office phone: 423-1497; Vacancy Pastor's Cell 440-8145

ministers: Every member

President: Larry Hans

Incoming Pastor: Joel Vogel

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to make Disciples of Christ Jesus, the only Savior from sin and eternal death. (Mt. 28:19, Acts 4:10-12, John 20:31)

February 15, 2015

Worship-Sunday 9 AM Monday 7PM

Transfiguration Sunday

Sunday school - Bible Study Hour-Sunday 10:20 AM

Welcome!!! To all our guests and visitors we extend a warm and sincere welcome. We are happy to have you join us for worship this morning as we see Jesus for who He really is our Savior and our Lord. You have joined us on what's known as "Transfiguration Sunday" when we get to see Jesus' "metamorphosis" into a glorified state (i.e. shining brightly in his Glory as true God) before the eyes of three of his closest disciples to help them cope with what's coming his entrance into Jerusalem to suffer and die on the cross for their (and our!) sins.

HOW GOOD, LORD, TO BE HERE...

OPENING HYMN 95 "How Good, Lord, to Be Here"

(Peter makes this statement to Jesus while on the Mount of Transfiguration after seeing him transform himself before his disciples' eyes so that he is shining with the glory of God. Moses and Elijah also appear to talk with Jesus about what is to come...his sufferings and death for the sins of the world!)

How good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night;
Your face and garments, like the sun, Shine with unborrowed light.

How good, Lord, to be here Your beauty to behold,
Where Moses and Elijah stand, Your messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past, Promise of things to be,
We hail your body glorified And our redemption see.

Before we taste of death, We see your kingdom come;
We long to hold the vision bright And make this hill our home.

How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain;
But since you bid us leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of God the Father, Who said “Let there be light” and there was light by whose Word all things were created, and by whose power all things are sustained.

C: O come, let us worship Him!

P: In the name of God the Son, the “Light of the World”, the “Word who became flesh and made His dwelling among us” to redeem all mankind from sin and eternal death and darkness.

C: O come, let us praise Him!

P: In the name of God the Holy Spirit, who by the Word enlightens our hearts so that we can see clearly now the way of salvation; Who calls sinners to faith, and gives power to be lights in our world by living sanctified lives for his glory.

C: O come, let us glorify Him!

ALL: O Triune God, we worship You, the Holy Three in One!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Dear friends in Christ, we stand in the presence of the almighty God, from whom nothing is hidden and before whom all hearts are open. God’s Word encourages us: “The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.” (Ephesians 5:11)

Sadly, we must admit that we have not always lived like “enlightened” Children of God. We have disobeyed our good and gracious God and we deserve to be cast into outer darkness for all eternity. (II Peter 2:17)

But our God has been merciful to us and has sent His one and only Son to serve as our Savior. Let us go to Him now and confess our sins before Him and hear the reassuring Words of forgiveness in Christ.

C: Almighty and most merciful God, you see everything! You know my thoughts and my motives. You even see the things done in secret and in darkness. Please forgive me for the many times I have failed You and have broken Your law of perfect love. Not only have I done what is wrong, I have also not done all that I should which is right and good. Without Jesus I am lost. Forgive me for His sake and grant me peace and joy in my forgiveness.

P: The same God Who has blessed you and me to catch a glimpse through the Gospel of Jesus standing in glory on the Mount of Transfiguration would have His one and only Son come down from that Mountain and proceed into Jerusalem where He would suffer and die for our every sin. He did that so that forgiven through faith in Him we now anticipate seeing Jesus standing in His full glory in heaven where we will stand with Him forever living in permanent dwellings. Take heart, your sins are forgiven by the One Who gave up His glory so that some day we might share it with Him in heaven!

C: How good, Lord, to be here to hear your message of forgiveness and life in Christ!

PRAYER FOR TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

P: Almighty God, through the preaching of the truth, You caused the light of the Gospel to shine forth in our hearts-so that we see Jesus as true God and our only Savior from sin. Grant that we may faithfully defend the Gospel against all enemies, and joyfully proclaim it to the salvation of people everywhere, to the glory of Your holy name.

C: We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

II Kings 2:1-12a

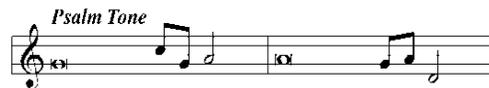
1 When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2 Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. 3 The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "but do not speak of it." 4 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho. 5 The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," he replied, "but do not speak of it." 6 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on. 7 Fifty men of the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. 8 Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. 9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. 10 "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours otherwise not." 11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. 12 Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 148



We have seen his glo - ry: he shines forth with truth and grace.



Praise the LORD from the heavens,
praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars.

Refrain

Praise the LORD from the earth,
lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his bidding,

you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,

kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,
young men and maidens, old men and children.

Refrain

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

EPISTLE LESSON

II Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. 13 We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. 14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. 15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. 16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 1 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Hymn Response: 270 (LAPPY) "Shine, Jesus Shine"

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness shining.
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us;
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, Shine on me.**

Refrain

**Shine, Jesus shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit blaze! Set our hearts on fire.
Flow river, flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your Word, Lord, And let there be light!**

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance.
By the blood I may enter your brightness;
Search me, try me, consume my darkness.
Shine on me, Shine on me.**

Refrain

**Shine, Jesus shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit blaze! Set our hearts on fire.
Flow river, flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your Word, Lord, And let there be light!**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, Shine on me.**

Refrain

**Shine, Jesus shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit blaze! Set our hearts on fire.
Flow river, flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your Word, Lord, And let there be light!**

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 9:2-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. 3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. 4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters-- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." 6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) 7 Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" 8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 97 "Down from the Mount of Glory"

**Down from the mount of glory Came Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Recall the wondrous story, Rich gem in sacred Word.
Again your faith will view him In double glory here;
The greater homage due him Will in your life appear.**

**Transfigured, Christ, the lowly, Stood radiant in the light,
Light found in Godhead solely, For human eyes too bright.
Then came a voice from heaven, Confirmed what here we see;
The words "my Son" were given To seal his deity.**

**Yet mark this glory hidden! See him the mount descend
And, by the Father bidden, His willing footsteps bend
To seek humiliation In deepest depths of woe,
To suffer degradation No mind can probe or know.**

**Strange how his journey ended! In love that is his fame
Our Lord again ascended A mount -- the hill of shame.
Upon the cross he proffered Himself to agony;
His holy soul he offered To set the guilty free.**

**Then hail the double glory Of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
And let the wondrous story Full peace and joy afford!
The holy mount acclaims him The majesty divine;
Mount Calvary proclaims him Redeemer -- yours and mine.**

THE SERMON

II Corinthians 4:3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE POWER AND PRIVILEGE OF PERCEIVING.

- I. Plenty of People Do Not "Get IT"**
- II. You See His Face Only By Grace**

We Joyfully Bring Our Offerings of Thankfulness (Visitors and guests-we do not expect you to place anything into the offering. It is our privilege as members of St. Mark to support our ministry. We are simply glad you could join us. Please come again!!!)

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Communion Liturgy: P. 21

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: CW 96 & CWS 712 "Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"

TRANSFIGURATION

712 Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain



1 Je - sus, take us to the moun-tain Where, with Pe - ter,
 2 What do you want us to see there That your close com -
 3 What do you want us to hear there That your dear dis -
 4 Take us to that oth - er moun-tain Where we see you
 5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, Ris - en and as -



James, and John, We are daz - zled by your glo - ry,
 pan - ions saw? Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there
 ci - ples heard? Once a - gain the voice from heav - en
 glo - ri - fied, Where you shout - ed, "It is fin - ished!"
 cend - ed Lord, Can - not help but tell the sto - ry,



Light as blind - ing as the sun. There pre - pare us
 Fills us with the self - same awe. Clothed in flesh like
 Says of the in - car - nate Word: "Lis - ten, lis - ten,
 Where for all the world you died. Hear the stunned cen -
 All that we have seen and heard, Say with Pe - ter,



for the night By the vi - sion of that sight.
 ours you go, Matched to meet our dead - liest foe.
 ev - 'ry - one; This is my be - lov - ed Son!"
 tu - ri - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"
 James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"

The hymn writer reminds us that the glimpse of glory seen in Jesus' transfiguration foreshadows the ultimate glory of Christ displayed at Calvary, hidden under the cross.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008 © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: SILVER SPRING (87 87 77) Carl Schalk, b. 1929 © 1991 Carl Schalk. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we next gather for worship, it will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. On that day we will begin our solemn journey to the Savior's cross. While the joy of faith remains undiminished throughout the year, our rejoicing during Lent is muted and quieted.

For centuries, therefore, the Christian churches have omitted their most jubilant songs during this season, including the word *alleluia*, which means, "praise the Lord."

Now for a time we say farewell to *alleluia*. We do this to prepare ourselves for the quieter days of Lent. The alleluias will return on Easter dawn as we gather to shout our praise to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, Song of Triumph (Tune 122)

**Alleluia, song of triumph, sound of joy that cannot die:
Alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high;
Saints adorned in robes of glory join the great angelic cry.**

**Alleluia we are singing, voicing hymns in pure accord,
With Christ's holy Church united, justified, redeemed, restored,
And with all his faithful people raise our songs to praise the Lord.**

**Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;
Alleluia our transgressions make us for a while forego.
For the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin must flow.**

**May our hymns be filled with longing- Hear us, Holy Trinity-
As we look to your blest Easter, here, and then eternally,
When we shall once more be singing Alleluia joyfully!**

News and Notes

FRIENDSHIP REGISTRY

Welcome in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. We love our Savior for he sacrificed himself for us. We love because He first loved us. Our love for God shows itself in a love of His Word and a love for our fellow man. We welcome all visitors into our midst. If you have questions about our beliefs or God's Word, please ask.

Flower Chart and Altar Duties: There is a 2015 flower chart located on the door near the mailboxes. All members are invited to sign up to glorify our God by beautifying our altar with flowers. You may also sign up for a month of altar duty. It's easier than ever! Helpful instructions are now located on the bookshelf in the office. Sign up now to get the dates you want!

Birthdays— Gordon Zacherson 2/15, Erna Westphal 2/16, Amaya Theiler 2/16 **Anniversary—** Ken & Kathy Holm 2/17

Soup Supper - Our Ladies Aid will be hosting a soup supper on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 6 pm. The free-will offering collected at the meal will go to our Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM). There are sign-up sheets on the table in the back of the church if you are interested in making soup or helping in another way. We hope that you can join us! *St, Mark Ladies Aid*

THANK YOU FOR SERVING

Elders: Nate Workentine, Ben Schroeder

Usher: Mark Schwede, Larry Hans

Greeters: Carol Hans

Organist: Eva Van Egmond

Moving Expense Fund In order for us to be prepared as possible for our new pastor, we ask you to consider a gift for the Moving Expense Fund. You may write "Moving Expense Fund" on the envelope and put this special gift into the offering plate.

Easter Flowers - The Ladies Aid will be purchasing Easter lilies, tulips and mums for the altar. If anyone is interested in helping to purchase these flowers a freewill donation will be accepted. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the entryway. Please make checks out to Elfi Lee and give to her, or put checks or money in her church mailbox by March 22.

Please remember in your prayers...



- Karen Kander, Jean Riegsecker's mom.
- Pastor Joel Vogel & Family
- Jacob Kander, Jean & Denny Riegsecker's nephew.
- Alida Freese, Julie Nelson's mother

St. Mark Lutheran Church and School

3930 S. 19th Street, Lincoln, NE 68502 www.stmarklincoln.org

School website—www.stmarkles.org (phone) 402-423-1497

Vacancy Pastor

Tim Kemnitz

Cell (402) 440-8145

Teachers

Jeremiah Drews (4-8, Principal)

Cell (402) 480-1940

Eva Van Egmond (K-3)

Cell (920) 210-9813

This Week at St. Mark

- Monday - Worship w/Lord's Supper 7:00 pm
- Wednesday - Children's Service 8:30 am
- Bible Class Lexington Assisted Living Center 3:30 pm
- Soup Supper 6:00 pm
- Catechism Class 6:00 pm
- Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
- Thursday - Bible Class 6:30 am
- Saturday - Church Cleaning: Sec. 1 Jamison Sec. 2 Krushenisky
Sec. 3 K. Kumwenda

Join Us at 10:20—11:10 am

Sunday School

Bible Class—The Foundations: Psalm 11:3

Cake Challenge! St. Mark Lutheran School will be hosting the third annual Cake Challenge. This competition is open to St. Mark school families, members of St. Mark and Mt. Olive, and friends of St. Mark Lutheran School. The challenge will take place at St. Mark Lutheran School on Friday, February 20th at 7:00 p.m. The Cake Challenge will be divided into two divisions (Preschool-8th & High School-Adult). Prizes will be awarded to the most creative cake and best tasting cake in each division. Registration forms can be found in the Church foyer. Contact Mr. Drews for more information. May the best cake baker win!!

A Measure of Our Love for Our Lord

Worship Attendance Last Week 134

Last Week's Thank Offering to our Lord

Home	\$5,811.25	Missions	\$398.00
Building Fund	\$47.00	NELHS Gen.	\$175.00
Tuition Assist.	\$50.00	Moving Fund	\$135.00
Memorial—Bork ~ School Wish List			\$1,648.00
Total Offering— \$8,264.25			