

St. Mark Lutheran Church and School

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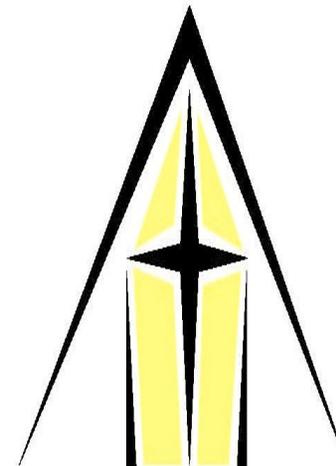
Stephanie Peitsmeyer (K-1)

Cell (614) 935-2190

Remembering our Military: Please remember those serving in the military over the holidays. Rich and Alta Beltz have two grandsons serving and Carmen and Brian Wiles have a son serving. If you would like to send them a Christmas card or word of encouragement here are their addresses. Please also keep them in your prayers.

PFC Dinges, David
Camp Redleg
APO AE 09304

PV2 Dinges, Simon
Echo Co. 3-39 IN REGT 2 PLT
11000 Dixie Rd
Fort Jackson, SC 29207



St. Mark

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reach, Teach, Rejoice!

A Kingdom of Miracles

HYMN: CW 14

Arise, O Christian People

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

WORD OF FORGIVENESS

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Brief organ introduction...

**Blest be the God of Israel, Who comes to set us free;
He visits and redeems us; He grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, Of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill his promise And bring his people peace.**

**He from the house of David A child of grace has giv'n;
A Savior comes among us To raise us up to heav'n.
Before him goes his herald, Forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation, The harbinger of day.**



Cedars Birthday Boxes

The students at St. Mark are planning on assembling and wrapping birthday care boxes for the foster kids at Cedars. All month we will be collecting items to put in the boxes and then the kids will wrap the presents at their Christmas party. The students are asking for the congregation to help by donating items from the list below. Please donate full size bottles instead of travel size. Most of the kids that are at Cedars are preteen to teenagers. **Project Dates: Monday, November 21st - Monday, December 19th**

NO items with alcohol and NO aerosols

Nail polish	Pencils
Emory board	Toiletry bag
Lotion	Playing cards
ChapStick	Water bottle
Lip Gloss	Hacky Sack
Toothbrush	Name Brand socks (Nike, Addidas, etc)
Toothpaste	\$5 Gift cards (McDonalds, Target, etc)
Deodorant	Ear buds
Body spray/perfume/cologne	Candy
Body wash (esp. Axe body wash for boys)	Birthday wrapping paper
Comb/pick/brush	Birthday cards
Hair accessories	Tissue paper
Small notebook	
Pens	

This Week at St. Mark

- Monday - Worship Service 7:00 PM
Wednesday - Bible Class Lexington Assisted Living Center 3:30 pm
- Catechism 5:30 pm
- Advent Service 7:00 pm
Thursday - Bible Class—All Welcome 6:30 am
Friday - Snow Removal: Scott Meyer
Saturday - Children’s Christmas Practice 9-10:30 am
- Church Cleaning: Sec. 1 R. Gartzke Sec. 2 Colson
Sec. 3 Gottier
Sunday - Worship Service 8:00 am
- Children’s Christmas Worship Service 10:30 am

Coming Events:

- December 10** – Children’s Christmas Service Practice 9-10:30 am
December 14 – Advent Service 7:00 pm
December 17 – Children’s Christmas Service Practice 9-10:30 am
December 18 – Children’s Christmas Service 10:30 am
December 21 – Advent Service 7:00 pm
December 24 – Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm
December 25 – Christmas Day Worship 10:00 am

Stewardship Time and Talent Sheets were emailed and handed out. If you did not get one to fill out, there are some on the usher’s table. Please fill them out when you have time. Please give them to an usher or place them on the secretary’s desk.

Building Addition Fund: If you would like to give specifically to the new building addition, please write “Building Addition Fund” on the envelope to be sure that the money is allocated correctly. Put the envelope in the offering plate.

On prisoners of darkness The sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness Upon the sinner's eyes.
He guides the feet of pilgrims Along the paths of peace.
Oh, bless our God and Savior With songs that never cease!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

PSALM 146

Sung responsively with pastor

SECOND LESSON

James 5:7-11

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the Acolyte comes forward to light the candle the congregation sings the following hymn verse to the tune of “Away In A Manger.”

**The flame of these candles
Brings peace to our night,
Reminds us of Jesus
The world’s only Light.
The darkness is ending,
Our fears fade away,
For God, his Son sending,
Will dawn Christmas Day.**

M: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the light of the world. He came to cast out the prince of darkness.

C: **We remember Jesus who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

M: We hear his call to see the light.
C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.
M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN: CW 20 When All the World Was Cursed

SERMON

CONFESSION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

St. Mark News and Notes

Nursery At St. Mark, we love children and encourage their worship, too! In the foyer, we have some children's busy bags hanging from hooks that you are most welcome to use in church. If your child becomes restless during the service and you feel you both could just use a little break, you're welcome to use our nursery. Ask an usher to lead you to the nursery. Most of us have or have had young children, so you're with caring people who understand what it's like to have little ones.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING

Elders: Tyson Martin, Curt Jamison
Ushers: Noel Lee, Larry Hans (E), Rich Beltz, James Mullen (L)
Greeters: Mel & Sue Soyk (E), Tina Schmidt (L)
Organist: Cindy Krushenisky

Poinsettias The Ladies' Aid will be purchasing Christmas poinsettias for the church altar. If you wish to give a donation toward the purchase of the poinsettias to help cover the cost, please make your check out to Elfi Lee and put your donation in her mailbox.

Busy Bags: Our busy bags for little worshipers are in need of updated materials. We are looking for small tinker toys (like rubix cubes, etch a sketches, magnadoodles, etc.) to place in the bags, along with new church friendly books and other quiet toys. If you'd like to make a monetary or item donation, please contact Tina Schmidt.

Advent Wreath The third Advent candle, the pink one, is called the Shepherd Candle. It represents the coming of the Savior into our hearts through faith in His Holy Word. Even as the shepherds saw their Savior with their own eyes and believed, so now we see Him through the eyes of faith. We hear the account of the Shepherds in Luke 2:15-20.



Advent 3

December 11, 2016

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to make disciples of Christ Jesus, the only Savior from sin and eternal death. Christ brings us peace, hope, joy and purpose for our lives. If you need any assistance, please speak with one of the ushers. We thank you for joining us in worshipping our Savior Jesus Christ and we invite you to join us again.

Prayer before worship:

Heavenly Father, I have come to worship you. Draw near to me in your gracious Word, and assure me of your loving kindness. Curb my wandering thoughts, that with undivided attention I may hear your voice and sing your praise. Amen.

Thank you for the 151 toothbrushes that have been sent to Malawi, Africa for Central Africa Medical Mission's "Teethsavers" program. There will be more smiles when the children see the cute tooth brushes and learn how to use them. Thank you for your help in this project. St. Mark's Ladies Aid Society

Birthday—Dan Dorn 12/11, Tyson Wathor 12/13, Aaron Remmers 12/15

Thank you for all the kind thoughts, prayers and cards for our 50th wedding anniversary. Rich & Alta Beltz

Please remember in your prayers...



- Shirley Zacherson
- Tammy Koepsell, Wendy Colson & Eric Richert's sister
- Sarah Brauer, Margaret Booth's daughter
- Jacob Kander, Jean & Denny Riegsecker's nephew

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M:** Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.
- C:** **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**
- M:** As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.
- C:** **Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**
- M:** You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.
- C:** **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**
- M:** Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.
- C:** **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**
- Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*
- M:** Hear us Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.
- Silent prayer.*
- M:** Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.
- C:** **Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

M: O Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...

C: **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.**

HYMN: CW 12

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever...



CLOSING DIALOGUE

M: We leave God's house strengthened once again to worship him throughout the week until we meet here again. Through faith in Jesus the Holy Spirit has prepared your heart for Christ's coming.

Now live for him, awaiting his coming at Bethlehem and his coming again on the clouds of heaven.

C: **So we recommit ourselves to our mission: We are dedicated...
to REACH all the world with the Gospel of Jesus.
to TEACH all according to His saving Word,
and to REJOICE in the salvation that Christ has won for us all.**

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



HYMN: CW 3

Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates