



St. Mark's Messenger
The Newsletter of St. Mark Lutheran Church
January 2011

A Message from our Shepherd

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13,14).

A new year is an exciting time. No matter what has happened in the previous year, a new year ahead of us seems to promise an opportunity that some things might just be a little bit better this year than they were in the year or the years before. This year I am going to lose those troublesome 10 pounds! This year I am going to read more. This year I am going to walk more. Often these wishes involve a hope that goes against our track record of how well we have done at these and many other activities in the past.

A priceless blessing God gave to you and me when he called us into his marvelous light of faith and trust in him is a hope that is not based upon our track record. The fact is our track record is why God sent his Son, Jesus, to be born in the manger long ago. When we were helpless God stepped into time to win the prize of restoring our relationship with him.

Jesus lived the perfect life that God demanded. Jesus offered his body and blood as the costly sacrifice that would pay for the sins of the whole world. Jesus rose again three days later to assure us that he is God and everything he has said is true – that he has paid the penalty for your sin and my sin and for the sins of the whole world.

Jesus covered you and me with the bright white robe of his righteousness and gives us hope that this year will be much better than any year before – because this year we are closer to our prize of living with him in heaven. While we press on toward that goal, who will you share the message of Jesus and his love with this year? Will you be able to invite them to come and see your great church and meet your Pastor? Would you be willing to sit with them while we go through God's Word together in a personalized Bible information class?

Many of the things in our past have taught us helpful lessons. Other things are better left forgotten forever. Many of our memories with friends and loved ones we pray will always be in our hearts and minds. But we will not dwell on those things that will do us no good in this lifetime. Rather, we press on toward the goal for which God has called us heavenward through Christ Jesus. And we look to see who we might bring along! If not this year, when?

Jesus be with you, Christian,

Pastor David Rosenau

Sunday Mornings
at 10:45
(after worship)

2 Corinthians



Thursday
Mornings
at 10 am

The Book of
Psalms

Bible Study Opportunities!!

Tuesday Evenings
at 7 pm

The Book of
Psalms

I invite you to please join us for these great opportunities for God's Word to further influence your daily Christian living.

You Are Invited!

To our welcome new member and welcome back winter member dinner on Sunday January 30th right after worship.

Come and welcome one of the 28 new full time members who joined St. Mark in 2010 or one of the nine new winter members!

The dinner is pot-luck style. St. Mark will provide dinnerware and coffee and lemonade. Please bring a dish or dessert to share. Please look for a sign up sheet in the narthex in the next couple of weeks so we might best plan for this great event!

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The Messenger is published monthly for members, winter members and friends of St. Mark Lutheran Church.

Deadline for submissions for the February newsletter is Friday January 21

Our New Church Pictorial Directory
is coming soon!

Pictures will be taken on 4 different days in hopes of having 100 percent of our members included.

Thursday February 3rd
Friday February 4th
Saturday February 5th
Tuesday February 15th

Please look at your calendars and choose which day or days will work best for you. As soon as Olan Mills confirms the times available we will let you know.

Submitted by a member who wanted to share with you her secret for a comfortable level of self esteem!

I don't want to brag
or make anybody jealous
or anything...but I can still fit
into my earrings that I wore
in high school!

Mary Martha Guild

All ladies of the congregation are invited to the Mary Martha Guild meeting on January 12th at 9:30 am.

Nancy Schley will share information from her trip through modern day Turkey and highlight some of the areas in which the apostle Paul walked and shared the Gospel throughout Asia Minor.

How do I sponsor the flowers that appear each week next to the altar?

Great question!

If you would like to sponsor the flowers to mark a special occasion, such as in thanks to God for an event or birthday or anniversary, or in honor of, or in memory of a loved one, here's how!

On the glass topped tables in the narthex you will find a sheet of paper marked flowers. Find the particular Sunday you are interested in and write in your name and the occasion. Sometime near the date you choose, simply include an extra \$30 in your offering envelope and write in "Flowers" in the box marked 'Special' on the right hand side of the envelope.

After the service you may take your flowers home, share them with another, or let Pastor know and he is glad to take them to someone who is stuck at home or in the hospital or who could otherwise simply use the cheerful pick-me-up. Thank you!

Can I obtain a copy of a church service?

Another great question!

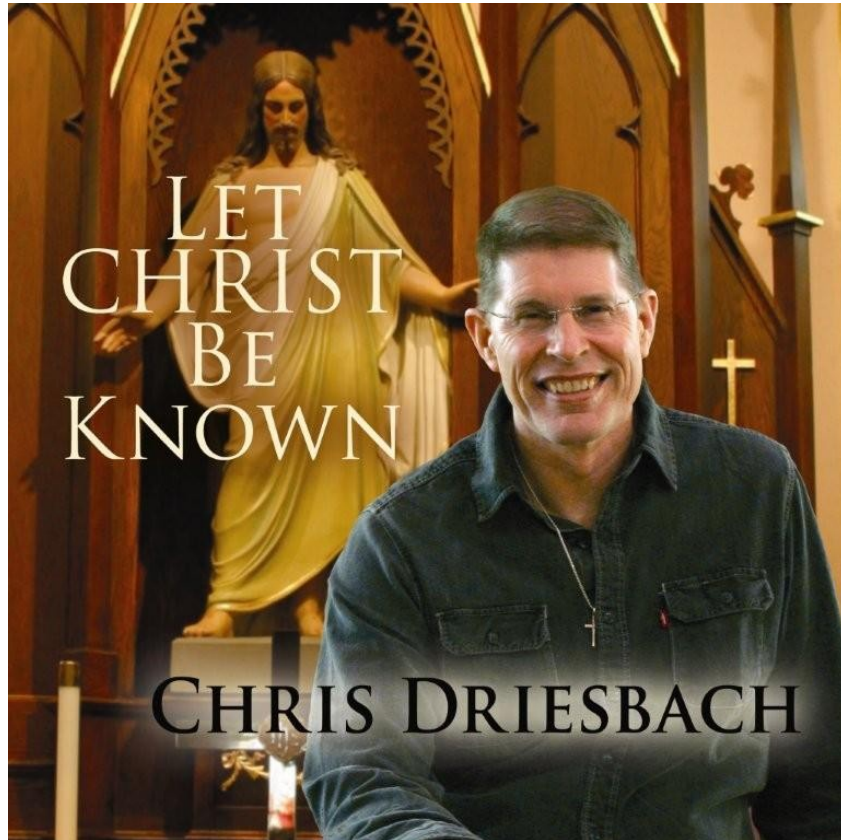
Yes, you may obtain a DVD of any week's worship service. No, there is no charge. Just let Pastor know and he will be glad to get you a copy.

The DVD has the audio and video of the entire service. You may also visit our website at www.stmarkleesburg and listen to the audio of every sermon since July 2010. Give it a try if you haven't seen our website yet!

A Christian Concert

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS:

In Concert February 2nd at 7 pm



Chris Driesbach

Original Christian Music on guitar and keyboards

Chris will be performing his new Christian songs. He loves to sing about Jesus and about his church in New Orleans.

CDS will be available

Mark your calendar now for this exciting event!