



St. Mark's Messenger

The Newsletter of St. Mark Lutheran Church

September 2010

A Message from our Shepherd

“Blessed are the peacemakers.” Matthew 5:9

Are you a peacemaker? Being a peacemaker can be almost impossible at times. Sometimes the peacemaker between neighbors is the one who picks up the dog stuff or pulls those weeds that are an eyesore even when they are not his or her responsibility. Sometimes the peacemaker is the neighbor who stays out of the neighbor's business!

Sometimes the peacemaker in a marriage is the one who has to swallow his or her pride. When was the last time you wanted the other person to remain quiet – not so you could explain yourself, but so you could say, “I was wrong,” in order to restore peace in a marriage? You have to wonder sometimes – why in the world would anyone want to be a peacemaker – especially in those situations that come at a high cost to us?

Why? How about happiness? Did you know that Jesus promises the blessing of happiness to those who are peacemakers? Jesus wrote the Book on making peace. In the Bible God calls Jesus the Prince of Peace. God calls Jesus the Prince of Peace because Jesus brought true peace to the whole world – peace between self-centered, self-serving sinners and the holy, merciful, compassionate and loving God.

For you or me or any other human being that task would have been impossible. Thank God that Jesus is both true man and true God. And with God nothing is impossible. God's love moved him to send his Son to be born a man, to live the perfect life God demanded, to die the innocent death we should have died, and to rise again in triumphant victory over the power of death and the devil – all to establish peace. That peace came at a very high cost! Yet what amazing love Jesus shows to you and to me when he tells us that he was glad to pay that price to give us peace.

Why in the world would we want to work a lot harder to be a peacemaker rather than a disturber of the peace? When we, by God's grace and power, make peace with another person we are blessed with peace ourselves – and happiness! That happiness will be contagious. That happiness will draw people toward you rather than give further reason to avoid you. Make peace and enjoy God's gift of happiness. And be prepared to tell another person about the peace someone once went to great lengths to show you.

God help us be Christian, Dear Christian!

Pastor David Rosenau

Have you seen this brief summary of the history of St. Mark's?

On September 10, 1978, twenty-eight people attended the first worship service in Leesburg at the First Federal Bank Community Room. By February 1979, it was obvious that a church could be started and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod granted the group mission church status. On March 6, 1979, the church constitution was approved at a voter's meeting and St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church came into existence.

In the beginning, a number of pastors from the area conducted services. The first pastor, Pastor Earl Noffsinger, was installed on June 3, 1979. By the end of 1980, the church had grown to 60 souls and the congregation began the search for land. In the fall of 1981, 3.9 acres were bought on South Highway 27. Planning began in May of 1983 and the church was dedicated on March 24, 1985. Winther Hall, the kitchen, and offices were added 10 years later and dedicated on January 24, 1995.

The pastors that have served St. Mark are:

- 1979-1990 Pastor Earl Noffsinger
- 1991-1993 Pastor Steven Persons
- 1994-2001 Pastor David Krenke
- 2002-2008 Pastor Norman Kuske
- 2009- Pastor David Rosenau

This summary is just one of the many great things that visitors to our new website will find. Have you had a chance to take a look at it yet? Please visit www.stmarkleesburg.com and see the great features such as a daily devotion, pictures of our church and Pastor, and a simple and useful map to help locate our church.

You will also find an audio library of sermons for the last couple of months that you can click and listen to. This is a great blessing for those who are travelling or who are otherwise unable to be in church. This may also be a blessing for you who would like to share a particular message with a friend or family member. May God bless this work in progress.



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

Parsonage Pet of the Month

How about a break from the normal creepy crawly? Little Ella discovered these cute little bundles of fur behind the parsonage. Did you know that Florida hosts four different recipes - oops...I mean, varieties of rabbit? The Black-tailed Jackrabbit, or *Lepus californicus*, was released in the Miami area in the 1930's and 40's to train greyhounds. The Marsh Rabbit is found in marshy areas throughout the state and is reddish brown with a grey underside and tail. The Lower Keys Marsh rabbit is found only in the Keys and has a protected status.

These cute little buggers are Eastern Cottontails, or *Sylvilagus floridanus*. They are found throughout Florida (except in the Keys), coastal marshes, and dense forests. Supposedly they like to eat grass and some types of weeds, but by my watch I say they have a special fondness for innocent and unsuspecting Dahlia plants that just want to be left alone in the backyard.

Since the rabbit has so many predators it's a good thing that most mommy rabbits can have as many as 6 litters of bunnies each year.

