



St. Mark's Messenger
The Newsletter of St. Mark Lutheran Church
November 2010

A Message from our Shepherd

Christ's Love, Our Calling Comes to St. Mark Lutheran Church!

Our new synod theme, "Christ's Love, Our Calling," was launched at the 2009 synod convention. Now it is heading to the highways and byways of our synod through a special four-year stewardship emphasis.

The word "stewardship" usually brings to mind encouragement to be more intentional with how we use our worldly wealth. However, there are other important aspects of stewardship as well. This year our primary focus will be on our time. *Love Takes Time!*

The Christ's Love, Our Calling theme intentionally begins with time. Consider the following:

- 1) If we spend no time with God's Word, then time is being spent actively starving our faith to death (Romans 10:17)!
- 2) If we spend no time at church in worship, why would we spend our money for its support?
- 3) If we spend no time with our family, will money ever fill that void in our children's hearts?
- 4) If we spend no time with our neighbors, will we readily spend money to support missions to reach those same neighbors?

Love Takes Time will look at the various relationships in our lives and then encourage us to carefully steward our time in those relationships. Here at St. Mark's we will dedicate four weeks to this important emphasis beginning Sunday, October 31 with the theme: Amazed at Christ's Love. Upcoming topics include: Seeking Time with the Body of Christ, Seeking Time for My Neighbors, and being Committed to Christ.

As part of this *Love Takes Time* emphasis you might also be happy to know that a companion Bible study will be presented during the next four weeks of our Sunday morning Bible study.

God bless our *Time* in the Word of the One who knows all about *Time*, our Savior Jesus: "*But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons*" (Galatians 4:4-5). He entered into time—human history—to save us forever. That's love! That's our calling!

In the love of Christ,

Pastor David Rosenau

Sunday Mornings
at 10:45
(after worship)

Love Takes Time



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 one or both of these great opportunities for God's Word to further influence your daily life.

Do we do something special with our Thanksgiving offerings?

Great question!

Christian Aid and Relief is the new human care agency of the WELS, combining the previous ministries of the Committee on Relief and the Humanitarian Aid Committee of the WELS World Missions Board. This ministry of compassion is our synod's arm of disaster response and humanitarian aid here at home and around the world.

As a congregation we have decided some years ago to support this ministry with our Thanksgiving offerings.

All offerings given on Thanksgiving Eve in the special Thanksgiving envelope or as loose cash in the offering plate will be forwarded to the WELS Christian Aid and Relief.

If you prefer your offering to be used for general budget expenses simply include your offering in a general offering envelope.

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St. Mark Lutheran Church
28215 S. US Hwy 27
Leesburg, FL 34748
Office: 352-326-3211
Website: www.stmarkleesburg.com

Pastor David Rosenau
Cell: 352-552-8132
Email address:
davidrosenau@gmail.com

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

Deadline for submissions for the December newsletter is Monday Nov. 22



A little more information on the *Love Takes Time* emphasis...

We are joining together with hundreds of churches across our land to celebrate an amazing truth which our synod has incorporated as its theme: Christ's Love, Our Calling.

Christ's love has called us out of darkness into his wonderful light. Christ's love has called us from the bonds of unbelief into the family of believers. Christ's love has called us out of an unbelieving world to be ambassadors of truth to the world. Christ's love is our calling. Christ's love is the key to living. Christ's love is our only hope of heaven.

We are planning to thoroughly consider what Christ's love means for our calling through a four-year stewardship emphasis. Each year of the program focuses on a different area of our life that God has given us to manage for his benefit and the benefit of our family, our Church family, and our neighbors. The focus of this year's emphasis is time—*Love Takes Time*. We will see that our time is an amazing blessing from God. How will we use our time? Will we whittle it away or will we dedicate our days, hours, moments, and seconds to the Savior's glory? How we spend our time says a lot about our priorities.

Included in your mailbox (extra copies are available) is the small publication *Love Takes Time*. I entrust it to you for prayerful consideration during our *Love Takes Time* emphasis. It will reinforce at home the key biblical truths we will consider at church.

I'm looking forward to sharing God's Word with you on this critical issue. We'll see you in worship! And in all times, rest in peace knowing for certain that your times are in your heavenly Father's hands.

Pastor





Please celebrate Thanksgiving at St. Mark Lutheran Church. We will begin with a turkey and all the trimmings dinner after worship on **Sunday November 21st**, the Sunday Before Thanksgiving. If you would like to contribute your favorite Thanksgiving dinner food, please jot down what you would like to bring on the sign up sheets that are on the glass covered tables in the entrance way to the church. And certainly - bring a friend who might not have other family to enjoy this holiday meal with!

And then please join us for the high point of our celebration with a special Thanksgiving Eve worship service on **Wednesday evening, November 24th at 7 pm**. Several members have indicated their willingness to give rides to church and back home after the service if you or someone you know might feel uncomfortable driving at night. Please don't hesitate to ask someone for a ride. Helping someone with a ride to church can be a great way to give thanks to God also!



Attention Men!

We need your help. This year the men will be cleaning up after the Thanksgiving Dinner. If you are able, please join in amazing the Ladies!

Incidentally, 2 flat screen TV's, a recliner and a commercial grade automatic dishwasher are scheduled to be installed in the kitchen that same morning.
