



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

A Message from our Shepherd

We are quickly approaching the "grand finale" of our *Love Takes Time* emphasis. We have preached God's Word. We have taught God's Word. Now, as a congregation of Christians, we can be confident. Why? The Lord promises us that "*faith comes from hearing the message . . .*" (Romans 10:17). We can be confident that the faith of our St. Mark's family has grown. Jesus makes us this promise: "*I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing*" (John 15:5). We are connected to Christ! We are fruitful through Christ.

You now hold an opportunity in your hands to exercise your faith and bear fruits for Christ. What sort of fruits? The careful use of the time God has given you. God gives every man, woman, and child 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We sometimes feel like we need 25 hours in a day, but that isn't going to happen. It's probably better that way. Instead, we should make the most of the time we do have by making God's priorities our priorities.

In worship and Bible study, we have seen how God has blessed us with the gift of time for very specific purposes. He knows that it takes time to study his Word, to worship him, to raise a family, to put in an honest day's work for an honest day's wage, and to witness to neighbors. In all these things, *Love Takes Time!*

Our ministry at St. Mark's has been richly blessed, in spite of a difficult few years in our nation. We are, by God's grace worshiping with more and more people who are glad to hear of Jesus' great love for them. We are reaching out to our community with the Gospel message in the Lord's house on Sunday morning, through Bible studies throughout the week, to our community and to the world through our new website, and through you living your Christian faith.

Christ's love is our calling. After hearing God's Word on the matter, we know that *Love Takes Time*. God's gift of time is one of his chief blessings to us. May we use it well until we enter eternity with him. Until then, let the encouragement of the hymn fill your hearts:

*I spent long years for thee, in weariness and woe, that an eternity of joy thou mightest know.
I spent long years for thee; Come, spend thy years for me. (CW 454 v.3)*

Blessings in Christ!

Pastor David Rosenau



**Work Day
Friday December 10th
at 9 am**



The biggest project of the day will be trenching for new water lines to repair a broken irrigation line and to bring water to a couple of new areas on our church property.

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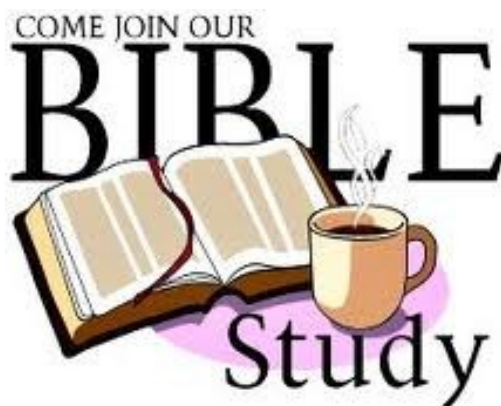
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The Messenger is published monthly for members, winter members and friends of St. Mark Lutheran Church.

Deadline for submissions for the January newsletter is Monday Dec. 20

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 these great opportunities for God's Word to further influence your daily Christian living.

Mary Martha Guild ...



...is selling, at cost, Christmas cards for \$4 each. Various designs are available. Your payment, cash or check payable to Mary Martha, can be left in the basket provided.



...saving Box Tops for Education coupons. The coupons are fairly small & are found on many different brands. Please place your cut coupons in the box on top of the mailboxes.



Mary Martha Guild
Christmas Party
“*Worth Celebrating*”
a Christmas devotion

Wed. Dec. 8th
9:30 am

Sign-up in entry

Please join us to celebrate!

Please join us to help decorate the church for Christmas!

On December 15 we will have a soup supper after the final mid-week Advent worship service at 4 pm. After the supper we will decorate the church. Never done it before? Great! Now is the time to learn where the decorations are stored and where they are placed. You may be the one to teach the next “generation” of new members at St. Mark things like this.

A sign up sheet for the soup supper is on the table in the narthex.

Opportunities to serve in 2011

Men: Usher – Please write your name in the month(s) you are able to serve as usher. If you have any questions please speak with Bob Jasenovec.

Women: Please write your name in the month(s) you are able to serve on the altar guild. Serving on the altar guild includes checking to see that the appropriate banners and altar paraments are in place, and setting up the communion ware and cleaning up after on Sundays with Holy Communion. If you have any questions please speak with Marcie Tardio.

All: Greeters – we would love to have any interested couples to serve together as greeters. This involves arriving at church about 8:45 am in the month you are able to serve, and stand just inside the doors and welcome God's people into His house with joy! Please note, for convenience, the months are split in half on the sign up sheet for those who are only able to serve half of a month. If you would like to serve as greeters for the whole month, please sign over both spaces.

All: Flowers – please write your name for the date that you would like to sponsor the two arrangements of flowers that appear on the sides of the altar. The cost to sponsor the flowers is \$30 and may be included in your offering envelope near the date you choose, marked "flowers" in the box labeled as special on your offering envelope.

All: Please sign your name on the sheet if you would like to purchase a poinsettia plant to help beautify our Christmas worship services. Plants are 6 dollars each and we will obtain as many as you would like to purchase – and then you will take them home with you after Christmas. As with the altar flowers, you may include the \$6 with your offering and simply indicate "flowers" in the box marked as special on your envelope.



Opportunities to serve those in need in our community

Did you know we hold year round collection of non-perishable food items for the Leesburg Food Bank? Some may remember that we kept a large plastic container under the folding table in the church entry-way (the Narthex) for this purpose. The tub is gone, but our food collections continue. The only change is that now you may place the times inside the cabinet doors of the glass topped credenzas in the narthex. Since the holidays usually generate increased activity at the food bank we are including this list of suggested items. You may also contribute money through your offering envelope. Simply indicate "food bank" in the box marked as special on your offering envelope. Our Treasurer forwards all financial donations, and Kathie Haan transports all food items every week or two.

Suggested items include: rice, pasta, Spaghetti O's, macaroni & cheese, mashed potatoes, spaghetti sauce, gravy - canned & dried mix, cooking oil, pickles, ketchup, mustard, salsa cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, etc., peanut butter, jelly, Jello, puddings, dried fruit, canned fruit & vegetable juices, canned - vegetable, fruit, meats, tuna, salmon, chicken, tomato sauce, soup, chicken broth, cookies, crackers, and anything sugar-free.