

From Pastor Ron Benson Vacancy Sen-



A Blessed New Year!



St. Mark Lutheran Church
1821 N. 90th St.
Omaha, NE 68114

402-391-6148

www.stmarkomaha.org

Dear Members of St. Mark Lutheran Church

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and our *New Born King*, Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:1-7

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom; preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

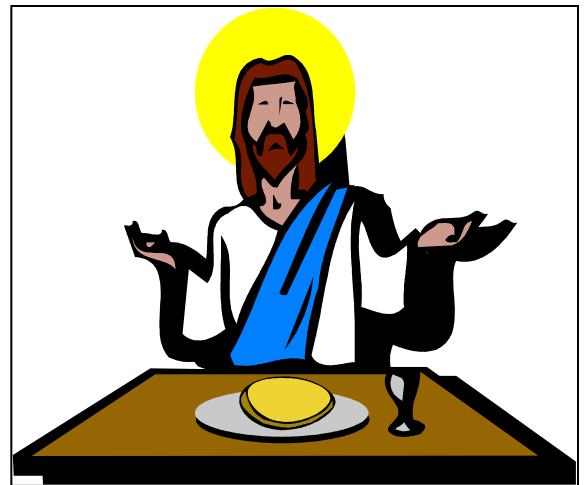
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I pray God's richest blessings upon you and your loved ones as we begin this New Year. With the New Year there are those that make New Year resolutions. I am not one of those; however, I do believe in NEW BEGINNINGS! That is what our life in Jesus is all about. In Christ we have His forgiveness and are empowered by Him to love and serve Him, and we receive these gifts from His Means of Grace.

My prayer for you also is that you stay connected to those Means of Grace. Come to Church on a regular basis, so that you hear the Word proclaimed and receive His Holy Sacrament. Also read and study the Bible on a daily basis. God promises to do great and mighty things through His Means.

Coming up this month are two very important congregational meetings. On January 22, 2012, President Sommerfeld from the Nebraska District will be here to share with you the possibility of using an Intentional Interim. This is a very specific Call and one that has an ending date. Then on January 29, 2012, the congregation will meet again to make a decision on this possibility. Both meetings will take place after the late worship service and both are important to attend. The first one to hear what this Intentional Interim entails and then to make the decision whether this is something the good Lord is leading you to experience. So mark your calendars now and plan to be on hand.



If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call. I am in the office at St. Mark's Monday afternoons (402-391-6148), or you can call me at my office at First Lutheran in Papillion (402-339-3668). I want to make this transition as smooth as I possibly can so please do not hesitate to be in touch.

God bless you in this New Year and always.

In His Service

Pastor Ron Benson

Vacancy Pastor

St. Mark Lutheran Church

Let the Son Shine

Omaha/Fremont Area Quad-Circuit event to be held January 29, 2012

LCMS Lutherans will gather for a joint mission event at 4:00 PM on January 29, 2012. The location will be here at St Mark Lutheran Church in Omaha.

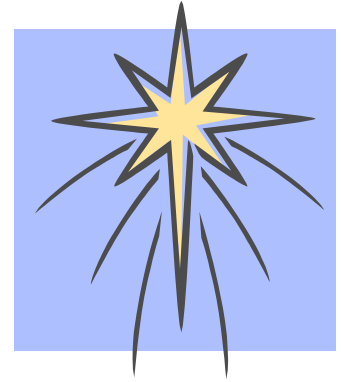
This will be a joyous event to celebrate our common identity as disciples and to celebrate our united mission through the church at large. There will be a wide variety of music and musicians from churches and schools from the three Omaha circuits and also the Fremont circuit. There will also be readings and dramatic elements and a mission message. The speaker will be President Russell Sommerfeld of the Nebraska District.

There will be a mass choir for adults and another for children. The Select Choir of Concordia Senior High will participate. There will be a variety of instrumentalists and a contemporary worship band. We hope to unite, encourage and strengthen LCMS Lutherans of Omaha in our common mission.

The event will be followed with a soup supper served in Falkenroth Hall.

Similar events have been held in recent years at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church. Now it is time for St. Mark to play host up here on the north side.

Choir Rehearsals for the mass adult choir will be scheduled at various times and locations throughout the metro area. Church Choirs and individuals can also practice the mass choir music on their own. Singers are welcome at choir rehearsals at St. Mark on Wednesday, January 18 and Wednesday, January 25 at 7:00 PM. Joint rehearsals for all singers will take place at St. Mark on Saturday January 21 at 10:00 AM and Sunday, January 29 at 2:30 PM.



Wednesday Schedule
Resuming Jan. 4:

Alleluia Club/Children's Choir 5:30 PM
Adult Choir 6:30-8:00 PM in the Balcony
Men's Choir meets on selected dates as scheduled.
Worship Musicians meets most Mondays from 6:00-7:15 and on one Saturday AM per month.

Sing in Church Or Join a Choir in 2012. For reasons, go to <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/>

A January 2010 article at the UK website [medicalnewstoday](http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/) touts the health benefits of singing. The effects are so positive that it appears likely that doctors will soon be "prescribing" singing in the same way they prescribe drugs and exercise. Physical, mental and social benefits of singing are outlined. The following therapeutic benefits are listed:

- **Communication:** the singing *warm up* (exercises involving whole body, neck, shoulders, jaw, face, lips, tongue, diaphragm) strengthens neural connections to the voice and breath, and doing them in a group is fun and non-threatening compared to doing it one-to-one.
- **Cognition:** singing challenges concentration and attention, especially when techniques such as singing from memory, combining rhythm with action, and mental substitution are used.
- **Engagement:** for example making eye contact across the group and expressing to the audience the emotional message of a song.
- **Confidence:** joining a singing group can build confidence from the gradual gaining of skills, vocal strength and the thrill of being able to remember so much. Fear of failure is lessened when everyone is in the same situation and group members laugh together when they make mistakes.
- **Relationships:** in a group with a shared purpose and a leader that treats everyone equally, there is a chance to get away from those situations where you are a person with a condition, and relate to people in a different way. You make friends, find and give support, and express frustrations and emotions about relationship problems in many songs that cover those areas of life.
- **Empowerment:** by leading singing rounds, taking responsibility for setting out chairs, getting scores ready, writing lyrics, greeting new members, there is a wide range of roles that help people feel more in charge of themselves and their lives and what they contribute to a group. (Retirees) also benefit: giving them a new role when they have lost a major one.
- **Exercise and stress reduction:** an excellent way to reduce stress is learning to exhale; it increases circulation as the diaphragm massages internal organs. It releases endorphins and improves the immune response.

Much more information is available at the above link. Just type in "singing" in the search box and the articles will be listed.



From Julie Kyriss, Director/Teacher St. Mark Lutheran Pre-

The preschool will resume sessions on January 4th. I am sure each child will have many wonderful stories about how they spent their Christmas vacation. It will be wonderful to have them all back in school!

Each class has a weekly worship in the sanctuary and the preschool continues to support Project Hope with a weekly canned food collection during worship.

January bible stories:

January 2nd Boy Jesus at the Temple
January 8th Jesus chooses 12 disciples
January 15th Jesus blesses the children
January 22ⁿ A forgiving Father
January 29th Ten men with leprosy

This month our two older classes will go on a field trip to The Kid's Body Shop in Papillion. Each class will have the opportunity to swings on bars, walk on the balance beams, jump in the foam pit, climb the rope ladder and tumble on various mats. The children will have a wonderful time!

Registration for the 2012-13 school year will begin in February. If you are interested in scheduling a tour or would like more information regarding the preschool, please contact Julie Kyriss at jkyriss@stmarkomaha.org or call 402—391-6148.

Hospice Volunteer Education-Sessions of 2012 are needed to provide companionship and support for individuals living with terminal illnesses and their families. Volunteers choose the hours they are able to serve and determine the geographical in metro Omaha/Council Bluffs and surrounding area or at Hospice House-The Josie Harper Residence will take place in February, June and October. Please call one of the agencies;

VNA Hospice	Cindy Calhoun	930-4261
Methodist Hospice	Amy Anderson	354-3200
Alegent Hospice	Mary Pendell	898-8150
Hospice House	Kerryanne Miske	343-8600

Dear St. Mark Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for your monetary contribution to the Concordia Seminary Food Bank. We really appreciate your generosity. The Food Bank is a huge blessing to us as it allows us to save a lot of money on our grocery bill each month. Go Huskers!! We'll be home to Lincoln & Hastings for Christmas. Anthony & Stacy Gerber.

Adult Choir is looking for more singers. We especially need basses. Join now to sing for the new year We meet at 6:30 in the Balcony on Wednesdays beginning January 4, 2012.

PROJECT HOPE NEEDS Project Hope is in need of good, clean, usable clothing for all ages but especially for men, boys, children and babies. Also a great need for winter coats for all ages, male and female. Their ongoing needs are personal care items such as: toilet paper, tooth paste, tooth brushes, dish soap, etc; baby food and formula and the great need for food. Thank you for your support.

Tour Highlights:

God's WORD Tour Old Testament Edition 2012 has arrived!

We hope that your journey through the New Testament using God's Word Tour has been a great blessing to you during 2011. Continue your journey with us in 2012 by using the God's Word Tour OT Edition reading plan!

The Old Testament invites you to ride in the ark with Noah, face Goliath & the Philistines with David, and live by faith with Abraham, Moses & the prophets. Join the great heroes and heroines of the faith as they serve God. Along with the daily Old Testament readings, we will read Psalms on Sundays. On Saturdays from Sept – Dec we will read the chief parts of the Small Catechism. Pick up your *God's Word Tour: OT Edition* today! You can find hard copies in the pew racks or download a copy from www.stmarkomaha.org.

Join us on *God's WORD Tour: OT Edition* in 2012!

Get the daily readings at www.stmarkomaha.org

Birthdays

BEBER, CAROL	1/1	MCINTYRE, GWENDOLYN	1/11	GABEL, LINDA	1/22
BOLL, JEANNE	1/1	BEBER, CHRISTOPHER	1/12	O'LEARY, BECKY	1/22
KIRKLE, PHILIP	1/1	BUCHELE, MELANIE	1/12	SAMPSON, [RICHARD]	1/22
SWERCZEK, MARY	1/1	TROST, GREG	1/12	ABRAHAM, JOSIE*	1/23
KLOSTER, TAIGAN	1/2	URBANEC, MATTHEW	1/12	MCCLELLAN, [RYAN]	1/23
ROSENTHAL, MARVIN	1/2	BERNER, KATHY	1/13	RINGLER, MICHAEL	1/23
BEATY, [CHRISTIAN]	1/3	RODIS, ELIZABETH	1/13	SPICKA, LYLLA	1/23
NATHAN, SARAH	1/3	ARNASON, ELIZABETH	1/14	VINCENT, CHERYL	1/23
PEETZKE, ANASTASIA*	1/3	HARRIS, WALDINE	1/15	BUCKMAN, ASHLEY	1/24
SCALZO, CHRISTOPHER	1/3	KEY, SOPHIA	1/15	GAVIN, MARLENE	1/24
MAYNARD, EVELYN	1/4	KYLE, RICK	1/16	HORST, LAUREN*	1/24
BELLANTI, SAMUEL	1/5	SWANDA, NATALIE	1/17	WOTEN, TRICIA	1/24
SIDES JR, ROY	1/5	ADAMS, LEN	1/18	BUCHELE, SCOTT	1/25
JOHNSON, VICTORIA*	1/6	VILLA , LATRISHA	1/18	JAROSE, MACEY*	1/25
MUGANYIZI, CHRISTIAN*	1/7	DAMON-BURKE, MARY	1/18	HORST, EMILY*	1/26
PARKERT, JOHN	1/7	LEU, JUSTIN	1/18	LIEBSACK, SAVANNAH*	1/26
LICHTY, SHIRLEY	1/8	LICHT, ADAM	1/18	OLSON, MELODYE	1/26
MALCOM, JULIE	1/8	MOON, KATHRYN	1/18	ACHENBACH, EATHAN*	1/27
RIPLEY, JESSICA	1/8	POPPE, MAXINE	1/18	GEORGE, KENNETH R.	1/27
FISHER, EBONI*	1/9	STOLZENBURG, KATHYLENE	1/18	MONACO, LEXI	1/27
JOHNS, MICHELLE	1/9	IRWIN, MATTHEW*	1/19	WARD, JEFFREY	1/27
MUNSON, EMILY*	1/9	VOECKS, STANLEY	1/19	O'DOWD, CHARLES*	1/28
WACKER, ALEX	1/9	JOHNSON, CAROL	1/20	JOHNSON, KATHRYN	1/29
ELROD, DALE	1/10	MATUSKA, KATARINA	1/20	MCKOWN, BRODY	1/29
ERICKSON, WILLIAM	1/10	OSBORNE, KEVIN	1/20	NATHAN, RONALD	1/29
MCCLUSKY, CIARA*	1/10	RAWSON, [TAYLOR]	1/20	CORRY, JACKSON*	1/30
MERRILL, LOGAN*	1/10	WATSON, ZACHARY	1/20	ROY, MICHELE	1/31
ROWELL, ILENE	1/10	ACHENBACH, TONYA	1/21		

Anniversary

DAVID & JESSICA CLARK	1/4	5	BARBARA & [THOMAS] BESCH	1/20	43
MAX & GWENDOLYN MCINTYRE	1/9	40	NEIL & MARILYN PETERS	1/21	48

~ January 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Christmas Break begins for St. Mark Preschool (Preschool room)	Christmas Break begins for St. Mark Preschool (Preschool room)	Christmas Break begins for St. Mark Preschool (Preschool room)	Christmas Break begins for St. Mark Preschool (Preschool room)	11a-2p Funeral (Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall)	12p-12p St. Mark Offices close at Noon (St. Mark Offices close at Noon)	8a-3p PALS Basketball League (Gymnasium)
10a-11a Worship - with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)	St. Mark Office Closed	5:30p-7p Gym in Use - Klepser (Gymnasium)	8:45a-9:30a Concordia Academy Chapel (Sanctuary)	3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	1p-1:30p Concordia Academy Band Practice (Sanctuary)	8a-2p Omaha Japanese School (Concordia Academy Classrooms)
		7p-9p Bible Study w/ Pastor Wilkens (Library)	9:30a-10a Pre-School Chapel (Sanctuary)	7p-8:30p PPC Meeting (Library)	3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	5:30p-6:30p Worship - Traditional (Sanctuary)
		7p-9p Concordia PALS meeting (Classroom)	2p-2p Concordia Academy Early Dismissal - 2:00 p.m. (Concordia Academy), Fellowship Hall)			
			5p-6p NRGize (Gymnasium)			
			5:30p-6:30p Midweek Meal (Fellowship Hall)			
			5:30p-6:15p Children's Choir and Alleluia Club (Classrooms)			
			6:30p-8p Midweek Classes and CDT classes (Fellowship Hall and Classrooms)			
			6:30p-7:30p Adult Choir Practice (Balcony)			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8a-9a Worship - Traditional (Sanctuary)	9:15a-9:45a Preschool Chapel (Sanctuary)	9:15a-9:45a Preschool Chapel (Sanctuary)	8:45a-9:30a Concordia Academy Chapel (Sanctuary)	3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	9:15a-10:15a Women's Bible Study (Library)	8a-3p PALS Basketball League (Gymnasium)
9:15a-10:15a Christian Education Hour	11:45a-12:15p Concordia Academy Band Practice (Sanctuary)	10:30a-3p Lutheran Women of Omaha (Fellowship Hall)	9:30a-10a Pre-School Chapel (Sanctuary)		1p-1:30p Concordia Academy Band Practice (Sanctuary)	8a-2p Omaha Japanese School (Concordia Academy Classrooms)
9:15a-10:15a Worship - Blended (Sanctuary)	12p-1:30p Staff Meeting (Library)	1:15p-1:45p Preschool Chapel (Sanctuary)	11:30a-1p Senior Luncheon (Falkenroth Hall)		3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	5:30p-6:30p Worship - Traditional (Sanctuary)
10:30a-11:30a Worship - Contemporary (Sanctuary)	3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	5p-6p NRGize (Gymnasium)		5p-10p Preschool Movie Night (Fellowship Hall)	
11a-5p Fellowship Hall in Use - Fiscus (Fellowship Hall)		5:30p-7p Gym in Use - Klepser (Gymnasium)	5:30p-6:30p Midweek Meal (Fellowship Hall)		5:30p-9p CHS Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	
6p-7p Pack 412 - Tiger Den Meeting (Library)		7p-9p Bible Study w/ Pastor Wilkens (Library)	5:30p-6:15p Children's Choir and Alleluia Club (Classrooms)			
7:30p-9p Pack 412 - Parents Meeting (Library)			6:30p-8p Midweek Classes and CDT classes (Fellowship Hall and Classrooms)			
			6:30p-7:30p Adult Choir Practice (Balcony)			

~ January 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8a-9a Worship - Traditional (Sanctuary)	NO School - Concordia Academy (All classrooms)	9:15a-9:45a Preschool Chapel (Sanctuary)	8:45a-9:30a Concordia Academy Chapel (Sanctuary)	3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	9:15a-10:15a Women's Bible Study (Library)	8a-3p PALS Basketball League (Gymnasium)
9:15a-10:15a Christian Education Hour	9:15a-9:45a Preschool Chapel (Sanctuary)	1:15p-1:45p Preschool Chapel (Sanctuary)	9:30a-10a Pre-School Chapel (Sanctuary)	5:30p-9p CHS Basketball practice (Gymnasium)	1p-1:30p Concordia Academy Band Practice (Sanctuary)	8a-2p Omaha Japanese School (Concordia Academy Classrooms)
9:15a-10:15a Worship - Blended (Sanctuary)	12p-1:30p Staff Meeting (Library)	3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	5p-6p NRGize (Gymnasium)	6p-8:30p Ministry Action Team Meetings	3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	9a-6p OJS Mochi Party (Kitchen and Fellowship Hall)
10:30a-11:30a Worship - Contemporary (Sanctuary)		5:30p-6:30p Midweek Meal (Fellowship Hall)	5:30p-6:15p Children's Choir and Alleluia Club (Classrooms)			5:30p-6:30p Worship - Traditional (Sanctuary)
		5:30p-7p Gym in Use - Klepser (Gymnasium)	6:30p-8p Midweek Classes and CDT classes (Fellowship Hall and Classrooms)			
		7p-9p Bible Study w/ Pastor Wilkens (Library)	6:30p-7:30p Adult Choir Practice (Balcony)			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8a-9a Worship - Traditional (Sanctuary)	9:15a-9:45a Preschool Chapel (Sanctuary)	9:15a-9:45a Preschool Chapel (Sanctuary)	8:45a-9:30a Concordia Academy Chapel (Sanctuary)	10a-12p LWML Rebekah Circle meeting (Library)	9:15a-10:15a Women's Bible Study (Library)	8a-3p PALS Basketball League (Gymnasium)
9:15a-10:15a Christian Education Hour	11:45a-12:15p Concordia Academy Band Practice (Sanctuary)	12:30p-2:30p LWML Lydia Circle, Circle Meeting (St. Mark Library)	9:30a-10a Pre-School Chapel (Sanctuary)	3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	1p-1:30p Concordia Academy Band Practice (Sanctuary)	8a-2p Omaha Japanese School (Concordia Academy Classrooms)
9:15a-10:15a Worship - Blended (Sanctuary)	12p-1:30p Staff Meeting (Library)	1:15p-1:45p Preschool Chapel (Sanctuary)	5p-6p NRGize (Gymnasium)	7p-8p PPC Meeting (Library)	3:30p-10p Wedding Rehearsal - Munderloh - Time TBA (Sanctuary)	1p-5p Munderloh Wedding 3pm (Sanctuary)
10:30a-11:30a Worship - Contemporary (Sanctuary)	1:15p-2:15p Fellowship Hall in Use - 4th Grade (Fellowship Hall)	3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	5:30p-6:30p Midweek Meal (Fellowship Hall)		3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	5:30p-6:30p Worship - Traditional (Sanctuary)
11:30a-3p Special Voter's Meeting and Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)	3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	5:30p-7p Gym in Use - Klepser (Gymnasium)	5:30p-6:15p Children's Choir and Alleluia Club (Classrooms)		5:30p-10p CHS Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	
6p-8p Pack 412 Pack Meeting (Fellowship Hall\, Kitchen and Gymnasium)		7p-9p Bible Study w/ Pastor Wilkens (Library)	6:30p-8p Midweek Classes and CDT classes (Fellowship Hall and Classrooms)		7p-8p Bible Study - Library- See Cindy for details (Library)	
			6:30p-7:30p Adult Choir Practice (Balcony)			
29	30	31				
8a-9a Worship - Traditional (Sanctuary)	9:15a-9:45a Preschool Chapel (Sanctuary)	9:15a-9:45a Preschool Chapel (Sanctuary)				
9:15a-10:15a Christian Education Hour	11:45a-12:15p Concordia Academy Band Practice (Sanctuary)	1:15p-1:45p Preschool Chapel (Sanctuary)				
9:15a-10:15a Worship - Blended (Sanctuary)	12p-1:30p Staff Meeting (Library)	3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)				
10:30a-11:30a Worship - Contemporary (Sanctuary)	3:30p-5:30p CA Basketball Practice (Gymnasium)	5:30p-7p Gym in Use - Klepser (Gymnasium)				
11:30a-3p Voter's Meeting and Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)		7p-9p Bible Study w/ Pastor Wilkens (Library)				
2p-3p Circuit Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)						
3p-6p TriCircuit Worship (Sanctuary)						
4p-7p Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)						

The Messenger

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

You!