

MARKINGS

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Issue 6

GREETINGS IN CHRIST FROM PASTOR ALBERS

Blessed Father's Day

This being the month of June and having a day designated as Father's Day, I thought I would share a popular story about a father.

The story is about a firefighter and how he had gone to a blaze, which was destroying a two-story home. Everyone had made it out when the smallest boy remembered something he had forgotten. Without anyone seeing him, he managed to make it back to his bedroom on the second floor. He made it in, but he couldn't get out.

Seeing his son at his bedroom window, the father shouted, "Jump, son! I'll catch you!" The boy cried, "Daddy, I can't see you!" "I know," his dad called back, "but I can see you."

When we were growing up, it was really important for us to be seen by our fathers, wasn't it? A smile or an arm around the shoulder could make all the difference for us. Now that I'm older, it's still true. Yes, my earthly father has run his race, but my heavenly Father is still watching over me.

Although I'm no longer a little boy, there are times when I feel very small and helpless. That's when His smile and His heavenly hand on my shoulder make a difference. By faith in the crucified and risen Savior, I know I am not alone! I can't see my Father, but it's enough that He sees me and is there to catch me.

That's why we love the passage from Isaiah 40:28-31 which says: "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." And also Psalm 33:13-14 & 21-22: "The Lord looks down from

heaven; He sees all the children of man; from where He sits enthroned He looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth. We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name."

Dear heavenly Father, we thank and praise You that we are never alone. Even in the darkest times, we know You are beside us. Thank You for seeing us through Your eyes of love. May we try to live our life in honor of You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

~Pastor Ken Albers

THANK YOU

- to the family of Gerald Koehler. The donations in memory of Gerald will greatly impact the funding drive currently in place for the building and parking lot improvement.
- to the family of Lester Rusch. Donations to the building improvement fund are very much appreciated. Donations to the preschool are being put into good use. The planters on the patio are beautiful and eye-catching.

THANK YOU FOR PRAYERS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of St. Mark's: I would like to thank you for your prayers, cards, and phone calls. By God's grace I am healing well. I am so very blessed to have a wonderful church family. God's blessings to you one and all. ~Ruby Phillips

MARKINGS This month's issue of the MARKINGS is sponsored by Burnell and Jeanette Utecht in thanksgiving to God and celebration for their 56th Wedding Anniversary which is on June 25th. They are thankful for the many blessings and family God has given them. Happy Anniversary, Burnell and Jeanette!

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please note that we have begun our summer worship schedule. Now through Labor Day, our Sunday morning worship services will be at 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. Our Wednesday evening services will continue at 6:00 p.m.

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church
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GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Next Sunday, June 5th, we will be honoring our high school graduates with special recognition in our 9:30 a.m. worship service.

Landon Bailey
Lawson Bailey
Brett Hoey
Macey Kniess
Madeleine Mayer
Matthew Michaud
Emelyn Sheehan
Erik Sherfinski
Ethan Tallitsch
Taylor Wilkowski

THRIVENT NEWS

Thank you to everyone who designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars providing St. Marks with over \$2749 in 2015. Eligible member of Thrivent Financial may direct their FREE choice dollars to St. Mark's Church and Preschool by going to: thrivent.com/thrivenchoice or calling 1-800-THRIVENT and say "Thrivent Choice".

MINISTRY MEMBERS INSTALLED

All newly elected ministry members will be installed in both worship services on Sunday, June 12th.

PRESCHOOL OPENINGS

There are still openings in both our 3 and 4 year-old classes starting in the fall. Word of mouth is our best advertisement. Please tell your friends and family members about St. Mark's Preschool. Enrollment forms and information can be obtained at the church office.

7TH & 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Parents and youth please mark your calendars for the upcoming 7th and 8th grade Confirmation Retreat at Camp Luther. The dates for this year's retreat are August 21-23, 2016. Please submit your \$25.00 deposit, made out to St. Mark's, as soon as possible.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

The children ended their school year with a BANG at their *Red, White, and Blue Celebration*. Families were here to celebrate their time learning about Jesus and the world around them. We were able to host an ol' fashioned ice cream sundae party with help from Pastor Bruce, Trevor, Barb Hartwig, Kris Sparks, and Bev Sturm and their strong scooping arms! Thank you to parents, families, staff, and church members for your prayers and continued support!

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE

The Education Ministry invites parents who wish to enroll their child(ren) in a Christian elementary, high school or Christian college (when preparing for full time church work), or seminary to complete the application for budgeted tuition assistance in the amount of \$850 per student. Forms are available in the office and must be returned to church by June 30th for assistance in the 2015-2016 school year.

BACKPACKS FOR HAITI

We will be shipping backpacks, used or new, to Haiti by the end of June. These will be given to children who have only a plastic bag in which to carry their school supplies.

If a new backpack is being bought for next school year your old one would be a real blessing to someone else. Leave them in a box in the church entry area. God's blessings on your sharing and thanks for your considerations!

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN THANKS

We sincerely thank everyone who gave so freely of their time and talents to make our annual Orphan Grain Train Fish Boil on May 13th such a wonderful success. The Orphan Grain Train is an ongoing relief effort that provides clothes, medical supplies, soap, quilts, etc. around the world. We especially thank all those who worked at the meal, St. Mark's for the use of the building, those who donated the delicious cakes, those who gave monetary gifts, Thrivent Financial for their Care in Community funds, and to everyone who attended! We served 423 people and \$2,871 was raised to help offset shipping costs for this humanitarian mission. Praise God! We also thank the quilters of St. Mark's who lovingly made 232 quilts and lap robes this past year with many of them donated to the OGT and those who donated materials for the quilts. What a blessing they will be to those in need!

--Orphan Grain Train -
Volunteers, Wisconsin Division



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AND NEW FRESHMEN

You ever had so much adrenaline pumping through your body that you feel like you could take on an entire army by yourself? I have and I want to give this same feeling for you as well.

WHAT: we are heading out to go paintballing

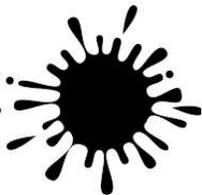
WHEN: June 25th

TIME: Meet at St Mark's parking lot at 7:30 am

NEED: permission forms for the paintball field signed and St Marks med/ release forms signed prior to leaving for paintballing and bring a sack lunch!

COST: \$25 covers all that you will need for the day

Contact Trevor for information if you so desire to take on the challenge!



SCHOOL CLOTHING AND TOY GIVEAWAY

The M.I.A. (Men In Action) will be having a school clothing give-a-way on August 5, 2016, and a Toy Give-A-Way on December 2, 2016, for families in need. If you

have good, clean clothing that you would like to donate, please drop them off at the church anytime between now and August. Mark the containers they are in with M.I.A. We will also need a lot of toys for the toy give-a-way. Please start saving good, clean, workable toys for the



December event. Toys can be dropped off at St. Mark's anytime between now and December. Mark the toy containers with M.I.A. as well. With rummage sales happening all over the area, why not pick up some good clothing and toys for the give-a-ways? While you are at the sales, ask the people what they do with the left over clothing and toys. Tell them we'll take the left over toys and clothing to give away to needy families. Leave your name and phone number with them. Thanks! Questions? Call Lee Belmas 715-551-7394.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The Parish Planning Council gave the ok to print a business directory for business owners who are members at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. This directory would be made available to all members at St. Mark's. It's a great way to support our business owners by supporting their businesses. If you are a business owner and a member of St. Mark's, please e-mail Lee Belmas by May 31st if you are interested in having your business information printed. leeandfran@charter.net. We'd like to get the first printing done by July/August.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Watch for updates about the upcoming ice cream social on June 28th from 4-6:30pm. There will be BBQ's, hot dogs, and of course ice cream. Details are in the works, so watch the announcements and bulletins for more information.



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

On Sunday, May 15 we celebrated with our St. Mark's young people as they repeated their baptismal vows in the rite of Confirmation, making another important step along their journey as Christ's followers:

Emily Butzlaff
Niklas Drews
Hunter Kniess
McKenzie Larson
Caleb Novitch
Bryana Schalow
Rebecca Schoch
McKayla Stieve
Tara Wilkowski

BABY BOTTLES FOR HOPE

Thank you to the families that have returned their baby bottles for the HOPE life center. If you haven't heard, this agency provides resources for women including ultrasounds and counseling. Please make sure to drop off donations and make a difference.

