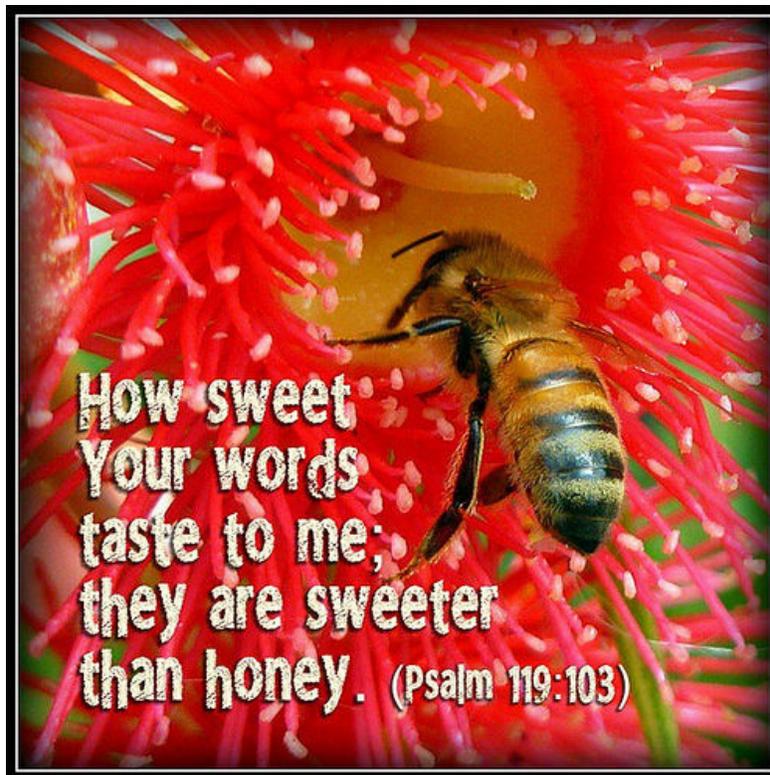




**FINAL**



July 30, 2017

8th Sunday after Pentecost

St. Mark's is a member of the  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



Pastor Aaron Nitz  
Principal Nathan Bitter  
2220 Anne St NW, Bemidji, MN 56601  
(218) 444-3939  
[www.stmarksbemidji.org](http://www.stmarksbemidji.org)

## **Welcome to God's House of Worship!**

We consider it a privilege to worship our living Lord with you this morning! If you have any questions regarding our congregation, please talk with the pastor. We look forward to meeting you. Please come again and worship with us very soon!

- The order of worship is found in this folder.
- Restrooms are located in the foyer.
- Our fellowship hall is equipped with a speaker and child-friendly toys.
- Our service lasts about 65 minutes.

## **God's Word Gives Life and Blessing**

How long can you go without eating? How long can a person go without being fed spiritually? Not long. Thank the Lord that He's given us His Word. In His Word God not only gives us what we desperately need, eternal life through Jesus, but He also promises to give us more love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc. Thank the Lord that His Word will not return to Him empty!

## **Prayer Before Worship**

Gracious Lord, forgive me for neglecting the use of Your Word. Help me to see the importance of Your Word in my life and the lives of those close to me. Assure me of the complete forgiveness You have given me through Jesus. Amen.

*Preservice music will be used to help in quiet preparation for worship.*

# Service of the Word

*This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.*

*If you would like to follow along with the music for this liturgy,  
it begins on page 38 in the front of the hymnal.*

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## We Enter God's Presence

### OPENING HYMN

**Speak, O Lord**  
*Christian Worship Supplement 735*  
*(printed on pages 14-15)*

*Please stand*

Minister: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. <sup>1</sup>

**Congregation: And also with you.**

### CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

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<sup>1</sup> The name of the Triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our Heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### **OH, TASTE AND SEE**

*(music can be found in the front of the hymnal on page 39)*

**C: (sung) Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: (sung) Amen.**

*Be seated*

# We Listen to God's Word

## FIRST LESSON

**Isaiah 55:10-13** (EHV)

*God's Word has the power to accomplish what He wants.*

<sup>10</sup>Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky  
and do not return there unless they water the earth,  
make it give birth, and cause it to sprout,  
and it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>so it will be with my Word that goes forth from my mouth.  
It will not return to me empty.  
Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please,  
and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.  
<sup>12</sup>Because in joy you will go forth,  
and in peace you will be carried along.  
The mountains and the hills will burst forth before you with shouts of joy,  
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn, a fir tree will grow up.  
Instead of the brier, a myrtle tree will grow up.  
And it will make a name for the LORD,  
an everlasting sign that will not be cut off.

## PSALM OF THE DAY <sup>2</sup>

**Psalm 65**

*Page 89 in the front of the hymnal*

## SECOND LESSON

**Acts 18:1-11** (EHV)

*The Apostle Paul planted the Word of God in Corinth.*

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2 The book of Psalms was the "hymn-book" for the Old Testament believers.

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup>There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them. <sup>3</sup>Because he had the same occupation, he stayed and worked with them, for they were tentmakers by trade. <sup>4</sup>Every Sabbath he led a discussion in the synagogue, trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

<sup>5</sup>When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was entirely devoted to preaching the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. <sup>6</sup>But when they opposed Paul and slandered him, he shook out his clothes and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles!"

<sup>7</sup>He left that place and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshipper of God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. <sup>8</sup>Crispus, the synagogue leader, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized.

<sup>9</sup>One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid, but keep on speaking, and do not be silent. <sup>10</sup>For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, because I have many people in this city." <sup>11</sup>He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**Deuteronomy 30:14 cf. (NIV84)**

**M:** Alleluia. The Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. Alleluia.

**C:** (*sung*) **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Please stand for the highlight of the service: the Gospel.*

## GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (EHV)

*God plants His Word in our hearts; that Word creates saving faith and fruits of faith.*

That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea. <sup>2</sup>A large crowd gathered around him. So he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup>He told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen, a sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it. <sup>5</sup>Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately the seed sprang up, because the soil was not deep. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it. <sup>8</sup>But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown. <sup>9</sup>Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear."

<sup>18</sup>"So listen carefully to the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the seed that was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup>yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>The seed that was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it produces no fruit. <sup>23</sup>But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown."

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**Preach You the Word**  
*Christian Worship 544*

## **SERMON**

Text: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Theme: Listen to the Word

*Please stand*

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES' CREED <sup>3</sup>**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

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<sup>3</sup> Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word.

# We Respond to God's Word with Thanks

## OFFERING & FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS

*The members of St. Mark's have joined together to spread God's message both in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. You are our guests, and we thank you for giving us the opportunity to share God's Word with you! Please take a moment to sign our friendship register.*

*Please stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Be seated*

#### **HYMN**

**Spread, Oh, Spread the Mighty Word**

*Christian Worship 576*

*Please stand*

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in

life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** *(sung)* **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**C:** *(sung)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

### **Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast**

*Christian Worship 324*



### WELCOME!

If this is your first time worshipping with St. Mark<sup>☪</sup>, we pray it will be the first of many times! If you have questions, please feel free to speak with Pastor or one of the members. Materials are available in the entry; take as much as you<sup>@</sup> like.

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Janet Bitzer (with health concerns)

Sally Carroll (with health concerns)

Ruth Willberg (with health concerns—cancer)

Mary Estabrooks (surgery)

Kevin Peterson (with health concerns—cancer)

Pat Berget (with health concerns—cancer, surgery)

Befriend-a-Mission - Iglesia Luterana Cristo in Milwaukee

Jillian Ricci (mission trip to Uganda)

### ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Early: \_\_

Late: \_\_

Total: \_\_

### YOUR GIFTS OF LOVE FOR JESUS

*"Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." (2 Corinthians 8:7)*

Contributions last week \$4,737

Contributions needed each week \$5,122

Contributions year to date \$151,051

Budget year to date \$149,168

Amount borrowed from savings to meet expenses \$0

### SERVING THE LORD AND US

Organists: Marjorie Gildersleeve, Jan Jason

Greeters: Darold & Judy K., Ken G. & Millie D.

Ushers: T. Carroll, B. Wyman, N. Barckholtz, P. Jones,

T. Holderbecker, G. Berget, P. Ekhoﬀ

Church cleaning for 8/5: W. Newell\*, L. Newell, Willison, Bengtson, Konecne

## **Announcements**

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to Pastor Peter Naumann for leading worship and sharing a message from God's Word with us today. Pastor Naumann is a retired Pastor living in Lafayette, MN. He previously served at Petra Lutheran in Sauk Rapids, MN and also served as circuit pastor there (including over St. Mark's). He then accepted a call to Mobridge and Glenham, SD. While in South Dakota, he served for many years as the District President for the Dakota/Montana District of the WELS. He and his wife Barb have three sons.

### PASTOR ON VACATION

Pastor Nitz will be returning tomorrow. If pastoral assistance is needed before then, please contact one of St. Mark's elders or Pastor Seth Scheuerlein from St. Luke's in Grand Rapids. He can be reached at [262-339-4995](tel:262-339-4995).

### KEVIN PETERSON'S ADDRESS (for the next 3-5 weeks)

705 2nd St SW #62, Rochester, MN 55902



### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

St. Mark's Community Event/NNO Celebration will be held this week Tuesday, August 1st from 4:00—8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Please consider volunteering at the event. Any questions, contact Ken Grob. [218-699-3040](tel:218-699-3040)

### VOTERS MEETING—AUGUST 6

The council has decided to reconvene the April Voters meeting on **August 6th after the late service**. (The April meeting was recessed.) Information has been gathered on large projects and we're hoping to solidify a clearer direction for the church to go forward. The projects are:

- purchase of adjacent property
- expansion of school classroom space
- remodeling of sanctuary area (flooring, seating, etc)
- parking lot paving
- new playground

### YOUTH GROUP TRIP

There will be another WELS Youth Group trip to Wild Mountain on August 7. The cost is \$31 a person plus food. If you are interested in attending, please talk to TJ or Joy and we will try to set something up.

### YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER

A few months ago some members of the youth group sold coupon books as a fundraiser. The company gave us 100 books at \$10 each and we could sell them for \$20, and return the books we did not sell. However, the company has charged us for all 100 and will not take back the other books, so we are looking to sell the rest. The book includes coupons to restaurants, auto shops, and stores around Bemidji- with free items on every page. Since the coupons expire in January, we would be willing to sell them for \$15 just so we can cover the price of all 100 books. If you would like to see a sample or buy a book, please talk to Joy Holderbecker or email her at [jaholderbecker@gmail.com](mailto:jaholderbecker@gmail.com) with any questions.



#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>July 30 (Sun)...</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b> (Pentecost 8)
	9:15 a.m.	Bible Class
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>
Aug 1 (Tues)...	7:30 a.m.	Mens Bible Study @ Country Kitchen
	4-8 p.m.	NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
Aug 2 (Wed)...	10:00 a.m.	Moms & Tots
Aug 3 (Thurs)...	6:00 p.m.	All board and committee meetings
	7:30 p.m.	Council meeting
<b>Aug 6 (Sun)...</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship with Communion</b> (Pentecost 9)
	9:15 a.m.	Bible Class
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship with Communion</b>
	11:45 a.m.	Voters meeting

\*If you would like to have St. Mark's online calendar synced with your Google calendar, you can choose "Add a friend's calendar" and put in: stmarkbemidji@gmail.com.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

St. Mark's church & school	444-3939	
Pastor Aaron Nitz	766-0400	<a href="mailto:pastor@stmarksbemidji.org">pastor@stmarksbemidji.org</a>
Principal Nathan Bitter	759-0398	<a href="mailto:principal@stmarksbemidji.org">principal@stmarksbemidji.org</a>
Elder Bob Boe	243-2888	
Chairman Trevor Holderbecker	766-7487	<a href="mailto:tj@stmarksbemidji.org">tj@stmarksbemidji.org</a>
Website Editor Phil Avery	497-0223	<a href="mailto:web@stmarksbemidji.org">web@stmarksbemidji.org</a>
Announcements (bulletin or newsletter)		<a href="mailto:announce@stmarksbemidji.org">announce@stmarksbemidji.org</a>

## St. Mark's Mission Statement

We, the members of St. Mark's, are a Christ-centered church family that will **glorify** God, **grow** in His Word, and **go** with it to all.  
(1 Corinthians 10:31, 2 Peter 3:18, Matthew 28:18-20)