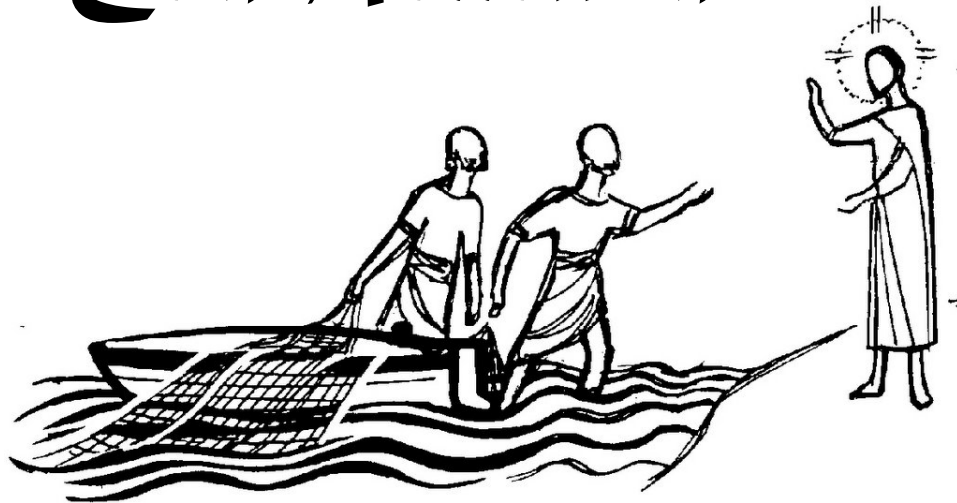




"Come, follow me"



January 28, 2018
Third Sunday after Epiphany

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



Pastor Aaron Nitz
Principal Nathan Bitter
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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 entry area.
- Our fellowship hall is equipped with a speaker and child-friendly toys.
- Our service lasts about 65 minutes.

Dispelling Darkness: We Follow Christ

In Epiphany we are watching as our Savior is revealed to us as True God. Today in our current message series "Dispelling Darkness," we witness the power of Jesus' Gospel call. It was powerful enough to change the hearts of the wicked Ninevites (Jonah 3), powerful enough to convince the disciples to follow Jesus even though John the Baptist had just been imprisoned (Mark 1), and powerful enough to make us ready to follow Him in all our callings (Acts 13). It is only the full and free forgiveness of our sins that motivates us to be ready and willing to follow Jesus no matter the cost!

Prayer Before Worship

O Holy Spirit, shine the light of the Gospel ever brighter in my heart that I might see Jesus, my Savior, ever more clearly this morning. May the Gospel strengthen, motivate, and empower me once again to be ready to sacrifice all worldly things in order not to lose the one thing needful, You and Your precious Word. 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.*

We Enter God's Presence

OPENING HYMN

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
Christian Worship 452

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. ¹

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.

¹ 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, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 (NIV2011)

The power of the Gospel is seen in God's calling of the unfit and unworthy.

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

³Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” ⁵The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 62

Page 88 in the front of the hymnal

SECOND LESSON

Acts 13:1-5 (NIV2011)

The glorious power of the Gospel calls us all to serve the Lord with our lives.

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. ⁵When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 4:23 (NIV84)

M: Alleluia. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching, preaching, and healing every disease. 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

Mark 1:14-20 (NIV2011)

Jesus' Gospel words carry the power to convince His disciples to follow Him.

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke
Christian Worship 453

SERMON

Text: Acts 13:1-5

Theme: "Called to Serve the Lord"

Please stand

CONFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES' CREED ³

**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

3 Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word.

We Respond to God's Word with Thanks

OFFERING ⁴ & 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

⁴ Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer Him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

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

O Christ, Who Called the Twelve
Christian Worship Supplement 770
(printed on the next page)

Please stand

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

BLESSING⁵

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.**

CHOIR ANTHEM (8:00)

Jordan's Waters
(Christ, Our Lord, to Jordan Came)

CLOSING HYMN (10:30)

Go, My Children, with My Blessing
Christian Worship 332

Following the final hymn (or choir anthem) and while the bell tolls we pause for a brief moment of meditation on the thoughts of the worship hour.

5 The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" [Numbers 6:27].

WELCOME!

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



IN OUR PRAYERS

Janet Bitzer (with health concerns)
Sally Carroll (with health concerns)
Kevin Peterson (with health concerns—cancer)
Milo Holderbecker (with health concerns)
The Ricci family
The Stinar family

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Early: 91 Late: 63 Total: 154

SERVING THE LORD AND US

Organists: Marjorie Gildersleeve, Erin Riess

Greeters: Nathaniel & Rachelle B., Jim & Sheri E., Jim & Marjorie G.

Ushers for January: Doug K., Loren B., Dean B., Isaiah B.,
John S., Mitch W., and Dustin M.

Church cleaning for 2/3: W. Newell*/Kirk/Willison/Bengtson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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"O Christ, Who Called the Twelve." Text: Herman Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007 © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-720004. Tune: TERRA BEATA English; adapt. Franklin Sheppard, 1852-1930.

Announcements

DOUBLE BABY SHOWER!!

Jamie Bernier — It's a boy!

Rachel Bitter — It's a girl!

All ladies are invited to a double baby shower that will be held today after 2nd service. A light lunch will be served.



MLC DONATION PROJECT

The Board of Stewardship is sponsoring a donation project for Martin Luther College for the months of January and February. Your donation will be used to reduce the tuition of the members of St Mark's that are attending Martin Luther College. Your donation will be matched by the College up to \$1,000.

SCRIP NOTICE

The next SCRIP order will be sent January 29th. Meanwhile, if you need a gift card from those that we have on hand, please contact Nathan Bitter. (Those on hand are \$25 gift cards for Home Depot, Menards, Target, Walgreens, and Walmart. We also have \$100 gift cards for Walmart.) Thanks to those that have purchased the cards in the past. St. Mark's share of percentage of proceeds for 2017 was \$742, which helps fund "special projects" for the school.

DIVINE CALLS

On January 21st I received a call to serve as pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oakfield, WI and another call to serve as pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Cheyenne, WY. So, including my call to St. Mark's, I have 3 calls to deliberate. I would greatly appreciate your prayers for me and all the churches as I consider where I can best serve Jesus in His Church at this time. I also welcome your thoughts about where I can best serve and your patience as I might seem a bit unfocused for the next several weeks. ~ Pastor Nitz

TIME OF GRACE

Time of Grace ministry hosted by Pastor Mark Jeske (WELS) is available in our area at 6:30 a.m. every Sunday morning on Fox 9 KMSP.

INTERACTIVE FAITH

There is another Interactive Faith online Bible study happening on Wednesday evenings now through February 7th. The topic of this study is the book of Isaiah. Tune in at either 6 or 8 p.m. Check it out here: www.wels.net/interactivefaith

BOXTOPS

It's time to bring in the Boxtops you have been collecting at home! Please drop them off in the next few weeks as the Boxtops will be mailed in at the end of February. In addition to Boxtops, we also collect Our Family UPCs, Tyson labels, and Loaves 4 Learning labels, with all money going to the school special project fund. Drop off your labels anytime in the labeled drawers in the fellowship hall cabinet.



A NOTE FROM THE FRANCISCO FAMILY

Dear St. Mark's Congregation,

Mike and I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and support through the passing of Mike's dad. He was truly a Christian man that loved God so we know he's pain free and in heaven! Thanks again.

Love, Pam & Mike & the rest of the Charlie Francisco family

WELS HYMNAL PROJECT

The Forward in Christ magazine (available in the narthex) includes a great nine-part series of articles on hymns and their use in our churches. You can find this same series of articles on the Hymnal Project's blog. The WELS Hymnal Project invites the public to offer reactions to its initial decision about which of our currently-published hymns will be kept and which will be cut. You may review the lists and offer your thoughts through an online survey available on the Hymnal Project's website: www.welshymnal.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 28 (Sun)...	8:00 a.m.	Worship (Epiphany 3)
	9:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	11:45 a.m.	Baby Shower (Bernier & Bitter)
Jan 29 (Mon)...	7:00 p.m.	Resilient Ministry
Jan 30 (Tues)...	7:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study @ Country Kitchen
	6:00 p.m.	Starting Point #4
	6:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Financial Peace University (4 of 9)
Jan 31 (Wed)...	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation class
Feb 1 (Thurs)...	9:00 a.m.	Moms & Tots
	6:00 p.m.	All board and committee meetings
	7:45 p.m.	Church council
Feb 3 (Sat)...	10:00 a.m.	Jesus Cares
Feb 4 (Sun)...	8:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion (Epiphany 4)
	9:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship with Communion

*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

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Announcements (bulletin or newsletter)		announce@stmarksbemidji.org

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)