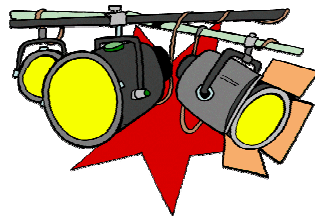


## December Servant Highlights



# Saint Mark Lutheran Church

45-725 Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744 • (808) 247-4565 • www.StMarkHawaii.org

<p><b>December 4:</b>  <b>9:30 am</b>  <b>Acolyte:</b> Noah S.  <b>Lector:</b> Rachel H.  <b>Media Tech:</b> Joshua H.  <b>Usher:</b> Jonathon B., Cal U., Lutz P., Mark F.  <b>Elder:</b> Dan Truesdell  <b>Kingdom Callers:</b> Lim Ohana</p>	<p><b>December 18:</b>  <b>9:30 am</b>  <b>Acolyte:</b> Isaiah G.  <b>Lector:</b> Dar F.  <b>Media Tech:</b> _____  <b>Usher:</b> Paul G., Frank T., Toby R., Jerry H.  <b>Elder:</b> Seth Bretscher  <b>Kingdom Callers:</b> Uhlig Ohana</p>
<p><b>December 11:</b>  <b>9:30 am</b>  <b>Acolyte:</b> Miriam H.  <b>Lector:</b> Bill W.  <b>Media Tech:</b> _____  <b>Usher:</b> Tom A., David G., Nate N., Matthew P.,  <b>Elder:</b> Dan Truesdell  <b>Kingdom Callers:</b> Wynhoff Ohana</p>	<p><b>December 25:</b>  <b>9:30 am</b>  <b>Acolyte:</b> Joshua H.  <b>Lector:</b> Rachel H.  <b>Media Tech:</b> _____  <b>Usher:</b> Rick F., Tom S., Anthony W., Robert R.,  <b>Elder:</b> Cal Uhlig  <b>Kingdom Callers:</b> Hilpert Ohana</p>

## Servants in Christ

**We would like to give a big *Mahalo* to all of the servants in Christ that are currently offering their time and talents to Saint Mark Lutheran Church.**

If the Lord has touched your heart and you are looking for a way to serve Him the following are a few options. If the expression of your gift is not listed please contact the Church office at 808-247-4565 or at [st.marksecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:st.marksecretary@yahoo.com) or [secretary@stmarkhawaii.org](mailto:secretary@stmarkhawaii.org).

**Altar Guild** is looking for more members! There is a need for helpers with the Banners, as well as, with Sunday Morning Communion, or with both!

**Saint Mark Food Bank** is open Saturdays from 8:00 am to 10:00 am Donations—food, monetary or time—are always welcome and of great help for this ministry. Monetary donations are tax deductible as well. With your help we can help feed Hawaii's hungry. If you have any questions or would like to help maintain the food closet, please call Katie Shirley at 596-2771.



## Servants for Sunday Mornings

**Media Technicians** are needed to operate the computer and slide presentation throughout each service. It is as easy as clicking a button. Contact the Church office for information.

**Lectors, Ushers, and Acolytes** are needed for all services. Contact the Church office for information.

**Musicians** wanted for our worship service! Please contact Tanya Pescht at 228-0830.

## Preparing for Advent

Mele Kalikimaka! Well, not yet. In about 4 weeks we will be joyfully sharing the Good News of our salvation saying Merry Christmas, Jesus Christ is born. But we're not there yet. Although department stores, radio stations, and the police and fire stations have begun to celebrate the holiday much earlier than usual, as Christians we're reminded that we aren't there yet. As much as the world wants to hurry up and celebrate the trees and the ornaments and the purchasing of all sorts of new stuff, our God calls us to patiently look forward to the coming of His Son, thus we celebrate the season of Advent.

The term Advent simply means "*coming*". But the coming of what? Depends on whom you ask. Some will say the coming of presents, others the coming of special sales, others the coming of holiday parties and decorations, and still others the coming of school break. For most of us who have grown up in the church, we're familiar with the sights and sounds of this season; pine wreaths, chocolate Advent calendars, evening worship services, and hymns like "*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*". And depending on whether you are a traditional purist or not, this may also include a decorated tree. There is so much stuff surrounding this time of year that we can a times loose sight of Who is coming at Christmas.

It is because of this that Advent is so important, because through it God draws our attention to the prophecies of the Old Testament scriptures concerning the coming of the long awaited Messiah. Throughout history, the darkness and sin of this world surrounded God's people, filling their lives with things that distracted them from a meaningful relationship with their Father in heaven. Similar to today, those things that were set aside for God's purposes were obscured by popular culture and traditions. Therefore our Lord spoke through His ancient prophet Isaiah of the simple miracle He would perform in order to bring us out of the darkness of sin and into the light of His kingdom.

***"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore."* (Isaiah 9: 2 – 7)**

So, with all that is going on in our world, how do we best prepare for the celebration of our Lord's coming? We meditate on the words of His prophets; Isaiah, Malachi, and John the Baptist. Each proclaimed a similar message, **REPENT!** "**Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.**" (**Mark 1: 3**) And we do just that as we recognize the darkness of sin of the world around us and we meditate on God's Word and His righteousness ways. Advent is a time when we evaluate our lives and strip away all of the stuff of this world that distracts us from preparing the Lord way.

## Preparing for Advent cont.

Over these 4 weeks, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, I would caution you not to allow yourself to be distracted by all of the festivities and traditions of everything that our world portrays as Christmas but hold to the simple miracle of our Mighty God being born among us in order to break forth His light into this darkened world. As you approach Christmas, instead of getting too wrapped up in all of the regular worldly activities, reflect on the promises of God and how He breaks through the darkness of your own sin in order to bring you true peace with God. Mele Kalikimaka and may the peace of Christ fill you this Advent season.

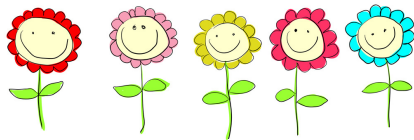
## Note from the Board of Parish Education...

Sunday School for keiki and adults is flourishing, please join us at 8:30 am each Sunday morning. The keiki are studying their own Bibles, learning songs as the new Sunday School Singers, learning how they can help and support missionaries, and learning parts of our Lutheran catechism. We are working on the 10 commandments. The Sunday School Singers practices during our opening worship and is learning new songs to share with the congregation. We will also be memorizing all the books of the Bible! The children are also corresponding with and supporting a sister church in Texas. Since we are continuing with one blended service we will be offering Sunday School, before worship, as well as Keiki church during the service.

We also have *Men in the Word* every other Saturday morning at 7:30 am, with breakfast! Don't forget about our long time Wednesday Bible study and Prayer Warriors who meet Wednesday's at 10:00 am at the church. They meet for fellowship and to discuss this weeks Bible lessons. Youth Quest is going well for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, most of our participants are Saint Mark students who are *not* church members! What a ministry opportunity!

If you can't wait to jump in and help with leading any of our keiki messages, keiki church or Sunday School please contact Rachel Hilpert or Sarah Morris for more details.

Peace and Blessings,  
Rachel



## Humor

It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. Pastor Mike was looking at the nativity scene outside when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the figures. Immediately, Pastor Mike turned towards the church to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Jimmy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus. Pastor Mike walked up to Jimmy and said, "Well, Jimmy, where did you get the little infant?" Jimmy replied, "I got him from the church." Pastor Mike continued with curiosity, "And why did you take him?" With a sheepish smile, Jimmy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it."

## Church News



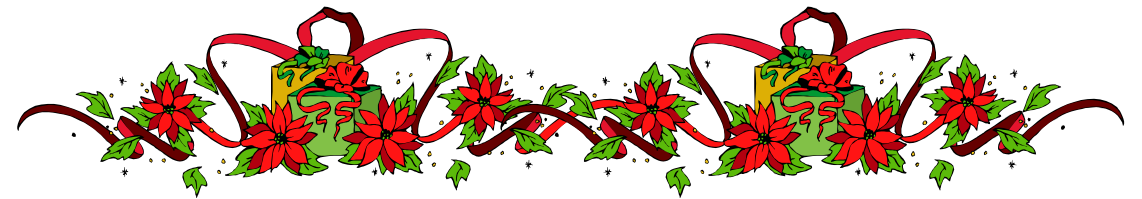
**Bulletin Submissions** Any Submissions can be called in at 247-4565 or emailed to [st.marksecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:st.marksecretary@yahoo.com) or [secretary@stmarkhawaii.org](mailto:secretary@stmarkhawaii.org).

sanctuary, followed by **Prayer Warriors**. The material covered for this bible study is the upcoming Sunday lessons. The lessons will be provided but it is encouraged for you to bring your bible also.

**Offering Envelopes** are available through the church office.

**Flower Chart** sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Cost is only \$15.

**Poinsettia** sign up on bulletin board on the lanai only \$10 per plant



## LWML

The Convention Planning Committee for the third biennial convention of the California-Nevada-Hawaii Lutheran Women's Missionary League has been hard at work planning every aspect of the April 20-22, 2012 Convention. The theme for the convention is "Extreme Service". The convention goal is: *Because of God's extreme love, we are challenged to extreme service.*



This is an invitation to all women in the district to offer your GIFT – whether it is time, talent, or treasure. Will you please?

- ✦ Pray for the leaders of the LWML as they continue the plans for the convention.
- ✦ Pray for special guests as they prepare and travel to the convention.
- ✦ Pray for the continued mission of the LWML and its many projects, current and those that will be voted on, that they may bless the lives of people and point them to their Savior.
- ✦ Offer your help by volunteering to help with one or more of the committees. Email VP of Convention Planning, LaVada Terrell, at [lavadaterrell@yahoo.com](mailto:lavadaterrell@yahoo.com), to offer your assistance.
- ✦ Offer your financial assistance. A Love Gift of \$25, \$50, or \$100 from congregations and/or societies will help cover expenses of this special time together. Your gifts may be sent to Jean Orsborn (5903 Debbie Lane, Paradise CA 95969), CNH LWML Financial Secretary. Please indicate 2012 Convention Love Gift in the memo line.

# Board of Outreach and Fellowship News

Thank you to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for sponsoring our Reformationfest on October 30. We had a lot of fun, fellowship and fabulous food.

Mahalo to everyone who participated in filling up shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! We had a wonderful response 55. Your gifts will help to make Christmas special for a child in another country. Please remember to pray for those children also. If you were able to track where your boxes ended up and want to share that with others, please let us know. Thank you to Rachel Hilpert for spearheading this project and delivering the boxes to the local distribution center in Kaneohe. In addition to Operation Christmas Child, we are excited to be involved in Angel Tree this Christmas as well.

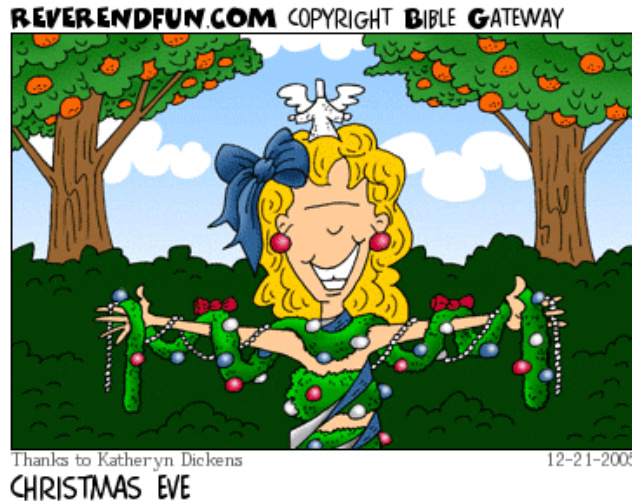
Coming up in December you will find our Angel Tree, loaded with wishes from children who have an incarcerated parent. Please pick up an ornament to purchase a gift for a needy child right here in Kaneohe. The gifts should then be wrapped and returned with the labels on them so we can deliver them the week before Christmas.

Advent suppers will continue every Wednesday in Advent at 6:00 pm, followed by service at 7:00 pm. Join us for a hot bowl of soup or other main dish before worship as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the coming of our Savior! A sign up sheet to help bring food is located out on the church lanai bulletin.

Although we will not be hosting Family Promise families during Christmas week this year, our wonderful students from Saint Mark Lutheran School will again be shopping for Christmas gifts for the families in the program. Thank you to JoAnn Gundermann and Bethany Maddick and their Kindergarten and Eighth grade students for their generosity and willingness to coordinate this with Family Promise of Hawaii. We are also thrilled to report that one of our most recent guest families, Dan, Malin, Maile and Sammy have found housing and are settled into their new place in Kaneohe. Hurray!

Fellowship hour snacks are needed. A new sign-up sheet is out on the food table and has lots of open space on it. Please help us fill it up. Thank you!

God bless you as you continue to be a blessing to others!  
His servants,  
Rachel and Kristen



## DCE Corner

This past June my mom and I were flying out of a Dallas airport to Honolulu, a place neither of us had ever been before. It seems long ago and far away now, and somehow only yesterday at the same time. When we arrived at the small airport we found our terminal and managed to get all of our bags to baggage check. Even though it was almost abandoned, there was an energetic buzz in the air. We weren't sure what was going on, but we knew it was something exciting. The man checking in our bags received a call on his walkie talkie, "They are here." Clearly someone important had arrived because that man quickly left, leaving his coworker to finish checking us in. The same message came over the walkie talkie again, but this time a TSA agent ran by us. We couldn't take the mystery any longer and my mom asked what was going on.






























Yes, there was something exciting happening, the Dallas Mavericks were landing after their National Championship victory in Miami. We should have figured it out before then, we watched the game the night before as we were packing our bags. Being Mavericks fans we rushed to security hoping we could get through quickly enough to see the winning team. Running right next to us was the TSA agent we passed on our way in, also trying to get close enough to see the players get off the plane. Everyone seemed to know what was going on and everyone seemed to have the same hope of catching a glimpse of the new Champions. Sadly, security took longer than we would have liked and we just missed them, but when we got to the gate the TSA agent that ran past us earlier proudly told us all about where he saw the players walking across the tarmac. It was all anyone in the gate could talk about for the next hour. The small terminal was buzzing with excited fans who just happened to be in the right place at the right time and got to see their beloved team arrive home.

I wonder if Bethlehem was similar to that Dallas airport 2000 years ago. Could people feel the excitement in the air as an even more important person came into the little town? Were people standing around talking about when they got to see the Messiah? I can only imagine the shepherds running in from the field, rushing to get to see this baby that they had waited so long for. This baby that would change the world forever. Can't you just hear the buzz on the street as people heard the news that the Savior had been born? I'm sure some ran to see if they too would be fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of the Messiah, abandoning their jobs momentarily, like a couple of the TSA agents did in the airport that June morning. What would you have done if you had been in Bethlehem that day? Would you run to see and praise the Lord when you heard the news? Would you put aside whatever you had planned or whatever you might be working on? Even though 2000 years have passed we can still feel the buzz in air as we start this Advent season of preparation for our coming King. May we all be so moved with excitement this Christmas that we set aside our plans and rush to praise and honor our new born Savior, just like the shepherds many years ago.

### **What's coming up this month?**

Join us for **Ohana Movie Night**, Sunday **December 18th!** This Advent season let's come together and watch a movie about the most miraculous birth of all, the birth of Christ. We will be showing **The Nativity Story at 6:00 pm**. All are invited! Please bring a pupu for a pupu potluck before the movie. See you at the movies!

# December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 5:30 pm Christmas Tree Decorating  Luke Kaplan  Mary Uhlig	<b>2</b>  Kayla Kaplan	<b>3</b> 8:00- 10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank
<b>4</b> 8:00 am Adult Choir Practice 8:30 am Bible Study for all ages 9:30 am Ohana Blended Worship 10:45 am Ohana Fellowship & Update Meeting 11:15 am Praise Team Practice	<b>5</b>  Jean Firchau	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8:00 am SMLS Chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Prayer Warriors 1:30 pm Youth Quest 6:00 pm Soup Potluck 7:00 pm Advent Service  Davd Milotta	<b>8</b> 6:15 pm SMLS Board of Education  Bethany Maddick  Sydney Rahmig	<b>9</b>  Kathryn Johnson  Chris Johnson	<b>10</b> 8:00- 10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank  Cameo Lethem  Tanya Pescht
<b>11</b> 8:00 am Adult Choir Practice 8:30 am Bible Study for all ages 9:30 am Ohana Blended Worship 10:45 am Ohana Fellowship 11:15 am Praise Team Practice 5:00 pm SMLS K-2 Christmas Program	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>14</b> 8:00 am SMLS Chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Prayer Warriors 1:30 pm Youth Quest 6:00 pm Soup Potluck 7:00 pm Advent Service  Bruce Betker	<b>15</b>  Luana Perry  Camilo	<b>16</b>  Andrew Rahmig	<b>17</b> 8:00- 10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank  Stephen Shoultz
<b>18</b> 8:15 am Adult Choir Practice 8:30 am Bible Study for all ages 9:30 am Ohana Blended Worship 9:30 am SMLS K-2 Choir 10:45 am Ohana Fellowship 11:15 am Praise Team Practice 6:00 pm Ohana Cinema Night	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Joshua Busse	<b>21</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Prayer Warriors 6:00 pm Soup Potluck 7:00 pm Advent Service  Alana Tyau-LaChance	<b>22</b>  Nadia Hilkert  Allison Perry	<b>23</b>  Carson & Ellis	<b>24</b> 8:00- 10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank 6:00 pm Family Worship 8:00 pm Traditional Worship
<b>25</b> 9:30 am Christmas Worship  Mary Ann Shirley-Gray	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Bretscher  Gary Soma	<b>28</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Prayer Warriors  Rupnow	<b>29</b>  Larry Rodrigues	<b>30</b>  Kim Carson  Gaudi	<b>31</b> 8:00- 10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank