

January Servant Highlights

January 1:

Acolyte: Noah S.
Lector: Janelle B.
Media Tech: Scott M.
Ushers: Jonathan B., Lutz P., Mark F.
Elder: Tom Slavens
Kingdom Callers: Wynhoff Ohana

January 15:

Acolyte: Isaiah G.
Lector: Dar F.
Media Tech: Bill W.
Ushers: Paul G., Frank T., Toby R., Jerry H.
Elder: Toby Rushforth
Kingdom Callers: Bretscher Ohana

January 8:

Acolyte: Miriam H.
Lector: Rachel H.
Media Tech: Josh H.
Ushers: Tom A., David G., Nathan N., Matt P.
Elder: Tom Slavens
Kingdom Callers: Hilpert Ohana

January 22:

Acolyte: Josh H.,
Lector: Bill W.
Media Tech: Scott M.
Ushers: Rick F., Tom S., Anthony W., Robert R.
Elder: Toby Rushforth
Kingdom Callers: Uhlig Ohana

January 29:

Acolyte: James C. **Lector:** Cal U. **Media Tech:** Josh H. **Kingdom Callers:** Lim Ohana
Ushers: Richard D., Bill W. **Elder:** Darrell Schuetz

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 or 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 a.m. to 10 a.m. Donations—both food and monetary—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. Contact the Church office for information.

Keiki Church Assistants are needed to teach our *keiki* about God's love for them in His Son, Jesus Christ. Contact Sarah for information.

Lectors, Ushers, and Acolytes are needed for all services. Sign up on the servant table in the rear of the sanctuary.



January 2012

Saint Mark Lutheran Church

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

Aloha From Pastor Matt

The celebration of Christmas has now passed and I have to admit, it's not easy being a parent with 3 keiki during this holiday season when they are surrounded by so many influences of our culture today. Every television commercial would be a race to who could say, "mine!" first. It didn't matter what it was, they each wanted to lay claim to it. If their response times were close, they would argue about who was first to prove they had the rightful claim to said item. It became frustrating, as their loving parent, to watch them go through this process over and over again throughout the day. Why can't they recognize that Christmas is about Jesus and God's gift to us, not merely about their getting as much as they want?

But it wasn't only with Christmas gifts. This past week, as my kids were enjoying the winter intercession from school, we went to Kaneohe District Park and pool with friends. The kids began playing nice with each other, but soon it digressed into power struggles. At one point, Abi came to me saying, "Dad, Josh isn't playing fair! He's not playing soccer right." I looked and saw 5 kids, 1 ball, and a huge field with no goals or boundary lines and responded, "You're not even playing real soccer. Why can't you just play together?" Abi, not satisfied with my response, ran and said, "Ben, you're goalie and you all have to kick between these poles." Again, I wondered as a loving father, why my kids have to compete for power and want to boss one another around while all I want is for them to be loving to each other, work together, and enjoy their time together?

As I look at my own children, in love, but also at times in frustration, I come to understand the heart of God and the message of His Gospel at Christmas. Our Heavenly Father created the world and everything in it. He has blessed all people with so much and even established a people of His own, who would know His love in a very personal way as His ohana. However, over and over again His people turned away from His guidance and direction. Over and over again, they fought with one another and struggled for power, each wanting to be in control. The scriptures contain thousands of years of history filled with examples of God's keiki who brought joy to His heart, but also frustration. People not getting along as God, their father and creator had desired.

"When we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" (Galatians 4:3-4:6)

Even when our loving Heavenly Father knew that we would often act like selfish little kids, only seeking our own wants and desires and continually trying to have the power and be in control, He sent His Son Jesus Christ to redeem and save us. Jesus came as one of us, lived with all of the same worldly influences and temptations to be the boss, but sought to be a servant. As Paul writes,

"So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men." (Philippians 2: 1 - 7)

Aloha From Pastor Matt cont.

Therefore, although the celebration of Christmas has now passed we should never stop celebrating the birth of our Savior and what it means to us. It reminds us that we are new people. That we are children of God. That we are an ohana, joined together by the blood of the Christ-child of Bethlehem. That we are to follow His example in our living together and with others, not acting like keiki focused only on our own wants and power but in humility follow the example of our great and powerful God who became a tiny infant baby in order for us to be His forgiven and loved children forever.

Mele Kalikimaka and Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!
Pastor Matt

DCE Corner – What's going on in January?

Youth Quest - Hey **5th - 8th graders**, have you ever wondered what the Apostle's Creed is all about or why we celebrate Communion or Baptism? Well, let's talk about these and many more important questions that you have in Youth Quest! Join us **Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 to 2:45** for snacks, games, and a discussion about why we do things the way we do. Right now we are looking at the Apostle's Creed and what we are really saying we believe when we speak those words. If you have any questions just ask Sarah.

Keiki - Come a little early for church and join in our **Sunday School** fun! This month we are learning about the wise men coming to see Jesus, when he was your age, and how Jesus called his friends to join Him in His ministry. We have lots of games, crafts, and activities lined up for you! Don't miss out on the fun **every Sunday at 8:30!**

If you would like to help teach Sunday School or give a Keiki Message during church please contact Sarah at sarah@stmarkhawaii.org. The Sunday School lessons are pre-planned and already prepped! You will be emailed the lesson a week in advance and all you have to do is look over it and follow the lesson plan! Teacher friendly! Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

New Years Resolution – Get involved

Most of us have heard the expression "Many hands make light work". Let's make light work of our weekly service needs. It takes more than the Pastor showing up to preach to make our service work. Weekly we need volunteers to usher, acolyte, lector, media tech and lead the keiki message and church. You are already here; why not participate in these services. It isn't as hard as it seems.

Ushering, you need to come a little early to hand out bulletins, be able to walk up and down the aisle and on communion Sundays, count so the right number of people are seated at the Lord's Table.

Lectoring, you need to be able to read and speak in front of people. Pastor writes what is said before the lessons. What a great opportunity to work on your public speaking skills.

Media Teching, you need to be able to read and push a button. The screen contents are already done for you.

Keiki Church is pre-planned and prepped. Sarah will send it out to you a week in advance, so you can look it over and become comfortable with it.

We have weekly need for altar guild help, changing out the banners and prepping for the Lord's Supper. Our food bank is open every Saturday from 8:00 am – 10:00 am. It takes three volunteers every Saturday. Wouldn't it be great if we could get enough volunteers, so everyone only had to help out one Saturday a month?

Please pray fully consider getting more involved in your church.

LWML

Lutheran Women's Missionary League – Malia Maleka Chapter, Zone 11

Aloha! We are in a Christmas hiatus until Mid January but I want to keep everyone aware that we are alive and well. Our Mission Grants, planned for at convention last April are moving along nicely. The Bites for Mites project you responded to so graciously last November, along with the mites received from all over the country, helped fund several more grants. Remember, at the Peoria Convention I reported that over \$1,875,000.00 was budgeted for Grants for the 2012-2013 biennium. The \$15,000.00 grant received from the CNH District was able to give Saint Mark a new kitchen for our food bank.

Locally, we are planning for a meeting in mid-January and have several projects in mind. These projects will involve anyone interested in helping others and should fit nicely into Family Promise as well as the Food Pantry. Every female member of Saint Mark is automatically a member of LWML, no dues, no responsibility, just faith and participation in our projects is all that is required. Men are also welcome to participate if you desire. If you need more information about LWML and the Mite project, just contact me or one of the other ladies actively involved: Alice DeCosterd (will return mid-January), Sally Brady, Dot Brum, Mary Stewart or Jo Tripp. If you have any ideas for projects, or programs, please let us know. We continue with our graduation leis, confirmation, Mother's Day, and Father's Day celebrations.

Again, I would like to encourage you to plan to attend one of the CNH conventions or the National one. I will have more information for both as time draws closer. If you ever need to want to be inspired, the conventions are the place to be. Hearing 3-5 hundred voices at District or 4-5,000 voices at National singing and praising our Lord, folks interested and involved in mission work both locally and world wide can't help but get you motivated and involved. The fellowship and inspiration with fellow Lutherans is beyond explanation.

Wishing you a Healthy and Happy New Year, your Sister in Christ:
Adele Mitchell (mitchella001@hawaii.rr.com)



Church News

Newsletter request - if you are reading this please send the church secretary an email at st.marksecretary@yahoo.com or call 247-4565.

Senior Bible Study is held each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the church 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.

Flower Chart sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Purchase flowers in honor, celebration or memory of that special loved one. Church Office takes care of ordering and delivery for you. Cost is only \$15.

Musicians wanted for our 9:30 am worship service! Please contact Tanya Pescht at 228-0830 or by email at tanya.pescht@gmail.com.

Coffee on the Lanai is offered during the fellowship time. We appreciate any free-will donations to help keep the supply of coffee available.

Humor

'Twas the week after Christmas,
and all through the house,
nothing would fit me,
not even a blouse.

The cookies I'd nibble, the eggnog I'd taste,
all the holiday parties had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales, there arose such a number!

When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).
I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared.

The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
and the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
and prepared once again to battle the dirt.

I said to myself, as I only can,
"You can't spend a winter dressed like a man!"

So away with the last of the sour cream dip,
get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip.

Every last bit of food that I like must be banished,
until all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie, not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.

I won't have hot biscuits, or cornbread, or pie.
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore,
but isn't that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot,
Happy New Years to all and to all a good diet.



From Saint Mark's President

Aloha Members and Friends of Saint Mark,

Thank you all for helping Saint Mark have a joyous Christmas season. We had a wonderful set of Christmas services during Christmas week - they were not just inspiring, but beautiful. Thank you to Pastor Matt and all those that contributed to such a stirring Advent and Christmas season!

I would like to use this opportunity to invite you to pray fully consider helping Saint Mark by volunteering to serve in one of many vacancies on the Saint Mark Council, Boards and Committees. I plan to gladly continue serving as President during this next year. What the congregation really needs at this time is for someone to pray diligently and feel the calling to serve as the Vice President. We can also use more volunteers to serve as Elders or on any of the Boards. Please look deep within your soul and pray about this calling and commitment for supporting Saint Mark Lutheran Church.

I was so impressed with the Congregation during the Summer of 2010 at the Annual Budget approval meeting, where we all approved a commitment of increasing our giving by over 10% to our Saint Mark financial needs. We all stepped up and met that budget of \$224,828 - this was not just ambitious, but admirable. Now, I would like for each of you to take on the challenge of increasing the giving of your time and talent to Saint Mark by 10%. For many of us, this only comes out to about 1 hour a month. That's all the time required to serve on the Council or Boards, which meet for one hour a month to discuss the affairs of the Church. If you really don't wish to serve on Council or one of the Boards, please consider giving your time to one of the various church committees, or attending one of the Bible studies we offer during the month. Please remember that we offer Sunday school for all ages at 8:30 each Sunday morning.

May God continue to bless Saint Mark's ministry as we continue to proclaim the Gospel message of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Mark Fink

Note from the Board of Parish Education & Outreach...

Sunday School for adults and keiki is still going well with regular attendance each Sunday. The Sunday School Singers are practicing a new song for epiphany. Men in the Word will begin meeting regularly again every other Saturday at Pastors house at 7:30, and our Wednesday morning study is also going well.

I would also like to express my deep felt appreciation to all our ohana for their participation in our outreach projects in November and December. We put together 55 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas child that were shipped to Nepal. Our congregations giving also made it possible for 16 children with incarcerated parents to receive two Christmas presents each through the Angel Tree prison ministry. We got a thank you card already from one of the recipients. The card will be posted on the bulletin board but I also wanted to share what was written here:





"Dear Angels,

Thank you soo much for Aiseea's gift. He was barely 1 years old when his "babe" went to Jail. Never has a gift from him in 5 years. Next Christmas "babe" will be home to be his gift! Love Always, Kamealoha/Stagner Family"

This is exactly what the program is about, bringing a connection between a child and a parent. Thanks to you all for your support.

Peace and Blessings,
Rachel

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Years Day 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	2  Abigail Hilpert	3  Taryn Slavens	4 8:00 am SMLS Chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Prayer Warriors	5 7:00 pm Board of Elders	6 The Epiphany of our Lord	7 8:00-10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank
8 Food Bank "Harvest" Sunday 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  Fleischmann	9	10 6:00 pm Church Council	11 8:00 am SMLS Chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Prayer Warriors 1:30 pm Youth Quest	12	13	14 7:30 am Men of the Word 8:00-10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank  Yal Lim
15 LWML Mite Collection Sunday 8:30 am Bible Study for all ages 9:30 am Ohana Blended Worship 9:30 am SMLS Choir 4-6 10:45 am Ohana Fellowship 11:15 am Praise Team Practice  Miriam Ha	16 No School  Lamar Pescht	17	18 8:00 am SMLS Chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Prayer Warriors 1:30 pm Youth Quest  Ursula Ishikawa  Heather Pescht	19 6:15 pm SMLS Board of Education  Cal Uhlig	20	21 8:00-10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank
22 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  Gail Lindsey	23  Kate Chaffin	24	25 8:00 am SMLS Chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Prayer Warriors 1:30 pm Youth Quest	26	27	28 7:30 am Men of the Word 8:00-10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank  Jerry Hagen
29 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	30	31  Sara Wynhoff				