

## March Servant Schedule

**March 4:**

**Acolyte:** Josh H.  
**Lectors:** Yal L. & Mary Ann S.  
**Media Tech:** Jason M.  
**Ushers:** Lutz P., Mark F., Jonathan B., Luke K.  
**Elder:** Toby Rushforth  
**Kingdom Callers:** Wynhoff Ohana  
**Keiki Message:** Pastor Matt  
**Sunday School:** Lenore W.

**March 11:**

**Acolyte:** Gracie C.  
**Lectors:** Rachel H. & Katie S.  
**Media Tech:** Scott M.  
**Ushers:** Tom A., David G., Nathan N., Matthew P.  
**Elder:** Toby Rushforth  
**Kingdom Callers:** Bretscher Ohana  
**Keiki Message:** Janelle B.  
**Sunday School:** Rachel H. & Beth S.

**March 18:**

**Acolyte:** Noah G.  
**Lectors:** Alice D. & Nikki H.  
**Media Tech:** Beth S.  
**Ushers:** Paul G., Frank T., Jerry H., Jason M.  
**Elder:** Anthony Warren  
**Kingdom Callers:** Dole Ohana  
**Keiki Message:** Sarah M.  
**Sunday School:** Janelle B. & Kate C.

**March 25:**

**Acolyte:** Miriam H.  
**Lectors:** Darlene F. & Betty K.  
**Media Tech:** Doug H.  
**Ushers:** Rick F., Anthony W., Robert R., Lyle O.  
**Elder:** Anthony Warren  
**Kingdom Callers:** Bretscher Ohana  
**Keiki Message:** Shannon C.  
**Sunday School:** Shannon C. & Lenore W.

There is always room for servants. If you see somewhere that you would like to help out with contact the church office at either (808)247-4565 or [secretary@stmarkhawaii.org](mailto:secretary@stmarkhawaii.org). We will gladly add you to the list of servants.



## Humor

A little boy had just got home from Sunday School and mom was cooking lunch. "Mommy, is it true that before you're born you're just dust and after you die you go back to being dust?"

"That's right son, why?"

"Well that's just what they said at church today."

"Run up stairs and wash your hands son, lunch will be ready in a few minutes."

About 10 minutes went by and she called out for him to come down. "I'll be there in a minute." As they were about to sit down at the table, the little boy asked again about being dust before being born and after you die. Once again mother said yes son.

The little boy looked at her and said, then you better get up to my room pretty quick, because something under my bed is either coming or going!!



# Saint Mark Lutheran Church

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## Letter from your Pastor...

The season of Lent is traditionally 40-days of somber reflection for Christians to call to mind their personal sins and contemplate the gravity of God giving His Son to suffer and be crucified for our forgiveness. For some, the "giving up" of something important provides a small glimpse of the sacrifice God made for us, as well as a sense of the struggle Jesus experienced while in the wilderness being tested by the Devil. However, this Lenten season please consider not just the gravity of the sacrifice made for you by God, but the great forgiveness that we have received because of that sacrifice.

Last month, at a meeting of leaders from our Hawaiian Island Lutheran churches we discussed the love of God the Father as described in Luke 15, the parable of the Prodigal Son. It's a familiar story. The younger son demands inheritance from His father, gets it, then writes off his dad and family and runs off to indulge in all the desires of his heart. But once he falls on hard times, he realizes what he left behind, a loving family, a compassionate father, and a life in the community. He returns humbled and penitent hoping his father will simply show compassion, and hire him as an employee. But upon his return, the father sees him, runs out to meet him, embraces him, and rejoices with all his ohana in his safe return. The son who once was 'prodigal' is no longer, but he is restored back into the family.

Then there is the older brother, the first-born son, who has faithfully served his father. He doesn't feel it fair to just forgive and welcome his younger brother back so freely. This older brother, in anger, runs away from his father, refusing to rejoice and be part of the reconciled family. So the father runs out to him and reminds him of his love and that nothing is kept from him. In compassion, he pleads with his son to return home and join in the family celebration. The younger brother goes from being the prodigal to the found son, while the older goes from being found to the prodigal.

Keep in mind this parable is told in response to the condemnations of the chief priests and scribes against Jesus because He was welcoming and eating with sinners. The message was that no matter how great your sins, your heavenly father longs for you, his repentant child so that He can embrace, forgive, and restore you back into His ohana. The invitation is also extended to those who sit in judgment and are intolerant of God's grace to repent and be received back into the ohana as well. Throughout our lives, we find ourselves in the roles of both and either son, and Jesus' parable reminds us that we are always called back by God's Spirit to His grace and forgiveness.

It's interesting that this story has an open ending. We do not know how the older brother responds to his father's plea. A pastor who traveled to the Holy Land described how this story has been popularized among the people there, but their version has a conclusion. According to the Israeli tradition, the older son's response to his father's loving request was to take a stick and beat his father to death. Of course, this does not fit our warm and loving image of the happy family in the story of the Prodigal Son, but it does point to the cross. God gave His Son into the flesh in order to come and redeem His people from their sin and bondage to life in this world. Through Jesus' ministry, the younger sons were being received back, but the older sons, who rejected God's grace, took God in the flesh and crucified Him upon the cross.

As we travel through this season of Lent let us be ever mindful of the cross and suffering that God's true son, Jesus Christ, endured on account of our many grievous sins against God and one another. But may we never lose sight of the overwhelming and amazing grace of God we experience in the forgiveness of every single one of those sins, no matter how great they may be. May God bless you and may this be a time of renewal and restoration for our ohana of Christ at Saint Mark.



## The Transfiguration – (A Mountaintop Experience to Remember)

**Metamorphosis!** Butterflies are beautiful creatures of God that come from a pretty unbeautiful past. They began as fuzzy little caterpillars who went through a complete physical change called ‘metamorphosis’ (**Greek for change the form or nature of something**). God put it in the nature of a caterpillar to one day follow an irresistible urge to cease plugging along on the ground, crawl up a branch and literally die to what it was to become a marvelous new creation – a butterfly! It is just in the nature and character of that glorified worm to one day become discontent with crawling around in the dirt eating grass and leaves. Something in it sensed it was meant for better things! Something in it said, ‘Enough of this awkward, cumbersome, creepy-crawly existence! I know I’m better than this and meant to soar like that butterfly flitting overhead!’ So it says ‘good-bye’ to the world below, slinks up a branch toward the sky it longs to explore, stops, spins a little coffin called a cocoon around itself and in essence dies to that way of life forever.

This is another way of understanding what Jesus was calling His disciples to do as the next step of following Him: **“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his (or her) cross daily and follow Me” (Luke 9:23)**. ‘The 12’ had believed in Jesus as their Messiah and Lord, they had walked the land of Galilee for two years and had been forever changed by being with Him night and day.

Like caterpillars they were enjoying life on earth until that day Jesus appealed to something deep down in their soul to ‘raise the bar’ of commitment by dying to self daily in order to change from Christ-followers into ‘cross-bearers’. Later on when Paul writes about this higher level of abundant Christian living (**Romans 6**), he will explain in detail how this spiritual metamorphosis is accomplished. Denying yourself, or dying to self, is imperative to experiencing the resurrection metamorphosis into Christ’s likeness daily.

Have you come to that stage of growth in your Christian experience where something deep down in your soul says, ‘I know there is more to my relationship with God than just slinking along on this earth! It’s time for spiritual metamorphosis! The time is now to move up and away from the world, into the cocoon of self denial (coffin of ‘self’ and sin). By faith I hereby die to ‘me’ so I may undergo a miraculous change within and emerge with new resurrection life to do His will!’ If the Holy Spirit within you has prompted you to go higher in your relationship with Him, great! Spiritual metamorphosis has begun. Just remember now, that you’re not a caterpillar Christian anymore; don’t slink or crawl around in the world anymore (butterflies are meant to soar above this world. In fact butterflies walking around like they used to do on are quite vulnerable and appear foolish!). Why hobble around below when you can fly above?! And why settle for the limited view of things from ‘ground level’ when you are capable of getting the heavenly perspective of the One calling you ‘up, up and away!’ (**Ephesians 1: 15 – 21**).

This devotion is from Christ’s Bible Fellowship. Sunday, August 30, 2009. Luke 9 Study Guide #5. And was shared by Pastor Matt for our Saint Mark Lutheran School staff devotions as we begin the season of Lent.



## LWML – Malia Maleka (Mary Martha) Chapter

**Mahalo nui loa** to all who contributed to our Bake Sale on February 12. We had many more contributions than in the past and we were able to have a \$465.60 profit. That enables us to provide ribbon leis for our graduates - both Kindergarten and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day tokens of appreciation. This time we will be able to add to our Mites for District as well as donate a portion to Family Promise. The monies also contribute to the provision of the LWML Quarterly, be sure to pick up a copy on the table on the lanai. It is full of interesting articles relating to the organization. We usually order 10 copies but if more are needed we will be happy to order additional copies.

**Interested in learning more** about the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, please feel free to speak with Alice DeCosterd, Sally Brady, Dot Brum, Mary Stewart or me.

One last thing: **ARE YOU REMEMBERING TO FILL YOUR PILLOW CASE WITH GOODIES?**

Adele Mitchell

## DCE - *What’s going on with Saint Mark’s Youth?*

**Kindergarten - 5th graders** - Don’t forget about Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am! You wouldn’t want to miss out on the fun games, crafts, and stories about the amazing things Jesus did while He was on earth!

**5th - 8th graders** - Still wondering why we believe what we believe or why we do what we do in worship? Well, we may not have all the answers, but there are definitely quite a few of them waiting for you to discover at **Youth Quest every Wednesday from 1:30 pm to 2:45 pm** in Room 201.



















**6th - 12th graders** - Join us on Sunday mornings for Bible Study in Sarah’s office! We are learning about bizarre Bible stories and what these people and the crazy things they did can teach us. In March we are going to talk about Balaam, Ehud, Debroah, Jael, and Samson. Don’t know who these people are? Come find out Sunday morning at 8:30 am

**High schoolers** - Do you ever feel like the church just doesn’t get you? Have you ever felt like things are aimed for those either younger or older than you? Guess what! It’s ok to feel that way! The church is made up of sinners who make mistakes every day and sometimes we don’t do the best job at reaching groups of people that God has called up to reach. Instead of just thinking about it, let’s talk about it! Let’s talk about things that we as a church body do well and the things we could improve. February 12th we started meeting once a week at Zippy’s by the mall at 6:00 pm for fun, food, and some great discussion. See you there and don’t forget, it’s always more fun when you bring a friend!

**Keiki and all those who love keiki** - Mark your calendars! Babylon is coming to Saint Mark in the form of Vacation Bible School on June 4-8! We will be learning about Daniel and some of his friends in Group’s Babylon. If you would like to help out with this year’s Vacation Bible School in any way, small or large, please let Sarah know so she can get you plugged in.

Would you like to help with our Keiki Sunday School program? Would you like to try giving a fun and exciting Keiki Message on a Sunday morning? We would love to help you use the gifts that God has given you for His glory not just in the community, but in our church ohana too! If you would like to get involved in one of these areas please contact Sarah Morris via email at [sarah@stmarkhawaii.org](mailto:sarah@stmarkhawaii.org) or via phone at 247-4565. Mahalo!

# March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 7:00 pm Elders Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:00–10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank  Kimi Gaudi  Kahealani Taniguchi  Katie Hellinger  Emily McLemore  Lenore Warren
<b>4</b> 8:30 am Choir Practice/Bible Study for all ages 9:30 am Ohana Blended Worship 10:45 am Ohana Fellowship & Update Meeting 1:00 pm Christianity 101 6:00 pm High School Bible Study @ Zippy's	<b>5</b>  Mary Stewart	<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 Lenten Service	<b>8</b> 6:15pm SMLS Board of Education	<b>9</b>  Sue Mau	<b>10</b> 7:30 am Men of the Word 8:00–10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank
<b>11 Food Bank “Harvest” Sunday</b> 8:30 am Choir Practice/Bible Study for all ages 9:30 am Ohana Blended Worship 10:45 am Ohana Fellowship 1:00 pm Christianity 101 6:00 pm High School Bible Study @ Zippy's	<b>12</b>  Charis Murata	<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 Lenten Service	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:00–10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank
<b>18 LWML Mite Collection Sunday</b> 8:30 am Choir Practice/Bible Study for all ages 9:30 am Ohana Blended Worship 10:45 am Ohana Fellowship 6:00 pm High School Bible Study @ Zippy's	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Marc LaChance  Dayna Murata	<b>21</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Prayer Warriors 6:00 pm Soup Potluck 7:00 pm Lenten Service  Alma Schmidt	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Erica Pescht	<b>24</b> 7:30 am Men of the Word 8:00–10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank  Aaron Akaka  Howard Myli
<b>Family Promise</b>	<b>Family Promise</b>	<b>Family Promise</b>	<b>Family Promise</b>	<b>Family Promise</b>	<b>Family Promise</b>	<b>Family Promise</b>
<b>25</b> 8:30 am Choir Practice/ Bible Study for all ages 9:30 am Ohana Blended Worship 10:45 am Ohana Fellowship 1:00 pm Softball Kailua Fields 6:00 pm High School Bible Study @ Zippy's	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Prayer Warriors 6:00 pm Soup Potluck 7:00 pm Lenten Service	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Outreach/Fellowship 6pm at the Lim's	<b>31</b> 8:00-10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank