

November Servant Highlights



Saint Mark Lutheran Church

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

November 6:
9:30 am
Acolyte: Noah Schuetz
Lector: Richard Dole
Media Tech: Joshua Hilpert
Usher: J. Busse, C. Uhlig, L. Pescht, M. Fink
Elder: Cal Uhlig

November 20:
9:30 am
Acolyte: Isaiah Graham
Lector: Dar Fink
Media Tech: _____
Usher: P. Graham, F. Tanaka, T. Rushforth, J. Hagen
Elder: Bill Wynhoff

November 13:
9:30 am
Acolyte: Miriam Ha
Lector: Rachel Hilpert
Media Tech: _____
Usher: T. Annis, D. Gaudi, N. Nam, M. Perry
Elder: Cal Uhlig

November 27:
9:30 am
Acolyte: Joshua Hilpert
Lector: Cal Uhlig
Media Tech: _____
Usher: R. Firchau, T. Slavens, A. Warren, R. Rupnow
Elder: Bill Wynhoff

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 8:00 am to 10:00 am 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.



Humor

A collector of rare books ran into an acquaintance who told him he had just thrown away an old Bible that he found in a dusty, old box. He happened to mention that Guten-somebody-or-other had printed it

"Not Gutenberg?" gasped the collector.

"Yes, that was it!"

"You ninny! You've thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars!"

"Oh, I don't think this book would have been worth anything close to that much," replied the man. "It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther."

Aloha From Pastor Matt

As we near the end of our church year, our theme is the church triumphant. The readings from God's Word each Sunday in November remind us of the fact that we live in the end times and that Christ will return very soon. Therefore, we have a mission, not only as the congregation of Saint Mark Lutheran Church but also individuals who bear the name "Christ-ian". Our mission is to spread the eternal Gospel of God throughout the world. Many of us may think that means preaching about Jesus. However, spreading the Gospel of God's grace and love and forgiveness to everyone in the world through Jesus Christ can also be done through actions.

When we gather together in worship weekly, and at times daily, God speaks to us, corrects us, forgives us, and strengthens us for our mission work. A very wise person once described Lutherans saying that, "we make so much of our time in worship that it becomes the ultimate goal of our faith." At times we can become so focused on traditional liturgies, theologically sound hymns, powerful organs, beautiful ancient chorals, and expecting quiet and reverent children, that we forget the mission we have as a church and attempt to preserve our congregation as some sort of exhibit in a museum. The mission of the church of Christ is not to focus solely on our worship, so that we preserve it at all costs but rather that we witness the love of Jesus Christ to the world around us.

Our Lord has given us the command, "to go and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28: 18). A disciple is a student, and any good teacher will tell you that students learn not only from what is spoken but also through their example. Jesus gave Himself as an example for us to follow, in living as servants for others to the point of giving our own lives so that others would be saved. That doesn't sound like a preserved exhibit but rather a living presence that is active in the lives of others, teaching, forgiving, loving, serving, and giving, always putting the needs of others before themselves. This is the example we are to be to those in our congregation and in turn to our world.

One of our Saint Mark school teachers shared a morning devotion that encourages us in our life as a congregation and individually as we follow the Lord's command and make disciples. The setting is that of a teacher, however the message is the same for us as the body of Jesus Christ at Saint Mark.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13: 34 – 35)

Jesus walked the dusty roads with impure disciples. They fussed; they competed; they disbelieved; they failed; they denied him and even betrayed him. Jesus loved them in all their imperfections; He saw beyond their imperfections; He saw their potential, what they could become, and loved them. Jesus not only loved them in their unlovely, undeveloped stage, He trained them in character and spiritual maturity. He was not satisfied with understanding the disciples' weaknesses. He sought to change those weaknesses into strengths. He was their teacher.

Today, if there is one student in your classroom that irritates you, that you can't think of anything good to say about, that you distrust, or that you have no hope for him/her, this scripture was written for you. Love wins; love brings change; love softens a hard heart; love is kind, considerate, and always hopes for change. Rejection builds barriers and walls; rejection brings destruction; rejection brings war; rejection kills hope; rejection insures failure. The scripture says, "...you **MUST love one another.**"

Aloha From Pastor Matt cont.

You may be saying, “*You don’t know what they did.*” Or “*They rejected me.*” A teacher is above his student. You have more life experiences, more maturity and more mistakes and victories from which to draw strength. Remember your own childhood mistakes. Give grace to your students—unmerited, undeserved acceptance. The longer you walk with God, the more you will see your “not so perfect attitudes and not so innocent motives”. God wants to reveal to us our self-centeredness, our pride, and our stubbornness. Often when a student “pushes our button”, it reveals an area of insecurity or pride. We can use these times of vulnerability to search our hearts, to repent, to learn, to grow and develop, and to mature in Christ. I have often wondered who learns the most through conflict—the teacher or the student. God uses conflict as a teaching tool to develop both student and teacher.

Students will remember who you are more than what you teach. They will recognize insecurity and double standards in a leader’s life. As we teach them to love each other and to accept the differences, we must guard ourselves to be sure that we are being consistent with our teaching. Unconditional love draws out the best in others. Love reflects our Savior. Love brings people to the foot of the cross. Love brings change.”

Saint Mark Lutheran Church should not be seen as museum exhibit but a classroom where the love of Jesus Christ is learned, practiced, and shared. If we are following our Lord’s command of making disciples we must see ourselves as both disciples and teachers. We learn in worship, Bible study, and fellowship so that we can teach by words and actions in the world. This will bring change of hearts and minds to those who become, disciples through our witness, but also within ourselves. This is a challenge and extremely difficult, however we are reminded of our Savior’s words. “**Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16: 24)** Because our Lord carried His cross out of love for us, He calls us to in turn carry our crosses in love for others.

Your servant in Christ



DCE Corner

A big mahalo to all of our junior and senior high youth who came out to **Haunted Lagoon!** Everyone had a great time and screamed at least once while we were there. What a great reminder that God is in control and He will protect us from the things that scare us, even the lady in white coming towards your canoe!

Youth Quest is continuing to go well. We are finishing up the 10 Commandments and moving into the Apostle’s Creed. It’s not too late to join us if you are in 5th through 8th grade and would like to learn more about God, His teachings, and what they mean to you today. We meet Wednesdays from 1:30 pm to 2:45 pm. Contact Sarah Morris for more information.

Sunday School and Keiki Church have been great this month! We are continuing to learn about Abraham and his descendants Isaac, Esau, Jacob, and Joseph. Join us Sunday mornings at 8:30 pm for singing, prayer, and stories from the lives of these men who loved God a lot! If you are an adult and feel you have been given the gift of teaching we would love to get you involved with our Sunday morning keiki education. Please see Sarah Morris to get involved.

High Schoolers: It’s almost time for our next **Cinema Night!** Bring a bible and a friend Sunday, **November 20th at 6:00 pm** to watch a movie and see what God is telling us through the film. Have you ever thought about using movies, TV shows, and other pop culture as a way to start a conversation with a friend where you are able to share your faith? Let’s talk about how! Come and join us for movie, fun, and great conversation.

If there is anyway I can support you or your family please don’t hesitate to email me at sarah@stmarkhawaii.org or call me at (808) 247-4565 ext. 228.

Church News



Bulletin Submissions Any Submissions can be called in at 247-4565 or emailed to st.marksecretary@yahoo.com or secretary@stmarkhawaii.org.

Senior Bible Study is held each Wednesday at 10:00 am 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.

Offering Envelopes are available through the church office.

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

LWML

“**BITES FOR MITES**” Bake Sale was incredibly successful, thanks to St. Mark generous bakers, and even more generous buyers. We raised **\$817.20** for mission projects! A BIG MAHALO!

On October 26th the women of LWML honored Saint Mark School teachers and staff as well as St. Mark church staff at an Appreciation Luncheon. The yearly event recognizes the outstanding contribution these individuals make to the success of our highly regarded school.

Ladies, please prayerfully consider becoming active in our Saint Mark LWML. There are many mission opportunities in our community that go unfulfilled because we are so few in number of active members.



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 in 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 as well as Keiki church during the service.

The Really Bad Girls of the Bible has finished and are now looking into a new book for studying. 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 5th through 8th grade, 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 or Sarah Morris for more details.

Peace and Blessings,

Rachel

Board of Outreach and Fellowship News

October was a busy month! That's why you don't see much going on with our board for November. We are recuperating. We are giving thanks for God's many blessings.

Mahalo to all who helped make our two weeks of Family Promise run so smoothly! We had over sixty human volunteers, one micro-pig and one semi-micro dog helping in some way to make our guest families feel at home during their stay with us. We had fewer guests this time, but I think a couple of those toddlers should be counted twice! They are twice as busy as anyone else. We had a few issues with things getting pulled out of the refrigerators, drawers, cupboards, etc. and a referee was needed to settle the fights over who would get to "sweep" the floor, all in all, it was a good couple of weeks. Any rotation week where the fire alarm does not get pulled is a good week for us. An added bonus: the lights in the gym were usually out by 8:00 pm and those of us left on watch got enjoy some quiet visiting.

Thank you to Janelle Bretscher and Rachel Hilpert for organizing and leading a jewelry making workshop using beach glass on Saturday, October 8. If you have a talent that you'd be willing to teach and share with others, please let us know.

Thanks also to all who helped out with our second annual Reformationfest (also referred to as "Lutherfest")_on October 29. A fun time was had by all. At least I hope so, since this was written before our event took place. How can anything go wrong when you have brats, sauerkraut, (root)beer and chicken dancing, right?

Fellowship hour snacks volunteers are needed to bring refreshments for our fellowship after the service on Sundays. Please look for the snack sign-up sheet out on the lanai, near the food. If it has some pukas, write your name down for a Sunday. Thanks!

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes is a wonderful project sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. They send out shoeboxes filled with gifts and supplies to children all over the world. A display table with empty shoeboxes, instructions, and more information on how you can be a part of helping make a receiving child smile is located at the back of the church during the week and out on the lanai on Sundays. Filled boxes will be returned to Rachel Hilpert by November 13. Please contact Rachel if you have any questions.

Fellowship hour potluck on Sunday, November 20, we will be blessed to have Saint Mark students in grades K-3 sing during our service. Please bring a potluck dish to share and spend some time visiting with our school families!

Advent soup suppers will begin Wednesday, November 30 at 6:00 pm, followed by service at 7:00 pm. Join us for a hot bowl of soup before worship as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the coming of our Savior!

Kingdom Callers needs volunteers to help serve. Kingdom Callers sign up to bring baked goods or other small "welcome" gifts to church, and drop of these gifts to the home of first time local visitors. A quick "Thank you for worshipping with us at St. Mark. We'd love to see you again," is all that is needed. If you are interested in this simple form of outreach, please contact the church office, your elder or any member of the board of outreach and fellowship.

Thrivent Financial: On Sunday, November 6th, elections will be held out on the church lanai. If you are a Thrivent member, please stop by the table to vote for new officers. Refreshments this Sunday are provided by Thrivent. Thank you!

Servants for Sunday Mornings

Media Technicians are needed to operate the computer and slide presentation throughout each service. 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 9:30 am worship service! Please contact Tanya Pescht at 228-0830.

From Saint Mark's President

Aloha Members and Friends of St. Mark,

I would like to thank everyone for your patience and continued support of Saint Mark Lutheran Church over the last six months as we have shifted from two services to one. Although change is always difficult I think we can all agree that being one united Ohana has been good for Saint Mark. The 8:30 am Adult Sunday school class is thriving and Church pews are filled with families and guests every Sunday morning. We are definitely a Church of Praise – with lots of music and singing to the Lord. The choir sounds great every Sunday and I think we are all learning the contemporary songs more and more as we hear them.

Another "Mahalo" to you all is for the faithful giving during the first quarter of our budget year (July-September). We usually fall way behind our projected budget during the summer months, but this year we are less than \$1,800 behind (we were over \$8,000 behind last year). Many of you give of your time, talent and treasure every month, allowing St. Mark to continue maturing and growing in our outreach to the Kaneohe community.

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

President, Saint Mark Lutheran Church

St. Mark Lutheran Church 2011-2012 First Quarter Budget Report

Approved Balanced Budget of \$224,828

\$224,828 /52 weeks = \$4324 each Sunday

\$17,296 on four Sunday months or \$21,620 on five Sunday months

| Date | Envelopes | Other | Total | +/- Budget |
|--------|-----------|---------|----------|------------|
| Jul 10 | \$13,599 | \$95 | \$13,504 | -\$3,792 |
| Aug 10 | \$16,101 | \$801 | \$16,902 | -\$394 |
| Sep 10 | \$18,591 | \$1,117 | \$19,708 | \$2,412 |
| | | | | -\$1,774 |

November 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
|  | | 1 | 2 <i>*Talena Klelln</i> | 3 7:00 pm Elders Meeting <i>*David Marstall</i> | 4 | 5 8:00- 10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank |
| 6 8:15 am Adult Choir Practice 8:30 am Bible Study for all ages 9:30 am Ohana Blended Worship 10:45 am Ohana Fellowship <i>*Paul Brennan</i> | 7 <i>*Kevin Murata</i> | 8 6:00 pm Council Meeting | 9 8:00 am SMLS Chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Prayer Warriors 1:30 pm Youth Quest 6:30 pm Worship Team Practice | 10 6:15 pm SMLS Board of Education <i>*Teddy Camilo</i> | 11 Veteran's Day <i>*Rachel Gray</i> <i>*Adele Mitchell</i> | 12 7:30 am Men in the Word at Pastor's 8:00- 10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank |
| 13 8:15 am Adult Choir Practice 8:30 am Bible Study for all ages 9:30 am Ohana Blended Worship 10:45 am Ohana Fellowship 10:45 am Operation Christmas Child Deadline <i>*Lisa Miller</i> | 14 | 15 | 16 8:00 am SMLS Chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Prayer Warriors 1:30 pm Youth Quest 6:30 pm Worship Team Practice <i>*Erika Sweet</i> <i>*Patricia Van Duzer</i> | 17 <i>*Laura Miyasaki</i> | 18 <i>**Rushforth</i> <i>*Tara Hartley</i> <i>*Kent Murata</i> | 19 8:00- 10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank |
| 20 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 6:00 pm Cinema Night (Senior High) | 21 <i>*Mary Anna Cark</i> | 22 <i>*Seth Bretscher</i> | 23 8:00 am SMLS Chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Prayer Warriors 1:30 pm Youth Quest 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Worship | 24 Thanksgiving <i>*Arthur Gundell</i> | 25 | 26 7:30 am Men in the Word at Pastor's 8:00- 10:00 am Saint Mark Food Bank |
| 27 8:15 am Adult Choir Practice 8:30 am Bible Study for all ages 9:30 am Ohana Blended Worship 10:45 am Ohana Fellowship | 28 | 29 <i>*Ian Lim</i> | 30 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 | | |  |

**Birthday / ** Anniversary*