

October Servant Highlights

October 2:
Acolyte: Kate Chaffin
Lector: Janelle Bretscher
Media Tech: Joshua Hilpert
Usher: J. Busse, C. Uhlig, L. Pescht, M. Fink
Elder: Tom Slavens
Kingdom Callers: Hilpert Ohana

October 9:
Acolyte: Meriam Ha
Lector: Richard Dole
Media Tech: Joshua Hilpert
Usher: T. Annis, D. Gaudi, N. Nam, M. Perry
Elder: Seth Bretscher
Kingdom Callers: Uhlig Ohana

October 16:
Acolyte: Isaiah Graham
Lector: Dar Fink
Media Tech: Scott Macri
Usher: P. Graham, F. Tanaka, T. Rushforth, J. Hagen
Elder: Seth Bretscher
Kingdom Callers: Wynhoff Ohana

October 23:
Acolyte: Noah Schuetz
Lector: Janelle Bretscher
Media Tech: Joshua Hilpert
Usher: R. Firchau, T. Slavens, A. Warren, R. Rupnow
Elder: Darrell Schuetz
Kingdom Callers: Bretscher Ohana

October 30:
Acolyte: James Chaffin **Elder:** Darrell Schuetz **Lector:** Bill Wynhoff **Media Tech:** Joshua Hilpert
Ushers: R. Dole, B. Wynhoff **Kingdom Callers:** Lim Ohana

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 secretary@stmarkhawaii.org or st.marksecretary@yahoo.com.

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!

LWML is looking for women of faith to join their ranks! The collection of mites is a small part of this organization. Mission work is our major focus. This is a great organization to get involved with and boasts opportunities for networking not only here on the Islands but also through out the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Community, as well as, extraordinary opportunities to show and share your faith in Christ!

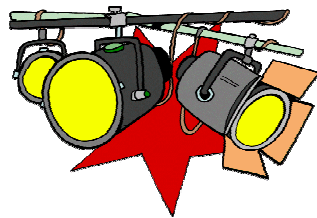
Saint Mark Food Bank is open Saturdays from 8 AM to 10 AM Donations—both food and monetary—are always welcome and of great help for this ministry. Monetary donations are tax deductible as well. With your help we can help feed Hawaii's hungry. If you have any questions or would like to help maintain the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

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.



Saint Mark Lutheran Church

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October 2011

Aloha From Pastor Matt

My childhood was unique. My father, a Lutheran pastor, was divorced when I was 5. I grew up in the church, and my ohana consisted of the members of the church. Actually, my life revolved around two main components, school and church. And although school was 5 days a week 7 hours a day, I think I spent more time with my church than I did in school. I loved Thursday night choir rehearsals and Sunday morning worship. Even though, at 10, I was the only person under 30 in the choir, they all accepted me, encouraged me, and helped me to sing parts that my voice could handle. Worship and music were a vital aspect of my relationship with the Lord and with my family at Grace Lutheran Church.

I excitedly joined the children's choir, adult choir, and played special piano pieces as the voluntary. I memorized all of the parts of Settings 1 and 2 in the Lutheran Book of Worship (the green hymnal) and always anxiously readied myself for the marathon chants of the order of Matins. I loved singing, chanting, and boldly speaking the Apostles' Creed and Lord's Prayer (with my eyes closed). I had the service down pat, only needing to check whether this Sunday was a "This is the Feast" or a "Glory to God in the highest".

Years later at college, I was introduced to the "blue hymnal" (Lutheran Worship). It had different page numbers and some of the liturgy had different melodies than I was accustomed. It took months before I became fluent, but soon I had the same pride of worship I had when I was younger.

Then one Sunday, I brought a friend with me to church. She had never been in a Lutheran church before, but I showed her how to follow along in the hymnal. As we read the confession together, "**I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them...**" I did a double take. What did we just say? Were these words new? Maybe the Blue hymnal, to which I was unaccustomed, had more differences than I thought. However, I later discovered that these were the same words of the green hymnal that I had been speaking for almost 20 years, and for some reason they seemed foreign to me.

The issue was that, over time, my worship had become routine and I became so accustomed to going through the motions, speaking the Lord's Prayer, chanting the liturgy, and professing the Apostles' Creed, that I no longer engaged my spirit. Worship was an act, a work that I did, according to my motives and satisfying my perceived needs. Worship had become *ex opere operato*, which is Latin meaning "for the sake of the work performed." I had become so proficient and confident in my going through the actions of the many forms of liturgy that my faith was no longer a part of it. I could recite the Lord's Prayer, the creed, the confession, and the hymns from memory but they no longer engaged my faith and spirit.

Instead of coming to worship with a broken and contrite heart, seeking Christ's words of forgiveness and the Holy Spirit's power to change my life, I found myself not truly taking seriously my confession of sins, because I compared myself to others and felt I wasn't that bad of a person. Instead of recognizing the liturgy hymns as the songs of the saints in heaven and earth, I saw it as my task to sing boldly, at the right tempo, and with gusto. Instead of being open to God working on my heart in the sermon and hearing His word, I focused on the stories and humor of the preacher. I had allowed my worship to become something that it was never intended to be. I had allowed my worship to become exactly what the Lutheran Reformation sought to correct and purify within the Christian Church.

(Continued on page 2...)

Aloha From Pastor Matt Continued...

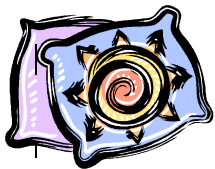
This month we celebrate the 493 anniversary of the Reformation and it is important for us to continue to heed its warnings so that we do not fall into the same errors of our fathers. As a lifelong Lutheran, and a pastor's kid, who has served in almost every capacity there is in a congregation, I bear witness of just how easy it is for this to happen. However we might not always be aware of our selves and our sins, allowing that *Old Adam* inside of us to take our focus in worship off of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and put it on ourselves. Martin Luther rebuked the church of his day for this, in his **"Concerning the Order of Public Worship" (1523)** saying, *"First, God's Word [i.e., the Gospel] has been silenced, and only reading and singing remain in the churches. This is the worst abuse. Second, when God's Word had been silenced such a host of un-Christian fables and lies, in legends, hymns, and sermons were introduced that it is horrible to see. Third, such divine service was performed as a work whereby God's grace and salvation might be won. As a result, faith disappeared."*

This is precisely what happened to me and to many others who have found themselves going through the motions of worship for decades. Knowing the words verbatim. Singing precisely the correct notes. Counting in your mind the proper tempo of a chant or a well-known hymn. Responding without thought to the pastor's *"The Lord be with you."* Anxiously monitoring all aspects of the worship ensuring they go exactly as expected. This surely is a far cry from what Jesus told us true worship would be, **"the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."** (John 4: 23 – 24)

When we take God's Gospel and compartmentalize it into a form that fits our comfort and desires, then that sinful man within each of us makes God's grace a result of the work that we do and not a gift of God's kindness to us through the death of His Son, Jesus. When our desire for worship is for it to fit our tastes and comfort then it is no longer about Jesus, but ourselves. When we want the sermon to affirm our lives rather than to call us to repentance, or be politically correct rather than countercultural, or be entertaining rather than scriptural, and to have it all wrapped up efficiently in less than an hour, then the Word of God is no longer preached and the forgiveness of sins is not proclaimed but rather the word of the Old Adam and works righteousness is what we worship.

It was with this purpose that Martin Luther wrote, *The Freedom of a Christian*, and through it he explained the principal blessings of Christ's saving work in terms of freedom, as freedom from sin, death, and the devil; freedom from the Law; and freedom from all works, including rites and ceremonies. And penned in his well-known hymn is *"No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, rejected. But now a champion comes to fight. Whom God Himself elected. You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He. Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious."* As we prepare to again celebrate the Reformation, October 30, and the true freedom and joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that was reclaimed by His Church, especially in the area of Christian worship. May the Lord work His Spirit within you this month of the Reformation celebration so that nothing else remains in your worship or your life but Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

Pillowcase Challenge Update



"On September 3, I delivered 30 pillowcases to Family Promise. They were delighted with our gift. I still have 15 more to deliver, but am waiting for a new label order. Once delivered, these pillowcases will bring our total to 115. Thank you for your continued support."

As I have mentioned before, please keep in mind that this is an ongoing project. So if you have started, please keep sewing and turn in pillowcases, and if you haven't started but would like to, please contact me, Luana Perry at luanaperry@yahoo.com.

Church News



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

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

We need your help! In an effort to fund the remaining LWML Mission Projects, we will be having a "Bites for Mites" bake sale on LWML Sunday, October 16. So ladies please get out your favorite recipe, start up that oven and let's take this worthy endeavor **OVER THE TOP!** We will have another "Bites for Mites" at school on Wednesday, October 19th. Mahalo for your enthusiasm and support!

The last weekend of September was the LWML zone rally at Kilauea Military Camp on the Big Island. It was a wonderful time of Bible Study, Interest Groups and, of course, feeling the awesome power of God as we viewed the Halemaumau crater. The glow from the crater on a starlit night was incredible. Adele Mitchell, Alice DeCosterd and our DCE, Sarah Morris enjoyed the fellowship of 25 other LWML women from Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, and California....sorry you weren't there!

Veteran's Day Photos

If you or anyone in your ohana has served our country in through the Marines, Navy, Army, Air Force, or Coast Guard we would love to feature them in our annual Veteran's day slide show! Please send the Church office your photos of them preferably in uniform, and a photo that is the most current photo one of them! Mahalo



A 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, and sharing them with our congregation as the new Sunday School Singers, learning how to help and support missionaries, and learning Luther's Small Catechism. We are currently working on the 10 commandments and will soon be memorizing the books of the Bible! The Sunday School singers practice during our opening devotions and hope to share their songs with our regular congregation worship. The children are also corresponding with and supporting a sister church in Texas. With the continuation of the single blended service, we look forward to growth in Sunday School as well as Keiki church.

The Really Bad Girls of the Bible has finished and are now looking into a new book for study. *Men in the Word* continues to meet every other Saturday morning at 7:30 AM, with breakfast! Don't forget about our long time Wednesday morning Senior Bible study and Prayer Warriors who meet at 10 am in the Saint Mark worship center for fellowship and to discuss the upcoming week's Bible lessons. Finally, our Youth Quest confirmation class is underway for 5th through 8th grade students, and the majority of participants are *not* church members but are students of Saint Mark School! What a ministry opportunity!

We can always use more help, so 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 for more details.

Board of Outreach and Fellowship News

Family Promise News: Thank you to everyone who stepped up and volunteered for our two week rotation! Many of you signed up for double duty and we are overwhelmed at your willingness to support this outreach mission of our church. Thank you also to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for their continual support of this program by providing grants through their Care Abounds in Communities program. We have three families staying with us this rotation: Dan, Malin and their children Maile (4) and Sam (1); Robert, Christine and their sons Sean(3) and Gage(1) ; and Keien, Norma and their children Kinly (M, age 4), Kisa (F, age 3) and Kisi (M, age 1). On behalf of our guest families, thank you for your hospitality!

2nd Annual Reformationfest is Scheduled for October 29 at 5:00 PM: Put this event on your calendars now! The festivities will include free brats and a sidedish potluck, chicken dance / polka cake walk, Lutheran tattoo parlor, pin the 95 theses to the church door, cookie decorating and more! A sign-up table will be out on the church lanai during our fellowship hour on Sundays. Sign up to attend. We'll need lots of help with set-up, cooking brats, running activities and break-down too, so while you're signing up to come, put your name down for a job that day too!

Kingdom Callers: We are looking for volunteers to help serve as a Kingdom Caller. Kingdom Callers sign up to bring baked goods or other small "welcome" gifts to church, and are willing to drop off these gifts to the home of first time local visitors who have filled out a blue card which is given to them by an elder. A quick introduction and a "Thank you for worshipping with us at Saint Mark. We'd love to see you again," or similar is all that is required. 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. For more information on what is involved, please contact Pastor Matt.

Fellowship hour snacks: What goes well with great conversation? Food! We've been enjoying a wide variety of tasty snacks to sustain us during our fellowship time after the 9:30 AM Ohana combined service. All of that worshipping, laughing and visiting together can really work up an appetite! If you'd like step out of church confident in knowing that at Saint Mark, you will be well-fed both spiritually and physically, please look for the snack sign-up sheet out on the lanai. If it has some pukas, write your name down for a Sunday. The sign-up sheet is usually near the food, so it should be easy to find. Thanks!

Coming Up For Youth This Month...

Our **Keiki Sunday School and Keiki Church** continue to grow! We meet every Sunday at 8:30 AM for Sunday School and just after the Keiki message during worship for Keiki church. This month we are learning about Isaac and Rebekah's family and the many wonderful things we can learn from their twin boys. Don't forget to bring your offering to support our missionary friends!

Junior High and High School students are invited to join us **October 22nd** for Polynesian Cultural Center's **Haunted Lagoon!** Admission is \$20 if you are over 15 and \$15 if you are under 15. Please let Sarah know before October 17th if you are coming so she can order tickets. We will meet at Saint Mark on the 17th at 6:00 pm to carpool to PCC. Don't be a scaredy cat, come take a canoe ride on the haunted lagoon!!



DCE Corner

One of the best parts of my job is that I get to hang out with keiki. They are a constant source of entertainment. The other day I had the chance to go to a movie with the Saint Mark's 5th grade class and their families. We were sitting in the theater, eating our popcorn, and waiting for the movie to start when finally the theater introduction began. Ignoring the clip I had seen hundreds of times, my mind started to go over the remainder of my to-do list, that is until the little boy next to me gasped and let out a quiet "Woah!" in amazement of what had just happened on the screen. I looked up to see the tail end of the kernel of popcorn bursting across the screen with a pop. A big smile spread across my face as I realized that to a 6 year old the giant popcorn popping was in fact something to be amazed at. I started to wonder what other little exciting moments in life I missed because I was too preoccupied with "important adult" things. How many things in the Bible or in our Heavenly Father's wonderful creation do we miss because we are too distracted? One of my favorite songs by Jars of Clay is called "*Like a Child*" and one of the verses goes like this: "*They say that love can heal the broken, They say that hope can make you see, They say that faith can find a Savior, If you would follow and believe with faith like a child.*" Sometimes we need to put on those child-like glasses and really look at the world around us, our problems or concerns, and what our God is trying to tell us with "*faith like a child.*" You may be surprised by what you see. You may even let out a quiet "Woah!"

-- Sarah Morris, DCE Intern

Searching for Musicians

Music and song is such an integral part of our worship with one another and with the Lord. Melodies evoke our spirit deep within to respond to God's grace to us in Jesus Christ. Our Lord has bestowed upon some of us the gifts of music and song for His service and for our common good. As the apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12: "***Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.***" Choirs and musicians were part of the worship of God's people as we hear that, "***David and all Israel were rejoicing before God with all their might, with song and lyres and harps and tambourines and cymbals and trumpets.***" (1 Chronicles 13: 8) And when the House of God was finally built by Solomon the people of God gathered in worship, "***consecrating themselves, without regard to their division, and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, their sons and kinsmen, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood east of the altar with 120 priests who were trumpeters; and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the LORD, and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD, 'For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever,' the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud.***" (2 Chronicles 5: 11 – 13) The Lord has blessed and equipped us with a variety of gifts in order to join together in unison in praise and thanksgiving to Him and we are looking for those among us to share their musical gifts in this way. You may have recently discovered a desire for this type of gift or maybe you have played/sang quietly for many years. This is a call to come together and join with your ohana in Christ at Saint Mark. So please hear the call to sign-up on the list in the rear of the sanctuary listing your gift and your desire to grow that gift in faith and service to God and His people. Knowing that, "***He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, 'I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.'***" (Hebrews 2: 11 – 12) May this be our prayer and our purpose to God's glory.

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:30 AM Men in the Word at Pastor's 8:00- 10:00 AM Saint Mark Food Bank
2 FAMILY PROMISE 8:30 AM Bible Study for all ages 8:30 AM Adult Choir Practice 9:30 AM Ohana Blended Worship (LHS Sunday) 10:45 AM Ohana Fellowship 11:00 AM Christianity 101 5:00 PM Cinema Night (Senior Youth) Travis Slavens*	3 FAMILY PROMISE	4 FAMILY PROMISE Katie Shirley*	5 FAMILY PROMISE 10:00 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Prayer Warriors 6:30 PM Worship Team Practice	6 FAMILY PROMISE 7:00 PM Elders Meeting	7 FAMILY PROMISE Elizabeth Martin* Lisa Hagen*	8 FAMILY PROMISE 8:00- 10:00 AM Saint Mark Food Bank Bill Wynhoff*
9 FAMILY PROMISE 8:30 AM Bible Study for all ages 8:30 AM Adult Choir Practice 9:30 AM Ohana Blended Worship with communion 10:45 AM Ohana Fellowship 11:00 AM Christianity 101	10 FAMILY PROMISE Clifford Johnson*	11 FAMILY PROMISE 6:00 PM Council Meeting Rhonda Chaffin*	12 FAMILY PROMISE 10:00 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Prayer Warriors 6:30 PM Worship Team Practice	13 FAMILY PROMISE 6:15 PM SMLS Board of Education	14 FAMILY PROMISE Hellinger**	15 FAMILY PROMISE 7:30 AM Men in the Word at Pastor's 8:00- 10:00 AM Saint Mark Food Bank Leah Tanaka*
16 FAMILY PROMISE LWML Mite Collection 8:30 AM Bible Study for all ages 8:30 AM Adult Choir Practice 9:30 AM Ohana Blended Worship (LWML Sunday) 10:45 AM Ohana Fellowship 11:00 AM Christianity 101 Tanaka**	17 Rachel Hilpert* Cris Clark*	18 TBA Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Dinner	19 8:00 AM SMLS Chapel 10:00 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Prayer Warriors 1:15 PM Bites 4 Mites Bake Sale 1:30 PM Youth Quest 6:30 PM Worship Team Practice Jonathan Busse*	20 Leslie Wynhoff* Anthony Warren* Jacob Gaudi*	21 Sally Brady*	22 8:00- 10:00 AM Saint Mark Food Bank 6:00 PM Haunted Lagoon (Junior & Senior High Youth)
23 8:30 AM Bible Study for all ages 8:30 AM Adult Choir Practice 9:30 AM Ohana Blended Worship with communion 10:45 AM Ohana Fellowship 11:00 AM Christianity 101 5:00 PM K-2 Concert & Potluck Tom Munson* Ke' alohi Tyau* James Chaffin*	24	25 Kalapana Wolcott*	26 8:00 AM SMLS Chapel 10:00 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Prayer Warriors 12:30 PM Teacher Appreciation Luncheon 1:30 PM Youth Quest 6:30 PM Worship Team Practice	27	28	29 7:30 AM Men in the Word at Pastor's 8:00- 10:00 AM Saint Mark Food Bank 5:00 PM Oktoberfest Kelli Taniguchi*
30 8:30 AM Bible Study for all ages 8:30 AM Adult Choir Practice 9:30 AM Ohana Blended Worship with communion 10:45 AM Ohana Fellowship Laura Johnson* Katie Gray*	31	<i>*Birthday / ** Anniversary</i>				