

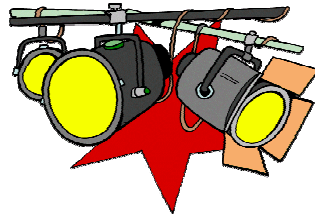
## September Servant Highlights

**September 4:  
9:30 AM**  
**Acolyte:** Noah Schuetz  
**Lector:** Richard Dole  
**Media Tech:** Scott Macri  
**Usher:** J. Busse, C. Uhlig, L. Pescht, M. Fink  
**Elder:** Toby Rushforth

**September 11:  
9:30 AM**  
**Acolyte:** Miriam Ha  
**Lector:** Rachel Hilpert  
**Media Tech:** Josh Hilpert  
**Usher:** T. Annis, D. Gaudi, N. Nam, M. Perry  
**Elder:** Cal Uhlig

**September 18:  
9:30 AM**  
**Acolyte:** Isaiah Graham  
**Lector:** Bill Wynhoff  
**Media Tech:** Noah Schuetz  
**Usher:** P. Graham, F. Tanaka, T. Rushforth, J. Hagen  
**Elder:** Cal Uhlig

**September 25:  
9:30 AM**  
**Acolyte:** Josh Hilpert  
**Lector:** Dar Fink  
**Media Tech:** Scott Macri  
**Usher:** R. Firchau, T. Slavens, A. Warren, R. Rupnow  
**Elder:** Tom Slavens



# Saint Mark Lutheran Church

45-725 Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744 • (808) 247-4565 • [www.StMarkHawaii.org](http://www.StMarkHawaii.org)

September 2011

## Aloha From Pastor Matt

***“Those who received (God’s) word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2: 41 – 47)***

This New Testament account conveys the joy and excitement the early Christian church experienced. Can you imagine our church growing by 3,000, in just one day? What an amazing time and how wonderful that time must have been. We can relish in our history and our memories, in what was, but if we linger too long we may lose sight of these same miracles of God taking place in our midst today.

These past months have been truly wonderful and joy-filled within our church ohana. Each Sunday we have rejoiced with our many visitors who have repeatedly joined us in worship, looking for a church home. To see so many new, and sometimes old faces, brings happiness to our souls. We have gathered around the miracle of God’s altar sharing His holy meal. We have witnessed the miracle of new births through God’s baptismal waters as He has expanded our church. We have continued to be blessed in amazing ways as our Sunday School and Bible Classes have grown so greatly that we now enjoy the fruit of a new keiki choir, a Pen-Pal relationship with a sister Lutheran Church in Texas, and their supporting of foreign missionaries. Who could have ever imagined our keiki praising God in such a variety of ways. Each Sunday, I have witnessed so many glad and generous hearts, receiving numerous positive comments regarding our blended worship, in how it celebrates our liturgical heritage with our contemporary gifts. And that joy of our worship naturally overflows into our fellowship as our ohana of Christ as we share our lives with one another. Just imagine when our Adult Choir returns, then we will truly realize just how many amazing miracles of God take place among us and how truly blessed our Sunday ministries are.

This vigor for church life has not only been evident in our Sunday morning ministries but also in the growth of our small group ministries. The *Really Bad Girls of the Bible* study, the new *Men in the Word*, the Wednesday Senior Study, and the Prayer Warriors groups continue to flourish and have grown to include new faces. Our youth ministries have again taken off a vibrant fashion with Youth Quest and fellowship activities. The outreach to our school families has grown as well with monthly ohana beach days and game nights. It is so wonderful to experience the many miracles and growth of God here among us.

Consider how the early church responded to that growth. They praised God for His miracles and shared everything they had with everyone who had need with glad and generous hearts. That should be our continued call today as well. Now, we may not experience the growth of 3,000 new members in one day, but we should not lose sight of the tremendous growth taking place in our midst. Just as it was with the early church, we need to realize that this growth is a product of God’s Spirit working in the life of Saint Mark Lutheran Church. The growth we experience may not always occur in the way that we would expect, and it may even surprise us. But when we recognize the fruit that God’s Spirit produces among us, we can only, simply praise and thank Him for the continued addition of baptized souls being saved.

## 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!

**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.




## DCE Corner



The other day I was watching *A Little Princess* and one scene just kept playing over and over in my head for the rest of the day. For those of you who don't remember the movie or haven't seen it, let me catch you up. Sara Crewe is a young girl who was born to a wealthy American soldier stationed in India. She spent her time in India playing in the countryside and listening to the mystical stories of her Indian caretaker. Sara was told from a young age by her caretaker that all girls are princesses and she has no doubt that this is true. Sara leaves India and moves to New York where her father leaves her at Miss Minchin's Boarding School while he goes off to war. She is given the best room, quickly becomes the most popular girl, and proves to be one of the brightest pupils. Yes, Sara has a good life, that is until her father is believed to be killed in the war, leaving Sara an orphan and at the mercy of the cruel Miss Minchin. The Headmistress allows Sara to stay on as a servant girl, forcing her to give up all she had. After several weeks of Sara's new life of poverty she has an encounter with Miss Minchin in which the headmistress asks Sara, "Don't tell me you still fancy yourself a princess? Child, look around you!" Sara does not look at the dirty floor or her rag dress, but without hesitation looks Miss Minchin straight in the eye and says, "I am a princess. All girls are. Even if they dress in rags, even if they aren't pretty, or smart, or young. They're still princesses. All of us." Even after all she has been through Sara does not question that she and all girls are treasured princesses. Do our keiki know that they too are treasured princesses and princes? Do they have the same faith that they are treasured sons and daughters of the King of Kings? I pray that they do. I pray that we all have the same assurance that Sara had, that no matter what situation we may be in, we know without a doubt that we are loved and prized princes and princesses of our Heavenly Father.

## What's coming up for youth? I'm so glad you asked!

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- † Ohana Beach Day - September 4th 2-5 PM at Kailua Beach. Bring your family and come hang out with friends at the beach!
  - † Minute to Win It Competition - September 18th 1-3 PM at Saint Mark. If you are in 5th-8th grade come and see how good you are under pressure as you try to beat the clock! Feel free to check out the Minute to Win It website to get a sneak peek at the mini-challenges we will be doing. Don't forget to bring a friend!
  - † Cinema Night - September 25th 5-8 PM at Saint Mark. High schoolers, come hang out and watch another movie with your friends. We will have dinner and of course a bible study after the movie. What movie is it? It's a surprise!
  - † Youth Quest - Every Wednesday from 1:30 - 2:45 PM 5th-8th grade is welcome to come have a snack, play a game, and learn about God and their own faith. This month we are learning about the 10 Commandments and how they apply to our everyday life. There is a \$30 one time fee for the year to purchase books. For more info talk to Sarah or Pastor Matt.
  - † Don't forget about Sunday School and Keiki Church too! Congratulations to our Sunday School Keiki who memorized Luther's Morning Prayer and Psalm 23, earning themselves a cupcake party last Sunday! Way to go! We will continue to have Sunday School at 8:30 AM and Keiki church during the service. Our Keiki Church will be a continuation of our Sunday School lesson of the day, so make sure you don't miss out on Part 1 by missing Sunday School!

## 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).

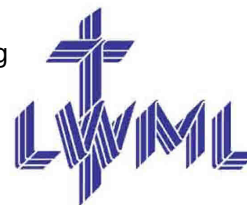
**Senior Bible Study** is held each Wednesday at 10:00 AM in the church sanctuary, followed by **Prayer Warriors**. The material covered for this bible study is the upcoming Sunday lessons. The lessons will be provided but it is encouraged for you to bring your bible also.

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

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

## LWML

Zone 11 of the California, Nevada and Hawaii district of LWML is gearing up for the retreat to be held at KMC on the Big Island in late September. It promises to be an exciting and interesting Retreat. We have at least five coming from California and really could use more representatives from Hawaii. See me for more details if you are interested.



Saint Mark women have at least two additional events: The Appreciation Luncheon that we provide for the teachers and staff of Saint Mark Church and School is going to be in October and we have to plan for a Bake Sale so we have funds above and beyond the Mites for our local celebrations.

Remember the Mites provide the district and the national chapters with funds to support mission work. LWML is one of the major mission leaders in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The grant money that we received from the CNH district will be used to refurbish our Food Pantry. That project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

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

Have you ever seen those guys who keep a dozen plates spinning on sticks? That's what we have going on with parish education! There are so many opportunities going on it is hard to keep track. 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, as well as, learning songs in the new Keiki choir, how they can help and support missionaries, and parts of our Lutheran catechism. We finished up the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm with a cupcake party and now will be moving on to the 10 commandments. 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 worship service.

*The Really Bad Girls of the Bible* girls meeting at 6:30 PM on Sundays are having wonderful fellowship, as well as, delving into God's word each week. We even have girls who cannot regularly attend church with us so this is very special for them. So the men don't feel left out we 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 AM at the church. They meet for fellowship and to discuss that weeks Bible lessons. Youth Quest begins for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Board of Outreach and Fellowship News

**September 11 card signing to support deployed military personnel:** On Sunday, September 11, there will be cards available on a table out on the lanai to sign and send to our Saint Mark Ohana military servicemen and women who are currently deployed overseas. Please stop by the table and take a few moments to write notes of gratitude or encouragement to these brave individuals who are serving our country so far from home.

**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!

**September 18 fellowship hour potluck:** On Sunday, September 18, we will be blessed to have students in Saint Mark's 4-6 grade choir along with their families joining us for our Ohana blended service. Please bring a potluck dish to share during our fellowship hour and spend some time visiting with our school families!

**Family Promise News:** Our next Family Promise rotation will be 2 back-to-back weeks from October 2 - 16. Dinner and overnight hosts are needed. If you would like more information on Family Promise of Hawaii and how you can help, please visit their website at [www.familypromisehawaii.org](http://www.familypromisehawaii.org) or contact Yal or Kristin Lim.

**2<sup>ND</sup> Annual Reformationfest is scheduled for October 29 at 5:00 PM:** Put this event on your calendars now! Start digging out those Lederhosen and Dirndls and practice up on your Chicken Dance technique! The festivities will include free brats and a sidedish potluck, chicken dance / polka cake walk, Lutheran tattoo parlor and more! Watch for more details coming soon. If you are interested in helping plan, set-up, cook, run games / activities or clean-up, please contact the church office or anyone on the Board of Outreach and Fellowship: Theresa Annis, Rachel Hilpert, Luana Perry, Jenni Tyau, Sarah Morris, Katie Shirley, Yal or Kristin Lim.

**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.

## 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 if you would like what they look like now or a photo of the service member in civilian clothing! Mahalo



## Pillowcase Challenge Update

On August 13 we held our third Pillowcase Potluck at the Wynhoff's house. We had 15 people participate, creating 35 pillowcases! A big mahalo to all who gave their time and talents. Some people took home "kits" to finish, so our numbers will soon be climbing! You can enjoy some of the fruits of our labors hanging on the back wall of the sanctuary. This batch of pillowcases will put us over the 100 mark! This is no small achievement. So thank you for your support of this project.

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](mailto:luanaperry@yahoo.com).

Thank you to all the wonderful stitchers who have helped with this project.

## From Saint Mark's Head Elder...

Brothers and sisters in Christ, our mission as Saint Mark Lutheran Church is "to extend the love and care of Jesus Christ to all people." This of course reflects the Lord's Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20: **"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

After prayerful consideration of this mission and much discussion, the Board of Elders believes it is important for us to continue with the Ohana service at 9:30 a.m. This decision is based on our prosperous summer of one service as reflected in:

- 20 to 25 persons participating in the 8:30 a.m. Adult Bible study. We have never been able to attain those numbers with Sunday Bible study between services or after the late service.
- A rekindled growth and enthusiasm in Sunday School being held at 8:30 a.m. along with the new Keiki Choir. Despite heroic efforts by many persons, Sunday School has struggled to thrive at other times.
- Tremendous growth of children in the Keiki message. A few years ago we could count the number of kids in church on one hand.
- The many positive responses of Saint Mark members and potential new members.
- Increased fellowship with all members following the one service. In particular, the two service format inhibited fellowship when the second service started.

As Head Elder, I am deeply aware that some of us prefer the wholly traditional service without the addition of a couple of contemporary (and possibly less familiar) hymns. And some of us prefer the 8:30 a.m. start time. The Elders are fully aware of these concerns, we understand and share them. This decision, although not necessarily cast in stone, will enable our congregation to continue our mission as a Church and the successes we have seen this summer. Building from the vibrance of congregational life experienced this summer, we look forward to the Adult Choir adding their gifts to the Ohana service, as well as our Keiki Choir, the School Choirs, and the many families of our greater Saint Mark Ohana coming together.

As issues arise, I would ask that you bring them to an Elder or to Pastor Matt so that they can be prayerfully addressed and worked through based on actual experience. For this immediate time, I would ask that you continue to support Saint Mark Lutheran Church as we continue to try out this new direction. Attend faithfully, serve the Lord using your own special gifts (*wasn't that a great sermon on this theme by Dan Trusdell on August 21?*), rejoice in the gifts others bring, and sing the new songs as joyously as the old. Remember when we called a new Pastor, the first things on the list of what we wanted as a congregation were growth and more young people and children. As the members of Saint Mark please continue to pray for and support our ministries and consider "what can I do to make this a better Church and fulfill our mission?"



# September 2011

| Sunday   | Monday                                       | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                                    | Saturday  |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |  |   |   | 1<br>7:00 PM Elders Meeting                                 | 2   | 3<br>7:30 AM Men in the Word at Pastor's<br>8:00- 10:00 AM Saint Mark Food Bank<br><br>Karin Rushforth* |
| 4<br>8:30 AM Bible Study for all ages<br>9:30 AM Ohana Blended Worship (Reese)<br>10:45 AM Ohana Fellowship<br>2:00 PM Ohana Beach Day<br>6:30 PM <u>Really Bad Girls of the Bible</u><br>Women's Study<br><br>Karen Akaka*                                | 5  | 6   | 7<br>8:00 AM SMLS Chapel<br>10:00 AM Bible Study<br>11:00 AM Prayer Warriors<br>1:30 PM Youth Quest<br>6:30 PM Worship Team Practice<br><br>Joni Sweet*     | 8<br>6:15 PM SMLS Board of Education<br><br>Rachel Firchau* | 9<br><br>Matt Chaffin*                    | 10<br>8:00- 10:00 AM Saint Mark Food Bank<br><br>Noah Graham*<br>Sean Kennedy*                          |
| 11<br>8:30 AM Bible Study for all ages<br>9:30 AM Ohana Blended Worship<br>(10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance Service)<br>10:45 AM Ohana Fellowship<br>6:30 PM <u>Really Bad Girls of the Bible</u><br>Women's Study                                | 12<br><br>Richard Firchau*<br>David Hilkert* | 13<br>6:00 PM Council Meeting   | 14<br>8:00 AM SMLS Chapel<br>10:00 AM Bible Study<br>11:00 AM Prayer Warriors<br>1:30 PM Youth Quest<br>6:30 PM Worship Team Practice                       | 15<br><br>Nicholas Soma*                                    | 16<br><br>Thomas Slavens*<br>Robbie Hill* | 17<br>7:30 AM Men in the Word at Pastor's<br>8:00- 10:00 AM Saint Mark Food Bank<br>9:30 AM LCMH        |
| 18<br><b>LWML Mite Collection</b><br>8:30 AM Bible Study for all ages<br>9:30 AM Ohana Blended Worship (SMLS Sunday)<br>10:45 AM Ohana Fellowship<br>1:00 PM Minute To Win It (Jr. Youth)<br>6:30 PM <u>Really Bad Girls of the Bible</u><br>Women's Study | 19   | 20<br>6:00 PM Potluck for Board of Fellowship<br><br>Andrea Hill*<br>Scott Macri* | 21<br>8:00 AM SMLS Chapel<br>10:00 AM Bible Study<br>11:00 AM Prayer Warriors<br>1:30 PM Youth Quest<br>6:30 PM Worship Team Practice<br><br>Theresa Annis* | 22<br><br>Albert Brum*                                      | 23  | 24<br>8:00- 10:00 AM Saint Mark Food Bank<br>LHS Carwash<br><br>Chad Rushforth*                         |
| 25<br>8:30 AM Bible Study for all ages<br>9:30 AM Ohana Blended Worship<br>10:45 AM Ohana Fellowship<br>5:00 PM Cinema Night (Sr. Youth)<br><br>Jerome Williams*   | 26<br><br>Matthew Hilpert*                   | 27  | 28<br>8:00 AM SMLS Chapel<br>10:00 AM Bible Study<br>11:00 AM Prayer Warriors<br>1:30 PM Youth Quest<br>6:30 PM Worship Team Practice<br><br>Jinny Johnson* | 29  | 30<br><br>Doug Hellinger*<br>Ryan Hantel* |                    |

*\*Birthday / \*\* Anniversary*