



Saint Mark Lutheran Church

February 2010

Aloha From Pastor Matt

It's something about the month of February that makes me think about love. Maybe it's because it has to do with February 14th, Valentine's Day. And since Valentine's falls on a Sunday this year, it is probably good that we do think about love. Love is at the heart of our lives together, especially in the body of Christ here at Saint Mark. When my family and I moved here 7 months ago we were enveloped by the love of our ohana of Saint Mark. It was a wonderful experience. You have all opened your hearts, your homes, and your lives to each of us becoming "aunties" and "uncles" to Josh, Abi, and Ben, and brothers and sisters to Rachel and I. My family and I thank you for your prayers and your Christian love and concern for each of us.

However, we haven't been the only new arrivals here at St. Mark. It seems like each week there are new visitors and new transplants to the community of Oahu. And I know how difficult it is to open up your hearts and your families and your lives to so many new people so often. There are differences in worship styles, differences in ages, differences in backgrounds, and all of those differences aren't always easily overcome. That is why I think that this month of February, as we celebrate love on Valentines Day, we would set a goal of being love to one another.

Again, it's not always easy to be love to someone else, especially someone who we might not even know, but God's Word reminds us that we aren't alone in this struggle. ***"God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us."*** (1 John 4: 17 – 19) As we spend time with the Lord, in worship, and in Bible study, and in fellowship activities with other believers we are nourished and strengthened by God's Love. And being strengthened by Him makes our loving perfect.

Being perfect in loving others is a difficult task, if not impossible. I don't always feel like being friendly. Sometimes it is just too early to smile and be hospitable. Sometimes our opinions clash. But that is why I am drawn back to the truth that this love isn't about me. It's about the love that God has for us through His Son Jesus Christ. As Paul also writes, ***"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."*** (Romans 5: 10 – 11) God showed love to us when we were His enemies. God gave us His Son, the greatest act of love when we were completely separated from Him and dead in our sins. And with that knowledge in mind, we are able to love even when we don't always feel like loving. Because it is then, as He works through us to show that love to others, that He also perfects that love in us, and that is what my family has been experiencing over these last months.

Although I do appreciate the love that you have shown to me as a new part of your ohana, I want to encourage you to continue to show that love to everyone in our congregation and to those who visit us here in Kaneohe. The Lord has blessed us so richly with our Saint Mark ohana, but with two worship services, a great variety of ministry activities, and our irregular attendance, we can sometimes be distanced from one another and not even recognize (or in turn, not show love to) our ohana of Saint Mark. So this month of February, I would encourage you to make it a personal goal to focus on showing love to your Saint Mark ohana.



Saint Mark Lutheran Church

Aloha From Pastor Matt Continued...

Go out of your way to greet and speak to someone at church who you may not be that familiar. Sit in a different pew and worship along with someone who is visiting with us. Seek out those who you do not regularly converse with over snacks on the lanai or in the passing of the peace. Encourage those who dutifully and humbly serve the Lord on Sunday mornings as ushers, musicians, lectors, elders, Keiki leaders, etc. Support the teachers and staff of our school with your prayers and phone calls letting them know how you appreciate their service in the Lord. Invite your neighbor or co-worker to worship with us and hear God's love. For in all of these ways you are being the love of God to another.

However, these activities focus around our time together while we are here together on the property of Saint Mark. What about the other 6 days of the week? That is like saying, "I love you" to your spouse only on February 14th and neglecting them the rest of the year. No, make this month of February a month-long lovefest. Call or visit other members in our ohana throughout the week. Pray for one another. Visit those in our ohana who are in the hospital or are confined to their homes. Send a card to one of our brothers or sisters stationed in the military abroad. Look for other members of your ohana at the grocery store or at Costco, or go to the beach or the movies or even golfing with them. Allow the Lord to love through you so that His love would be perfected in you, and you will learn just how rewarding and enriching our relationships with one another in the Lord truly can be.

As last words of guidance, read how Paul describes this love of God shown between Christian brothers and sisters is experienced when it is perfected in the Lord. ***"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."*** (1 Corinthians 13: 4 – 8a) What an amazing freedom and joy that type of love is. It is my prayer that it would be that kind of love, God's love that you continually strive to share and experience this month.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Matt

Servants in Christ

We would like to give a big *Mahalo* to all of the servant in Christ that are already offering their time and talents to St. Mark Lutheran Church.

If the Lord has touched your heart and you are looking for 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.

Alter Guild is looking for more members! For more information please contact the church office form more information at 247-5589 or st.marksecretary@yahoo.com.

Board of Elders is looking for new members to assist in the spiritual care and needs of St. Mark Lutheran.

Servants for Sunday Mornings

Media Technicians are needed to operate the computer for our regular worship services.

Keiki Church Assistants to help teach our *keiki* about God's love for them in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Lectors, Ushers, and Acolytes are needed. For more information please contact the Church office at 808-247-4565 or at st.marksecretary@yahoo.com or secretary@stmarkhawaii.org.



Saint Mark Lutheran Church

DCE Corner

Aloha!

Last month I was blessed by a quick visit with some family friends on Molokai. I had never been there before and I was amazed at how peaceful and serene the island is! And I'd like to share my baby sea turtle story with you...

At around noon one day, we jumped in our Jeep and headed out to Halawa Bay, on the eastern shore of Molokai. Once we arrived, we noticed a cute, baby sea turtle swimming along the beach. We took some pictures and then glanced down the beach. We saw about 50 baby sea turtles washed up on the beach! Well we couldn't just let them dry up in the sun! So we spent the next five hours putting them back in the ocean! It was an incredible experience! Some turtles were lying on their backs, some were crawling in circles, and others were just lying around. A marine biologist joined us after a few hours and she thanked us for saving the turtles. She said, "If you all weren't here, all of these turtles would've died."

And that's what God is doing to us, isn't He? He's giving us a second chance at life. We try and find our own way, but we get lost. We get hurt. We get turned around. We dry up. But God scoops us up. He holds us in His loving arms and He sets us free! He shows us the Way home, through His Son, Jesus.

"For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins," (Colossians 1:13).

Keep swimming in His grace,

Peter Johnson

Youth Corner

Mahalo!

A big mahalo to everyone who came to the Bowling Night on Jan, 8th! We had a lot of fun! Thanks again, Melinda, for reserving the lanes and being there so early! It was awesome!

FREE Christian Concert

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Aiea is having a free Christian concert on Tues, Feb. 2 at 7pm. Grayson Kessenich, a Christian artist from northern California will be sharing his musical talents and faith story. If you'd like to go, talk to Peter and we'll be carpooling at around 6pm from St. Mark.

Wii Night

Invite your friends, bring an energy drink and have a blast playing the Wii on the big screen on Fri, Feb. 5! We'll be playing some Wii Sports, MarioKart, Super Smash Bros, and more! We'll start all the action at 7pm at church!

Punahou Carnival

If you like rides, food, and carnival games, then you should come to the annual Punahou Carnival with us! A group from church will be leaving at 10am on Sat, Feb. 6. We'll leave the carnival by 5pm.

Youth Board Meeting

The next meeting will be at church on Wed, Feb. 10 @ 7pm

2010 Vacation Bible School

It's never too early to begin to plan for VBS! If you'd like to help in anyway or have helped in the past please talk to Peter! pjohnson@stmarkhawaii.org

Youth Group

Meets every Sunday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.



Saint Mark Lutheran Church

Board of Outreach and Fellowship News...

AFTER SERVICE SNACKS: Mahalo to all who have brought refreshments for fellowship time after both services! Fellowship is an important part of bonding as a church family, and food is a key ingredient in fostering conversations with members and guests. If you haven't volunteered to bring anything recently, please sign up for a week. The sign-up sheet can be found on the food table.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS: We will once again be having Lenten Soup Suppers on Wednesdays beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Suppers begin at 6:00pm in room 2 and will end just prior to the Lenten service at 7:00pm. If you can't get there by 6:00, don't worry....food will be available until about 6:45. Come and grab a quick bite to eat before heading to Lenten service. A sign-up sheet to bring soups, bread, etc. will be out on the bulletin board.

FAMILY PROMISE: Our next Family Promise week is March 14-21. We will be housing and feeding homeless families (up to 15 people) down in our gym during the school break. Families staying with us are entered into the program at Family Promise of Hawaii. This organization helps families in need prepare to transition into homes of their own. We are part of a network of Windward churches who take turns housing families for a week at a time each quarter. Dinner hosts, overnight hosts and set-up/clean up volunteers are needed. Please contact Kristin or Yal Lim if you are able to help. The sign-up board will be out on the church lanai each week beginning the third week of February.

January Servant Highlights

February 7:

9:30 a.m.

Elder: Bill Wynhoff

Usher: B. Wynhoff, T. Slavens.

J. Busse, B. Kelln

Acolyte: Talena Kelln

Lector: Bill Whynhoff

February 14:

8:30 a.m.

Elder: Bill Wynhoff

Usher: T. Annis, A. Anderson,

D. Gaudi

Acolyte: Noah Schuetz

Lector: Jeremiah Oehlerich

February 21:

8:30 a.m.

Elder: Bill Wynhoff

Usher: : C. Uhlig, T. Rushforth,

M. Fink, M. Perry

Acolyte: Rachel Gray

Lector: Cal Uhlig

February 28:

8:30 a.m.

Elder: Bill Wynhoff

Usher: B. Rudeen, J. Oehlerich,

C. Baker, L. Pescht

Acolyte: Katherine Baker

Lector: Jeremiah Oehlerich

11:00 a.m.

Elder: Craig Shull

Usher: D. Truesdell, R. Firchau,

A. Warren, Y. Lim

Acolyte: James Chaffin

11:00 a.m.

Elder: Craig Shull

Usher: D. Truesdell, R. Firchau,

A. Warren, Y. Lim

11:00 a.m.

Elder: Craig Shull

Usher: D. Truesdell, R. Firchau,

A. Warren, Y. Lim

Acolyte: Kate Chaffin

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Church: www.StMarkHawaii.org • Youth: www.StMarkYouthMinistry.com



Saint Mark Lutheran Church

LWML News

Last weekend, January 22-24, 36 ladies from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, met at Camp Mokule'ia on the North Shore of Oahu. We had ladies from California, Texas and Hawaii. 24 stayed the entire weekend and 12 came for the day on Saturday.

Pastor Herbert Burch and his wife, Markie, joined us for our Bible Study and Fellowship. Sandy Haugner, CNH LWML District President attended along with Alvina Fredrickson, Zone 12 President.

Friday afternoon the folks began to arrive and get settled. It was so good seeing old friends and making new ones. If you have never attended one of these, I urge you to come to the Spring Rally at St. Mark this spring. (More on that later) We enjoyed a variety of heavy puupuu's for our supper. Zone Treasurer, Dian Mahoney from Hilo, passed around an empty basket that we were to put our concerns, wishes, whatever. Once it got around a prayer was said to free ourselves from worry and "get us in the mood"! Gabi Katt, Zone 11 President, welcomed everyone and Pastor Burch had an evening devotion. Just fellowship and chit chat before folks wandered off to bed, especially the folks from California.

Saturday we awoke to a beautiful sunny day, the ocean was as calm as could be and a great spot for our morning devotion prior to an excellent breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, French toast, fruit, coffee and juice. The theme was "LOOK TO THE HILLS: GOD REIGNS. Two forty-five minute Bible Studies with Pastor Herb followed with a break in between. Pastor used the Mountains while presenting bible passages and information using Isaiah. We had a business meeting led by Gabi and Sandy. Two of us from St. Mark and a lady from Hilo were named to the nominating committee. We are to report to Gabi Katt before our April Rally Day. Lunch included Cheese burgers, baked beans, French fries, salad bar and cake The By-Laws were reviewed and revised. Copies are available from Adele Mitchell if you are interested. Free time followed so some went whale watching from the shore, some went swimming, others did crafts. Adele demonstrated two types of leis and a Clip Angel, Gabi demonstrated drawing art on scarfs and the ladies each had the opportunity to practice any or all of the projects. Dinner was a delicious meal of Barbequed Chicken, fresh green beans, potatoes, rice, salad bar and cake. An evening of music, guitar, devotions and entertainment ended around 9 p.m. and we were able to spend more time visiting or just getting ready to retire.

Sunday, another great day of sunshine and breezes, found us at breakfast, more scrambled eggs, bacon, fried rice, potatoes, French toast and fruit. A church service from 9-10 with Pastor Herb officiating, an Aloha to all and we loaded up the cars and left. An amazing weekend, looking forward to the next one and sincerely hope we can entice more to attend our Rally in April here at St. Mark. At this point all I can tell you is the theme is KNOW THE HOPE- JESUS!!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

APRIL Spring Rally day: St. Mark; Saturday April 17th.

CONVENTION: San Jose, CA April 30-May2. We need a delegate from St. Mark

FALL RALLY: Our Redeemer, Honolulu



Saint Mark Lutheran Church

Contemporary Worship Team Update...

The Contemporary Worship Team celebrates our Lord Jesus Christ and all that he has given us at the 11:00 am service. We are always looking for instrumentalists and singers to join us in making worship the most meaningful experience that we can. So if you sing or play any instrument- from the piccolo to the drum set please contact Tanya Pescht at 808-228-0830 or pescht@hawaii.edu.

If you are interested in attending our worship team practice to see what we are all about, join us on Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm for instrumentalists, and 6:30 pm for singers.

Church News

Voters Meeting/ One Service- February 7 there will only be one service followed by the Voters meeting

Ohana Sundays The fifth Sunday of every month is Ohana Sundays! We will be worshiping together at a SINGLE service at 9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship and *pupus* on the lanai.

Bulletin Submissions Any Submissions need to be emailed or called into the church office by Thursday at 247-5589 or st.marksecretary@yahoo.com or secretary@stmarkahawaii.org

Senior Bible Study Wednesdays at 10:00am in the church. This bible study looks forward to the upcoming Sundays lessons.

The Saint Mark Food Bank The Food Bank is open Saturdays from 8am to 10am. Food and monetary donations to the St. Mark Food Bank are always welcome and a big help, especially canned meat, canned fish and canned fruit. Money donated to St. Mark Food Bank is tax deductible. This enables us to purchase food from the Hawaii Food Bank. If you have any questions or want to help maintain the food closet, please call Katie Shirley at 596-2771.

Offering Envelopes Please contact Rick Firchau at goblue.rcf@hawaiiantel.net or call the church secretary at 247-4565 if you need offering envelopes

Flower Chart Please sign-up to provide flowers in honor, celebration or memory of that special loved one. Audrey Rushforth takes care of ordering and delivery for you. Cost is only \$15.

Newsletters Please visit the church website at www.stmarkhawaii.org for the latest monthly newsletter.

Offering Envelopes for 2010 are available in the back of the church. Additionally, anyone needing envelopes can contact the church office at 247-5589 or st.marksecretary@yahoo.com or secretary@stmarkahawaii.org or email Rick Firchau at goblue.rcf@hawaiiantel.net.

Contribution Statements for 2009 are available at the back of the church.

School News

February 12— Spring Family Night

February 13— PTC Rummage Sale

February 15— No School (Presidents Day)

February 17— Jump Rope for Heart and Potluck

February 22-26— Scholastic Book Fair

February 26— All Lutheran Schools' Dress Rehearsal

February 27— All Lutheran Schools' Music Festival at 7:00 PM (Grades 4&5
Choir/ Grades 5-8 Band)



Saint Mark Lutheran Church

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Lutz Pescht* Jason Tumbleson*	2	3 10:00 AM Senior Bible Study	4 6:00 PM Worship Team Practice	5 7:00 PM Wii Night	6 8:00 AM St. Mark Food Bank Wesley Perry*
7 9:30 Combined Service 10:30 Voters Meeting 6:00 Youth Group Dorothy Brennan* Woel Soon Kim-Rupnow*	8	9 7:00 PM Council Meeting	10 10:00 AM Senior Bible Study Jo Ann Gundermann* Randy Kennedy*	11 6:00 PM Worship Team Practice 6:15 PM Board of Education Lauren Miyasaki*	12 Beth Munson* Jeffery Eyer*	13 8:00 AM St. Mark Food Bank
14 8:30 Traditional Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Contemporary Service 6:00 Youth Group Valinn Shull* DeCosterds**	15	16 6:30 PM Elders Meeting	17 10:00 AM Senior Bible Study 6:00 PM Soup Potluck Dinner 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	18 6:00 PM Worship Team Practice	19 Gracia Williams* Aaron Miyasaki*	20 8:00 AM St. Mark Food Bank Menchie Camilo* Brent Kelln*
21 8:30 Traditional Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Contemporary Service/ Jennerich Baptism 6:00 Youth Group Keith Tyau*	22 SMLS Bok Fair John Lee*	23 SMLS Bok Fair	24 10:00 AM Senior Bible Study 6:00 PM Soup Potluck Dinner 7:00 PM Lent Service SMLS Bok Fair	25 6:00 PM Worship Team Practice SMLS Bok Fair	26 SMLS Bok Fair Noah Gaudi*	27 8:00 AM St. Mark Food Bank 7:00 PM All Lutheran Schools' Music Festival at the Leeward Community College Theater in Pearl City
Page 4 28 8:30 Traditional Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Contemporary Service 6:00 Youth Group						

* Birthday / ** Anniversary