

St. Mark Lutheran Church

(775) 738-5436

277 Willow Street Elko, Nevada

www.stmarkelko.com

Branching Out for the Sake of the World

AUGUST 2011 Newsletter

Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. - Holy Communion 2nd and 4th Sundays
10:30 a.m. – Bible Study

Greetings from the Pastor

Jean and I would like to give our sincerest appreciation for everything the church has done in welcoming us to St. Mark. Your reputation preceded you as both District President Newton and Pastor Williams spoke to me about how loving and welcoming this church is. We've seen your love in all of the work that went into the parsonage, in the welcoming gifts, in the Installation dinner, and in your warm smiles on Sunday morning. Jean and I are very happy with both St. Mark and with Elko and look forward to many great years here.

Now that we have met it's time to get to know each other! We are still setting up the parsonage so it's going to be a few weeks before we will be ready to start entertaining, but we'll come to you! Just invite us, we'd love to see your homes or even your places of work, for lunch, dinner or just desert... Ideally I'd like to visit one or two families a week until I've seen you all. It's an honor to us to be serving here, and we both look forward to knowing you more.

Please call the office or stop by anytime if you need to talk or if I can be of help in any way. I am here to serve as Christ's under-shepherd and I'm ready to get down to business! Blessings on the rest of your summer and see you at worship!

In Christ, Pastor Chuck





Pictures from Pastor Chuck's Installation Dinner and Service

NOTES from July Council Meeting:

At July's council meeting a task force was created to look at the church & parsonage for future projects – whether it be system updates & repairs, beautification projects etc. The group of trustees and congregation members is planning to have a short range plan and a 5 -10 year plan. More information to follow...

Please fill out a work order if you see an item that is need of repair. Forms will be posted near the mail boxes. Completed forms may be placed in the TRUSTEE box.

FIFTH SUNDAY COLLECTION:

Here's some information about how our fifth Sunday offerings are handled:

Collections on the fifth Sunday of any month will be earmarked for missions that have been previously suggested by congregation members and approved by the Missions Committee. If you wish to refrain from earmarking YOUR tithe for mission funding, please note GENERAL FUND on your envelope or check memo.

2011 has the following remaining 5th Sundays: [July 31](#) and [October 30th](#).

The July 31st offering will be split between the two worthy mission recipients:

1) **The St. Mark Lutheran Preschool fund** for tuition assistance, which assists families facing unforeseen hardships in paying their preschool tuition.

2) **Lutheran High School, New Orleans, LA.** This High School has been open for 70 years and is supported by area LCMS congregations. Since many of those supporting congregations have shrunk considerably or even been forced to close their doors post-Katrina, the school is struggling to stay alive. This one-time contribution will help keep the school running for the 2011/2012 academic year. Thanks to those members who submitted these mission requests.

To nominate future worthy mission recipients, just write up your suggestion and place it in the MISSIONS mailbox. The missions committee will meet again to review requests and make decisions about the [October 30th](#) 5th Sunday offering on Monday, [October 10th](#) at 6:15 pm. All congregation members are invited to attend and share their thoughts about Missions.

Do you have a heart for Missions? Then consider JOINING THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE!!! We are down one member and could always use another voice. Talk to Summer Ehrmann after service, email sehrmann@frontiernet, or call [340-0145](tel:340-0145). Current committee members are Summer Ehrmann, Colleen Hill, Bonnie Petznik, and Frances Weber.

Summer Ehrmann, Council Secretary

Choir Notes from Sharon Hogg-----

Choir will take a break from rehearsals until after Labor Day. Thanks, choir members, for contributing so much to the worship services in the last year.

For you who are not members of the choir: Please consider joining the choir in the fall!

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees & congregation members have been very busy volunteering their time and talent getting the parsonage ready for Pastor Chuck's & Jean's arrival early in July.

Several people spent countless hours:

- Painting the interior of the house from top to bottom.
- Removing flooring in the master bath, kitchen/dining area & pantry/hallway.
- Installing new tile in the above areas.
- A long list of repairs & honey do's.
- Cleaning appliances, bathrooms, windows & blinds.
- Pulling weeds & repairing sprinklers.

New Carpet will be installed at the parsonage August 22nd & 23rd. We will need help removing the old carpet & padding on Sunday, August 21st after service. Please contact Colleen Hill if you can help @ 777-1106 or email the5hills@frontiernet.net

Thank you again if you helped for an hour or two weeks, if you cleaned or did hard labor, delivered food & drink, babysat, or made a donation towards supplies. It was wonderful to see the congregation pull together to accomplish so much in such a short period of time. We are blessed to have such a handy group!

Trustees also organized a work day at the church in June. Several people helped mow weeds, trim trees and tidy the church & parsonage grounds in general.

Colleen Hill, Trustee

Library Info from Karen Taufer

What's "Old" & New in the Library?

NEW: The Lutheran Difference: An Explanation & Comparison of Christian Beliefs

"Calling yourself "nondenominational" became popular in the late twentieth century. But the idea stems from nineteenth-century movements that encouraged people to call themselves simply "Christians" in the hope of uniting all of Christendom. Those efforts failed and actually resulted in an increased number of denominations!"

The Lutheran Difference identifies how Lutherans differ from other Christians and shows from the Bible why Lutherans differ. Such information will prepare Lutherans to share their faith clearly; it will help non-Lutherans understand the Lutheran difference.

NEW: A Mother’s Search for Meaning

This book is a biography about the gift of life. When their son was born with a rare chromosome abnormality, the Bandy family chose to cherish every day of his life. This is the true story of a remarkable young man whose life taught a profound lesson about love and faith. Readers who are searching for meaning and comfort will be encouraged by this family’s daily struggles with disability and how they learned to see the Creator’s splendor in the details.

“OLD”: A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance: Help for the Losses in Life

Life is a series of hellos and goodbyes, of gains and losses. *In A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance*, the grief that comes with death, divorce, unemployment and other important losses that may impact your life or the lives of those around us, are explored. Find answers through God’s Word, on how to cope, lessen the pain and promote healing. Includes and index of helpful Bible passages.

NEW: Bible Birds and Beasties (children)

A delightful, easy read about how different creatures were created and helped God’s children live their lives in many Bible stories.

“OLD”: The Bradford Family Adventures: Daniel’s Big Surprise (grades 4 and up)

Daniel Bradford needs a friend. He has an older brother and sister, but what he really wants is one his own age. Besides feeling lonely, Daniel is sometimes angry and sometimes confused. Growing up is not easy. Mom and Dad have an idea for what Daniel can do with his spare time. It leads to action and mystery, and to Daniel’s surprise, he finds even more than the friend he was looking for!

(All above books may be checked out of the church library after church on Sunday mornings. A church librarian will be at the library cart to help you make your choices.)

COOKBOOKS for Sale: Don’t forget to pick up your copy of the new St Mark Cookbook **“Rooted in The Word”**. And while you’re at it, why not pick up a few for early Christmas presents or maybe that birthday or special occasion that is coming up? Got a neighbor or friend that you would just like to say “thank you for being there”? Cookbooks are only \$15.00. Also....if you really would like to help out the library you might be interested in taking a few cookbooks to sell to friends, relatives or business associates. Just ask Karen or Karla. They will be happy to accommodate.

From Karen Taufer, Cookbook Chairman

Note from Newsletter Staff, Jenette Fuller and Marilee Kuhl.....

Special thanks to Colleen for organizing the work projects at the parsonage....sure glad we are not paying Colleen for her time! Tana and her helpers worked hard so we could all enjoy the installation dinner. Caroline, Bunny, and others made the parish hall look spectacular for the installation dinner. It is true God loves a cheerful giver and we had so many volunteers work hard to get the work done at St. Marks this month. Kudos to the youth servers!

Praise God for his wisdom in choosing Pastor Chuck and Jean to lead our church family. God is good! Keep those committee minutes and activity items coming!