

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

1900 Cape LaCroix Road • Cape Girardeau / 573-334-5852

E-mail: stmarkcape@charterinternet.com / Web: www.stmarkcape.org

Sunday School 8:45 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.



October, 2008

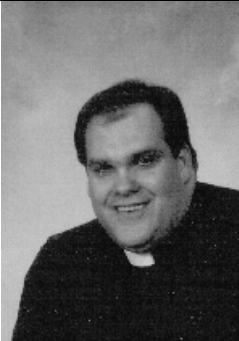
Issue 153

OUR MISSION: To celebrate God's Word and respond to human needs:

Through worship, education, encouraging one another in Christian fellowship,
and spreading the Word of God through word and deed.

Our mission at St. Mark Lutheran Church is:

"To celebrate the Word of God and respond to human need"



On October 12, at 3:00 PM our St. Mark Oktoberfest will take place at the home of Mike and Nancy Berry. To be sure, Oktoberfest is a great time. The Spirit club makes its amber colored and effervescent contribution. The meat, of course, will be provided and this year, along with the German side dishes you will bring, you are encouraged to bring the recipe to share. There will be horse drawn carriage rides, and I understand that the Berry's have experienced a bumper crop of pumpkins this year that they would like to share. Yes, Oktoberfest is, indeed, a special event in the life of our congregation.

The question I want to ask this month, however, is whether this event, or rather, how is this event consistent with our mission as a congregation. You can be assured that I do not intend to explore a deep answer to this question. Nevertheless, how this event expresses our mission as a congregation is an issue worth considering.

Ok, I confess that I had to pause and think about how Oktoberfest relates to our mission. After all, I could be simply rationalizing my own participation in a fun event while pushing myself to wonder about irrelevant issues. Then again, I decided, Oktoberfest really does relate. Oktoberfest, and events like these really do matter to the life of our congregation in important ways. To aid in lightly considering this question I have included below an excerpt from a sermon preached by Martin Luther on March 10, 1522:

For the Word created heaven and earth and all things [Ps. 33:6]; the Word must do this thing, and not we poor sinners.

In short, I will preach it, teach it, write it, but I will constrain no man by force, for faith must come freely without compulsion. Take myself as an example. I opposed indulgences and all the papists, but never with force. I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept [cf. Mark 4:26-29], or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends Philips and Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything. Had I desired to foment trouble, I could have brought great bloodshed upon Germany; indeed, I could have started such a game that even the emperor would not have been safe. But what would it have been? Mere fool's play. I did nothing; I let the Word do its work. What do you suppose is Satan's thought when one tries to do the thing by kicking up a row? He sits back in hell and thinks: Oh, what a fine game the poor fools are up to now! But when we spread the Word alone and let it alone do the work, that distresses him.

It is, of course, that same Word of God of which Luther writes that we celebrate at St. Mark Lutheran Church. Maybe one way to think of this issue is that while we are celebrating Oktoberfest the Word that does everything will be at work. We will play. The Word will be at work. Then again, I wonder if whether or not it is worth considering that what we are celebrating is the Word that created us and binds us as a community of faith.

There are sometimes long council meetings, much planning, and heavy congregational decisions to wrestle with in our life as a church. This is the “work” of the church, and sometimes the energy required to do that “work” is great. Nevertheless, underneath all that we do it is the Word that is at work.

To celebrate that Word in the form of a festival is, then, is consistent with and appropriate to our mission. Of course, if we ONLY had Oktoberfest every Sunday morning, then we would be kidding ourselves in the worst kind of way to think we were celebrating the Word of God. On the other hand, celebrating the Word of God on Sunday mornings should be at least as much fun as Oktoberfest.

Like all of the preparation that goes into Oktoberfest, there are times when the preparation feels like work—hard work. Yet, the work that goes into preparing for the event is work we are willing to do joyfully because we know how great the celebration will be. Somehow, the celebration of Oktoberfest seems particularly joyful this year. Maybe it is because the preparations for that joy have been made through work—hard work. Maybe, when you and I step back and think for just a moment we will realize that it is indeed the Word of God that has been doing the work all along.

Oktoberfest at St. Mark will be held on October 12 at 3:00 at the Berry’s. Our event will take place a week after the very last day of the “real” Oktoberfest in Munich. I do not know how many people will attend our event, but in Munich there will have been over 6 million people who will have consumed about 1.5 million gallons of beer. Almost half a million chickens will have given their lives and spit-roasted for the German version of Oktoberfest. The throngs descending on Munich will consume about 200,000 pairs of pork sausages. Yes, Oktoberfest in Munich is a HUGE event. It is quite a celebration. As for me, I would rather be with you and the Berry family. Our Oktoberfest event is HUGE too. To be sure, ours will be quite a celebration this year, although we will celebrate in a different way.

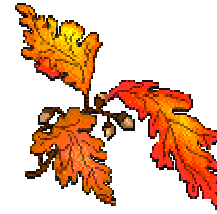
“To celebrate the Word of God and respond to human need” is more than a mission statement. It is an expression of who we are as a people of God. The Word alone does the work, and we celebrate that Word. Oktoberfest is our opportunity to celebrate the work the Word of God has been doing in our midst. I look forward to quite a celebration.

Pastor Mike



ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH E.L.C.A.

Ministers All the Baptized People of God
Pastor Rev. Mike Malone 334-5852 (Office)
Church Secretary Ellen Robinson 334-5852 (Office)
Music / Choir Director..... Dr. Chris Goeke 335-2906
Musician / Organist.....Diane Wicker 335-8040
Council President.....Margaret Waterman 335-2820
Council Vice President Frank Nelson 335-1939
Council Secretary.....Sharon Schmidt 334-5604
Other Council Members:
 Evangelism.....Nancy Berry 243-6332
 Fellowship Pat Hennig 243-8668
 Music & Worship..... Fred Grabel 334-2529
 Social Ministry..... Steve Hoffman 335-2820
 StewardshipWende Pruden (573) 472-2761
 Building & GroundsMike Berry 243-6332
 Education/YouthPatti Pitman 270-1223
Financial Secretary..... Wende Pruden (573)-472-2761
Treasurer Brad Tuschhoff 334-4928
Sunday School Superintendent.....Patti Pitman 270-1223



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1-Dieter Jedan
 11-Megan Sample
 12-Peggy Berry
 17-Nathaniel Pitman
 22-Lisa Langenfeld
 Bruce Sumner
 27-Gene Heise
 28-Steven Hoffman
 29-Thomas Dodd
 31-Richard Berry



TREASURER'S REPORT – September 2008

General Checking - August 2008

Beginning balance 7/31/08	\$ 7,686.72
August Receipts	\$ 9,355.28
Available funds	\$ 17,042.00
Disbursements	\$ 12,183.40
Checking Balance 8/31/08	\$ 4,858.60**

****Includes**

- ◆ Memorials: Nothdurft - \$5,297.18; McCabe-\$50.00
 Jedan - \$12,053.02; Brown \$145.00
 Schlegel-\$2035.00, Weber-\$150.00; Williams-\$45.00
- ◆ General Fund-(\$3,023.58)

Our church email address is: stmarkcape@charterinternet.com...thank you for using this address and keeping us informed!! Check out our website at: www.stmarkcape.org

OFFERINGS AND ATTENDANCE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>OFFERING</u>	<u>MISCELLANEOUS OFFERING</u>
9/7	88	\$1811.00	
9/14	66	\$1375.00	
9/21	78	\$2325.00	\$2398.44
9/28	75	\$896.00	



Upcoming Events at St. Mark...

Noon Shiners...Meet the Third Thursday of each month...



Come join us for good food, fun, and great fellowship!

Next Noon Shiners: Thursday, October 16,
12:00 noon at St. Mark Church.

We will have a short organizational meeting for the Evangelism committee on October 12, immediately after the church service.

Contact Nancy Berry if interested.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Jesus, Justice and Jazz
ELCA Youth Gathering
New Orleans
July 22-26, 2009

Emphasis is on Service
Registration now open to any student in
grades 9-12

Contact Patti Pitman or
Nancy Berry to sign up



October Altar Flowers

Flowers have been ordered in honor of the following people for the month of October. 10/5-Hunter Baker's birthday; 10/12-Nathaniel Pitmans' birthday; 10/19-In memory of Norman Schlegel; 10/26-Steve Hoffman's birthday. *If you would like to order flowers to recognize an occasion or someone special, please sign up on the 2008 flower chart in the narthex.*



St. Mark Knitting Group meets every Monday morning at Susie Dodd's house. Please join us. Call Susie at 335-3025 for more information. We have many available shawls to share with those in need. If you know of anyone in need, please contact Susie.



DORCAS CIRCLE HEALTH KITS

Please help with Lutheran World Relief by helping us collect health kits. Bring your kits to church until October 19, and place in the box in the narthex.

Kits consist of:

1 hand towel, 1 wash cloth, 1 bath size bar of soap, 1 toothbrush, 1 comb, 1 nail clipper with attached file.

Wrap items in the towel and tie securely with a ribbon or yarn.

Thank you!



Thank You and Announcements...

- Thank you to everyone who signed up for our future Sweet Sundays. If you would like to host a Sweet Sunday event, please let Pat Hennig know or sign up on the sheet on the bulletin-board.



OKTOBERFEST

Sunday, October 12, 3:00 pm

Mike & Nancy Berry's

Meat and drinks provided

Bring a German dish to share (include the recipe),
a chair, and your happy face!

Everyone's Invited, Please join us

Horse Drawn Carriage Rides, and lots of fun to be had



FAIR TRADE COFFEE PROJECT

Columbian Coffee For Sale at St. Mark

The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) are selling "Fair Trade" coffee to benefit *Lutheran World Relief* efforts to help struggling farmers in poorer countries. Coffee will be sold every Sweet Sunday at St. Mark.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**We will meet every Thursday
In October at 7:00 pm. At Kathy Malone's
house**

**Kathy's address and phone number are:
146 Super Bowl, Jackson
573-339-7825**



SHOES FOR KIDS

In the spirit of our mission to celebrate God's Word and respond to human needs, St. Mark's Social Ministry focus for October is the Shoes for Kids program.. A shoe box for donations will be located in the narthex. Contact Steven Hoffman if you have any questions or would like more information about this program.



October2008

Newsletter Deadline...

for November 2008, articles due by
Monday, October 20. Thank You!

Council News

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We got off to a great start this Sunday School year at St. Mark, with the fun of Rally Day and the resumption of Sunday School and Women's Bible Study, Choir, and other Fellowship groups that may have not met in the summer.

Here it is October already, and we at St. Mark are in high gear with lots of missional activity. You will see the details about several of the events coming up in October elsewhere in the PostMark, as well as the opportunities for us to reach out the others in our community. Watch for the Youth events planned for this month.

Of course there is Oktoberfest – a fantastic fellowship opportunity for us and friends we would like to bring along to introduce to St. Markians. That will be Sunday October 12th. Mike and Nancy Berry have agreed to host again, and Nancy suggests German dishes for the potluck (please include recipes). The beer is brewing thanks to the Spirits Club and collaborating with Fellowship committee to carry this out.

It's time to think about shoeless kids again as an important social ministry. St. Mark has contributed greatly to this desperate need in the Bootheel for over five years now. It's such an opportunity to make a concrete difference in the lives of children. More details will be forthcoming from the Social Ministry committee.

On October 5th, we will be conducting an Every Member Visit, focused on mission and the roles we each play at St. Mark. Wende Pruden has been heading up the plans for this, with the rest of Council's input. All those who will be visiting are excited to hear from you about the work we are doing or could be doing at St. Mark. As Wende and I pointed out during the State of the Congregation day in August, St. Mark has a record high percentage of member involvement in missional activity! There is so much to be done to "Celebrate the Word of God and respond to human need," and your great response on the Time and Talent sheets is another way we see the congregation committing to the work of the Kingdom.

It's a wonderful time to be on Council at St. Mark, to have a hand in enabling the people of St. Mark to fulfill God's mission for us.

Peace,
Margaret Waterman, Congregation Council President



Stewardship

September was a busy month for Stewardship and it looks like October will be as well.

We ended August with a state of the congregation meeting where we looked at what we were giving and what we were spending. While our records reflect that we have met our expenses, in order for us to fulfill our mission and meet the budget that was approved by the congregation, it is important that each of us reflect on what we currently give to St. Mark and if there is anyway we could help St. Mark work toward fulfilling our mission.

In September we handed out the Time and Talent sheets and we will continue to collect them through the month of October. So far we have received 41 responses. Every member is encouraged to fill one out, both young and old. We have developed the Time and Talent sheet so that everyone can give something, from working on the property, to visiting members, to sending cards, to attending worship, to praying for St. Mark and our mission. Not one of these gifts is insignificant. These are an important tool committees use to plan how they can contribute to our mission. A Time and Talent Sheet is included in the newsletter and there are copies in the narthex that you can fill out if you have not already done so. On Reformation Sunday we will be consecrating the Time and Talent sheets.

After lunch on Sunday October 5th we will have 8 teams conducting an Every Member Visit. These visits will be an opportunity for you to express what you think about the mission of St. Mark. The visitors will also leave a pledge card for you to either mail back or place in the offering and these will be consecrated on Reformation Sunday as well. St. Mark has not had a real Stewardship drive in over 10 years so this may be new to some of our members. The purpose of pledging is for each of us to take a few minutes to consider what God has given each of us, and how we are going to respond to those gifts by giving something back to help further the work of the King-

NEWS FROM OUR PRE-SCHOOL

We have had a great first month! The children have settled into their daily routines nicely. The Tuesday/Thursday class enjoyed Blue and Bear Days in honor of the letter "B" and Circus Day for the letter "C". The Pre-K class celebrated the letter "C" by learning about our community and visiting the fire station.

October brings the letters E, F, & G. Ms. Brenda from the Cape Library will begin her visits this month and the children will continue having chapel with Pastor Mike. The Pre-K class will also be taking a field trip to Beggs Farm. The fall concerts will be October 30th at 11:15 for the Tuesday/Thursday class and October 31st at 2:15 for the Pre-K class.

Happy Fall!

Kathy Malone
President, St. Mark Preschool Board



News From Our Pre-School

October2008

APRIL 2008 WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

DATE	READER	H.C. ASSIST.	ASSIST. MIN.	ACOLYTE	USHERS
4/6	Julie Langenfeld	Brad Tuschhoff MUSICIAN Lydia Cameron	Pastor	Kegan Bramlett	Cat Goeke & Russell Hoffman
4/13	Maggie Schmucker	Bonnie Kipper MUSICIAN Jen Pitman	Pastor	Nathaniel Pitman	Karen & Peyton Waggener
4/20	Susie Dodd	Fred Grabel MUSICIAN Laura Waggener	Pastor	Ali Norder	Stan Schmidt & Alex Anderson
4/27	Fred Grabel	Russell Hoffman MUSICIAN Cat Goeke	Pastor	Elizabeth Ustinova	Mike & John Berry

Monthly Service: Altar Guild - Bonnie Kipper; **Grape Juice** - Laura Waggener; **Nursery Attendant** -Amber Propst

MAY 2008 WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

DATE	READER	H.C. ASSIST.	ASSIST. MIN.	ACOLYTE	USHERS
5/4	Josh Haynes	Fred Grabel MUSICIAN Mark Langenfeld	Pastor	Lydia Cameron	Josh Haynes & Frank Nelson
5/11	Brian Bollman	Kathy Langenfeld MUSICIAN Lydia Cameron	Jen Pitman	Leah Pruden	Terry Pruden & Dieter Jedan
5/18	Ken Green	Rhonda Bramlett MUSICIAN Jen Pitman	Pastor	Kegan Bramlett	Stan Schmidt & Alex Anderson
5/25	Kathy Langenfeld	Julie Langenfeld MUSICIAN Laura Waggener	Chris Goeke	Nathaniel Pitman	Joe & Chelsey Brown

Monthly Service: Altar Guild - Helen & Kathy; **Grape Juice** - Lydia Cameron **Nursery Attendant** -Amber Propst

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 8:45-Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	6 10:00 am Knitting Group	7	8	9 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	10	11
12 8:45-Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Evangelism Committee Meeting Oktoberfest 3:00 pm	13 10:00 am Knitting Group	14 9:30 am Dorcas	15	16 12:00 Noon Shiners 7:00 pm Council Meeting Women's Bible Study	17	18
19 8:45-Sunday School 10:00am Worship Spirits Club	20 10:00 am Knitting Group	21	22	23 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	24	25
26 8:45-Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	27 10:00 am Knitting Group	28	29	30 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	31	

ST MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA
1900 CAPE LACROIX ROAD
CAPE GIRARDEAU MO 63701
573-334-5852

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT #584

Return Service Requested

LFC\$ NEWS

- * Open House-35th Anniversary-Sunday, November 2-Dedication of new building

- * LFCS Holiday Home Tour-Saturday, December 6-Six beautiful homes to tour, refreshments and prizes at the new LFCS office. Tickets on sale November 7.