

MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2012

God's Gift of Forgiveness!

We live each day in light of God's forgiveness of our sins! Though His forgiveness is by grace, it cost Him much - the very life of His Son Jesus on the cross. So the forgiveness of our sins should never be taken lightly or for granted.

As we commemorate Lent this year, during our midweek services (Wednesdays at 7:00), we will focus on God's forgiveness using six penitential Psalms. These Psalms will be applied to the suffering and death of Jesus, as well as our every day lives as we live in daily repentance.

This year, St. Mark will be participating in a Lenten round-robin with five other sister congregations. Following is the schedule:

February 22 (Ash Wednesday) - *"God's Enduring Presence for You"* Psalm 102
(Pastor Beck)

February 29 - *"Against You and For Me"* Psalm 51
(Rev. Kelly Todd, Christ, Hadley)

March 7 - *"Come Quickly to help Me"* Psalm 38
(Rev. Rick Hillenbrand, Christ, Birch Run)

March 14 - *"Hiding From God or Hiding In God?"* Psalm 32
(Rev. Steve Maske, St. Paul, Flint)

March 21 - *"Save Me Because of Your Unfailing Love"* Psalm 6
(Rev. Steve Helms, Holy Redeemer, Dryden)

March 28 - *"Teach Me Your Will, For You Are My God"* Psalm 143
(Rev. Jim Chinery, St. Martin, Birch Run)

May these messages and worship services touch your heart and give you hope and joy as you daily live in God's forgiving grace!

Great Escapes of the Bible

The theme for the Sundays in Lent, as well as Holy Week, will be *"Great Escapes of the Bible!"* Escapes can be risky and exciting! They are filled with tension and drama. Great escapes also bear much consequences. So following are the themes and texts for the Sundays in Lent:

February 26 - *"Escape from Sodom"* Genesis 19:1-17

March 4 - *"Escape to Midian"* Exodus 2:11-15

March 11 - *"Escape into the Desert"* 1 Kings 19:1-18

March 18 - *"Escape From the Pit"* Jeremiah 38:1-13

March 25 - *"Escape From Prison"* Acts 12:1-17

April 5 (Maundy Thursday) - *"Escape From Responsibility"* Matthew 27:19-26

April 6 (Good Friday) - *"The Escape that Never Happened"* Matthew 27:39-44

April 8 (Easter) - *"The Greatest Escape Ever!"* Matthew 28:1-7

You may have noticed that I did not include the greatest escape of the Old Testament - the Israelites escaping from Egypt. The reason is that I will be using that escape as a sermon series this summer.

May these messages help you continue to grow in your Christian faith and inspire you in your walk with Christ!

In His service,

Pastor Beck
Phil. 1:21

PRAYER MINISTRY



*"... And God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven,
His holy dwelling place" 2 Chronicles 30:27*

During the month of February, please pray:

January 29 - February 4 For our Sunday School ministry,

- that the children would take to heart what they learn about Jesus.
- that the children would remember what they learn and apply it to their lives each day.
- that more parents would bring their children to Sunday School.
- that the teachers would teach to the best of their God-given abilities.
- thank the Lord for the Sunday School teachers and staff.

February 5 - 11 For those whom we know that are not Christian:

- that God would use us to witness to them about Jesus Christ.
- that God would open their hearts and minds to be receptive to the Gospel and work faith in their hearts.
- that God would bring them into His "fold," granting them His salvation.

February 12 - 18 For world peace,

- that nations and people in conflict would peacefully settle their disputes.
- that more and more people would come to experience the peace with God that Jesus came to bring. May this peace with God overflow to peace with one another.
- that the war in Afghanistan would cease.
- that world peace would begin in our own homes; that we would be at peace with members of our own family.

February 19 - 25 As we begin the Lenten season on the 22nd, please pray

- repenting of your sins, thereby preparing our hearts and minds for Lent.
- that we focus on Jesus and His death on the cross for us.
- that we would grow in our faith and relationship with Jesus this Lenten season.
- that many members of St. Mark would worship Jesus by attending the midweek Lenten services.



**CORE VALUE #1
MEANINGFUL WORSHIP**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SERVICE

Children's Church is held on Holy Communion Sunday's during the 10:45 am service. The goal of the Children's Church is to provide a worship service that is appropriate for children in grades 1-5 with a focus on the Gospels. (Children's Church is **NOT** intended to replace Sunday School class.) The children will begin the service with the adults and then be dismissed before the sermon. Led by Eleanor Rutledge.

MULTIMEDIA WORSHIP

Common Ground Multimedia worship is the second and fourth Sundays of the month beginning at 10:30 am in the gym.

Upcoming date: February 12 & 26

OTHER WORSHIP

Shut-in Members—If you are a shut-in (whether long term or short term) and are not able to come to the worship services, but would like to hear a CD or view a DVD copy of the worship service, please contact the church office at 736-6680.

**CORE VALUE #2
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Happy New Year from the
Sunday School Staff**

The Sunday School Staff would like to Welcome Rose to the St. Mark Family and Staff. We look forward to working with her. We wish her blessings on her work here.

The Sunday School Staff requests that your children join us on Sunday morning to hear the word of God, and have fun doing it. We have music, stories, crafts and games to help us celebrate the world God has given us and the life to come with him.

If you enjoy working with children of all ages, please join us in Sunday School, any Sunday morning. We love to have helpers with crafts and games. The Sunday School staff is always looking for substitute teachers or full/part time teachers if you are interested. We can work around any schedule and teaching can be fun and enjoyable.

We look forward to this new year celebrating God and our lives with him. Please join us !

Candace Gawne

Sunday School Superintendent

NURSERY

Nursery Available During Sunday School - every Sunday there is a Nursery available during the Christian Education hour (Bible class and Sunday School) in room 3. This service is provided so the whole family may grow in their faith as they attend Bible Classes or Sunday School.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

Revolution 2 is our guide for our class. Topics will included: Home Sweet Home or Home Hurts?, Play it smart: Dating for Dummies, Why do bad things happen to good people?, Life and death decision and Poverty is closer than you think. Sundays at 9:30 am, in the Youth Room. Lead by Mrs. Jeana Carrasco.

The rumors are true! Senior High Youth are taking part in a Sunday school challenge! The youth earn individual points for attending and **actively** participating in Sunday school and youth events. Once 3,000 points are accumulated they can be used toward earning itunes, local restaurant gift cards, and movie passes. With the challenge in place Sunday school attendance has increased! This January attendance totals are as follows:

January 8— 5

January 15— 6

January 22—10

How can the St. Mark church family help?

1. Prayer and encouragement for this ministry would be appreciated. Being a teenager in today's world is not easy. Please pray for our young people and our Sunday school teachers.
2. If you have a senior high aged son or daughter, please encourage them to attend Sunday school classes. The class is designed to be fun and engaging while learning God's word.

If you have any questions, please call Jeana Carrasco at 394-2727.

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST

Friday mornings, 6:00 - 7:00 am, at Apollo Restaurant, Davison. Contact: Rick Schacher at 810-742-0558.

THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Join us on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:30 am as we continue our fascinating study of the books of the Bible. In 2 Kings we read of evil rulers, rampant idolatry, and a complacent society, which leads the divided kingdom into a downward spiral. Yet God provides numerous prophets to call his people back to Him before judgment begins. Although a remnant remains true to God's leading, the northern kingdom falls to the Assyrians and the southern kingdom to the Babylonians. Finally, the book ends with Jerusalem destroyed and the Holy Temple in ruins. What will God's people do now?

(led by Rick Schacher in the Luther Room-Katie Side)

FAITH ADVENTURE

Calling all St. Mark Children!!!!

Join us each Thursday evening at 6 pm for our Faith Adventure Program. We will enjoy Bible stories, music, crafts, friends and snacks as we learn how to keep Jesus in our daily lives. We have sessions for pre-schoolers thru 6 grade. Any questions please call Sharon Black at 736-6416.



NEW MINISTRIES AT ST. MARK

Here's a brief overview of the new programs starting this month; any questions talk to Rose Meinert (810)736-6680

Moms Pops & Tots: A one hour class meeting once a week for 18months-3yrs old and an adult, either mom, dad, or grandparent. Day & time TBD based on response of those interested—call Rose Meinert to sign up! Cost \$10 for 12 week program, watch Notes & News for schedule.

Youth Nights At The Parsonage: In addition to the current schedule of Sunday youth nights, the Senior High will be meeting on the 1st Sunday of the month, and the Junior High on the 3rd Sunday of the month, over at the parsonage. We'll have a devotion, games, activities, and snacks—if you don't usually come to youth events this is a great time to start! Bring a friend too!

February 5: Senior High ATP—it'll be a Super Bowl party; whether you're there for the game, the commercials, or the food it will be a good time! Come at 6 pm and stay until the game is over (9 pm-ish)

February 19: Junior High ATP—a night of games, getting to know, and some leftover Valentine's fun! 5-7 pm, bring \$2 to cover pizza & pop

High School Girls Bible Study: A weekly Bible study to get deep into the issues that girls face today, and find out together what God's will for our lives is. Day & time TBD based on schedules of those interested, talk to Rose ASAP to get your preference in, and watch Notes & News for schedule.

Family Fun Nights: Once a month St. Mark will host a Family Fun Night with a variety of activities, either on-site or out in the community. The first event will be Friday, February 17, a Family Game Night hosted in the Luther Room from 7-9 pm. Bring your favorite game from home, a snack to share, and your whole family for a night of fellowship!

Parent Education Classes: As part of Family Life ministry, classes for parents concerning their importance in the spiritual education of their children (as well as ways to get involved and resources for family devotion time) will be offered starting Thursday Feb.16, from 6-7:30 pm. The class will take place during Faith Adventures & Confirmation so every parent should be able to attend, since childcare will be taken care of!

Gag Night At Trinity, Fenton: We'll be driving out to join the Jr. & Sr. High of Trinity, Fenton for one of their infamous Gag Nights! Friday, Feb.24, leaving at 5:20 pm and arriving back at 8:40 pm. Space will be limited depending on drivers, so parents and kids please sign up & fill out a permission slip ASAP!

FAMILY LIFE MINISTER INTERN

Hi! I'm Rose Meinert, the Family Life intern here at St. Mark for the next 6 months. I'm 21 years old, and in my 4th and final year at Concordia University, Ann Arbor. I'm from Shelby Township, Michigan, and have been a member at Trinity Lutheran, Utica my entire life. My parents, Frank and Dorinda, live back in Shelby Twp with my adorable beagle Penny. I have two older sisters who have married and moved out; Allison & Matt who are expecting a boy in May, and Rachel & Micah who are expecting twin boy & girl in February!

As for me, I enjoy being independent, like to stay busy & active, and would always prefer being outside; just enjoying creation, playing ultimate Frisbee, or even doing yard work. I love animals, exploring, craft projects, and

(as some of you already know) the Chicago Blackhawks. When I graduate in May I will have a B.A. in Family Life, Youth Ministry, with a minor in Youth Studies. Youth work is my passion, but I look forward to working with and getting to know all ages in my time here at St. Mark!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

In his Gospel, Mark tells us the story of a rich man who came to Jesus and asked about eternal life (Mark 10:17-27). The story asks us to see ourselves in the light of this man who came to Jesus. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, we discover this person was wealthy, young, and had status and power. According to human achievement, he was successful. Eagerly, he runs to Jesus and kneels before him to ask what he must do to have eternal life. With something missing in his life, he approaches Jesus. The rich man has to be surprised because Jesus' reply to him was connecting the question of eternal life to the issue of money. Jesus tells him, "*Go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven and come, follow Me*" (Mark 10:21). With our understanding of God's Word, this directive isn't overly surprising. One-sixth of what Jesus preached about dealt with money. Jesus knew the attraction and lure that money can have for us. Another surprise to this story is about a demanding kind of love. Jesus loved the rich man, and He wanted the best for him. Jesus expressed His love by helping him see how his money had become his life. His money was too important to him. Jesus' love was tough and demanding. To help the rich man get what he wanted, Jesus, in love, tells him that his money is interfering with his relationship with God. It was hurting him spiritually. Jesus told the rich man what he needed to hear. The one thing he needed to do to open his life completely and wholly to God was to give his money to the poor. Jesus loved him by allowing him to wrestle with his own incompleteness. The rich man had to decide which was more important to him—his money or following Jesus.

This story is both about money and demanding love. It is a sad story. It is sad because the rich man's money was separating him from a relationship with his heavenly Father. Unfortunately, the thing he wanted the most—his money—was causing his greatest sorrow and separating him from God to a life of condemnation. Jesus asked him to rid himself from finding his security in his money, but the rich man couldn't do it.

This story should help remind us that happiness and completeness will never be found in our material wealth. Focusing on and placing our security in our money can separate us from trusting and loving our Lord. The more we let go of things in this world the more we will experience God's peace and joy.

MINISTER OF OUTREACH AND ASSIMILATION

Lenten Supper—Any group or individuals interested in hosting a Lenten supper, please contact the church office 736-6680. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

Planning for the 2012 Halloween Hoopla Continues!
The date has been set for next year's Halloween Hoopla: Friday, October 26, from 6 to 8 pm. We hope to bring back many of the games we used to do, maybe add advanced midway games for older youth. Families will still be offered a free meal so they can come right from work to the event without having to fix dinner first. We might expand the menu to include pizza. There is still much that needs to be discussed and worked out. Want to help? The next Hoopla Planning Meeting is Thursday, February 9 at 5:30 pm.

MUSIC MINISTER

Music, Music, Music
- Lori Carrier

I've been asked how I decide what songs to play before and after church and while offerings are being taken. To the average worshipper, this music can seem quite random. There is actually quite a bit that goes into the process behind the selections chosen each and every Sunday! This method involves hymns, melodies, and an organizational system written by composers both of our day and hundreds of years ago.

First, let's discuss *what* I play. I play mostly chorale preludes. Mostly what? Well, a chorale prelude is a composition usually for organ based on a chorale – which is basically a harmonized hymn. Think of your favorite hymn. Now hum it – you are humming the melody, also known as a tune. Each hymn began as a melody which was individually named. Melody names are used in the music world rather than hymn titles, as each melody may be used over and over for different hymns. Now that I have you completely confused – let's look at an example.

Hum *From All that Dwell Below the Skies*. (Hymn 816: From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise; Alleluia, alleluia! . . .) You just hummed the melody entitled *Lasst uns Erfreuen*. If you get in the habit of humming *Lasst uns Erfreuen*, some people may think you are humming *From All that Dwell Below the Skies* (#816), or perhaps *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* (#465), maybe even *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing* (#493), or possibly *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* (#670). Other denominations have even different words for the same melody. If you sing the words, then you are singing a specific hymn. If you look in the back of our hymnal on page 1013, there is an index of tunes. So in order to avoid confusion and enable organists to more easily find a chorale prelude based on a specific hymn, composers use the melody names to title their songs. For any worship service, Pastor picks the hymns and gives them to me. I look up each hymn in our hymnbook to find the melody/tune name which is written on the bottom right. Then I find all of the chorale preludes I have based on that melody, play them all through, and decide which ones I want to use. (I have my entire collection of organ books numbered and each chorale prelude within those books on a data base I created so I can easily locate what chorale preludes I own based on the melody.) So when you see that I am playing *Diademata* for preservice, you may be singing either *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (#525) or *Christ the Eternal Lord* (#829) for worship.

Wow! That was deep. Sometimes I do not have anything based on the hymns, and then I play what I call "general" songs. These songs have creative names like *March, Trumpet Tune*, and the like. Now you know what you need to do when I cannot play for a worship service, and I need you to sub!

Don't forget that adult choir meets Wednesdays at 6:00 when there is not a Wednesday evening worship service and at 5:30 when there is a service. **Join us!** We are singing some great selections, most of which are new to all choir members. Just come to practice; you will be so welcomed!!!



CORE VALUE #3 FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

LADIES GUILD

Thanks to everyone who helped make the sale of the cookbooks a great success! There are a few left and can be purchased in the office. They make nice bridal shower gifts and also for a valentine day gift. Christmas by Candlelight was simply wonderful this year--the entertainment was uplifting, the food delicious and all the table decorations so very beautiful. Thanks to everyone who participated. There are business meetings coming up along with other plans for Spring activities. Guild sponsors many of the activities within our church, but it takes many people to help plan and put them together. Regrettably, I will be unable to remain as president at the end of this term, which ends in May, but I will remain as an active member. Come join us at one of the meetings--we have lots of fun things planned. Guild Board-Linda Verran, president--Carol Bobb, Vice president--Mary Jane Veit, secretary and Sandy Wright, secretary.

WELLNESS CENTER

Exercise and Inspiration

Beginning Tuesday, January 31 at 6:30 pm, and meeting each Tuesday and Thursday for 6 weeks, we will be offering a 30 minutes workout followed by 30 minutes of motivation and tips for healthy living. You may sign up to attend at the Sign Up Center in the narthex, next to the Welcome Center.

Zumba Continues

Everyone wants to do Zumba! At least that is what you might think from all the places advertising the class. Zumba is an aerobic routine that is fun and invigorating! Zumba classes will now meet in room 5 on Tuesday mornings, beginning just after 9 am. and end about an hour later. As always, please check with your Doctor before beginning any new exercise routine. Hope you can join us!

Workout Center to Open for Evening Workouts

Watch your Notes and News for the date the Workout Center will be open in the evenings. Volunteers are needed who will attend to the center the hour and a half it is open so people can use it even if they cannot find a partner.



How do I get trained to use the equipment?

First you pick up the paperwork and the training DVD from Mr. Mol to watch in the comfort of your home. Next you schedule an appointment to review using the equipment and learn the check-in procedures. Then you can use it anytime the building is open provided you have a partner with you or on evenings when there is a volunteer present.

CORE VALUE #4 KINGDOM BUILDING

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Baptism:

Michael Kellaway III, son of Michael & Tamra Kellaway
His sponsor is Martha Kellaway
Alec and Ava Kellaway, children of Nathan & Jennifer Kellaway

Transfer In:

Rachel Walters from Redeemer Lutheran, Flint

Transfer Out:

Larry & Cheryl Mitchell and baptized daughter Morgan to Messiah Lutheran, Clio

Death:

Betty Dorow

Released:

Dale & Dawn Cadle and baptized children: Nathaniel, Katlyn, and Emma

Bonnie Cory

Richard & Pamela Douglas, and confirmed adult children Todd and Katie

Ginette Graubner

Robert J & Pamela Payne

Daniel & Lisa Sharber and baptized daughter Gracie

ENDOWMENT FUND

St. Mark now has an Endowment Fund which will provide an opportunity for members to contribute memorials that will last a lifetime. It is not intended to replace a members ability to make a contribution in memory of a loved one for a specific purpose such as hymnals, tractors, improvement to the church, etc., but rather provide a system that would distribute money annually to places selected by the Endowment Committee from suggestions made by the congregation and approved by the Board of Directors.

The Mission Statement shown below provides and overview of how and where the money would be allocated:

Mission Statement:

Provide vehicles and structure for members who have the ability and desire to benefit St. Mark Lutheran Church—Flint Michigan through charitable giving that is consistent with its mission of “Bring People In, Build Disciples Up, and Send Christians On”. The purpose of the Endowment Committee is to enable St. Mark to promote funding of specific needs that support its mission and ensure its financial stability. The committee will seek to provide a perpetual source of income to benefit five current categories:

1. Missions: local, regional and world projects
2. Education: college and seminary scholarships
3. Youth: support for youth of all ages
4. Worship and Music: support for the worship life of St. Mark
5. Capital Projects: major renovations of building and new facilities for St. Mark

TIF-PLUS/MORTGAGE PAYMENT**ACCOUNT 7/1/10–9/30/11 YEAR #7.5**

Beginning Balance 7/1/10	\$ 78,007.47
Offerings	\$114,786.47
Interest Earned	\$ 622.33
Rod Minto Memorial	\$ 600.00
From General Fund	\$ 12,000.00
Mortgage Loan Interest Rebate	\$ 1,727.85
Mortgage Payments	<u>\$(138,186.00)</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/11	\$ 69,558.12

Our 20 year Mortgage of \$1,067,000 began on September 1, 2002 and has approx. 10.6 years left @ 6.0%. This mortgage will be reviewed every 5 years, to adjust the interest rate. The monthly payment is \$7,677, with our principal balance thru December, 2011 at \$686,920. Our latest payment was \$3,456 to interest and \$4,221 to principal.

For Info Only:

1 year weekly (52) average offerings	\$1,570
2 year weekly (52) average offerings	\$1,349
3 year weekly (52) average offerings	\$1,539
4 year weekly (52) average offerings	\$1,413
5 year weekly (52) average offerings	\$1,447
6 year weekly (52) average offerings	\$1,392
7.5 year weekly (78) average offerings	\$1,472
Tom Phipps—TIF Treasurer 12/31/11	

In order to pay off our mortgage in it's remaining approx. 10.6 years, we need to average approximately \$1,770 per week of TIF offerings. At our current weekly TIF average offerings of \$1,472 per week, we will run out of TIF money in about 4.5 years and will have to turn the \$7,677 monthly mortgage payment over to the General Fund with about 6.1 years remaining. The only alternatives to this action would be for all of us to increase our TIF offerings, or, perhaps face a new campaign to raise additional mortgage money.

We would like to thank all of the members of St. Mark who continue to support the TIF-Plus program through regular offerings, extra offerings or memorials. You have all helped make this program a huge success.
Tom Phipps

CORE VALUE #5
SERVANTHOOD**THANK YOU**

Thanks to all the youth and parents who made the Square Dance a reality. This years Picture Booth was a real treat!

YOUTH EVENTS

Revolutions 2 continues each week in the Youth Room, Sundays at 9:30 am. Life has its ups and downs and each week you can find the answers to some of life's tough questions.

Youth Straw Sale—the youth have 15 bales of straw left from the Square Dance. If you would like to purchase any, please call Jim Haist at 742-4951. Cost is \$2.00 per bale. Thank you.

Sr. Youth Calendar (Adult in Charge = AIC)

Sr. Youth**EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! JR. & SR. YOUTH ADDS EVEN MORE MEETING DATES!**

With the arrival of our new Family Life Intern, Rose Meinert, our youth have even more opportunity for fun! Sr. Youth will meet the first Sunday of the month at the Parsonage with Jr. youth adding a meeting on the third Sunday of the month. See prior article from Ms. Meinert.

Sr. Youth **NEW Meeting Dates (BOLD)**:
February **5**, 12, 26, March **4**, 11, **25**

Super Bowl Sub Making February 4, 8:00 a.m.

Super Bowl Sunday is closer than you think! We will be making the subs following the Lock-in (see below) after cleanup and breakfast for those Sr. Youth staying. Should be done in a couple of hours. AIC: Dawn Nofs

Lock-In

On February 3rd from 7pm to 7am there will be a lock-in for grades 7-12! We will have a fun-filled night of games, activities, pizza, snacks & pop, and be joined by Concordia University's New Crew team! Sign up and pick up a permission release at the table in the back of the church. AIC: Tammy Owen

Sr. Youth Meets:

Feb 5, At the Parsonage, 6:00 p.m. till (?) Super Bowl Party. Come celebrate the Championship game! Bring a couple of dollars for food.

Feb 12, At the Church, 5 - 6:30 p.m. The usual meeting hosted by Mrs Mol featuring a devotion, activities and food. Bring a couple of dollars for pizza. Parents help needed.

Feb 26, At the Church, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Hosted by Mr. Bill Braham and Mrs. Linda Miller. Learn a bit, have some fun and enjoy the food. Bring a couple of dollars for Pizza.

Jr. Youth Meets: (grades 5-8)

Feb 12, At the Church, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Come to plan the activities and enjoy the games, group builders and learning activities. Optional game with Sr. Youth. Bring a couple of dollars for Pizza.

Feb 19, At the Parsonage, 5 - 7 p.m. Check with Intern Rose Meinert for more details.

KNITTING / CROCHETING MINISTRY

Hi and Happy New Year to all our knitters and crocheters (and anyone else) reading this. Is this great weather or what to be thinking about the homeless of Genesee County who need our help! It's cold, blustery, snowy. We're looking ahead to next winter mind you, and I hope that many of you who can knit or crochet will think about joining us in making scarves and caps for those who find themselves in situations where they have to live outside. We here at St. Mark can help these people just by sitting inside our warm, cozy homes and knitting/crocheting items that will make life a little bit easier for them. When they are given these items, the men, women, and children are so appreciative. So please consider helping out. The deadline will be October 7, 2012. There is yarn available for your use, if you wish, by the coat rack in the north entryway. Help yourself. There are all kinds of free patterns on the internet, or if you wish, I can get some for you. Either give me a call (653-8603) or see me at church.

AND a super big thank you to whoever left us the super humongous bag of nifty yarn. We really, really appreciate your donation. Thank you for thinking of this St. Mark Ministry. God's blessings to all. – *Phyllis Hartzfeld*

FOUNDERS' LIBRARY

The Founders' Library has many videos, mostly children's movies, that never get checked out anymore since everyone has DVD or Blue Ray players now. Does anyone have a use for these videos, or know of somewhere they could be donated and put to some use? If so, let Jeanette Zienert know at 658-0477. Thank you

POINTS OF INTEREST

Want to stay up-to-date with what's going on at St. Mark—We have the weekly Notes/News, monthly calendar, the Messenger newsletter, and other items for you to view.

Check out our Web site at: www.stmarkcs.com
You can also email us at: stmarkfl@sbcglobal.net

Office hours: Monday-Thursday 7:30 am-3:30 pm.
Friday 7:30 am-2:30 pm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MINUTES**Date: November 21st, 2011**

Attendees: J. Anschuetz, Pastor Beck, T. Jarvinen, K. Knizner, R. Schacher, M. Young
Absent: J. Bellamy, J. Denno, R. Sturgis

- Meeting opened with devotion and prayer by M. Young.
- Previous meeting minutes were approved (copy handed out and printed in the St. Mark Messenger).
- Pastor's Report - Handout provided.
- Minister of Outreach and Assimilation – No report.
- Ministry of Property & Finance – No report.
- BOD training on Discovering Your Windows Chapter 7 (Your Past Determines Your Future) led by Pastor Beck. Next meeting to cover Chapter 8 (Your Pastor Determines Your Potential).
- A small Christian Education committee has been formed and is beginning to meet.
- Pastor will bring to next meeting changes needed to by-laws and BOD policy manual due to day school closing.
- G. Gutgesell is lay delegate for upcoming Michigan District and Synodical convention.
- There will be no BOD meeting in December 2011.
- Next meeting scheduled for January 16, 2012 (devotions by J. Anschuetz).
- Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.

Date: January 16th, 2012

Attendees: J. Anschuetz, Pastor Beck, J. Bellamy, J. Denno, K. Knizner, R. Schacher, R. Sturgis, M. Young, R. Meinert (FLM Intern).
Absent: T. Jarvinen

- Meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Beck.
- Previous meeting minutes were not available (to be printed in the St. Mark Messenger).
- Pastor's Report:
 - Pastor and G. Gutgesell (lay delegate) attended pre-convention meeting at St Paul, Lapeer
 - Handed out November and December statistic reports. Attendance is up over last year.
 - Handed out by-law and BOD policy manual changes needed due to school closing. Approved BOD policy manual changes. By-law changes will need to be approved at next voter's meeting.
 - Handed out revised Policy Based Governance authority flow diagram (includes FLM).
 - Staff is working on 2012 goals.
- Minister of Outreach and Assimilation – Handout provided in BOD mailboxes.
- Ministry of Property & Finance – No report (Pastor mentioned study being made to combine school library, church library, and computer lab into single larger space on ground level).
- BOD training on Discovering Your Windows Chapter 8 (Your Pastor Determines Your Potential) led by Pastor Beck. Next meeting to cover Chapter 9 (Your Giftedness Determines Your Involvement).
- Next BOD elections will require R. Schacher, J. Bellamy, R. Sturgis and T. Jarvinen to be re-elected or replaced. An election committee will need to be formed.
- Next Open Forum set for April 22, 2012 after second service. A lunch will be provided for those who attend.
- Next meeting scheduled for February 20, 2012 (devotions by J. Anschuetz).
- Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.