



2011- 2012 CALENDAR

Youth Ministry

Lock-in is an overnight worship, Bible study, educational, and fun activity for youth and adult leaders.

Senior High Youth

Chrysalis – annual synodical High School Youth retreat for at the 4H Center on December 2-4, 2011.

Chi Rho – annual Synodical week long Youth Mission Trip to Neon, Kentucky.

LYO – LYO stands for Lutheran Youth Organization. If you are a youth and you are Lutheran then you are a member.

2012 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING – occur every three years. St Mark's High School Youth and rising 9th graders are expected to attend the upcoming gathering in New Orleans, LA, July 18-22, 2012.

There are two events geared towards Jr. High youth in the Metro DC synod.

Shekinah – annual synodical Confirmation age youth retreat at the 4H Center on March 16-18, 2012.

Confirmation at St Mark's is a two year program for youth preparing for the public affirmation of their baptism.

Shema is a Synodical day long event for 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders, on April 29, 2012 from 2:00-5:00pm at King Of Kings Lutheran church.

For more information please contact Pastor Amsalu T Geleta at ageleta@stmarks-elca.org Or 703 451 4331 ext. 106

St Mark's Lutheran Church Youth and Family Ministry Annual Calendar
September 4, 2011- August 5, 2012

Date	PROPER	Senior High	Confirmation	Special Events	Readings	Introduction
Sun Sep 4, 2011	Lectionary 23 / 12 Pentecost	LABOR DAY WEKEDND				<p>Ezekiel 33:7-11 Exodus 12:1-14 (semi-continuous) Psalm 119:33-40 Psalm 149 (semi-continuous) Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20</p> <p>Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.</p>
Sun Sep 11	Lectionary 24 / 13 Pentecost	Rally Day				<p>Genesis 50:15-21 Exodus 14:19-31 (semi-continuous) Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 Psalm 114 (semi-continuous) <i>or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 (Semi-continuous)</i> Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35</p> <p>In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.</p>
Sun Sep 18	Lectionary 25 / 14 Pentecost	Orientation	Orientation			<p>Jonah 3:10--4:11 Exodus 16:2-15 (semi-continuous) Psalm 145:1-8 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 (semi-continuous) Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16</p> <p>Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.</p>

Sun Sep 25	Lectionary 26 / 15 Pentecost	<u>A Well-Rounded Faith</u> <u>Everywhere, Everyone</u> (Colossians 1:24-29)	I AM WHOM I AM		Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Exodus 17:1-7 (semi-continuous) Psalm 25:1-9 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 (semi-continuous) Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32 Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God, such as prostitutes and tax collectors going before others into God's kingdom. In the reading from Ezekiel the people question whether the ways of the Lord are unfair; instead they are to repent and turn to the Lord. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, looking to the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.
Sun Oct 2	Lectionary 27 / 16 Pentecost	<u>Community Can Be Messy</u> (Philippians 4:2-3)	THE LORD'S NAME	Acolyte training and lock-in Sep 30th Starting 7:00 pm	Isaiah 5:1-7 Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 (semi-continuous) Psalm 80:7-15 Psalm 19 (semi-continuous) Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46 In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable of the vineyard, an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread, that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.
Sun Oct 9	Lectionary 28 / 17 Pentecost	<u>Have Roots, Will Grow!</u> (Colossians 2:6-7)	SABBATH DAY	2012 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING REGISTRATION 2:00 PM (BOWLING?)	Isaiah 25:1-9 Exodus 32:1-14 (semi-continuous) Psalm 23 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 (semi-continuous) Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14 In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.
Sun Oct 16	Lectionary 29 / 18 Pentecost	<u>Serving Like Jesus</u> (Philippians 2:5-11)	FATHER AND MOTHER		Isaiah 45:1-7 Exodus 33:12-23 (semi-continuous) Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13] Psalm 99 (semi-continuous) 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22 In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Sun Oct 23	Lectionary 30 / 19 Pentecost	The Ultimate Worship Experience (Romans 12:1-2)	SAFEGUARD LIFE		<p>Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 Deuteronomy 34:1-12 (semi-continuous) Psalm 1 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 (semi-continuous) 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46</p> <p>Jesus' summary of the law in today's gospel echoes our first reading from Leviticus. We are called not only to love God with heart, soul, and mind, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is out of such deep care that Paul shares the gospel with the Thessalonians community. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor, and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word and meal to be signs of God's love and mercy in the world.</p>
Sun Oct 30	Reformation Sunday Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 46 Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36				<p>On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.</p>
Sun Nov 6	All Saints Sunday	Be A Leader Inner Qualities of Leaders (Deuteronomy 1:9-18)	REMAIN FAITHFUL	WH CHRITMAS ORNAMENETS SALE	<p>Revelation 7:9-17 Psalm 34:1-10, 22 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12</p> <p>All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.</p>
Sun Nov 13	Lectionary 33 / 22 Pentecost	Challenges of Leadership	PROTECT PROPERTY	WH CHRITMAS ORNAMENET SALE	<p>Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 Judges 4:1-7 (semi-continuous) Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 Psalm 123 (semi-continuous) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30</p> <p>Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.</p>

Sun Nov 20	Christ the King	Leadership Decisions	DO NOT COVET	LOCK-IN Nov. 18 WH CHRITMAS ORNAMENET SALE	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (semi-continuous) Psalm 95:1-7a Psalm 100 (semi-continuous) Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46 On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet awaiting the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.
Thu Nov 24	Thanksgiving (U.S.A.)				Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Psalm 65 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Luke 17:11-19 At harvest time we join the psalmist in offering thanksgiving to God: "You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty." We are grateful for the abundance of the good things of God's creation. Paul reminds us that our thanksgiving overflows into generosity. As the body of Christ in the world, we give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.
Sun Nov 27	1 Advent	Nehemiah A Life Interrupted (Nehemiah 1)	THANKSGIVING (COMMANDMENT CONCLUSION?)	WH CHRITMAS ORNAMENET SALE	Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37 Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, and to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.
Sun Dec 4	2 Advent		ARTTICLE ONE	WH CHRITMAS ORNAMENET SALE	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8 John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

Sun Dec 4	<i>John of Damascus</i>	CHRYSALIS FRONT ROYAL		SENIOR HIGH RETREAT DEC 2-4	A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.
Sun Dec 11	3 Advent	Responding With Action (Nehemiah 2)	ARTICLE TWO	WH CHRITMAS ORNAMENETS SALE	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 or <i>Luke 1:46b-55</i> 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28 "Rejoice always," begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.
Sun Dec 18	4 Advent	Leading the Way (Nehemiah 3 and 4)	ARTICLE THREE	LOCK-IN Dec 16. WH CHRITMAS ORNAMENET SALE	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:47-55 or <i>Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26</i> Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38 God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."
Sat Dec 24	<p style="text-align: center;">Christmas Eve (I) Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]</p> <p>On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.</p>				
Sun Dec 25	<p style="text-align: center;">Christmas Day (II) Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20</p> <p>On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.</p>				

Sun Jan 1, 2012	<p style="text-align: center;">NEW YEAR Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4:4-7 or <i>Philippians 2:5-11</i> Luke 2:15-21</p> <p>From the beginning, by virtue of our baptism, we are called Christian. We were "Christ-ened" at the font. Bearing his name, we share the same Father and are invited to address him intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of the Father. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.</p>				
Sun Jan 8	Baptism of Our Lord	Tough Questions Why is There Pain—And What Can I Learn From It? (Genesis 3)	THE HISTORY OF HOLY COMMUNION		Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11 Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit/wind moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.
Sun Jan 15	2 Epiphany	Is Hell Real? (Matthew 25:31-46)	TAKE AND EAT	FIRST COMMUNION CLASS FOR 3-6TH GRADERS	1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20] Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51 All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just the clergy but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather who—we come to. Jesus refers to the story of the vision of Jacob, who called the place of his vision "the house of God, and ... the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.
Sun Jan 22	3 Epiphany	Can I Trust the Bible? (2 Timothy 3:16)	BENEFITS OF COMMUNION	FIRST COMMUNION CLASS FOR 3-6TH GRADERS	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20 Stories of the call to discipleship continue as the Time after Epiphany plays out the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of fisherman brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

Sun Jan 29	4 Epiphany	Did Jesus Really Say That? Jesus Speaks to Nicodemus (John 3:1-21)	FATHER IN HEAVEN	LOCK-IN FRIDAY JAN 27 +++++++ FIRST COMMUNION CLASS FOR 3-6TH GRADERS	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28 In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that trumps any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.
Sun Feb 5	5 Epiphany	Jesus Speaks to the Woman Caught in Adultery (John 8:1-11)	HOLY NAME	RECEPTION OF FIRST COMMUNION CLASS TO THE LORD'S TABLE AT 8:30 AM SERVICE?	Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39 In Isaiah it is the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars—it is that God who strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up to health and diakonia. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.
Sun Feb 12	6 Epiphany	Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-20)	THE KINGDOM		2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45 The leper is confident in Jesus' power to heal. Naaman, on the other hand, is comically hard to convince that he can be healed by such an unlikely foreigner as Elisha, who directs him to wash in such a sorry excuse for a river as the Jordan. Jesus' healing power is here among us in the ordinary water of the font, in the ordinary bread, in the ordinary people who make up the body of Christ. We would be well-advised to take the advice of the least powerful among us (like the servant girl in Naaman's household) if we want to find the one who will heal us.
Sun Feb 19	Transfiguration	Jesus Warns About the World's Hatred (John 15:18-16:4)	THE DIVINE WILL	FEB 17-19 SKI- TRIP BRYCE RESORT	2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9 The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's beloved son. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

SHROVE TUESDAY	PANCAKE SUPPER PROVIDED BY THE YOUTH AND THEIR PARENT				THIS IS A FUNDRAISING NIGHT FOR YOUTH MISSION TRIPS! ALL YOUTH ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE
Wed Feb 22	<p style="text-align: center;">Ash Wednesday <i>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12</i> <i>Psalm 51:1-17 or Psalm 103:8-14</i> <i>2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</i></p> <p>Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.</p>				
Sun Feb 26	1 Lent	<p style="color: blue;">Growing Spiritually</p> <p>Hang Out With God (1 Samuel 1:8-20)</p>	GIVE US THIS DAY		<p style="text-align: center;">Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15</p> <p>On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.</p>
Sun Mar 4	2 Lent		FOGIVENESS		<p style="text-align: center;">Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38</p> <p>The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.</p>

Sun Mar 11	3 Lent	Accountable Friendships (2 Samuel 12:1-13)	TEMPTATION AND TRAIL		<p>Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22</p> <p>The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The ten commandments are one of the chief parts of Luther's catechism, a core piece of baptismal instruction. They begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.</p>
Sun Mar 18	4 Lent	Bible Memorization (Joshua 1:8)	SHEKINAH CONFIRMATION AGE RETREAT AT FRONT ROYAL, VA	SHEKINAH MARCH 16-18	<p>Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21</p> <p>The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.</p>
Sun Mar 25	5 Lent	Involvement Within the Church Body (1 Kings 19:15-21)	DELIVERANCE		<p>Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 or <i>Psalm 119:9-16</i> Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33</p> <p>God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's light and truth into our hearts. We see God's heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.</p>
Sun Apr 1	Passion Sunday		FASTING (ABOUT LENT)		<p>Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1--15:47 or <i>Mark 15:1-39 [40-47]</i></p> <p>The first and second readings and psalm are the same this Sunday every year: Christ emptying himself of divine power and protection, willingly becoming vulnerable to those who struck him and put him to death. With Christ we lament his suffering and all human suffering, but expect God's final vindication. Mark's passion story begins with an unnamed woman anointing his head, perhaps to proclaim him Messiah, and Jesus saying she has anointed him beforehand for burial. Mark's Easter story will begin with women going to anoint Jesus for burial, only to find that he has been raised, God's living Anointed One.</p>

<p>Mon Apr 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday in Holy Week</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11</p> <p>During Holy Week some communities gather each day to meditate on Jesus' final days before his death on the cross. Today's gospel commemorates the anointing of Jesus by Mary, a foreshadowing of his death and burial. Isaiah speaks of the suffering servant who is a light for the nations and who faithfully brings forth justice. For Christians, Jesus' suffering is the path to resurrection and new life. We eagerly await the celebration of the great Three Days later this week.</p>
<p>Tue Apr 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday in Holy Week</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36</p> <p>As the great Three Days draw near, some communities gather each day of Holy Week for worship. Paul proclaims Christ crucified as the wisdom and power of God. Jesus speaks of the grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies in order that it may bear fruit. We die with Christ in baptism that we may be raised with him to new life. We will celebrate this great mystery of death and resurrection at the Easter Vigil later this week.</p>
<p>Wed Apr 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday in Holy Week</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32</p> <p>This day was formerly called "Spy Wednesday," an allusion to the gospel accounts in which Judas is identified as the betrayer of Jesus. As Jesus endured the suffering of the cross, we are called to run the race of life with perseverance, confident of the joy to come. In the Three Days, which begin tomorrow evening, we will journey with Christ from darkness to light, from captivity to freedom, from death to life.</p>
<p>Thu Apr 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Maundy Thursday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35</p> <p>With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.</p>
<p>Fri Apr 6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MINI-LOCK-IN TO SET UP FOR EGGSTRAVAGANZA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Good Friday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Isaiah 52:13--53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1--19:42</p> <p>At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died. Today's liturgy culminates in the Easter Vigil tomorrow evening.</p>

Sat Apr 7	EGGESTRAVAGANZA				
Sun Apr 8	Easter Day				
	<p>Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43 Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18</p> <p>This year may be the one in which John's resurrection account is likely to be chosen over Mark's, perhaps because Mark's gospel ends so abruptly, with astonishment and fear rather than joyful proclamation. Yet Mark may speak to our experience more directly than the other gospels. Corinthians and Acts fill out the story by telling of appearances of the risen Christ. Peter says we "ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead." And so do we, in a foretaste of the mountaintop feast where death will be no more.</p>				
Sun Apr 15	2 Easter	Tithing (Genesis 22:1-18)	THE HISTORY OF BAPTISM		<p>Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1--2:2 John 20:19-31</p> <p>The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.</p>
Sun Apr 22	3 Easter	Studying Scripture (1 Samuel 15:1-23)	WORD AND WATER		<p>Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48</p> <p>The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Lord's day. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures: the two main elements of our Sunday worship.</p>
Sun Apr 29	4 Easter	Community Quality vs. Quantity (Proverbs 27:17)	LUTHERAN THEOLOGY I	<p>SHEMA: UPPER ELEMENTATRY YOUTH EVENT</p> <p>3RD- 6TH GRADERS 2-5 PM AT KOK +++++++ REHERSAL FOR YOUTH SUNDAY FRIDAY MAY 4TH</p>	<p>Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18</p> <p>The image of the Good Shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sister or brother in need.</p>

Sun May 6	5 Easter	Encourage, Encourage, Encourage (1 Thessalonians 5:11)	LUTHERAN THEOLOGY II	REHERSAL LOCK-IN FOR YOUTH SUNDAY FRIDAY MAY 11TH	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8 This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.
Sun May 13	YOUTH SUNDAY				Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17 This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.
Sun May 20	7 Easter	CELEBRATING WITH CONFIRMANDS	CONFIRMATION FOR 8TH GRADERS I	CONFIRMATION	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19 The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!
Sat May 26	Vigil of Pentecost				Exodus 19:1-9a or Acts 2:1-11 Psalm 33:12-22 or Psalm 130 Romans 8:14-17, 22-27 John 7:37-39 At this liturgy we gather in vigilant prayer as the disciples did in the days preceding Pentecost. Our world waits for an end to war and violence. The whole creation waits for an end to suffering. With undying hope we pray for the crowning gift of Easter—the Spirit of the risen Christ among us.
Sun May 27	Pentecost		INTRODUCTION TO CHURCH LIFE		Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

		<p>Intimacy Killers</p> <p>Lust (Job 31:1)</p>		<p>On the fiftieth day of Easter we celebrate the Spirit, through whom and in whom the people of God are created and re-created. Pentecost is sometimes called the church's birthday, but might more appropriately be called its baptism day, since the gift of the Spirit is the fullness of baptism. Ezekiel's vision shows the Spirit resurrecting and re-creating not just individuals but a whole people. Romans makes it clear that God is in the process of re-creating the entire cosmos; yet the Spirit is also at work in the most intimate and personal way, praying in us "with sighs too deep for words" when we do not know how to pray.</p>
Sun Jun 3	Holy Trinity / 1 Pentecost	<p>Immodesty (1 Peter 3:3-4)</p> <p>Stopping the Cycle (1 Timothy 5:1-2)</p>	<p>HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH WITH SOMEONE</p>	<p>Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17</p> <p>When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.</p>
Sun Jun 10	Lectionary 10 / 2 Pentecost	<p>Character Traits of God</p> <p>God is Holy (Isaiah 6:1-5)</p>	<p>BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS</p>	<p>Genesis 3:8-15 1 Samuel 8:4-11 [12-15] 16-20; [11:14-15] (semi-continuous) Psalm 130 Psalm 138 (semi-continuous) 2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1 Mark 3:20-35</p> <p>A house divided against it cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are sisters and brothers of the Lord. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.</p>
Sun Jun 17	<p>Lectionary 11 / 3 Pentecost</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR END CELEBRATION</p>			<p>Ezekiel 17:22-24 1 Samuel 15:34--16:13 (semi-continuous) Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 Psalm 20 (semi-continuous) 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17 Mark 4:26-34</p> <p>The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.</p>

Sun Jun 24	John the Baptist	<p style="text-align: center;">MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SUMMER PROGRAMS WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY EMAIL</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 141 Acts 13:13-26 Luke 1:57-67 [68-80]</p> <p>John the Baptist is a unique figure in Christian memory, a hinge between the Old Testament prophets and the first Christians. In the gospel stories he recognizes Jesus as one greater than himself, one for whose coming he prepares the way. But still from his prison he asks if Jesus is truly the Expected One. He is a figure of perpetual Advent and in that way stands for all of us who may be Christian believers but still wait and wonder, discern and doubt.</p>
Sun Jul 1	Lectionary 13 / 5 Pentecost		<p style="text-align: center;">Lamentations 3:22-33 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 (semi-continuous) <i>or Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24</i> Psalm 30 Psalm 130 (semi-continuous) 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43</p> <p>A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak, and a girl is restored to life when he takes her by the hand. In both cases a boundary is crossed: in Jesus' time the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. In Mark's gospel Jesus breaks down barriers, from his first meal at a tax collector's house to his last breath on the cross as the temple curtain is torn in two. We dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.</p>
Sun Jul 8	Lectionary 14 / 6 Pentecost	<p style="text-align: center;">THE NEAREST LUTHERAN CAMPS OFFER SUMMER CAMPS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAROLINE FURNACE 2239 Camp Roosevelt Road, Fort Valley, VA 22652 http://carolinefurnace.org/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAR-LU-RIDGE CONFERENCE AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER 3200 MAR-LU-RIDGE RD, JEFFERSON, MD 21755</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://www.mar-lu-ridge.org/campregistration.html</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ezekiel 2:1-5 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 (semi-continuous) Psalm 123 Psalm 48 (semi-continuous) 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13</p> <p>Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the between: between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.</p>

Sun Jul 22	Lectionary 16 / 8 Pentecost		<p>Jeremiah 23:1-6 2 Samuel 7:1-14a (semi-continuous) Psalm 23 Psalm 89:20-37 (semi-continuous) Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56</p> <p>Mark's gospel makes clear how great was the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today's gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn't think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers' need. We are sent from Christ's table to care for others and for ourselves.</p>
Sun Jul 29	Lectionary 17 / 9 Pentecost		<p>2 Kings 4:42-44 2 Samuel 11:1-15 (semi-continuous) Psalm 145:10-18 Psalm 14 (semi-continuous) Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21</p> <p>Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.</p>
Sun Jul 29	St Mark's Lutheran Church VBS from July 29th –August 2nd		THE YOUTH WILL HAVE ACTIVE LEADERSHIP ROLE
Sun Aug 5	<p style="text-align: center;">Lectionary 18 / 10 Pentecost Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 2 Samuel 11:26--12:13a (semi-continuous) Psalm 78:23-29 Psalm 51:1-12 (semi-continuous) Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35</p> <p>Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.</p>		

2011 -2012 Sunday School Lessons are based on the following lessons

1	September 4, 2011	Jacob's Family	Genesis 29:1–30:34	Matthew 18:1–20
2	September 11, 2011	Esau Forgives Jacob	Genesis 31:3; 32:1–33:20	Matthew 18:21–35
3	September 18, 2011	Joseph and His Brothers	Genesis 37	Matthew 20:1–16
4	September 25, 2011	Joseph's Troubles	Genesis 39	Matthew 21:23–27 (28–32)
5	October 2, 2011	Joseph Feeds Egypt	Genesis 40–41	Matthew 21:33–46
6	October 9, 2011	Joseph Forgives	Genesis 42–45	Matthew 22:1–14
7	October 16, 2011	The Birth of Moses	Exodus 1:1–2:10	Matthew 22:15–22
8	October 23, 2011	Moses and the Burning Bush	Exodus 2:11–4:31	Matthew 22:34–46
9	October 30, 2011	Moses and the Plagues	Exodus 5–10	Matthew 23:1–12
10	November 6, 2011	The Passover	Exodus 11–12	Matthew 25:1–13
11	November 13, 2011	Crossing the Red Sea	Exodus 13:17–15:21	Matthew 25:14–30
12	November 20, 2011	God Provides Manna, Water, and Quail	Exodus 16–17	Matthew 25:31–46
13	November 27, 2011	The Ten Commandments Mark 13:24–37	Exodus 19–20	Mark 11:1–10 (LW), or

Winter 2011-2012

	Lesson/Date	Bible Story	Bible Reference	Pericopes
1	December 4, 2011	The Birth of John Foretold	Luke 1:5–25	Mark 1:1–8
2	December 11, 2011	An Angel Visits Mary	Luke 1:26–38	John 1:6–8, 19–28
3	December 18, 2011	An Angel Visits Joseph	Matthew 1:18–25	Luke 1:26–38
4	December 25, 2011	The Birth of Jesus	Luke 2:1–20	Luke 2:22–40
5	January 1, 2012	The Presentation of Jesus	Luke 2:22–40	Mark 1:4–11
6	January 8, 2012	The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus	Mark 1:1–13	John 1:43–51
7	January 15, 2012	Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael	John 1:43–51	Mark 1:14–20
8	January 22, 2012	Jesus Calls Matthew	Mark 2:13–17	Mark 1:21–28
9	January 29, 2012	Jesus and the Little Children	Mark 10:13–16	Mark 1:29–39
10	February 5, 2012	Jesus Heals a Man Who is Paralyzed	Mark 2:1–12	Mark 1:40–45
11	February 12, 2012	Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter	Mark 5:21–24, 35–43	Mark 9:2–9
12	February 19, 2012	The Transfiguration	Mark 9:2–10	Mark 1:9–15
13	February 26, 2012	Jesus Calms a Storm	Mark 4:35–41	Mark 1:1–8

Spring 2012

	Lesson/Date	Bible Story	Bible Reference	Pericopes
1	March 4, 2012	Jesus Walks on Water	Matthew 14:22-33	Mark 8:27-38
2	March 11, 2012	Jesus Clears the Temple	John 2:13-22	John 2:13-22 (23-25)
3	March 18, 2012	The Widow's Mite	Mark 12:41-44	John 3:14-21
4	March 25, 2012	Jesus and Zacchaeus	Luke 19:1-10	Mark 10:(32-34) 35-45
5	April 1, 2012	Peter Denies Jesus Mark 15:1-47; or John 12:20-43	Mark 14:26-72	Mark 14:1-15:1-47 or
6	April 8, 2012	Jesus Dies and Lives Again	Mark 15:1-16: 8	Mark 16:1-8
7	April 15, 2012	Jesus Reinstates Peter	John 21:1-19	John 20:19-31
8	April 22, 2012	Paul's First Missionary Journey	Acts 13-14	Luke 24:36-49
9	April 29, 2012	Paul and Timothy	Acts 15:1-16:5	John 10:11-18
10	May 6, 2012	Lydia	Acts 16:11-15	John 15:1-8
11	May 13, 2012	Paul and Silas in Prison	Acts 16:16-40	John 15:9-17
12	May 20, 2012	Paul Sails for Rome	Acts 27	John 17:11b-19
13	May 27, 2012	John's Vision of Heaven	Revelation 21-22	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

CHILDREN CHURCH

From September 11, 2011 to June 2012

Children of St Mark's are invited to attend children church in Green Room every Sunday during 8:30 am service. Children leave after the Prayer of the day and get back from Children's Church during offering.

<i>The First Sunday of the month</i>	<i>The second Sunday of the month</i>	<i>The third Sunday of the month</i>	<i>The fourth Sunday of the month</i>	<i>The fifth Sunday of the month</i>	Helper Substitutes:
<i>Sandy Lind and Jill Christensen</i>	<i>Tricia Stinchcomb and Debbie Griffes</i>	<i>Ammy Makinen and Jan Barnes</i>	<i>Linda Vretos and Kira Wharton</i>	<i>Vanessa Ferrari and TBD</i>	Barbra Vigil, Ester Herfindahl, and Heather Bogstand

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