

St. Mark Lutheran Church

2100 Tickner St. • Conroe, Texas 77301



January 2011

Rev. David Quail

Senior Pastor

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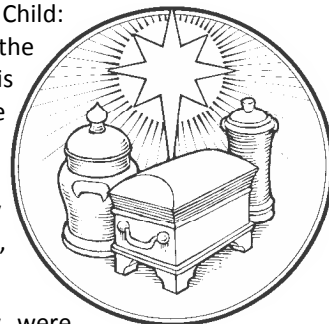
Fellowship Hall (936) 756-5434 • **Thrift Shop** (936) 756-5388

Email stmarkconroe@consolidated.net • **Website** www.stmarkconroe.org

From the Senior Pastor: “Those Whom God Chooses”

by the Rev. David Quail

The Gospel of Matthew records the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child: “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.’ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matthew 2:1-2, 11).



Who were these wise men? Research indicates that they were probably Gentiles from present-day Jordan. It is unlikely the Jews would have gone to Herod to ask about a king who could possibly challenge his rule. It is very interesting to note that Gentiles were those who brought gifts to the king of the Jews! At that time, there was widespread disdain, even hatred, for Gentiles. Yet, these visitors were those whom God chose to present gifts to His Son.

Even though as Christians we are to love everyone, we must admit that we don't. We may even hate some, especially those we see as enemies of our faith. When the Christian faith in general, and we, in particular, are misunderstood, ridiculed, and even persecuted it is natural and human to respond with anger and hatred.

What we must keep in mind is that all of us are created in the image of God and that Christ died for all. “For the love of Christ constrains us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died” (2 Corinthians 5:14). God does the choosing; in fact, He has chosen all of us. “The Lord is...longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). Like Christ, let us eagerly seek out the lost and welcome them to the family of believers. Like the Wise Men, let us bring our gifts before our Lord in humble, joyful gratitude for Who He is and what He has done and continues to do for us and in and through us.

Sunday School News

The Sunday School will start out 2011 with a movie event on Saturday, January 15th from 2—4pm. We will show a movie and provide “movie snacks”. All Sunday School-aged children and their parents are welcome to join us!

Quilting Material Needed!

Our Tuesday morning quilters are in need of large pieces of double knit or polyester material for quilt backing. If you have any that you would like to donate, please bring it to the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Visioning Process Update

The most recent report on our Visioning Process is now available on the counter in the church office. Please pick up a copy and record your comments! Our consultant, Tom Grunow, has recommended and graciously provided a return visit on January 12th for a third and final session to help us put the final touches on the development of a 3-5 year Strategic Ministry Plan and to implement the Spiritual Gifts process. The 2-hour session on Wednesday, January 12th at 7:00pm is open to the entire congregation. Please join us for this important session!

Fellowship Opportunity

A month without a Sunday covered dish dinner is just blah! Therefore, Sunday, January 16th there will be a covered dish dinner after church. Also, there will be opportunity at that time to discuss the question of calling a second professional worker for our congregation. Come for the fellowship and stay for the discussion.

Junior Youth

What a great year 2010 was for the Junior Youth!!!! Many thanks go out to all the parents for making it such a successful year! We would also like to thank everyone in the congregation for all of your support and prayers throughout last year. I hope all had a Merry Christmas and a blessed holiday.

Our first event for January is to go ice skating at the Woodlands Mall. ALL junior youth and their parents are invited to come and try out your ice feet! We will meet at the ice rink on Sunday, January 9th at 2:30pm. The event is from 3-5, but we would like to be there a bit early to get our group together and paid by 3pm so we can have the full two hours to skate. If you need directions, please just give me a call. Anyone who is going, please let me know before the event so I can plan accordingly.



Just a heads up, our event for February is a lock-in on the 18th, so mark your calendars!!!!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about anything, please let me know via phone or email. It is always a pleasure working with the junior youth!

Katrina
936-524-4414
klaurence@my.lonestar.edu

Seniors of St. Mark

The Seniors will meet on January 12th in the Fellowship Hall for our monthly meeting and a potluck lunch. We will decide on our 2011 schedule, so please bring ideas and opinions! Hope to see everyone there!

Lydia Guild

If you have wanted to attend a Bible study but can not come to the day time Bible studies, why not join Lydia Guild the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:15pm for a Bible study and fellowship? If you have children and need a baby sitter, please let us know. We will make the necessary arrangements for a sitter to be present at the meeting. Why not start the new year and join us. We would love to have you!

K.I.D.S. Savings Stamps



We have mission stamps in the Resource Center in the narthex for anyone to purchase. These stamps are like a saving book for the child. They cost 25 cents each. When you fill the book (\$20.00 fills a book) you can send the cost money to the Church Extension Fund for savings. The Church Extension Fund then uses the money to help congregations grow with new buildings or help with the financing of a new congregation and their building of their first church. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Embry.

Ladies Christmas Party

The Ladies Christmas Party was held on December 5 after church. It was very well attended and we plan to have our next one on the 1st Sunday in December in 2011. Please mark it on your calendar! If you were unable to attend this year, we hope you will join us next year. The party is not just for Guild members, but for ALL ladies and young girls of the congregation! If you would like to see something new or different, or change something, please let Evelyn Adickes or Mary Embry know. We look forward to seeing you this December!

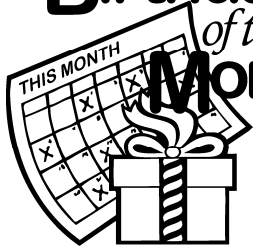
Attention Junior and Senior High Ladies!

Mary Embry is seeking information from the young girls of the congregation from Jr. High and High School. LWML has a program for young girls and Mary would like to know how many would be interested in the F.I.S.H. program. We would meet only once a month at an agreeable time. Please give her your feedback on this. Thank you!

The Pictorial Directories are Here!

The new pictorial directories have arrived! If you had a picture taken for the directory, please pick up your copy in the church office. Your last name is written on a sticky note on the front of the directory. If you did NOT have a picture taken for the directory but would like a copy, they are available for purchase in the church office for \$5 each. Please make checks payable to St. Mark.

Birthdays of the Month



3 Alan Biggerstaff
Campbell Dube
Larry Owens, Sr.
Art Stamm
Ethel Stark

4 Melissa Barrington

6 Judy Gessner

8 Dianne Jones
Daniel Sample

9 Camaryn Ward

10 Craig Barber
Lorie Duplantier
Luther McCoy
Erin Stephens
Patricia Trenary

12 Emily Miller

13 Jake Barber
Shirley Engart
Danny Golden
Courtney Martin
Ken Starr

14 Michelle Klein

15 Victoria Shaw
Pat Stavinoha

17 Bert Schulze

18 Eric Fossler
Zachary Stuckwisch

21 Steven Armstrong

22 Robert Lindgren
Pastor Parker

23 Trinity Eakins
Dean Gunder

24 Gloria Hunt

25 Kris Ward

26 Stacey Aden

28 Virginia Lamp
Rebekah Schumpe
Zakariah Shannon

29 Denise Bernard
Emily Muehr

30 James Lamendola

31 Calvin Leatherwood

4 *Ronald & Reta Hamilton*
James & Helen Thornton

10 *George & Bonnie Hughes*

16 *Alan & Vickie Biggerstaff*

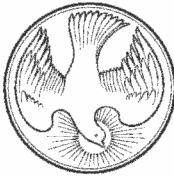
25 *Jason & Robin Hancock*





Baptismal Birthdays

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 3 Mark Parker
Yvonne Schulze
Art Stamm | 13 Malcolm Enyart | 26 Ray Barber |
| 4 Meghan Clancy | 14 Bobby Sander | 27 Douglas Fain, Sr.
Mike Holliday
Blake Nail
Danny Shannon I
Ashley Walling |
| 6 Amelda Sump | 17 Virginia Hendrix | |
| 8 Ruth LeBlanc | 18 Bert Schulze | |
| 9 Savanna Gann | 21 Hayden West
Jase West | 30 Emily Miller |
| 10 Craig Sample II | 22 Betty Hardy
Rebekah Stuckwisch | 31 Douglas Fain, Jr.
Erin Fain |
| 12 Caleb Thornton
Christopher Thornton | 24 Kelcie King
Sarah Quail | |



Confirmation Anniversaries

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 <i>Flora English</i> | 23 <i>Robert Quada</i>
<i>Yvonne Schulze</i> |
| 10 <i>Luther McCoy</i>
<i>Judith Theiss</i> | 26 <i>Debbie Jackson</i> |
| 15 <i>Amber Bernard</i>
<i>Rolanda Fossler</i>
<i>Candis Quail</i> | 27 <i>David Davidson, Sr.</i>
<i>Mike Holliday</i>
<i>Ruth LeBlanc</i>
<i>Danny Shannon I</i>
<i>Elaine Tarpley</i> |
| 17 <i>Virginia Hendrix</i> | |
| 22 <i>Maydell Pustka</i>
<i>Bobby Thornton</i> | |

YPS News

In December the YPS was busy at work finishing the Borghardt's house, hosting as Advent dinner, our Children's Movie Night fundraiser, Christmas Caroling with the congregation, a lock-in in our new building, Christmas Holiday celebrations, and a fantastic New Year's Eve Party together. Best wishes to you in this wonderful holiday season!



In January we will be hosting our annual Chili Cook-Off and Pie Bake-Off on January 22nd at 5pm. ALL MEMBERS of St. Mark are welcome to come join us for some tasty chili and cornbread and delicious pies and sweets. Even if you don't bring chili for the contest, you are still welcome—there is plenty of food for everyone. The fun and fellowship around yummy food is a great way to spend a Saturday night!!!

Secret Pals

Happy New Year Secret Pals,

I hope that you and your family had a very blessed Christmas.

This is just a note to remind you that I am the Secret Pal coordinator for the 2011 year. If you have a question or problem in the task you have chosen as Secret Pal please do not hesitate to contact me.



What is a "Secret Pal?"

- A "Secret Pal" prays for her "Pal" throughout the year.
- On special occasions such as a birthday or anniversary, she remembers her "Pal" with a card and/or a gift.
- She remembers her "Pal" with a card – anytime she is thinking of her – even if it is not a special occasion.
- Remembers that this is not a competition, not all can afford to give expensive gifts and that anything received is given from the heart.

Again please call me if you are having a problem with fulfilling your task and I will see what can be done to help out.

REMEMBER – Shhhhhh! Keep your identity a secret and try to keep your Pal guessing!

Have a blessed New Year.

Debbie Jackson

Home: 936-321-3683

PS: Don't forget to check the table in the narthex for gifts with your name on them.

2011 Church Officers

President

Larry LeBlanc

Vice President

Jason Sander

Secretary

Dennis Umlang

Treasurer

Jim Goshinska

Elders

Mark Dube

Melvin Gessner

Charlie Jones

Christopher Laurence

Larry LeBlanc

Dana Pyle

Jason Sander

Philip Schumpe

Danny Shannon

Dennis Stephens

Dennis Umlang

Head Usher

Mark Blakeman

Financial Secretary

John Perdue

Board of Missions

Vernon Embry

Jim Goshinska

Pastor Graf

Board of Christian Education

Russell Frosch

Dana Pyle

Jason Sander

Philip Schumpe

Financial Review Committee

David Hinterberger

Victor Schultz

Finance (Stewardship) Board

David Davidson, Sr.

Melvin Gessner

Victor Schultz

Trustees

David Davidson, Sr.

David Pyle, Sr.

Danny Shannon

Jerone Theiss

Nomination Committee

David Hinterberger

David Pyle, Sr.

Jason Sander



Sunday Volunteers Needed for 2011!

We are in need of volunteers for Usher, Altar Guild and Acolytes for 2011. Signup sheets are now posted in the narthex on the bulletin board in the side hallway. Please stop by and sign up! If you are an Elder, please remember to sign up for Elder duty and Communion Assistant—and keep in mind that we will need **2 communion assistants per Sunday** since we only have one pastor right now. Thank you!

Our Response to God's Love in Christ...

as shown by our interest in His Word and Communion since the last newsletter:

	November 21 <i>Divine Service</i>	November 28 <i>Divine Service</i>	December 5 <i>Divine Service</i>	December 12 <i>Divine Service</i>
Church attendance	205	163	209	193
Partook of Communion	150	122	149	127
Bible Class Attendance	21	23	21	26
Sunday School Attendance	13	10	20	16
General Fund Offerings	\$6,450.76	\$4,502.83	\$9,377.50	\$4,888.10



*No one has signed up yet. Please visit the flower calendar
in the narthex to sign up for flowers for 2011!*

Church Directory Updates

The Borghardt Family

513 Kensington Drive

McHenry, IL 60050

Pastor's cell—(815) 322-6333

Amy's cell—(936) 648-3982

St. Mark Lutheran Church
2100 Tickner St.
Conroe, TX 77301-1341

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January 2011

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