

St. Mark Lutheran Church

2100 Tickner St. • Conroe, Texas 77301



July 2010

Rev. David Quail

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From the Senior Pastor: “Finishing Well”
by the Rev. David Quail

The author of Hebrews exhorts us to “lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1b). The race we run in life more resembles a marathon than a sprint. Our race is a lifelong effort, and we are called to run with perseverance. God wants us to finish well in this marathon of life. In order to finish strong, we need to nurture our faith continually as we spend time in His Word and in prayer. Many people will start well but, unfortunately, finish poorly. Solomon started well, King Saul started well, and Lot started well; however, they allowed themselves to be entangled by things of the world, lost their focus, and finished poorly.

Regardless of our physical limitations or any other obstacles we encounter in our races, we need to stay strong in our faith and spirit. We have been called to follow our Lord, and He has not promised us a walk in the park. He has told us that we must be willing to sacrifice security, material things, vocations, and our own will. These things the Apostle Paul considered “rubbish” so that he could be found in Christ (Philippians 3:8). As children of the King, we have a relationship that has been forged by the atoning blood of Christ—and we’re “heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together” (Romans 8:17).

The Apostle Paul is a wonderful encouragement for us of a person who finished well. As a witness for Christ, he suffered many hardships, but he put his blessings, imprisonments, shipwrecks, and sicknesses into perspective. “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Corinthians 4:17). By God’s grace, he overcame his challenges and obstacles to run his race with perseverance to finish well.

In order to finish our races in life well, we need to call upon the Lord in prayer, meditate daily on His Word, attend church regularly, partake in the Lord’s Supper, and be faithful stewards. May God bless our efforts to run our races well, so we can finish well and spend eternity with our Lord.

From the Associate Pastor: “Your Perfect Life (in Him)”
by the Rev. George Borghardt III

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.” (Luke 6:37)

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

Jesus took upon Himself the full Law—all of the commandments. He didn’t dodge the Law like we try to do. He didn’t simplify it. He didn’t justify Himself, make excuses, or find out what He could get away with. He kept the Law, He fulfilled the Law, and by His complete and perfect obedience, even unto death on the Cross, we are saved.

He didn't destroy the Law, but what was destroyed saved us. As He hung on the cross, the crowd around the cross on Good Friday says, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." (Matt. 27:40).

The temple that He came to destroy was His Body, broken for you and me on the cross. The Son of God doesn't come down from the cross. No, the Son of God saves us by dying on the cross.

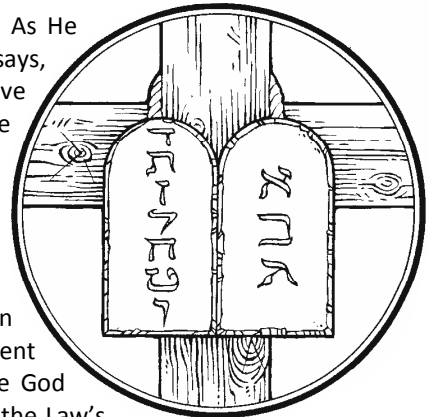
All that He did is yours by faith alone. He fulfilled every Law, so in Him, every Law is fulfilled by you. He kept every commandment perfectly, so in Him you have kept every commandment before God perfectly too. He fulfilled all the Law's demands. So in Him, all the Law's demands are fulfilled in you before God in Heaven. He lived perfectly, so in Him you live perfectly before God, too – without sin.

In Him, we have no sin – only His righteousness washed on us in Baptism. He has fulfilled the Law for us; in Him there is only forgiveness and eternal life and fulfilled law.

That makes the Law's not being abolished a gift for you. Now, with the Law fulfilled in Christ, you can pick up the Law and find out from the Lord exactly how He wants you to live. You can recite the commandments every day to learn how to serve one another. And when you do sin, you can hear the Law call you to repentance.

Thank God that Jesus did not destroy the Law but fulfilled it. Now, He has given us true freedom to recite and rejoice in the commandments of God and learn how to serve one another in the freedom which flows from His fulfilling the Law for us.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.



Congratulations!



Emily Lamendola and her team won their second consecutive state soccer championship in San Antonio, TX. Emily, as the starting midfielder for Conroe Youth Soccer League (CYSL), is a member of the U-12 Girls Select team called Texas Rage 98. Their repeat championship earns them a seat in Texas State Division 1 soccer next season. Texas Rage 98 was tagged as the team to beat in the 2010 championship series. The team rose above all others and was undefeated throughout the District Playoffs and Championship Series tournaments, earning 57 of a possible 60 tournament points. Emily and Texas Rage's offensive lines scored more than three goals in all games and defeated all but one opponent by more than three goals. Defensive lines only gave up two goals in the entire tournament shutting out all other teams. Hard work, great teamwork, confidence and determination were the key elements in fulfilling their goal and exemplifies their team motto and cheer "We are good, but we will get better". Congratulations to Emily and her team for their outstanding accomplishments!

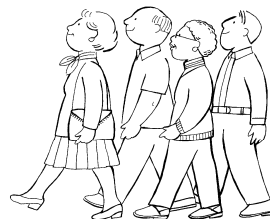
2010 Garage Sale—Items Needed!

Lydia Guild will hold its annual Garage Sale on Saturday, August 7th. If you have items that you would like to donate, please bring them to the Fellowship Hall. Start cleaning your closets out now. This is a huge fund raiser for the Guild thanks to everyone's help. The money raised from the event is used to help support various mission or service projects.

Seniors of St. Mark

At our last meeting, the Seniors met for a special presentation by the Sheriff's department about the new things they use and the latest scams. Next month we will be going to the play "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" on July 16. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for this event.

Next month's meeting will be on July 14th. We will be having a salad luncheon and playing Bingo with White Elephant gifts, so please remember to bring a gift for the game! Our hostesses will be Virginia Hendrix and Lucille Lehmann.



Calling All Seniors!

Savings Stamps for Kids

We have stamps for sale in the resource center to help support the Church Extension Fund. They are 25 cents each. Stop by any Sunday and see Mary Embry on how to purchase them and start a savings program for you, your child, grandchildren or anyone. If you want to teach your children the importance of saving and serving the Lord, this is a great way.

August Blood Drive

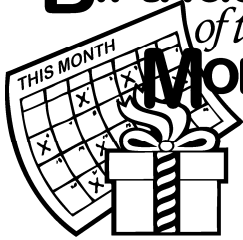


St. Mark's second blood drive of 2010 will be held on Sunday, August 1st from 11:00am to 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. Also, if possible, please register your appointment online at www.give-blood.org (click on "Digital Donor"). Don't forget that August is "Blue Bell Month" - everyone who attempts to donate receives a coupon for a free pint of Blue Bell ice cream. If there are any questions, please contact David Hinterberger at (936) 828-2308 (home) or (936) 648-6248 (cell).

Ruth Guild

Remember Ruth Guild members, we will NOT meet in July. Our next meeting will be August 17 and Anna Hildebrandt will be our hostess. Have a great summer!

Birthdays of the Month



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 William Hendrix
Ernest Hildebrandt
Cody Holliday
Tim Steen | 9 Sophia Borghardt
10 Susan Fossler
Pamela Holden
11 Junette Mihelich
12 Michael Hoadley
13 Danny Shannon I
14 Elaine Tarpley
15 Chad Eichenour
Andrea Klein
Hannah Starr | 21 Jerri Groce
George Hughes
22 April Schulze
Danny Shannon II
Jennifer Steen
23 Christopher Gessner
24 Billy Horn
25 Lois Lindgren
Cole Teeter
27 Pauline Ryder
29 Diane Eckles
30 David Pool
31 Georgia Ward |
| 2 Samantha Armstrong
Austin Hatfield
Jase West | 16 Barbara Russell
18 Roger Dottei
Carol Walker
20 David Davidson, Jr. | |
| 4 Barbara Gates
Keri West
8 Richard Larson II
Bertha Preston | | |

Wedding Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|--|
| 7 Jason & Lynea Sander
10 Jake & Maydell Pustka
13 James & Linda Wells
15 Mark & Allison Dube
Jimmie & Crystal Gann
19 Louis & Helen Harvey
Don & Ruby Wilson | 22 Jim & Dianne Jones
Joe & Jennifer Miller
Pastor & Cyndi Quail
24 Glen & Sharlene Hempel
John & Sue Walling
26 Kenneth & Cynthia Enloe
27 Scott & Janith Stowers |
|---|--|

Baptismal Birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Austin Birdwell | 14 Leanna Schulze |
| 3 Lauren Birdwell
Tiffany Hunt
Katherine Ross | 16 Kelly Montgomery
Rebecca Schultz |
| 6 Jacob Frosch | 17 William Hendrix |
| 7 David Hill
Katrina Laurence | 20 Tabitha Brinkman |
| 9 Sophia Borghardt | 21 Lisa East
Michael Hoadley |
| 11 Jack Montgomery
Stacey Suess | 23 Dean Gunder |
| 12 Mark Dube | 25 Cody Holliday |
| 13 Morgan Stowers | 26 Ryan O'Donnell |
| | 27 Austin Hatfield |
| | 28 Reta Hamilton |

Confirmation Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 17 <i>William Hendrix</i> | 23 <i>Ernest Hildebrandt</i> |
| 18 <i>Lida Jo Ferguson</i> | 24 <i>Pauline Ryder</i> |

Busy Bee Crafters

The Busy Bee Crafters had some companionship this past month with all the little bee-lievers running around at VBS. The future crafters of St Mark did a lot of creative things this year. Congratulations on a great turnout.

If you need something to do one evening this summer please feel free to drop by the first Thursday of each month from 7 PM to 8:30 PM in the fellowship hall. We would like to see a few new faces at our gatherings. The purpose of our group is *fellowship* and helping out the school and VBS with our craft sales twice a year. Have a safe 4th of July!

Secret Pals

Well ladies, we are half way through the year already! I hope everyone is having fun keeping her “pal” guessing. With the summer holiday upon us let us not forget our mission of reminding our “pal” how much she is thought of. If you need any help with your gift/card giving call me and I will help you out. You can reach me, Debbie Jackson at 936-321-3683. I would like to wish all our “Pals” a happy and safe 4th of July.

Houston Lutheran Chorale Independence Day Concert



The Houston Lutheran Chorale, under the direction of Jason Mangels, will present its annual Independence Day concert on Sunday, July 4 at 6:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church – Downtown. The Concert, “Country Pride”, will include a variety of patriotic music. We hope that you will join us for this celebration of thanks and praise to God and for this great nation and state. Following the concert will be a time of food and fellowship and you’re encouraged to stay and watch the downtown fireworks display from the church parking lot. Complimentary tickets for the concerts are available by calling (713) 869-8486 or from their website at www.hlc-tx.org.

Free Hymn Festival Concert

Professor Resch (Professor and Kantor at the Seminary in Fort Wayne), Dr. Jon Eifert (Music Minister at Mt. Calvary, San Antonio) and Kathy Achteberg (Music Minister at St. Paul, Austin) will lead a Hymn Festival as part of an Evening Prayer service at 7PM on Wednesday, August 4 at the visually and acoustically beautiful St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas. This service is free of charge and is in conjunction with the Continuation Education Course Professor Resch is presenting in Austin that week.

Junior Youth News



At the end of May, the Junior Youth watched a movie and hung out at the church. We had fun! We had a lock-in at the beginning of June to kick off summer. The kids participated in Vespers, Bible Study over Baptism, Evening Prayer, Games, and lots of Fun, Fun, Fun!! Thanks go out to the parents and counselors who stayed all night to help.

Our next event is a Pool Party at the Gessner's on Saturday, July 24th. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided, but parents are asked to help out by bringing chips, drinks, and desserts. Remember to bring towels! Many thanks in advance to Melvin and Judy Gessner for hosting such a great event for our Junior Youth. The time for this event is 3-8pm.

I would like to be able to send out reminders and important information to the parents of our junior youth via e-mail. If any parents would like to receive these, please just send me a blank e-mail so I can get your address. Thank you.

Please watch the Sunday bulletins for reminders of our upcoming events. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to give me a call.

Katrina Laurence
klaurence@my.lonestar.edu
936-524-4414 cell
936-856-5570 home

Services Now Available on DVD!

Each Sunday's service is recorded for anyone who would like to take a copy home for personal use or for our congregation's shut-ins. The services are now available on DVD as well as VHS. The tapes and DVDs are available after church in the church office. We currently make three VHS tapes and three DVDs of each service, but if we run out, please let the church office know and we will make more.

Church Directory Updates

Craig and Carol Sample
16712 Lake Circle
Conroe, TX 77302

Douglas and Hannah Galler
901 Wilson Rd. #325
Conroe, TX 77301
(936) 203-1465

James and Linda Wells
1010 Arbor Way
Conroe, TX 77303
(936) 828-3828

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

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

	May 23 <i>Divine Service</i>	May 30 <i>Divine Service</i>	June 6 <i>Divine Service</i>	June 13 <i>Divine Service</i>	June 20 <i>Divine Service</i>
Church attendance	185	185	189	163	182
Partook of Communion	150	137	159	128	133
Bible Class Attendance	16/15	20/14	17/10	15/10	16/12
Offerings	\$6,314.16	\$6,019.80	\$12,843.78	\$6,289.59	\$6,273.51

Membership Report

Confirmed

Marissa Maynard (June 20)

Married

Douglas and Hannah Galler (June 5)

Baptized

Jesse Hodges (June 13)



July 4

Robert and Debby Sander in celebration of Jason and Lynea's anniversary

The Lehmann family in memory of Ed's birthday

July 11

The Sturdivant family in celebration of Pam's birthday

July 18

The Walling family in celebration of John and Sue's anniversary and Tim and Jennifer Steen's birthdays

July 25

The Lindgren family in celebration of Lois' birthday

St. Mark Lutheran Church
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