



755 Concordia Lane Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487
970 879-0175

"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

January, 2018

Now that we have entered 2018, our attention turns toward the *Gospel According to St. Mark*. This "shortest of the Gospels" focuses our attention on two basic questions:

"Who is Jesus?" and "How are we to respond to Jesus?"

The portrait of Jesus, the central character in *Mark*, is informative and stressful. Informative because Jesus is portrayed as a man of authority, a man of power, and a man who is divine. Stressful because Jesus is represented as a man to be feared, a man who is fully human and a man who is a bit peculiar. Jesus is good; Jesus is dangerous. Not what we usually think, is it?

Mark presents us with a Divine-Human who is utterly unlike us, demanding our reverent response; and who is utterly like us, demanding our reasonable response. What would our reverent and reasonable response look like? Throughout *Mark*, we are invited to "believe" so that we can "see;" rather than taking the way of "seeing" so that we can "believe."

Like all four Gospels, *Mark* was written to be read – aloud – within and among a Christian community. In fact, *Mark* may well be notes from sermons intended to start new churches and strengthen old churches. In our day and age, this means that *Mark* is to be read by each member/family in the quiet of their own home, reading together wherever possible. And, along with reading at home, this Gospel is intended to be read and reflected upon by the congregation whenever we gather: whether we come together for worship and/or for learning the Word.

2018 as our year to focus on the theme: "MARK: MY WORD!"

Here's my invitation to you ... to us: let's – together – read and reflect upon *Mark's Gospel* throughout the coming year. And, as a part of this invitation, let's ask questions and make comments as we read. My hope is that, as a congregation, we can develop our own Concordia Commentary on *Mark's Gospel*, sharing our insights, reflections and personal applications as we read throughout the year.

How can we do this together? Let's begin by reading *Mark 1:1 – 7:37*. This is the first major section of *The Gospel According to St. Mark*. Throughout this section, after the ministry of Jesus is introduced by John the Baptizer, we'll observe Jesus' public ministry with two twists. The first twist is the "initial success of Jesus' ministry." The second twist is the "growing lack of understanding about what Jesus is actually doing."

Like reading any good book, I encourage you to read through 7:37 at one sitting. I know I will.

Luv ya'!
Pastor Craig



Happy January Birthdays

1-2 Bart Kounovsky	1-16 Ron Wentzel
1-2 Carter Kounovsky	1-18 Joel Tarcha
1-3 Lisa Schumacher	1-21 Nicole Tarcha
1-6 Greg Holm	1-24 Bradley Craig
1-11 Mike Illenberger	1-25 Clair Erickson
1-13 Bert Svendsen	1-29 Billee Harris

Happy January Anniversaries

1-6 Brad & Deb Nelson
1-29 Luther & Helen Berntson

Opportunities to serve:

Altar Guild help is needed. You would only be scheduled between 2 and 4 Sundays for the month that you can help. It doesn't take a lot of time— getting Communion ready and cleaned up, filling candles and sometimes changing banners. Speak with Sue Krohn for more information (970) 879-7081 or (715) 495-4351.

Trustees can use help with snow removal and general church maintenance. There is no set schedule—it's flexible! Please call Doug Bradfield at (970) 846-3347.

Prayer Chain 2018: Please consider being a part of this important ministry! We will be meeting on February 11th after the late service downstairs for lunch and discussion. If you are already part of this ministry— thank you! If you would like to learn more or join in serving in this ministry— come to the meeting on 2/11. We will have a light lunch so let the church know if you are attending so we can have plenty of food and drink!

Nursery: During the 10:30am service we offer attended nursery for infants through 3 years of age. It is a compensated position. If you can help or if you would like more information, please contact the church office.

Concordia Members' Corner.....

Men's Bible Breakfast is January 20th at 7am at the Egg & I. Join us for fellowship, study and food.

Men's Fellowship night: Monday, January 22nd at 5pm at Dude & Dan's.

Ladies Fellowship night: Monday, January 22nd at 5pm at Aurum.

2018 Budget Approval meeting is Sunday, January 28th.

Offering Envelopes for 2018 can be picked up from the Entryway table. If you do not have assigned envelopes and would like a set, please let Jake Weber or the Church Office know .

SIS Happenings:

- ◇ A big THANK YOU for your support in 2017! We look forward to a great 2018.
- ◇ The next meeting will be Monday, January 29th at 7pm at Clare Tarcha's house 650 Amethyst Drive.

Have a safe, happy
and blessed
2018!



Avoid the Spring snows and come and enjoy the sun and our kids!! Here is a chance to join Pastor Mike for a mission trip to Haiti in April!!! You will get the chance to visit our new home at God's garden. The trip will consist of helping build the interior of the team center, work with our kids, do some community outreach and be part of an exciting Bible study with our construction workers who have been voodoo practitioners in the past. A team is being organized now for the third week of April. Email Pastor Mike (mike.e.paulison@gmail.com) with any questions! Sign ups are due in mid Feb.

Concordia's Website

The address is: www.steamboatlutheran.org

Missed a Sunday? Do you want to hear the sermon? You can click on the sermon section and choose the audio sermon and listen to it at your computer! Also, find the latest news and events and the calendar which will keep you up-to-date on meetings and happenings!

