

Rally Day SPARKS Excitement

If you haven't heard, there are exciting things happening at St. Mark Lutheran this fall. We are kicking off a return to fall programming with a congregational-wide event on Sept. 13. It will be a RALLY DAY for the entire congregation and this is a special invitation to you and your family to be a part of this big day. We will have a lot of fun things going on beginning at 9:00 including games for all ages, a dunking stand, bingo, and demonstrations by our quilters and prayer shawl ministry team. We will break for worship at about 10:00 and have a meal following that. Hopefully the weather will be nice and we will be outside even for worship. Dress casual and plan to have fun. We will have seating available for worship but feel free to bring your lawn chairs as well.

It is also the day we kick off our Sunday School for the year. This year we are using a brand new resource from Augsburg Publishing call SPARK. It digs deep into the stories of the bible by focusing on one theme for three weeks. Each Sunday students will engage a different learning style to explore the themes of the story. Sometimes we will be baking, sometimes drawing, sometimes writing, sometimes making things with our hands, sometimes acting or using multimedia. I and all of the education team are very excited about this approach.

**But now I
need to ask
something of
you.**

Youth need mentors in the faith. They need to be around the joy that flows out of folks who trust in the goodness of God. **THEY NEED YOU! AND YOU NEED THEM!**. God needs each of us to share our time and energy with others who are also on a walk of faith. The best qualification to do this is one you already have: You are a baptized and adopted child of God. If you enjoy kids and value the stories of the faith, I invite you to step up and become a part of this ministry. We need both facilitators and helpers and the **time** commitment can be as short as **3 weeks!**

I invite anyone with even a hint of interest to an introductory meeting about the SPARK program on Wednesday Sept. 9th at 7:00 at St. Mark's. We will explain the details of the program and show you just how easy it is to be a part of this exciting ministry. I pray that you deeply consider how God is calling you to share your story with others. May God bless you and fill your lives with peace.

In Christ

Tim Koester
Pastor – St. Mark Lutheran Church.