

May 2021

President's Notes



By Joni Wasmund

Being a Part of the Body of Christ

What a blessing, to be called by our Lord to join a church family and belong to His Body. Yes, a blessing and also a privilege that carries with it a role. Years ago, Chuck Colson wrote a book entitled *The Body*, which has been revised to capture the changing world around us while retaining the same message within. To quote from the book jacket, Mr. Colson wrote "In this radically individualistic age, authentic Christianity is increasingly counter to the culture. It is more urgent now than ever that we understand that **Christianity is not simply a matter of private faith or individual conversation, and that church membership and commitment are not options.** The Christian life cannot be lived in isolation. It can only be lived out in the community of the redeemed. And it is **through this community** that the world will see the flaming reality of the truth. They will know us by our love for one another."

One thing this radically individualistic age does is swallow up our time so we're too busy focusing on this life and we know who's behind that. That enemy will do everything in his limited power to keep us from hearing God tell us what He wants us to do with our time, *the time that He blesses us with*. But when we see God face to face, are we really going to want to tell Him we were just too busy?

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CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

The deadline for the June/July edition of *The Voice* is **May 15th**.

Please Email articles to:

stmarkcommunications@gmail.com

& deb@smlc.info



St. Mark is
celebrating its
60th
Anniversary!

Contact Congregational Life to share old photographs and other historical information. Further details on our celebration to come in future editions of *The Voice*!

Live Streaming is here!



Join us on Sunday at
8:00 and 10:30!



Please contact our Prayer Request team at www.smlc.info/prayer.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

May 2021



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Next Council Meeting: May 11th at 7:00 pm.
Next Committee Meetings: May 25th at 7:00 pm.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

May 2021

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From the Desk of Pastor Breum

Mowing the lawn for the first time of the year is always a great event. New life is in the air. You can feel it in your bones. The coldness of winter is over, and it just smells good to be outside. You can smell the ground coming alive again, the smell of dirt warming up. I love that smell. You see flowers blossoming and the trees budding. It gives you the sense that it is good to be alive. Hope is in the air.

Do you ever wonder what scent or aroma you give off? Do you give off the air of the coldness of winter or the warmth of spring? I often speak of old poops. This has nothing to do with age and everything to do with attitudes. Old poops are those who seldom smile when they see you. No matter what, you always feel like you are imposing on them when you address them because the sourness of their facial expressions is a complete turn off. Old poops love to be highly critical and find it their place in life to point out everyone else's faults, but never their own. When thinking of St Mark people, I honestly do not have anyone coming to mind when I write this so please don't wonder who I am talking about. Please ask yourself the question, "Am I an old poop to anyone?" Old poops tear down and never build up. They can take the best day of your life and do all they can to squelch your excitement for the day.

After I mowed my lawn for the first time this year, I had to drive to church to take care of a few things in the office. I did not change from my farm clothes into church clothes. I came "just as I am." I could smell a terrible smell in the car and had no idea what it was. Returning home awhile later, that terrible smell was still in the car. Guess what it was? Yes, you are correct, it was the smell of my own body odor, having sweated quite a bit while mowing. I reeked. I thought the bad odor was from another source, but it was me, moi. I stinketh.

A dear friend of mine, Gladys Dormire, sent me this Bible verse. "*Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of his knowledge in every place*" (2 Cor 2:14). What fragrance are you giving off to those around you? The fragrance I gave off after mowing the lawn was awful. It took me a little while to discover where it was coming from and then the answer was me. What kind of witness of Jesus do you give off. Do you smile at people and look genuinely glad to greet people or do you put a sour look on your face and see people as an intrusion on your space or day? We can tell when a person is genuinely glad to see us or not. It depends what aroma we give off.

There are people in my life that I am thrilled to see because they are thrilled to see me. They are like magnets. People are drawn to them because of their kind disposition, giving off a fragrance that is so wonderful to smell. You sense their concern for you and are always open to an honest conversation. These people are gifts from God Himself.

My parents were great at greeting people. Their genuine warm smile warmed people's hearts. Greeting one another with a genuine smile is a great start toward giving off a positive aroma. Looking like you are genuinely glad to see a person goes a long way at making those around you feel accepted by you. God brings people into your lives so you can build them up and not think it is your responsibility to be everyone's critic.

In my most discouraged moments, it can be the kind greeting of another believer that pulls me out of my doldrums. I can see the light and love of Jesus in them and smell the fragrance of Christ's aroma. My stink in life changes due to their witness and aroma of Christ.

I no longer wish to give off the fragrance of an old poop who has not showered in weeks. I truly wish to give off the fragrance of Christ and smell your fragrance of Christ too. Together we give off a sweet-smelling aroma. The more we do this, the more we will see people joining our church. The fragrance of Christ is quite appealing.

Let us pray. Dear Heavenly Father, may we all put forth the fragrance of Jesus Christ as we encounter other people in our daily lives. Help us Lord. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

Tricked!

*But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today,"
that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13).*

Every region of the US battles invasive plants, and Missouri is no exception. A short list would include autumn olive, bush honeysuckle, Callery pear, Canada thistle, Chinese yam, common buckthorn, and crown vetch. And we're only to the C's in the alphabet.

How did these non-native plants get here? Someone brought them from elsewhere. As a Department of Conservation website puts it, "Autumn olive can be found all over the state, since it was planted widely with the best of intentions." But best intentions can generate undesirable results.

These plants are deceitful. They appear to be beneficial. The vine called wintercreeper is an example. It grows rapidly, stays green all winter, and looks attractive on a trellis. But once established in the wild it takes over and crowds out all competition. It is very difficult to eliminate. For this reason, the website warns, "Invading individuals should be pulled and removed as soon as possible after recognition."

Isn't this a lot like sin? It tricks us. An attitude or activity that we know isn't right gets implanted in our lives. First thing we know, what was an occasional dalliance becomes a habitual behavior. Sigh. It can be hard to check or change habits of thought, speech, or other practices once we adopt them.

It would be nice if sin were just a problem, say, when we're younger or new in Christian faith. It would be nice if the older we got, the less sin was a problem.

The truth is that as long as we live, we are exposed to the deceitfulness of sin. Jesus put it this way: people "hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful" (Mark 4:18–19).

Is there any way to ensure that "the word" Jesus mentions (underlined above) outgrows the competition like "the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things"?

Yes! We just celebrated it during Lent and with Easter. The antidote to the deceitfulness of sin is found in the person and work of Jesus Christ. He was never tricked by sin like we are, not even when tempted by the devil for 40 days. The sins he died for were not his but ours.

And then he rose from that grave where our sins landed him. "Up from the grave he arose with a mighty triumph o'er his foes."

Jesus' victory over sin uplifts our lives as we trust in him. This is one of the benefits of church. Alongside others we can "exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13).

Our pastor exhorts us with preaching and teaching. We exhort one another in Bible study and daily conversation. Family members have daily opportunities to encourage each other as we labor through life side by side. Friends can be a mighty influence for good. Good friends in the Lord are one of the most important goads to godliness we can have.

When Christ's presence is strong, sin cannot trick us. Invasive thoughts and behaviors have a hard time surviving. Instead of *sin* growing, we "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18) as we "exhort one another every day" so we are not "hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

As Peter concludes his second epistle, "To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."



St. Mark Council News

To keep you better informed about Church Council decisions we briefly present the major items from our April 13, 2021 meeting. Should you desire in-depth information, please go to <https://smlc.info/minutes/> for additional Council and Committee minutes.

Important decisions from the April Council meeting:

A motion was passed unanimously to place a Helping Hands clothing donation bin at the North end of the Ed Center parking lot to provide a good destination for used clothing. The Stewardship Committee thoroughly researched the "tenant" and obtained Village approval. St Mark will receive \$.05 per pound of clothing donated with no cost to the church.

St. Mark is now signed up with Faithlife, a package that offers various software opportunities for our members, some of which we as a church were already using and paying for "ala carte". More information will be forthcoming and communicated to the congregation through the VOICE and screen slides before church services.

VBS 2021 plans are well underway following a Council presentation from co-director Beth Miller as to how in-person VBS will follow proper procedures for safety regarding COVID-19.

Unanimous Council approval was given, upon request by the St Mark Endowment Committee, to withdraw available funds from the Endowment Fund for the purpose of offering scholarships to kids who would like to attend Camp Timberlee this year. Additional details will soon be forthcoming.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2021 at 7:00PM.

EASTER THANK YOUS

Easter has come and gone... again!! A very special reminder that Jesus loves us more than we can ever imagine!

This year was much better than last year, for sure. Services were well attended and were conducted within the CDC Guidelines. Without Deb Z's skill at orchestrating all of those numbers safely, who knows what might have been. She is truly exceptional!

There were so many people behind the scenes creating what took place throughout Holy Week. Pastor had a remarkable message for us on three different days. How he manages to come up with all those meaningful words of wisdom is truly a gift.

The drape on the cross is breathtaking! It has been one of our special additions to Easter for several years and is one of MY favorite things. I am not sure if we realize how scary it is getting the drape up that high. It takes several brave men to do it! God bless them.

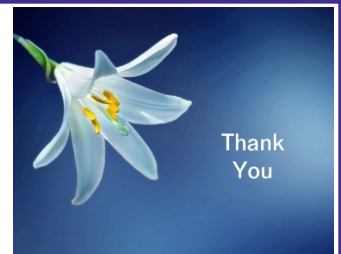
The Easter Lilies, despite the COVID restrictions, numbered 60! Always a spectacular accompaniment to the cross drape. Thank you to all who donated... and arranged. All of the ladies who set up and readied the altar and communion table, a special thanks for your time.

We may not have a full choir, but oh my! Wendy Weidner and Company created a beautiful sound unto the Lord. And the horns... WOW! Emily is a terrific addition to our music here at St. Mark. It sounded like she has been here for years. Beautiful selection of music. Thank you, Emily!

Jim Schaufel, who spends so very many extra hours readying the building for us. Thank you, Jim.

Many unsung volunteers who did their part in allowing us to feel as normal as possible, under the circumstances. Kudos to all... good and faithful servants! All of us participating is one of the things that makes St. Mark so very special, and there is ALWAYS room for one more if you feel moved to help! Altar Guild is looking to fill a few vacancies. If interested, just let Deb Z know that you want to be a part of something. She will know where to direct you. God is blessing you all!

Gae Michal



Being a Part of the Body of Christ... continued from Page 1

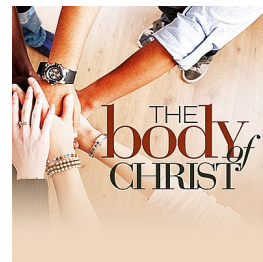
So what does it mean to be a member of St. Mark? Our Constitution, Article III reads:

Our mission is to give glory to God through the proclamation of the Word of God and through worship and the sacraments, and to build up the body of Christ, that we might give witness to God's love and salvation. We encourage all members to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, to seek to do God's will, and to use their time, talents, and possessions in service to God and all people, especially those of the household of faith (Gal. 6:10).

Article VI defines our privilege and duty:

It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this Congregation to:

- Make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments.
- Live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God.
- Support the work of this Congregation through contributions of their time, spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12), abilities, and financial resources.



It sure sounds like we're tracking the contents of the book according to our Constitution. If you're anything like me though, you have days that are better defined than others by the duties above. And God knows and understands this. Yes, I love to serve but am I consistently giving back to God anything near what He has given me the gifts and talents to do? An ocean of mercy deserves more than a drop of action on my part to display God's blessings in my life and show my thanks to Him.

Our volunteers work endlessly to make sure our services offer the best potential to experience meaningful worship, to be Sunday School teachers and VBS volunteers and Youth leaders to provide essential teachings to our children, to meeting as committees and Council and developing opportunities for St. Mark to be a beacon in the community, and so many other functions that make a church run in the spirit of a family. If not for the dozens of registrars, ushers and clean up volunteers, we wouldn't have been able to have in-person worship services these past 10 months. That would've been quite sad for the 125+ who have attended the 3 services each weekend. And I love seeing our young people stepping up to run Proclaim (the screens) and running our Live Streams. That to me is tremendously exciting, that these young men and women want to serve in these capacities.

Thank you, all of you. How Great is our God!!!!

If you have children, you know the joy in your heart when one of your kids gets up from the dinner table, clears the table and says, "Mom, Dad, you take a break, I'm happy to clean up the kitchen." What if every member of our congregation chose something to volunteer for to lighten the load of those doing so much today? I am not talking to those already carrying several volunteer opportunities. When it's their turn to step down, will we have anyone who knows how to do what they do? Or will St. Mark be unable to offer what we offer today? The joy of serving can't be overstated and we want everyone to know that joy. Warning: it's pretty contagious once it grabs hold of you.

We need at least 7 Sunday School teachers this coming fall in order to hold Sunday School for our kids. These are co-teacher positions. Teaching Sunday School isn't for everyone but there are some who rob themselves of the joy because they haven't realized that it's where God wants them to be. Please ask God if this is where He might use you, keeping in mind that His power isn't limited to parents with Sunday School aged kids.

Maybe you're meant to use your talents to serve on a committee and bring your ideas to where decisions on the future of St. Mark are made.

We have a whole list of volunteer opportunities in the narthex, some of which are temporarily on hold, like PADS and making coffee for fellowship hour. But there are a lot of things to do in a church our size and just think of how much more we could be doing with your ideas!

Tying back to The Body, **church membership and commitment are not options.** The Christian life can only be lived out in the community of the redeemed. And it is **through this community** that the world will see who we are.

It was wonderful to see so many people during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday and we give thanks to God that so many are vaccinated or getting vaccinated so we can once again all worship together. Live streaming has been a blessing but it's like watching a ball game on TV. Just never as good as being there.

In joy and excitement for all that God is doing through His Body,

Joni Wasmund, Council President



Glorifying God Through Prayer

Reflections One's Prayer Life

One of the chapter titles in *Prayer, Communing with God in Everything – Collected Insights from A.W. Tozer*, compiled by W.L. Seaver is “*Prayer is no substitute for obedience.*” Can this insight be key to God’s perspective on answering His children’s prayers? “To obey is better than sacrifice and to listen to His voice better than offering the fat of rams.” 1 Samuel 15:22 . Is your goal to glorify God in all you do?

Read Nehemiah 1 and 2, review the following questions and reflect and apply over time.

Ask God to help you cultivate faith and trust in Him – not just a faith that makes you comfortable!

Ask God to give you a heart like Nehemiah’s concerned with God’s priorities.

Ask God to bring opportunities to you for deep prayer and ministry.

Ask the Lord to take your growing knowledge of His Word and develop a passion for His heart and plans.

Ask God to help you grow in your personal relationship with Him – and most important, your love for Him.

Ask God to help you develop your relationship with him so you think to pray before you open your mouth to speak.

What are you praying for God to provide in your life to serve Him?

Pray and ask the Lord to give you a heart that connects you to the people you want to serve. Pray to see them through His eyes.

Ask God to use your confidence in him as an encouragement and motivation for others.

Pray and ask the Lord to give you a vision for being part of the plans he has for the world.

Ask God to give you faith to trust Him and grace to respond to attacks from the world, particularly those that are personal.

Think about the crucial connection between prayer and action in your own life. Your obedience and listening. As you pray today, ask God (Holy Spirit) to make you aware of how you should address what you are praying for. For example, have you been praying for a great revival for our nation? What would Jesus ask of your obedience (action) as part of this prayer being answered?

Opportunities for Prayer

May 6, 2021

The theme for this year’s National Day of Prayer is “Lord pour out your LOVE, LIFE AND *LIBERTY*.” 2 Corinthians: 3:17. There is a 2021 themed Prayer Guide for \$2.99 in *pdf* format at <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.net/collections/downloads/products/ndp-2021-theme-prayer-guide>.

This resource equips you, and encourages you, to fervently pray for love and the seven centers of influence: government, church, military, family, education, media arts, and business. Continue to pray for Americans to love one another, beginning among Christ followers. John 13:34. You can use this guide to cover our nation in prayer throughout the year.

April 13 to May 12

30 Days of Prayer for Muslims during Ramadan – Tuesday, April 13 to Wednesday, May 12 For more detailed information see separate announcement for *30 Days of Prayer for Muslims* in the April Voice.

On Going

For St. Mark Church go to the *2021 Three Days of Prayer Brochure* on the St. Mark website under **Resources**. We prayerfully request you include these various petitions as part of your devotions for our church families, Pastor, staff, church council and committees and for the life of the world during this church year.

Weekly Prayer Meeting - Come, see and be blessed.

7:00 pm. – 8:00 pm Wednesday evenings via Zoom Contact Person: Pam Burke 244-430-6226 Zoom link – Linda Brissey Please contact Barb Ewert for more information at b1182ray@aol.com.

Congregational Life is looking for photographs from the past! As St. Mark is approaching its 60th anniversary, we would like to celebrate by showing off photos from the groundbreaking, or anything over the past 60 years that you would like to show off! Please e-mail photographs to brooke.frusti@gmail.com or smlc@smlc.info. If you would like to drop the photos off at church please put them in an envelope and place them in the Congregational Life mailbox. All photos will be copied, and originals will be given back to you. If you have any questions please contact brooke.frusti@gmail.com



STUDENT MINISTRY

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. - Colossians 3:14



"APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY...."

Flowers? They might, but if anything the warmth and life we see around us in May brings a sense of hope. Long gone are the cold and grey. May reminds us of the warmth we feel through Christ's love. How will you share that love this summer? In our student ministry we plan to share it through fellowship, service and thinking of our neighbors before ourselves. Join us in May and coming months to share the love of Christ which binds us together.

MAY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

May 2nd



May 2nd we will be going to an Escape Room in Gurnee for puzzle and mystery solving fun!

May 16th



Youth Group will meet 6:00-8:00 PM in the Ed Center for games and bible study.

May 23rd



Senior recognition night from 6:00-8:00 PM celebrating their time in student ministry.

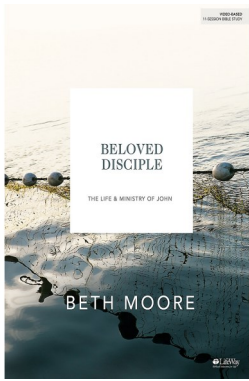
MISSION TRIP LEADERS NEEDED!

We are searching for three adult leaders to go on the Youth Mission Trip to Louisville, KY. Leaders would be required to drive, chaperone, and serve alongside the students throughout the trip. Is God calling you to serve this summer? Dates of the trip are July 18th-23rd

QUESTIONS?

Contact Josiah Frusti

josiah@smlc.info



What's on the Shelf?

The Beloved Disciple

By: Beth Moore

This month's book, *The Beloved Disciple*, by Bible study teacher Beth Moore is about Jesus' disciple John. John the apostle must have thought he had seen everything. Having been with Jesus all the years of his ministry, John witnessed more miracles than he could count, saw more displays of power than he could comprehend, and experienced more love than he could fathom. And one unforgettable morning young John outran Peter to his Savior's empty tomb. Just as Christ took John on a lifelong journey into the depths of His love, He will do the same for you. The bridegroom's love is unmatched and inexhaustible, and He is waiting to lavish it on you, His beloved. You can find this book under call number 225.9 MOO.

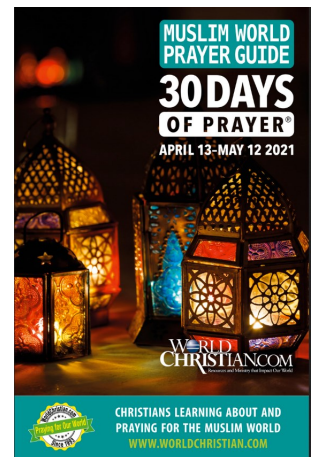
Thank you for your **30 Days of Prayers** for our Muslim neighbors, friends near and far!

We thank you for your heartfelt prayers for our Muslim neighbors and friends during the 2021 *30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World*. "His Spirit is drawing countless thousands of Muslims to new life in Jesus." Please continue keeping our Muslim neighbors and citizens in mind,

- (1) Utilizing your "30 Days of Prayer for Muslims" continue to pray for:
 - Muslims in our community and around the world;
 - missionaries and Muslim-background believers who are taking the Gospel deep into the House of Islam;
 - God raising up more witnesses to Muslims, and ask God what He would have you do to minister to Muslims and share your faith with them.

- (2) If you know a Muslim, continue to develop a sincere relationship with the person that when the time comes, you can share Christ in love.

Note: Lake Villa has an Islamic Center, Masjid Rahmah, on Monaville Rd. Located between Cedar Lake Road and Hwy 83. (Formerly a Baptist Church and school.)



**Rummage Sale 2021
Save the Date!
August 5th, 6th & 7th**

Keep cleaning and packing up all your treasures for the sale. Collection will begin in early July. Check next month's Voice for exact collection times and set up days. Hope to see many of you joining us for all the fun and work getting the sale ready.

Questions call Laurie Kerns 847-612-1510.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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Our Lives Have Changed and So Has Our Giving

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee which includes Laurie Kerns, Pete Bolender, and me, Carl Norlin. Thank you so much for signing up for online giving. Our members have increased the use of online giving by many-fold.

For those who have not had a chance to join online giving, see the instructions below that outlines where and how to start online giving. Let us continue to increase our participation in online giving. So, sign-up today!

Here's what you can do to continue your support to St. Mark.

- a. Go to the St. Mark website at www.smlc.info.
- b. Go to [Giving](#) at the top of the page.
- c. Tithes & Offerings appear.
- d. You have three (3) options.
 - i. Click Here for – to be redirected to a secure website for online donations by credit card, debit card, or checking account information.
 - ii. Click Here for – to download and print a form that can be returned to our office (to the attention of “Financial Secretary- Patrice Sutton”) to be set up for automatic recurring withdrawals.
 - iii. Click Here for – to be redirected to the GivePlus+ website which explains everything associated with the smartphone app. GivePlus+. Using this app, you can use your smartphone to make either a onetime or reoccurring donation to St. Mark.

Thank you and stay safe and healthy.

God's blessings – The Stewardship Committee (Laurie Kerns, Carl Norlin and Pete Bolender)

ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TIMBER-LEE

At the April Church Council meeting the Endowment Committee received approval to use a small portion of the Endowment Fund to assist families sending their children to Camp Timber-Lee this summer. Member's children attending Camp Timber-Lee will get a \$200 scholarship for each child.

The Endowment Fund was started a few years ago with an initial donation of \$25,000. Today, with the help of additional donations from St Mark members and investment appreciation, the fund has grown to almost \$50,000.

Thank You St Mark for those donations.

Earlier, we indicated that only a little of the Endowment Fund would be used to support St Mark's mission. The remainder would be left to grow. Over time, as gifts are made to it and the principal grows, the Endowment Fund becomes a substantial way for the church to expand its mission in our community.

This is the first time that the Endowment Committee has asked to support one of St Mark's missions. The Fund can only continue with the monetary support of St Mark's members. The easiest way to contribute is to open the Giving page on our website and ask that your donation be directed to the Endowment Fund. www.smlc.info/giving/

The IRS Required Minimum Distribution is back this year. Did you know that the IRS allows you to contribute directly from your IRA to St Mark to meet your RMD without paying income taxes on the contribution? Let's discuss this together. Call or email me. Mel Ellingsen (847) 274-8144, mel-ellingsen@comcast.net.





MONTHLY BENEVOLENCE HIGHLIGHT

When was the last time you led someone to Christ or attempted to?

To Him fell the dirtiest of jobs: saving humanity from the devil and the world itself. Now, in His resurrection victory, the Savior has done all which is necessary to save us. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9.

The Discovery Channel had a program called Dirty Jobs. On that program, the host, Mike Rowe, spends a day or two doing work most people do not want to do - which most of us would refuse to do. Over the years he has collected roadkill and scraped gum off sidewalks; he has been a sludge recycler, a septic tank technician, and a cow hoof trimmer. All of us agree there are jobs we are willing to do if we are helping a person who is special to us - if that person is loved by us.

What about ministering to Prison inmates. In truth, I do not know what you would do when you were asked to make a difference. I do know what Jesus did when He was asked for help. Jesus was filled with compassion. It was His compassion that motivated Jesus to make a difference.

Now if you are thinking, "Isn't that nice?" stop and think about the impact of sharing the Gospel with prisoners. I started this message about dirty jobs - jobs that are so bad, so foul, so disgusting, and nasty - that nobody wants to do them. Jesus did what you and I would never do. Jesus showed the stuff of which He was made. Jesus showed His willingness to minister in the most difficult situations.

In order to be an effective missionary and witness of the Gospel, compassion and the willingness is not enough. You also must find common ground with those you contact. Apostle Paul says, "I made myself a servant of all so that I might win more of them. To the Jews, I became a Jew," and the list goes on. Bill Glass Behind the Walls Ministry (BTW) uses entertainers and sports figures to establish that common ground. This gets the prisoners out to the prison yard. With the attraction of sports figures and entertainment, we are in the position to share the Gospel.



When Behind the Walls Ministry (BTW) goes into the prisons, they go into the same room as the prisoners and eat the same food. We do not stand on the outside and yell the Gospel to those inside. Our jobs are to share the gift of salvation and that Jesus loves them. God has strategically placed us there as a missionary of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God is telling you to speak the truth using love and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

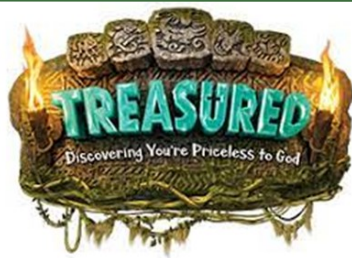
So, you may ask; Why am I called to BTW Ministry and how can **you** make a difference?

Mathew 28:19 *"therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."* *"The great commission:*

Through BTW ministry you are called to be that disciple and win the souls of those who are lost. Visiting inmates inside a prison, face to face, is a challenge on many levels but one that is rewarding beyond any expectations.

Most believe that since they are not gifted in evangelism and such, outreach is not a significant responsibility of theirs. It is love that makes our actions and gifts useful. The love for others glorifies God by reflecting our love for Him. Providing this love can be difficult unless God helps you to set aside your natural desires. If the inmate chooses to walk away, you have not failed, they made a choice.

Continued on page 15



Gear-up for our in-person, epic quest through hidden ruins, ancient caves, and dense jungles! This year's VBS will see us safely together at St. Mark where we'll dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures to see that God's treasure isn't diamonds, rubies, or gold -- **it's YOU!**

When: June 21st - June 25th

Time: 9:00am - 11:00am

Location: at St. Mark!

Who: Preschoolers (3-years old and potty-trained) through 6th graders (for the 21-22 school year)

Soon, more details and registration information will be available on the website! If you have any questions about VBS or would like to volunteer to be part of our VBS crew, please contact Beth Miller at stmarkvbsfun@gmail.com.



Camp Timber-lee



There is still time to sign up your child for Camp Timber-Lee Summer 2021! With new distancing in community spaces, changed food service, increased cleaning, and cabins of five to eight campers - your child can encounter Christ through a dynamic camp experience. Check it out at www.timber-lee.com.

Open House Experiences - Guided tours of cabins and activities: April 24th, 2:00PM - 5:00PM April 25th, 2:00PM - 5:00PM

St. Mark offers a wonderful incentive program where our Timber-Lee campers can earn points through service projects. These points turn into a discount on the Timber-Lee registration at up to a \$250 savings! On top of the service projects, **our Endowment Committee will support each camper with \$200 towards registration.**

Don't delay! Contact Jori Bowen, jmbowen@aol.com, to get registered by May 7.



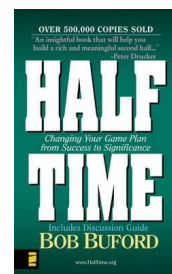
We Always Have Room For One More Man!

(age 15+)

Every **2nd** Saturday of the Month.

ZOOM & IN PERSON Meeting:

May 8th at 8:00am



Each month's discussions are independent of one another, so join any time.

We're using Half Time, by Bob Buford, to guide our discussion. Feel free to buy the book if that's more convenient, otherwise request one by email. To be added to our mailing list; send your name, email, phone number, and mailing address to Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com or call/text Jerry Doran / 847-271-8632. Please monitor your email for any last minute changes.

Zoom.com
Meeting ID: **712-154-5277**

Thrivent Workshops have changed...

The Thrivent Member Network is a group of local Christians who come together to learn, support one another and make an impact in our communities. We are part of Thrivent, a membership-owned, financial services organization.

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/ChicagolandRegion.Thrivent> to learn more.

Learn what long-term care is..... and isn't.

- Why an extended care strategy should be part of your financial conversation.
- How to start the preparation process.
- Having a strategy in place gives your family the opportunity to care about you, rather than care for you.

Register Today: [Tuesday, May 11th @1:00 PM \(CST\)](#)

Register Today: [Thursday, May 13th @ 6:30 PM \(CST\)](#)

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/ChicagolandRegion.Thrivent> to learn more or contact your local Thrivent Representative...

Jerry.Doran@thrivent.com / Call 847-271-8632 or
Text 224-252-8265



Open Arms Food Pantry

Dear friends,

Thank you. We are in our twenty first year of feeding local families with the help of your partnership. Your monthly benevolence dollars and the variety of food you collect each month does make a difference.

What we learned in 2020 is very similar to the years during the recession. Families come to us that never thought it would happen to them. One change this time is the number of Seniors who are reaching out, the higher cost of living is definitely a struggle for those on a lower Social Security monthly income. So, with your help, we ensure that those who come to us for help receive frozen meat, fresh milk, and 3 to 4 days of meals. We also direct families to financial resources and in some cases, we are able to help with the day to day living necessities.

Thank you for your commitment to "neighbor helping neighbor."

Marytherese Ambacher, Executive Director

For the month of May, donations of cereal and jelly would be appreciated!

Please consider donating at:

<https://www.openarmsmission.org/the-difference-you-can-make>.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

May 2021

Page 13



We hope this email finds everyone doing well and surviving this long season of winter! There are some important updates that need to be shared with you:

1. **The last night of confirmation class for the summer is May 12th.** We will resume class after Labor Day in September. More information to be provided at a later date.
2. Confirmation Sunday for the second year class has been rescheduled to Sunday, October 31st at 2PM. This means that there will be additional time to complete ministry opportunities and requirements. More information will follow as we get closer to the date.



Bill Glass Events are back!!

When: Saturday, June 19th

Where: Lake County Jail

Register at behindthewalls.com by May 19th

Bring the hope of Christ to the least of these during this trying time.

You Can Support St. Mark While Supporting Local Businesses



Second Tuesday Each Month

CARRY OUT Available!

Be sure to bring your coupon!

Present this certificate at the time of payment to have 15% of your order, excluding tax and tip, donated to **St. Mark Lutheran Church**. Certificate must be present at time of payment. Not to be used with any other coupons or discounts. Share with your friends and family.

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Antioch Pizza ■ 224-444-8657
1856 E. Grand Ave., Lindenhurst

DATE: Second Tuesdays
5/11/21, 6/8/21, 7/13/21

THIRD THURSDAY EACH MONTH!

Now Serving Breakfast!



Wendy's

DRIVE THRU Anytime that day!

Be sure to bring your coupon!
(paper or electronic)

Show your support for St. Mark Lutheran Church

Stop into **Wendy's® Lindenhurst** anytime on **Third Thursday** of each month and 30% of qualifying sales as a result of your participation will be donated to **St. Mark Lutheran Church**

DATE: Third Thursdays
5/20/21, 6/17/21, 7/15/21

TIME: All Day (Breakfast until Close)

LOCATION: 370 S US Highway 45, Lindenhurst

Present this flyer when ordering. Paper flyer or electronic image of flyer (on a phone/tablet) is required when order is placed. Only valid on date at location specified above. Wendy's gift cards and other retail purchases are excluded from the event. Drive-thru, carry-out (place inside the dining room at the counter) and dine-in orders when and where available qualify. Owned and operated by **HAMRA Enterprises**, a Wendy's franchisee

Benevolence Monthly Highlight Continued from page 11

The typical church believer will never lead a single person to a relationship with Jesus Christ. So, I want to encourage you to move beyond your weekly church experience and actively share and witness to those in need. Prison ministry may not be for everyone, but if you can read, you can do prison ministry. It is **your** involvement that makes this program successful. Please come join us at the Lake County Jail, June 19, 2021. Contact myself or Jeff McKenzie if you have questions.

What better way to show God's love than sharing his plan for salvation for the **"least of these"!**

**We are not called to go to church.
We are called to be the church.**

This Evangelism/Stewardship article was focused on Behind the Walls Ministry this month so you will know where a portion of St. Mark's benevolence goes.

Let me close with the prayer we use when inmates are ready to accept Jesus as their personal savior: **Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Amen**



Building Dreams Together (VIRTUAL EVENT)

Thursday, May 6, 2021 | 7-8 p.m. CT - (<https://www.fmsc.org/building-dreams-together>).

Building Dreams Together is going to be a Zoom event. The event is going to focus on a handful of recipients of the meals:

- An elementary age girl from Venezuela;
- a family from Ukraine;
- Violet - a refugee from South Sudan who now feeds refugees with our partner in Uganda; and,
- Charles from Haiti who grew up eating MannaPack and now helps to get MannaPack to orphans in Haiti.

FMSC virtual experiences provide an opportunity for you to be inspired, find community with other FMSC supporters, meet partners and the kids who eat FMSC meals and more. And, of course, to feed kids.

In this brand new virtual experience, hear stories from children and adults whose lives have been transformed by FMSC meals. Learn how MannaPack® meals support a child's growth and development and allows them to dream of bright futures. Bid on FMSC MarketPlace™ auction packages and join others to raise funds so every child can dream big and reach their full potential.

This event is a 1 hour Zoom "meeting" that people can register for to "meet" some FMSC partners and/or kids that the meals have helped. There is no cost to register but FMSC is hoping for people to donate and/or buy some items during the auction and/or buy items from their MarketPlace™.

For more information, please contact our St. Mark FMSC resource, Mike Mol at MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com.



St. Mark's gift in March provided 983 MannaPack® meals to those around the world who need it most!

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The **VOICE**
OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH



Stephen Ministry

THE VOICE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

☎ (847) 356-8140
🖱 www.smlc.info
✉ smlc@smlc.info

Service Times
Saturday | 5:30PM
Traditional
Sunday | 8:00AM
Traditional
Sunday | 10:30AM
Contemporary

★ TO RECEIVE
THE VOICE ONLINE,
EMAIL DEB@SMLC.INFO

NEXT VOICE DEADLINE:
May 15, 2021

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
May 2021