

The **VOICE**

OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2022

President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



What is it about St. Mark that makes it so special? So many who are led to move out of State or out of the local area have commented that their search for a new church home similar to St. Mark hasn't been as successful as they'd have liked. Thanks be to God that He leads us all to the place He wants us to be, where we can bloom where He plants us, but there certainly is something to be said for a congregation as blessed as we are.

As I consider these things, the first 2 that come to my mind are the power of the Holy Spirit in worship and how God has blessed us for 6 decades with His grace, mercy and abundance of blessings. We have seen some valleys because that's the world we live in, but God has lifted us from those valleys to new heights that can only be attributed to His sovereign hand on us.

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Holy Week Services



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 14th
7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

April 15th
3:00 PM
7:00PM, Tenebrae

EASTER SUNDAY

April 17th
6:00 AM
Breakfast following first service.
9:00 AM
11:00 AM

CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

The deadline for the May edition of *The Voice* is **April 15th**. Please Email articles to:

stmarkcommunications@gmail.com
& deb@smlc.info

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2022



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Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 12th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meetings: Tuesday, April 26th @ 8:00PM

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2022

From the Desk of Pastor Breum

Prayers for Ukraine

Dear Friends,

What is taking place in Ukraine is more than heart breaking. All of us feel something terribly wrong and unjust is taking place right before our very eyes. Insanity, hunger for power, plain evil is motivating the killing of innocent men, women, children, and their livelihood. Putin has ordered these evil attacks, and some say he feels he has god on his side. I say god with a small "g" for the one and only God is not behind this for God cannot participate in evil.

The Word of the Lord, **Proverbs 15:22 (NLT2)** "Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success." I want us to stop and pray for the right advisors to surround President Biden to make the proper decisions to help the Ukrainians without escalating the war. Let us pray. Dear Lord Jesus, we ask for your will to be done through President Biden. Please put the right advisors around him that will help him to make the best decisions possible and all according to Your plan. Help us as Americans to get behind the President in the work that he is doing to bring peace. Please look directly at Putin and see the horror he is producing and inflicting. King of the universe, please according to your will and plan, put a stop to Putin. We lift up to you the needs of the Ukrainian people. May there be food to eat, safe places to sleep, and may the bombings cease. Help us to give of our support financially and follow Your inner promptings to help the people of Ukraine. May the true Christians in Russia speak out against Putin and please remove Putin from office. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Having studied the German Lutheran church of World War II, yes there were a few church leaders such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer who saw Hitler for who he was and did their best to bring him down. But far too many church leaders acquiesced and fell under Hitler's spell. Your pastor will continue to pray in public for the downfall of Putin, unashamedly, and the safety of the people of Ukraine. We ask for God's will to be done,

Pastor Breum

BAPTIZED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

MARCH 3rd AT ST. MARK

Easton Chase Baird

Son of Amanda & Thomas
Baird

May the guiding presence of God be with this
Individual as he grows in the knowledge of Jesus
Christ.



April 24, 2022 @10:30 AM

Please pray for our Confirmands as they work
towards completing this step in their faith journey.



**Jaxson D.
Kathryn U.
Regan W.
Andrew W.**



Questions:

smlc.confirmationcom.lindenhurst@gmail.com

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2022



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

March Madness

No, I'm not talking about college basketball. Nor am I talking about the insanity of Major League Baseball owners and players unable to agree on how to divide their billions and billions of dollars.

I'm talking about spring: the sheer unbelievable glory and bounty of things going from frozen, dead, gray, and lifeless to green, fragrant, lush, and growing like mad. How does that happen?

Like all good things, behind spring's miracle is a promise from God. It came in the wake of the great flood in the days of Noah and the ark. When Noah and his family and the animals left the ark, God told them, echoing his mandate to Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:28): "Be fruitful and multiply on the earth" (Genesis 8:17).

But imagine you had seen the world destroyed by a flood. What would be the use of trying to start civilization over again? What if people resumed their evil ways and God had to wipe the slate clean again?

God had an answer. It came in the form of a promise. "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done" (Genesis 8:21). Despite the "evil" human heart, God is not going to deal with sin by another flood.

Rather, we know that he would deal with sin by sending Jesus Christ to suffer the pain and penalty of sin. To confess our sin, to believe in Jesus' death in our place and to follow him, brings us forgiveness and new life. That's God's promise.

But there's another part of that Genesis 8 promise, and it explains spring: "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

In March in Chicagoland, it can seem like spring will never come. But hang in there. Look at the words above: seedtime, heat, summer. That's the promise of spring! It may seem long delayed. But it's on the way. God promised. We can be hopeful of spring's arrival in 2022.

Even if baseball remains indefinitely delayed.

Here in Missouri I see innumerable signs of spring. The ice on the pond has melted. When we walk by, schools of fish follow along hoping we'll throw some food pellets their way.

My neighbor's cows and sheep and goats and llamas are giving birth to calves and lambs and kids and crias (baby llamas). They are doing what God said: "Be fruitful and multiply on the earth." But it would be hard to do in January with deep cold and frost. They succeed and survive now because of the dawn of spring. Which takes us back to God's promise regarding the rhythms of the calendar and seasons. "While the earth remains . . . [they] shall not cease."

But about those llamas and their crias. You know, it's amazing the tiny babies survive. Male llamas have been known to trample them--jealous, I guess. Plus, there are coyotes and fox and bobcats.

You know what protects those helpless little fur balls? One source puts it this way: "Crias are typically born with all the females of the herd gathering around, in an attempt to protect against the male llamas and potential predators."

How do they know to do that? I would say: God made them that way. There is often a wisdom in nature that points to the wisdom of God who created and upholds all things.

As we await the birth of spring, God surrounds us with his promises--of lengthening days, rising temperatures, and warmer soil temperatures. Expect it!

And expect no less God's faithfulness to forgive and restore penitent sinners who look to Jesus Christ for direction and hope that changes winter into spring.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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Important Prayer Opportunity for Our Muslim Neighbors Here and Abroad April 2 to May 1, 2022

A mighty spiritual battle has and is continuing to rage between Christians and Muslims for hearts, minds and souls worldwide. Jesus is calling for prayer warriors of all ages to pray for the lost in the Muslim world. Are you Listening? How will you respond?

What is unique about this 31st year using the Muslim shorter lunar calendar year is that Christians around the world will join together intentionally, but **respectfully learn about, pray for and engage** our world's Muslim neighbors via the "30 Days of Prayer for Muslims" 2022 prayer booklet.

What difference can my prayers make? Prayer is one of two offensive weapons, the other the **Word of God**. Ephesians 6:18. *"The single most significant thing Christians have done to stimulate the current wave of Muslim movements to Christ is to prayerfully and obediently engage them with the love and gospel of Christ. This remains the most significant step each of us can take today."* Garrison, David, 2014.

When Do I Pray? Saturday, April 2 to Sunday, May 1 during Ramadan, the season of fasting and praying. As they fast and devote themselves to Islamic rituals, you're invited to join other Christians in prayer that many Muslims will be drawn into a relationship with Jesus. And if the Holy Spirit prompts you, continue praying for Muslims beyond the season of Ramadan. Click on this link for a fuller and deeper understanding of listening and obeying God from a biblical perspective. <https://youtu.be/6KQLOuIKaRA>

Materials For the 8th year St. Mark Church will provide a limited supply of adult and kids "30 Days of Prayer" booklets with 1) prayer points; 2) information on specific Muslim culture groups from North America, Africa, the Middle East to South East Asia, and 3) facts about the unprecedented historical spiritual transformation of Muslims into followers of Christ. Materials will be available beginning the weekend of March 26 until supplies run out. For more information on "Why pray for Muslims?" Click on the link to view a short video (a little over 3 minutes) <https://youtu.be/EGjWWth9b2M>.

In praying for your Muslim neighbors here and abroad, you are carrying out His commandment to "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matt. 22:39.)

Please contact Barb Ewert for questions and or more information. B1182ray@aol.com.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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St. Mark Council News

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

Council Highlights March 2022

The following students were approved as the 2022 Confirmation Class, to be confirmed 4/24/22 during the 10:30 a.m. service:

Jaxson D.
Andrew W.

Kathryn U.
Regan W.

Our Easter breakfast will return this year, thanks to Gae Michal, who will again coordinate the event following the sunrise service.

Our Action Plan Task Force, aka Fab Five, is working with committees on our Movement for Improvement and action plans have been received from more than half of the 18 original groups. It's exciting to plan for the future of St. Mark!

We're keeping the momentum alive...

- Our new outdoor sign is in the works to be installed as soon as the ground cooperates
- Spiritual Gift small group gatherings take place at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings in the back Sunday School room to talk about and learn about our individual spiritual gifts
- Temple talks during services share how we use our spiritual gifts
- Weekly prayers for the multitude of things we have to be thankful for are being sent to each household via email each week and are displayed on the screens before services for announcements.

The Council fully supports and looks forward to the upcoming Women's Breakfast on Saturday, April 30th. The theme will be Our Identity in Christ and the event is open to all.

The Council also fully supports a new group taking shape for those who have never married, are divorced or widowed, to benefit from coming together to socialize, create a sense of community, help each other through current struggles, provide Christian understanding, and find joy in life's challenges.

Motion made and approved for a donation up to \$250 in goods to support the Grayslake Child Advocacy Center for an event in which Jr Miss Lindenhurst, Dylenn Miles, is participating on March 19th called Silence That Is Heard, intended to bring awareness and support against traumatic events of child sexual abuse.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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Exalt the Lord Who Has Established You¹ A Reminder: The Importance of One's Prayer Life

IDENTITY is a trendy word today. Dictionary.com defines the word as, "condition or character as to who a person or what a thing is; the qualities, beliefs, etc., that distinguish or identify a person or thing." Sociologists, researchers, and others cite the "big 8" - race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, religion/spirituality, nationality and socioeconomic status.²

When someone new crosses your daily path, who do you say you are? How do you identify yourself? At what point do you trot out the words, "I am a Christian?" Speaking for myself, it took a long time. [What happened was a journey toward Christian maturity becoming conformed to the image of Christ.](#)

Today my identity is rooted in Jesus Christ. I know Him as my Creator, Sustainer, and Savior. Prayer is the dynamic mainstay to sustain my relationship with Jesus so He can define my purpose and worth in this journey as His bond servant. From A.W. Tozer's statement: "Our great honor lies in being just what Jesus was and is. To be accepted by those who accept Him, rejected by all who reject Him, loved by those who love Him. What greater glory could come to any man?"³

So as we follow our Lenten disciplines, seek the Lord's guidance through prayer. Why? To know God is to love Him, to love Him is to trust Him, to trust Him is to obey Him, to obey Him is to do His Will and to do His will is to exalt and glorify the Lord Who has established you to be His own.⁴

Prayer of the Day for Lent: Dear Heavenly Father, we surrender to you our entire lives. Help us all to be diligent students of your Holy Word, a people of prayer, excited to worship, to put our spiritual gifts to use in service of You and faithful in our tithes and time unto You.

Opportunities for Prayer

For St. Mark Church, the Worship and Music Committee has posted the 2022 Three Days of Prayer Brochure on the St. Mark website under **Prayer**. 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 Church Doctor training and program during this church year.

Weekly Prayer Meeting - Come, pray and be blessed.

During Lent 4:00pm - 5:00pm Wednesday afternoon via Zoom.

Contact Person: Pam Burke 244-430-6226

Zoom Link - Linda Brissey

30 Days of Prayer for Muslims in April/May

Mark your calendar to join St. Mark church again for 30 Days of Prayer for Muslims during Ramadan - Saturday, April 2 to Sunday, May 1, 2022. Join millions of Christians around the world who regularly participate in this largest ongoing international prayer focus for our Muslim neighbors. An activity, which has been done for over the past 31 years, has been coordinated by World Christian News and Books since 1993.

For more information go <https://www.30daysprayer.com>.

Why pray for Muslims? Click on the link to view a short video about the phenomena of millions of Muslims converting to Christianity. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGjWWth9b2M>

¹Colossians 2:16

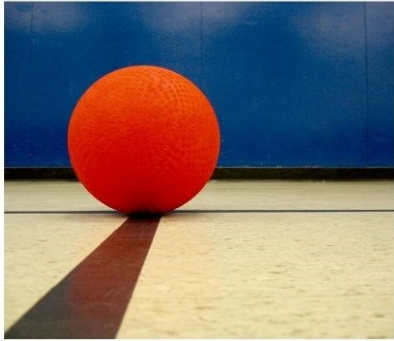
²Smith, David E., Illinois Family Institute, *Newsletter/Spring 2022*

³Ibid.

⁴Boa, Ken, Conformed to His Image, Revised Ed., Zondervan, 2001, 2020.

STUDENT MINISTRY

April 2022



APRIL 3RD
YOUTH GROUP
6:00-8:00 PM



APRIL 10TH
RENEWAL NIGHT
6:00-8:00 PM



APRIL 24TH
GRAND AVE.
CLEAN-UP
12:00-2:00 PM

First Colorado Mission Trip Meeting

Sunday, April 3rd - 9:20 AM

2022 COLORADO MISSION TRIP

July 23rd-30th

Time is running out to register for this summer's Mission Trip! Don't miss out on this faith-moving trip that will bring you closer to God and closer to your neighbor.

Cost: \$150 per person
(Scholarships available)

Contact: Josiah@smlc.info



WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN STUDENT MINISTRY?
CONTACT JOSIAH AT JOSIAH@SMLC.INFO

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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Growing Deeper Together



Ladies! Join us April 30, 2022 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship. Speaker Julie Schawel will be joining us and speaking about our identity and who we are in Christ. We are very excited to welcome other women from the Chapel, Torch, Chain of Lakes, and Cross Point churches. Sign-up will be available on the poster outside the fellowship hall or on the website at smlc.info.

Group for Single People at St Mark

Please join us for an information gathering meeting.

We know that there are a lot of single people here at St Mark and believe that this group of people could benefit from coming together to socialize, create a sense of community, help each other through current struggles, provide Christian understanding, and find joy in life's challenges.

If you are a single man or woman (never married, divorced or widowed) and would like to brainstorm with us, we invite you to come to our kickoff meeting on: **Saturday, April 2nd, 10-11am in the Library at St. Mark.** We would love to hear all suggestions on what this group could look like!

If you have questions before we meet, please reach out to Nancy and/or Patty:

Nancy O. at neoconnor@comcast.net

or

Patty L. at lindholm_patricia@yahoo.com



Not much new happening for your Safety & Security Team but we were wondering if you had any thought for us?

Please contact Judy Dunfrund, Al Maciareillo, Mike Mol, and/or Deb Zuchowski with anything you think we should take a look at.

Thank you in advance
for helping us keep
St. Mark safe and secure!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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"He *upholds* the cause of the oppressed
and *gives food* to the hungry."

Psalm 146:7 (NIV)

Feeding kids. Feeding spirits. Empowering communities.

These are the 3 pillars of Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). Every year, millions of children die from preventable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and undernutrition. Hunger is still causing nearly half of deaths in children under 5 years old. From this data, FMSC estimates at least 6,200 children die each day from causes related to undernutrition. (That means about 250 kids will pass away during an hour-long church service.) This is heartbreaking.

FMSC believes hope starts with food. As a Christian nonprofit, FMSC is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC works with food distribution partners that stay with communities for the long haul, empowering them to move from relief to development.

FMSC meals are developed by food science and nutrition professionals to supplement nutritional needs and reduce problems with malnutrition. Nutrition allows children to grow, thrive and develop to their full potential.

Many of you have volunteered to pack food at the Libertyville site, another site, or maybe even at a Mobile Pack. You might have donated money to feed kids - thank you!! - or you have just prayed for FMSC - which is AWESOME!!!

But did you know there is something else you can do to get involved????

On Friday, April 29, you could join with others from around the world to help with "Building Dreams Together". This virtual experience will provide you an opportunity to be inspired, find community with other FMSC supporters, meet partners and the kids who eat FMSC meals and more. You will hear stories from children and adults whose lives have been transformed by the power of food. Have you heard the story about Emma from Uganda? During this event, you will meet Brian, Emma's oldest brother, and see how he takes care of the family since their mother and father are no longer there. When families are no longer hungry, they are freed to dream of more than food. Learn how MannaPack® meals support a child's growth and development and empower them to dream of bright futures.

You can go to fmsc.org to get more information and to register for this free event. Also, with **St. Mark's generosity through benevolence and other donations, our church will be one of the sponsors for this event.** Please look for more information to come through the announcements before services. If you have more specific questions, please feel to contact Mike Mol at 847-276-8739 or at MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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It is official! The Easter Breakfast is back! It will be held after the sunrise service, about 7:00AM-8:45AM.

I am requesting specific items. We will need fruit, breakfast sweets, and assorted other items. There is a sign up board near the entrance to the fellowship hall. Please give a hand in this tradition.

Ushers are needed for Holy Week services and Easter Sunday. Watch for the Sign Up sheet in the Narthex or contact

Gary Olson at

olson1014@yahoo.com or

Jim Schaufel at james.schaufel@yahoo.com.



Altar Flowers Signup and Price Increase

Just a reminder that there is a calendar near the main entrance to the church, opposite the coat room, for you to sign up for flowers on any given Sunday. It can be to commemorate a special event, such as an anniversary, birthday, or graduation, or just to Glorify our Lord! There are envelopes in a box below the calendar. Just fill it out and drop it in the Collection Box in the Narthex.

As with everything recently, the price of flowers has risen considerably. We have held the amount to \$25 for as long as possible, but it is now necessary to raise the price to \$35. With luck, the amount can be reduced again in the future.

Flower Chart



Chance to Serve!

If you can spare about 1 hour a month to work behind the scenes, the Altar Guild is looking for you! This is a perfect chance to be involved with the church. We need someone to reset the communion trays and the Altar elements before the 8AM service and the 10:30AM service on the FIRST Sunday of each month. It really is an easy task and you will be shown what to do.

Please prayerfully consider this opening. Contact Gae Michal at gmichal48@gmail.com. We would love to welcome you to the Altar Guild!



With so many prayer requests lately, I thought this was a good time to remind you that prayer shawls are available to anyone who wants/needs one!

Contact Deb Z at deb@smlc.info or Gae Michal at gmichal48@gmail.com to access them... ANYTIME! There is quite an array of sizes and colors.

Thank you to my St. Mark family for all the prayers around my recent surgery and recovery. I am doing very well and felt every prayer that was offered. A great shout-out also to the Caring Casserole committee who brought a delicious meal that filled my stomach as well as my heart to overflowing. We are so blessed to have a church like St. Mark that really loves and cares for their flock.

Mary Q.



St. Mark is looking for musicians. Rockers, youth, traditional, beginner, and so on. All musicians are welcome! No experience is required. We have an amazing community of teachers who are happy to help you!

Interested? Email our Contemporary Worship Coordinator, Brock Zwicke at Brock.smlc@gmail.com.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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We Always Have Room for One More Man

(Ages 15+)

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

Next Meeting: April 9th / 7am Food & Fellowship, 8am Training, 9:30am Adjourn



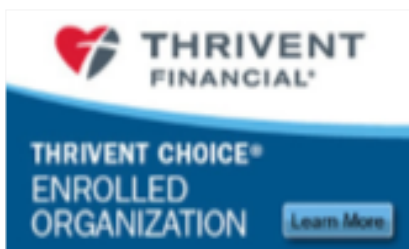
"It's time to win the battle of your mind. Are you ready?" We are using author and pastor Louie Giglio's book *Don't Give the Enemy A Seat at Your Table*. Order your copy or pick up a complimentary copy at our next meeting. **Join Any Time You Can.**



Make a difference in your community, with your community

Supporting your community is easy with Thrivent Action Teams. Apply to lead a group in a fundraiser, educational event or service activity. Then, gather a team of volunteers to make an impact together. Thrivent provides a customized kit of resources to get you started. Your team provides the passion to bring it to life.

Members can apply at [Thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com), or if you want help getting started, reach out to sam.kveton@gmail.com / (715) 938-3771.



Thriving Minds Want to Know... Be Wise with Money

THRIVENT WORKSHOPS / REGISTER AT

<https://www.thriventfinancial.com/member-network/chicagoland/events>



Five Keys to Retiring Fearlessly

After years of hard work, retirement may finally be in sight. This webinar helps attendees discover five keys to unlocking a retirement where they could have confidence in their ability to live out their dreams. Pre-retirees will learn steps to ensure stable income in retirement. No products will be sold. For additional information, see [Thrivent.com/social](https://www.thrivent.com/social).

APRIL 5, 2022 | 12:00 PM, APRIL 7, 2022 | 5:30 PM, APRIL 26, 2022 | 11:30 AM, AND APRIL 28, 2022 | 6:00 PM

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2022

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

Here's my list...in addition to the two stated above, see what you can add to it:

- Solid adherence to the Bible is taught in worship;
- Bible studies and Sunday School abound with 4, 5, sometimes 6, adult studies to join each week;
- Superbly talented worship leaders in all 3 weekend and all special services;
- A prayerful, evangelistic Pastor who freely exercises those gifts in the community;
- An amazing Body of Christ, complete with all the different gifts that when put together, make the Body work as it should;
- A merciful, gracious Body of Christ that truly wants to love each other with our differences because those differences are the testimony of how God made us to compliment each other;
- An amazing, dedicated staff that serves and serves and serves, without end;
- Individuals who are committed to volunteer their service to the Lord through programs, planning and leadership, and disciple others to identify their own gifts to best serve God;
- Technology advancement to offer livestream opportunities to those who are unable to worship in person with us;
- Outstanding talent offered in service to God through worship music, instruments and voices;
- So many individuals who are gifted to step in to teach us and lead worship in the absence of our pastor;
- Fellowship hour between Sunday services that provides times to connect with each other over doughnuts and coffee;
- A strong segment of the congregation that is interested in decision making and determining the future of St Mark in accordance with God's vision for us;
- Our facilities, our location, our visibility in the community;
- God's gracious provision of finances through His devoted people who see His abundant blessings in their lives and give back to Him with their time, talents and possessions;
- Financial ability to give 10% of our income as a congregation to other vetted ministries;
- The messages posted for all who drive by on Grand Avenue and those who put them up;
- God is bringing individuals and families back to church after protecting us from COVID;
- Individuals who are devoted to behind the scenes service to be sure we have coffee and doughnuts and altar flowers and banners and candles filled with oil and tithes and offerings prepared for deposit and staff performance evaluations and bills paid and weekly worship bulletins folded and stuffed, the monthly Voice prepared and countless band and voices practice sessions for worship and kitchen supplies stocked and the grand piano humidistat monitored and food pantry deliveries and on and on and on...

I purposely didn't list all the things to be thankful for so you can take a look around next weekend and identify more. I'm willing to guess you'll identify many other things that are carefully provided for by "someone".

Father, thank You for Your infinite love for us, for Your church, for Your incomprehensible faithfulness to us despite our human sides of rebellion that we often hide. But nothing is hidden from You, Lord, and during this holy Lenten season, cause us to search our hearts and seek You, not for what we can get from You but to know You better, to draw closer to You every day and become the people You created us to be in Your image. We want the Blesser more than the blessings. Thank You, Jesus, our Savior and forever Lover of our souls; it is in Your precious name we pray, amen and amen.

Joni Wasmund
Council President

Spiritual Gift Gatherings

Due to the busy April Church Season (Easter, Confirmation, etc.), we are postponing our upcoming Spiritual Gifts Gatherings. Be sure to watch the VOICE and the announcements for when and where these Gatherings will resume. If you would like to help with the Spiritual Gifts Gatherings, have questions or suggestions for meeting times, etc., please reach out to Debbie Plishka at dplishka@gmail.com. We look forward to getting back together soon.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2022



Open Arms Food Pantry

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Thank you for all your continued support to fill the “yellow barrels”!! It’s truly heart warming to see our Congregation continue helping our neighbors in these unique times.

The items requested for April are coffee / canned fruit (any non perishable food is gladly excepted).

If you have any questions or wish to inquire about volunteer opportunities please contact Ron Placko @ 847.404.3304 or email rdplacko@comcast.net.



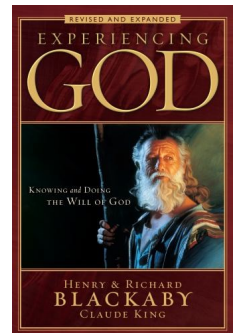
Experiencing God

This month’s book is by Henry Blackaby, author of *Experiencing God*. Jesus Christ died not so that you would recognize a historical fact. Or memorize a particular doctrine. Or continue with life as is. No, Christ’s death was God’s decisive deed in your life, conquering sin once and for all. The cross beckons you every day, with power to transform every detail of your existence as you begin to see Calvary from God’s perspective.

Henry Blackaby leads you on an exploration through the deeper dimensions of the cross, ensuring that the further you go, the more you will:

- Deal radically and completely with sin
- Embrace a true and lasting union with Christ
- Experience the fullness and reality of His victory in your life
- And much more

Will you yield to God’s provision in His cross? Will you receive the power and presence of Jesus Christ? Will you dare to *experience the cross*? You can find this book under call number 232.4 BLA.



SMLC Business Directory

The Business Directory is now available on the Church Website! Download the directory from the Church Website (smlc.info) / Media / Business Directory.

Members of St Mark are eligible, whether professional or aspiring entrepreneurs. Let us know who you are, hoping to add babysitters, leaf-rakers, house-watchers, dog-walkers, window-cleaners, house-cleaners, vacuum-operators, etc... To get added to the directory or provide a testimonial, please Text/Call Jerry Doran at 847-271-8632.



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WHAT IS A CHURCH MEMBER

If you haven't yet picked up your copy of WHAT IS A CHURCH MEMBER, please stop by the church office or ask any Council member for a copy (one per family please).

This month's highlight is Chapter 3: I Will Not Let My Church Be about My Preferences and Desires. This chapter certainly packed a punch for me! One of the lines in this chapter said, "But the strange thing about church membership is that you actually give up your preferences when you join." Huh? I was thinking my preferences are how I chose my church way back in 1996. This is the place I felt most comfortable; where I felt I fit in and was fed by the word preached from the pulpit.

Chapter 3 reminds me that as church members, we are definitely a member of the whole body as we have been hearing in our Church Doctor journey. We are all individually and uniquely gifted with spiritual gifts and as we use these gifts together, all the parts make a whole. But this chapter is a reminder that as the body of Christ, we are called to serve, not be served. We are here to meet the needs of others. We are here to give. We are here to sacrifice self (less of me, more of thee) as Jesus did. Here are a few highlights.

- The word servant occurs 57 times in the New Testament and many times it refers to the role we are to assume as Christians.
- Serve occurs 58 times in the New Testament. Get the picture?"
- Jesus said we must be last of all and servant of all.

"We will never find joy in church membership when we are constantly seeking things our way. But paradoxically, we will find the greatest joy when we choose to be last, to serve. True joy means giving up our rights and preferences and serving everyone else. That's what church membership means as well."

I love the closing words in this chapter. "We are to do whatever it takes to keep the unity in our church. So, if we approach church membership from the perspective of entitlement (being comfortable for us), we have it upside down. You always ask first what you can do for your church."

Great little book, quick read, powerful words that remind me what church membership is truly about and there is much more beyond this chapter!



Camp Timber-lee

Do you have a current 1st - 11th grader that would enjoy being outdoors this summer? Or perhaps you would enjoy getting your child into the outdoors for a week over the summer! Check out Camp Timber-Lee for amazing summer programming to connect children with God, fellowship, and the beauty of nature. Check out the following helpful links.

Register for an Open House for a visit to Camp Timber-lee to learn more: <https://www.timber-lee.com/events>

Camp Timber-lee website and registration: <https://www.timber-lee.com/summer-camp/>

Three different Camp Timber-lee promotions and scholarships: <https://www.timber-lee.com/resources>

ST. MARK INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Children have the opportunity to perform various service projects for the church to earn money towards their camp registration. Each Child is allowed to earn up to, but not more than, half of their camp fees (not to exceed \$250 per camper). Children must register through Timber-lee in order to be eligible for the St. Mark program. To apply for St. Mark's Incentive Program go to <https://forms.gle/iELm5wuQ277amEtz8>.

St. Mark Service Project List and Contacts:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/16JSeWiV30yNcafNWIKtNxrW__3HXCpztFJ3yQPTZvEk/edit?usp=sharing

Service Project Sign Off Form:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E-FBxNeV2IaTEiSXSyMh-ELIpYdxNOiYXTP-tmgPRtQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Contact Jori Bowen at jmbowen@aol.com with any questions.



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Who remembers REO Speedwagon and what do they have to do with Church Doctor?

If you remember this band from the '70s and '80s – you are a lover of some classic music and you might have heard one of their songs, which got up to #7 on the charts – “Keep the Fire Burnin' ”. Here are the lyrics to the first stanza of the song:

Keep the fire burnin'
Let it keep us warm
The world will keep on turnin'
Let it turn you on
And let us not stop learnin'
We can help one another be strong
Let us never lose our yearnin'
To keep the fire burnin' all night long

Now what in the world does this have to do with Church Doctor? GREAT QUESTION – glad you asked. The Church Doctor Task Force (Pam Burke, Jerry Gass, Kristi Knull, Mike Mol, and Pam Preston) are hoping you are still on fire and staying warm/excited with the Church Doctor recommendations brought to our St. Mark family! Yes – the world will keep on turning but we hope it has turned you on to the Spiritual Gifts that God has given each and every one of us! Please don't stop learning about your gifts and plan to attend the workshops offered during the Sunday School time in the back Multi-Purpose Room. All of us can be God's hands and feet by helping one another to stay strong building St. Mark for the future and never lose our yearning to spread the Gospel, to make disciples of all, and to keep the fire of God burning all night long!!

What we are asking you to do now (if you haven't done so already):

- **Pray** for those developing action plans addressing Church Doctor recommendations to give them strength, wisdom, and peace knowing they are doing God's work;
- **Read** the book “I Am A Church Member”;
- **Take** the spiritual gifts profile and turn in your card ASAP;
- **Look** at the Church Doctor recommendations for our congregation to see if any of them jump out at you as something you could help with and if so, contact any one of the task force members, (you can either download the recommendations [here](#) or get a hard copy of the recommendations from Joni Wasmund or Deb Zuchowski), and;
- **Pray** so you would be open for that phone call, text, email, or tap on the shoulder asking you to assist with outreach opportunities at St. Mark.



VBS is rockin' – no bluffin'!

Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the Southwest.

We'll explore God's awesomeness and form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead!

When: Monday, June 20th – Friday, June 24th

Time: 9:00am - Noon

Who: Preschoolers (3-years old and potty-trained) through 6th graders (for the 22-23 school year)



Be on the lookout for more details and registration information! If you have any questions about VBS or would like to volunteer to be part of our VBS crew, please **contact Beth Miller or Kristi Knull at stmarkvbsfun@gmail.com**.

Sunday School 2022-2023

We were so fortunate and very blessed to have Brooke Frusti and Melissa McGill as our Sunday School Coordinators for the 2021-2022 year. Due to both of them relocating, they will not be with us for the coming year.

St. Mark is in need of **2 new Coordinators** for Sunday School! Are you interested?

We will also be recruiting for Sunday School teachers and subs for the upcoming year.

Come Shadow our current coordinators to learn the ropes.

Email: stmarksunschool@gmail.com

Raising up a child

Some say it takes dedicated parents. Some say it takes a village. Below are some examples of what God tells us in scripture. Will you prayerfully consider helping us invest in our children at St. Mark? See opportunities to serve on this page!

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Psalm 127:3 - Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.

Matt 19:14 - Jesus said, Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

3 John 1:4 - I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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Support St. Mark & Local Businesses



Second Tuesday Each Month

CARRY OUT, PICK UP or DELIVERY!
Be sure to bring your coupon and mention it at time of payment!

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

Share with your friends and family.

LINDENHURST LOCATION ONLY

12:00 - 9:00 PM

Visit www.antiochpizzashop.com for full menu.

Valid the **Second Tuesday** of each Month

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

DATES: Second Tuesdays
4/12/22, 5/10/22, 6/14/22



THIRD THURSDAY EACH MONTH!

Now Serving Breakfast!

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 the **Third Thursday** of each month and **30%** of qualifying sales will be donated to **St. Mark Lutheran Church**.

DATE: Every Third Thursday
4/21/22, 5/19/22, 6/16/22

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 www.hamrafundraising.com.

23rd Annual Cool Plant and Flower sale

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

On March 31st, 19 plant sale order forms were turned in totaling over \$1800 in sales! Approximately 30% of the flower sales will go directly to COOL ministries. This is the largest number of orders placed in the last 5 years! Thanks to all for your support.

Wendy Rohlwing

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Please fill out the following form if you would like to place a flower on the altar for Easter Sunday Worship 2022 at St. Mark.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Plant(s) are given:

_____ To the Glory of God

_____ In Honor of _____

_____ In Memory of _____

_____ On the Occasion of _____

_____ Easter Lily(s) @\$15.00 each = \$ _____

Total Order: \$ _____

_____ I will pick up the plant(s) after the 11:00 a.m. Easter Service
Flowers must be picked up by 4pm on Tuesday, April 19th.

_____ I would like the plant(s) taken to someone who is ill or shut-in

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER

I have enclosed my payment of \$ _____.

Please make checks payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church

*All orders must be received on or before **Monday, April 4th, 2022!***



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2022

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
1822 EAST GRAND AVENUE
LINDENHURST IL 60046

*Address Service Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed*



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:
April 15, 2022

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
April 2022