

Love • Grow  
WORSHIP  
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St. Mark Lutheran Church

# The VOICE

## OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2022

### President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



Summer is passing by so quickly yet we, or at least I, tend to forget how nice and warm the weather remains through September and even into October. Schedules ramp up in September with school and earlier sunsets bring cooler evenings. Taking time each day just to ponder God's hand on the beauty of the day makes us thankful, even if the day is full of His powerful thunderstorms (think liquid sunshine). A few minutes of thankfulness can make our spirits soar.

I have seen You in Your sanctuary  
and gazed upon Your power and glory.  
<sup>3</sup>Your unfailing love is better than life itself;  
how I praise You!  
Psalm 63:2-3

I'm calling out 2 of our volunteer groups this month to say thank you for their faithfulness and devotion each week for their behind-the-scenes service: our Weekly Counters who skillfully and accurately prepare our offerings for bank deposits and our Altar Guild who ensures our worship area is beautifully prepared with flowers, paraments, communion elements and more. These tireless ladies (men are always welcome and do help hang banners and change the hymn boards) are not often seen but their work is *essential* to the life of the church. Offerings are prepared for bank presentation by counting, tabulating and entering the data into the computer for record keeping and, although perhaps not extraordinarily time-consuming or difficult, this is one of those unseen things that few people are even aware absolutely needs to be done.

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### CHURCH EVENTS

[www.smlc.info/events](http://www.smlc.info/events)

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@  
[www.smlc.info](http://www.smlc.info)

### ARTICLE DEADLINE

The deadline for the September edition of *The Voice* is **August 15th**. Please Email articles to:  
[deb@smlc.info](mailto:deb@smlc.info) &  
[stmarkcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkcommunications@gmail.com).



**Sunday, August 21st**

**At St. Mark**

**Following the  
10:30AM Service**

**See page 8 for details**

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**  
August 2022



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**Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, August 9th @ 7:00PM  
**Next Committee Meetings:** Tuesday, August 23rd @ 7:00PM

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

August 2022

# From the Desk of Pastor Breum

Dear Friends,

When you read this, the church's mission trip to Colorado will already be over. Hopefully, we will all have returned healthy and with a renewed spiritual vitality. Before I was 20 years old, I was on 6 mission trips. Three trips to Mexico and three tours with a Christian Contemporary singing group called Gratitude. To say the least, being in close proximity to the same people for days on end has its own issues. It is easy to lose one's patience and get annoyed by other people's habits that are quite different. On the other hand, being in such close proximity gives time to develop Christian bonds of love to one another. The close bonds of friendship are a gift from the Lord. During my time here at St Mark I have seen groups off onto their mission trips and when they return, they are not the same people at all. God has worked wonders in their lives, and it is plain for all to see. When hardships or unplanned things occur, God often uses those to cause the most growth.

This summer we restarted a young adult group meeting. It consists of post high school, college students, those out of college, and working young people in their 20's. The group meets weekly and is always open for more to attend. We are presently studying First Peter and there is much discussion around the Scriptures and a host of other things pertinent to their lives.

With my absence it gave a chance for two others to preach. Taylor Houser is pursuing full time ministry at Moody Bible Institute, and this is excellent training for him. Nathan Brock is one of our newer members who has the gift of evangelism and always, always, always, has much to say. Thank you for the encouraging words that you spoke to them.

As I hear your stories, I continue to be amazed at how God is working in each of your lives. Thank you for sharing how God has answered your prayers, even if it has taken seven years.

God Bless,

Pastor Breum

## FIRST FRIDAY SING AND PRAY!

Praise God from Whom ALL Blessing Flow! He hears every cry of our heart!

In such a turbulent time in the world and our country, God is still answering prayer. He is the same yesterday, today and forever! Hallelujah! Isn't that so reassuring?

St. Mark Church has opened our doors with the opportunity to come and pray for the world situations, our country, current events, our church, the lost, family, friends, and yes, personal prayer requests. All are welcome to join Sing & Pray on Friday, August 5, 2020, from 7:00 to 8:00pm in the Sanctuary. Please consider bringing those in your life who need prayer.



The session will wrap up around 8:00pm, however feel free to come and go as you please.

Stop in for 30 minutes or stay until the end, whatever works in your schedule. We want to keep our gathering informal.

Pray whatever is on your heart silently, in agreement, or out loud. No pressure. No expectations. Just God's people coming together to pray and seek his face.

"Devote yourselves to prayer" Colossians 4:2

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

August 2022



# MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

## Fallow Ground and the Rain of Righteousness

It was almost 60 years ago, but I remember it well. On June 13, 1963, my grandparents embarked on a 6,000 mile road trip in their Pontiac Catalina with two bickering grandsons, Jim (age 12) and Bob (that was me—age 9 at the time).

The goal was to visit relatives. My grandparents had Canadian roots. We visited kin in St. Paul, Minnesota; Winnipeg and Brandon, Manitoba; Saskatoon and Swift Current, Saskatchewan; Walla Walla, Washington; and Portland, Oregon.

We visited my mother's birthplace, a tiny prairie homestead amid wheat fields and caragana hedges near Conquest, Saskatchewan. My grandfather and his older brother Wes were discussing farms and farming. They pointed at fields where nothing was growing. They said, "That's summer fallow."

I took their word for it. But what was "summer fallow," I wondered? "Fallow" basically means unused or undeveloped. In the Great Plains of the US and Canada, there is not enough moisture to grow wheat every year. So they allow fields to lie idle every other year. This rests the soil and allows moisture to build. After an idle year, the fields grow more abundant crops.

"Fallow" can describe the human heart. Our hearts should be productive. We should bear the fruit that God's word plants in us. James urges, "Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). God's word can take root and grow, changing our lives and bringing him honor through our devotion and service.

But our hearts may underperform. Twice the Bible speaks of "fallow" hearts. The great (and some think greatest) prophet Jeremiah wrote, "For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: 'Break up your **fallow** ground, and sow not among thorns'" (4:3). That means let God's word penetrate your hard hearts. Quit devoting yourself to barren pursuits. Turn to the LORD!

Jeremiah preached and wrote ca. 600 BC. Much earlier, in the eighth century BC, Hosea also likened the hearts of God's people to fallow ground (Hosea 10:12): "Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your **fallow** ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you."

Hosea saw that before God's righteousness can *reign*, he must "*rain* righteousness upon" us. But fallow hearts are hard hearts. Even if rain falls, it can run off without sinking in. So he says, "Break up your **fallow** ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come."

This is a word for our time too. Jesus spoke of dark days when "because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12). We see lawlessness on every hand, sometimes including our own. It is tempting to grow callous—hard-hearted. Why not? Everyone else is!

But as Hosea put it, if we "sow ... righteousness," we will "reap steadfast love." Our righteousness comes from the steadfast love of Christ who died, rose, and reigns. He makes our hearts fertile, not fallow, as the rain of his gospel falls.

But what difference does it make? You are just a single person. One person can't do that much. Really?

Tell that to the dozens of kids and teachers who are alive today because of Jacob Alvarado. He was getting a haircut one morning back in May in Uvalde, Texas. His cell phone pinged. His wife, a teacher, texted: There's an active shooter in the hallway! Robb Elementary School was just a few blocks from the barbershop.

James Alvarado borrowed a shotgun from the barber. (Thank goodness the barber was equipped to exercise his right of self-defense.) He ran to the nearby school. He stood guard while locked-down classrooms crammed with children escaped the shooter.

Eventually, putting his own life on the line, he used the force required to restore order. Jacob Alvarado's heart was not fallow but courageous. He was zealous for his wife and many innocent children, one of whom was his own daughter.

In these distressing times, God wants to break up our fallow hearts so he can rescue us, grace us with his daily presence, and use us to rescue others.

***Serve The Lord With All Your Heart***

August 2022





# 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 July 2022

Council and committee action plans continue to be worked towards recommendations received from Church Doctor. Watch the Announcement screens before worship services for updates.

Two more mortgage payoff celebrations are in the works, one for the church picnic and an Ed Center ribbon cutting ceremony and walk-through on Rally Day.

Brock Zwicke presented his ideas to relaunch our social media through a Facebook re-launch and other venues – stay tuned for how to participate in making Facebook a real Outreach tool for those searching for a home church.

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## Noah's Nursery News!

Just a friendly reminder that the nursery is open for children 0-4 years of age on Sundays during the 8:00AM and 10:30AM services. Guests with children in this age range are welcome to join us!

We are gearing up for our annual nursery clean-up this month. Of course, we clean and sanitize on a regular basis! If interested in helping us with the deep clean, please contact me at [heiddeborah@gmail.com](mailto:heiddeborah@gmail.com)



Also, I would like to extend a warm thank you to our nursery volunteers who have faithfully dedicated their time caring for our St. Mark littles. Thank you!

**“Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”**  
ESV Mark 10:14

## SMLC Business Directory

The Business Directory is now available on the Church Website! Download the directory from the Church Website ([smlc.info](https://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, provide feedback, or to give a testimonial, please email [StMarkBusinessMinistry@gmail.com](mailto:StMarkBusinessMinistry@gmail.com).

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

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## Opportunities for Prayer are **Blossoming** at St. Mark Church, our House of Prayer

As Pastor Breum has noted before COVID and now in a post COVID the skies are darkening. For protection we follow the Biblical call to prepare each day by putting on our armor. Why? The devil is always prowling around us. We never know when the devil will attack. He is too shrewd to follow a pattern. Thus, as a wise Christian, one always puts a blanket of anticipation down. How? By prayer and watching and waiting on God, you are ready when he pounces. Now discover who the devil sees when we keep our standing appointment with God each day and put on our armor. From *Daily Growth, Reflections Ministries*. 6/22/2022.



## Who the Devil Sees<sup>1</sup>

(Ephesians 6:10–18)

If any character was the hit of the original *Star Wars* trilogy, it was the evil and infamous Darth Vader. He of the black helmet, black cape, and light saber took the meaning of *armor* to a whole new level. His force-field armor did what all armor does—it protected him and concealed his identity from his opponents. The most shocking moment in the series came when Vader’s true identity was revealed. Without his silicon circuits and voice-masking helmet, he was nothing. His armor was his life-support, his essence.

Armor is defensive, first and foremost. But armor also is transformative—it turns a vulnerable mortal into someone different. In fact, when you look at Darth Vader or a medieval knight shod head-to-toe in plate and mail, you are not seeing the real person. Rather, you are seeing what is protecting that person. And armor must be adequate against what is brought against it. While medieval armor could protect against medieval swords, any number of modern weapons could easily pierce such primitive protection.

The armor God gives believers to wear does both things: It changes our identity by covering our weaknesses, and it is totally adequate against the “flaming arrows of the evil one” (Eph. 6:16). Without God’s armor, we would be helpless against the devil. He is stronger and craftier than we are, and in our own strength we would be quickly subdued by his attacks. But clothed in truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of God’s word, we are protected. Our weaknesses are covered with God’s strength. We are wearing the same armor that Jesus wore—armor that the devil never penetrated.

When God's armor comes off, we are revealed for who we really are—mice before a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8). But when we have God's armor on (Eph. 6:11), that roaring lion looks at us and sees Jesus—the Lion of Judah (Rev. 5:5). And that is a fight he wants no part of.

When getting dressed every day, don't fail to put on the armor of God. It is your only sure defense. *God's Promise: When you are clothed in God's armor, the devil sees Him, not you.*

## Ongoing Opportunities for Prayer

*First Friday Sing and Pray* beginning August 5th at 7:00pm in the sanctuary for praise and worship followed by prayer. See full announcement in this August *Voice*.

*St. Mark Prayer Chain*, a wonderful group of fellow Christians, praying for all prayer requests and praising God for His listening to our petitions, thanksgivings and praises for His responses. Email requests and praises to [smlcprayers@gmail.com](mailto:smlcprayers@gmail.com). Please share with the Prayer Chain how God has responded to your prayer requests.

*Weekly Prayer Meeting* - Come, pray and be blessed. 7:00pm - 8:00pm Wednesday evening via Zoom. We pray over the previous week of Prayer Chain requests, St. Mark Church and each other. Contact Person: Pam Burke 244-430-6226, Zoom Link - Barb Ewert

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. Click on this link <https://www.smlc.info/mt-content/uploads/2021/12/three-days-of-prayer-brochure-2022-updated-8.5-x-14.pdf>

For more information contact Barb Ewert, [b1182ray@aol.com](mailto:b1182ray@aol.com).

## C/3 Youth Events for August

### Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>

**LAKE DAY** from 2 to 4 pm  
at Debbie Gass' house. Meet  
at the church at 1:45 and we'll  
carpool to her house. Please sign  
up on the youth board so we know  
how many to expect.



### Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>

**HOLY SMOKE** at the church. Have  
we got a new game of volleyball for  
you!! I will almost bet 1000 S'mores  
you can't guess it what type of "ball"  
we will be playing with!!??

### Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>

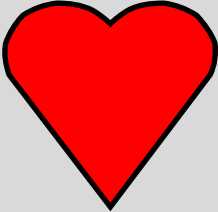
**CHURCH PICNIC** at St. Mark  
Lutheran Church immediately  
following the 10:30 AM service.



## TWO VERY IMPORTANT ADDITIONS

Since The Voice was "published" before our big meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup> and the Mission Trip to Alamosa, please keep your eyes and ears open for announcements about the "future" of St. Mark's High School Youth Group and what happened in the past with our trip out West.

As always, if you have any questions or **WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH YOUTH**, please reach to Mike Mol at 847-276-8739 or  
[MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com](mailto:MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com)



# Joyful Hearts Singles Group

Calling all single men and women! If you are widowed, divorced, or just never "took the plunge", join us for weekly and monthly events that support Christian friendship and socializing. So far we have met up at one of our homes, gone to weekly park district concerts, and met up at RJs for dinner. We plan to continue doing the same in the future as well as possible outings to support Feed My Starving Children, local theater, game nights at one of our homes, trivia nights, etc., etc. If you are interested in joining this group please let us know. You can pick and choose what you want to participate in. This is a great way to make new friendships!

For more information contact Nancy O'Connor  
[neoconnor@comcast.net](mailto:neoconnor@comcast.net) or  
 Patty Lindholm [lindholm\\_patricia@yahoo.com](mailto:lindholm_patricia@yahoo.com)

*Fellowship, food & fun*  
**CHURCH**  
*Picnic*



## PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC

It is back at St. Mark this year!

**Sunday, August 21st**  
 following 10:30 Service

Fried Chicken and Beef will be provided. All other foods will be pot luck.

A sign up board will be coming soon for food items and help for the set up of tents, tables and chairs on Saturday, July 20th.

**MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT  
WORK!**

Looking forward to some  
summer fellowship.

Congregational Life Committee



Thank you to my St. Mark Family for all the prayers around my recent surgery and recovery. I am doing very well and felt all the prayers that were offered. Also, a big thank you to the Caring Casserole Committee who brought the delicious meals. We all are blessed to have a church like St. Mark which really cares.  
 God Bless you! Brigitta R.

THANK YOU to all who continue to faithfully donate pop tabs. Over 25 pounds were recently dropped off at Great Clips in Gurnee to be delivered for recycling to benefit The Ronald McDonald House Charities! Pop tabs are collected all year long and can be placed in the designated container in the church kitchen.

Thanks again and God Bless. Wendy Rohlwing



**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

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# WHAT IS A CHURCH MEMBER?

This month we will be looking at the sixth and final chapter: I Will Treasure Membership as a Gift

## The Biblical Perspective:

“Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27-28

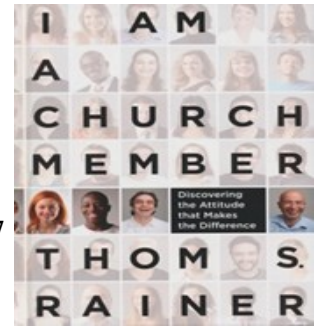
When we repent and place our faith in Jesus we receive the gift of salvation. We then become a member of the body of Christ. That membership is part of the gift of salvation we have received. So membership in the body of Christ is a gift from God. It's not like a country club membership with its entitlements and advantages. And it's not simply a set of obligations.

## Universal Church and Local Church:

The universal church includes all believers everywhere and we are all part of it. The Bible teaches, however, that we must also be part of a local church where we can serve. Most of the New Testament was written about, and to, the local churches.

## Understand the Gift:

Since our church membership is a gift from God, it must be treasured. It should never be taken for granted or taken lightly. We must be deeply thankful for this gift. When we truly appreciate a gift we want to respond to the giver and to the giver's entire family. Those of us in God's family aren't perfect, but our joy in receiving the gifts of salvation and church membership cause us to serve others with joy. We are to put our pride, our grievances and our disappointment in others aside. Jesus taught His disciples that true service to God and others is done in humility. He said, “It must not be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:26-28. We must always remember how great this gift is, be grateful for our church membership and serve like Jesus did; with humility, gratitude and joy.



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## Peace Garden and Columbarium update

The Columbarium committee is working on the final garden design and plans to begin selling niches in the very near future.

As a reminder, the Peace Garden with Columbarium is a gift to the St. Mark congregation from a member family.

A columbarium is an above-ground structure with recesses or niches to receive urns containing human cremation ashes. The St. Mark Columbarium will have 80 niches capable of holding 160 urns. It will be surrounded by paving bricks, landscaping and bench seating, creating the Peace Garden.

Please reach out to Bob Parmley, Nita Parmley, Jim O'Neal, Cheryl Bengston, or Jen Kumpula with any questions.

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

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**August 13th / Saturday / 7am Breakfast /  
8am Service / 12pm Adjourn**

Help Wanted - HIS Ministry is accepting applications (volunteers) to help with a couple of projects around the Church. **Men and Women** are welcome to join us for this event. Text your contact information to 847-271-8632 and tell me how many folks are coming with you. Here's the projects being planned:

**Sign On Grand Landscaping** - Some leveling is needed and rocks removed, building up the beds with some good soil and planting. All this followed up with some mulch.

**Gazebo** - We're also looking at replacing some wood, scraping, priming and painting.

This work is being coordinated by HIS Ministry with oversight and input from Property Management and our very own Jim Schaufel (Maintenance Assistant for St Mark).

**Volunteer** - [Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com](mailto:Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com) or Text / Call 847-271-8632, to Get Plugged In.

**Breakfast** - we like to eat when we meet, so let me know how many folks are coming with you.

**Equipment** - bring anything you already own that might help with this project that you might use. "Hydrate or Die-drates" - would be nice if someone brought a case of water, let me know if you're on tap for the H2O. **Dad Jokes** - we could use some new material....

Bringing generosity  
to life



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

**Supporting Ukraine** - As the tragic events in Ukraine continue to unfold, many are seeking ways to help. We've curated a short list of organizations currently providing relief to those impacted by the crisis. You can offer financial support to any of these organizations (and many more) in multiple ways:

- Make a donation using Thrivent's personal giving platform. Thrivent pays the processing fees so 100% of your donation goes directly to the organization.\*
  - [Convoy of Hope](#)
  - [Lutheran World Relief](#)
  - [Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services](#)
  - [World Central Kitchen](#)
- Eligible Thrivent clients with membership can [login and direct Thrivent Choice Dollars](#)® to organizations helping with relief efforts.

\* Thrivent will pay up to \$300,000 in online processing fees per calendar year for personal donations made through Thrivent's online giving platform.

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent clients with membership and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's terms and conditions available at [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

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## **President's Message** *Continued from page 1*

And next time you see the flowers on the altar, give a minute's thought to the ones who arrange them so symmetrically beautiful, each side mirroring the other. Did you know communion bread is homemade by our members? Counters and Altar Guild, you are two wonderful groups of servants who are using your gifts to serve faithfully each week and we are so very thankful for you and all you do. If anyone would like to join either of these groups, please contact Laurie Kerns for Counters or Gae Michal for Altar Guild.



Sometimes going back to basics is helpful to ensure everyone in the congregation is informed about events and functions that are necessary for thriving church life. The Annual Meeting that takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each November is one of those. The Annual Meeting is held between services so it's only an hour long at most and usually shorter. During this meeting, the slate of Council members for the following year is chosen and the spending plan (budget) for the following year is distributed for your approval. Every committee provides a report of all their goals and accomplishments so you can learn about all they've done over the past year. It may not sound very spiritual, it may sound like all business and some might think it's okay to leave the business decisions to those who are interested in them. But wait, aren't we all part of this family? Don't we all have ideas to contribute to the family? Don't we all want to know what's going on and how our offerings are being used for God's kingdom? Knowing there's a Council to make those decisions might free up some of those things in one's mind but it still stands that every member of St Mark Lutheran Church is part of our family and we want you to know that your voice and opinion matters. It's quite possible that many of you who attend St. Mark's Saturday evening and Sunday 10:30 services have not known that this meeting is for all of you, all of us so please remember, come November, join us. We miss you when you're not with us.

We had a lot of fun at First Friday last month with everyone who came throwing their own



copy of the mortgage into the fire. Thank you, Dave Dummer, for building the fire and thank you, Pam and Charlie Burke for leading the Sing & Pray. What a great time we had together!

I'm SO looking forward to the church picnic on August 21<sup>st</sup> and can't wait to see you there, right after the 10:30 service! Picnic details are provided in this issue of the Voice.

Blessings to all,

Joni Wasmund  
Council President



## Open Arms Food Pantry Neighbors Helping Neighbors

**Did you know?** That OAM continues to support more than 200 families every week!  
**Thank you** for all your continued support in filling the “yellow barrels”!! It’s truly heart warming to see our Congregation continuing to reach out to help our neighbors in these unique times.

The items requested for August are **Laundry Soap and Canned Vegetables**. Any nonperishable food is gladly accepted.

If you have any questions about OAM please contact Ron Placko at [rdplacko@comcast.net](mailto:rdplacko@comcast.net).

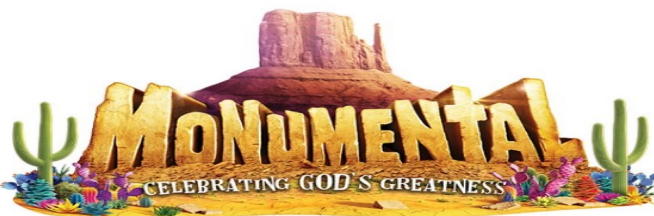
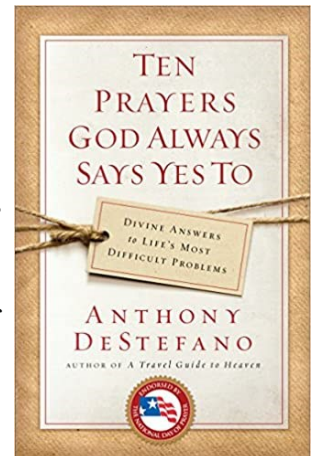


### *Ten Prayers God Always Says Yes To*

There have been thousands of books written about prayer and millions of sermons preached about it, yet people continue to wonder: Why doesn't God answer me when I cry out to him? Anthony DeStefano's book *Ten Prayers God Always Says Yes To* can help us to understand how we are to pray to God so that we will hear Him say, “Yes.” In light of all the problems we face in life, we want to know why God is often so “silent” when we pray to him. Anthony DeStefano, author of the bestselling *A Travel Guide to Heaven*, knew there had to be an answer to this mystery, so he set out on a quest to find prayers that God says yes to all the time. The result is an extraordinary new book that has the ability to dramatically change the lives of readers of all faiths.

Each short, powerful prayer in *Ten Prayers God Always Says Yes To* addresses a particular problem people commonly face in life—from accepting the existence of God to trying to make ends meet; from getting through terrible suffering to coping with everyday stress; from overcoming fear to finding your God-given destiny. Presented with a certainty and vigor that are sure to pique the interest of even those who are not spiritually inclined, these prayers will help readers find solutions to life's most difficult situations and provide meaningful and inspiring answers to the vexing questions we have about the purpose of our time on earth.

In a world awash with superficial self-help books and deceptive gimmicks, *Ten Prayers God Always Says Yes To* is the real thing. Using hundreds of scriptural references to support his claims, DeStefano writes in a simple, straightforward, and uplifting manner that makes the most profound theological matters understandable to all. In the words of the author, “This is a spiritual treasure chest that is available to everyone....This book is about prayers that work—really, truly work.” You can find this book under call number 248.3 DES.



Parish Education is very grateful for our Vacation Bible School, directors Kristi Knoll, Beth Miller and Julie Rick. We'd like to thank them for their time, service, and spiritual gifts in a “Monumental” way! They made VBS happen for our youth and children in our community. Thank you!

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

August 2022





## From your friendly neighborhood Church Doctor Task Force

***If you had a present from God – all wrapped up in pretty paper and fancy ribbons – wouldn't you want to open it up and see what He gave you???***

If you have not already “opened your present”, please fill out a Spiritual Gift Questionnaire, which can be found in - Joni's mailbox (in the copier room), on the table between the copier room and Deb's office, or in Deb's office - and return to the box in the Narthex. Thank you so much in advance!!

Please continue to pray for St. Mark, the Task Force, and all the people and committees building and implementing their Action Plans!

As always, if you have any questions about the Church Doctor recommendations and/or plans, please reach out to either Pam Burke, Jerry Gass, Kristi Knull, Mike Mol, or Pam Preston



## Feed My Starving Children Events Coming Up!!!

I'd like to bring to your attention a few ways you can be His hands and feet. Besides going on line and signing up to volunteer and pack when *you* are available – we are usually very slow during the summer but we do ask that you sign up in advance – ([FMSC Sign Up](#)), there are two events in the future to mark on your calendar.

First, I have already reserved 30 packing slots for Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 10:45 for anyone who would like to come pack food with other St. Mark'ians ([St. Mark Sign Up](#)). If we had a church bus, I'd say let's all meet at the church and go down together but ..... why don't we meet at the Libertyville site and then decide to meet for an early lunch and/or ice cream after we've packed. As I said, I've reserved 30 slots – I can always make it more!!!

Second, there is a MobilePack event coming up the end of September that sounds AWESOME!! A FMSC MobilePack is where we “take our show on the road” and bring all the packing supplies and food to a specific site and pack there. Usually these are not too close to a permanent site like the sites we have in Libertyville, Aurora, or Schaumburg but this one is in our own back yard. From Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup> through Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the NOW Arena in Hoffman Estates (about a 50-minute drive south of St. Mark), [Harvest of Hope](#) will be having this event. When you come to one of our permanent sites, you might be packing with maybe 100 people – at this event you will be packing with over 500 people!!!! Their goal for these 4 days is to pack 1 MILLION meals so please sign up and help make this happen!!

Third, through St. Mark's benevolence, we donate funds to FMSC every month but, if the Spirit moves you, you can always donate to FMSC yourself at [Ways to Give](#). For only \$88 you can save a child's life by giving him/her one meal each day for a year. I know that doesn't sound like a lot because we have been so blessed but for a child that has nothing, that one meal gives them hope and a chance to dream!

If you have any questions about FMSC, please feel to call me at 847-276-8739 or write me at [memol2elks@gmail.com](mailto:memol2elks@gmail.com). I'd love to talk FMSC with you.

In His service, Mike Mol

**Divine Signs** is Lake Counties premier yard message creation company, dedicated to spreading joy and love in an extraordinary way!

We are excited to announce that we will **contribute 10% of our proceeds to St Mark Church** in Lindenhurst IL. Simply mention St Mark church, it is that easy! Tell your family and friends and let's get your next congratulatory event in the schedule!

This promotion is for members and nonmembers of St Mark church.

Contact us directly or visit our sites to learn more about us...

**Kevin and Tracy Gaul**

Phone or text: (224) 223-2786

[facebook.com/DivineSigns316](https://www.facebook.com/DivineSigns316)

[Instagram@Divinesigns3.16](mailto:Instagram@Divinesigns3.16)

[DivineSigns.godaddysites.com](http://DivineSigns.godaddysites.com)

(Please be patient, our website is under construction.)



## Vacation Bible School was Awesome!

This year's VBS celebrated God's MONUMENTAL greatness – AWESOME GOD! Our VBS staff of 37 volunteers used the Joseph Bible story and the Gospel to teach 57 kids. Through games, stories, music, and crafts, the kids learned that

- \* God loves you no matter what!
- \* God is with you wherever you go!
- \* God is in charge!
- \* God is stronger than anything!
- \* God is surprising!

We are extremely thankful and blessed to have the congregation's support through prayers, donations, time, and talents.

**Awesome God!**

Thank you,  
Beth Miller, Kristi Knull, and Julie Rick  
VBS Directors



### Coordinator Urgently Needed

- Sadly, our two Sunday School Coordinators moved out of state.
- One person has graciously accepted this important position BUT WE ARE LOOKING FOR ONE MORE COORDINATOR to complete the team.
- Our past Co-Coordinator left a complete binder with helpful guidelines, calendar, curricula and ideas. Parish Ed is also always there to help.

### Teachers & Substitute Teachers

- We are also looking for 2 PreK/Kdg teachers AND Substitute teachers.
- Please contact Parish Education: Lori McKenzie or Jane Milani @ [stmarksunschool@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksunschool@gmail.com) or contact Deb Zuchowski, our church office administrator, ASAP with any questions. Thanks for considering serving God in this vital ministry.

## College and Military Care Packages

St Mark likes to keep in touch with our college students and servicemen who are away from home. This last year we sent to 24 college students and 1 serviceman. We send a little something out 4 times a year. The packages generally include a devotion and other items (hot chocolate packages, candy, gift cards, bookmarks, Luther Book of Catechism, etc.). It's a small way to let them know that we, at St. Mark, are thinking and praying for them. If you have a family member or friend who would enjoy receiving these, please email me. Helpful information to include is name, address, name of school (or branch of service), area of study, anticipated graduating year. This information is useful because we try to write a personal handwritten message in the margins to each.

Please send the information to:  
Cheryl Bengston at  
[cbengston58@gmail.com](mailto:cbengston58@gmail.com)

We could use help securing donations, preparing packages and mailings. Email me if you are interested in assisting in some way!



**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

August 2022

# Save the Date!

## Sunday, November 13, 2022 - Annual Church Meeting and Council Election



The Board of Elders serves as the Nominating Committee for Council Elections. The nomination process will open August 13, 2022. If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning more about the positions available, please contact one of the Elders.

Council positions that will be decided at the annual meeting include:

**President- 1 year term      Secretary- 1 year term      Treasurer- 1 year term**  
**Board of Trustees- 3 year term      Elder – 3 year term**

For more information, contact:

Cheryl Bengston, 224-436-3613      Dean Miller, 847-309-9941      Todd Stickney, 224-475-7280



I would like to introduce all of you to the ALTAR GUILD, especially those of you not familiar with what we do!! Obviously, it has to do with the ALTAR, but exactly what?

We are responsible for the **FLOWERS** you see and/or purchase weekly. Each week 2 slots are allocated to a member who purchases them for whatever reason they choose. After the services, the blooms can be taken home by those who donated them.

The **COMMUNION BREAD** we use on the 1st and 3rd Sundays is baked by members. If you might be interested in joining that ministry, contact Linda Pohlman.

The COMMUNION TRAYS are set up and put away by a volunteer. It usually takes less than 1/2 hour to set up the trays, give or take, depending on how many trays are needed, plus setting up the altar elements. To put them away requires clearing the altar and clearing the trays, about 15 minutes of your time. We are looking for a member to reset the communion for the 8am service on the 1st Sunday. In order to get this done, you might need to arrive early, at least 30 minutes before the service starts. It could also be done Saturday night after the 5:30 service.

Another "job" of the Altar Guild is the upkeep of the **ALBS** worn by the Cantors, communion servers, and acolytes, when they return. They need to be inspected at least monthly. If needed, they should be taken home, washed and ironed. Also any repairs that might be needed should be done. (This usually involves the snaps.)

Any of these services are the perfect opportunity to get involved with the church in the background. These are great for those not having much time or resources to offer. Obviously these are all things that need to be done, but anonymously!!

Please consider getting involved with this quiet service. Any questions, contact Gae Michal [gmichal48@gmail.com](mailto:gmichal48@gmail.com)

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

August 2022



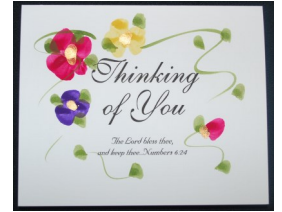
## Cards for Seniors Ministry

What is this ministry? It is an outreach ministry geared toward encouraging and praying for our area seniors through written greeting cards to keep them feeling more connected and less isolated. Therefore, we have partnered with the Township of Antioch to give our completed greeting cards to them for distribution through their monthly events to the seniors in our community.

We encourage cards such as “thinking of you” and/or hand written notes of encouragement. We ask that you please add at the end: “From your friends at St. Mark” so the recipients know where the card came from. The completed cards should be placed into the basket located on the table near the church office.

Let us show our area seniors the gift of kindness and companionship! Together, we will make a difference in their lives as well as ours by spreading God’s love!

Deb Heide heidedeborah@gmail.com



## ***PADS Is Returning to St. Mark***



One of St. Mark’s long time ministries will be returning this fall. PADS was temporarily moved from churches to hotel rooms when Covid hit in 2020. We are very excited to have PADS back and are working on the challenges of getting it up and running again. For those of you who do not know about PADS, here is a brief summary. PADS is an outreach program for the homeless in Lake County. The main office is in Waukegan. It has been around for over 20 years. Homeless people can go to the main office for help finding housing, jobs, healthcare and other issues. The part we help with is overnight shelter. From October 1st through April 30th two churches per night welcome the homeless guests into their buildings. St. Mark does Friday nights. This is a much needed ministry that requires lots of help from the hosting congregations. Below we have outlined what is involved and what we will be asking you for help with.

1. Working a shift on Friday night or Saturday morning. The night is divided into three shifts. First shift is from 5:00p to 11:00p. On this shift you would help welcome the guests to the site, serve them dinner, clean up after dinner and then visit with them until they go to sleep. Second shift is from 11:00p to 3:00a. This is the quiet shift and you can quietly visit with the other workers or read a book. Sometimes you may be making the bagged lunches we give to each guest. Third shift is from 3:00a to 7:00a. On this shift you serve breakfast and clean up the kitchen and eating area. We also have set up on Friday night from 5:00p to 6:00p where you would be helping set up, make the sleeping pads and arrange the tables for eating. This is often done by scouting groups as a service project. Clean up is done on Saturday morning starting around 6:00a until done, usually no longer than 8:00a. On this shift you would be bagging all the sheets for taking to the laundry, wiping down all the pads, cleaning the bathrooms, sweeping the floors, mopping where needed, and making sure everything is put away. This is a good project for adult groups.

2. Being a Site Leader. This is a very important volunteer opportunity. The evening site leader works from 5:00p to 11:00p. They check the guests in, hand out bed assignments, and make sure the evening runs smoothly by answering any questions and helping the guests with any issues. We cannot open the site without site leaders. Ideally we would have four site leaders so you would only work once per month. If you have a gift and love for serving others this would be a great position for you. You can even grab a friend and do this together. The morning site leaders work from about 5:00a until clean up is done. You would help wake the guests, make sure everyone gets on the bus to go back to the PADS office, help with clean up, and make sure the church is back in order.

3. Help with donating food. We provide the guests with a hot dinner, a bagged lunch and a breakfast. You would be added to a list of those willing to provide food. You would be called the week before to donate a part of the meals. It can be as simple as dropping off eggs for breakfast or lunch meat or snacks for the lunches, to making a main meal, dessert or veggie dish for dinner. You do not come to the site to cook, you make at home and drop off. You can even order chicken or pizzas and drop it off. We usually have around forty guests but you would not be making for that many people. We have multiple people bringing each part of the meal.

I hope this helps you see exactly what PADS is. If you having any questions or would like to volunteer please call Laurie Kerns at 847-612-1510 or Jill Decker at 847-445-7502. We would be happy to talk to you. More info will be coming in September.

As you can see many hands are needed and we hope you will prayerfully consider being a part of this much needed ministry.

***Serve The Lord With All Your Heart***

August 2022



# 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](http://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**  
8/9/22, 9/13/22, 10/11/22



# Wendy's

## 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**.

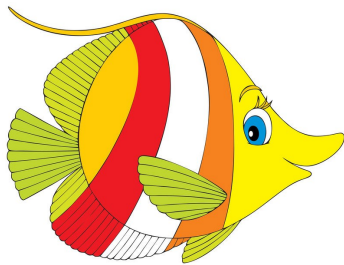
**DATE: Every Third Thursday**  
8/18/22, 9/15/22, 10/20/22

**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](http://www.hamrafundraising.com).



## Fin Facts

## How Does the Church Come Up With the Numbers?

Though the budget is voted on at the Annual Meeting in November, the budgeting process begins in May and takes six months of work to complete! All Committees are provided information about their previous individual budgets in early May and begin to discuss their plans for the next fiscal year. The Committees then provide their requests to the Finance Committee for compilation. The Finance Committee also meets with the Administrator for her input and analyzes the previous year's income and expenses. Once compiled, the budget is sent to the Trustees and Treasurer for review in August. The budget is then

approved by the full Council in September in time for distribution to the Congregation in October. The 2023 budget, approved in November 2022, will guide Council and Committee decisions and programs from January thru December next year!

	<u>2022 Budgeted Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>2022 Actual Unrestricted Offerings</u>
Month of May	\$ 62,050	\$ 53,779
Month of June	\$ 55,950	\$ 51,043
January - June	\$ 363,600	\$ 314,922

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

August 2022

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

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



Stephen Ministry

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✉ [smlc@smlc.info](mailto: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](mailto:DEB@SMLC.INFO)

**SEPTEMBER VOICE DEADLINE:**  
**August 15, 2022**

***Serve The Lord With All Your Heart***  
August 2022