

# The **VOICE**

## OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 2022

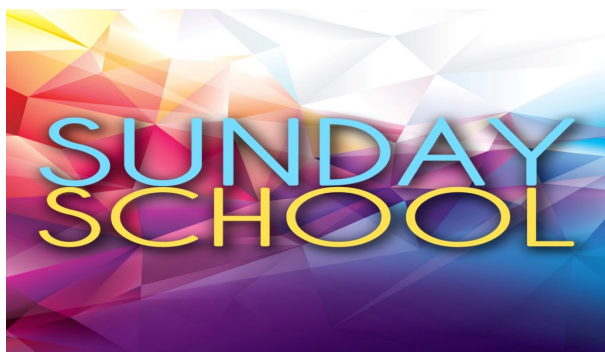
### *President's Notes*

By Joni Wasmund



Last night was one of those times when You just see God's love for His children so present in their lives. Those who went on the Mission Trip to Alamosa, CO last month shared their experiences and once again, I was blown away by our youth and our adults who accompanied them. Their stories and recaps of the trip were chock full of excitement, joy and laughter. For a couple of hours, the love these kids have for God and for one another completely erased any indication that youth today don't know what end is up. These kids face the same challenges as other kids, but they know God and His love for them and that gives them the wisdom needed to tackle those challenges. Not that their lives are without trial but one day with them would bring a teen who doesn't know Jesus to a hunger and thirst like they've never had before. I wish you could have all heard their excitement and their anticipation for the next trip. It's tremendously contagious and gives me hope for future generations, knowing our kids are but a sliver of the number of young ones across this country who love the Lord, as indicated by the other churches who participated with YouthWorks in Alamosa with our team. It's just downright exciting to know that those who went this year want to go again next year, including the adults! God is so alive at St. Mark. His Holy Spirit has a fire lit in more places than you might see. We can't always see His work while He's preparing the fields but when we see the harvest, wow, do we see the fruit. Mike Mol was one of those fields that God planted a seed in a few months ago. Thank you, Mike, for stepping in and making it happen because you were the answer to a lot of prayers. And thank you, Barb Griffith, Dawn Cherry and Pastor Breum for helping Mike make some big decisions along the way. Can't wait to see who joins you all next year!

*Continued on page 9*



**Rally Day**  
**Sunday,**  
**September 11th**  
**9:30 AM**

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

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



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**Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, September 13th @ 7:00PM  
**Next Committee Meetings:** Tuesday, September 27th @ 7:00PM

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# From the Desk of Pastor Breum

Dear Friends,

It has been thrilling all summer to have a college and career group. These are post high school and people in their 20's. The group has gelled wonderfully. We are going through First Peter verse by verse. Our discussions are deep and profound. We pray for one another and enjoy ice cream together when time permits. Several are back in college now, but the group will continue to meet for those who live locally.

Thank you to all who prayed for, and donated to, St Mark's Family Mission Trip. I have spoken to many on the trip who have been on previous ones, and they consider this to be the best mission trip yet because of all the hardships and adversities we faced due to Covid hitting the group. Instead of everything going great, the bottom fell out and we had a choice to make. We could sink into sadness, self-pity, whine, and think "woe is me." But we are not talking about any group. We are talking about young people and adults nurtured by St Mark. Every person committed it all to Christ. Every person grew by leaps and bounds in Christ. We could call the group the "overcomers." Every problem brought us closer to each other and forced us to rely on Christ. It is one week none of us will ever forget. We did all of the ministry work we possibly could do and then it became clear we had no choice but to return home a couple of days early. The evening where the young people shared their stories, all could see how the experience brought on new Christian growth. A special thank you to Mike Mol, whose tireless work made the trip possible in the first place. He had to make all of the difficult decisions of what to do once Covid hit. Our church has such great Christian leaders, and it is always good to thank God for them.

Confirmation begins this month, and I can't wait for it to start. Every week the students hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. This year we cover the New Testament and delve deeply into the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. When the children were baptized, they were unaware of what was taking place. In Confirmation they personally receive the truth of who Jesus is and His saving grace. Thank you, parents, for having your children in confirmation. You are being true to the promises you made to God and to the church when your children were baptized, to raise them in the admonition of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God Bless,

Pastor Breum

## FIRST FRIDAY SING AND PRAY!

God is still answering prayer!!! He is the same yesterday, today and forever! St. Mark Church has opened our doors with the opportunity to come together corporately and pray. We are so privileged to live in a country enabling us to pray openly and experience God's wonder working power. All are welcome to join Sing & Pray on Friday, September 2, 2022, from 7:00 to 8:00pm in the sanctuary.

Prayers are petitioned before our mighty Lord for world situations, our country, current events, our church, the lost, family, friends, and of course personal prayer requests. 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



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# MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

## Gathering or Sleeping

The summer of 2022 was a hot one in the Midwest. It was so hot that on many evenings when I needed to check the garden, I was reluctant: even at 6 PM it was still well in the 90s. And such humidity! It was tempting to ignore the garden.

On the other hand, when you work hard to put a garden in, it would be a shame to let the harvest go to waste: cucumbers, squash, okra, peppers, and tomatoes. So despite the heat, I usually mustered the oomph to get out the door, drag the dog out with me so he could suffer too, and pick what was ripe. Or pull weeds, prune and tie up the tomatoes, and scout for tomato worms or destructive insects.

I was reminded of my mental battle to tend the garden (or not) when I read this verse in Proverbs:

He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame (Prov. 10:5 ESV).

Other translations say much the same thing:

He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame (KJV).

He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son (NIV).

A wise youth harvests in the summer, but one who sleeps during harvest is a disgrace (NLT).

(Pro tip: would you like to be able to consult about five dozen translations of any Bible verse? Just go to [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com) and type in the verse or passage you want. Then click the link that lists your verse "in all English translations." It's like having a free library of dozens of Bibles!)

Proverbs teaches, in any translation, that when the harvest is ready, you need to harvest. To sleep (or stay inside with the AC) is shameful (ESV, KJV) or a disgrace (NIV, NLT).

Jesus said some important things about harvest. He said to pray for more workers, because the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few (Matthew 9:37–38). Jesus also said, "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest" (John 4:35).

In our walk with Christ, harvest refers to sowing the seed of the gospel message, and then reaping as God causes that seed to sprout, take root, and grow. Here are some examples of harvesting: Leading someone to personal faith in Christ. Reading the Bible, praying, and singing with our children because we have taught them to enjoy a time of daily family worship. Talking about things of the LORD with a Christian friend, and maybe praying together too. Learning about the Christian faith well enough that we can talk to others about it with hope and confidence.

We harvest whenever we go out into God's garden (which is the whole world) and live lives of love, service, and faithfulness wherever he has called us. In this case we are harvesting the benefits of his daily grace, protection, and leadership, fulfilling his will in our daily lives and witnessing to his presence by being salt and light in a world that is often bland and dark.

To return to Proverbs 10:5 above, "He who gathers in summer is a prudent son" means that as believers in Jesus Christ, we "gather" during the continual summer of his favor and care. Every day, hour, and minute, we have the privilege of devoting ourselves to Christ, conscious of his presence. To live fruitful lives, gathering as long as he grants us life, is prudent, pleases God, and benefits those we serve, love, and witness to.

By the same token, "He who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame" is a label we want to avoid. This is not talking about our nightly rest, which God grants and blesses--Psalms 4:8 says, "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety." Sleeping in harvest means failing to live our lives engaged in the pursuit of Christ. It means missing out on the opportunity to grow daily in God's grace. It means neglecting our call to love and serve others. It means failing to exercise the spiritual disciplines needed to sustain such loving and serving.

So: the garden is growing. It is prudent to ask: am I gathering or sleeping?

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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 minutes.

## Council Highlights August 2022

In the works are a new Spiritual Gifts workshop, a Spiritual Gifts class to meet during Sunday School hour, and a Bible Study class open to all, with the first study being Spiritual Gifts.

Bids have been received from 2 services to begin cleaning our buildings this fall; motion carried to sign a contract with Stratus Building Solutions, pending reference checks.

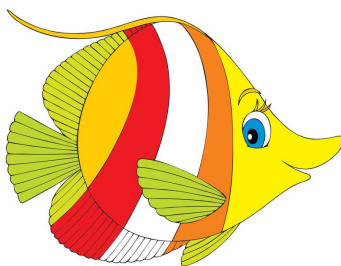
Mortgage Payoff Celebration - Piñatas have been purchased for the picnic on August 21. Plans are progressing to incorporate the ribbon cutting ceremony into Rally Day festivities. Rally Day is scheduled for Sunday September 11, 2022.

Security Camera status update - Cameras are installed on both buildings. Training will be completed ASAP for cameras to go live.

The 2023 Spending Plan (annual budget) was approved for the Annual Meeting on November 13th. Copies of the approved plan will be available to the congregation 30 days prior to the meeting.

A motion carried to allocate \$2,000 of the Council Discretion Benevolence to Samaritan's Purse for the Kentucky flooding relief.

2023 Council nomination process opened August 13; positions to be filled are President, Secretary, one Elder and one Trustee.



### Fin Facts

## What Do Our Tithes Pay?

Now that we have the mortgage on the Education Center paid in full, the percentage of certain expenses have changed. What does our tithing pay, you may ask? Through the first 7 months of the year the majority of our donations (61%) goes to paying staff salaries: Pastor, Administrator, Bookkeeper, Worship Leader, Maintenance Assistant, etc. This percentage is due to go up next fiscal year if the church is successful in calling a Co-Pastor.

Property Management, which includes the cost of utilities, amounts to 16% of our total expenses, followed by Benevolence (11%), Administrative Expenses (3%), Parish Ed (3%), Congregational Life (1.8%), and Worship & Music (1.6%).

	<u>2022 Budgeted Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>2022 Actual Unrestricted Offerings</u>
Month of July	\$ 58,950	\$ 53,118
January - July	\$ 422,550	\$ 368,039

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

“Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.”

Colossians 4:2 NLT

### Praying for Life Choices and more...

As summer begins to fade into fall, the transition of the seasons is upon us. It is also the time of year when life choices past, present and those impending, manifest themselves. Over time our choices increasingly narrow as we make key life decisions - school choices, career choices, marriage choices, etc. aiming to make a “first class” life for ourselves. Teens struggle to know who am I; where did I come from; what's my purpose; what happens after I die? Adults too, can continue to struggle with the same questions, especially when earlier choices fail to deliver the expected outcomes. Today's worldly culture is peddling life choices too - bad ideas, deceitful choices, misleading worldviews that are creating sufferers, victims and death rather than a “life that is full and good.”



You ask, “What can I do?” Pray for those teens and seekers in your family, your neighborhood, St. Mark Church who are searching for answers. Especially those with whom you already have a relationship. Ask the Father to send them your way. Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare you with His words of wisdom. Prepare for unexpected interruptions. Listen closely to their comments and questions. Ask probing questions to help them to think critically. “What do you seek?” “How do you hope to achieve it?” “Have you the knowledge and wisdom to *always* make the best choices?” What results have your former choices given you? How are your friends' choices working out? Who can counsel you to make the best choices? Who do you think can guide you now and in your future to *always* make healthy choices physically, emotionally and spiritually? Would you be interested in learning how to make better choices and have a good life? “When you want to talk more, I am here for you. How can I pray for you?”

Continue in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to work in those He sends to you. Pray for yourself to guide those who He places in your path. These prayers will be heard, listened to by our Lord, for we *know* He calls all to glorify Him by doing His will and making disciples.

*John 10:10 MSG Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again. “I’ll be explicit, then. I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep rustlers, every one of them. But the sheep didn’t listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.*

### Ongoing Opportunities for Prayer

*First Friday Sing and Pray* beginning Friday, September 2 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary for praise and worship followed by prayer. See full announcement in this September 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. We have returned to in-person meeting in the Fellowship Hall. 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).

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## 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, met up at RJs for dinner and helped out with FMSC. We are working on more get togethers as we head into the fall. 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)

## Women's Bible Studies returning!!!

**Wednesday Morning:**  
**Leader: Joy Gajda**

Study will begin: Wednesday,  
September 14th - 9:30-10:30

We will be studying, Now that Faith Has  
Come: A Study of Galatians by Beth  
Moore.

For further information, please contact  
Joy Gajda @ [joygajda@gmail.com](mailto:joygajda@gmail.com).



**Sunday morning:**  
**Leaders: Janet Breum and  
Tricia Summerson**

**During the Sunday School hour in  
the Ed Ctr. Beginning Sept 18th.**

We're continuing 40 Days through the  
Bible by Lysa Terkeurst.

Women should bring their own book  
(what they were already using, or  
purchase a copy off of Amazon or  
website of their choice).  
All Women are welcome!!!

## 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 opened on 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 nominations are now open:

**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



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## ***“Well ... at least we had Monday!”***

After 6 days, 13 hours and 29 minutes, and 5265 miles in two vans, the Alamosa Mission Trip of 2022 came to an end – unfortunately the end came two days early. We left with tons of excitement but returned with some disappointment. Because of Covid, we had to cut our trip short and head home early. We know this article will appear in The Voice after our “Mission Trip Review Night” but for those who missed that night, here is a synopsis of what happened.

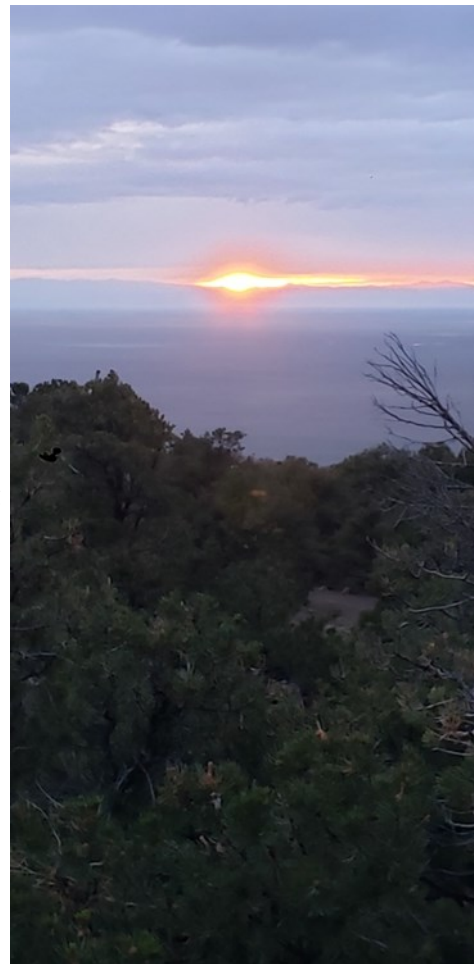
After a nice send off, including communion, we hit the road early Saturday morning, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, on our way to a stopover in York, NE. After a pretty uneventful first day, our second day gave us a chance to stop in Buffalo Bill territory for lunch and a nice picture stop. For those of you who think parts of Kansas and Nebraska are flat and boring, you’ve never seen eastern Colorado. As we got closer to our final destination, the land got to be flatter and more barren than we could imagine! But then came the mountains!!! Alamosa is in the center of the San Luis Valley, but it is surrounded by mountains – one reaches *ONLY* 14,022 feet in elevation, another gets up to 14,266 feet, and the third touches 14,351 feet (Colorado’s fourth highest peak)!! To say the least, quite a difference for us Flatlanders. Alamosa is a town of about 10,000 people where about 25% of the inhabitants are below the poverty line.

YouthWorks, the organization we go through to organize the actual *mission* work part of the trip, runs a very well organized and thought-out program. So after a quick Sunday night dinner, orientation, and our first Gathering – a nightly group worship setting – it’s off to bed for an early Monday morning awakening. The 15 members of St. Mark that went on the trip were put together as one work crew – the Mountaineers – but then got split up Monday morning with one part painting a room in an elderly woman’s house and the other part helping a Catholic church dispose of some sound proofing material – the painting crew got off easy that morning!! We ate lunch together in a town park that actually had the Rio Grande River running through it. Walking up to it, for those of us that were old enough to see the movie, we were expecting to see John Wayne, Maureen O’Hara, and a big, wide, raging river! Well – we didn’t see any of this since the river starts up in the mountains west of Alamosa, the “big river” wasn’t very impressive but at least we can say we saw it!! One of us can actually say he fished in it!!! After lunch, we got to work as a group and helped with some outside yard work at a very nice and expansive piece of property right along the Rio Grande.

Another split in the group occurred after dinner when some of us went to the local swimming pool, while the other group went to Zapata Falls, about 25 miles outside Alamosa. While the time at the pool was fun and refreshing, the trip to the falls was amazing! First, you have to get to the parking lot via a winding road up the foothills of a small mountain. Then you must walk another mile or so *up hill* to get to an ice-cold creek, which was, luckily when we visited, only a foot or less deep because you need to walk in this creek to see the falls, which are *INSIDE* the mountain! Yes – it was worth it!!! To say the least, we all slept well that night.

Tuesday started off bright and early full of excitement and after breakfast, we were off to help at Alamosa’s Senior Citizen Center, which is a beautiful facility for the more-mature people in the valley. We cleaned up their bus, weeded their flower beds, washed some tables, polished some of their silver (YES – you read that right!), and one of us even had ear acupuncture – ask Pastor about that experience. But during all of this, we noticed one of our young men just wasn’t himself so off to find a drug store to pick up a Covid test kit. Sure enough – he tested positive! So back to the same drugstore to pick up enough kits for all of us to test. We sure must have been a sight – in a public park, 14 of us sitting around separate tables sticking Q-tips up our noses! We then found out one more of our young men had Covid so while the rest of the group went back to work at another site, YouthWorks gets notified, personal belongings are collected, and a hotel room is found to isolate our two young Covid’ers. To say the least, our group’s worship time that night wasn’t the happiest. Tuesday night also had us visit a local historical museum – very interesting – and a local arcade place – very fun!

Wednesday started off with another round of Covid tests – no positives! After checking in with our 2 sickies to see if they were OK and having a nice talk with them in the hotel parking lot, it was off to lunch for the rest of us at a local “landmark” – The Secret Garden and Grotto. If you are ever in Alamosa, you need to check this place out! A local man and wife built, in their own backyard amidst the arid landscape of the area, this lush and beautiful garden that includes wandering paths with tunnels, a coy pond, 2 or 3 picnic areas, and yes – its own little grotto. After lunch we went back to the place we were at Monday afternoon, and helped with more landscaping.



*Continued on Page 12*



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

I know by the time you read this, it'll be in past tense but for now, I'm looking forward to our church picnic next Sunday and hope to see many of you there. Our Congregational Life committee is again bringing this all together for us and we thank them for all the fun we have as a result of all the prep work they do. Shawn Frank, Donna Bergl and Tricia Cholewinski, thank you! As a special treat as we continue to celebrate paying off our mortgage this year, we'll have 2 piñatas, one in the shape of a dollar sign to appropriately batter away at like we did financially for so many years. And how great is it to have the picnic on our property where the community can see how much fun we have together. Planting seeds.

The third and final celebration of our mortgage payoff is coming on Rally Day when we open the Ed Center to all after a ribbon cutting ceremony before Sunday School, to acknowledge being debt free on that building. Many of you have never been inside or have never seen the lower level and we invite you to come and see where our kids meet for Sunday School, where our Youth Group meets to hang out, and all the fabulous space we have by God's grace to follow His lead into the future.

The Rummage Sale was another smashing success, thanks to all who helped but especially to Laurie Kerns, who has been coordinating this event for some 25 years. This is the first year I spent as much time helping as I did and I had a blast!!! Seeing it come to life as a result of so many wonderful people in our congregation who devote an hour, a day, a week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks or whatever time they have. Well, it's just a tremendous amount of fun to spend time with everyone because we all have the same goal, to make this the best community event ever and show all those who shop just what a wonderful place St. Mark is. Thank you, Laurie Kerns and all those who helped make this happen by God's grace. There's no doubt of that. He does make it happen and again, He's working where we can't see, in the hearts of many who are shopping for treasures to help them find the REAL treasure: HIM.

And....thank you, HIS ministry and others who helped renew the appearance of our gazebo. Some handy carpentry work, a fresh coat of paint and a beautiful Saturday morning brought a lot of good fun and fellowship to all of you. We are truly blessed.

If you haven't completed your Spiritual Gifts profile, please consider doing so to help us understand the strengths of our congregation. The profiles are on the table in the narthex under the bulletin board. You may already be involved in the life of the church and are afraid you'll be asked to do more but that's not the process. It's simply to help understand the spiritual gifts God has given each of us individually so they can be used for His glory. I want what Erma Bombeck said: "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would have not a single bit of talent left and could say 'I used everything You gave me.' "



Wishing you and your families a wonderful time of transition into the fall season, watching God's artistry in the leaves changing colors and breathtaking sunsets. He is King of kings and Lord of lords. Imagine, the creator of the universe is listening to you every time you speak, knows every thought in your minds and knows the number of hairs on your head. There are billions of us and He knows each one intimately. He is the Alpha and the Omega, God transcendent and immanent, the Almighty, worthy of ALL our praise.

Blessings to you.

Joni Wasmund



The PADS season is fast approaching. We need many volunteers to make this happen. The homeless will be at our church every Friday night starting Oct. 7th Thru April 30th. **We are in desperate need of first shift site managers.** If you can help working the site or providing food, please contact Laurie Kerns at 847-612-1510 or Jill Decker at 847-445-7502. See the August Voice for information on what is required on each shift. Volunteers do not need to be members of St. Mark. Help spread the word, grab a friend or neighbor and sign up for a shift. Info on how to sign up online will be coming soon. Without our dedicated volunteers, many people will be sleeping in the cold. You can also make a monetary donation to the Pads fund to help buy supplies.

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

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### **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-Coordination left a complete binder with helpful guidelines, calendar, curricula and ideas. Parish Ed is also always there to help.

### **Teachers & Substitute Teachers**

- Praise God, we have all of our Sunday School teacher positions filled so that we may have a blessed and exciting year!
- We are always looking for members or anybody interested in joining us in leading our future church through the ministry of children and youth. If interested, or just need to ask questions, please reach out to Stephanie Flores, Sunday School Coordinator, at [stmarksunschool@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksunschool@gmail.com).

### **Important Dates**

August 29th - Sunday School Registration Opened Online (visit [www.smlc.info](http://www.smlc.info))

September 11th - Welcome Back Rally Day!

September 18th - Official first day in classrooms



### **Confirmation 2022/2023 Reminder**

Welcome Confirmation Students!  
First night of class is September 7<sup>th</sup>:  
5:30 - 6:15 - Second year students  
6:30 - 7:15 - First year students

### ***AN INVITATION!***

I have noticed that those going to the traditional service and the contemporary service don't even know each other! I personally saw someone at the early service one day and welcomed them to St. Mark, just to be told they were members here but usually attend the later service! I certainly felt foolish, but it got me thinking that we are really only connected by the fact we are members of St. Mark...but there it ends!



If I may suggest we try to find a common ground...which might be Fellowship hour! Unfortunately, it might take more effort on the part of those going to the contemporary service!! If those going to the later service would come a bit early...say 9:30...and join us for coffee, donuts, and fellowship time, we could get to know each other!!! This might be especially easy for those dropping kids off for Sunday School.

Consider this your personal invite to Fellowship time every Sunday!!

I would love to meet my fellow members!!!

Gae Michal



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# ***Growing in Christ***

Coming this Fall, 2022

## **Mama Bear Apologetics; Empowering Your Kids to Challenge Cultural Lies**

Do you have the right tools to teach your children to reject cultural lies?

Please consider joining us to prepare yourself and your children to deal with today's secular culture both in and out of school by reading and discussing the following book:

Mama Bear Apologetics; Empowering Your Kids to Challenge Cultural Lies by Hillary Morgan Ferrer

It's easy to feel overwhelmed and underprepared when today's world has your children asking questions about everything from moral relativity, to cultural Marxism, to whether or not God really exists. Yet as a parent, you want to have the wisdom necessary to help them understand these concepts from a biblical perspective.

This is the book you've been looking for. This mom-to-mom guide will equip you to teach your kids how to form their own biblical beliefs about what is true and what is false. Through transparent life stories and clear, practical applications—including prayer strategies—this band of Mama Bears offers you tools to train yourself, so you can turn around and train your kids.

Are you ready to answer the rallying cry, "Mess with our kids and we will demolish your arguments"? Join the Mama Bears and raise your voice to protect your kids—by teaching them how to think through and address the issues head-on, yet with gentleness and respect.

AND

Mama Bear Apologetics; Empowering Your Kids to Challenge Cultural Lies Study Guide by  
Hillary Morgan Ferrer

This informative companion to the bestselling book Mama Bear Apologetics® will familiarize you with the secular world views your children encounter on a daily basis, and equip you to build the foundation of faith and knowledge needed to rebuke these ideas. This workbook will help you...

- Gain a clear grasp of the issues that prevail in today's society, while better understanding how God wants you to see them
- Sharpen your critical thinking skills

Effectively counter non-biblical viewpoints with truth, gentleness, and respect

Knowing what is true is the best way to argue against what is false. The Mama Bear Apologetics® Study Guide will ready you to be confident in your understanding of God's truth and prepared to stand for its reliability.

For more information check out <https://mamabearapologetics.com>.

Mama Bear Apologetics Book, Kindle, \$9.29; Paperback, \$11.79, Hobby Lobby, \$8.49

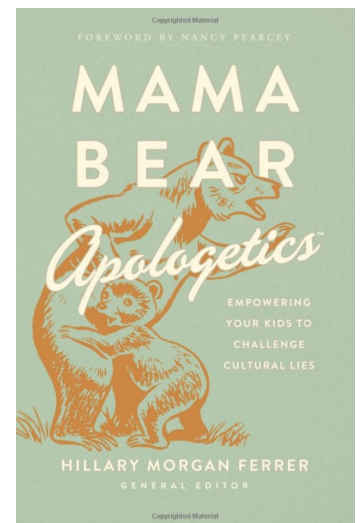
Mama Bear Apologetics Study Guide Kindle, \$10.42; Paperback, \$10.97 save on used books

If the cost is prohibitive, please let me know.

Facilitated by Barb Ewert, District #41 Middle School teacher 1989-2005, Lake Villa School Board member, 1982-1989, Substitute teacher 2006-present Grayslake High School District #127, St. Mark Sunday School teacher, mid-90's to early 2000's, *Growing in Christ* and other studies facilitator late 2000's to present. Currently serving with the Colson Fellows West Chicago Suburbs Cohort leadership 2016 to present.

Mother of 5, (one former foster child), Grandmother of 10; Great Grandmother of 2 and Foster Mom to about 28 teenage boys and one young man currently attending College of Lake County, 1994 to present.

Contact Barb Ewert, 1-847-514-5487; [b1182ray@aol.com](mailto:b1182ray@aol.com). Signup sheet will be posted near Fellowship hallway. Location and times in weekend announcements - late August/early September.



## **Rummage Sale 2022!!!!**

**\$20,978.41**

**And Fun!**

That was the end result, but how did we get there?

4 weeks of collection. 3-1/2 weeks of set up. 3 days of sale. Done.

Sounds easy...and it really is when you have the best crew ever. I wish I could highlight each person separately but that would take another 3 weeks and I might forget someone, so here is a generic recap.

4 weeks of collection is accomplished with the help of our office staff letting people in and answering many questions, our small 2-man faithful pick-up crew driving all over and loading and unloading tons of great treasures, a small crew that came every few days to sort and pre-price donations, move items to the Ed Center and clean out unsalable items.

3 1/2 weeks of set up was done by an awesome mixed crew of young and old, newbies and seasoned rummagers. Day after day they hung clothes, emptied boxes, priced, sorted books, set up tables, took out garbage, and any other job that needed to be done.

3 days of sale is where everything comes together. Our cashiers, floor help, counters, food donators, bakers and clean-up crews welcome shoppers, keep the sale organized, and return the church to looking like we were never here.

And you ask "Where is the fun?" Everywhere...each thing above was filled with fun. All of us said this was one of the best sales ever. We joked and laughed and helped each other wherever needed. Having way less donations than usual made it easier to get everything set up and shoppable for the sale. And it worked. We received more compliments this year than all other years combined. Shopper after shopper kept telling us how great our sale looked and how good our prices were. They kept telling us how they can't wait for our sale each year. One lady shopping with her mom said her mom comes from New York each year for our sale. We all felt so much love from everyone. I personally felt so much love from so many in our congregation who were not a part the sale but told me how much they appreciated all we were doing. It really gives us strength and joy to hear that. We hope those new to the sale will return next year. If you didn't join us this year, come join the fun next year. So, to everyone who was a part of the sale in anyway, Thank You So Much! This is a large joint project that couldn't be done without all of you. I love and appreciate all of you more than you will ever know. Rest up and see you in July.

Thanks, Laurie Kerns



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### **Mission Trip** Continued from Page 8

Besides being a very gracious host, the daughter of the elderly couple who owned this land had a lot of work for us to do!!

After a quick dinner, we were off to a place that is very hard to describe – Great Sand Dunes National Park. As you drive to this park, tucked along a mountain range, you see this pile of sand just getting bigger and bigger and bigger. These dunes are the tallest sand dunes in North America but for our group, they were the tallest one's EVER!! You look at them and expect to see Luke Skywalker and R2-D2 come over the ridge in their Landspeeder – very, very surreal. The dunes are big enough that you bring pieces of cardboard with you and slide down the sides of the dunes like we do sledding here during the winter. Some of the group made it to the top but all of us were just amazed at where we were. On the way home, being out in the middle of nowhere, we stopped and got out of the van to look at the stars. We saw more sand AND more stars that night than we had ever seen before – God is a wonderful Creator of beauty.

Thursday morning started with another round of tests and unfortunately – 2 more of us tested positive. Even though we only had one more day to go, we decided to pull up our tent stakes and head back home. Before leaving though, near one of the churches we stayed at was a local day care center called PALS (Positive Activities Lead to Success) and this is where the offering collected during St. Mark's VBS was donated. About \$350 donated will help out 5 to 9 year old Alamosa children who are combating trauma or instability in their home lives. What a perfect place to donate to – thank you to all the kids who gave to the offering during VBS!

AND THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO SUPPORTED OUR TRIP WITH PRAYER AND/OR DONATIONS!! So after two long and relatively uneventful days, we returned to St. Mark safe and sound. Through your support and with all the ups and downs, we still considered this trip a "success". We didn't serve as many people as we wanted to, but with those we served we showed authentic love (this year's YouthWorks Mission Trip motto). This trip will be remembered by all of us for a long, long time so, if you run into any of us, please ask us about our memories and what we thought about the land and the people of Alamosa, CO. From the following people, we thank St. Mark again SO MUCH for everything you did to support our trip. God is good all the time, and all the time God is good!

**Amya Appelt, Ayla Appelt, Pastor Breum, Jackson Chaffee, Dawn Cherry, Ethan Cossey, Barb Griffith, Sophia Griffith, Abbey Johnson, Logan Johnson, Luke Johnson, Ava Klein, Olivia Kveton, Sara Lunkenheimer, and Mike Mol**

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

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## 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 September are **Cereal and Pasta**. Any nonperishable food is gladly accepted.

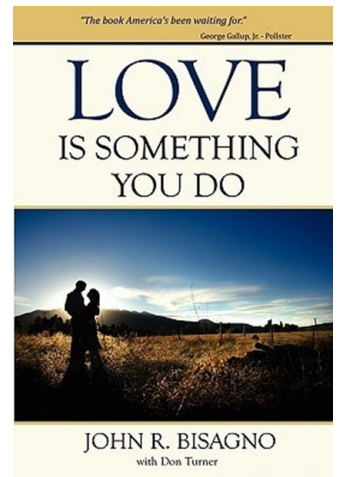
If you have any questions about OAM please contact Ron Placko at [rdplacko@comcast.net](mailto:rdplacko@comcast.net) or 847.404.3304.



## Love Is Something You Do

This month's featured book is directed toward married couples. Moonlight and roses have a way of turning into dishpans and diapers. Our society and the media have been telling us that love is just a feeling. The reality is that it is so much more in light of God's grace. This book is your guide to discovering that Love Is Something You Do.

This 35th Anniversary Edition of Love is Something You Do by John R. Bisagno has been revised and expanded with 12 new chapters.



### In it you will discover:

- \* How to fall in love with your spouse again
- \* God's plan for sex between husband and wife
- \* Getting the most out of your marriage
- \* What to do after the affair
- \* The Incompatibility Myth

"Martin Luther said, 'A man can become more like Christ in a marriage than in a monastery.' How true. Marriage chisels us in the image of Jesus with every decision of faithfulness and commitment. This book will help to shape you and your spouse. Let Dr. Bisagno speak from the heart of a faithful husband and effective pastor to guide your marriage to be all that God desires." - Pastor Gregg Matte, Pastor, Houston's First Baptist Church

You can find this book under call number 248.4 BIS.

"Stephen Ministry is still here at St. Mark! We provide one-on-one Christ-centered care to people in our congregation and our community who are experiencing life difficulties.

We are here to listen and support you during times of grief, job loss, financial difficulties, family caregiver/end of life stress, and other life altering events, including military deployment of a loved one, pregnancy/birth, miscarriage, or infertility. If you are experiencing a stressful, life-changing event, please contact our Stephen Ministry Leaders who can provide a referral to connect you with a Stephen Minister. We will also be recruiting for a new Stephen Ministry training class in the near future. Please prayerfully consider whether the Spiritual Gifts that you have been given could be used to glorify the Lord and assist in caring for our St. Mark and community members.



**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

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**September 10th / Saturday / 7am Breakfast /  
8am Training / 9:30am Adjourn**

While most of our giving has helped those around us, in August we decided to give back to our host church, St Mark / Lindenhurst, IL. St Mark allows us free use of the building including access to the kitchen and meeting rooms.

We had some of our regulars, but we were also blessed with others as they joined us for our Gazebo renovation and landscaping prep work. May God bless the work of our hands, may he shine His glorious light on all those who gather here at the Gazebo on Grand to study, ponder, and worship! Amen and Amen

Join in person or via zoom on the **2nd Saturday of the month**, 7am Food, 8am Training, 9:30am Adjourn. (Men aged 15+). Become part of something good. We always have room for one more man. Send your contact information to [Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com](mailto:Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com) or Text 847-271-8632, to Get Plugged In.



Bringing generosity  
to life



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

**Supporting Kentucky** - Devastating flooding has struck multiple Kentucky counties, affecting more than 100,000 people. Strong floodwaters have left behind catastrophic damage impacting the lives and livelihoods of many people.

Thrivent is coming alongside you to help those in need. Here's how:

- Make a donation; Thrivent will boost it.
- Apply to lead a Thrivent Action Team
- Direct Choice Dollars®

### Personal Donations

Through our online giving platform, you can make personal donations to help people affected by natural disasters. With over 45,000 organizations enrolled in our program, you are bound to find one that you are passionate about.

Donate online and Thrivent will boost it! For every \$2 you donate through Thrivent's online giving platform to one of the organizations listed below, Thrivent will add \$1 up to \$100,000. Thrivent will also pay all the processing fees so 100% will go directly to the cause.

- Christian Appalachian Project: <https://thrivent.cotribute.co/events/676316/detail>
- Convoy of Hope: <https://thrivent.cotribute.co/events/676315/detail>
- Lutheran Disaster Response: <https://thrivent.cotribute.co/events/67313/detail>

Copy the link in your browser to get to the individual fundraiser!

"Our clients always band together in tough times, and we are honored to come alongside them to help support disaster victims." **Teresa Rasmussen | Thrivent President and CEO**

**Expressing generosity adds up. Our clients and employees routinely step up to help others.**

**\$238M**  
raised and donated by  
Thrivent, clients and  
others in 2021

**10.7M**  
hours  
volunteered  
in 2021

**WORLD'S MOST  
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Thrivent was named one of the  
"World's Most Ethical  
Companies" by the Ethisphere  
Institute 11 years in a row

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

September 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**  
9/13/22, 10/11/22, 11/8/22



# 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**  
9/15/22, 10/20/22, 11/17/22

**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).

**Divine Signs** is Lake County's 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 Lutheran Church** in Lindenhurst, IL. Simply mention St. Mark, 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.

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

Kevin and Tracy Graul

Phone or text: (224) 223-2786

Facebook.com/DivineSigns3.16

Instagram@Divinesigns3.16

DivineSigns.godaddysites.com

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



**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

September 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  
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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)

**OCTOBER VOICE DEADLINE:**  
**September 15, 2022**

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