

Love • Grow  
**WORSHIP**  
Share • Serve  
St. Mark Lutheran Church

# The **VOICE**

## OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2022

### *President's Notes*

By Joni Wasmund



I'm looking forward to our Annual Meeting between services in a couple of weeks on Sunday, November 13, and hope to see you there. We'll open the meeting at 9:10 a.m., review and discuss the Council's proposed spending plan for 2023, accept the 2023 Council candidates and discuss the Council recommended Bylaw change that will allow the Officers of the Board to serve as many consecutive terms as the congregation chooses to have them serve. All the documents are available in the narthex for you to pick up and review prior to the meeting. Please read the committee reports and be amazed at all that has been accomplished this year by God's grace.

It's always helpful in the interest of our meeting time if I can be proactive in answering your questions so please let me know what's on your mind.

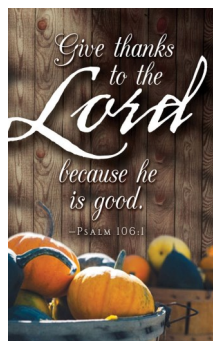
If you routinely worship on Saturday evenings or 10:30 Sundays, please consider tweaking your Sunday morning routine just a tad to attend the Annual Meeting. Your presence to hear discussion and know what's planned for the future of St. Mark is vital to being an engaged member of the congregation. Three services can so easily result in 3 congregations and we need to do whatever we can to try to remain as one St. Mark Lutheran Church.

I hope you hear my heart asking you to join us so we can be a strong, loving, caring church family. The sermon this morning (10/15/22) was about restoring relationships and my prayer is that relationships would be restored for any one of us who, for one reason or another, doesn't feel they're a significant part of the St. Mark family, perhaps due to unintended (and unknown) hurt by another. When I think of our congregation, I picture a gigantic jigsaw puzzle, each piece reflecting the face of one of our members. Lately there are more missing pieces than there had been before and I'm saddened by the absence of so many. WE MISS YOU!

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**Thanksgiving Service**  
**Wednesday,**  
**November 23rd**  
**At 7:00PM**  
**Pie Social to follow in fellowship hall**



**Save the Date!**  
**Sunday, November 13, 2022**  
**@9:10am**  
**Annual Reports and Proposed 2023 Budget are available in the Narthex.**

#### **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 Dec/Jan edition of *The Voice* is **November 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**  
November 2022



## ST. MARK COUNCIL

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### ORGANIST/TRADITIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR

Open Position

### NURSERY COORDINATOR

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### MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

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**Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, November 8th @ 7:00PM  
**Next Committee Meetings:** Tuesday, November 15th @ 7:00PM

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November 2022

# From the Desk of Pastor Breum

Dear Friends,

**John 1:16 (TLB)** <sup>16</sup> *We have all benefited from the rich blessings he brought to us—blessing upon blessing heaped upon us!*

Getting away for several days, a much-needed vacation, my perspective of serving here at St Mark was reenergized supernaturally by God's Holy Spirit. My former professor at Gordon-Conwell, Dr. Gordon Fee, wrote the following and I love it. "The Holy Spirit is God's empowering Presence. It is the animating energy we draw on through relationship with God."

While away I spent the first 4 days with our youngest, Johnny. This included 2 softball games and 2 soccer matches. I witnessed my son hit his first infield home run. The softball did not go over the fence and stayed in the field. He was able to round all the bases and make it home without being thrown out. I yelled, "That's my son!" I even teared up a little bit because I was so blessed by God to be there at that particular moment. I have watched him involved in baseball/softball for 21 years. Later a friend told me it was not appropriate to yell, "that's my son" since he is an adult. I'm still glad I yelled it and thank God for that moment between father and son. He saw how proud I was of him. Yes, I'm even proud when he strikes out. I watched a total of 4 softball games and enjoyed every second of them.

The above verse talks about blessings that are given to us by Christ. God has blessed my wife and I with four children, all blessings from God. We have also been given by God a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, and now a granddaughter. Being away from the pastorate for a short time and having alone time made God's blessings upon me and my family clearer than ever.

I like this definition of blessing. "Enrichment beyond normal quality." I spent time in prayer for St Mark. I sense God's blessing upon our church. I thought of specific people (who shall not be named), whose witness of Christ is so bright. I thought of the deep friendships that so many of you have with each other and how blessed you are with that closeness.

Returning to St. Mark, I want to be used of God to be a blessing to as many people as possible. Each of us has choices to make when we see each other. I am asking myself, "Am I being a blessing or a curse (a downer)?" The blessings that Jesus has for us are far more than we can count or even recognize. We have received all the spiritual blessings in the high places Colossians tells us. Sometimes it takes getting away and having alone time to see how great God's blessings all around us are. To all who are reading this, I sincerely hope I am a blessing to you. You have all been a blessing to me.

With Much Love,

Pastor Breum



## Friday Night Sing & Pray

God is still in the business of answering prayer!!! He loves you and knows every hair on your head! Do you need a little encouragement? Have you been struggling spiritually? Have you been feeling anxious, fearful, or hopeless? Come join Sing & Prayer to receive personal prayer and participate in the opportunity to lift others up in prayer. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Hallelujah! What a mighty God we serve!

Sing & Pray will be meeting on Friday, Nov. 4 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in the church sanctuary. Please 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 would like to keep the gathering informal. Pray what 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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November 2022



# MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

## Grace to Continue

As a teacher of adult students, I encounter many tired people. Most seminary students work to support themselves and their families. Their studies demand long hours. Some work a night shift, then show up for class at 8:30 AM. They fight sleep until class is over and they can get home for a nap. I understand if they nod off in class.

People are tired because life is hard. It takes effort to overcome obstacles. But God gives us tools to motivate and refresh us. What are some of those tools? Here are six that occur to me.

1. Isaiah speaks of waiting on God to renew our strength. "Waiting" here means having faith, looking to him, serving him, not giving up when we are tempted to quit: "They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).
2. But don't overlook the nightly gift of sleep! Sometimes we're worn out and we just need to turn off the TV and our personal devices and hit the sack. The Psalmist reminds us that sleep is a gift from God: "It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep" (Psalm 127:2).
3. For that matter, besides sleep, there are common sense things like diet, exercise, and recreation. All of us need balance in everyday activities. These are among the many things "that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth" (1 Tim 4:3).
4. What else does God provide to motivate and refresh us? Paul wrote to Philemon, "Refresh my heart in Christ" (Philemon 20). Sometimes it is people around us who refresh us. Years ago I stopped by McDonald's on Grand Avenue east of Sand Lake Road. A sizable crowd of St. Mark people were shooting the breeze and drinking coffee. I seem to remember Bruce Young saying, "This is St. Mark East!" Maybe I'm dreaming that.

But for sure they were having a good time. Fellowship with others and especially fellow believers can be uplifting and just plain fun.

5. Sometimes we are dragged down from a sense of failure and self-pity. What may help here is gratitude. The Bible contains the words "give thanks" 59 times (ESV)! Thanks can cancel out uncertainty or resentment. It can renew our sense of wonder at God's love, forgiveness, protection, and direction.

6. I have to admit that there is one thing above all others that God uses to say to me, "Yarbrough, what are you whining about?" It is stories like these:

Some weeks ago a newspaper called the Morning Star News in Kampala, Uganda, reported what happened on August 10 to five Ugandan church planters. They struck up a conversation about Jesus the Son of God with Muslims on a ferry boat on Lake Kyoga.

The Muslims, ten in number to the church planters' five, threw them overboard. They all drowned. They have joined the martyrs beneath God's heavenly altar (Revelation 6:9). Let us right here commemorate the names of these brothers and sisters: Ankunda, 44; Peter Agaba, 28; Juliet Ashaba, 39; Johnson Karungi, 27; and Julius Lweere, 52.

As John writes in Revelation 14:13: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

When I am tired and read an account like that, something changes inside. Maybe it's partly adrenalin. But it may also be God's way of changing my outlook so that I receive a fresh infusion of grace from him. In Scripture we read, "It is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace" (Hebrews 13:9). God can use the bravery and steadfastness of our brethren elsewhere to recharge us.

That's exactly what Peter wrote to churches of his day as they faced perilous and exhausting circumstances. I leave his exhortation to those churches with you for the next time you feel lax and listless (1 Peter 4:9–10):

Resist [the devil], firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

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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 October 2022

Approved Mission Trip 2023 to Logan County, West Virginia, July 15-22

Recommendations of 2023 Benevolence recipients were approved pending the completed financial vetting of Allendale:

- LCMC
- Compassion International Sponsorship (1 child)
- Allendale
- Behind the Walls
- Feed My Starving Children
- Kindred Life
- St Mark Mission Trip
- Open Arms Mission
- A Safe Place
- PADS
- First Lutheran – Bob Yarbrough Mission
- Council Discretionary Fund

Benevolence for the remainder of 2022 was approved to reroute from Cup of Cold Water to WYAM, upon word that Rhonda Haynes' full focus on her Dissertation resulted in her missionary work being suspended. WYAM is a Christian organization that has been instrumental in helping Ukrainians in Romania since the unrest began in February 2022. St. Mark has contributed funding several times this year to this organization.

\$2000 was approved to send to Samaritan's Purse from the Council Discretionary Benevolence fund on behalf of Florida and Puerto Rico flooding restoration.

Discussion re: St. Mark's invitation to join the Lindenhurst/Lake Villa/Round Lake Chamber; decision was deferred until the November Council meeting pending discussion with the Men's Ministry group. Membership would bring significant opportunity for outreach in the community.

St. Mark's Privacy Policy was reviewed and approved with revisions regarding the acceptance of cookies in light of our efforts to expand our Social Media footprint.

Todd Stickney's resignation as Elder was accepted with regrets.



### Fellowship Opportunity

Come join us on Sunday, November 20th during the fellowship hour. In an effort to promote broader fellowship and bring our 3 congregations together as one, Tracy Graul has offered to cook up some yummy biscuits and gravy. Please consider coming and spending a little time with your St. Mark family. Hang out with those you know and get to know those you don't!



### Many Hands Make Light Work!

Volunteers are needed to assist with snow shoveling this winter. If you are willing to help, please contact Deb Zuchowski at [deb@smlc.info](mailto:deb@smlc.info) or Jim Schaufel at [james.schaufel@yahoo.com](mailto:james.schaufel@yahoo.com)

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

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

*"Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."*

## 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Last month I was invited by my daughter for a Parents Weekend at my granddaughter's high school nestled in the rolling hills of northwestern Massachusetts. This is at the peak of the Fall Foliage in New England and our last of such trips since our daughter's family is relocating to Southern California.



This year the vibrant mix of oranges, yellows, reds, and blue horizons on the landscapes reminded me again of God's love of beauty reflected in His handiwork. At Saturday's lunch a parent of my granddaughter's friend set her plate down and quietly prayed over her meal. Not a short prayer either. A sharp reminder that I had not taken the time for my own blessings in public! Not just for the food, but for health, family, friends, and school parents from last year sharing parenting experiences and our faith as well. Not only that realization, but I had a looming deadline for an article on prayer to complete for the November *Voice*. In hindsight, I had prayed for guidance on what to write about prayer. So His answer was my lived experience. His perfect timing and sense of humor and love to make His point to me ; it is not just thanksgiving, but gratitude.

Just as Israel had numerous themes and festivals to help them “remember.” It’s a motif throughout the Hebrew Bible: Do not forget!

Moses, in Deuteronomy 8, laid out the importance of remembering this iconic text on gratitude. *Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.* (Deuteronomy 8:11–14, emphasis added)

So to avoid an attitude of ingratitude:

- Deliverance in the past. 2 Timothy 2:8, Psalm 136:1
- Benefits in the present. 1 Corinthians 4:7
- Promises for the future. Ephesians 3:20

If you forget God in any one of these areas, ingratitude will result—leading to missed blessings and missed opportunities for growth. Happy Thanksgiving, to all!!!

## On Going Opportunities for Prayer

- International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians Sunday, November 6 and throughout the month of November.
- First Friday Sing and Pray. See you Friday, November 4th at 7:00pm.
- 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 request.
- IN PERSON Weekly Prayer Meeting - Come, pray, and be blessed. Wednesday, SE corner of Fellowship Hall from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. We pray over the previous week of Prayer Chain requests, St. Mark Lutheran Church, and each other. Contact Person: Pam Burke 244-430-6226.
- 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 the link or copy to your browser: <https://www.smlc.info/mt-content/uploads/2021/12/three-days-of-prayer-brochure-2022-updated-8.5-x-14.pdf>



## Joyful Hearts Singles Group

Calling all single men & 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. We have been getting together once a month at one of our local restaurants. Additionally, throughout the month we have gone to the movies, farmers markets, a candle making event, 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)

## ANNUAL MEETING

**Save the Date!**

**Sunday, November 13, 2022**

**@9:10am**

**Annual Reports and Proposed 2023  
Budget are available in the Narthex.**



Soup suppers are back! Join us at 5:30pm for dinner before the 7pm services on

Wednesday, November 30th and December 7th & 14th. If you would like to bring soup or dessert, a sign up sheet can be found in the Narthex.



## *International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians*

Join in prayer with Christians around the world Sunday, November 6 on the International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians. This special day is set aside as a global prayer meeting on behalf of persecuted Christians who stand as a bold witness to Christ on the world's most dangerous mission frontiers. The earnest prayers of the global body of believers testify to the unity found only in Christ. May God inspire us as we enter into fellowship with our persecuted Christian family.

A prayer guide can be found in the Narthex on the Prayer Table. Please feel free to pick up a prayer guide for yourself or your family to share. Let us take this opportunity to remember our dear persecuted Christian brothers and sisters on this designated prayer day as the Holy Spirit leads you.

On behalf of our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters around the world, thank you for your willingness to pray for them. May you experience the joy of the Lord in a special way as you pray. When we extend our love and help to persecuted Christians, we receive an astonishing blessing in return. Persecuted believers provide us with examples of bold faith in the face of severe opposition. As our faith and witness are increasingly challenged, we benefit from the true stories of these exemplary brothers and sisters. Those who attack Christians living in places like Nigeria attempt to silence their faithful witness. One of their tactics is to destroy or seize the Bibles of faithful Christians. In the face of persecution, our Christian brothers and sisters know that the Word of God endures forever (Isaiah 40:8). More than anything else, they request our prayers and a copy of their own Bible.

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November 2022

**OH YEA!**

# HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH OF ST. MARK

## 2023 SUMMER MISSION



Hopefully by now you have heard that we are going to Logan County, West Virginia, next July! We'll leave early on Saturday morning, July 15<sup>th</sup>, and get back late Saturday night, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Here is what YouthWorks says about the week spent in WV: [YouthWorks in Logan, WV](#). It sounds like a great time in some beautiful country!!



On-line registration has not opened yet, but I will let you know when you can sign up!! This year's trip cost has gone up to \$200 per individual but that cost can be lowered by being involved with some fundraising activities we'll schedule in the future. As always, I need some adult chaperones to come along for the ride, especially females.

There is a sign-up sheet on the C/3 Youth board opposite the Fellowship Hall. Signing up does NOT lock you into coming NOR paying for the trip but gives me an idea on how many spots I need to reserve.

For any more information and/or questions, please feel free to reach out to Mike Mol at 847-276-8739 or [MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com](mailto:MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com).

**St. Mark's**



**Committee**

would like to announce, in honor of October having been

**Fire Prevention Month, it is time for another**



**!!!!!!**

On Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Lake Villa Fire Department will be here to help us run the drill. As we did last year, the drill will occur at the end of the service, and we will be there to announce it. After last year's drill, we were told by the fire department that we need to "congregate" away from the parking lots and, even though it is at the end of the service, we ask you do NOT get into your cars and try to leave. We will be working with our ushers to try to take attendance once we exit the building. Please pay attention to announcements about this as the event draws closer!!

Somewhat in line with our fire drill, we are in the process of making an "emergency response procedure" card to be put in all the pews to explain evacuation, sheltering and safety.

In other items of business, we are working to make sure all the rooms in the Ed Center, including the Sunday School rooms, are safer in case of an emergency. We have asked the Fire Department if they have any old hoses to use as a locking mechanism for the doors in the main floor of Sunday School, we are assessing the need to change the handles on the downstairs doors, and putting up a cover for the rooms that have windows.

As always, if you have any questions, suggestions, concerns about the safety and security at St. Mark, please talk to Judy Dunfrund, Al Maciareillo, Mike Mol, or Deb Zuchowski.

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

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

Also consider the groups that contribute to being *part of* the family: Men's and Women's Bible studies, HIS Ministry, our Quilting group, Joyful Hearts, Stephen Ministers, our bands, all the volunteer committees, our staff and so many volunteers who come together to count offering, prepare the Altar for worship, cover PADS shifts, and on and on. Engaging in church life really does eliminate feeling invisible. If you feel unappreciated, please talk to me or another person so we can tell you that you really do matter, you are loved and *we want you to know that*.

Also in October, we were blessed by a wonderful presentation on Grief, given by Randy Stocker, author of Hugs Help and brother of our own Janet Breum. When tragedy strikes home, it affects us in so many different ways and we need to allow each person to heal in the way that's right for them without judging anyone. Some may share their pain for decades after their loss occurred and if that brings comfort to them, it does us well to remember that God created us perfectly, in His image, with 2 ears and compassionate hearts.

I wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving Day. We truly have so much to be thankful for.

In thanks to God for his abundant blessings,

Joni Wasmund  
Council President

# **PADS**

## ***PADS Homeless Shelter Ministry***

The new Pads season has just begun and we are already short of help. This is one of our oldest and much needed ministries and we need your help to keep it going. Pads is at St. Mark from 5pm on Friday to 7am on Saturday from October 1st through April 30th. The night is divided into shifts from 5-8, 8-11, 11-3, 3-7 and cleanup from 5-7am. We need 16 people per night to run the program. That's about 480 volunteer spots to cover the whole season. Please consider helping as often as you can, even if it is only one time. This is a great way to show God's love for those in need.

We also need help providing the food each week. Go online to the St. Mark website [smle.info](http://smle.info) for a link to sign up to help and for more info on this program for the homeless. You can also call Jill Decker 847-445-7502 to sign up to help and Laurie Kerns 847-612-1510 to help with food. Thank you for volunteering.



"Stephen Ministries provides distinctively Christian, one on one supportive care of people experiencing stressful or traumatic events. Christians all have unique gifts and talents for various types of ministry. If you think you may have the gifts to become a Stephen Minister or would just like to learn more, please talk to Pastor or a Stephen Leader to get additional information. Our current group of Stephen Leaders will be starting a Stephen Minister class early next year, and we'd love to have you consider joining this wonderful and supportive group!"

Stephen Leader Team

Janet Breum  
John Florip  
Carin Kveton

Judy Dunfrund  
Marilyn Florip  
Deb Zuchowski

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

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### Coordinator Urgently Needed

Stephanie Flores has graciously accepted this important position **BUT WE ARE LOOKING FOR ONE MORE COORDINATOR to complete the team.** If you are feeling a tap on your shoulder when reading this, perhaps you are being called to serve? Grandparents make great Sunday School Coordinators, too!

- Our past Co-Coordinators left a complete binder with helpful guidelines, calendar, curricula and ideas. Parish Ed is also always there to help.

### 2nd Grade Bible Sunday

On Sunday, October 30th the second grade Sunday School students received their very own Bibles. Blessings to the following students:

Averie B. Jayla F. Ethan K. Saige R.

### **Angel Tree Is Back!**

We are very excited to have Angel Tree back at St. Mark this year. Be on the lookout for the tree in the Narthex (end of November) tagged with the names of Angel Tree families in need of hope. Will you help us provide gifts on behalf of incarcerated parents? Questions, contact Jill Decker at [decker0393@sbcglobal.net](mailto:decker0393@sbcglobal.net).



### **Columbarium Project**

At its October meeting, the Church Council approved the final design and niche pricing for the Peace Garden and Columbarium. Because of granite and contractor availability issues, the estimated completion of the project will be next spring. More details will be announced soon at all three worship services and in next month's Voice.



### **Christmas Decorating**

We will be decorating the sanctuary and narthex on Monday, November 28th at 6PM. The confirmands are encouraged to sign up as are their parents, but I would love to see the creativity of our congregation shine!! We have added some new items so it might be fun to be involved in placing these items! We need some adults to get to the top of the tree.

### **Bring an Ornament**

Several years ago, the tree in the Fellowship Hall was stripped. We asked members to bring an ornament. Every year we put it up we reminisce about the folks who have contributed and have since gone on. I am asking for you to add your touch to our Fellowship Hall tree. Just bring in an ornament with your name and the year on it and hang it wherever you please!

Thanks for helping to keep our annual tradition alive.

Gae Michal [gmichal48@gmail.com](mailto:gmichal48@gmail.com)

## **Christmas Program....**

Can you help co-plan our Sunday School Christmas Program?

We all know how time creeps up on us. It's time to find a team to plan our Christmas program. A Christmas program is endearing to all. We get to enjoy the event of Jesus' birth through a special program. It brings us joy to see our youth come together to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Please email [stmarksunschool@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksunschool@gmail.com). To make this a success, we need your response by Sunday, November 6. We are hoping to have several people work together to make this happen.



**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

November 2022



# Greetings From The Congregational Life Committee

## Heading into a busy, yet blessed season

As we met to review and plan for our upcoming events, we all realized that we are heading into the busiest time of the year for our committee. We have several fun and meaningful events coming up and we invite you all to join us.

## Holiday Dinner in a Bag

Please submit names and contact information for those that could use help in providing a Thanksgiving dinner for their family. You can turn in the information to Deb in the church office. A list of the items that are needed appear on the right of this page. We will also need volunteers to help pack the items and deliver to locations in the surrounding communities. Watch for the sign up board that will be placed outside the fellowship hall soon. ***Have a Thrivent card that you would like to donate so we can buy fresh produce, milk and other items?*** That would be so helpful and appreciated! Donation deadline is November 16th. The packing and delivery date is Sunday, November 20th.

## Operation Christmas Child

Join us Sunday, November 13th for our shoebox packing party! Pizza will be served at Noon. Set up for packing will take place on Saturday, November 12th from 2:00-5:00pm. These shoeboxes will be packed full of various items that will be sent to children in other countries who, without these boxes, might not get anything for Christmas. Donations can be put in bins through Friday, November 11th.

## Thanksgiving Pie Fellowship

Come join us on Wednesday, November 23rd immediately following the Thanksgiving Service for our Annual Pie Fellowship. Help will be needed setting up, donating pies, cutting pies and cleaning up. Sign up will be located outside the fellowship hall weekend of November 5th/6th. Confirmants can also earn service points by helping. For questions, contact Patty Lindholm - [lindholm\\_patricia@yahoo.com](mailto:lindholm_patricia@yahoo.com).

## Winter Coat Drive

Soon it will be getting very cold, and there are many children in this area who need our help to stay warm. Please prayerfully consider helping by donating a child's winter coat - boys and girls size 12 months to adult medium. We will be collecting *new* coats only from October 1 until Thanksgiving. Once purchased, the coat can be dropped in the coat collection box located in the narthex. The coats will then be distributed through local schools and organizations.

### Holiday Dinner in a Bag

#### Non-perishable Items:

- Pepperidge Farm Cubed Stuffing in bag, NO Stove Top
- 2 jars gravy mix per family
- Large sized canned yams
- 2 cans whole greens beans per family
- Box or can of chicken broth
- Canned cranberries
- 1 pound stick butter

#### Perishable Items (drop off no earlier than one week prior to distribution):

- 1 can Whipping Cream
- 5lb bag Russet Potatoes
- Large bag of long carrots
- Yellow Onion
- Celery
- Large count Pillsbury Crescent Roll
- Gallon of Milk

# An update from your



# Task Force

Now that we are mostly back in the swing of things – we’ve had Rally Day and Sunday School is up and running again (Shout out to Stephanie Flores and her wonderful SS teachers!!), Pastor Breum has made his “pilgrimage” back to the farm to help with the Fall Harvest, and we’ve had an AWESOME Ministry Palooza (shout out to Laurie Kerns and all who helped put the book together!!) – we’d like to let you know what has been going on with Church Doctor and our committee’s Action Plans.

The Task Force met with our Church Doctor Helper, Rev. Dr. Chrysanne Timm, via Zoom, and had some wonderful discussions with her about the future of St. Mark. We had 2 guests also – Joni Wasmund showed up representing Council and their Action Plans and Evangelism’s Patrick Krook attended to discuss their Action Plans. Some excellent and exciting ideas were brought up and, with Chrysanne’s guidance and help, we are looking forward to seeing these plans come to fruition. We also had Action Plans submitted and discussed/edited/re-written by:

- Congregational Life
- Finance
- Property & Management
- The Elders
- Welcome Team



Circling back to the Ministry Palooza mentioned above, have you completed your Spiritual Gift Questionnaire yet to see where your gifts best fit the body of Christ and St. Mark??? If you haven’t, please do so as soon as possible –

*Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.”*

St. Mark’s Church Doctor Task Force – Pamela Burke, Jerry Gass, Kristi Knull, Mike Mol, Pam Preston

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**Starting this month and continuing (hopefully!!) until FMSC is out of business, members (and their friends) of St. Mark will have an opportunity to feed hungry children around the world. I have reserved one table (19 people) once a month – either on a Thursday night or a Saturday morning. (By the time you’ve read this, we might have already attended our November event.) The schedule St. Mark will follow is:**



**Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:45 to 8:45 pm**  
**([November's Sign Up](#))**

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 8:45 to 10:45 am**  
**([December's Sign Up](#))**

**Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:45 to 8:45 pm**  
**([January's Sign Up](#))**

**Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 8:45 to 10:45 am**  
**([February's Sign Up](#))**

**We will keep this schedule up past February – odd numbered months Thursday nights, even numbered months Saturday mornings – so that people with different schedules can fit into either the night or morning sessions.**

**To register to help, please use the above link(s) to sign up. The reason to sign up before our scheduled time is to make sure the Libertyville site has enough room for us and, if we don’t fill all 19 slots, we can give up some of our slots to others who might be able to help (but let’s think we’ll always fill our 19 slots!!). FYI, when you sign up, FMSC will ask for your email. They do NOT sell your email to any other company, but they will send you an email when the food you packed reaches its final destination with one of our 217 partners in 106 different countries!!**

**If you have any issues signing up, have questions about these events and/or FMSC in general, please contact Mike Mol at 847-276-8739 or [MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com](mailto:MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com).**

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# *I like choices and doing it my way*

Hi I'm Stewardship's "Ask Stewie". In this month's article, I want to write about online giving.

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee which includes Laurie Kerns and (Stewie) Carl Norlin. So, I know I like choices and really like to do it my way. At St. Mark we have many choices in worship styles, types of music and even in how we give of our tithes and offerings. For so many years our committee has encouraged our members to use online giving. Well, the good news is that our members have increased the use of online giving by 250%. The use of paper checks in envelopes have been reduced (a big thank you from the counting teams).

## Ask Stewie:



As I began, we like choices and doing it our way. Let's look at how online giving gives you choices:

First off here are reasons to consider online giving:

- You can choose not to fill out those envelopes and carry them or mail them to church.
- There is a cost savings to the church.
- There will be no more offering checks to write.
- Regular and consistent giving helps our church with budgeting. It evens out the annual giving.
- You can schedule your contribution even if you are on vacation or maybe are a "Snow-Bird". Your offering will come when you want it to, even when you are gone. Special offerings, no problem, they can be planned in advance.
- Online giving has all the special giving categories including, but not limited to, Flower Fund, HIS Ministry, and special offerings such as memorials, to name a few.
- Helps the counting teams (a volunteer group) with less checks to count and tabulate.
- Assists our Financial Secretary by tabulating giving reports since all information is provided electronically.
- Remember you can do it your way. You can schedule a contribution that is convenient for you, just as though you were writing a check. It can be made weekly, biweekly, or monthly. Any amount you would like, just like you would have done for the envelope.
- Or if you would prefer, the contribution could be scheduled for any amount and on any schedule as a reoccurring contribution that is done automatically.

To help you navigate the choices and our website, see the information below that outlines where and how to start online giving. Let's continue to increase our participation in online giving; sign-up today.

Here's how you can continue to support St. Mark online with your Tithes and Offerings:

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

God's blessings – from Stewie and the Stewardship Committee

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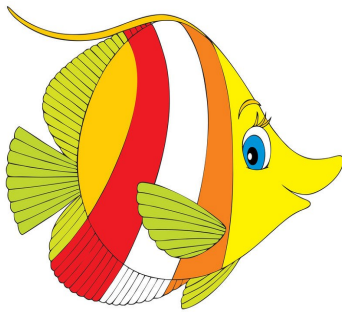
## Open Arms Food Pantry

### 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 November are **Laundry Soap and Jelly**. 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).



### Fin Facts

### Did you know?

On page 13, Stewie discussed how online giving benefits the church. Did you know that how you process that online giving also makes a big difference? When giving online you are given the choice of paying by e-check, debit or credit card. If possible, please choose **E-CHECK**. There is a processing fee associated with all online giving. The fee for credit/ debit cards is **\$0.42** per transaction plus **2.74%** of the amount given. The fee for e-check is **only \$0.24** per transaction plus **0.4%** of the amount given. If you give by e-check rather than your debit card, you save the church quite a bit of money over the year. If you have your giving automatically transmitted, please go online to check your payment settings. It is a small change on your part that can give a lot of change (\$) to St. Mark!

	<u>2022 Budgeted</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	
Month of September	\$ 49,100	\$ 49,733	\$ 633
January - September	\$ 527,750	\$ 462,734	(\$ 65,016)



**November 12th / 2nd Saturday / 6:00am PADS**  
**Support (Optional) / 7:00am Breakfast /**  
**8:00am Training / 9:30am Adjourn**

*"And the Heavens Declare!"* Part 2 Coach Dean Miller will continue the conversation he kicked off last month. So if you missed October, don't miss this month's declarations!

Join in person or via zoom on the 2nd Saturday of the month (Men age 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.



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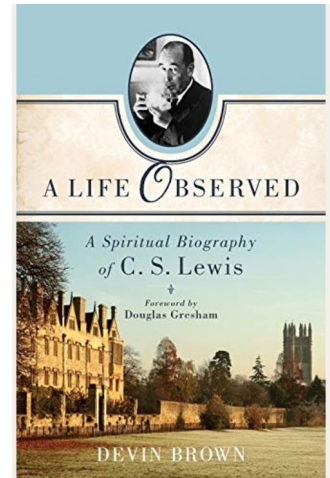
November 2022



## *A Life Observed*

C. S. Lewis is one of the most influential Christian writers of our time. The Chronicles of Narnia has sold more than 100 million copies worldwide and all Lewis's works are estimated to sell 6 million copies annually. At the fiftieth anniversary of his death, Lewis expert Devin Brown brings the beloved author's story to life in a fresh, accessible, and moving biography through focusing on Lewis's spiritual journey.

Although it was clear from the start that Lewis would be a writer, it was not always clear he would become a Christian. Drawing on Lewis's autobiographical works, books by those who knew him personally, and his apologetic and fictional writing, this book tells the inspiring story of Lewis's journey from cynical atheist to joyous Christian and challenges readers to follow their own calling. The book allows Lewis to tell his own life story in a uniquely powerful manner while shedding light on his best-known works. You can find this book under call number 92 LEW.



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

### Supporting those who serve

Are you looking for a way to say "thanks" to those who serve you, your family and your community? Here are four actions you can take to get started.

#### **Run Errands**

Service workers often have hectic schedules that leave little time for tackling personal errands. Offer to take on some chores for them, such as walking the dog, doing yard work or picking up groceries.

#### **Provide Meals to Teachers**

Supply meals and treats for teachers to nourish and brighten up their days. Especially during long days like testing and conferences, organizing meals gives them the chance to take a break and relax. Consider adding a gift card they can use personally or to purchase something for the classroom.

#### **Make Care Packages**

Put together care packages for employees at your favorite local businesses, emergency responders or teachers. Create special gifts with practical items like hand sanitizer, lotion or gift cards, and fun items like snacks and self-care products.

#### **Send Supportive Cards**

Send encouraging cards to let the people who serve your community know how much they mean to you. The whole family can get involved and be creative making cards together.

P.S. - Use a Thrivent Action team and add \$250 to your budget. Thrivent Members have at least one Action Team to use per year. See your Thrivent Representative or our Action Team Coordinator, Sam Kveton / [sam.kveton@gmail.com](mailto:sam.kveton@gmail.com) for more details.

# 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**  
11/8/22, 12/13/22, 1/13/23



# 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**  
11/17/22, 12/15/22, 1/15/23

**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 Lutheran Church, it is that easy! Tell your family and friends and let's get your next congratulatory event in the schedule!

This promotion is offered for everyone. 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](https://www.instagram.com/Divinesigns3.16)

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

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

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## **Order Your Poinsettia Plant Today**

**I/We would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ (quantity)**

**RED POINSETTIA** plant(s) at **\$12.00** each for the  
2022 Christmas Eve Worship Services

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print Clearly)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print Clearly)

**Plant(s) are given:**

\_\_\_ To the Glory of God

\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

\_\_\_ In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

\_\_\_ I will pick up the plant(s) after the 8 pm Christmas Eve Service.

*(Plants must be picked up by Wednesday, 12/28/22)*

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

**PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER**

I have enclosed my payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

(Please make checks payable to St Mark Lutheran Church.)

(Deadline for ordering plants is Monday, **December 12<sup>th</sup>**)

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

November 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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🖱 [www.smlc.info](http://www.smlc.info)  
✉ [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)

**DEC/JAN VOICE DEADLINE:  
November 15, 2022**

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November 2022