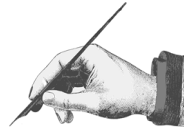


December 2021 / January 2022

President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



It's the most wonderful time of the year so the song goes! And yes, anticipating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is a most wonderful time. The song is about jingle bells and parties for hosting and marshmallows for toasting and caroling out in the snow and loved ones being near, and all those are things that bring happiness. While happiness is a most enjoyable moment it's also typically a fleeting emotion. But Jesus is the better reason for the wonderful time of the year because He brings *joy* that remains *eternally* in our hearts. Our joy in Jesus can become buried beneath life's loads during challenging times though, so recognizing it as being eternally present in us is *on us*. Maybe the author of the tune would consider changing a line like "there'll be much Jesus knowing and hearts will be glowing when eternal joy fills our souls".

Let's also keep in mind and lift up prayers to God for His merciful hand of protection over those who have difficulties this time of year due to life events that cause illness, depression and severe disorders. Every day is difficult for some, but we know the holidays often bring on even more pain than usual due to loneliness and other circumstances.

Thank you to all who participated in our Annual Meeting this year. Thanks be to God, we had 91 in attendance and that is a testimony. Your questions and input are always, always encouraged because the Council wants to know your thoughts so we can make decisions with your opinions in mind. Betty Oesterle's heartfelt words on behalf of Herb's love for serving as a greeter touched us all and that's what we need to do more of...share what we love to do for the Lord, the joy that comes from serving Him. We tend to rely on committees to extend requests for volunteers to serve but what if we switched that around to volunteers expressing the joy they receive by serving in the way they serve? Let me know if you're interested in sharing the joy you receive from serving.

Continued on page 9

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- ⇒ Reverse Advent Calendar
- ⇒ Volunteers Needed
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- ⇒ Support our Church
- ⇒ Safety & Security
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- ⇒ VBS Volunteer

CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

stmarkcommunications@gmail.com
& deb@smlc.info



Christmas Services

Please join us to celebrate Christ's Birth on December 24th
4:00, 8:00 & 10:00 PM



Order your Poinsettia by Monday, December 13th!
Order form can be found on page 15.

Advent Services

Join us on Wednesday, December 1st, 8th & 15th at 7:00PM following soup supper.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2021 / January 2022



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ioni1812@sbcglobal.net | 847-404-9185

VICE PRESIDENT

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COUNCIL SECRETARY

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YOUTH &

Josiah Frusti | Josiah@smlc.info

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Rhonda Doran | Rhonda@smlc.info

ORGANIST/TRADITIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR

Open Position

BOOKKEEPER

Barb Griffith | Barb@smlc.info

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Jim Schaufel |

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, December 14th @ 7:00PM

Next Committee Meetings: TBD

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2021 / January 2022

From the Desk of Pastor Breum

Spiritual Disciplines for Advent

During Advent you are encouraged to participate in specific spiritual disciplines which will help build you up in the Lord Jesus Christ as well as the entire church. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me. If I look too busy, please still ask. I always look busy. I don't know how to look as if I have nothing to do. I am never too busy for you.

1. Put your focus on God. Every day please pick one attribute of God, one character quality of God, one truth about God and mediate on that all day long. An attribute, character quality, or truth about God are all one in the same. Please pick one thing about God every day during Advent and let it sit in your brain. Yes, in Genesis God is the Creator. In Exodus God is the Deliverer and the Law Giver. Where I think is the best place to go is the Psalms for every Psalm tells us something about God that builds us up and strengthens our faith. When our minds think on God, our spirits are uplifted.

2. Please take the spiritual gift test. I know many of you have already taken the test but please retake it. The church will host a one-day workshop in the near future on how to put your spiritual gifts to use. In the Bible we find there are at least 27 spiritual gifts. A spiritual gift is a spiritually-charged gift, talent and/or ability that when put to use encourages and builds up the church. When every Christian in the church puts their spiritual gifts to use, the church grows in ways too many to number. There is an excitement in the air for God is doing something through you that is significant and is one of the reasons God saved you. There is great joy in putting your God-given gifts to work, and all for the glory of God.

3. Please read through the book, "I Am A Church Member." I believe it will open your eyes in ways that will not only help you individually but all of us collectively. God does not want us busier in the church. We are already busy enough. But God's church is the most important institution on this earth. We are a family. And God's ways are always best. The book shows us how good the church can be.

4. Please make this your prayer of the day every day during Advent.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me spiritual gifts. Please show me how to put them to use for Your glory. Please give all of us a love for the lost and the unchurched. Forgive us for keeping our faith to ourselves when we have in us what every person needs, the Lord Jesus Christ. Please touch their lives as we are ready for You to work through us. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

God Bless you and keep you safe and healthy this Advent/Christmas season.

Pastor Breum



Pastors Terry & Janet Breum
Pastor Appreciation, November 2021

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2021 / January 2022



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

Advent Wardrobe

Hot and humid summer weather seems to last forever in east central Missouri. It's not my cup of tea.

But fall and winter do eventually arrive. What a joy to look for clothes that I forgot I had. For instance, on a recent raw day in the 40s, I needed a heavy work shirt--but not too heavy--as I set out lugging a backpack leaf blower. I rediscovered my Carhartt lined shirt. Putting it on was like a hug from an old friend.

It's the same way with trusted and true work boots. Footing is everything doing outdoor work. I've got 10" Red Wings for most chores and 10" Danners (insulated) with Vibram soles for tree work in cold weather.

In the same way that we "put on" a shirt or boots for work, the Bible uses "put on" language to describe how we clothe ourselves with Christ by faith.

Consider the words of Romans 13:14: "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." This comes just after we are told, "Cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light" (13:12).

Notice the underlined words. Trusting in Christ is like stripping off old dirty clothes and putting on new ones. The metaphor of putting on clothing occurs elsewhere: "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

As we enter the Advent season, we can celebrate a relationship with God that is as real, comforting, protective, and heartwarming as our favorite flannel shirt or winter coat. We are invited to wrap ourselves in Jesus. We do this through prayer, through worship, through Scripture reading, through praise, and all the other means of grace God grants us.

There are innumerable ways to open our hearts to Jesus. Yes, putting on Jesus is a matter of the heart. It is personal, invisible. Jesus said, "Pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:6). If we don't have a secret relationship with God, we have no relationship at all.

But that hidden friendship becomes visible. We show we have put on Christ by the behaviors we adopt.

Consider the fact that we, through faith in Christ, "put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:24). Talk about a miracle! With faith comes a "new self." Jesus wasn't kidding when talked about being born again.



Because of God's Advent blessing in sending Jesus, Christians should be the best-dressed people around, having "put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation" (1 Thessalonians 5:8). We are told, "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience" (Colossians 3:12).

Best of all, in an age of tumult and rage, we find that in Jesus we can "put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Colossians 3:14).

We all have favorite garments for the holiday season. We break them out each year as the snow falls, the temperature dips, and Christmas carols start to fill the air.

The best holiday garb of all is Christ: his righteousness, his promises, his presence, his guidance, and his grace. No wardrobe could be richer in comfort and appearance in God's sight.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
December 2021 / January 2022



St. Mark Council News

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

All members are encouraged to attend the Spiritual Gifts workshop that will be facilitated by our Church Doctor partners. Tracee Swank will return to St. Mark to share her own gifts with us on **Saturday, January 22, 2022**. This workshop is one of our key recommendations to implement as we advance through our Movement for Improvement journey. It follows our Advent discipline of discovering the spiritual gifts God has blessed each of us with to better understand them, to learn how God can use them and how each of us can work together to compliment each other's gifts for His Kingdom work. There will be no cost to members for the workshop and future communications will announce when the sign-up link is available.

Our long-serving outdoor sign will soon be replaced by a new electronic sign that will enhance our premises, another key recommendation in our Movement for Improvement journey. The design phase is in the works and we hope to have the project completed in the very near future.

A *motion* passed to donate \$10,000 of Rummage Sale restricted funds to the Paul Baumunk Veteran's Memorial Fund. The Memorial is in significant need of repairs and we are thankful for the resources we can share to show support for our community.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO ATTEND

THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP

JANUARY 22, 2022

FACILITATED BY CHURCHDOCTOR

TRACEE SWANK

NO COST TO ST. MARK MEMBERS

SIGN-UP LINK TO BE ANNOUNCED

The perfect follow up to our

Spiritual Gifts Advent Discipline

PADS

PADS Season Update

Once again our PADS season is looking very different. Most of the homeless guests will again be staying in hotel rooms while they are being helped to find permanent housing. This year, however, there will be one church opened per night to house up to 20 homeless guests. St. Mark will not be one of those churches. Instead, we are helping to supply food and volunteers at First Presbyterian Church in Libertyville on Wednesday nights/Thursday mornings. It is located in downtown Libertyville at 219 W. Maple. We are doing food about once per month and if you are on my call list, I will be contacting you. If you would like to be added to my list, please call or text me (Laurie K) at 847-612-1510. If you would like to volunteer for a shift you can go to the link below.

[Shelter Sites: PADS Lake County Wednesday First Pres Libertyville Volunteer Sign up 2021 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

The main PADS program is also in need of cleaning supplies, toiletries, and food for those staying in hotels. You can go to the website at padslakecounty.org ([Home - PADS Lake County](#)) for a list of what is needed and where to donate. If you have items to donate but can't get to their office let myself or Jill D (padsatstmark@gmail.com) know, and we can take the items for you.

This is a wonderful program that cannot exist without all our help. Please consider helping however you can.

Thank you.
Laurie and Jill

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
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St Mark's Three Days of Prayer January 11-12 and 13

"It is written, He said to them, 'My house will be called a house of prayer.'"

St. Mark Church will be participating in our seventh LCMC *Three Days of Prayer* from Tuesday, January 11 through Thursday, January 13, 2022. We are asking for your earnest prayers that Our Lord guide each of our hearts and minds to prepare and participate in this challenging time for St. Mark and all Christian churches as we face increasing hostility from an intolerant culture.

Our prayer is to set aside time to: 1) glorify and honor Our Lord; 2) confess our sins and seek his forgiveness; 3) petition our Lord for a spiritual revival of our church body as well as leadership's wisdom and courage to step out in faith; and, 4) trust and obey the Holy Spirit's direction and to help us refocus on our mission in carrying out the Great Commission.

Martin Luther's teaching on God's command to pray.

And the first matter is to know that it is our duty to pray because of God's commandment. For thus we heard in the Second Commandment: Thou shalt not take the name of the lord, thy God, in vain, that we are there required to praise that holy name, and call upon it in every need, or to pray. For to call upon the name of God is nothing else than to pray. Prayer is therefore as strictly and earnestly commanded as all other commandments: to have no other God, not to kill, not to steal, etc. But praying, as the Second Commandment teaches, is to call upon God in every need. Therefore everybody, no matter what he has to say in prayer, should always come before God in obedience to this commandment.¹

So please mark your calendars to set aside a time to join your St. Mark family in at least one of our LCMC *Three Days of Prayer*, Tuesday, January 11, Wednesday, January 12 and Thursday, January 13. You may set aside a time(s) during the day for prayer. In the evening, we are planning to meet for evening prayers from 7:00pm to 7:45pm. You may 1) either drop in for part of the time or 2) join us and stay. You may either pray silently or aloud. There will be opportunities for individual and group prayers.

Prayer guides will be available, if desired. Watch weekly announcements for updates in mid-December. Our prayer is each St. Mark member, family, youth, and child listen for and answer Christ's call to prayer. Please contact Barb Ewert (b1182ray@aol.com, 847-514-5487) for questions and/or suggestions.

Opportunities for Prayer

The Worship and Music Committee has posted the *Three Days of Prayer Brochure* on the St. Mark website under *Prayer*. Also, continue to pray for the wisdom and discernment of the Church Council and the congregation as they seek Your will and guidance for St. Mark fulfilling the Great Commission in our world.

Weekly Prayer Meeting - Wednesday evenings 7:00pm via Zoom

Contact Persons: Pam Burke 224-430-6226. Linda Brissey: chaseco@aol.com for Zoom link.

Our Prayer meeting is open to all ages to join and lift up in prayer those in need of healing, comfort, peace and praise. Join us and be blessed.



¹ The Large Catechism of Martin Luther, <https://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/luther/largecat.htm#Heading17>

DECEMBER 2021

STUDENT MINISTRY

Questions?

Josiah@smlc.info

C3 STUDENTS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 5TH
YOUTH GROUP
6:00-8:00 PM

DECEMBER 11TH
FEED MY STARVING
CHILDREN
11:00-3:00 PM

DECEMBER 19TH
PROGRESSIVE
CHRISTMAS DINNER
4:00-7:00 PM

IMPORTANT DATE

DECEMBER 15TH
QUAKE RETREAT
REGISTRATION CUT-OFF



COURAGEOUS SERVANT

JOSIAH FRUSTI

This February, students have the chance to re-connect with God and develop a bold faith at the [2022 Quake Retreat](#). The Theme being "Courageous". If we know anything about God, we know he calls us to serve and gives us ways to equip ourselves ahead of those callings. The Quake Retreat is a time to do just that: equip and strengthen your faith for what lies ahead.

Our [2022 Family Mission Trip](#) is headed to Alamosa, Colorado! Where we will dive in and serve a different and unique part of our country. An area that struggles deeply with widespread poverty. In order to serve on this trip, we must equip ourselves to be the most effective servants according to God's will.

So whether you attend the Quake Retreat or a Mission Trip next year, continue to seek out Gods calling on how you can serve, while also continuing to seek out ways to equip yourself with the courage to serve. Blessings on your Christmas season!

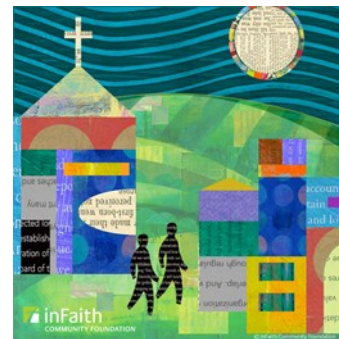
Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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ENDOWMENT FUND CONTINUES TO GROW

We are excited to share with St Mark how well our Endowment Fund has grown over the last couple of years. Your continued contributions and the Thrivent investment skills has allowed our fund to increase to a market value over \$53,000. **Thank You** St Mark for those donations.

Earlier, we indicated that only a little of the Endowment Fund would be used to support St Mark's mission. The remainder would be left to grow. Over time, as gifts are made to it and the principal grows, the Endowment Fund becomes a substantial way for the church to expand its mission in our community. Earlier this year we used \$800 from the fund to pay scholarships for Camp Timber-Lee campers.



There is still time for you to contribute to the Endowment Fund and include your donation as an income tax deduction for 2021. The easiest way to contribute is to open the Giving page on our website and ask that your donation be directed to the Endowment Fund. www.smlc.info/giving/

The IRS Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) is back this year. Did you know that the IRS allows you to contribute directly from your IRA to St Mark to meet your RMD without paying income taxes on the contribution? When you donate to St Mark via the Giving page of our website, all those contributions are considered tax deductible donations. If you ask the company managing your IRA to send money directly to the St Mark Endowment Fund, that contribution counts toward your required minimum distribution and it does not count as taxable income. Confusing, maybe, but your income tax preparer knows all about this. If you have any questions about our Endowment Fund, please email Mel Ellingsen at mel-ellingsen@comcast.net.



Our Lives Have Changed and So Has Our Giving

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee which includes Laurie Kerns, Pete Bolender, and me, Carl Norlin. Thank you so much for continuing to sign up for online giving. Our members, over the last two years, have increased online giving revenue over 126%. Online giving also provides a secure way to send your gifts to St. Mark.

Stewardship is encouraging you to consider online giving, see the information below that outlines where and how to start online giving. Let us continue to increase our participation in online giving. So, Sign-up today.

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

Go to the St. Mark website at 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-Patrice Sutton") 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.

Thank you and stay safe and healthy.

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

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2021 / January 2022

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

A question I was asked after providing a ChurchDoctor update was, "how will the congregation know how the Action Plan Task Force (Fab 5) prioritizes recommendations in case we're interested in a particular recommendation?" Our *Movement for Improvement* Fab 5 Action Team is currently meeting each week to organize, not so much prioritize, the 160 recommendations in order to determine which group or committee to assign each one to for the development of action plans. Some are pretty easy to determine because they're specific, like the recommendation to continue livestreaming after Covid. That appears to easily fit with Worship & Music. Another one, utilize the Ed Center space as a daycare, is compelling but huge and may likely take years to implement due to studies and research needed first. It's gained interest by several of you and for that reason, even if it's assigned to a particular group or committee, we want to set it up so the congregation knows who it's assigned to and any of you can approach that group or person to offer your thoughts, opinions and engagement. That way such a huge undertaking won't fall to 2-3 people on a committee. How that is done will be up to the Fab 5 and the Council, to be sure you're all aware of opportunities, but it will happen, because this process is intended to meet as many members as possible "where they are" for optimal congregational engagement. Watch for more to come.

One of the recommendations that *will* be implemented shortly in our *Movement for Improvement* is going to be a wonderful opportunity for each of us to find out what our dominant and subordinate Spiritual Gifts are. Once you complete your own profile during Advent, you'll indicate what your gifts are on a card that you'll turn in to Deb Zuchowski so the information can be entered into our Servant Keeper database. Then on **Saturday, January 22nd**, Tracee Swank will return to St. Mark to facilitate a workshop to help us understand how our spiritual gifts describe where we fit in the body of Christ. Taken from the workbook that is included for all who participate, "Instead of urging us to go to work as a volunteer so some job gets accomplished, God begins with us, not with the job. He has a divine calling for each one of us. His primary objective is for each of us to find supernatural fulfillment. He doesn't want to use us, He wants to bless us. Our gifts guide us to our "divine sweet spot". You will remember Tracee from the Oral Presentation provided in October; she is an excellent speaker and facilitator, having presented all over the country at LCMC events and other churches. So please plan to attend! A sign-up link will be available and there will be no charge for members to participate in the workshop. Stay tuned!!

Wishing you a special time of Christ's light shining brightly in your hearts and homes as we anticipate the celebration of His birth, Immanuel, God with us.

Joni Wasmund
Council President



Complete your profile during Advent and attend the Seminar with Tracee Swank on Saturday, January 22nd to learn how to use your God given gifts!



What goes up, must come down. Thank you to all who helped to decorate the church for Christmas. Many hands make light work! There will soon be a sign up sheet for those willing to help take down the tree and all of the Christmas decorations. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on Monday, January 3rd at 6:00PM if you are willing to help. Confirmation students and their families are welcome to attend! Students earn a ministry point.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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Holiday Dinner In A Bag

A huge thank you to everyone who donated items, their time, and submitted families for Holiday Dinner in a Bag. This year, because of your generosity, we were able to give over 20 families the staples of a Thanksgiving meal.



Advent
SOUP
Suppers

Soup suppers are back! Join us at 5:30pm for dinner before the 7pm services on Wednesday, December 1st, 8th, and 15th. If you would like to bring soup or dessert, a sign up sheet can be found in the Narthex.



Christmas Services

Please join us to celebrate Christ's Birth

on December 24th

4:00, 8:00 & 10:00 PM

There will be no service on Christmas Day.

The regular schedule resumes on

Sunday, December 26, 2021



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who donated, set-up, packed and volunteered their time to Operation Christmas Child this year!

During the packing event held on Sunday November

14th, 300 boxes were packed for children around the world!



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 with the names of children whose parents and/or step-parents are incarcerated.

Questions? Contact Brooke Frusti or Jill Decker.



New Year, New Church Council

At the Annual Meeting the Congregation thanked the following Council Members for their service:

Jeff McKenzie
Jim O'Neal
Jeff Whitehead



Beginning on January 1st, our new Council will take office. We are happy to report that Joni Wasmund, Debbie Plishka and Laurie Kerns will be remaining in their positions. We welcome the following new members who answered the call to serve:



Patrice Sutton, Treasurer
Todd Stickney, Elder
Jennifer Kumpula, Trustee

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2021 / January 2022



Monthly Benevolence Highlights

In Zone Project

Every Child Deserves Top Education and a Safe Community

St. Mark supports the In Zone Project with monthly Benevolence. At InZone they believe that by supporting disadvantaged families, students can truly perform at their best. Students from InZone families live in a supportive community and home environment that contributes to their achievement and secures better opportunities for their long-term success. Until you work through and address the challenges in student's communities and households, no matter what school students go to, there are always going to be barriers to them achieving their full potential..

Life at the InZone home is underpinned by Christian values. The InZone Project fosters amongst its students the core values of:

- Leadership
- Honor
- Moving forward together
- Loving your neighbor as one's self
- Excellence

InZone views its homes as Christian facilities, however its student-base includes adherents to a diverse range of religions and non-religion.

The InZone homes offer its students regular Sunday chapel services and encourages the sharing of daily devotions focused on building up the confidence of students before they head to school.



thrivent

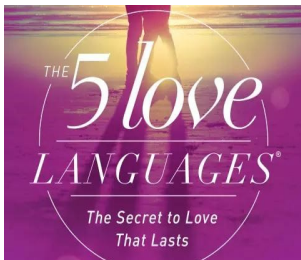
Connecting faith and finances for good.

Thriving Minds Want to Know...

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®
Thrivent Financial members that have Choice Dollars® have until Wednesday, March 31 to direct them

Be Wise with Money

December 7, 2021 at 6:00PM



Hear from the author of *The 5 Love Languages®*, Dr. Gary Chapman, as he gives insights on how to improve your relationships and strengthen your connections. By attending you will discover the tools you need to make a good relationship great, or a hurting relationship heal. No products will be sold. Copy the following address and paste in your browser to register: <https://www.thriventfinancial.com/member-network/chicagoland/events>

Questions about this event: Jerry.Doran@Thrivent.com / 847-271-8632

Year End Reminders for Thrivent Members

You have until December 31st to apply for **Action Teams** (money, t-shirts, thank you cards, etc..). You have until March 31st of next year to direct your **Thrivent Choice Dollars®**. To learn more about these programs visit: <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/>, reach out to Jerry.Doran@Thrivent.com, or text 224-252-8265.

Direct your
Thrivent Choice
Dollars
Today!



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2021 / January 2022



Open Arms Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Open Arms pantry by filling the **Yellow Food Barrels**, and through monetary donations!

Your support of this program is much needed and very much appreciated! Please keep the donations coming!

December collection items are: Baby Food & Cereal
January collection items are Baby Wipes & Peanut Butter

Please consider donating at:

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

Open Arms will be closed for the Christmas holidays from December 17th thru January 3rd.

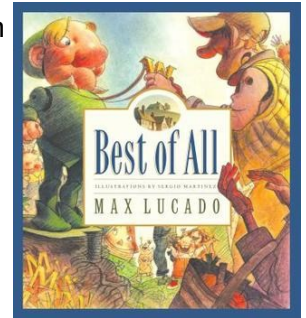
Thank you again for your generous support!

Best of All



This month's selection is a beautifully illustrated children's picture book by Max Lucado, *Best of All*. Set in an imaginary village inhabited by wooden creatures, the story teaches how easily people can be influenced to develop prejudices. The best lesson, however, comes from the Maker who created all the wooden creatures. The main character, Punchinello, is the

first to learn this lesson when Eli the woodcarver, the Maker, helps him see that he is special because the Maker made him and even chose his wood which had been seen as unworthy by the villagers. The book shows that our Maker has made each of us special as well with a special purpose for our lives. The happy ending illustrates God's love for each of us. You can find this book under call number E LUC.



Cards for Seniors Ministry

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

We encourage cards such as "thinking of you", and/or hand written notes of encouragement. We ask that you please add at the end: "From your friends at St. Mark" so the recipients know where the cards came from.

So for this Christmas season, please write out a greeting card or two and drop them into the basket which is located on the table near the church office.

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

Sincerely,
Deb Heide



Many Hands Make Light Work!

Volunteers are needed to assist with snow shoveling this winter. If you are willing to help, please contact Jim Schaufel at james.schaufel@yahoo.com.



If you would like to receive your 2021 Annual Giving Statement from St. Mark via email instead of picking up a paper copy, please contact Patrice regarding the email address you would like her to use. Send all requests to PatriceS@comcast.net.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2021 / January 2022

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

December 1 - box of cereal
December 2 - peanut butter
December 3 - stuffing mix
December 4 - boxed potatoes
December 5 - macaroni and cheese
December 6 - canned fruit
December 7 - canned tomatoes
December 8 - canned tuna
December 9 - dessert mix
December 10 - jar of applesauce
December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
December 12 - cranberry sauce
December 13 - canned beans
December 14 - box of crackers
December 15 - package of rice
December 16 - package of oatmeal
December 17 - package pasta
December 18 - spaghetti sauce
December 19 - chicken noodle soup
December 20 - tomato soup
December 21 - can corn
December 22 - can mixed vegetables
December 23 - can carrots
December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM

SMLC Business Directory



**Business
directory**

Calling all Babysitters, Leaf-Rackers, House-Watchers, Electricians, Snowblowers, Dog-Walkers, Window-Cleaners, House-Cleaners, Plumbers, Cake-Makers, Iron-Workers, Vacuum-Operators, CPAs, Cooks, Carpenters, Financial Advisors, etc.

Get added to our SMLC Business Directory being published in January 2022. OK, technically speaking, we are not "calling all" these folks, just St. Mark Members wanting to promote their business to other St. Mark Members.

Text/Call Jerry Doran at 847-271-8632 for more information or to be added to the directory.

IF EVERYBODY DOES SOMETHING... NOBODY HAS TO DO EVERYTHING

Coffee Servers - It would be nice to have someone to volunteer to set up coffee one Sunday per month. Training is provided! Contact Gae M. at gmichal48@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer or with any questions.

Pick Up Donuts - If you could make a side trip to Mariano's on any Sunday morning before the 8 AM service to pick up the prepaid donuts it would be greatly appreciated! Contact Gae M. at gmichal48@gmail.com to volunteer.

Prayer Pals

Prayer Pals secretly pray for a Confirmation student and provide motivational notes during the 2 years of Confirmation classes. If you are interested in spiritually supporting one of our Confirmation Students, please contact Beth M. at bethmiller949804@gmail.com.

Altar Guild Openings

The Altar Guild encompasses many UNSEEN aspects of our church. It is the perfect place to find a place to serve but not be seen.

On the first and third Sunday of the month, we need to have someone set up communion elements both on the altar and in the trays by the entry doors before the 8:00AM service. It should take no more than 10 minutes.

Also needed is someone to do the same on the third Sunday before the 10:30AM service. Again, it can be any time after the 8:00AM service and before 10:30AM.

Training will be provided... and believe me, it is not complicated! This is a perfect opportunity for anyone to serve, even those busy with a family. Time involved is minimal, rewards are great! Contact Gae M. at gmichal48@gmail.com to volunteer.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2021 / January 2022

Support St. Mark AND Local Businesses



Second Tuesday Each Month

CARRY OUT Available! Be sure to bring your coupon!

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

224-444-8657

Visit www.antiochpizzashop.com for full menu.

Valid the **Second Tuesday** of every Month

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

DATES: Second Tuesdays
12/14/21, 1/11/22, 2/8/22



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
12/16/21, 1/20/22, 2/17/22

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.



We Always Have Room for One More Man

(Ages 15+)

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

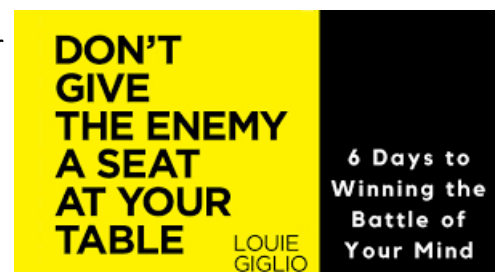
Next Meeting: December 11th & January 8th / 7am Donuts & Coffee, 8am Training, 9:30am Adjourn

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



Get added to the HIS Ministry email list to stay connected to this ministry to men by texting/calling Jerry Doran at 847-271-8632 or send contact information

to Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com. Updates are also provided in email.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2021 / January 2022



Hello from your Safety and Security Committee!!





Again, we would like to thank all of you who participated in St. Mark's first ever fire drill this past October. The Lake Villa Fire Department was very impressed with the way we exited the building so quickly. Let us hope and pray we never have to exit the sanctuary for a real emergency but a couple of things we need to remember:

Once we exit the building, we will need to be standing/gathering farther away from the building to allow emergency vehicles access to the building. And related to allowing vehicles access to the building, we should not get into our cars and try to leave. This could hinder emergency vehicles just getting into our parking lot.



With winter almost here, we would like to remind all of you to be extra careful in the parking lots and on the sidewalks. St. Mark does have a service for getting rid of the snow but, as we all know, shoveled parking lots and sidewalks can still be pretty slippery. Please take care when getting in and out of your car – that first step out of, or last step into, your car may get you a bit off balance. Also if you see somebody a little unsteady on their feet, please lend them some help and your elbow to lean on!!

As always, if you would like to bring something to our committee's attention, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us – Judy Dunfrund, Al Maciareillo, and Mike Mol. We hope you all have a warm, wonderful, and blessed Christmas season filled with fun, family, and friends!

 **Order Your Poinsettia Plants Today!** 

I/We would like to order _____(quantity) RED POINSETTIA plant(s) at \$11.00 each for the 2021 Christmas Eve Worship Services.

Please place this completed form in the box in the Narthex. Deadline for Ordering is Monday, December 13th.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

PLANTS ARE GIVEN: (Please print clearly!)

___ To the Glory of God

___ In Honor of _____

___ In Memory of _____

___ In Celebration of _____

PLANT PICK UP:

___ I will pick up the plant(s) after the 11pm Christmas Eve Service. (Plants must be picked up by Tuesday, 12/28/21.)

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

PAYMENT:

I have enclosed my payment of \$ _____

(PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER. Please make checks payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church.)



Winter may be here, but we are planning ahead for our very important Summer outreach program, Vacation Bible School, running June 20-24, 2022. We are in need of a Co-Director and a Registrar. These chances to serve are very important and help to benefit many children in our community. Please prayerfully consider these opportunities and contact Beth Miller stmarkvbsfun@gmail.com, Lori McKenzie lorimckenzie119@gmail.com or Jane Milani Lvmom76@att.net.

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

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Return Postage Guaranteed*



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



Stephen Ministry

THE VOICE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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

**NEXT VOICE DEADLINE:
January 15, 2022**

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
December 2021 / January 2022