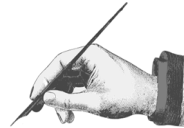


August 2023

President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



The weeks are flying by, and we are already 6 weeks into our Intentional Interim Ministry timeline with IIPastor Steve (You'll see IIPastor or IIP in print quite frequently as we refer to Intentional Interim Pastor Steve, keeping his full title in front of us during his time at St. Mark). His home visit calendar has been booked weeks ahead since he arrived and all of you who have received him into your homes have served to strengthen ministry opportunities as he gets to know each one of us to better serve as our Intentional Interim Pastor. In addition to being able to effectively minister to us in our times of need, these visits are beginning to form a profile of who St. Mark is so IIPastor Steve will be better able to coach our Transition Team and Call Committee to seek the one that God is already preparing to come to St. Mark as our next Senior Pastor.

It's exciting to anticipate the coming months as the Transition Team begins their work in August. As soon as the Team members are confirmed, they'll be introduced to the congregation and that will be soon, quite possibly even before this issue of the Voice reaches you. Their goal of fulfilling 5 Developmental Tasks that have been identified as necessary tools for interim congregations will be highly significant to our future during this time of charting St. Mark's course and providing insight to the mission and vision of our congregation.

I know I'm in great company when I say I'm loving the 9:00 Sunday worship services that combined the 8:00 and 10:30 services for the summer. Positive comments are abundant so *thank you, thank you*, all of you who made it happen. The church is FULL, we get to see the "other congregation" every Sunday *as we worship together*, we all get to be present for both traditional and contemporary worship and experience the outstanding music offered to the Lord by our amazingly talented musicians (they're all truly outstanding, that's no exaggeration). Fellowship hour is robust, and the Holy Spirit is everywhere all morning long. The pictures shared on St Mark's Facebook page each week tell it all. If I was looking for a church, I'd sure be visiting St Mark after seeing the smiles and candid shots.

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- ⇒ Noah's Nursery—Meet Jori
- ⇒ Support our Church

COME JOIN US!

2023

Harvest Fest

**Saturday, September
16th, 2023**

Noon - 5:00 PM



CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

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



ST. MARK COUNCIL

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Joni Wasmund
joni1812@sbcglobal.net | 847-404-9185

VICE PRESIDENT

Laurie Kerns

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BOOKKEEPER

Barb Griffith | Barb@smlc.info

NURSERY COORDINATOR

Deb Heide | heidedeborah@gmail.com

Next Council Meetings: Tuesday, August 8th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meetings: Tuesday, August 22nd @ 7:00PM

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2023

From the Desk of Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

Greeting brothers and sisters in Christ

Transitions can be scary times and can create anxiety all by themselves. My primary role here is to be your pastor, to worship with you, to proclaim to you God's Word, to study the Bible together, to walk with you, to remind you that God is present and active here at St. Mark!

It's so great to be here! I've really enjoyed our visits together and encourage anyone who has yet to sign up to sign up. As we begin our time together, I want to meet as many people as possible. For me, it's part of being your pastor. During so many of my visits I saw God's presence in people's eyes and heard it in their voices. As I attend events and meetings, I've seen God's presence in the way people have treated each other. I have seen God's team here! The banner waves out front of the church building with new signs sharing bits of wisdom.

Unfortunately, I've heard stories of times and events where people weren't so kind or loving towards each other. None of the stories shocked me or surprised me at all, I've been an intentional interim pastor for over twenty years. It's tough being a follower of Jesus Christ and very hard to set aside my agenda and opinions. Last week's text from Romans 7 says it best, "**21** So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand." There is a battle with evil in the world, and yes, in the Church. It's personal, and the way we treat each other in the body of Christ, the Church matters.

Penny and I felt so welcome. Your kindness to us was warmly received. You were intentional about rolling the red carpet out and it was appreciated. It also serves as an example of how we treat each other every day. God sends His only son to die on the cross so I, a miserable sinner, can be redeemed and given wholeness, newness, and eternal life. What a sacrifice!!! God rolls out the red carpet for me in Jesus' blood, I think I could be a little nicer to other people. But alone I can't. God sends the Holy Spirit to give me the ability to love others, what a God!

As we begin our time together, I just remind you of what you already know. Often that's all I'm doing; I'm just being intentional about it.

Penny and I are looking forward to our time together, this is an exciting season here at St. Mark and we are honored to be part of it.

God's peace

Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

TRANSITIONS



***Open Arms
Food Pantry
Neighbors Helping Neighbors***

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

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

If you have any questions about OAM please contact Ron Placko at rdplacko@comcast.net or 847.404.3304.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2023



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

Trustworthy Torah

Summer brings thunderstorms. That can mean wind damage. Trees can be toppled. We had strong straight-line winds recently. They tore down a very old red cedar. Here are the logs from its double trunk:

When you work up a tree like that, you need to know what you're doing. I was guided by principles learned from my father and then from years of cutting down trees.

In all of life, we need principles to guide us. Where do we find them? Christians look to the Bible. Good idea: Jesus did too. He quoted Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms frequently.

Jesus knew that the five books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) are the foundation of the church's saving knowledge of God. These books are called the Torah.



Genesis teaches us that God made our world and is sovereign over it. It tells us that he made man and woman. It tells us what our mission as humans is, both male and female: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28). God established marriage between one man and one woman. When they fell into sin, God took steps to limit the damage and make a way to return to him. He promised a savior, the seed of woman, who would crush the serpent's head (3:15).

The rest of Genesis tells of Noah and the flood and the true meaning of the rainbow, which is a promise between God and all the earth that "the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh" (9:15). Too bad that the rainbow has been hijacked today as a sign of human pride in rejection of how God made us, according to Genesis and Jesus (Matthew 19:4).

Genesis goes on to show how all peoples were blessed through promises made to Abraham (see Genesis 12:1-3). Abraham becomes the model of faith in God's promise for Christians (see Romans 4).

Abraham died in faith awaiting that promise. Jesus said, "Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad" (John 8:56 NASB). This is the promise that was fulfilled in Christ's coming, his death, and his resurrection. Hallelujah!

"Torah" is a Hebrew word that means teaching or guidance. It can also be translated "law." But the Torah should be viewed first as a book of trustworthy instruction. It tells the story of human beginnings, the aftermath, and God's foundational work to redeem the world. It is certainly not a set of outmoded rules.

Because Jesus and the apostles quoted the Torah so much, and it is part of our Bible, we know it contains trustworthy principles for our walk before God each day as well as for our heavenly hope.

When you drag out a big chainsaw to cut up storm-damaged trees, you need to operate based on solid principles.

When you face life's daily and finally eternal challenges, you need the trustworthy Torah. It tells us who we are, what is wrong with us and our world (hint: sin), and how God is redeeming our souls and the cosmos by his promises and faithful actions.

Many of these promises are established in the Torah. All of them are fulfilled in our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2023



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 July 2023

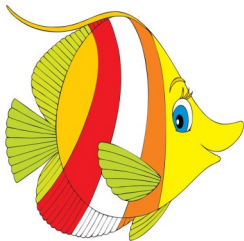
A Council retreat is scheduled for Friday evening and Saturday, October 13-14.

The LCMC Annual Gathering will be held in St. Charles, MO October 1-4; anyone interested in attending should contact IIPastor Steve or Joni Wasmund.

In depth discussion of serving alcohol on church property acknowledged that arrangements with vendors to be the servers are subject to contracts and additional insurance requirements and although they may provide the church with additional layers of protection in the event that something goes wrong, they do not necessarily assume all responsibility. In light of the potential liability in the absence of a detailed and specific policy to include parameters that would be necessary to protect St Mark from risk, not only legal and monetary but also reputational risk, the guidelines as stated in the policy manual will remain in place (Alcoholic beverages, liquors or other non-phsician prescribed drugs will not be permitted on church property at any time).

The 2024 budget draft was reviewed and edited for updates pending final approval during the August Council meeting.

The updated PTO (Paid Time Off for Staff) Policy were approved.



Fin Facts

Did you know?

- When giving online, you save the church money by processing your donation as a check direct from your checking account rather than through a credit card.
- When giving online you can give a one time donation, or set up automatic payments.
- When giving online you can select general giving or special giving for designated funds like flowers, memorial gifts, building fund, etc.

As of June 30th St. Mark had \$286,256 in checking and savings accounts as well as \$60,000 in a contingency account. Due to staff vacancies, the church is running a net income for the first half of the year in the amount of \$57,000.

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
Month of May 2023	\$ 52,150	\$ 42,972	(\$ 9,178)
Month of June 2023	\$ 56,200	\$ 46,599	(\$ 9,601)
2023 Fiscal Year (Jan.– June)	\$ 339,400	\$ 300,407	(\$ 38,993)

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2023

St. Mark's Joyful Hearts - Singles Group

Joyful Hearts is a group for St Mark single people who get together for friendship and fellowship. The commonality and shared experience of being single is what brings us together. We believe that Christian friendships make our lives more fulfilling. Joyful Hearts is not a group that actively seeks dating relationships. 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, local concerts, 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!

We are also exploring ways we can support the church. We are a new group and appreciate all suggestions!

Contact Patty or Nancy Lindholm_Patricia@yahoo.com or NEOConnor@comcast.net



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

New Opportunities for Prayer

Offering prayers of Thanksgiving and gratitude for God sending Pastor Steve and his wife, Penny and petition God to continue to bless and guide his labors and family's well being.

Ongoing Opportunities for Prayer

First Friday Sing and Pray August 4nd Campfire 7:00 pm for praise and worship followed by prayer. See full announcement in this August Voice.

National Day of Prayer has passed, but America needs a revival which is grounded in an outpouring of serious and sustained prayer and fasting. See smlc.info under the Prayer tab for *the Fast Forward America, 40 Day Prayer Guide for America*.

30 Days of Prayer for Muslims 2023 has concluded. But the Muslims are still in need of your prayers. So we ask you to continue praying using the 30 Days of Prayer for Muslims Prayer Guide² learning who and how to pray for specific Muslim groups here in the United States and abroad. For more information. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGjWWth9b2M>

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. Please share with the Prayer Chain how God has responded to your prayer requests.

Weekly Prayer Meeting - Come, pray and be blessed. 6:30pm - 7:15pm Wednesday evening via Zoom.

We pray over the previous week of Prayer Chain requests, St. Mark Church and each other. Contact Person: Pam Burke 244-430-6226, Zoom Link - Barb Ewert

The Worship and Music Committee has posted the 2023 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, Interim 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/prayer/> to view.

For more information contact Barb Ewert, bewert@colsonfellows.org

¹The Second Commandment and 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (the Message) ¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.

² See **Prayer Table** in the Narthex.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2023

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

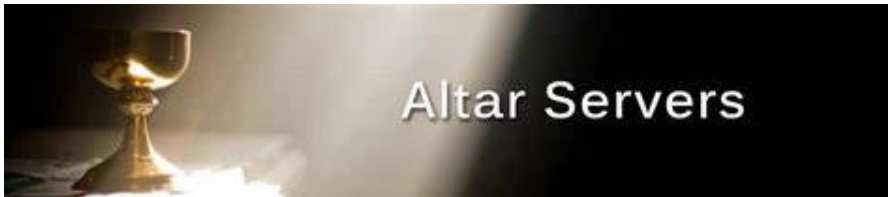
As I write this, our Mission Trip team is leaving for Logan County, West Virginia, led by Mike Mol and Cheryl Bengston as adult leaders. Thank you to everyone who makes this trip possible every year for our youth. We know God is working in them daily, showing them things and teaching them things they would never encounter here at home. What a wonderful opportunity for these kids and for the adults too, to see God working through them to help others. These are trips that will never be forgotten. Amen, Lord Jesus, thank You for sending them to be used by You.

So many exciting things are being prepared for by our volunteers, including the annual Rummage Sale August 3-5, HarvestFest September 16, a new picture directory planned for this fall, and Operation Christmas Child for which donations are being collected now so as not to conflict with our Mitten Tree, Angel Tree, and Holiday Dinner in a Bag. When you stop to think about the number of ministries St. Mark provides and the number of volunteers that offer their time and talents to the Lord to expand His Kingdom here on earth (more than 100), give God the glory for all He is doing through His children. *Thank you, thank you, each and every one who gives of yourself to serve at St. Mark.* I've shared this before but it's so good, said by Erma Bombeck: "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'". That's very helpful to remember when I have a "me" day as I reach for the bag of potato chips and TV remote. It doesn't always work but sometimes it does!

Blessings to you and your families as we continue to navigate through this exciting time of joyful anticipation of all God has planned for us and for the chance to be part of it because it will take all of us, you won't want to miss out and we don't want you to.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV

Joni Wasmund
Congregational President



How can I be an Altar Server?

Coming up in September, I will be recruiting and training for a unique ministry at St. Mark. I am looking for Altar servers who are an important and much appreciated part of our worship experience.

You ask, "what is an Altar Server"?

Besides the Pastor, no one else so closely plays a part in the presentation of the Elements of Holy Communion. Your participation as an Altar Server is special. When you serve Communion, you serve the people of God, and you serve Christ. You have seen our servers during Communion in their white Albs with crosses and the rope belt. Altar servers are typically scheduled for Holy Communion every Saturday evening at 5:30pm and the 1st and 3rd Sundays both 8am and 10:30am. Servers assist by serving the bread on Saturday and on Sunday we need three servers for each service to serve the bread or wine.

As an Altar Server, you will do tasks that others will never do. You will learn things that others will never know. You will see the Worship service in ways that others may never see it. You will do it all for the Honor and Glory of God.

Coming this September, I will be asking those interested to please come to an information and training meeting. Look for a future announcement for the exact date and time. If you are interested and would like more information, contact Carl Norlin 847-370-1210 (Text or call).

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2023

Save the Date! Annual Church Meeting and Council Elections

When: Sunday, November 12, 2023

The Board of Elders serves as the Nominating Committee for Council Elections. The nomination process will open August 13, 2023. If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning more about the positions available, please contact one of the Elders.

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

President- 1 year term

Secretary- 1 year term

Treasurer- 1 year term

Board of Trustees- 3 year term

Elder – 3 year term

For more information, contact:

If you have questions about any of the positions, you can contact one of the Elders.

Cheryl Bengston 224-436-3613 / Rod Lunkenheimer 847-917-1304 / Nancy O'Connor -847-902-8308



**August 12th / 2nd Saturday / 7:00am Breakfast /
8:00am Training / 9:30am Adjourn**

Join in person or via zoom on the 2nd Saturday of the month (Men age 15+). Become part of something good and GET PLUGGED IN. We always have room for one more man. Send your contact information to Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com or text 847-271-8632.

Thank you for your prayers and cards. I wanted to let you know that the Lord answered your prayers. After almost two months trying to find a bed in a skilled nursing home, the Lord answered prayer in a way we did not expect and now Walt is in a place about a mile away from me. He is getting good care.

Walt is 96, having fallen breaking his hip and having a successful operation, he still battles Parkinson's, so he is prone to falling as well as having memory loss. He needs watching constantly and I no longer can. I did for three years, but am now in my 90s and no longer have the strength. I can go visit him knowing he is in good hands.

God answered our prayers. Thank you, our friends at St. Mark. I trust this encourages you in your prayer life. We need the Lord throughout our life but especially now in our aging years.

Olive Liefeld, and Walt, too.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2023



The **Congregational Life Committee** would like to thank you for your donations in support of our **Operation Christmas Child—Christmas in July** program. The wish list will remain active through the

month of October. We still have many items that are needed on the list. We encourage you to take a look at the list and make a purchase if you're able. Even if we need multiples of most of the selections, you can choose to make a purchase of just one or two or whatever amount works for you.

Feel free to reach out to Donna Bergl at 847-612-4565 or d.bergl@yahoo.com for assistance or with any questions.



Here's the link to the Operation Christmas Child wish list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/9P20JNPIHNT8?ref=wl_share



How to cultivate generosity, based on a new study by Thrivent and Barna.

Watch Party (Lunch Provided, RSVP Call/Text Coordinator)

AUG 10(THU) 11:00am / Bethel / Gurnee (Call/Text Mike 847-875-3628)

OCT 4 (WED) 11:00am St Mark / Lindenhurst (Call/Text Jerry 847-271-8632)

RSVP Call/Text or Register <https://www.thrivent.com/member-network/chicagoland/events>

*No products will be sold. For additional disclosures, see [Thrivent.com/social](https://www.thrivent.com/social)

Save the Date



St. Mark Harvest Fest

Join us for food, music and kid activities at St. Mark's Harvest Fest!

What: Harvest Fest

When: Saturday, September 16, 2023

Time: Noon - 5:00 PM

Where: St. Mark Lutheran Church

1822 E. Grand Ave.

Lindenhurst, IL 60046

Who: ANYONE! Please invite family, friends, neighbors. This is a COMMUNITY EVENT!!



From your Church Doctor Task Force



We are looking forward to working with Pastor Steve and the Transition Team as St. Mark continues to work towards getting a new pastor. Besides Pastor Steve coming on board here, there are a lot of exciting things happening at St. Mark: Christmas In July, the Mission Trip to Logan, WV, our annual Rummage Sale, and planning for our first HarvestFest!!

We also want to support and/or help all the committee ministry teams prosper in 2023 as well as in the future. As a reminder, here are the 2023 Vision Statements given to us this past February:

Congregational Life – As a committee, it is our vision to continue to provide fun activities for the St. Mark members. We also plan to sponsor events that invite the public into St. Mark with the hope that they will choose to become members at some point.

Church Council (Best Practice & The Elders) – Pray for the Call Committee, the Organist, the youth of our congregation, and pray for the community (the unchurched) to find St. Mark.

Evangelism – To train disciples of Christ to share the gospel with the world. St. Mark is the heart of the greater Lake Villa community, dedicated to making sure everyone knows that they belong, they are loved by God and worthy of it.

Finance – Working on a Checklist, updating policies, continue with Fin-Facts, looking for additional members.

Parish Ed – How to get more children in youth and/or church – more social media, interview current kids, or have them fill out a questionnaire, work on SOP booklet.

Prayer Group – For St. Mark to BE a house of prayer. Have started to link up with PADS – possibly show The Chosen to the guests and have a discussion afterwards.

Property and Management – Look at the structural integrity and the safety of church/buildings. Get ahead of some structural issues – more painting to have the place more appealing. Make a 5-year facilities plan – a more in depth proposal. Be involved with the garden idea, the columbarium, and moving of the fire pit.

Stewardship – Continue with Stewie – encourage members to be involved with the church with small projects. Inform congregation what really goes into our budget.

Worship & Music – We want each of our services to glorify God and lead the congregation into deeper worship through musical excellence, creativity and passion flowing from the Holy Spirit.

Brock Zwicke – (Brock was not there but his information was given to us by Joni W.)

St. Mark has TWO different Facebook pages – please join both of them and comment and/or give them both as many “Likes” as possible:

[SMLCommunity \(St. Mark Lutheran Church\)](#)

[St. Mark Lutheran Church - Lindenhurst, IL](#)

The more we comment and/or “Like” these pages, the more people Facebook will send to our page. A suggestion from the people gathered that night is for Brock to possibly give the congregation a tutorial on what the 2 different pages are and how to use either one of them.



BEFORE THE KIDS GO BACK TO SCHOOL, you have most of the month of August to come into the Libertyville site to pack FMSC meals to feed kids like Lauza. If you want to join the church packing event, please use the following link: [Sign up for Saturday morning August 5th.](#)



If this date or time doesn't work into your schedule, please use this link ([Volunteer in August at FMSC](#)) to pick a date that works better on your calendar for you and your family. August at FMSC is usually pretty slow so please come in on a rainy day or if the kids are really bored (and actually want to go back to school)!!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2023



St. Mark's Sunday School program provides classes for **Preschoolers (4 years of age) through 8th graders**. The interactive, faith-building lessons focus on building a strong relationship with God through songs, crafts, games, and discussions.

Sunday School meets on **Sundays from 9:20am – 10:20am** in the Education Center. Kick off the year with **Rally Day on September 10th**! Sunday school classes will begin on September 17th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Opens August 6th

Register at <https://vbspro.events/p/sunschool2023> or use this QR code



For more information, please contact our Sunday School Coordinators (Denise Schaufel and Melissa Grandt) at stmarksunschool@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED

Our Sunday School Coordinators are looking for a second Sunday School Teacher for our 1st and 2nd grade Sunday School Class for the 2023 - 2024 year. Please consider speaking with Melissa Grandt, Denise Schaufel, or one of our Parish Ed Committee members if God is moving in your heart to serve in this way. You can email the group at stmarksunschool@gmail.com.

Let's celebrate summertime with an outdoor campfire around the church firepit!

Friday, August 4th from 7:00 to 8:00pm come join First Friday Sing & Pray for a good old fashion sing-a-long, roast s'mores and pray for our church & country.



Bring a chair, a friend and join in the fun!
In case of inclement weather, we will meet in the church sanctuary.

**First
Friday
Sing &
Pray
Campfire**

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2023

CONFIRMATION

Attention Confirmation Students and Parents!

Complete 2023-224 Confirmation information will be coming soon.

Here are two important dates for now:

- Confirmation Orientation - Wed., August 23rd at 6:30pm.
- First night of class will be Wed., September 13th at 6:30p

Questions, please contact the Parish Education Committee.



A VBS THANK YOU

We blasted off and had a STELAR week at VBS. Many thanks to our VBS Coordinators - Beth Miller and Julie Rick!! And our VBS Music Directors - Wendy Weidner and Jake Scheuring. WE COMPLETED GOD'S VBS MISSION!

More thanks to our adult and youth leaders AND our Pre-K thru 6th grade children who attended. **SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!!**

From your Safety & Security Committee

The month of August can be a hot one so just a few words of wisdom during the heat: wear your sunscreen, don't forget to hydrate and, if you are on or near the water, please don't forget water safety. If we get some extreme heat, please remember to check on your elderly neighbors and loved ones.

And as it pains us to say it, school is right around the corner! The following link is an article from the National Safety Council on [Back to School Safety](#). Please be careful around schools!!! You never know if a bus driver might be new, a student is new to the area or new to that particular school or you might be the one new to a particular school and the way they do things!



Keep the kids safe!!

Praying in Unprecedented Times



Continued from June and July 2023 Voice...

So how do we live in these unprecedented times? We live with character, integrity, purpose, a calling, and hope. Christ is to be the center of our life, not our self. In the previous *Voice* I shared an exercise to help to train yourself to practice, when you are anxious, fearful and full of concern. Do this for 40 days faithfully, a habit shall develop and you will find the peace of God which transcends all understanding which will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ.

Here is timely life story illustrating this truth. Our son, Andy is a history buff and serves on the Waterford, Wis. Town Board. The town has been storing a historic rusting cannon used in the Spanish American war in one of their maintenance buildings for several years. Being one of only four remaining in the United States, Andy decided to build a July 4th float displaying the cannon so as to raise restoration funds. Speakers were in place to blare Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* with the symphony's cannons blasting as the float rolled by. Unfortunately, Andy's work phone, the vital tech link to playing the sound into the float's speakers had gone missing! Best guess, it disappeared Monday evening after he and his daughters, Natalia and Natasha, had decorated the float and drove it to its overnight parking spot. Anxiety and lots more followed into the night as numerous places were combed over in the house, the yard, the streets traveled, and no phone! Company tracking was unavailable due to the holiday. What to do? Morning of July 4th a mad scramble to refigure a tech connection. It worked so well, Andy's float won first prize in the open class.

Afternoon of July 4th it was acknowledged only God knew where the location of the phone lie. I suggested Andy relax and leave the phone issue in God's hands. Andy had prayed, but it was as he was running out of human options as well as his mindset was that God was not interested in "little things." Andy sighed, "I am done stressing about the phone. It's in God's hands." Later after, Cliff and I left for home, John, Andy's brother-in-law, declared he would call the phone just one more time and told Andy to "Just keep the faith." John dialed the phone and a woman answered! Her autistic grandson had spotted the phone. It was lying in a curbside on a street which Andy had not traveled while towing the float to and from various locations. Joy and gratitude filled our households.

The lesson: pray first, trust and obey God's teaching Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6-7.

Over time as you make a habit of turning the anxiety, fear and concern into a prayer and petition, with thanksgiving to God, you shall find the true peace of God which guards your heart and mind even in a world of fear and anxiety.

For more information contact Barb Ewert, bewert@colsonfellows.org

¹The Second Commandment and 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (the Message) ¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.

Drop by the **Prayer Table** in the Narthex for additional materials.

Resource, Ken Boa, Questions & Answers 3/17/23 <https://youtu.be/kTZONqyA6is>



What's So Amazing About Grace?

Grace is the church's great distinctive. It's the one thing the world cannot duplicate, and the one thing it craves above all else--for only grace can bring hope and transformation to a jaded world. In *What's So Amazing About Grace?* Award winning author Philip Yancey explores grace at street level. If grace is God's love for the undeserving, he asks, then what does it look like in action? And if Christians are its sole dispensers, then how are we doing at lavishing grace on a world that knows far more of cruelty and unforgiveness than it does of mercy?

Yancey sets grace in the midst of life's stark images, tests its mettle against horrific "ungrace":

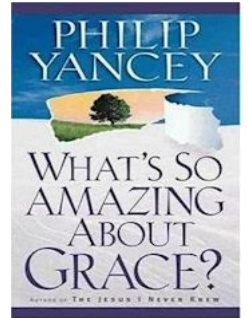
Can grace survive in the midst of such atrocities as the Nazi holocaust? Can it triumph over the brutality of the Ku Klux Klan?

Should any grace at all be shown to the likes of Jeffrey Dahmer, who killed and cannibalized seventeen young men?

Grace does not excuse sin, says Yancey, but it treasures the sinner. True grace is shocking, scandalous. It shakes our conventions with its insistence on getting close to sinners and touching them with mercy and hope. It forgives the unfaithful spouse, the racist, the child abuser. It loves today's AIDS-ridden addict as much as the tax collector of Jesus' day.

In his most personal and provocative book ever, Yancey offers compelling, true portraits of grace's life-changing power. He searches for its presence in his own life and in the church. He asks, "How can Christians contend graciously with moral issues that threaten all they hold dear?"

And he challenges us to become living answers to a world that desperately wants to know, *What's So Amazing About Grace?* You can find this book under call number 234 YAN.



VBS was a BLAST!

This year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) launched 40 kids and 30 volunteers on a faith-based, cosmic quest. Through Bible stories, Bible buddies, songs, crafts, and games, they learned:

- When life feels dark, shine Jesus' light!
- When people don't get along, shine Jesus' light!
- When good things happen, shine Jesus' light!
- When people are sad, shine Jesus' light!
- When people need help, shine Jesus' light!



This year's VBS offering will support Feed My Starving Children. The children raised \$348.56 which will provide 1,161 meals!

Thank you to families for sending your children and grandchildren. Thank you to our VBS volunteers and SMLC Congregation for your time, your donations, and your prayers.

We hope to see everyone in Sunday School!

What happened on the



Well you'll just have to wait until September's
VOICE
or come to our Mission Trip Review Event!! So keep your eyes and ears open for when that event will happen!! It will definitely happen early to mid-August before our college kids have to go back to school! This should be an awesome time of sharing!!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2023



August Holy Smokes!



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Attention all youth and their friends (freshmen in HS-to-be through seniors in college-to-be) are invited to join us this summer around the fire pit. Please plan on attending and also plan on having fun playing some games, eating S'mores, and just hanging out around the fire.

**As of right now, we're planning on meeting
at 6:30 (rain or shine) on:
August 13th & August 20th**

Let's pray for good weather so we can enjoy the beauty of summer nights. If it is raining, we'll meet in the Ed Center. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mike Mol at 847-276-8739 or MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there and bring a friend!!

Noah's Nursery News Meet Jori!



Featuring a segment called "Getting to Know You" regarding our nursery volunteers!

In this article, I would like to introduce Jori Shea to you!

Jori became a member of St Mark in 2010, when her children Colin and Reilly were just preschoolers. They are both teenagers now and were also confirmed here at St. Mark.

The nursery was extremely lucky to have Jori come on board volunteering in 2013! Jori's favorite thing about the nursery is seeing little ones come there so families are comfortable attending church with an option for their littles to be in a safe and loving environment nearby. Jori naturally exudes pure comfort, peace, and joy with our children of St Mark!

Jori has been a physical therapist for 25 years and she truly enjoys her role in helping others in this way!

In her spare time, Jori enjoys traveling and spending time with family, taking walks, and watching sports. Thankfully, her love of playing soccer has carried on with her boys which completely delights her!

Jori's favorite time of year is Fall because of the fresh air and colors that it brings. That said, Thanksgiving is her favorite holiday because family comes together to celebrate with good food and companionship without the pressure of gift giving!

Besides contributing to the nursery all these years, Jori is also on the Welcome Committee as well as the Altar Guild. She remains willing to lend a hand wherever needed, which is truly admirable.

Jori's gifts of exuding patience, joy and comfort with a true Christian spirit make her an asset to the nursery! Thank you, Jori, for your wonderful contributions over the years! We sure do appreciate you!

In Christ,
Deb Heide

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2023

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.

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Valid the **Second Tuesday** of each Month

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1856 E. Grand Ave., Lindenhurst

DATES: Second Tuesdays
8/8/23, 9/12/23, 10/10/2023



Wendy's

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Now Serving Breakfast!

DRIVE THRU Anytime that day! Be sure to bring your coupon! (paper or electronic)

Show your support for St. Mark Lutheran Church

Stop into **Wendy's® Lindenhurst** anytime on the **Third Thursday** of each month and **30%** of qualifying sales will be donated to **St. Mark Lutheran Church**.

DATE: Every Third Thursday
8/17/23, 9/21/2023, 10/19/23

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.

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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

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Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2023

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Service Times
Saturday | 5:30PM
Traditional
Sunday | 9:00AM
*Traditional /
Contemporary*

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EMAIL DEB@SMLC.INFO

**AUGUST VOICE DEADLINE:
August 15, 2023**

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
August 2023