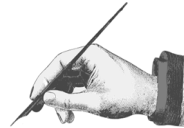


December 2022 / January 2023

President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



Thank you to all who attended our Annual Meeting a few weeks ago and thank you for participating in a very good discussion. It's important to be able to have respectful dialogue among our church family members and I'm grateful we can do that with the Holy Spirit guiding the way.

It did bring to light the truth that the same people continue to say yes when asked to serve in capacities that require time commitments. We have many volunteers who serve weekly or monthly in needed roles to usher, greet, teach Sunday School, serve communion and many other functions and I can only say praise God for all of you. That said, we have approximately 25 volunteers who carry multiple plates and consequently commit 6-10 hours *each week* to ensure St. Mark is able to offer meaningful worship services and Sunday School and other programs and to keep the church running efficiently. Our records indicate that we currently have 405 active and non-active members over the age of 18. If there is any possibility of some of the 380 helping the 25 by assisting committees, it would make a remarkable difference. I have serious concerns about the health of some of our committee volunteers who are reaching the end of their abilities. No one should ever feel heavy levels of stress when serving our Lord but they're tired. There was anticipation that the Ministry Palooza might generate the interest of those who aren't yet committed to serving but there were very few who signed up for any of the needs. Some have limited abilities due to health reasons but others are healthy and just haven't found their niche. I'm not sure how long those who have been serving for 10-20 years non-stop will be able to continue. Young people and newer members are especially needed because when the same people continue to serve in the same capacity year after year, we don't get fresh, new ideas. God wants you to use your spiritual gifts and if you know you are using them, you are probably serving in a significant capacity and this message may not be for you.

Continued on page 5

In This Issue:

- ⇒ President's Notes
- ⇒ Pastor's Letter
- ⇒ Pastor Appreciation
- ⇒ Missouri Musings
- ⇒ Council Highlights
- ⇒ Prayer Opportunities
- ⇒ Friday Night Sing & Pray
- ⇒ Joyful Hearts Singles Group
- ⇒ Safety & Security
- ⇒ What's on the Shelf
- ⇒ Mission Trip
- ⇒ Ask Stewie
- ⇒ Sunday School
- ⇒ Family Xmas Celebration
- ⇒ Angel Tree
- ⇒ Meals on Wheels
- ⇒ PADS
- ⇒ Ministry Palooza
- ⇒ C3 News
- ⇒ FMSC Mobilepack
- ⇒ Congregational Life
- ⇒ Open Arms
- ⇒ Fin Facts
- ⇒ Poinsettia Order Form
- ⇒ Baptism
- ⇒ Spiritual Gifts Workshop
- ⇒ Women's Bible Study
- ⇒ Support our Church

Christmas Services



Please join us to celebrate
Christ's Birth on December
24th at 4:00 & 8:00PM
Christmas Day at 10:30 AM



Order your
Poinsettia by
Monday, December
12th! Order form
can be found on
page 14.

Advent Services



Join us on
Wednesday,
December 7th
& 14th at 7:00PM
following soup
supper.

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: deb@smlc.info & stmarkcommunications@gmail.com.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 2023



ST. MARK COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Debbie Plishka (Dec)

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Debbie Plishka/ Kellie Rice (Jan)

FINANCIAL TREASURER

Patrice Sutton

BOARD OF ELDERS

Cheryl Bengston Dean Miller/Nancy O'Connor (Jan) Rodney Lunkenheimer (Jan)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jerry Gass Laurie Kerns Jen Kumpula/Keith Niles (Jan)

ST. MARK COMMITTEES

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Overseen by Trustee:
Jen Kumpula

Donna Bergl
Tricia Cholewinski
Shawn Frank

FINANCE

Overseen by:
Board of Trustees

Pam Preston Lynn Wetterberg Jill Winling

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Overseen by Trustee:
Jerry Gass
Robin Korom

STEWARDSHIP

Overseen by Trustee:
Laurie Kerns
Laurie Kerns
Carl Norlin

EVANGELISM

Overseen by Elder

Chris Holmes
Patrick Krook
Jeff McKenzie

PARISH EDUCATION

Overseen by Elder: Dean Miller
Lori McKenzie Jane Milani

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Overseen by Elder:
Cheryl Bengston
Charlie Burke
Wendy Weidner
Brock Zwicke

SAFETY & SECURITY

Overseen by:
Board Of Trustees
Al Maciareillo Mike Mol Judy Dunfrund
Deb Zuchowski

PASTOR

Terry Breum | Pastor@smlc.info

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Deb Zuchowski | Deb@smlc.info

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Rhonda Doran | Rhonda@smlc.info

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC & MEDIA COORDINATOR

Brock Zwicke | Brock.smlc@gmail.com

ORGANIST/TRADITIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jiyoung Jeoung | jiyoung701@hotmail.com

NURSERY COORDINATOR

Deb Heide | heidedeborah@gmail.com

BOOKKEEPER

Barb Griffith | Barb@smlc.info

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Kim Mohr | kimmohr.smlc@gmail.com

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Jim Schaufel | James.schaufel@yahoo.com

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 10th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meetings: Tuesday, January 24th @ 7:00PM

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 2023

From the Desk of Pastor Breum

Joshua 1:9 (NLT2) ⁹“This is my command - be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9 (MSG) ⁹“Haven’t I commanded you? Strength! Courage! Don’t be timid; don’t get discouraged. GOD, your God, is with you every step you take.”

Thanksgiving is behind us and Christmas is in front of us. The Word of the Lord speaks to us year-round, for every season of time, and life. I feel at times like God’s Word rescues us from ourselves, from the outside pressures that seek to destroy us, from unhealthy inner attitudes that can be so destructive, and from overwhelming fear that can stop us in our tracks and hold us from moving forward. Joshua played a huge role in the Exodus of God’s people from Egypt on into the Promised Land and the conquering of the Promised Land. He was placed in a most impossible position, to take over the leadership of Moses after the death of Moses. Joshua had seen all the acts of God such as the parting of the Red Sea, the manna that came daily except on the Sabbath, water gushing from a rock, an earthquake that swallowed up those in rebellion, and the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night which was the Presence of the Lord leading the people. He saw more than I can mention plus he was mentored by Moses to be the next leader of God’s people.

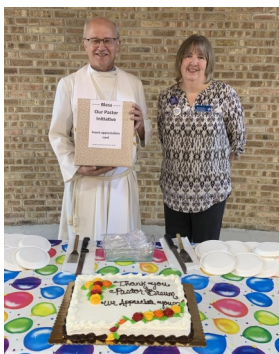
Where do you find yourself today? Are you dealing with family relationships, emotions, situations, or a place of overwhelming responsibilities? You might even dread the thought of tomorrow for today was not all that easy. God spoke to Joshua directly and Joshua took in the Word of the Lord. I truly believe the Word of God brought great strength into Joshua.

Joshua looked up to Moses and saw how badly the people rebelled against Moses. Why would anyone with half a brain agree to be the next leader? 1. Joshua listened to God’s calling on his life and in that calling came great strength to accomplish what God called him to do. Moses had left but God promised never to leave Joshua. God would be with him every step of the way. 2. God instructed Joshua to never let fear take over his life. In order for this to happen, Joshua listened to God and chose to put all of his trust in God, overriding his fears. I do believe the Presence of God touched Joshua deeply and Joshua sensed God’s helpful Presence. 3. God spoke against discouragement which meant Joshua felt encouraged by God Himself to lead the people of God. Every word God spoke inspired Joshua and motivated him to walk with the Lord at every step.

I have a picture of my grandmother in my office. In her 80’s her smile was precious. I could make a list of various problems, struggles, heartaches, and more that she experienced in her 98 years, but she lived every day in such a way that whatever happened to her did not stop her from doing good and she never was overcome by the evils she faced. Grandma kept going, kept serving, kept being helpful to us all, and all by an inner strength given to her by God. Her faith in God kept her going.

Jesus says to all of us, “Fear not.” God is with us every step of the way. And yes, we are here for each other.

God Bless,
Pastor Breum



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 2023



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

St. Mark in South Africa

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run and be glorified . . ." (2 Thess. 3:1 ASV). Recent translations change "run" to something like "spread rapidly" (NIV) or "speed ahead" (ESV). But I like the awkward image of God's word running. For I see that word surging and bounding into people's lives with a sprinter's mad abandon. God's word *runs* as we study Scripture in seminary classes. It *runs* in churches on Sundays as the Bible is preached and taught. It *runs* daily in our personal lives as we read it, heed it, and live our lives for God's glory.

All over the world, the good news of Jesus Christ goes forth. The living and active word of God (Heb. 4:12) is on the loose. We need only latch on, hang on, and settle into the rich life in Christ that it maps out for us.

Recently I observed the Bible *running* in three different settings in South Africa. Pastor Bill Shields and I preached at two different churches in Cape Town on Sunday morning, October 16. Then we led a conference for about 70 pastors and their wives that lasted from Sunday evening until Wednesday noon. This is an outreach that St. Mark supports. Greentree Community Church in St. Louis donated money for free books for the pastors who attended. This ministry, which began in 2014, continues to have a powerful effect in many lives and congregations.

In South Africa, social and economic conditions for many are dire. But people are seeking God where he is to be found: in the Scriptures. It was a joy for Bill and me to spend four straight days helping God's people (and some who have yet to believe) think through the word of God that creates faith (Rom. 10:17) and through that faith bestows eternal life. When people hunger for it, God's word runs to meet them, and then carries them forward and God-ward, for this age and the next.

After our four days in Cape Town (Sunday–Wednesday), I journeyed to Johannesburg and conducted a retreat for a pastoral staff on Thursday, October 20, from 9:30 AM until 4:30 PM. This was at the Rosebank Union Church--google it (<https://ruc.org.za/>) to get a sense of the ministry that goes on there.

Then at the same church, on Friday and Saturday, I taught at a two-day conference that focused on the epistles of John. 150 people signed up for this event! We studied the word from 9:30 AM until 4 PM. About half of the people were students from Bible training centers in nearby townships.

The townships are areas where Black people were herded during the Apartheid years in South Africa, when non-Whites were suppressed. Part of the role of the South African church now is to be living out the gospel message that reconciles people in Christ across racial lines. Our conference, with both Blacks and Whites, was a statement of the gospel truth that God is not partial: all races and nationalities need forgiveness of their sins and new life through faith in Christ. We can embrace each other in God's love rather than shun or hate each other.

In the book of Revelation, the Lamb who was slain is praised in these words: "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Rev. 5:9).

This is not just a heavenly vision. Already, right now, people "from every tribe and language and people and nation" are coming to faith and coming together as God's people, the body of Christ, the church, as the word of the Lord runs and is glorified.

Here is a picture of about 50 of the 70+ people at the Cape Town conference. They all praise God and thank St. Mark for your prayers and support!



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 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 November 2022

Spiritual Gifts Workshop planned for noon, Sunday, Feb 5, 2023, to last 2-3 hours with lunch to be served. Mark your calendars!

Motion passed to disburse \$2,000 from the Council Discretionary Benevolence fund to be provided to Feed My Starving Children with a specific designation for Haiti, now the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, now battling cholera outbreaks on top of nearly half the population experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity.

Motion passed to accept with regrets Rebecca Gundlach's resignation from the Worship & Music Committee.

Motion passed to accept with regrets Stephanie Flores' resignation as Sunday School Coordinator and Parish Ed Committee member.

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

One of my favorite quotes is from 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."*

Consider that the heavenly host came to the shepherds in the fields to be the first to know Jesus was born in Bethlehem. I wonder if they were chosen because God knew they'd respond to Him without letting "life" distract them. There have always been distractions because that's been the job of the enemy ever since Creation.

I want to acknowledge our Nursery Coordinator, Deb Heide, for her dedication to taking care of our little ones so parents can worship in peace, knowing their children are in a safe, loving environment. From year to year, Deb never lets a Sunday go by without a huge smile and so much love in her heart for your babies. Thank you, Deb, for your dedication to where God has planted you.

Thank you, everyone, for all the contributions you have made to serving God's church. He is the head of St. Mark and we are here to love Him and please Him. We begin by building relationships and not just loving people but really loving them, as He loves us. When we do that, we'll become a closer family and want to help each other wherever and whenever we can.

Wishing you and your family a beautifully blessed Advent and Christmas season and a very happy, safe and healthy New Year! He came so we could have life!

Joni Wasmund
Council President

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 2023



St Mark's Three Days of Prayer

January 10, 11, and 12

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

St. Mark Church will be participating in our eighth LCMC *Three Days of Prayer* from Tuesday, January 10 through Thursday, January 12, 2023. Look for updates in the weekly announcements and the *2023 Prayer Brochure* and *Prayer Guides* on the Prayer Table in the Narthex starting December 30 through January 6, 2023.

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. All Christian churches face increasing hostility from an intolerant culture while we are commanded to love one another, seek the greatest good for others, and pray for our enemies.

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; 4) trust and obey the Holy Spirit's direction; and, 5) help us refocus on our mission in carrying out the Great Commission.

What profit is there in prayer?

"Much in every way. Whatever God can do faith can do, and whatever faith can do prayer can do when offered in faith. Faith is only genuine as it eventuates into prayer. An invitation to prayer is, therefore, an invitation to omnipotence, for prayer engages the omnipotent God and brings Him into our human affairs. Nothing is impossible to the man who prays in faith, just as nothing impossible with God. ... According to the Bible, we have because we ask, or we have not because we ask not." Is wisdom not to pray, but pray again and again till the answer comes? The world situation is such that only God can straighten it out. Let us not fail the world and disappoint God by failing to pray." Tozer, A.W. *Prayer* Moody Press, 2016. P.88.

Ongoing Opportunities for Prayer

- *First Friday Sing and Pray*. See you Friday, December 2nd at 7:00pm. and January 6, 2023 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in the sanctuary. See First Friday, *Pray and Sing*.
- *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 request.
- *ZOOM Weekly Prayer Meeting* - Come, pray and be blessed. Beginning Tuesdays, November 29 to January 2 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. we will be meeting on Zoom praying over the previous week of Prayer Chain requests, St. Mark Church and each other. Contact Person: Pam Burke 244-430-6226 and Barb Ewert for Zoom link at 847-514-5487. Check for meeting location/format update in mid-January, 2023.
- The Worship and Music Committee will be posting 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, Pastor, staff, church council and committees and for the Church Doctor training and program during this coming church year.



Friday Night Sing & Pray



God is still answering pray!!! He is the same yesterday, today and forever! St Mark Church has opened our doors with the opportunity to come together corporately and pray. We are so privileged to live in a country enabling us to pray openly and experience God's wonder working power. All are welcome to join Sing & Pray on Friday, December 2, 2022, and January 6, 2023 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in the sanctuary.

Prayers are petitioned before our mighty Lord for world situations, our country, current events, our church, the lost, family, friends, and of course personal prayer requests. Please consider bringing those in your life who need prayer.

The session will wrap up around 8:00pm however feel free to come and go as you please. Stop in for 30 minutes or stay until the end, whatever works in your schedule. We want to keep our gathering informal. Pray whatever is on your heart silently, in agreement, or out loud. No pressure. No expectations. Just God's people coming together to pray and seek his face.

"Devote yourselves to prayer" Colossians 4:2

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 2023

St Mark's 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, 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](mailto:Lindholm_Patricia@yahoo.com)
NEOConnor@comcast.net



St. Mark's



Committee

Did You Know?

St Mark has developed a RAPID RESPONSE TEAM. The team is comprised of members that have been trained in basic first aid and CPR in the event an occurrence happens during church hours. If something occurs, feel free to reach out to anyone on this list for assistance and they will be happy to help.

The following is a list of the members and the service they typically attend:

8:00 Service: Judy Dunfrund, Nita Parmley, and Jim Schaufel

Nursery: Debra Heide

10:30 Service: Jerry Doran, Rhonda Doran, Kevin Korom, Mike Mol, Gary Olson, Deb Zuchowski, and Roger Zuchowski

If you would like to help and become a member of this team, please let one of your Safety & Security Committee members know.

Other things to be aware of:

1. We would like to thank the Lake Villa Fire Department for considering to help us with another fire drill. (Unfortunately due to inclement weather, the drill was canceled but we plan to schedule another in the spring.)
2. As this article is being written, it is currently 71 degrees outside, so it is *VERY* hard to realize that winter is right around the corner but we all know it is and with it comes snow and icy conditions. PLEASE, PLEASE be careful in the parking lots and on the sidewalks if these conditions occur. As always, if you can, please help some who may need assistance getting to and from our front doors!
3. An invitation to all – if you see something that needs to be addressed, say something to the people that can help - your Safety & Security Team.



In His service,

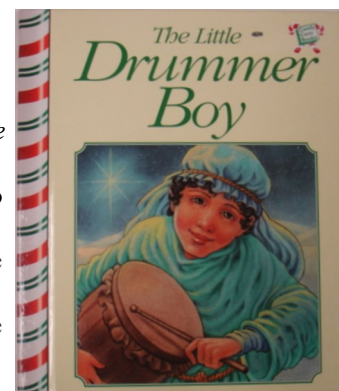
Judy Dunfrund, Al Maciareillo, Mike Mol, or Deb Zuchowski



What's on the Shelf?

A Life Observed

This month's selection is a fictional Christmas story for the children. *The Little Drummer Boy* by Carolyn Quattrocki tells the Christmas story beautifully while weaving in the fictional story of the boy who wanted to bring a gift to the Christ Child, but had nothing to give. He visited Jesus in the nativity scene, but came without a present. Saddened, he found the most precious gift of all and gave it to the Baby - the gift of love. He gave this gift by playing his drum for baby Jesus. Children will enjoy the illustrations in this picture book while learning about the birth of our Lord and Savior. You can find this book under call number E QUA.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 2023

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH OF ST. MARK 2023 SUMMER MISSION ANNOUNCEMENT



**WEST VIRGINIA,
HERE
WE
COME**



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 15th, and get back late Saturday night, July 22nd. 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 will start early in 2023 so be on the lookout for information on how and when to register. 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 to support our female participants.**



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.

OK, raise your hand, who likes to eat?

In this edition of, Ask Stewie, let's look at St. Mark fundraisers; some that you may know about and then again maybe not. Stewardship oversees four ongoing fundraisers. Two of which are once every month (Community Fellowship nights), another is a once a year (Rummage Sale), and the last is an ongoing "We Care" collection container.

The funds that are collected from the Rummage Sale are a separate income that is labeled Restricted Funds and are used for designated purposes. These funds are not part of our offerings to pay expenses. You may not realize that these fundraisers collectively generate \$23-25,000 annually. Yes, that's not a typo-, you all help and can maybe help even more.

Community Fellowship Nights. Just eat out, carry out, or have delivered meals two nights a month. Antioch Pizza night, is the second Tuesday of the month and Wendy's Night is the third Thursday of the month. St. Mark generates over \$1,000 per year with these fundraisers and all you need to do is enjoy a meal or two per month and enjoy great fellowship with others.

Another fundraiser added in the last year or so is the "WE Care" collection container behind the Ed Center. Just deposit clothing and fabrics and we generate nearly \$500 for things we used to throw away but now are recycled.

Finally, the big event that happens once a year in early August, the St. Mark Rummage Sale. This event can generate over \$21,000 over three sale days. Wow, a great fundraiser and a way to make room in the garage, basement or that spare room. Thank you to all that donate and Laurie thanks the faithful workers.

So, let's eat, recycle clothing/fabric and make room for all that rummage. Please join these fundraisers and let's generate money for St. Mark and the Lord's work.

Stewie

Ask Stewie:



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 2023



Thank You from Sunday School

- Thank you to our SS Coordinator, Stephanie Flores, who started our SS year with a bang!! We appreciate all you did for our program and are sorry you had to step down. We will miss you!
- Many thanks to Dean Miller as he finishes as our Elder. We will miss you.
- We welcome Nancy O'Connor as our new Elder.

Coordinator Urgently Needed

- Parish Ed is looking for an additional Co-coordinator for our Sunday School program.
- Our past Co-coordinators left a complete binder with helpful guidelines, calendars, curricula and ideas. Parish Ed is also available to help.

Substitute Teachers Needed

- We are looking for Sunday School Substitute Teachers. Please consider adding your name to our list.

Please contact Parish Education: Lori McKenzie or Jane Milani at stmarksunschool@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you for considering serving God in this vital ministry.

Angel Tree Is Back!

Angel Tree Tags will be available starting Saturday, Nov. 26th. The gifts need to be returned to church by Wednesday, Dec. 7th.



The gifts will be delivered the week of Dec. 12-18. Each child will receive a gift of clothing or toys not more than \$25-\$30 in value. Return the gifts wrapped with the Angel Tree Tag attached to the Christmas tree in the Narthex. Please contact Jill Decker if you have questions.

Thank you to everyone that helps with this ministry. The families greatly appreciate the gifts.

Christmas Decorating

A huge THANK YOU to all who helped decorate the sanctuary and adjoining areas for the holiday. It took a greatly enthusiastic group of confirmands, their parents and congregational members to get it done in a manner of hours. It will take half the time to take it down on January 9th (6:00PM)!

A reminder to add your ornament to the fellowship hall tree! Add your heart to all those who already have a little part of themselves displayed.

My Christmas wish for all is that we regain the Christian fire of our parents!



Gae Michal gmichal48@gmail.com

*St. Mark Family
Christmas Celebration*

Please join us for the St. Mark Family Christmas Celebration, Sunday December 11th 4pm-6pm. The evening festivities will include music, a nativity play, and a holiday party for all with food, crafts, and cookies. Each family should bring a plate of cookies to share and bring a non-perishable donation for the food pantry. Invite your friends and family to attend and enjoy an evening celebrating the birth of our Savior. Volunteers are needed (a one-time two-hour commitment), please contact Cindy Zwicke, program coordinator, at 847-265-1103.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 2023

I Can Do That!



Are you looking for a way to help out but don't want to attend meetings or be at church weekly? We have the ministry for you. St. Mark is part of the Meals on Wheels of Lake County. We are in great need of some new driver/delivery people. It is a very easy and rewarding experience. St. Mark is part of a rotating schedule every fifth week that delivers hot meals to Seniors. This comes out to about 10 times per year. You would take one of the days our week, pick up the food at the Antioch Township offices at 1625 Deep Lake Road at 10:00 am and deliver to the clients. All clients are in the Lindenhurst/Lake Villa area. It usually takes a little more than an hour to complete the route. The seniors are always happy to see you and are very grateful. One of us would ride with you the first time to help show you the ropes. So if you are free mornings and love helping people, give Laurie Kerns a call at 847-612-1510 and we will get you started.



I hope you all were able to attend our 2022 Ministry Palooza. It was awesome! So many groups set up great displays to highlight all that St. Mark has to offer. If you weren't able to attend or didn't get to see everything, there are new Ministry Books on the wall outside Deb's office. Please take one. Hopefully you all were moved to join something new. New faces at a Bible study or helping with a committee or project are always welcome or maybe you have an idea for something new. We love new ideas. Contact a council member and we will help you get started. Thank you so much to everyone who set up a display and spent two days helping to inform our members of everything they can be a part of. Thank you also to all who took the time to attend. It takes many hands to help a church thrive. Raise your hand, join us and let's make St. Mark the church everyone wants to attend. Thanks Laurie Kerns

PADS

How Can I Help?

We need at least 16 volunteers every Friday night/ Saturday morning from October to April to help provide food and shelter to homeless guests at St. Mark. This is a very rewarding experience and a wonderful way to share God's love with others. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated.

What would you do?

Friday...

5pm-8pm...Check in with the site manager, welcome guests, heat up and serve food, clean up kitchen and eating area and visit with guests.

8pm-11pm...Hand out needed supplies, visit with guests. Most guests are in bed by 9:30

11pm-3am...Everyone sleeping. Read a book, catch up on emails, quietly talk with the other volunteer, make lunches if not done. Assist any guests that get up during the night.

Saturday...

3am-7am...Check in with site manager, start breakfast, wake up guests, serve breakfast, clean up kitchen and eating area.

5am-7am...Check in with site manager, wipe down all pads and pillows, gather laundry into hampers, clean bathrooms, sweep and mop floors where needed and take out garbage.

St. Mark has been a part of this ministry for over 30 years. Our prayers are to one day be out of businesses because there are no homeless or they have a permanent site. Until then we desperately need your help to keep this going. We especially need help for the 11pm thru clean up shifts. Grab a friend, try it once and I'm sure you will come back again. Go online at smlc.info for a link to sign up. You can sign up one time, weekly, monthly or however often you wish. We also need help providing food. Thank you for helping.

For questions Call...

Volunteering:

Contact Jill Decker - padsatsmark@gmail.com

Food:

Contact Laurie Kerns - minedaffyduck@aol.com

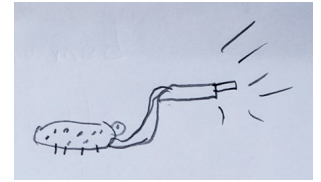
Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 2023

C/3 High School Youth of St. Mark



If you haven't been to a youth group night for a while, here are just 2 of things you've missed:



Are they related – come to our next event and find out!! And when will that be you ask?

If we keep to our current schedule – meeting every 2 weeks – our next meetings for the months of December and January will be: December 4th and 18th & January 8th and 22nd.

We might do some Christmas caroling on December 4th while the “meeting” on 18th will probably be a Progressive Dinner with the “Dessert House” having a White Elephant Gift Exchange to finish off the evening! The meetings in January are wide open for any suggestions you might have so let me hear them! **WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO??**

Other things to think about and/or put on your calendar:

- Anyone interested in writing to a Compassion International child St. Mark has?
- QUAKE is coming up: Feb 10th – 12th in Wisconsin Dells.
- Anyone interested in seeing TobyMac in concert? The TobyMac Hits Deep Tour is Saturday, March 4th, at 6 pm at the Now Arena in Hoffman Estates.
- Mission Trip to West Virginia, July 15th – 22nd. Registration opening soon!!

As always, if you have any questions, pray requests, concerns about what we are doing and/or why we are doing it, please reach out to Mike Mol at 847-276-8739 or at MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com. Please continue to pray for the youth of St. Mark!!!



We Set A Record!!!

“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be

During our November packing session, St. Mark, along with about 90 other volunteers, set the new post-Covid packing record! We packed a total of 181 boxes, which is over 39,000 meals – saving 107 kids' lives for a year!! But

The need is still great, so members of St. Mark and their friends still have an opportunity to feed hungry children around the world. (Can you set a new record!!!!) I have reserved one table (19 people) once a month – either on a Thursday night or a Saturday morning. The schedule St. Mark will follow is:

- Saturday, December 3rd, at 8:45 to 10:45 am ([December's Sign Up](#))
- Thursday, January 5th, 2023, at 6:45 to 8:45 pm ([January's Sign Up](#))
- Saturday, February 4th, 2023, at 8:45 to 10:45 am ([February's Sign Up](#))
- Thursday, March 2nd, at 6:45 to 8:45 pm ([March's Sign Up](#))
- Saturday, April 1st, at 8:45 to 10:45 am ([April's Sign Up](#))

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.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 2023

Greetings From The Congregational Life Committee

Volunteer Support Needed for CLC Committee

It's been a busy, hectic few weeks for the Congregational Life Committee and we are just entering the busiest time of the year. As a three person committee, we are definitely feeling stretched thin these days. Pastor's devotion on Friday hit home for us. *"Yes, sometimes the best answer, the answer that glorifies God is to say "no" when opportunities arise instead of instantly saying "yes."* Learning to live within one's healthy limitations is a great way to stay physically healthy, spiritually alive, and helps you to be a joy to be around." We're not saying "no", but we are saying "HELP!". We're reaching out to all of you and asking for volunteers to help us with all of the activities and events that our committee organizes throughout the year. Please reach out to Shawn Frank, Tricia Cholewinski or Donna Bergl and let them know if you are available to be on our list of St. Mark members that we can call upon when needed to help us keep all of the fun and meaningful events and activities going.

Holiday Dinner in a Bag

Thanks to the generous donations of St. Mark members, we were able to deliver a complete Thanksgiving dinner to 20+ families in need in our community this year. There is always something to be thankful for and we are reminded of this each year as we help to provide Thanksgiving meals to those that may otherwise not have one.

Operation Christmas Child

A big THANK YOU goes out to Shawn who really jumped in and organized the donations received for Operation Christmas Child. Our committee also extends special thanks to the Natschke Family who provides their generous support to this project each year. We packed approximately 200 boxes that will go to children around the world for Christmas.

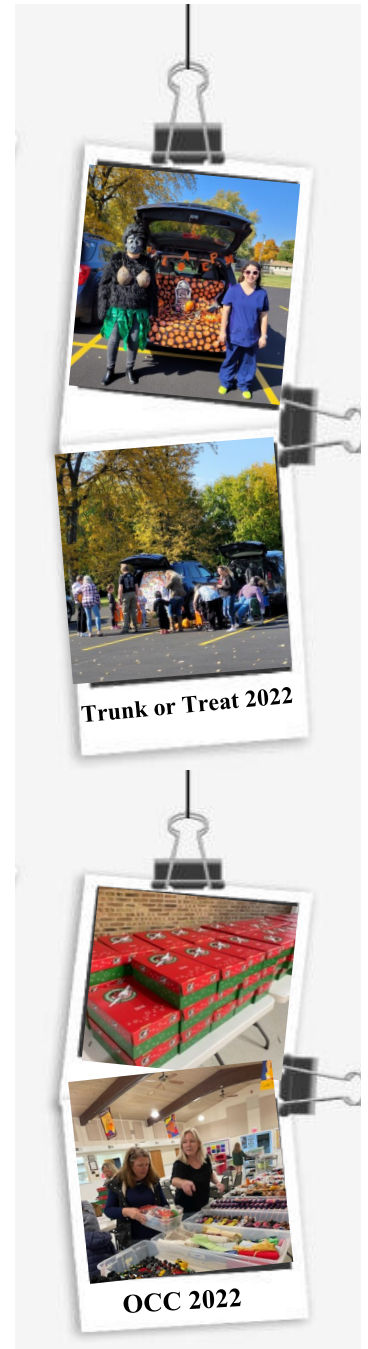
Advent Soup Suppers

We invite you to join us for fellowship and good food. Advent Soup Suppers are Wednesday evenings prior to the Advent church service. We start serving supper at 5:30 p.m. You can expect a delicious assortment of soups, sandwich items and desserts. We need volunteers to help with set-up, serving, and clean up. Have a recipe for a delicious homemade soup... **Sign-up to bring a crockpot full of soup to share.** (Please note that it's so important to **sign-up on the sheets in the narthex** to let us know that you are bringing soup. It helps us plan and make sure that we have enough for everyone that attends.) By the time you receive this newsletter we will have already had our first Advent soup supper of the year. Mark your calendars for the remaining two Advent soup suppers on December 7th and December 14th. We look forward to seeing you there!

Reach out to the CLC for more information: [Shawn Frank](#) ♦ [Tricia Cholewinski](#) ♦ [Donna Bergl](#)

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 2023





Open Arms Food Pantry

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

St. Mark has been supporting OAM for several years (both monetarily and with volunteers) – For each \$1 donated, OAM can buy approximately 8 pounds of food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank (Donations can be made on the website: openarmsmission.org or if you wish you can help fill our “yellow barrels” in the narthex with non-perishable food.)

During the last couple years so much has changed for many of our neighbors - from March 2020 through September 2022 Open Arms has added 349 new families – currently OAM is averaging 85 families on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday nights and an additional 89 households get home delivery each Thursday morning. OAM also delivers 37 Northern Illinois Food Bank and 15 OAM back pack bags to local school children.

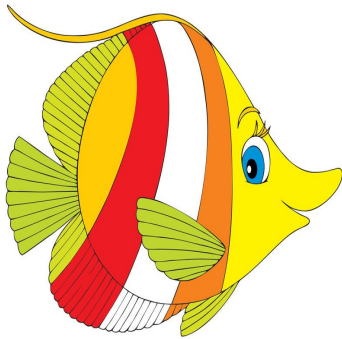
THANK YOU St. Mark for all you do!

December Collection Items - **Cereal / Baby Food**

January Collection Items - **Toothpaste / Peanut Butter / Jelly**

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

Did you know?



Fin Facts

Holiday giving has historically been very important for St. Mark. From January thru October the church operates at a loss. It is holiday giving that aligns our donations to our annual expenses. Without holiday giving, the church would not meet its annual budget.

This fiscal year, through October, giving has been \$76,853 below budget. Due to open staff positions, we have managed to spend only what we have received so far this year, but this will change now that we have filled some positions (Music Director, Cleaning Service). Holiday giving will help keep St. Mark on solid financial footing. Let’s all remember the reason for the season!

	<u>2022 Budgeted</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	
Month of October	\$ 62,050	\$ 50,213	(\$ 11,837)
January - October	\$ 589,800	\$ 512,946	(\$ 76,853)

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 2023



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 12th**)

**BAPTIZED INTO THE
FAMILY OF GOD**

December 18th
AT ST. MARK

Audrey Rae

Daughter of
Lauren & Justin



May the guiding presence of God be with this individual as she grows in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.



Did you miss our first Spiritual Gifts Workshop? Are you looking to learn more about Spiritual Gifts? Then mark your calendars for our next workshop!

Sunday, February 5th, 2023
12:00PM - 3:00PM
Fellowship Hall
Lunch to be served.
Hope to see you there!

For questions, contact Debbie Plishka at dplishka@gmail.com.



Please join the Women's Bible Study led by Joy Gajda starting Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 9:30 AM. We will be studying Acts: Awakening to God in Everyday Life by Melissa Spoelstra. Please sign up by emailing Joy at joygajda@gmail.com prior to January 4, 2023. The seven-week study will start January 11th and go through February 22nd. There will be a fee for the workbook that will be collected on the first day of class.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 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.

LINDENHURST LOCATION ONLY

12:00 - 9:00 PM

Visit 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.

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](https://www.facebook.com/DivineSigns3.16)

[Instagram@Divinesigns3.16](https://www.instagram.com/Divinesigns3.16)

DivineSigns.godaddysites.com

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

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

December 2022 / January 2023

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
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

**FEBRUARY VOICE DEADLINE:
January 15, 2023**

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
December 2022 / January 2023