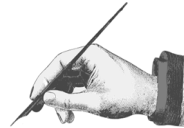


February 2023

### President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



One of my devotions this morning was from Henry and Richard Blackaby's Experiencing God Day By Day. The title is Compelled to Serve and here's an excerpt:

‘When God comes among His people in power, there is never a shortage of volunteers or resources for His work. (But) When Christians today are asked what aspects of the Christian life are most important to them, missions is not usually ranked as a priority because we have lost track of why God called us in the first place. We were not saved from our sin simply so that we would qualify for heaven. God delivered us so we would have a relationship with Him through which He could carry out His mission to redeem a lost world.’

In this regard, when I think of the mission within our church, I think first of our youth. They are our mission field. I think of Sunday School, VBS, Confirmation and our Youth Group. The volunteers that are on this mission field to share Jesus with our kids are so significant to their future but hmmm... maybe we could do a better beating down of the doors to be part of that mission. Nobody's too young or too old because there's no age limit on how to love on kids.

I also think of our contemporary worship volunteers. We might not think they're on a mission field but their voices and the instruments they play so beautifully lead our hearts in worship of our Almighty God. Isn't that the reason we come to church? To worship Him,

*Continued on page 5*

#### In This Issue:

- ⇒ President's Notes
- ⇒ Pastor's Letter
- ⇒ Friday Night Sing & Pray
- ⇒ Missouri Musings
- ⇒ Council Highlights
- ⇒ Stephen Ministry
- ⇒ Prayer Opportunities
- ⇒ Mission Trip
- ⇒ Spiritual Gifts Workshop
- ⇒ Women's Bible Study
- ⇒ Joyful Hearts Singles Group
- ⇒ Safety & Security
- ⇒ What's on the Shelf
- ⇒ Sunday School
- ⇒ Mitten Tree / Coat Drive
- ⇒ Thank You's
- ⇒ Library News
- ⇒ Vacation Bible School
- ⇒ Feed My Starving Children
- ⇒ Church Doctor Task Force
- ⇒ What is a Church Member
- ⇒ Webmaster Update
- ⇒ Open Arms
- ⇒ Fin Facts
- ⇒ HIS Ministry
- ⇒ Thrivent
- ⇒ PADS
- ⇒ Support our Church



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
 BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT

*Ash Wednesday*  
 Service  
 February 22, 2023  
 7:00 P.M.



**Pastor SEARCH**

Please continue to pray for the Call Committee and that the Co-Pastor God has set apart for St. Mark steps forward in 2023!



**Lenten Suppers**

Join us on **Wednesday, February 22nd & March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th. Service to follow at 7:00 PM.**

#### CHURCH EVENTS

[www.smlc.info/events](http://www.smlc.info/events)

Complete Details Inside or

**Find Us Online@**

[www.smlc.info](http://www.smlc.info)

#### ARTICLE DEADLINE

The deadline for the March edition of *The Voice* is **February 15th**. Please Email articles to: [deb@smlc.info](mailto:deb@smlc.info) & [stmarkcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkcommunications@gmail.com).

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

February 2023



## ST. MARK COUNCIL

---

### PRESIDENT

Joni Wasmund  
[joni1812@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joni1812@sbcglobal.net) | 847-404-9185

### VICE PRESIDENT

Laurie Kerns

### COUNCIL SECRETARY

Kellie Rice

### FINANCIAL TREASURER

Patrice Sutton

### BOARD OF ELDERS

Cheryl Bengston

Nancy O'Connor

Rodney Lunkenheimer

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jerry Gass

Laurie Kerns

Keith Niles

## ST. MARK COMMITTEES

---

### CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

*Overseen by Trustee:*  
Jerry Gass

Donna Bergl  
Tricia Cholewinski  
Shawn Frank

### EVANGELISM

*Overseen by Elder*  
Rodney Lunkenheimer

Chris Holmes  
Patrick Krook  
Jeff McKenzie

### FINANCE

*Overseen by:*  
*Board of Trustees*

Pam Preston Lynn Wetterberg Jill Winling

### PARISH EDUCATION

*Overseen by Elder:* Nancy O'Connor  
Lori McKenzie Jane Milani

### SAFETY & SECURITY

*Overseen by:*  
*Board Of Trustees*

Al Maciareillo Mike Mol Judy Dunfrund  
Deb Zuchowski

### PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

*Overseen by Trustee:*  
Keith Niles

Robin Korom

### STEWARDSHIP

*Overseen by Trustee:*  
Laurie Kerns

Laurie Kerns  
Carl Norlin

### WORSHIP & MUSIC

*Overseen by Elder:*  
Cheryl Bengston

Charlie Burke  
Wendy Weidner  
Brock Zwicke

---

### PASTOR

Terry Breum | [Pastor@smlc.info](mailto:Pastor@smlc.info)

### CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Deb Zuchowski | [Deb@smlc.info](mailto:Deb@smlc.info)

### OFFICE ASSISTANT

Rhonda Doran | [Rhonda@smlc.info](mailto:Rhonda@smlc.info)

### CONTEMPORARY MUSIC & MEDIA COORDINATOR

Brock Zwicke | [Brock.smlc@gmail.com](mailto:Brock.smlc@gmail.com)

### BOOKKEEPER

Barb Griffith | [Barb@smlc.info](mailto:Barb@smlc.info)

### INTERIM FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Kim Mohr | [kimmohr.smlc@gmail.com](mailto:kimmohr.smlc@gmail.com)

### NURSERY COORDINATOR

Deb Heide | [heidedeborah@gmail.com](mailto:heidedeborah@gmail.com)

**Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, February 14th @ 7:00PM  
**Next Committee Meetings:** Tuesday, February 28th @ 7:00PM

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

February 2023

# From the Desk of Pastor Breum

**Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)** <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

**Proverbs 3:5-6 (MSG)** <sup>5</sup> Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. <sup>6</sup> Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

Reading the Bible from different translations and/or paraphrases has a certain impact, especially on those who have been in the same translation or paraphrase for years. The verses are the same in meaning but when you see it translated in a slightly different form, an insight can come to you that you have never thought of before. It is like looking at a picture from a different angle. You pick up more than you saw before.

These days I find myself spending a lot of time with teenagers and young adults in their 20's. One of the biggest emotional needs I hear of in these young people is that of anxiety/ depression. I, myself know a lot about anxiety, too much. Yet, age brings with it a different perspective. Things that used to make me highly anxious do not even make it on the chart anymore. The Bible has specific answers to the problem of anxiety and depression. After turning to these verses for decades, they truly do change the way we think and feel. The younger generation has yet to learn the richness of Biblical helps and it is up to us older ones to fill them in. These days when I can't find my keys, my glasses, my billfold, where I parked my pickup, that can raise my own anxiety taking the place of former anxieties. When I was young that forgetfulness did not bother me at all.

"Trust in the Lord with all of your heart (from the bottom of your heart)." It is so easy to read this and so hard to do it. Today, I define trust in God this way. No matter what issues you are facing, God Himself is by far more powerful. God is greater than anything and everything you are dealing with. No matter what, God is greater. When we pray, "Our Father who art in heaven," we are proclaiming that God is much greater than ourselves and all of our needs. Knowing that can ease anxiety and raise the level of peace.

"Lean not in your own understanding." Friends we cannot figure out what only God knows. As we lean into God, sensing and knowing the Presence of God, it brings calmness like nothing else. Putting God first by walking the path of obedience, the Lord God promises to straighten things out. In the meantime, rest in Him.

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, please forgive us for trying to do a work that only you can do. We are a people under construction, and you are moving and working in our lives every day. Help us to always cooperate with you and never work against you. Lord it may feel like you are working on us overtime. We are thankful. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

---

## *First Friday Sing & Pray*



Pressing into 2023!

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and stream in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

God is opening new doors in welcoming our Friday evening PADS residents. Come join us in praying and ministering to the unfortunate and hurting individuals. Sing & Pray on Friday, February 3, 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***

February 2023



# MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

## My Neighbor Has a Kangaroo

Sometimes I feel like I live in a Dr. Seuss book--to be specific, the book I read about a hundred times to my kids, *One Fish Two Fish, Red Fish Blue Fish*.

The book is all about strange creatures: "Some are thin, and some are fat. / The fat one has a yellow hat. / From there to here, from here to there, / funny things are everywhere."

They sure are. We live next to a farm that keeps animals for a petting zoo. Goats, sheep, horses, miniature (and large) cattle, burros, llamas . . . and even a camel. The animals are in big demand around Christmas. My neighbor hauls a couple of dozen away in a trailer to stage nativity scenes in the surrounding region.

Some months ago, though, a new animal appeared: a kangaroo. It was a baby. Its mother had died. My neighbor became the foster caregiver.

Would you like to meet him now? No, not my neighbor: I mean the 'roo. I saw him last week. His name his Reuben. He is looking up at me because he wants a treat:



Question: How does a kangaroo survive a Midwestern winter? Answer: Someone, in this case, my neighbor, provides shelter and protection and food. Otherwise, this out-of-habitat animal would not live for long.

I don't recall any kangaroos in the Bible. But there are plenty of animals. And God's people are often compared to a particular type: sheep. Here are two examples from the Psalms:

79:13 But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise.	95:7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
--	--

Like kangaroos, sheep need habitat. They also need someone to shepherd them, lead them to pasture and water, and protect them from harm. When we stray, we need someone to guide us back: "For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25).

That shepherd is Jesus, who said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). He is the Lord who leads us: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).

Sometimes our life circumstances are adverse. We wonder how we will survive. We feel as exposed as . . . well, a kangaroo in a Missouri winter. We wander and get lost like Reuben did one day. It was on the local news: <https://www.kmov.com/2022/12/15/kangaroo-jefferson-county/>

God sent the Good Shepherd to gather and save us straying sheep: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

We therefore find hope in this word of blessing: "Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20–21).

A final kangaroo note: Reuben's location is Jefferson County, which is where St. Mark church administrator Deb Zuchowski grew up. She might be able to tell you more about this region and its charms.

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

February 2023





# St. Mark Council News

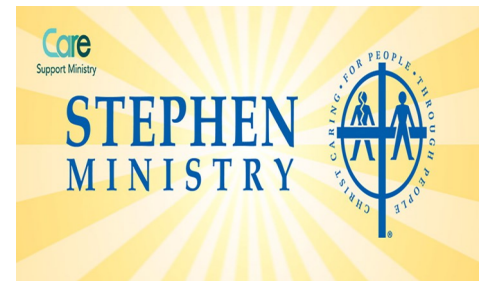
To keep you better informed about Church Council decisions we briefly present the major items from our meetings. Should you desire in-depth information, please go to <https://smlc.info/minutes/> for additional Council and Committee minutes.

## Council Highlights November 2022

- A short survey will be initiated to help us update our membership rolls. Electronic and paper surveys will cover all 800+ individuals currently listed in ServantKeeper.
- Debbie Plishka will facilitate our 2<sup>nd</sup> Spiritual Gifts workshop on Sunday, Feb 5.
- The updated Benevolence Policy and Best Practice Committee Description were approved.
- 2023 Committee members and liaisons were approved as was Kim Mohr as interim Financial Secretary, pending transition.
- Laurie Kerns was chosen as Council Vice President.

---

Stephen Ministries has started a new class! Please keep the Stephen Leaders in your prayers as they help guide their students in the distinctively Christian way of caring for each other. Also keep the Stephen Ministry Students in your prayers as they learn how to provide caring support to others. Thank you to all who have provided your support and prayers as we all learn and grow in our faith.



---

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

our God who loves us so abundantly, not because of who we are but because of who He is? He loves us despite ourselves but we live here in America, where we can freely thank and praise Him for the abundant blessings in our lives in corporate worship, in person, as the Body of Christ, yet so few do relative to the population numbers. Do you know that America is right behind China and India as the 3<sup>rd</sup> country in line in *need* of Christian missionaries?

Our intercessory prayer warriors who meet weekly in the sanctuary for prayer and worship are clearly on a mission field.

On the external mission field, I think of PADS, Meals on Wheels, Prison Ministry, Holiday Dinner in a Bag, Operation Christmas Child, the Mitten Tree, Open Arms Food Pantry, HIS Ministry and the Rummage Sale. How is a rummage sale a mission field, you ask? Because of the friendships grounded in Christ that are strengthened during the time spent together getting both buildings set up and ready for hundreds and hundreds of our community neighbors to come year after year. And, secondly, because of the fellowship that takes place with those neighbors who are by now recognized by many of our volunteers and vice versa – God is at work, there's no doubt.

There are a lot of mission field opportunities that many of our members participate in outside St. Mark that bring glory to God as well -- One Hope United and Allendale are just two.

Praying for God's blessings on our mission, wherever He leads us,

Joni Wasmund  
Council President

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

February 2023

# St. Mark's January Three Days of Prayer and Follow Up During 2023



We praise God and thank our Father for providing the **Lutheran Church for Missions in Christ** with the spiritual vision for 2023 *The Three Days of Prayer*.

We thank all the members who prayed for St. Mark Church, our children, youth, fellow members, communities, volunteer organizations, elected local, state and national officials in addition to those listed in our brochure.

**For the rest of 2023** please utilize our *St. Mark Church 2023 Prayer Guides* for members/visitors, *2023 St. Mark Brochure* for prayers for our Pastor, Council, committees, Sunday School, youth, families and volunteers, *Youth Prayer Request and Vision for 2023* and *Children's Prayer Guides*. They will be posted on our website, smlc.info under the Prayer Tab and printed copies are on the Prayer Table in the Narthex.

We pray that each member....

Glorify our Lord by:

- making God the number one priority and seeking His will daily, 2) listening to His voice, and 3) obeying His guidance in service to others;
- grow in the faith through worship, Bible study, and prayer; and,
- develop a personal relationship by seeking to *know* Christ, not just to *know about* Him.

Petitioning the Holy Spirit to:

- make us aware of our sins and confess them daily;
- protect us from all evil and the world's distractions and distortions of the Truth;
- help us seek God's call upon our lives and trust him to help perform our life mission;
- sustain and grow St. Mark Church as a "house of prayer" through all adults', youths', children's' and seekers' participation in the discipline of prayer;
- minister to Pastor, staff, leadership, committees and Council;
- minister to the **St. Mark Prayer Chain** members, and **Wednesday evening prayer meetings** at 7:00pm currently on Zoom, and **First Friday Sing and Pray** (New participants always welcome to both prayer ministries.); and,
- pour out His Spirit on us and bring revival to us, our neighbors, our state and our nation.

These petitions we ask of you Lord, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## **THE COMING OF CHRIST AND MY FUTURE WITH HIM**

Your kingdom come, Your will be done. (Matthew 6:10) You have said, "I am coming quickly." Amen, Come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20) I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to me. (Romans 8:18)<sup>16</sup> So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self (body) is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.<sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,<sup>18</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

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

February 2023



# High School & College-Age Youth of St. Mark 2023 Summer Mission Announcement



## ON-LINE registration has finally been uploaded – yea!!!

So .... if you are really, *really*, *really* interested on going to Logan County, WV, this July 15<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>, you can start filling out paperwork now by using the following link: [WV Mission Trip Sign-Up](#). This does NOT mean you HAVE to go but it shows me you are definitely interested!

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.

If you don’t want to fill out the paperwork just yet there still is a sign-up sheet on the C/3 Youth board opposite the Fellowship Hall. Signing up on-line or on the bulletin board gives me an idea of how many people to expect. I’m going and St. Mark has reserved 16 other slots SO WILL YOU BE 1 OF THE 16!!!!

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



### Spiritual Gifts Workshop

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!

We will be having a new and improved Spiritual Gifts Workshop!

Sunday, February 5th, 2023

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

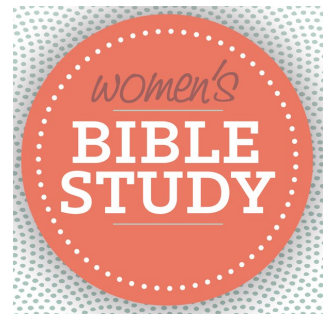
Lunch will be served

Please RSVP by February 2nd

For questions and to RSVP, contact Debbie Plishka at [dplishka@gmail.com](mailto:dplishka@gmail.com)

### Discerning The Voice of God

Women’s 6:30PM Study  
Our study will resume on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 6:30 - 8:00 PM. We will be doing a 7 session study by Priscilla Shirer: *Discerning the Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Speaks*. The study includes video teaching, discussion, prayer and weekly homework. There is a fee for your workbook.



Please contact Glenda Niffenegger at [glengems@comcast.net](mailto:glengems@comcast.net) or by phone before Sunday, April 2, 2023.

Come and be blessed!

## 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, and 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!

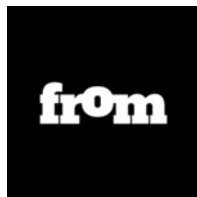
We are also exploring ways we can support the church. We are a new group and appreciate all suggestions!

Contact Patty or Nancy

[Lindholm\\_Patricia@yahoo.com](mailto:Lindholm_Patricia@yahoo.com) or [NEOConnor@comcast.net](mailto:NEOConnor@comcast.net)



A  
QUICK  
NOTE



&



1. We didn't have our fall fire drill because it was more like winter outside on the day of the drill so, please keep your eyes and ears open for when we announce our spring fire drill.



2. PLEASE, PLEASE be careful in the parking lots and on the sidewalks when slippery and/or snowy conditions occur. And as always, if you can, please help anyone who may need some assistance getting to and from our front doors!!

3. If you did not know, with our suggestion and council's approval, several security cameras have been installed around the church and the Ed Center.

4. 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.

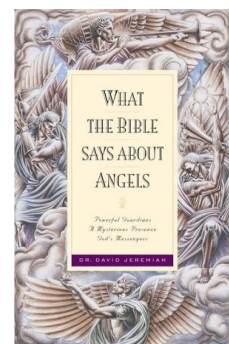
In His service,  
Judy Dunfrund, Al Maciareillo, Mike Mol, or Deb Zuchowski



## What the Bible Says About Angels

So many people are fascinated by the idea of God's angels. Who are they? What special work does God give them to do? Our best source of information is, of course, the Bible. In his book *What the Bible Says About Angels*, Pastor David Jeremiah responds to the widespread, modern cultural interest in-even obsession with-the agents of heaven and their role in our world. He provides an in-depth, biblical look at the hot topic of angels, giving a broad and thorough survey of Scriptural teaching illustrated by powerful quotes from prominent

teachers Billy Graham, Corrie ten Boom, C.S. Lewis, and others. You can find this book under call number 235 JER.



**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

February 2023



# SUNDAY SCHOOL

**WELCOME** to Denise Schaufel as a new Sunday School Co-Coordinator. We are blessed to have you helping to guide our youth. Thank you for taking on this important ministry!

## **WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR AN ADDITIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR....**

Please consider stepping up to co-chair with Denise. Sunday School is a vital ministry within our church. Parish Ed will help you learn the ropes. There is also a Sunday School binder with many guidelines. If YOU can't help us, do you have someone in mind? Please ask them or let Parish Ed know and we will ask them. **WE NEED YOUR 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 [lorimckenzie119@gmail.com](mailto:lorimckenzie119@gmail.com) or Jane Milani at [lvmom76@att.net](mailto:lvmom76@att.net) with any questions. Thank you for considering serving God in this essential ministry.



## **THANK YOU**

A big shout out to Kevin and Tracy Graul for providing us the homemade biscuits and gravy during fellowship hour on October 23!! What a treat!! Doesn't get better than that! I'm sure we can get her to repeat that treat another time...especially with personal requests!!

Currently we are updating our library collection. Therefore, we will not be accepting donations at this time.

Thank you.



**CHURCH LIBRARY**  
*News*

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

February 2023

This year we collected 123 items from the mitten tree. They were donated to Antioch Traveling Closet, which is a non-profit organization that collects items and distributes them free of charge. Thank you for your generous donations for our tree this year! Have a safe, blessed and Happy New Year! - Shannon Lunkenheimer



Thank you everyone, for the most generous giving of coats. Twenty-nine (29) coats were delivered to a school where there is a great need. In addition, a total of thirty-nine (39) coats were delivered to children in the foster care system.

This is truly a work of the Lord that we have been so truly blessed to be able to give to children in need.

Sharon Tatro

## *St. Mark Family Christmas Celebration*

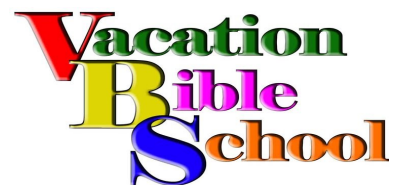
Thank you to ALL who helped to make our St. Mark Christmas Celebration a HUGE success. Special thanks to our Sunday School children for their program, our bands and special music, as well as to Brock Zwicke and Cindy Zwicke for heading up this joyous celebration honoring the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

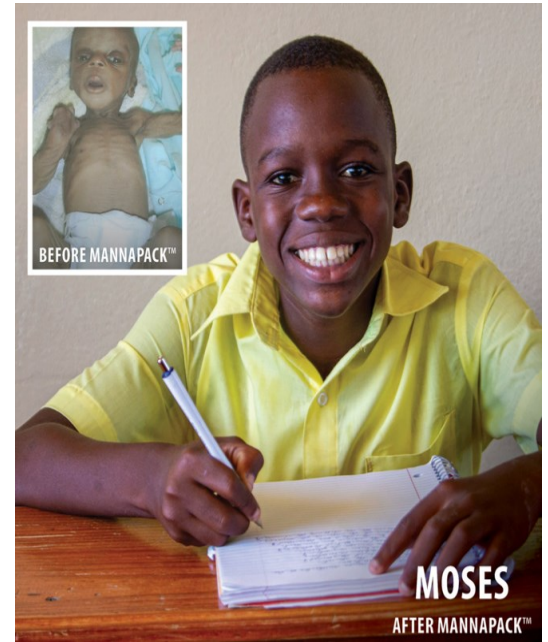
Winter may be here but we are planning ahead for our very important Summer outreach

program, Vacation Bible School, running June 19-

23, 2023. We are in need of a Co-Director. This is an important chance to serve our St. Mark children as well as many children from our community. You will be working with a veteran Co-Director. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity.

Contact Lori McKenzie [lorimckenzie119@gmail.com](mailto:lorimckenzie119@gmail.com) or Jane Milani [lvmom76@att.net](mailto:lvmom76@att.net).





## ***HOW TO HELP KIDS LIKE MOSES***

St. Mark has reserved 1 table (we could get more!!) for the following date:

**Saturday morning, February 4th, from 8:45 to 10:45** ([February's Sign Up](#))

To register to help, please use the above link to sign up. The reason to sign up before our scheduled time is to make sure the Libertyville site has enough room for us and, if we don't fill all 19 slots, we can give up some of our slots to others who might be able to help (but let's think we'll always fill our 19 slots!!). FYI, when you sign up, FMSC will ask for your email. They do NOT sell your email to any other company, but they will send you an email when the food you packed reaches its final destination with one of our 217 partners in 106 different countries!! If you have any issues signing up, have questions about these events and/or FMSC in general, please contact Mike Mol at 847-276-8739 or [MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com](mailto:MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com).

For those of you who have packed with us – I thank you! For those of you who haven't packed with us, please consider signing up and helping out. As a reminder, there are 3 different types of “jobs” to do during one session. There is a sit down job, a packing job, and, if you want to burn some calories, a warehouse job.

If you weren't in church when I mentioned this, these are the numbers that FMSC has done this past year – amazing!! God is *so* good!!

*The World Food Programme called 2022 “a year of unprecedented hunger” but you rose to the challenge with urgency. Together, we provided 451,713,368 meals in 2022. This is enough to feed 1,237,581 kids a reliable daily meal for a year! Thank you.*

If you are REALLY looking ahead, here are the links for our March and April events.

Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:45 to 8:45 pm ([March's Sign Up](#))

Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, at 8:45 to 10:45 am ([April's Sign Up](#))

# An Update from your Church Doctor Task Force

We hope and pray you and your family had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed much quality time with family and friends. But as our friend above says, it is back to work time at St. Mark with our Church Doctor Vision Steps.



In the Dec/Jan VOICE you read about the many awesome things that have come about since we started this journey but there are still a lot of paths not taken yet. Where is God leading us on this excursion - He only knows! But with our prayers, His help (AND YOURS), the destination looks fantastic!

If you and/or your committee need help getting started again, please ask us for help. Our partners at Church Doctor are willing to help you too.

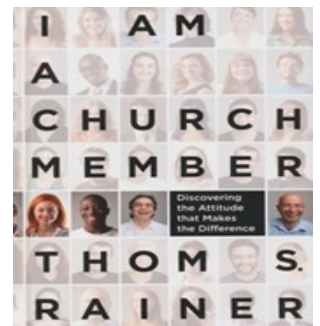
*Speaking of Church Doctor, please keep your eyes and ears open for the Spiritual Gift Workshop to be held on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. If you missed the workshop that the head of Church Doctor, Tracee Swank, held last year, please plan on attending this event.*

**We have asked this from the beginning but if you have not filled out your Spiritual Gift profile, please do so ASAP. And if you did already, please ask one of us how you can use your gifts to help build God's vision for St. Mark.**

Your Church Doctor Task Force – Pam Burke, Jerry Gass, Mike Mol, and Pam Preston

## ***WHAT IS A CHURCH MEMBER 2.0***

It has been decades since we reviewed our membership rolls. This means that our voting records may not be current, and we base our congregational meeting quorums on those numbers. The past years of annual meeting attendance has significantly exceeded the required quorum figures so there's no concern that we didn't have a true quorum, but we need to clean up our rolls. If we were part of a synod, we would be required to submit accurate records annually. That not being the case makes it no less important that we undertake this project.



We have over 800 individuals listed in ServantKeeper whose records have never been updated. Based on our weekly worship attendance, it's easy to determine that it's clean up time.

By the time this VOICE issue reaches you, we will have generated an electronic survey to everyone for whom we have an email address. Those for whom we have no email address will receive a paper survey in the US mail with a return envelope.

*Continued on page 12*





## *from the desk of the Webmaster*

I'm sure a day does not go by when you see a message pop up on your computer asking you to accept cookies when searching a page on internet. Those requests are warnings alerting you that personal information 'might' be downloaded from your computer. Later in February, you will begin to see that same message appear when you open the St. Mark website, [www.smlc.info](http://www.smlc.info).

Why? We want to understand information about what is being looked at on the website. Such as which page(s) interests the readers. Accordingly, the Church Council has updated their website Privacy Policy, <https://www.smlc.info/privacy-policy/>.

*From the policy; The St. Mark website uses Google Analytics to track usage within the website. Google Analytics uses a set of cookies to collect information and report site usage statistics. Individual visitors are not personally identified by '\_ga', the main cookie used by Google Analytics. The cookie enables a service to distinguish one visitor from another and lasts for 2 years. Each '\_ga' cookie is unique to St. Mark and will not be used to track the user on other websites.*

Our goal in updating the entire website a few years ago was to present St. Mark to the community, or rather to market ourselves to attract new members. The former version catered to our members; to grow as a congregation. We need people to find St. Mark when they search for a place of worship. Knowing which page(s) people look at will help us improve the website's content and hopefully grow our congregation.

When the 'Accept Cookie' message appears on our website, please accept them.



---

## What Is A Church Member 2.0 *Continued from page 11*

This is a very short survey and won't take more than 5 minutes to complete. It will tell us who would like to maintain their active membership status, who would like to retain their inactive membership status and who would like to discontinue their membership, usually due to having moved from the local area. It also asks a couple of questions about worship to help us understand church wide preferences, but no changes are being contemplated, it's just for us to maintain awareness of the congregational profile.



PLEASE, PLEASE HELP US BY RESPONDING ELECTRONICALLY AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE YOUR SURVEY OR BY DROPPING YOUR PAPER RESPONSE IN THE MAIL ASAP.

Thank you!

Joni Wasmund

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

February 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](http://openarmsmission.org) or if you wish you can help fill our “yellow barrels” in the narthex with non-perishable food.)

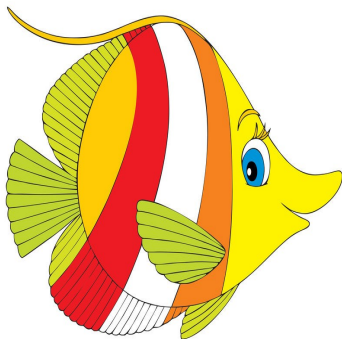
During the last couple years so much has changed for many of our neighbors - from March 2020 through September 2022 Open Arms has added 349 new families – currently OAM is averaging 85 families on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday nights and an additional 89 households get home delivery each Thursday morning. 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!

February Collection Items - **Dish Soap / Shampoo / Hot Chocolate**

If you have any questions about OAM please contact Ron Placko at [rdplacko@comcast.net](mailto:rdplacko@comcast.net) or 847-404-3304.

## 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. Unfortunately, we did not realize the typical increase in giving this past December. Though donations in November were over budget, giving to the general fund in December was \$28,620 below budget. Giving throughout the year was \$89,000 lower than expectations. Should the church hire a Co-Pastor this year, regular giving will need to increase to cover the expense. If you do not already give online, please go to Giving at [smlc.info](http://smlc.info). It is easy to set up a one time donation or monthly gift.

	<u>2022 Budgeted</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	
Month of November	\$ 59,100	\$ 75,337	\$ 16,296
Month of December	\$ 89,450	\$ 60,829	(\$ 28,622)
Fiscal Year (Jan.-Dec.)	\$ 738,350	\$ 647,418	(\$ 88,932)

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

February 2023



**February 11th / 2nd Saturday / 6:00am PADS  
Support (Optional) / 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. We always have room for one more man. Send your contact information to [Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com](mailto:Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com) or Text 847-271-8632, to Get plugged In.



***Thrivent***  
***Bringing Generosity to Life***

Through Thrivent Choice<sup>®</sup>, our clients with memberships can contribute to organizations and causes they care about—and influence how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funding through Choice Dollars<sup>®</sup>.

**Members have until March 31st to direct 2022 Thrivent Choice Dollars<sup>®</sup>.**

You can make a personal donation to your favorite enrolled organization—Thrivent pays the processing fees. Eligible clients with membership can also direct Choice Dollars<sup>®</sup> or nominate an organization to be part of the program.

Through Thrivent Choice<sup>®</sup>, more than \$520 million has been distributed to churches and nonprofits nationwide.

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](http://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.

Questions Contact...

About volunteering. Jill Decker, [padsatstmark@gmail.com](mailto:padsatstmark@gmail.com)

About food. Laurie Kerns, [minedaffyduck@aol.com](mailto:minedaffyduck@aol.com)

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

February 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](http://www.antiochpizzashop.com) for full menu.

Valid the **Second Tuesday** of each Month

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

**DATES: Second Tuesdays**  
2/14/23, 3/14/23, 4/11/23



# 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**  
2/16/23, 3/16/23, 4/20/23

**TIME: All Day (Breakfast until Close)**

**LOCATION: 370 S US Highway 45, Lindenhurst**

### Present this flyer when ordering!

Paper flyer or electronic image of flyer (on a phone/tablet) is required when order is placed. Only valid on date at location specified above. Wendy's gift cards and other retail purchases are excluded from the event. Drive-thru, carry-out (place inside the dining room at the counter) and dine-in orders when and where available qualify. Owned and operated by **HAMRA** Enterprises, a Wendy's franchisee [www.hamrafundraising.com](http://www.hamrafundraising.com).

**Divine Signs** is Lake County's premier yard message creation company, dedicated to spreading joy and love in an extraordinary way!

We are excited to announce that we will **contribute 10% of our proceeds to St. Mark Lutheran Church** in Lindenhurst, IL. Simply mention St. Mark Lutheran Church, it is that easy! Tell your family and friends and let's get your next congratulatory event in the schedule!

This promotion is offered for everyone. Contact us directly or visit our sites to learn more about us...



**Kevin and Tracy Graul**

Phone or text: (224) 223-2786

Facebook.com/DivineSigns3.16

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

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

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

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

February 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](http://www.smlc.info)  
✉ [smlc@smlc.info](mailto:smlc@smlc.info)

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

★ TO RECEIVE  
THE VOICE ONLINE,  
EMAIL [DEB@SMLC.INFO](mailto:DEB@SMLC.INFO)

**MARCH VOICE DEADLINE:  
February 15, 2023**

***Serve The Lord With All Your Heart***  
February 2023