

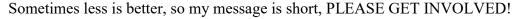
VOICE

OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2024

Cliff Notes

By Cliff Ewert



The year 2023 has been interesting for St. Mark with the resignation of our Pastor and now with Pastor Steve and the Transition Committee helping to define our future.

Our future depends on every member of this congregation, through fervent prayer and involvement in helping St. Mark move forward. Where we go depends on all of us and our commitment. We have examined where we have been in the past; now we need to determine what is our future.

Our Transition Committee has been very active for months reviewing many aspects of our church, which leads us to, "What is the future of St. Mark?" That will be defined through small "cottage" group meetings in homes. God granted spiritual gifts to all of us and I encourage every member to use those gifts for St. Mark's future.

Let's get everyone involved either through prayer or involvement through the various ministries, committees, or church organizations to show that we are committed to our Lord's work and St. Mark.

A recent service hymn, "O Jesus, I have Promised," reminds us that our love for the Lord will lead St. Mark forward:

> Oh Jesus I have promised, to serve you to the end; Remain forever near me, my master and my friend. I shall not fear the battle, if you are by my side, Nor wander from the pathway, if you will be my guide.

God Bless, Cliff Ewert



Ash Wednesday
A Christian Holy Day of
Prayer and Fasting
Service Only
7:00 PM

In This Issue:

- ⇒ Cliff Notes
- ⇒ Transition Team Update
- ⇒ Thank You
- ⇒ Baptism
- ⇒ Missouri Musings
- ⇒ Council Highlights
- ⇒ H.I.S. Ministry
- ⇒ 3 Days of Prayer
- ⇒ Open Arms
- ⇒ Conformed to His Image
- ⇒ Notes from the Webmaster
- ⇒ Joyful Hearts
- ⇒ Congregational Life
- ⇒ Safety & Security
- ⇒ Date Night
- ⇒ Parish Ed Thank You
- ⇒ Lenten Soup Suppers
- ⇒ Women's Bible Study
- ⇒ Parents' Morning Out
- ⇒ Fin Facts
- ⇒ C/3 Youth
- \Rightarrow Soles for Jesus
- ⇒ Do You Know?
- ⇒ What's on the Shelf?
- ⇒ Noah's Nursery
- ⇒ Feed My Starving Children
- ⇒ Tech Help Needed
- ⇒ Support our Church
- ⇒ Church Calendar

CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

stmarkcommunications@gmail.com.



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CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Stevie Bass | Stevie@smlc.info

OFFICE ASSISTANT

To be announced soon.

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Rick Wilhelm

BOOKKEEPER

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Andy McBeath | Andy@smlc.info

NURSERY COORDINATOR

Deb Heide

VOICE ARTICLES, SLIDES, WEBSITE & FACEBOOK REQUESTS

Put type of request in title | <u>StMarkCommunications@gmail.com</u>

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 13th @ 7:00PM **Next Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, February 27th @ 7:00PM



Preparing the Way

The Transition Team was formed this past summer and started meeting last August. The Team meets weekly on Friday evenings. Team members include John Bengston, Pam Burke, Patrick Krook, Bonnie Millsop, Joyce Mol, Nancy O'Connor, Kurt Ulbricht, and Intentional Interim Pastor Steve. The Team's charge is to prepare the way for the calling of a new pastor. As a resource, the group worked through the book *Temporary*

Shepherds: A Congregational Handbook for Interim Ministry.

Our transition has three areas of focus: Past, Present and Future. The Past phase was an emotional one full of highs and lows. The Team hosted two open forums generating a lot of good discussion and culminated in October with Heritage Weekend, where we celebrated our history. Our focus on the Present was a celebration and affirmation of our identity as a church. We did this by looking at our Spiritual Gifts and hosting a recognition luncheon honoring the congregation and its ministries. The Team also hosted a forum allowing great conversation of who we are.

Our work on the Future is in the early stages. The goal for the Future phase is to define the mission and vision of our church by discussing what we want to see our church become in the future and how to accomplish this. Unlike the forums in the Past and Present phases, we will be utilizing cottage meetings in host homes to explore what we want for the church in the future. These meetings will consist of small groups of six to eight people hosted by members of the congregation and facilitated by Transition Team members. The past few weeks have been devoted to seeking hosts homes. In late January, the team began coordinating the meetings and hopes to complete the meetings by the end of February. We are looking for as many people as possible to participate in these meetings. The information from these meetings will then be used in a final forum to allow the congregation to finalize its mission and vision. With this information and what we have learned from all phases, we will then begin working with the Call Committee to start the process of calling a new pastor.

Our goal with the Team is to be as transparent as possible. We participate in announcements at all services and are always happy to answer any questions. In that regard, please feel free to reach out to any team member or contact us via email at transitionteam1822@gmail.com. Your prayers, support and involvement during this time is very important to the success of the transition.

John Bengston



Thank you to the Church Council on behalf of the St. Mark Congregation for the retirement gift as I stepped off the St. Mark staff at the end of 2023. Thanks to those

of you who also individually sent cards of congratulations and encouragement. Serving the congregation of St. Mark and members of the community was an honor and a privilege and provided many opportunities for personal and spiritual growth. Blessings to you all as you continue to walk the faith journey God has you on. May you be richly blessed.

Deb Zuchowski

December 3rd at St. Mark

Kevin Graul &
DeShawn Graul

Through Baptism you become a member of God's family!





Jesus Battles for Our Souls

Breaking news: 2024 is a presidential election year! Oh, you already knew. In fact, you're already tired of the political battling.

We all get tired of the mudslinging and half-truths that characterize election rhetoric. But sometimes sharp public disagreement is necessary for truth and hope to survive. Jesus provides an example.

Why did Jesus have to struggle and push back to be heard? One reason is: people were trying to kill him. Recall these verses, noting the underlining:

John 5:18 This was why the Jews were <u>seeking all the more to kill him</u>, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

John 7:1 After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.

John 7:19 "Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?

John 7:25 Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill?

John 8:37 "I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you."

John 8:40 "but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did."

Jesus was bitterly opposed by religious leaders because he threatened their authority. He called them to repent. In response they tried to shut him up by ending his life. Finally on Good Friday AD 30 they succeeded. Jesus was put to death by crucifixion.

Aren't we glad that Jesus was willing to face public opposition to complete his mission of preaching, calling disciples, and eventually dying and rising? He could not have completed that mission without lots of bruising public interaction.

Yet it was not only leaders who opposed Jesus. Don't overlook that in John's Gospel (and letters, and Revelation, all written by John), Jesus is also pushing back against "the ruler of this world." Note these verses:

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

John 14:30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,

John 16:11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Do you see the problem? Yes, Jesus battles religious leaders. Yes, he battles human unbelief. But there is an even deeper source of conflict.

You can read about it in the link below, which has quite a few references to John's writings.

https://evangelicalfocus.com/biblical-preaching/25080/is-our-view-of-satan-too-small

To fight his necessary battles, Jesus lived out a life of grace and truth, as these verses show. They contain the only uses of the word "grace" in John's Gospel:

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

What did Jesus do to live out the grace he brought? He didn't just talk about it: he battled for it. He battled know-it-all religious leaders. He battled skeptical listeners. He battled hard-headed disciples. He battled the ruler of this world.

But despite these opponents, Jesus prevailed. A line from "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" captures it wonderfully: "on earth is not his equal."

We tire of our battling politicians. We thank God that Jesus was willing to go to the wall to be what the Samaritan woman called him: "the Savior of the world" (John 4:42).



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 Minutes in a Nutshell

Below is a short summary of the December 2023 and January 2024 Council Minutes:

A motion to give Living Waters group in Crystal Lake \$2,500, and the remaining 2023 balance in the Evangelism Benevolence Fund and Council Discretionary Benevolence Fund be divided equally between Behind the Walls, Open Arms, A Safe Place, Kindred Life, Feed My Starving Children, St Mark Mission Trip, PADS, and STARS was approved.

Council accepted Brock Zwicke's resignation, effective 12/31/23, with regrets.

A motion to move unspent 2023 Property & Management Capital Improvement Operating Funds to the Property & Management Capital Improvement Restricted Fund for the window and roof project which will take place in early 2024 was approved.

The updated 2024 Preferred Vendor List was approved.

Cheryl Bengston was elected Vice President of the Church and Council.

A new ministry was approved, Date Night, which is for married couples.

A financial offer was approved for a Church Administrator candidate.

Tim Rick was approved as a member of the Safety and Security Ministry Team.

Donna Bergl was approved as coordinator of social media initiatives.

A motion was approved for the Altar Guild to purchase new altar banners using Memorial Funds.

A motion for a purchasing a Publisher license to produce *The Voice* was approved.

A motion was approved to continue copier services with Ricoh.

A complete set of minutes for the December 2023 and January 2024 Council Meetings are available in the Fellowship Hall.



Every Month - 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.



St. Mark's January Three Days of Prayer and Follow up during 2024

We praise God and thank our Father for providing the **Lutheran Church for Missions in Christ** with the spiritual vision for 2024 *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 2024 please utilize our *St. Mark Church 2024 Prayer Guides* for members/ visitors; 2024 St. Mark Brochure, for prayers for our Pastor, Council, committees, Sunday School, youth, families and volunteers; *Youth Prayer Request and Vision for 2024;* and, *Children's Prayer Guides*. They will be posted on our website, smlc.info, under the Prayer Tab and printed copies can be found on the Prayer Table in the Narthex.

We pray that each member:

- Glorify our Lord by;
 - 1) making God the number one priority and seeking His will daily.
 - 2) listening to His voice, and
 - 3) obeying His call to serve both within and beyond St. Mark Church.
- 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 and petitioning the Holy Spirit to;
 - 1) make us aware of our sins and confess them daily;
 - 2) protect us from all evil and the world's distractions and distortions of the Truth;
 - 3) help us seek God's call upon our lives and trust him to help perform our life mission;
 - 4) 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;
 - 5) minister to Pastor, staff, leadership, committees and Council;
 - 6) minister to the **St. Mark Prayer Chain** members, and **Tuesday evening prayer meetings** at 7:00pm currently on Zoom and **First Friday Sing and Pray** (New participants always welcome to both prayer ministries.); and,
 - 7) 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) ¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self (body) is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ 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)

Open Arms Food Pantry



OAM continues to support more than 200 families every week!

Thank you for all your continued support filling the "yellow barrels"!! It is truly heartwarming to see our St. Mark family continue to support our neighbors in these unique times.

The items requested for February are Hot Chocolate / Jelly / Cereal - - Any nonperishable food is always appreciated.

If you have any questions about OAM please contact Ron Placko.

Conformed to His Image

Each week's lesson is a unique topic based on working out your salvation.

This month's focus: **Devotional Spirituality: Nourishing intimacy with God by growing to enjoy and trust Him more.**

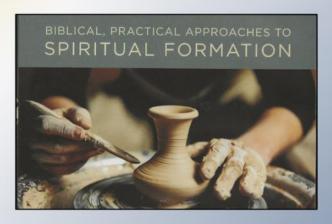
When: Sunday, 9:20 am to 10:20 am.
Where: West Wing of the Education

Center

Materials: Optional

Facilitator: Barb Ewert

bewert@colsonfellows.org



Ending your pilgrimage well with CHRIST

Romans 8:29



Notes from the Webmaster

Mel Ellingsen

Over the past few weeks, I have been busy removing St. Mark member's telephone numbers and email addresses from our website - https://www.smlc.info/. Why? With the increase of all sorts of scams and phishing attempts, it was pointed out that steps should be taken to make it very hard for the unscrupulous to get at your personal contact information as you host an event. From now on, small yellow "buttons" will accompany the announcements on the website with the contact person's name inside. Clicking on that "button" will direct you to a blank email shell where you can fill in your

contact information. Clicking on 'send' will create an email behind the scenes to the person hosting the event. You should hear back from that organizer shortly. St. Mark email addresses and phone number will continue to be visible on our website. If you are creating slides to be posted to the website or for weekend services, please do one with and one without your contact information.

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 <u>not</u> a group that actively seeks dating relationships. We have been getting



together once a month at one of our local restaurants for food, conversation and fellowship. 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 get to know other members of the church!

Contact Patty or Nancy Lindholm Patricia@yahoo.com or NEOConnor@comcast.net

Greetings From The Congregational Life Committee



February 2024

Lenten Soup Suppers

We invite you to join us for fellowship and good food. Lenten Soup Suppers are Wednesday evenings prior to the Lenten 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.

Mark your calendars for the following dates: February 21st, February 28th, March 6th, March 13th, and March 20th. We will NOT have a soup supper on Ash Wednesday. In addition to a delicious meal, the fellowship at the soup suppers is just incredible. Those that have attended the soup suppers know what we mean. For those of you that haven't made it to a soup supper yet, we encourage you to come join us, you'll be glad you did.

Please note that it is very 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. If you have any questions or last minute changes you can reach out directly to Shawn Frank, Donna Bergl or Tricia Cholewinski.

Thanks for Your Support, Help & Donations

Our committee was extremely busy during the fall with many different projects and we want to thank everyone that pitched in to make them all very successful. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone that donated items for Operation Christmas Child and food for the Holiday Meal in a Bag program. Your generosity helped to brighten the holidays for those in need. And thank you to everyone that helped with packing and delivery. We would not be able to continue these programs without you!





Sandwiches Etc.





We know you haven't heard from us for a while, but your Safety & Security Committee has two announcements to make!

Our first announcement is that we have a new member!! Deb Zuchowski and Mike Mol have gladly welcomed Tim Rick to join our group. Tim brings over 30 years of experience as a paramedic and firefighter. He is the "expert" now in our group!!

Our second announcement is that we are having our annual CPR/AED training soon. To be a member of St. Mark's "First Response" Team, you need to be certified in both areas. So if you would like to join the team, please let Deb, Mike, or Tim know, and we'll sign you up for the class. There are two parts to the training – an online part and a hands-on part. A small fee is involved with getting certified, but our committee pays for most of the training.

On the 2nd Friday of each month, starting in February, we will have a date night for couples. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. It will be designed to help couples get closer to each other and bring God into the forefront of their marriage. We will use the study "Vertical Marriage" during the first 5 months. The program format will be:



6:00-7:00 Pot luck dinner

7:00-7:15 Video

7:15-7:45 Small group discussion

7:45-8:00 Large group follow-up and sending prayers

The leader of the session will bring the main course and others will be asked to bring a side dish to pass.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen our marriages and get closer to God in every way.

The exact dates are: February 9, March 8, April 12, May 10, and June 14

If you are unable to attend every session, that is alright. Each session will stand alone and is not dependent upon being at previous sessions. We hope to see you there!

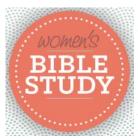


Parish Ed Ministry Team would like to thank ALL who helped to make our St. Mark Family Christmas Celebration a HUGE success. A SPECIAL thanks to our

Sunday School children and their Sunday School teachers for their program, as well as to Cindy Zwicke, Brock Zwicke and Karissa McGill for heading up this joyous celebration honoring the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Join us on Wednesday, February 21st & 28th, and March 6th, 13th & 20th.

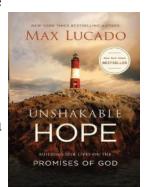


The Women's Bible Study is starting a new book on Sunday, January 28th.

Max Lucado's

"Unshakable Hope -

Building Our Lives on the Promises of God." We meet in the Education Center on the main floor in the East room. Feel free to join us, even if you missed the first day or do not yet have the book.





Rummage Sale 2024 Save the Date! August, 1st, 2nd & 3rd

Announcing a new Program at St. Mark!

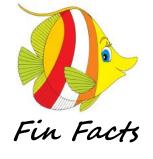


In January 2024, St. Mark started a program entitled

Parents' Morning Out

Parents' Morning Out. The Evangelism Ministry Team started this community outreach program as a means to reach and minister to young families in the greater Lake Villa / Lindenhurst area. Children can be dropped off for 3 hours, the last Friday of the month. Registration at is required and can be found at https://smlc.info/events/.

To run this program, we need people to help care for the children. If you are interested in spending 3 hours a month playing with little ones, please contact Deb Heide. Background checks will be required.



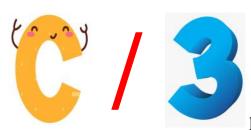
Financial Position & Year End Giving

The "Funance" Committee is happy to report that 2023 was a very good year! The trend in lower giving continued in 2023 and will need to be watched carefully in 2024. In spite of increased holiday giving, year to date donations were \$68,685 lower than what was predicted in the budget. This is 9.8% below what was predicted for 2023 and 3.2% below actual giving in 2022. The good news..... Overall expenses were reduced significantly in 2023 due to staff openings throughout the year and reduced spending

by committees. This resulted in a net **profit** (unaudited estimate) of \$116,136.

Cash in the bank increased in the final two months of the year by \$47,390 for a total cash and savings of \$373,165, as well as a Contingency Fund totaling \$60,000. The Endowment Funds totaled \$72,519 at the end of 2023 and Restricted Funds increased to a total of \$415,109.94.

| | <u>Budgeted</u> <u>Unrestricted Offerings</u> | Actual Unrestricted Offerings | Over/Under | |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Month of November 2023 | \$ 64,200 | \$ 54,588 | (\$ 9,612) | |
| Month of December 2023 | \$ 65,500 | \$ 89,996 | \$ 24,496 | |
| 2023 Fiscal Year (Jan Dec.) | \$ 696,950 | \$ 628,265 | (\$ 68,685) | |



YOUTH REPORT

After a slow couple of months, our group hopes to get back on track this winter and spring. We did

have a group go to the in Grayslake and ESCAPED!!!!

Congrats to the 7 girls that got through the room with 7 minutes to spare! A few of the things we are looking forward to are doing our Random Act of Kindness event, having a movie night, stuffing and hiding Easter Eggs, and/or any other ideas we come up with! Anything you can suggest??

Golden Escape Rooms

Also in the new year, Deb Gass and I would like to do a book study on John Stonestreet's and Brett Kunkle's book: <u>A Student's Guide to Culture</u>. We will still play some games, have some fun, eat some chocolate, laugh a lot, but get

serious a little bit for time to talk about the book. (The church will pay for the book so don't worry about that!). We are looking forward to a great winter and spring for our high school youth!

To give me any help, suggestions, ideas, and/or even criticisms, please email Mike Mol.

Introducing another way we can all help those vastly less fortunate than us!!

Through a connection at FMSC, I found out about <u>Soles for Jesus</u>. The Mission of this program is to provide new and gently used shoes to the people of Africa who desperately need them. Even though their Mission states "gently used", their website says:

They collect all sizes and kinds of shoes in any condition. Donations of shoelaces are also appreciated. Shoes of any kind, in any condition, even "unwearable", are accepted. SFJ provides



shoes to people in Africa which helps prevent both injury and disease and allows children to attend school. No shoe ever needs to end up as landfill.

To help with your donation, I will be putting a box in the coat room near the fellowship hall. If you have any questions about this program, please contact Mike Mol.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Here is a video about the program: Souls for Jesus Promo Video



Debbie Heide gave me a great idea of getting to know some of the folks around church!!! So I admit to copying her...but there are so many folks around here we may know...but don't know anything ABOUT!! I hope you enjoy "getting to know" Lynn. Gae Michals

Lynn Wetterberg and her husband, Jim, have been members of St. Mark for over 40 years. You have probably seen Lynn around the church as she has previously served as St. Mark's Treasurer and Secretary, as well as serving on the Finance (otherwise known as "Funance"), Best Practice and Memorial Committees. In addition, Lynn has been formatting the Voice for the last 5+ years, and was instrumental in establishing the new Parent's Morning Out program,

which started in January 2024.

Lynn and Jim live in Lake Villa in the home Jim was raised in. We are true Lake Villains! They met in 1978 at the Lake Villa Fireman's Carnival, as Jim was a 2nd generation volunteer firefighter at the time. It was a quick courtship as they met in August, were engaged in February, and married in June. In 1990, they adopted their first child, Anna (age 22 months), from Romania. Anna was followed by Rick (age 7) from Russia in 1992, Julie (age 10) from Romania in 1999, and Nicole (age 17) from Romania, via foster care in Vermont, in 2003.

Between Anna and Rick's arrival, Lynn took, and passed, the CPA test. She was never destined to take that path as after Rick's arrival she started Uniting Families Foundation, an adoption agency that specialized in the placement of older and special needs children from Russia, Romania, and Moldova. Lynn also started Comfort the Children, a humanitarian aid organization. Lynn continued in the world of national and local non-profits until her retirement from the corporate world, after which she married her first life as a 5th grade teacher with her knowledge of special needs children and worked as a para -professional and substitute teacher for SEDOL. Now fully retired, she spends her time joyfully serving St. Mark in several capacities as well as helping to raise her granddaughter, Danielle, serving as guardian for two daughters, volunteering as a bookkeeper for Shining Abilities, and managing 7 trust funds for family members. It is a full and busy life!

Speaking the Truth in Love



This month's book, *Speaking the Truth in Love: how to be an assertive Christian* by Kenneth C. Haugk and Ruth N. Koch, focuses on helping Christians to become honest, assertive communicators. Jesus lived assertively. Jesus' disciples (that is all of us) need to live assertively, too.

HE TRUTH

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE invites you to experience the freedom and joy of Christian assertiveness. You will discover how a scriptural understanding of assertive living builds healthy relationships with others, in groups, and in

congregations. This deeply spiritual and extremely practical book makes clear: what assertiveness is; the biblical foundation for assertiveness; how to make, refuse, and negotiate requests; how to express and receive compliments; plus, fourteen other essential topics. SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE will also show you how to handle anger, criticism, and other tough relational issues. You will learn practical ways to relate to others with greater honesty, compassion, and respect. You can find this book under call number 248.4 KOC.

Noah's Nursery News:

Well, 2023 was another successful year in the nursery according to the compassion, nurturing and care that our volunteers provided to our St. Mark littles. Thank you!

Also, stay tuned for exciting activity through our quarterly Parents' Night Out events, as well as our new Parents' Morning Out program in 2024! Volunteers and prayers are needed as we integrate these programs into our community as an outreach mission!

Lastly, please keep Amya Appelt in your thoughts and prayers as she heads to Carlow, Ireland from January - May 2024, on a study abroad program through College of Lake County. Best wishes, Amya, on this exciting endeavor! Of course, you will be greatly missed here at St. Mark!

In closing, we wish your and your families a very healthy and Happy New Year!

God's richest blessings. - Deb Heide





FMSC Spring Gala May 4, 2024

I just found out about this, so I thought I'd let you start checking your calendars. This is a fundraising

event that will leave you feeling inspired, challenged and connected with fellow FMSC supporters. Joyce and I went last year, and it was awesome! The evening will include a plated dinner and powerful stories directly from FMSC food distribution partner <u>Maisha Project</u>. I have met the founder of this organization, and she has an amazing story to tell. This year's gala will be held at the Drury Lane Theater in Oakbrook Terrace. If you want more information about this, please contact Mike Mol.

?? Tech Enthusiasts Wanted: Join the St Mark Lutheran Church Tech Team! ??

Step Up and Be a Tech Hero!

Have you ever wanted to be behind the scenes, making a significant impact on our worship experience? St Mark Lutheran Church invites YOU to join our dynamic Tech Team! No experience necessary—just a willingness to learn, have fun, and contribute to this vital ministry.

Why Join St Mark Lutheran Church Tech Team?

- ? Learn a New Skill: Interested in gaining valuable skills? Operating sound and video equipment is a fantastic way to develop technical know-how. Our experienced team, led by Director of Music Andy McBeath, will guide you every step of the way.
- ? No Experience Required: You read that right—no prior experience needed! Our Tech Team is all about learning together. Whether you're a tech guru or a complete novice, we welcome individuals of all skill levels.
- ? Support a Vital Ministry: As we navigate a shortage of volunteers, we need dedicated parishioners like you to step up and support this vital ministry. Your contribution to the Tech Team ensures our worship services run smoothly, enhancing the experience for every one.

How to Join:

Contact our Director of Music, Andy McBeath, at andy@smlc.info, to express your interest.







Second Tuesday Each Month

<u>CARRY OUT</u>, <u>PICK UP</u> or <u>DELIVERY!</u> 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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12:00 - 9:00 PM

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

DATES: **Second Tuesdays** 2/13/24, 3/12/24, 4/9/24





Now Serving Breakfast!

<u>DRIVE THRU</u> 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** 2/22/24, 3/21/24, 4/18/24

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
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February 2024

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|-------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 9:00AM-12:00 Quilt- ers/Library | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | 6:00-8:00 PM Stephen Ministry/ Li- brary 7:00-8:00 PM Adult Bible Study | 7:00PM Transition Team Meeting / Library | 5:30PM Traditional Worship |
| 4 8:00AM Traditional | 5 | 6 8:30AM Tues Men's Group | 7 5:30-6:30PM Bell Choir / Loft | 8 9:00AM-12:00 Quilt- ers/Library | 9 | 10 |
| 10:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Contem- porary 6:30PM Youth Grp | 6:30-8:30PM DivorceCare / Li- brary | 6:00PM Choir Practice | 6:30PM Confirmation / Ed Center | 7:00-8:00 PM Adult Bible Study/ Back Multi- Purpose Room | 7:00PM Transition Team Meeting / Library | 5:30PM Traditional Worship |
| 11 8:00AM Traditional | 12 | 13 8:30AM Tues Men's Group | 14 5:30-6:30PM Bell Choir / Loft | 15 9:00AM-12:00 Quilters/Library | 16 | 17 |
| 10:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Contem- porary 6:30PM Youth Grp | 6:30-8:30PM DivorceCare / Li- brary | 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:00 Council Mtg./ Library | 6:30PM Confirmation / Ed Center 7:00PM Ash Wednesday Serv. SService | 7:00-8:00 PM Adult Bible Study/ Back Multi- purpose Room | 7:00PM Transition Team Meeting / Library | 5:30PM Traditional Worship |
| 18 8:00AM Traditional | 19 | 20 8:30AM Tues Men's Group | 21 5:30-6:30PM Bell Choir / Loft | 22 7:00-8:00 PM Adult Bible Study/ | 23 9:00-12:00 Parents Morning | 24 |
| 10:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Contem- porary 6:30PM Youth Grp | 6:30-8:30PM DivorceCare / Li- brary | 6:00PM Choir Practice | 5:30PM Soup Sup. 6:30PM Confirma- tion 7:00PM Lenten Service | Back Multi-purpose Room | 7:00PM Transition Team Meeting / Library 7:00PM Sing and Pray | 5:30PM Traditional Worship |
| 25 8:00AM Traditional | 26 | 27 8:30AM Tues Men's Group | 28 5:30 PM Soup Suppers | 29 7:00-8:00 PM Adult Bible Study/ | | |
| 10:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Contem- porary 6:30PM Youth Grp | 6:30-8:30PM DivorceCare / Li- brary | 6:00PM Choir Practice 8:00PM Joint Committee Mtg. Library | 6:30PM Confirmation 7:00PM Lenten Service | Back Multi-purpose Room | | |

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

TO RECEIVE

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MARCH VOICE DEADLINE: February 15, 2024