



The **VOICE**

OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

June/July 2024

From the Desk of Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Last month over 100 people gathered in our fellowship hall for our Mission and Vision Extravaganza and worked together to create our new mission statement which is;

Loving God and All People

Many may still be asking what a mission statement is or what does it do? Simply put, a mission statement is a tool that helps provide direction to where and what a congregation is doing. It sets expectations of what a congregation is all about and what their priorities are. I'm excited that St. Mark is all about Loving God and all people. It's straight out of the Bible!

The new mission statement will be used to help us move forward.

We also created 8 vision statements on April 14th. Vision statements help explain how the mission statement will be accomplished. Our vision statements are:

1)Prayer

2)Worship

3)Provide opportunities and encouragement to grow in Christ.

4)Attract young people and provide what they need.

5)Share our gifts both material and spiritual.

6)Maintain a safe supportive place for people.

7)Combine faith and relationships.

8)Be in the world but not of the world.

I want to thank you all for the hard work you put in during the Mission and Vision Extravaganza! Since the event, every text on Sunday has affirmed the mission and vision statements we created. I call that getting an Amen from the lectionary and Scriptures.

Over the next 8 weeks I'll be sending out a devotional on each statement. I'm calling this a devotional and not a simple write up because I believe we still need to ask God to actively guide us in the process of discerning if this is the direction God has called us to.

The mission and vision statements are only as useful as we make them, like all tools if you don't use it, it's not that helpful. My role will be to help everyone be comfortable and proficient with our new mission and vision statements.

Again, thank you all for your hard work and I'm excited to begin to use these statements to help move us forward.

God's Peace,
Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

In This Issue:

- ⇒ Intentional Interim Pastor Steve
- ⇒ Meet the Team
- ⇒ Cliff Notes
- ⇒ Vacation Bible School
- ⇒ Flower Chart
- ⇒ Missouri Musings
- ⇒ Council Highlights
- ⇒ Ongoing Opportunities for Prayer
- ⇒ Congregational Life
- ⇒ Transition Team Update
- ⇒ Importance of Prayer
- ⇒ H.I.S. Ministry
- ⇒ Altar Guild
- ⇒ Feed My Starving Children
- ⇒ Noah's Nursery
- ⇒ Joyful Hearts
- ⇒ Youth Group News
- ⇒ Children's Ministry
- ⇒ Rummage Sale
- ⇒ Help Needed
- ⇒ Pray for Peace
- ⇒ The Gala Event
- ⇒ Open Arms
- ⇒ Welcome Team
- ⇒ Garden Club
- ⇒ What's on the Shelf?
- ⇒ Lay Readers
- ⇒ Media Person

CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

stmarkcommunications@gmail.com.

Love God and All People

June/July 2024



ST. MARK COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

Cliff Ewert
cewert41@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Cheryl Bengston

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Kellie Rice

FINANCIAL TREASURER

Brock Millsop

BOARD OF ELDERS

Cheryl Bengston Rodney Lunkenheimer Nancy O'Connor

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Laurie Kerns Johnna Morton Keith Niles

ST. MARK MINISTRY TEAMS

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Supported by Trustee:
Johnna Morton

Donna Bergl
Tricia Cholewinski
Shawn Frank

EVANGELISM

Supported by Elder
Rodney Lunkenheimer

Chris Holmes
Patrick Krook
Jeff McKenzie
Fred Natschke
Kurt Ulbricht

FINANCE

Supported by:
Board of Trustees

Pam Preston Lynn Wetterberg

PARISH EDUCATION

Supported by Elder: Nancy O'Connor

Melissa Grandt Lori McKenzie
Jane Milani Dean Miller

SAFETY & SECURITY

Supported by:
Board Of Trustees

Mike Mol Tim Rick OPEN

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Supported by Trustee:
Keith Niles

Robin Korom Jim Schaufel

STEWARDSHIP

Supported by Trustee:
Laurie Kerns

Laurie Kerns Carl Norlin

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Supported by Elder:
Cheryl Bengston

Charlie Burke
Wendy Weidner

INTENTIONAL INTERIM PASTOR

Intentional Interim Pastor Steve Abend | pastor@smlc.info

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Stevie Bass | Stevie@smlc.info

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Julie Hennelly | Julie@smlc.info

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Rick Wilhelm | hockeyfamily3035@gmail.com

BOOKKEEPER

Barb Griffith | Barb@smlc.info

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

OPEN

NURSERY COORDINATOR

Deb Heide | heidedeborah@gmail.com

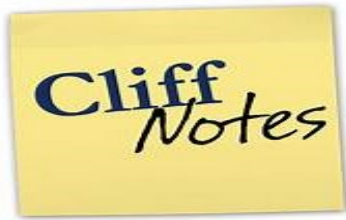
VOICE ARTICLES, SLIDES, WEBSITE & FACEBOOK REQUESTS

Put type of request in title | StMarkCommunications@gmail.com

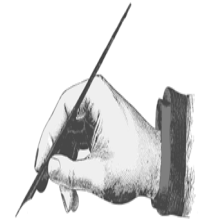
Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, June 11th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, June 25th @ 7:00PM

Love God and All People

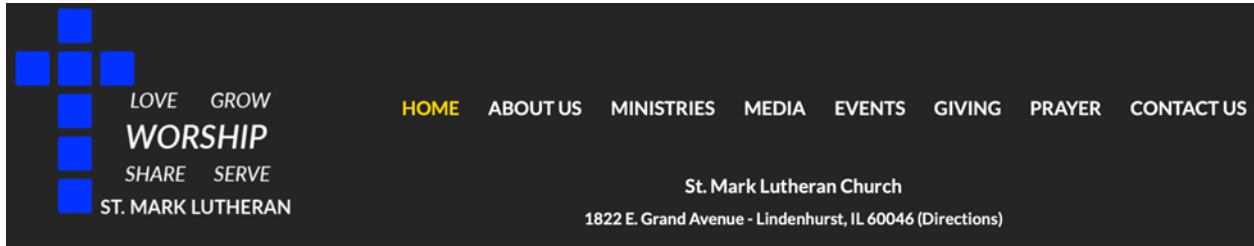
June/July 2024



By Cliff Ewert



smlc.info: A Wealth of Information on St. Mark



Are you seeking more general or specific information about St. Mark? Just turn on your computer and go to smlc.info and you will find a wealth of information about the church, its ministries, events, giving, prayer plus other interesting articles and how to contact the staff for additional information. You will also find interesting presentations on St. Mark's Facebook page.

A few weeks ago I was shocked when a long-time member said they have never accessed St. Mark's website, thus this article. There is a lot of great news and information on this website.

Every week the website is updated, especially on the Events page along with various ministries. Everything that is currently occurring at St. Mark will be reflected on the Events page. Also, most of the slides used for our worship services can also be found on the website.

[Devotions are also now posted to the website under Media.](#)

Below are some of the features of the St. Mark website:

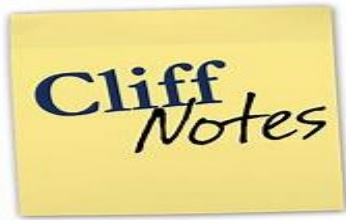
The Home Page provides a list of times for our Worship Services, Our Beliefs, Contact Us, About St. Mark, along with a brief overview of some of our ministries. Upcoming Events currently has 13 interesting current events such as Parents Morning Out, Vacation Bible School, Vertical Marriage, Divorce Care, Daily Prayer, Feed My Starving Children, Thursday Bible Study, Helping Open Arms Mission and the list goes on.

Our Ministries presents articles on ministries for Children, Youth, College Students, Men and Women, Young Adults, Confirmation, Ladies Sunday Classes, Sunday School, Bible Studies, Fellowship, along with our comprehensive Ministry Booklet.

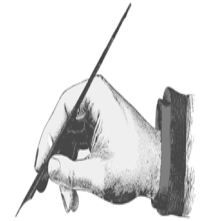
About Us presents a listing of Our Leaders, What We Believe, and our Privacy Policy.

Love God and All People

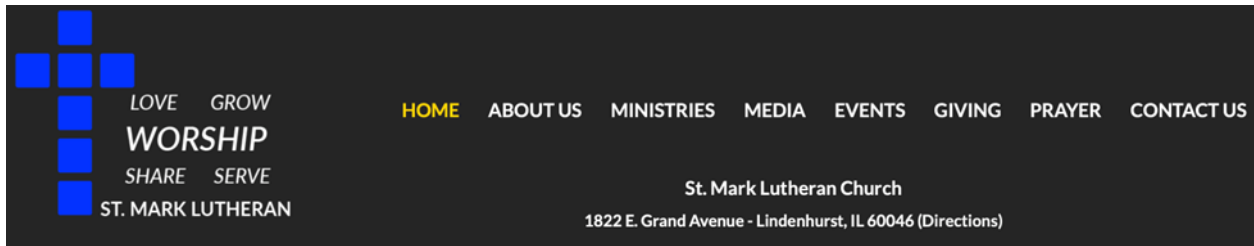
June/July 2024



By Cliff Ewert



smlc.info: A Wealth of Information on St. Mark



Looking for additional information, here are some links for the most popular topics:

St. Mark website: <https://www.smlc.info/>

Ministries: <https://www.smlc.info/ministires/>

Devotions: <https://www.smlc.info/devotions/>

Events: <https://www.smlc.info/events/>

Prayer Requests: <https://www.smlc.info/prayer/>

Finally, when you see Mel Ellingsen, thank him for his time and dedication in spreading the good news about our church through St. Mark's website.

Cliff Ewert, President

P.S. I will be writing another article on another great resource for news and information about our church: St. Mark's Facebook page. It's loaded with updated news about future and past events that we share not only with our members, but the community.



Love God and All People

June/July 2024



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

The Unexamined Life



I read something in Taylor's devotion last Friday that caught my attention. He was speaking about a list of undesirable traits found in 1st Timothy 3:15. Among them were pride, envy, arrogance, abusiveness, treachery, lovers of self and money, and several others. Taylor went on to say that we need some kind of system to track these traits and deal with them. One of the ways to accomplish this is to develop a relationship with a trusted friend who can hold us accountable for our choices.

A long time ago, around 400BC, Socrates said that the unexamined life was not worth living. He recognized the need to periodically step back from our daily grind and take an inventory of our lives. Ignatius of Loyola claimed that the examination of conscience is the single, most important spiritual discipline. When you think about it, we all take an inventory every day. Before we leave the house each morning, we may check our cash flow to make sure we have enough for the expenses of the day. Before we go grocery shopping, we may check the cupboard and come up with a list of items we need. We don't hesitate to do an inventory for certain aspects of our life, but rarely do we feel the need for a spiritual inventory. Why is that? Maybe because it forces us to look inward and that can be painful and very risky. We might have to change!

Doing a daily spiritual inventory is vital to spiritual growth. Taylor points out that the goal is not to reach spiritual perfection, but rather spiritual progress. What does that look like? Let's say for example, that you have a problem with anger. You may be known for a short fuse and often lose your temper with your spouse and/or children. Doing a daily spiritual inventory identifies that anger and helps you track it. Each day, write down the number of times you lost your temper and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. That's what the Holy Spirit does! He provides revelation and guidance. He opens our minds to truth and provides the power to move forward, especially when we humbly ask Him to remove our character defects. This might not be something that happens overnight. It is enhanced by studying what the bible has to say about anger. Proverbs is loaded with them. I did a Google search on "verses related to anger" and 25 examples popped up. This works for whatever issue you struggle with, not just anger. An accountability partner can help by holding your feet to the fire.

I encourage you to identify negative traits in your life that need improvement. Try performing a spiritual inventory and take a close look at your character defects. Make a commitment to partnership with the Holy Spirit to overcome them. Try starting with this prayer found in Psalm 139:23-24: "Search me O' God and know my heart. Test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life." It starts with examining where you are, and it ends in a life worth living!

Love God and All People

June/July 2024

Transition Team Update

We have come a long way St. Mark! We have examined our past and celebrated our history with Heritage Weekend in October. We embraced the present by celebrating our spiritual gifts and our Service to God, the Church and community. The work done in the past and present phases set the Groundwork for our look to the future. At the beginning of the year, we began coordinating and conducting Cottage Meetings to discuss where we want to be in the future. We had seventeen meetings With over 100 participants and learned a lot.

The culminating event for the future phase was April 14. The objective of the event– the Mission and Vision Extravaganza– was to allow the people of St. Mark to develop a Mission Statement for our Church and Vision Statements to accomplish our Mission. God’s blessings were evident at the meeting, and the Holy Spirit was with us as we landed on our Mission and Vision.

St. Mark’s Mission:

Loving God and All People

St. Mark’s Vision:

- 1. Prayer**
- 2. Worship**
- 3. Provide opportunities and encourage people to grow in Christ.**
- 4. Attract young people and provide what they need.**
- 5. Share our gifts both materially and spiritually.**
- 6. Maintain a safe and supportive place for people.**
- 7. Combine faith and relationships.**

What’s next?

Our transition continues and will do so until we call a new pastor. The Team will still be around, but it is now time for Call Committee to do its important work.

What can you do?

There is so much. Please consider your spiritual gifts and the vision statements listed as an opportunity to commit yourself to being more involved in accomplishing our Mission. There are opportunities to serve on Council or join a ministry team. At a minimum, please pray for the Call Committee for discernment and wisdom as they seek to find the pastor that God has chosen for us.

God’s blessings,

John Bengston, on behalf of the Transition Team



St. Mark Council News

To keep you better informed about Church Council decisions, please go to <https://smlc.info/minutes/> for Council and Committee minutes.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Diving Into God's Word!



When: Mon, June 17th – Fri, June 21st
Time: 9:00am - Noon
Who: Preschoolers - 6th graders
Registration is required



If you have any questions about VBS or would like to volunteer to be part of our VBS crew, please **contact Beth Miller at stmarkvbsfun@gmail.com**.

On Going Opportunities for Prayer

- **St. Mark Church Corporate Prayer, *Appealing to the Holy Spirit 24/7*.** See April Prayer article in this *Voice* for more details.
- **Prayers for our nation's, local and state elections.** A timely **non-partisan prayer guide** from the National Day of Prayer Task Force. See Prayer Table and St. Mark website: smlc.info under the Prayer Tab.
- **Prayers for the Peace of Jerusalem and Israel** see Prayer Table for prayer guide and St. Mark website: smlc.info under the Prayer Tab.
- **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. Check with Connie Saunders, if you want to join.
- **ZOOM Weekly Prayer Meeting** - Come, pray and be blessed. Beginning Tuesdays, until further notice from 7:30 to 8:00 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. 847-514-5487.
- **2024 Three Days of Prayer Brochure for St. Mark Church, 2024 Prayer Guide, Youth Prayer Guide and a Children's Prayer Guide** on the St. Mark website under Prayer, smlc.info. Copies are also available at the Prayer Table in the Narthex. We prayerfully request you include these various petitions as part of your devotions for our church families, Intention Interim Pastor Steve, staff, church council and committees during this coming church year. Thank you, Worship and Music Committee and St. Mark Prayer Team



Love God and All People

June/July 2024



Greetings From The Congregational Life Committee



Still Looking for Volunteers for CLC

You may not realize it, but the Congregational Life Committee is involved in so many of the activities that you enjoy at St. Mark. There are only three of us on this committee so we need to count on others to be ready to help out as needed. We are still looking for members that could be available to help with our various events 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. We work hard, but we sure have fun too!

“We make a living by we get, but we make a life by what we give.” – Winston Churchill

Father’s Day

We’ll be looking for Confirmation students to help hand out some goodies for all three services for Father’s Day. If your student needs some service hours this is an easy way for them to help us out and earn an hour or two. We’ll be putting up sign up sheets soon so be on the lookout for those.

Reach out to the CLC for more information: **Shawn Frank ♦ Tricia Cholewinski ♦ Donna Bergl**



Altar Guild Openings!



It has been determined that we will be having communion EVERY week from April 7 thru September 1. This means we really need additional help with setting up the altar elements and the communion tables! If you have an extra 15 minutes before or after each service I am requesting your help! It’s very simple, easily trained, and gratifying!! This is a perfect service for those of you who have thought of serving, but don’t want to be in the public eye, or can’t make a regular commitment. Great for including your young teens in serving!! This service need only be once a month or every other month...or more often if you are so moved! PLEASE prayerfully consider this service!!

See me during the Fellowship Hour behind the coffee pot!

Bless you,

Gae

Love God and All People

June/July 2024



Knowing the Importance of Prayer in God's Eternal Work... Appealing to the Holy Spirit 24/7

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. John 15: 7-8

Your St. Mark prayer team thank each of you for listening and answering our continuing call to pray as one corporate body to seek God's blessings for St. Mark Church to:

- be a House of Prayer and,
- faithfully engaging in the Great Commission.

Today and for the rest of 2024, we, the St. Mark Prayer team*, again call all who worship with us to continue to be in focused prayer for St. Mark Church as noted in the March Voice as well as the Holy Spirit prompts and/or directs you.

Remembering for a believing church to be engaged in God's eternal work of salvation, reformation, restoration, and building up the body of Christ, there are three requirements of our congregation.

- Realizing God's work through St. Mark Church can only be achieved, if we seek to be energized by the Holy Spirit.
- Praying with prayers of faith to engage God's heart by seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance and giving glory to God for the answered prayers.
- Understanding God's ordained accomplishments for St. Mark Church will be attained, when we as a congregation depend on the Holy Spirit and each member willingly exercise their Spirit's gifts. 1

Praising and Thanking God for:

- the gifts, skills and love of Pastor Steve for St. Mark during our time of transitioning, seeking and hiring a new shepherd;
- transitioning for guiding our reflecting on ourselves and St. Mark Church,
- formulating our mission and vision based on John 15,
- finishing the selection of a call team for a Christ-centered pastor.

Knowing we have weighty/challenging decisions and tasks ahead we, St. Mark Church cover in prayer:

- calling and hiring a pastor, NOTE: Call Team's prayer request
- hiring of a Music Director,
- ministering to new members,
- discipling new and mature Christians

And being the authentic Lutheran church, the Holy Spirit created us be in our neighborhood, town, state, nation and world sharing the Good News with a broken and lost world.

1Tozer, A.W., Compiled by W. L. Seaver, *Communing with God in Everything, Prayer*, Moody Press, 2016, pp. 53-55.

*Your Prayer Team, Pam Burke, Kathy Shelley and Barb Ewert. Interested in becoming part of St. Mark's prayer team? Please reach out to us.

Love God and All People

June/July 2024

Join in Praying for America's Return of the Lord Jesus Christ and REVIVAL

The mission of the National Day of Prayer Task Force is: "Centered on the Lord Jesus Christ, the National Day of Prayer Task Force exists to mobilize unified public and personal prayer for America."

Stop by at the St. Mark Prayer Table for a *Pray for America Prayer Guide* or click on : <https://www.smlc.info/prayer/prayer-guides/>.

Pray for our elections: So why pray for elections? There are a number of compelling reasons:

- The Bible commands us to pray for those who are in leadership (1Timothy 2:1-4). This includes those who are vying to become leaders.
- Godly leaders can help slow the erosion of religious liberties in our land. This can provide an increased window of opportunity for the Church to pray and evangelize.
- According to Scripture, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). The selection of leaders who understand and lead according to God's righteous standards can bring great blessing to a nation.
- Scripture also says in Proverbs 11:14, "For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisors make victory sure." The determination of who leads our nation will also determine who advises that leader and how we are guided.

Your



Update!

After our May packing event, the St. Mark's packing table has helped feed 300 kids a daily meal for a year!!! When we go to Libertyville's FMSC site, we are not the only one's packing so, if I include our numbers with everyone else's, we have fed 1782 kids!! (This information is posted near the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall.)

Speaking of numbers, through St. Mark's wonderful generosity, 526 Bibles have been taken from the site – free of charge. Since we started this, on 8/15/2023, that is almost 2 Bibles a day!!!

Our next packing session will be Saturday, June 1st, at 8:45 am. We will NOT be packing in July since "our date" lands on the 4th of July but if you want to put it on your calendar, Saturday, August 3rd, at 8:45 is the next packing day.

One of our "sibling" churches in Libertyville, Holy Cross Lutheran, has decided to take the lead on filling the site with different churches during the week of June 24th through the 29th. On Monday there are two sessions to fill, on Wednesday and Thursday there are 5 sessions, and on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday there are 4 sessions each. That comes out to 24 sessions and, as I type this, there is only 1 session that is full. To go into the numbers even more, of the 4320 open volunteer slots available, only 1169 slots have been filled.

That means there are 3151 open slots still available!!!

HOW MANY OF THOSE CAN ST. MARK FILL????

School is out, VBS is over, there are morning, afternoon, or evening slots available, the site has AC or heat – depending on the day, there are no pesky flies nor annoying mosquitos inside the building, there are sit down jobs, stand up jobs, and jobs to get your exercise, you can bring kids 5 years old and older, great commercial-free music is played, it's free, and ...??? Please check your calendars and sign up for as many slots, with as many of your St. Mark friends as possible!

Love God and All People

June/July 2024

THE GALA EVENT

On Saturday night, May 4th, Laurie Kerns, Jill Decker, Joyce, and I went to Oakbrook Terrace for an evening filled with good fun, good food, and a number of amazing God stories.

Mark Crea, FMSC's Executive Director/CEO, started the stories with two Holy Week miracles that happened in Haiti. Imagine you need to take a 180 mile trip? In the states that would take about 3 hours, right? Now put those 180 miles in Haiti between Port-au-Prince and Jeremie, which is on the far western end of Haiti, and that trip is over 7 hours long. On top of that, that 180 mile road is "patrolled" by 9 different gangs!! A truck full of FMSC food made that trip not once—but twice! The last delivery was made on Easter morning.

The main speaker was Beatrice Williamson, Founder and Director of Maisha Project in Kenya. Beatrice is a native born Kenyan, who knows firsthand about the needs of children and families in her home country. From the age of nine years old until her second year of college, Beatrice received a scholarship for education from a Swedish missionary, Anna Lanson. Education was what Beatrice needed to rise above her circumstances and realize her potential. "Aunty Bea" as the Maisha children affectionately call her, came to the United States in 2001. In 2006, she founded Maisha Project in response to the call for help from home. Now, her passion is to reach out to orphaned and destitute Kenyan children and provide them with the same opportunity Anna Lanson gave her. She shared with us, through tears in her eyes, what people call our MannaPack food bags- "gold"! She added that every time we pack a bag, we give kids hope and love.

Maisha Project's first ever shipment of food was packed at the Libertyville site, and I was working that day. Beatrice, who has friends in the Chicago-land area, happened to be visiting them but made a trip to our site, to see the shipment leave. Most of you probably don't know that before the back door of a semitruck—loaded with our food—is shut and leaves our site, the FMSC workers will come to the loading dock and pray for the food, the driver, and the journey the food will take. I felt so blessed to be there that day to meet Beatrice but to also be able to pray with her and for her and for the food that was going to her mission! WOW—God is good all the time and all the time, God is good!!!

As always, if you have any questions about FMSC—what it is like to pack, how could I help in other ways, where does the food go, who delivers it—please ask me. Mike Mol (The tall one in the picture)



Love God and All People

June/July 2024

Noah's Nursery News



We are in full swing with our Parents' Morning Out (PMO) program which provides parents/grandparents with a 3 hour break while we watch their children 12 and under for FREE during the months of June and August! (Sorry, there's no PMO in July due to rummage sale preparations.)

Our next PMO is scheduled for June 28th, from 9 am - 12 pm, so Please tell a friend about this amazing program! And the August PMO is Friday, August 23rd, so Save The Date! Registration is required for both events and can be found at <https://smlc.info/events/>.

The nursery is also supporting the "Date Night VERTICAL Marriage, a Small-Group Study. Discover the one secret that will change your marriage!" The last date is Friday, June 14th, and the nursery will be staffed from 5:45 pm - 8:00 pm; when children are in attendance.

We will be hosting our next Parents' Night Out (PNO) to give our working parents/guardians a night out together while we watch their children; again FREE of charge, on Saturday, June 29th, from 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm. The age range for the PNO is 12 years and under, 13 and older may volunteer, 18 and older requires a background check. Please see me for details.

Registration is required and can be found at <https://smlc.info/events/>.

Lastly, an update on Amya Appelt! Amya is studying in Carlow, Ireland through a CLC initiative.

Amya and her friend Hannah were able to squeeze in traveling to Zurich, Switzerland and Venice, Italy! In Zurich, they climbed Uetliberg, walked around Lake Zürich and toured the Lindt chocolate factory. While in Venice, they watched the gondolas, went to St Mark Basilica, and afterward they had "some of the best gelato in the world"! These ladies sure have been busy on their quest to explore all that they possibly could this year! We welcome Amya and Hannah back to the States and Amya back to St Mark!

As you can see, we are busy in the nursery with upcoming PMO and PNO events, as well as date nights! I'll certainly miss writing about Amya and Hannah's adventures in Ireland and beyond!

Stay well, enjoy your summer and God bless,

Deb Heide

St. Mark's Joyful Hearts - Singles Group

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

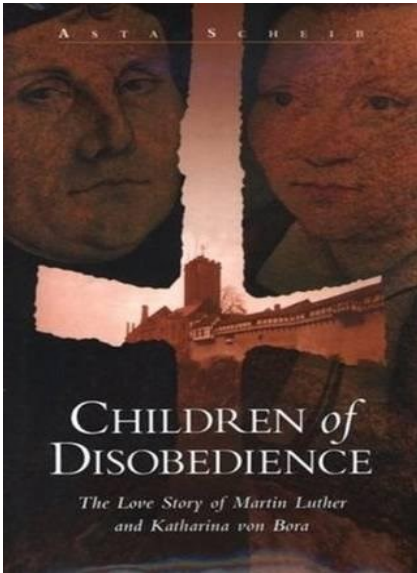
Contact Patty or Nancy Lindholm_Patricia@yahoo.com or NEOConnor@comcast.net



Love God and All People

June/July 2024

Book Corner



If you enjoy historical fiction, this month's book choice, *Children of Disobedience* by Asta Scheib, may be for you. One of the most scandalous love stories of history: a renegade monk marries a run-away nun, and in the process our understanding of love between man and woman takes on a historically new meaning. So too, is the love between God and people, and with it our very understanding of religion. This is the story of two passionate and revolutionary individuals who believed that God had created them to be free, to love with soul, mind and with their bodies, and to live their very own life sweeping aside church dogma and social convention.

Based on extensive research (including all of Luther's letters to Katharina--hers had not been considered important enough at the time to be kept), Asta Scheib's novel is a sensitive and critical portrait of the man Martin Luther from the perspective of his wife. It is as well a beautiful description of the woman Katharina von Bora who held her own strong and influential self in a relationship that was neither simple nor easy. You can find this book under call number FIC SCH.



**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.



In case you didn't know...or forgot!...there is a flower chart on the wall near the entry doors inside the building. The fee is \$35, paid in advance in the envelope just below the sign up calendar, showing the reason for your request. Please turn the envelope into either the offering plate, or to the Church Administrator, Stevie. The flowers are yours to take home...after the last service.

We hope to see more requests come in!

Love God and All People

June/July 2024



OK – this clip art image has it backwards, but your Safety & Security Committee here at St. Mark could use your help!!

Since the inception of this committee, Deb Zuchowski has been a valuable member, who had a heart and passion for keeping St. Mark and its members as safe and secure as possible. She has now decided to step down from the committee and we are going to miss her.

So if you have any interest in helping St. Mark stay safe and secure, please see Mike Mol or Tim Rick. There is no prerequisite in knowing anything about safety and security to be a member – just the willingness to help. We usually meet on every other 4th Tuesday of the month but more often if needed.

Thank you for thinking and praying about joining us. Please talk to us if you have any questions!



A QUICK QUESTION

Does anyone have a way (or any connections on how) to get new logs for around our fire pit. I am looking for logs that are between 5 and 6 feet long and about a foot in diameter. If you can help with this, please contact Mike Mol at your earliest convenience. Thank You!!!!

PRAYER SHAWLS

Our prayer shawls are available to any one who is in need of solace via prayer! They are knit/crocheted with a prayer said for the recipient during the entire process. We have some very talented ladies (& gentlemen??) in our congregation who have created a large selection of shawls/lap robes in a variety of colors, patterns, and styles. They are located in a closet upstairs near the video control board. I just ask that you sign out the shawl when you take it...just to prevent duplicate presentations! If you're not sure where they are, just ask Stevie. There is also a supply of extra yarn if you want to make a shawl to add to the selection! Questions?? Just ask Gae Michal!



Love God and All People

June/July 2024



The Annual Rummage Sale is just 2 months away. This article will give you the timeline for donations and set up, and also all the ways you can help not only at the sale but also from home!

First the timeline:

July 1st.... Donation collection begins 9-4 Monday thru Friday. Please note the church will be closed July 4th and 5th for the holidays, so no drop offs on those days. For different drop off times or pickups of larger items you can't get here yourself, please call Laurie (847) 612-1510.

July 8th.... Ed Center set up begins.

July 22nd... Main Building set up begins.

July 29th, 30th, & 31st..... St. Mark members Pre-shop

August 1st, 2nd & 3rd.... Sale Dates

August 3rd at 3pm... Clean Up (A poster will be up in July with days/times we will be working for you to sign up)

Items we do not accept:

Mattresses or box springs, large appliances like stoves, fridges, microwaves, paints or chemicals, large mirrors without frames, large glass top tables, heavy desks, TVs, large exercise equipment, computers, large entertainment centers, China cabinets, encyclopedias, textbooks, magazines, Christmas trees, chandeliers, ceiling fans, wall to wall carpet, pool tables, ping pong tables, cribs, expired car seats, tires, building material, anything broken or missing parts, sleeper sofas, pianos or organs, or aquariums. These items don't sell and are hard to get rid of after the sale. Please only donate clean resalable items. If you would throw it out, so will we.

Love God and All People

June/July 2024



ST. MARK'S ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE 2024

How you can help.....

- 1.** When donating items, put like items together. Kid's clothes in one bag, women's clothes in another, linens in another, books in one box, housewares in one box, tools in another, etc. This greatly helps us when setting up. Also please do not tightly tie bags closed. We reuse them to pack up after the sale, but if we cannot open we have to rip up and throw away. When you drop off items, please leave them in the boxes or bags. If you take out of the boxes items can get broken and they are very hard to stack until we can set up.
- 2.** Come help setting up the sale. We take help of all ages, but do ask an adult to stay with younger children. Confirmation students can earn service points. We have jobs for everyone. No special skills required. If you can open a box or bag, hang or fold clothes, set items on tables you are qualified. Our help is getting older each year and we really would love to welcome some younger faces. Join us even if you have an hour to give. Many new friendships are made at the sale. It's a great way to get involved and meet new people.
- 3.** Work the sale. This involves straightening up after shoppers, helping shoppers with their items, answering questions, cashiering, etc.
- 4.** Help with cleanup. Much help is needed at 3:00 on Saturday to pack everything up and put the church back in order. We need to pack and put leftovers on the donation truck,, sweep and vacuum floors and carpet, take down tables and racks, put up tables and chairs and put all our supplies away. Many hands makes this go faster.
- 5.** Help with pickups. Our pickup crew is aging and could use a few strong younger guys to help. If you have a pick up truck or if you can ride along with them your help would be greatly appreciated.
- 6.** Bake items for the bake sale. These can be dropped off Wednesday night or anytime during the sale. We sell baked goodies for .50 each so if you can package them on small plates, it helps us at the sale. **For more information or questions, call Laurie Kerns at (847) 612-1510.**

Love God and All People

June/July 2024



Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and Israel

Posted on the National Day of Prayer by the NDP Task Force is the link for praying day and night for Israel. “We continue to pray through the reports coming out of Israel and Gaza, as our hearts break for our Israeli brothers and sisters, as well as Christians in the land and the shedding of innocent blood in Israel and Palestine. We invite you to join with fellow NDP intercessors praying God’s promises that are found throughout scripture. These prayer prompts were curated in response to the attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.” The Praying God’s Promises to Israel Guide is based in Scripture passages. Please pray for please, prosperity, and protection.

Copies available on the Prayer Table in the Narthex.

Click below to download the prayer guide, with over 300 scripture-based prayer prompts:

<https://www.smlc.info/prayer/prayer-guides/> or
https://22077897.fs1.hubspotusercontentna1.net/hubfs/22077897/pages/get_involved_small_group_guides/NDPTF_PrayersForIsrael.pdf

Genesis 27:27-29

27 So he came close and kissed him; and when he smelled the smell of his garments, he blessed him and said, “See, the smell of my son Is like the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed;

28 Now may God give you of the dew of heaven, And of the fatness of the earth, And an abundance of grain and new wine;

29 May peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you; Be master of your brothers, And may your mother’s sons bow down to you.

Cursed be those who curse you, And blessed be those who bless you.”



What do these four pictures have in common?

Besides a lot of the “obvious” things, the one thing you may not know is the high school youth get to see all of them in the months of June and July. Out of the generosity of two wonderful people, 4 of us will get to see the Sox play the Brewers on June 2nd and 9 will get to see the Cubbies battle the Crew on the 28th. To the two people who know who you are --- THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

But how does the campfire picture fit in you say? In between and after we see the baseball games, the C/3 HS youth will start having their Holy Smoke meetings out around the firepit. A very tentative schedule looks like we will try to meet on June 9th and 23rd, July 14th and 21st, and August 4th and 18th. The meetings will still be from 6:30 to 8:30 and friends are always welcomed!! Keep your eyes and ears open for announcement about these dates. Hope to see the youth there – the S’more supplies are provided!!

Since our next VOICE comes out the beginning of August, our “End of Summer/Back to School/Fall Kickoff” event may happen in August too!! TBA

If you have any questions about our HS youth or would like to help in any way, please see Mike Mol or Deb Gass. Prayers for our youth and Deb and I are always appreciated.

Open Arms Food Pantry Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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.

Items requested for June: Adult Pull Ups (Large, X-Large), Bar Soap and July: Cereal, Jelly, Laundry Soap. Any nonperishable food is always appreciated

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





Volunteer for Welcome Team! It's fun and rewarding!

Greet guests as they enter the church to make our church warm and inviting. The commitment is one service a month. Please contact Joyce Mol for more information.

>Welcome! **>Welcome!**

St. Mark Lutheran Church Garden Club

The Garden Club at St. Mark was organized in March of 2023. We had around 20 people join the club. We came up with an Aggressive plan to construct twenty garden boxes in less than 2 months and have the boxes filled with nearly eighteen yards of garden soil and fifteen yards of mulch. With an amazing team and many extra hands and volunteers we successfully completed the task. HIS Ministry at St. Mark funded the project and even heavy equipment was offered to us at no cost. We planted an array of items from tomatoes, peppers, beans, beets, squash, zucchini, cucumbers, carrots and many others and even though we had an extremely dry summer, with little to no rain, we had an amazing crop. The Team signed up for days to check and water the garden which was necessary due to the drought. Not only did we grow incredible vegetables, we grew in our Faith and lasting friendships.

In our first meeting we had a plan to culminate the harvest with a party of sorts, but that party turned into an event called Harvest Fest. The size and scale of this project we planned had never been done before at St. Mark. We started with appearing at the Lindenfest Parade, showcased what we were planning and handed out Koozies, water bottles, candy and literature. It obviously worked. We had an amazing turnout and made an enormous impact in our community.



We had seven food trucks, crafters and entertainment from magicians to petting zoos to bouncy houses and music, pumpkin and scarecrow making, and also games everywhere. This year we intend to make this event even bigger!!!

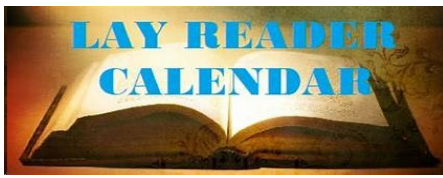
So if you want to learn, or want to share your experiences, or if you have no experience in planting, or you just want to be a part of our club here at St. Mark, reach out to Fred Natschke. We hope you join us!!

Come Grow With Us At St. Mark Lutheran Church Garden Club!!!!

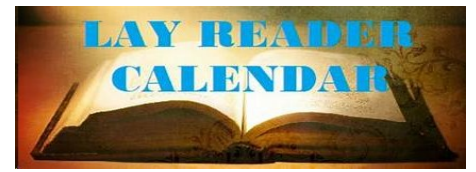


Love God and All People

June/July 2024



Lay Reader List for June and July



If you are unable to read on a specific Sunday, please switch with someone on the list **and notify the office**. The readings for both Saturdays and Sundays will be out the week before you read.

Saturday, June 1st	5:30 PM	Johnna Morten	Saturday, July 6th	5:30 PM	II Pastor Steve
Sunday, June 2nd	9:30 AM	Carl Norlin	Sunday, July 7th	9:30 AM	Gary Olson
			Saturday, July 13th	5:30 PM	Lynn Johnson
Saturday, June 8th	5:30 PM	II Pastor Steve	Sunday, July 14th	9:30 AM	Rhonda Doran
Sunday, June 9th	9:30 AM	Carl Norlan	Saturday, July 20th	5:30 PM	Kathy Kurth
			Sunday, July 21st	9:30 AM	Bonnie Milsop
Saturday, June 15th	5:30 PM	Lynn Johnson	Saturday, July 27th	5:30 PM	Johnna Morten
Sunday, June 16th	9:30AM	Jim Schranz	Sunday, July 28th	9:30 AM	Kevin Graul
Saturday, June 22	5:30 PM	Kathy Kurth			
Sunday, June 23rd	9:30AM	Cliff Ewert			
Saturday, June 29	5:30PM	Johnna Morten			
Sunday, June 30th	9:30AM	Lynn Wetterberg			

Media Person for June and July

Saturday, June 1st	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser	Saturday, July 6th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, June 2nd	9:30 AM	Rich Sidley	Sunday, July 7th	9:30 AM	Rich Sidley
			Saturday, July 13th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Saturday, June 8th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser	Sunday, July 14th	9:30 AM	Rich Sidley
Sunday, June 9th	9:30 AM	Rich Sidley	Saturday, July 20th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
			Sunday, July 21	9:30 AM	Mel Ellingsen
Saturday, June 15th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser	Saturday, July 27th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, June 16th	9:30AM	Mel Ellingsen	Sunday, July 28th	9:30 AM	Jerry Gass
Saturday, June 22	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser			
Sunday, June 23rd	9:30AM	OPEN			
Saturday, June 29	5:30PM	Taylor Houser			
Sunday, June 30th	9:30AM	Jerry Gass			

Love God and All People

June/July 2024

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
6/11/24, 7/9/24, 8/13/24



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
6/20/24, 7/18/24, 8/15/24

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
Facebook.com/DivineSigns3.16
[Instagram@Divinesigns3.16](https://www.instagram.com/Divinesigns3.16)
DivineSigns.godaddysites.com

Love God and All People

June/July 2024



June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5:30PM Worship
2 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Fellowship	3 10AM Al-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	4 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center Antioch Pizza Tuesday	5	6	7	8 5:30PM Worship
9 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Fellowship	10 10AM Al-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	11 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 7:00PM Ministry Team Meetings 8:00PM Joint Team Meeting	12	13	14 6:00PM Date Night	15 5:30PM Worship
16 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Fellowship	17 9AM VBS 10AM Al-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	18 9AM VBS 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center	19 9AM VBS	20 9AM VBS	21 9AM VBS 9:00AM Parent's Morning Out	22 5:30PM Worship
23 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Fellowship	24 10AM Al-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	25 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center	26	27	28	29 5:30PM Worship 5PM Parents Night Out
30 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Fellowship						



July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10AM Al-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	2 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center	3	4 Offices Closed for Holiday	5 Rummage Collection Begins	6 5:30PM Worship
7 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Fellowship	8 10AM Al-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	9 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 7:00PM Ministry Team Meetings 8:00PM Council Meet- ing	10	11	12	13 5:30PM Worship
14 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Fellowship	15 10AM Al-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	16 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center	17	18	19	20 5:30PM Worship
21 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Fellowship	22 10AM Al-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	23 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 7:PM Committee Meet- ings	24	25	26 9:00AM Parent's Morning Out	27 5:30PM Worship
28 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Fellowship	29 10AM Al-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	30 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center	31			

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

Summer Service Times

Saturday | 5:30PM

Traditional

Sunday | 9:30AM

1st/3rd services— Traditional

2nd/4th services— Contemporary

5th service— Contemporary

TO RECEIVE
★ THE VOICE ONLINE,
EMAIL Stevie@smlc.info

**AUGUST
VOICE DEADLINE:
July 15, 2024**

Love God and All People
June/July 2024