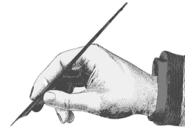


June/July 2022

President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



Praise God, our last mortgage payment on the Ed Center will be paid next month and we will be debt free! Anyone who would like to watch Patrice and me sign the final payment check is welcome!!

Have you noticed the great group of guys behind the coffee set up during fellowship hour on the first Sunday of each month? That's our HIS Ministry group that stepped up to serve you by preparing, serving and cleaning up after coffee and doughnut time. Gae Michal is our faithful, committed wonder woman who has been making sure this is done every Sunday morning, usually single-handedly, so for these guys to take a Sunday off Gae's plate every month is a beautiful example of how God intended the church body to help and support each part of the body. Thank you, guys!

SO...is it touching your heart too? Perhaps HIS Ministry is opening the door for other groups to take a Sunday each month. Are you part of a small group that would like to take a week? Don't read that too fast, let the Holy Spirit help it marinate in your heart. I wouldn't be surprised to hear this take off because *God is doing things* in our congregation. He is moving and I for one am tremendously excited to see what He's doing every day. I pray you can see it too.

The Church Council passed a significant motion last month, one that took quite a long time to come to fruition, yet finally has, thanks to the patience and commitment of our Safety and Security Committee. The potential for risk and harm is increasing

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

FIRST FRIDAY SING AND PRAY!

Join us Friday, June 3rd and Friday, July 1st at 7:00PM in the sanctuary. Invite a friend!





ST. MARK COUNCIL

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Debbie Plishka

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Debbie Plishka

FINANCIAL TREASURER

Patrice Sutton

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Cheryl Bengston Dean Miller Todd Stickney

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jerry Gass Laurie Kerns Jen Kumpula

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Tricia Cholewinski
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CONTEMPORARY MUSIC & MEDIA COORDINATOR

Brock Zwicke | Brock.smlc@gmail.com

ORGANIST/TRADITIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR

Open Position

NURSERY COORDINATOR

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BOOKKEEPER

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Kim Mohr | kimmohr.smlc@gmail.com

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Jim Schaufel | James.schaufel@yahoo.com

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

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2022

From the Desk of Pastor Breum

One Body, Many Parts

1 Corinthians 12:18-26 (NLT2) ¹⁸ But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. ¹⁹ How strange a body would be if it had only one part! ²⁰ Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. ²¹ The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." ²² In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. ²³ And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, ²⁴ while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. ²⁵ This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

This past week I had a conversation with a member of St. Mark. The person was thrilled to the bone because of the opportunity God gave to her to do ministry. She considers it a way of honoring God by putting to use the spiritual gifts that God has given to her. Inside of her there is a huge feeling, "for this I was born (again)."

Every person in the Body of Christ has been gifted by God to do acts of service unto the Lord Jesus Christ so the church can be built up continually. Dr Charles Stanley writes, "When I talk about serving the church with God-given talents and gifts, people oftentimes think too small. They picture the choir singer or the Sunday school teacher. But if they don't happen to be naturally adept at singing or teaching, they give up."

When you leave church on Saturday night or Sunday morning you are entering your field of ministry. God has literally gifted you to do acts of ministry, service, helps, to encourage, to teach, to pray with, and more. You are God's minister throughout the week wherever you are. I say the best of ministry occurs outside of the church walls. It occurs around you when you put to use the spiritual gift(s), talents and abilities that God has given to you.

Dr Stanley continues, "It's time we stop thinking in terms of a "Sunday only" establishment. The church is not a place or a time; it is a body of believers, each one uniquely gifted by God to guide, help, challenge, and support the rest. In fact, most service to the Lord doesn't take place inside the church building. It happens out in the world, where we do all the things that Scripture commands."

It is a privilege to honor God in your area of influence. Sometimes you will sense inwardly that God is smiling at you because your act of ministry pleases God. It's the only way to live!

God Bless,

Pastor Breum

FIRST FRIDAY SING AND PRAY!

As a community outreach of the movement for improvement and the Church Doctor recommendations, "First Friday Sing and Pray" has been launched. We join together as scripture tells us in Colossians 4:2 to "Devote yourselves to prayer." This new event provides us a format to put this action into motion. On the first Friday of every month, this month, June 3rd and July 1st, we will gather at 7:00PM in the sanctuary for praise and worship songs followed by prayer. It's your opportunity to pray for our nation, current events, the lost, personal requests for ourselves, family and friends, local issues (state, county, town) and our church. Please consider bringing those in your life who are in need of 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. You can pray out loud for whatever is on your heart, or just pray silently and agree with what is being shared by others. No pressure. No expectations. Just God's people coming together to pray and seek His face. All are welcome!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2022



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

Wages and the Way

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23 ESV).

Near the end of the New Testament period (mid to late first century), a document called "The Teaching" [*didachē*, pronounced DID-a-kay) appeared. It was an early church manual of faith and practice. It begins with these words: "There are two ways, one of life and one of death, and there is a great difference between these two ways."

How true! "The Teaching" may have been drawing on Jesus here, as it does elsewhere. For Jesus depicted the way that leads to life--to him and to his kingdom--in starkly binary terms: "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Matt. 7:13–14).

Life is complex. Gray areas abound. Yet Jesus taught that we all face a simple but fateful Either-Or: a wide way leading to woe, or a narrow way leading to life.

Romans 6:23 (quoted above) echoes Jesus' conviction. The word translated "wages" often referred to the pay a soldier would receive, or to a worker's paycheck more generally. In Romans, "sin" is said to "reign" (5:21; 6:12), like a military general or a despotic boss. What is sin's compensation package? Paul summarizes with one word: "death."

Paul's great epistle to the Romans is a brilliant summation of the gospel. But Romans also speaks much of "death": of Paul's 50 uses of that word, 29 of them occur in Romans 5–8. Happily, offsetting the morbid prominence of death, Paul mentions "life" 20 times in Romans, far more than in any of his other letters.

"Life," unlike "death," is not "wages." "Life" is rather "the free gift of God." Moreover, this is not simply "life" in terms of daily earthly existence. Rather, Paul speaks of "eternal life." This implies duration: a life that never ends. But it also implies quality: "eternal life" means living in God's presence, enjoying fellowship with Christ, bearing the fruit of his Spirit, worshiping and serving in his name.

Paul stresses "free gift" because in his day as in ours, people believe they can bargain with God. We can do enough to earn his favor. We can be better than most other people and are certainly not as bad as lawbreakers and criminals.

Paul anticipated such wishful thinking in Roman 3. He quotes the Old Testament to remind us that no one measures up to God's perfection and holiness. To appreciate Romans 6:23, we must recall Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." As Paul writes elsewhere, in ourselves we are without "hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12).

To sum up: Romans 6:23 points to two great truths about what Jesus Christ has done for us when we face our hopeless state and look to him:

(1) We are liberated from the black hole of seeking to earn God' favor by working for wages. Our sin incurs a debt that we have no ability to pay.

(2) God, so gracious and merciful, offers eternal life as a free gift on the basis of Jesus' death and resurrection. As Romans makes clear elsewhere, we receive this gift through faith, which means trusting in Jesus' death for our sins and in faith presenting our lives to him, to serve him as our resurrected Lord and master.

The glorious outcome of receiving this "free gift of God" which "is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" is not passive complacency as if no response to this gift were called for. Rather, there is a profound practical effect. There is a break with sin. Being "in Christ Jesus" implants a zeal for righteousness in the form of godly living.

Another verse in Romans 6 depicts the change of heart and behavior that God's free gift received sets in motion. Note the contrast between death and life: "Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness" (Romans 6:13).

Romans 6:23 means Jesus Christ delivers those who trust him from the treadmill of sin and condemnation (death), as he grants us the free gift of fellowship, hope, and purpose, right now and in the age to come (eternal life).

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2022



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

Council Highlights May 2022

A motion passed to purchase a 24/7 video camera system with (8) exterior security cameras through Martin Technology Solutions @ \$15,647.75, with funds to be paid out of Capital Improvement Restricted Funds.

A motion passed to approve the new job title and description for the Contemporary Worship and Media Coordinator. Brock Zwicke assumed the new role as of May 30, 2022.

A motion passed to approve the purchase and installation of a new air conditioning unit through Seasons Heating & Air, to replace unit #10 due to age and needed repairs.

A motion passed to approve the 2021 Financial Audit that was conducted by the Audit Team on March 21, 2022 and finalized on April 26, 2022.

A motion passed to clarify the guidelines as written for the Sunday School teaching age limit to allow one of the 2 co-teachers in a classroom to be a high school student, minimum age 14. The student must have engaged in the life of St Mark for a minimum of 6 months and must be evaluated and approved by the Parish Ed Committee.

Save the Date!

Sunday, November 13, 2022 - Annual Church Meeting and Council Election



The Board of Elders serves as the Nominating Committee for Council Elections. The nomination process will open August 13, 2022. If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning more about the positions available, please contact one of the Elders. Council positions that will be decided at the annual meeting include:

President- 1 year term

Secretary- 1 year term

Treasurer- 1 year term

Board of Trustees- 3 year term

Elder – 3 year term

For more information, contact: Cheryl Bengston (cbengston58@gmail.com) Dean Miller (dmiller0122@gmail.com) or Todd Stickney (sticktodd@gmail.com)

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2022

Opportunities for Prayer are **Blooming** at St. Mark Church, our House of Prayer

All Christians are commanded to pray daily to Our Father, God, Jesus, our Redeemer and the Holy Spirit our guide and teacher.¹ We offer prayers of adoration, thanksgiving and confession. We ask (petition), we pray for others (intercession) and seek affirmation. As the hymn reminds us to trust and obey there is no other way.

When we walk with the Lord, In the light of His Word; What a glory He sheds on our way; While we do His good will, He abides with us still; And with all who will trust and obey.



New Opportunities for Prayer

Join us at the *First Friday Sing and Pray* beginning June 3th at 7:00pm in the sanctuary for praise and worship followed by prayer. See full announcement in this June *Voice*.

SMLC Vacation Bible School prayers. Please either pickup their Prayer Sheet on the Prayer Table in the Narthex or..... Note they have unique prayers for each week leading up to and through the week of our Vacation Bible School.

2022 Youth Mission Trip scheduled for the last week of July, 2022. Mike Mol is asking for prayers as they plan, prepare, and pack for this mission trip.

Ongoing Opportunities for Prayer

National Day of Prayer has passed, but America is in great need of revival which is grounded in an outpouring of serious and sustained prayer. The theme this year is, "Exalt the Lord who has Established Us." Click on the following link for more information, <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/>

30 Days of Prayer for Muslims 2022 has concluded. But the Muslims are still in need of your prayers. So we ask you to continue pray using the *30 Days of Prayer for Muslims Prayer Guide*² learning who and how to pray for specific Muslim groups here in the United States and abroad. For more information. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGjWWth9b2M>

St. Mark Prayer Chain, a wonderful group of fellow Christians, praying for all prayer requests and praising God for His listening to our petitions, thanksgivings and praises for His responses. Email requests and praises to smlcprayers@gmail.com. Please share with the Prayer Chain how God has responded to your prayer requests.

Weekly Prayer Meeting - Come, pray and be blessed. 7:00pm - 8:00pm Wednesday evening via Zoom.

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

The Worship and Music Committee has posted the *2022 Three Days of Prayer Brochure* on the St. Mark website under **Prayer**. We prayerfully request you include these various petitions as part of your devotions for our church families, Pastor, staff, church council and committees and for the Church Doctor training and program during this church year. Click on this link <https://www.smlc.info/mt-content/uploads/2021/12/three-days-of-prayer-brochure-2022-updated-8.5-x-14.pdf>

Pray with Pastor Breum. Pastor continues to invite all up to the altar at the conclusion of each service for a personal prayer time with him.

For more information contact Barb Ewert, b1182ray@aol.com.

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

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

STUDENT MINISTRY | JUNE AND JULY 2022



June

12th

COLOR WAR KICK-OFF

6:00-8:30 PM

26th

HOLY SMOKES

6:00-8:00 PM



July

10th

Shedd Aquarium

Time TBD

17th

Holy Smokes

6:00-8:00 PM

23rd

31st

Colorado Mission Trip

Fellowship, food & fun

CHURCH
Picnic



Join us Sunday, August 21st at the Lehmann Pavilion (148 Cedar Ave., Lake Villa, IL) after the 10:30 AM service. Please note that only Lake Villa residents can park on-site, everyone else will need to park on the street or in the Metra station parking.



To all the amazing men who have made a difference in the life of a child or to those who have mentored and ministered to a brother or sister in need, you are a gift from God that is worth celebrating! Thank you for ALL you do to lead your families and the people that you touch in a mighty and powerful way as God has gifted you to serve them. These gifts do not pass away, they dwell deep within the souls of the people that we become and serve as wisdom and comfort to draw from in the days ahead!

BAPTIZED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

June 5th at St. Mark

Zoey Dee Adelizzi

Daughter of Alyssa and
Kenneth Adelizzi

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



Parish Ed would like to thank Brooke Frusti and Melissa Strand for their time and spiritual gifts in leading Sunday School. We will miss them and wish them well as they each move out of state. They will be a blessing to their new churches.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2022



Rummage Sale 2022 Save the Date! August 4th, 5th & 6th

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 5th Donation collection begins 9:00-4:00 Monday thru Friday. For different drop off times or pick ups of larger items you cannot drop of yourself, call Laurie at 847-612-1510.

July 11th Ed Center set up begins.

July 25th Main Building set up begins.

August 4th, 5th & 6th Sale Dates

August 6th at 5:00PM Clean Up

A poster will be up in July with days and times we will be working, for you to sign up.

Items We Do Not Accept

Mattresses or box springs, large appliances like stoves, refrigerators, microwaves, paints or chemicals, large mirrors without frames, large glass top tables, heavy desks, TVs, large exercise equipment, computers, large entertainment centers, 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 with missing parts, sleeper sofas, pianos or organs, aquariums. These items do not 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.

How You Can Help

When donating items put like items together. Kid's clothes in one bag, women's clothes in another, linens in another, 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 them we have to rip them up and throw them away.

Come help set up the sale. We take help of all ages, but do ask that an adult 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, or set items on tables you are qualified!

Work the sale. This involves straightening up after shoppers, helping shoppers with their items, answering questions, etc..

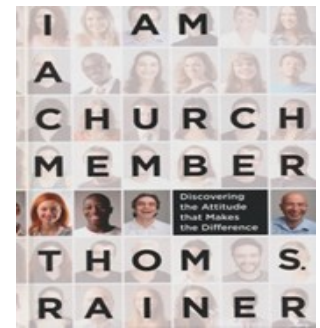
Help with cleanup. Much help is needed at 5:00PM on Saturday to pack everything up and put the church back in order. The last 2 years we finished the Ed Center after church on Sunday.

Continued on page 9

WHAT IS A CHURCH MEMBER

This month's highlight is Chapter 5: I Will Lead My Family to Be Healthy Church Members

When I think of my "family," many people come to mind. My family tree would be a giant oak with branches including people from my biological family, neighborhood, colleagues, co-workers, various sports teams and, of course, church. In each group of friends, I have some favorites and a few I might avoid due to growing frustrations, anger, or hurt feelings. God asks us to love unconditionally- without restrictions or limits. But how....



FORGIVE- In Josiah Frusti's May 11th devotional, he quoted C.S Lewis, "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." People hurt us, sometimes it is hard to heal. The main way to heal is to forgive. We need to be kind and compassionate to others. Every time we recite the Lord's prayer, we ask that God forgives our trespasses as we forgive others who trespass against us.

DON'T JUDGE- In Matthew 7:3-5, Jesus is preaching and talks about removing the plank in your own eye so you can see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. Having a judgmental attitude against someone else tears them down. Before you look at the fault of others, take a look at yourself first.

PRAY AND WORSHIP TOGETHER - We are responsible for encouraging and leading our family to worship in church. If married, include a spouse; a parent include a child; if single, include a friend. Pray for things like: protection, spiritual growth, strength, courage, discernment, wisdom.

SURRENDER EXPECTATIONS- Expectations can be a big barrier to giving (and receiving) unconditional love. We must surrender the thoughts about what the church can do for us. Instead, we must serve and care for others. When we love freely and don't expect anything in return, we ultimately experience the gift of unconditional love even if we disagree with something within the church.

When we love, forgive and see others with new eyes, we are set free. Will you love others the way Jesus loves you? "But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). God's love is infinite. There will never be a day when God doesn't love you. When we surrender ourselves to loving others with no strings attached, we can reap the healthy benefits that unconditional love has to offer.

Rummage Sale, *Continued from page 8*



Help with pick ups. Our pick up 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.

Bake items for the bake sale. These can be dropped off Wednesday night or any time during the sale.

Do you know of any organizations, groups or individual that could use any of our leftovers? If you get us their contact information we will call and see if they want to come and pick up anything. Or if you are willing to pick up for them let us know.

Many hours of work go into making our sale a great success. Our volunteers work hard, but we also have great fun making the church look better than most department stores. Our customers always tell us that we have one of the best sales around. So join us even if you only have an hour to give. Make it a family affair. My grandkids have grown up helping at the sale and cannot wait for it each year. They usually get their school wardrobe each year. It is one of the perks of helping, you get to pre-shop! Hope to see you all. Come make some new friends and help the church with this great fundraiser.

This year's profits will go toward helping all livestreaming, technical, musical parts of our worship and outreach upgrade and improve. We have a great group working on this and are thrilled to be able to help them.

Questions call Laurie Kerns at 847-612-1510

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2022



What's HIS Ministry up to these days?

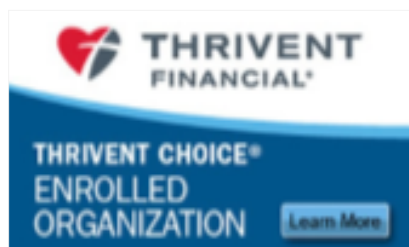
Through the generosity of our men we have been able to help a few folks individually. Before I share, here are a couple of disclaimers:

Disclaimer #1: I am sharing only some details and not all to maintain anonymity. I am not sharing to get a pat on the back or an atta-boy. These gifts always point praise, glory and honor back to the King of Generosity - King Jesus. These gifts are covered in prayer and only come from HIS Ministry. These are above and beyond gifts, not part of the tithe and offerings that go to the church.

Disclaimer #2: This giving is different from the Church's Good Samaritan Fund.

One man received a laptop. Due to a job loss and the financial difficulties that followed, this timely gift provided hope during some dark days. Another family received rent following huge medical expenses. We helped a woman living in poverty following an apartment fire, this included a kitchen table and chairs and we filled the fridge up for Thanksgiving and again for Christmas. A single mom got a shopping trip to Walmart for whatever she and her baby needed. Just this month we helped cover the cost of shipping blankets and toys to help Ukrainian refugee orphans.

Join in person or via zoom on the 2nd Saturday of the month, 7:00 am Food, 8:00 am Training, 9:30 am Adjourn. (Men aged 15+). Become part of something good. We always have room for one more man. Send your contact information to Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com or Text 847-271-8632, to Get Plugged In.



Thriving Minds Want to Know... Be Wise with Money

THRIVENT WORKSHOPS / REGISTER AT
[Events & Financial Seminars in Chicagoland Region | Thrivent Member Network](#)



Savvy Social Security

You want to know:

- Will Social Security be there for me?
- How much can I expect to receive?
- When should I apply for Social Security?
- How can I maximize my benefits?
- Will Social Security be enough to live on in retirement?

No products will be sold. For additional disclosures, see thrivent.com/social.

JUNE 7, 2022 | 12:00 PM (SEE SITE FOR ADDITIONAL TIMES)



Understanding Annuities and Social Security with Robin Mueller

Robin Mueller is a nationally recognized Social Security speaker and trainer on topics including Social Security, annuities, and financial strategies. In this webinar you will gain valuable insights on the impact of annuities and Social Security so you can continue to live a more content, confident and generous life.

No products will be sold. For additional disclosures, see thrivent.com/social.

JULY 21, 2022 | 11:30 AM (SEE SITE FOR ADDITIONAL TIMES)

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2022

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

from one day to the next, initiated by those who have no sense of accountability to God. The Committee wisely recommended we install exterior security cameras around both of our buildings as a deterrent to anyone who might have any level of harm in mind to bring to our church or our congregation. Five cameras will be mounted at the doorways of the main building and three will be mounted at the east, west and north Ed Center doorways. The cameras will capture the parking lot views as well as the planned columbarium grounds, memorial garden space and the area behind the church near the shed. Video will be retained for 90 days in the event we would experience an incident warranting investigation. This decision was in many ways, a challenging one, due to it being similar to an insurance policy; a significant dollar investment for something that may never be needed. God's grace has been upon us for 60 years. That said, when He sends a message to us as stewards of His church, to prepare for the fact that the enemy's days are getting shorter and shorter and the propensity for ill will becomes greater and greater, we need to listen and heed His protective directives. St. Mark will be a safe place, not only spiritually but physically, to provide us with the peace to worship.

As always, we have SO much to be thankful for and I pray that amidst the challenges of life this side of heaven and opportunities to walk closely with Jesus, His Holy Spirit will help you defeat those challenges and make them all opportunities. Blessings to know Him more each day.

Joni Wasmund
Council President

St. Mark You CAN Make a Difference!!



Feed My Starving Children's next event is "Race to Feed Kids" happening June 20th through June 30th. Ten days to fight hunger around the world!!

As a global hunger crisis escalates, FMSC is receiving more food requests than ever before. But we know there is hope. In the Race to Feed Kids, every step takes us one closer to ending extreme hunger — and we can go further *together*. **Will you join us?**

Run, walk, bike, bake, read ... **whatever you choose to do, we'll go further together.** So pick your activity and get moving.

For more information about this event, please use this link: [Race To Feed Kids](#)

We are excited to come together for a virtual race to beat hunger. Run, walk, bake, read ... do whatever you'd like to do and have your family and friends support your efforts to raise funds to feed kids.

Fundraising for this virtual experience relies on you sharing on social media with your circle. Invite your family, friends and coworkers to your fundraising page to support you, join your team or create a fundraising page of their own.

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Hebrews 12:1-2

SMLC Business Directory

The Business Directory is now available on the Church Website! Download the directory from the Church Website (<https://www.smlc.info>) / Media / Business Directory.

Members of St Mark are eligible, whether professional or aspiring entrepreneurs. Let us know who you are, hoping to add babysitters, leaf-rakers, house-watchers, dog-walkers, window-cleaners, house-cleaners, vacuum-operators, etc... To get added to the directory, provide feedback, or to give a testimonial, please email StMarkBusinessMinistry@gmail.com.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2022



Open Arms Food Pantry

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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

The items requested for June are “**Adult Pull Ups**” / **Pasta Sauce**. Items for July are **Dish Soap** / **Juice** (any non perishable food is gladly excepted).

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

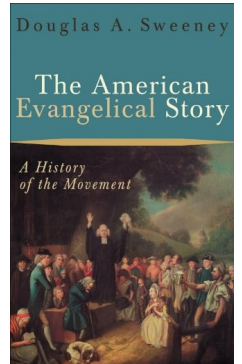
The American Evangelical Story



The book selection for June and July is a biography of Jonathan Edwards by former St. Mark member Doug Sweeney. Jonathan Edwards has been recognized as the most influential evangelical theologian of all time. Before his death at the age of fifty-four, he had sparked a new movement of Reformed evangelicals who played a major role in fueling the rise of modern missions, preaching revivals far and wide, and wielding the cutting edge of American theology. He has never gone out of print, and Christians today continue to flock to seminars and

conferences on him.

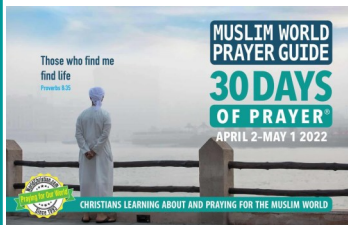
In this biography of the great preacher and teacher, historian Douglas Sweeney locates for us the core and key to Edwards' enduring impact. Sweeney finds that Edwards' profound and meticulous study of the Bible securely anchored his powerful preaching, his lively theological passions and his discerning pastoral work. Beyond introducing you to Edwards' life and times, this book will provide you with a model of Christian faith, thought and ministry. You can find this book under call number 285.80 SWE or the St. Mark Authors' Corner.



A Big Heart Felt Thank You

for Joining the 30 Days of Prayer for our Muslim Neighbors, Here and Abroad
April 30 to May 2

We thank you for your daily prayers for our Muslim neighbors and friends during the 2022 *30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World*. Your prayers make such an impact that Muslims around the world are coming to Jesus at a rate far surpassing any rate recorded in Christian history.



Between 2010 and 2030 the Muslim population in the Americas is projected to grow from 0.3% to 0.5%. We have here in Lake Villa an Islamic Center on Monaville Rd., which was established several years ago.

Please continue to keep our Muslim neighbors in mind by utilizing your prayer guide. If you are interested in learning how to witness to Muslim friends, please contact me for information. Barb Ewert at b1182ray@aol.com.

¹ Garrison, David, *A Wind in the House of Islam: How God is Drawing Muslims Around the World to Faith in Jesus Christ*, Wigtake Resources, LLC, 2014.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2022



Join us for fun in the Sun at VBS!

Help kids explore God's greatness and monumental love!

Go off-road for a MONUMENTAL adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring GOD'S AWESOMENESS, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead!

When: June 20th - June 24th
Time: 9:00am – 12:00 noon
Location: at St. Mark



VBS is crawling
with faith and fun!

Kids:

Preschoolers (3-years old & potty-trained) through 6th graders (for the 22-23 school year) are welcome to participate in VBS.

Volunteers (Teens and Adults)

Our VBS program relies on adult and teen volunteers to provide songs, stories, crafts, games, and God's word!

Can you...

- Work with a team (adults and teen assistants),
- Read/Teach a Bible Story,
- Play a video and guide a discussion,
- Make a craft or explore with a science "gizmo",
- Play music videos to teach songs and motions,
- Play games,
- Smile, laugh, make memories, share God's word, and exemplify God's LOVE for His children

If **YES** is the answer to any of these, we have a place for you on our VBS adventure!

If you'd like more information about volunteer opportunities, please use this link [Volunteer Opportunities](#) or contact a VBS Director at stmarkvbsfun@gmail.com.

Registration

Opened **May 2nd** at <https://vbspro.events/p/stmarkvbs2022> or follow the link on the St. Mark webpage.



Let's get VBS rolling,
Beth Miller, Kristi Knull, and Julie Rick
VBS Directors

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2022

Ask Stewie

The Lenten and Easter season is now past when we prepared for the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior. During those days the pastor asked us to perform five Lenten disciplines one of which was to increase your giving, a topic Stewardship has the responsibility of promoting. Giving back what the Lord has first given us, our possessions, is truly a tenet that faithful Stewards embrace. Along with our time and talents, the giving of your first fruits is well documented in Scriptures. Exodus 25:1-2, The LORD said to Moses, “tell the people of Israel to bring me their sacred offerings. Accept the contributions from all whose hearts are moved to offer them.

Other exciting news, the Education Center mortgage is nearly paid off and what you were giving to the Debt retirement fund can be redirected to the Capital Improvement or Building fund. Please see Fin Facts, page 15.

As many already know, we have a Call Committee working on calling an additional pastor. As we recover from the past two years, we will continue to grow. Your Tithes and offerings are very important to God’s plan here at St. Mark and yes, we need your help. So, we challenge you to prayerfully consider increasing your giving.

From the Stewardship Committee, have a Blessed summer season.

Laurie Kerns, Carl Norlin and Pete Bolender

Ask Stewie:



Growing Deeper Together Women’s Ministry

We had an amazing Women’s Breakfast at St. Mark on April 30, 2022. Brooke Frusti and I hosted this event and had a wonderful committee consisting of, Donna Bergl, Laurie Kerns, Karen Perrone and Jane Milani. The delicious food was provided by Jerry from Parkway Banquets. There were 88 women who attended, and about half of those were either unchurched, or from other ones in our community. The speaker Julie Schawel, from The Chapel, gave an empowering speech on our identity in Jesus Christ. We are hoping to have more events for women in the future, so please contact me if you are interested in serving in this exciting area.

Debbie Gass



We were so fortunate and very blessed to have Brooke Frusti and Melissa McGill as our Sunday School Coordinators for the 2021-2022 year. Due to both of them relocating, they will not be with us for the coming year.

St. Mark is **in need of 2 new Coordinators** for Sunday School! Are you interested?

We will also be recruiting for Sunday School teachers and subs for the upcoming year.

Come Shadow our current coordinators to learn the ropes.

Email: stmarksunschool@gmail.com

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2022

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
6/14/22, 7/12/22, 8/9/22



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**.

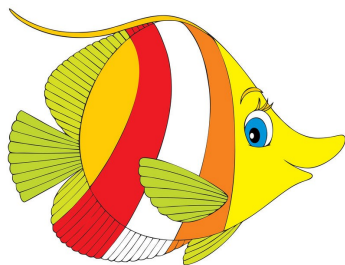
DATE: Every Third Thursday
6/16/22, 7/21/22, 8/18/22

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.



Fin Facts

As a non-profit, St. Mark has what is called Restricted Funds. Unlike regular contributions (tithing), which are used for general operating expenses, Restricted Funds come from financial gifts (offerings) which have been given for specific use. One of St. Mark's restricted funds is being terminated. This is a good thing! In July, St. Mark will be making its last payment on the mortgage for the Education Center and will no longer have any need for the Debt Retirement Fund! Many St. Mark congregants have been giving faithfully to this fund for years. Now that the mortgage is paid, increasing the Building Maintenance and Capital Improvement Funds will become important. Our aging buildings and appliances are in need of repair and replacement. We have 10 furnaces, air conditioning units and water heater alone that are over 20 years of age. If you have been giving to Debt Retirement, we hope you will now consider giving your offering to the Building and/or Capital Improvement Funds to help ensure the church's financial means to keep our buildings in great condition.

2022 Budgeted Unrestricted Offerings

2022 Actual Unrestricted Offerings

Month of April	\$ 57,950	\$ 57,296
January - March	\$ 245,600	\$ 210,099

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2022

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
1822 EAST GRAND AVENUE
LINDENHURST IL 60046

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Return Postage Guaranteed*



The **VOICE**
OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH



Stephen Ministry

THE VOICE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

☎ (847) 356-8140
🖱 www.smlc.info
✉ smlc@smlc.info

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

★ TO RECEIVE
THE VOICE ONLINE,
EMAIL DEB@SMLC.INFO

**AUGUST VOICE DEADLINE:
July 15, 2022**

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
June/July 2022