

March 2022

President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



Lent is upon us. I love this season that leads us into an especially reflective time of Christ's passion and who we are in Christ. There is nothing more soul-fulfilling than spending time with the Lord in prayer and meditation to restore us. Pastor Breum recently included this in his sermon that spoke volumes: "*The Word of God releases its flavor as we chew on it, ruminating on it over time.*" I love that. It's so true, that when we skim through our Bible reading without taking the time to meditate on how our lives can be changed by those precious words, it's like swallowing a piece of candy or a spoonful of your favorite ice cream so fast you don't even taste it. All you get with that is unwanted calories.

Another thing I love about Lent is that it brings us all together as one congregation on Wednesday evenings. I miss seeing so many of you when we attend 3 different worship services and seeing us all together is so good, especially after an hour of fellowship over soup. Thank you, Congregational Life ladies, for making those soup suppers happen. Your gifts of hospitality, service and helps are amazing and so appreciated.

We're on an exciting mission as we continue on Our Movement for Improvement journey to transform our culture into one that draws our members into understanding how the gifts they have been given by the Holy Spirit can help them know God's purpose for them in His church.

Continued on page 10

In This Issue:

- ⇒ President's Notes
- ⇒ Meet The Team
- ⇒ Pastor's Letter
- ⇒ Missouri Musings
- ⇒ Council Highlights
- ⇒ Prayer Opportunities
- ⇒ Student Ministry
- ⇒ Thrivent News
- ⇒ Spiritual Gift Gatherings
- ⇒ Announcements
- ⇒ Open Arms
- ⇒ What's on the Shelf
- ⇒ SMLC Business Directory
- ⇒ Vacation Bible School
- ⇒ What is a Church Member
- ⇒ Endowment News
- ⇒ Camp Timber-Lee
- ⇒ Women's Breakfast
- ⇒ Confirmation
- ⇒ Support our Church
- ⇒ H.I.S. Ministry
- ⇒ Easter Flower Order Form

CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

stmarkcommunications@gmail.com
 & deb@smlc.info



Palm Sunday
 Maundy
 Thursday
 Good Friday
 Easter
 April 10 - April 17



Please pray for our Confirmands as they continue their faith journey.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2022



ST. MARK COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Debbie Plishka

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Debbie Plishka

FINANCIAL TREASURER

Patrice Sutton

BOARD OF ELDERS

Cheryl Bengston Dean Miller Todd Stickney

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jerry Gass Laurie Kerns Jen Kumpula

ST. MARK COMMITTEES

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Overseen by:
Jen Kumpula

Donna Bergl
Tricia Cholewinski
Brooke Frusti
Shawn Frank

EVANGELISM

Overseen by Elder:
Todd Stickney
Patrick Krook
Jeff McKenzie

FINANCE

Overseen by:
Board of Trustees

Pam Preston Lynn Wetterberg Jill Winling

PARISH EDUCATION

Overseen by Elder: Dean Miller
Brooke Frusti Lori McKenzie Jane Milani
Melissa Strand

SAFETY & SECURITY

Overseen by:
Board Of Trustees

Al Maciareillo Mike Mol Judy Dunfrund
Deb Zuchowski

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Overseen by Trustee:
Jerry Gass
Robin Korom

STEWARDSHIP

Overseen by Trustee:
Laurie Kerns
Pete Bolender
Laurie Kerns
Carl Norlin

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Overseen by Elder:
Cheryl Bengston
Charlie Burke
Rebecca Gundlach
Wendy Weidner

PASTOR

Terry Breum | Pastor@smlc.info

YOUTH & MEDIA COORDINATOR

Josiah Frusti | Josiah@smlc.info

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Deb Zuchowski | Deb@smlc.info

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Rhonda Doran | Rhonda@smlc.info

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC COORDINATOR

Brock Zwicke | Brock.smlc@gmail.com

ORGANIST/TRADITIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR

Open Position

NURSERY COORDINATOR

Deb Heide | heidedeborah@gmail.com

BOOKKEEPER

Barb Griffith | Barb@smlc.info

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Kim Mohr | kimmohr.smlc@gmail.com

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Jim Schaufel | James.schaufel@yahoo.com

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 8th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meetings: Tuesday, March 24th @ 8:00PM

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2022



From the Desk of Pastor Breum

Our Words Must Be Filtered by Love

Dear Friends,

How thrilling to hold a community event at our church honoring the Lindenhurst Police Department. Thank you for speaking with them, eating cake with them, and taking their prayer cards to pray for them. Our police deserve all the proper respect that we can give to them. They literally put their lives on the line every day facing situations that you and I will never have to face.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT2) ⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

I am a person who often speaks before I think. I often don't know what I think until I speak and then I just my change my mind. My mouth moves faster than my brain. So often in my life, I hear what I say but it was not planned. It just comes out.

Reading the greatest definition of love ever written in 1 Corinthians 13, I can see that in order to live out what God asks of us, our words must be filtered by love. This means the brain is to work faster than the words. Without a filter of love, words come out wrong and inflict pain that may take years to overcome. One little match can start a forest fire. One ill-spoken sentence can cut into a person and leave them wounded for years. This is the absolute opposite of love. Truth spoken in love is a healer and does not inflict undo injury.

It is not enough to just remain silent. Silence is not the answer. Pushing the mute button on yourself is not what is being asked of us. When we display Christian patience and kindness the love of Christ is on display. When we obey God by not being jealous, arrogant, or downright rude, we display the beauty of Christ. It is this type of love that draws people to Jesus and to the church. By refusing to be irritable and quick tempered, we choose to stay on the calm side and not let others push our buttons that send us into orbit. Love covers a multitude of sins and lets go of all grudges and offenses instead of letting them build up until one becomes a living version of Mt. St. Helens. Forgiving is giving up my right to hold a grudge. Forgiving is letting God's forgiveness in our lives sink deep into our souls, so deep that it becomes easier to forgive others with the same forgiveness God has given to us. As believers we no longer have the right not to forgive. God's love to us is unconditional and that is what He asks us to give away. Love hangs in there, endures, and refuses to stop. Love works in tandem with hope, knowing that love always eventually wins out, if not in this lifetime, for sure in the life to come.

May the Lord God place in our brains His filter of love so that every word that comes from our mouths is worthy of being spoken in a way that pleases God.

Pastor Breum



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

Microspikes: Be a Gregory

Snow and ice. Slick roads and sidewalks. Yesterday a friend of mine came in from shoveling snow. In the garage his snow-caked boots slipped out from under him. BAM! He lay full length on the concrete floor. His hip was not broken, just severely bruised.

At about the same time, another friend fell in much the same way. He fell on his upper arm. It broke the bone (the humerus) severely. It may require surgery to repair.

It can happen to any of us, so we have to take care. I am fortunate to own a pair of Microspikes (just google the word) for my boots. Bernie has a pair for her boots, too. They were Christmas gifts from our adult children, who seem to think their aging parents might slip and fall outside in winter. The nerve of kids these days!

Anyway, these steel-and-elastic devices are great on ice and snow. They cause your feet to grip instead of slip. Let's hear a round of applause for Microspikes!

Jesus did not tell any parables about slipping on icy surfaces. But he did warn about a kind of a slide: "And because lawlessness will be increased, *the love of many will grow cold*" (Matthew 24:12).

The words in italics describe slippage toward lovelessness. Is that us? Is that me?

What is Jesus talking about?

He spoke those words not long before the cross. He was teaching his disciples about the end times, the time before his return. This is a time that we should all eagerly await and long for. Paul modeled this eager expectation when he prayed "Maranatha!" (1 Corinthians 16:22 NASB) Many translations give that Aramaic phrase in English: "Our Lord, come!" (ESV)

One reason for zeal about Christ's return is to avoid slipping into indifference, laxity, complacency, and lethargy. This happened to many characters in the Bible. Moses got uppity and struck the rock in anger. King Saul blew off Samuel the prophet. The whole nation of Judah fell away from God in Jeremiah's time. They persecuted Jeremiah even though they were the problem, not him! The result was the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 587 BC.

Do you want to avoid slipping? There's a word found almost two dozen times in the New Testament that means "be watchful, ready, alert, on your guard, proactive." That word is *γρηγορέω* (*grēgoreō*). We get the name "Gregory" from that word.

A Gregory in this sense would be a person not slipping but sure-footed. He or she is actively growing in their pursuit of God. They exhibit habits like worship, prayer, Bible study, service in their church, love for their neighbor, sharing their faith, and obedience to God.

Here are some Gregory verses. Forms of the Greek word *grēgoreō* are underlined. They are all sayings of Jesus.

Matthew 24:42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Mark 14:37 And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour?

Revelation 3:3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

Strong words! But life is full of slick spots and temptations to take it easy. Put on your Microspikes! Hear Jesus' call to readiness. As Paul concluded (using the same Gregory word), "So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober" by putting on "the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation" (1 Thessalonians 5:6, 8).

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 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

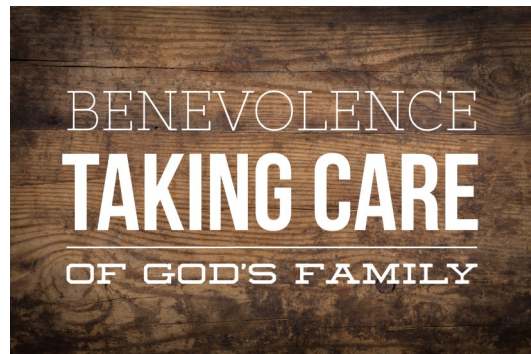
Council Highlights February 2022

Outdoor Sign Update - permits have been applied for and ground-breaking will begin when weather allows.

Spiritual Gifts Workbook Small Group status - small groups will meet on Sundays between services, once logistics and details are determined, with March as a target month to begin.

Ten percent of monthly offerings are designated as Benevolence funds and are donated to ministries as recommended annually by the Evangelism Committee with allocations approved by the Stewardship Committee and final approval by Council. The following ministries were approved as St. Mark Benevolence recipients for 2022, with 3 pending the final vetting process as noted by asterisk:

Cup of Cold Water	\$400
LCMC	100
Compassion Intl	<u>76</u>
Total Fixed	<u>\$576</u>
PADS*	9%
Behind the Walls	16%
Kindred Life	9%
Open Arms Mission*	9%
In Zone*	9%
A Safe Place	9%
Feed My Starving Children	9%
Bob Yarbrough Missions	9%
Camp Electric	6%
Unallocated	<u>15%</u>
Total Allocated	<u>100%</u>



St. Mark has committed to financially support the work of other Christian charities and non-profit organizations through the giving of 10% of its monthly offerings.

A donation of an etched glass face of Jesus was made to St. Mark. Council graciously accepts this donation and is thankful to the giver.

Council would also like to thank those who have donated anonymously to the Endowment Fund and to other needs. All contributions to God's Kingdom work are ever so appreciated.

* Pending final vetting process.



Important Prayer Opportunity for Our Muslim Neighbors Here and Abroad April 2 to May 1, 2022

A mighty spiritual battle has, and is continuing to rage between Christians and Muslims for hearts, minds and souls worldwide. Have media soundbites convinced you that Muslims are to be feared or hated? Have you observed these attitudes in yourself, family, or even within a church setting? A well documented fact, but not generally reported in Western media, is that unprecedented numbers of our world's Muslim neighbors have discovered the heart transforming presence of Christ in their lives over the last three or so decades.

"We are in the midst of the greatest turning of Muslims to Christ in 14 centuries of Muslim-Christian interaction. More than 80% of all the Muslim movements to Christ in history have occurred in the past two to three decades, a time period that coincides with the modern prayer movement for Muslims. At the heart of this modern prayer movement is '30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World.' Come, join us, and be a part of shaping salvation history!" David Garrison, author of [A Wind in the House of Islam](#).

What is unique about this 31st year using the Muslim shorter lunar calendar year is that Christians around the world will join together intentionally but **respectfully learn about, pray for, and engage** our world's Muslim neighbors via the "30 Days of Prayer for Muslims" 2022 prayer booklet.

What difference can my prayers make? Prayer is one of two offensive weapons, the other is the **Word of God**. Ephesians 6:18. *"The single most significant thing Christians have done to stimulate the current wave of Muslim movements to Christ is to prayerfully and obediently engage them with the love and gospel of Christ. This remains the most significant step each of us can take today."* Garrison, David, 2014.

When Do I Pray? Saturday, April 2 to Sunday, May 1 during Ramadan, the season of fasting and praying. As they fast and devote themselves to Islamic rituals, you're invited to join other Christians in prayer that many Muslims will be drawn into a relationship with Jesus. And if the Holy Spirit calls you to pray during the season of Ramadan and beyond, how are you going to respond? Are you listening? Will you obey His call? Click on this link for a fuller and deeper understanding of listening and obeying from a biblical perspective. <https://youtu.be/6KQLOuIKaRA>

Materials For the 8th year, St. Mark Lutheran Church will provide a limited supply of "30 Days of Prayer" booklets for adults and children with: 1) prayer points; 2) information on specific Muslim culture groups from North America, Africa, the Middle East to South East Asia; and, 3) facts about the unprecedented historical spiritual transformation of Muslims into followers of Christ. Materials will be available beginning the weekend of March 26 until supplies run out. For more information on "Why pray for Muslims?" Click on the link to view a short video (a little over 3 minutes) <https://youtu.be/EGjWWth9b2M>.

In praying for your Muslim neighbors here and abroad, you are carrying out His commandment to *"Love your neighbor as yourself."* (Matt. 22:39.)

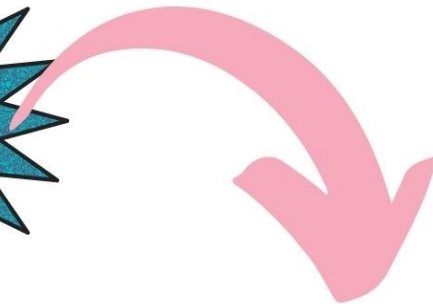
Please contact Barb Ewert for questions and or more information.

JOSIAH FRUSTI

JOSIAH@SMLC.INFO

Student Ministry

March 2022



MARCH 6TH



**Youth Group
6:00-8:00 PM**

MARCH 13TH



**Go Kart Racing
2:00-4:00 PM**

MARCH 20TH



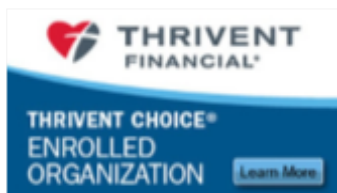
**Youth Group
6:00-8:00 PM**

SEEKING ADULT LEADERS!!

Do you desire to see the youth of your church and community built up and prepared to share their faith? Then join our team! Email Josiah@smlc.info to get involved

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2022



Thriving Minds Want to Know...

Be Wise with Money

THRIVENT WORKSHOPS / REGISTER AT

<https://www.thriventfinancial.com/member-network/chicagoland/events>



Women and Social Security: What you need to know

Many women take time out from their careers to care for children or older relatives. Women are often not covered by private retirement plans and tend to earn less than men. Therefore, Social Security can play a specific and vital role in a woman's financial strategy. During this webinar Mary Beth will share how claiming age, marital status and earnings restrictions can affect a woman's Social Security benefits. *No products will be sold. For additional disclosures, see thrivent.com/social. Mary Beth Franklin is not affiliated with or endorsed by Thrivent. **MARCH 22, 2022 | 6:30 PM, MARCH 24, 2022 | 11:30 AM, AND MARCH 24, 2022 | 6:30 PM**



Savvy Tax Strategies

Want to understand how taxes might affect your retirement? Join us for Savvy Tax Strategies. This free educational event provides a fundamental overview of the topic, including: (1) The critical tax question you must answer before retirement, (2) The Social Security "tax trap" and how you can avoid it (3) Mistakes to avoid when it comes to your investment portfolio, health care, and estate planning. *No products will be sold. For more information visit Thrivent.com/social. **MARCH 08, 2022 | 11:30 AM AND 6:30PM OR ON MARCH 10, 2022 | 11:30 AM AND 6:30PM**

MEMBER BENEFITS



Year End Reminders for Thrivent Members You have NEW Action Teams to use in the NEW YEAR (money, t-shirts, thank you cards, etc..). Also you have until March 31st to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars®. To learn more about these programs visit: <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/>, reach out to Jerry.Doran@Thrivent.com, or text 224-252-8265.



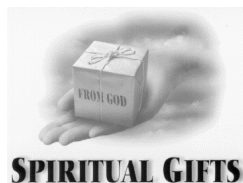
Spiritual Gift Gatherings

Come learn about each of the Spiritual Gifts! Each week will focus on a particular gift. If you attended the workshop, bring your book. If not, books will be available for purchase at \$10.00, or feel free to attend without a book and just take notes.

Where: Main Church—Back Multi-Purpose Room

When: Sundays at 9:30AM during Sunday School

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Dates: February 27 | The Gift of Helps |
| March 6 | The Gift of Intercession |
| March 13 | No Gathering |
| March 20 | The Gift of Faith |
| March 27 | No Gathering |



For more information, please contact Debbie Plishka at dplishka@gmail.com.



Discover your Spiritual Gifts! Spiritual Gift surveys can be found in the Narthex. Complete the form, record your God given gifts on the card provided and place the card in the box outside the church office.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2022



The Bill Glass Behind the Walls **Cook County Jail Event** is scheduled for April 23, 2022. We held last year's event in August due to COVID rescheduling, but we are back to our regularly scheduled date in April.

Please register at BehindtheWalls.com by April 1st.



Soup suppers are back! Join us at 5:30pm for dinner before the 7pm services on Wednesday, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6th. If you would like to bring soup or dessert sign up sheets are available in the Narthex.

Ushers are needed for midweek Lenten services and Easter Sunday. Watch for the Sign Up sheet in the Narthex or contact Gary Olson at

olson1014@yahoo.com or Jim Schaufel at james.schaufel@yahoo.com.



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



Collection starts in early July. More information and ways to help will be found in future VOICE articles. All ages welcome to help. Questions, contact Laurie Kerns at 847-612-1510.

Chance to Serve!

If you have been wanting to get involved, here is your chance! The Altar Guild has an opening on the first Sunday of each month, before the 8AM Sunday Service or after the Saturday night service. The altar Communion elements need to be reset and the communion cups need to be reset by the doors in the Narthex. Easy peasy!! Contact Gae Michal if interested at gmichal48@gmail.com or call 847-571-8659. We would love to welcome you to the Altar Guild!



Who Doesn't Love Fellowship Hour?!?!

If you feel a call to host Fellowship hour, which would mean setting up/cleaning up coffee and placing out the donuts, contact Gae Michal at gmichal48@gmail.com, or see her during coffee hour!

If that is not your forte, maybe you could pick up the donuts from Jewel in Round Lake Beach before the 8:00AM service on Sunday! Just sign up with Gae.

IF EVERYONE DOES SOMETHING, NO ONE HAS TO DO EVERYTHING!!!



St. Mark is looking for musicians. Rockers, youth, traditional, beginner, and so on. All musicians are welcome! No experience is required. We have an amazing community of teachers

who are happy to help you!

Interested? Email our Contemporary Worship Coordinator, Brock Zwicke at Brock.smlc@gmail.com.

Cool Plant Sale



YES, spring IS just around the corner!

Plant sale information and order forms are now available in the narthex for pickup. The deadline for orders will be March 28th with pick up scheduled for Saturday, March 7th. Keep watching the message board for further information. Any questions, contact Wendy Rohlwing.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

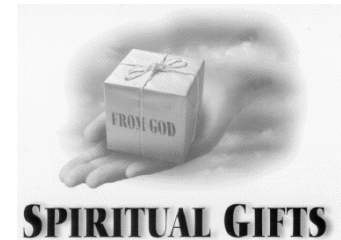
March 2022

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

We, as a congregation, have done a LOT in 8 months: we completed a deep-dive congregational diagnostic profile, we completed 2 church-wide surveys to determine where we are today as a congregation, we had 40+ members interviewed in person for a deeper understanding of survey responses, we received an oral presentation of the results of our diagnostic profile along with so many good recommendations to help us build on our strengths, we have implemented recommendations as noted below, we continue to develop action plans for others and we're looking forward to building on those that we've already begun.

Our new exterior sign with electronic messaging will bring a clean, fresh, updated appearance to our property as soon as the ground thaws for electrical work and installation. Thank you to Robin Korom and Jerry Gass for the many hours they invested to fulfill this recommendation, one that was started even before we knew it would be a recommendation. That may be an indication that we're further along than we even know. If you haven't seen the image of the new sign yet, you can see it in the announcement queue that runs prior to worship services.

The second recommendation we fulfilled kicked off with our Spiritual Gifts workshop in January, which so many of you attended and expressed your appreciation for and excitement about afterwards. The workshop was a train-the-trainer format, with our ChurchDoctor, Tracee Swank, facilitating the first one and future workshops to be facilitated by one of our own, using the PowerPoint presentation provided by ChurchDoctor. We'll continue to build on the workshop with small group discussions between services that we hope to start this month (March). Those of you who attended the workshop already have the workbooks that will be used in the small group and we have more workbooks for others who were unable to attend.



***Join the Spiritual Gifts Gatherings
during the Sunday School hour.
Details can be found on page 8.***

Kent Hunter, ChurchDoctor founder, has written many books and we have copies of several of them to loan to anyone who would like to read them.

They'll help you understand our mission of discipleship and the journey we're on. These will eventually be added to our church library but in the meantime, please let me know if you'd like to borrow a copy to read.

Several of you have asked about the recommendation to utilize the Ed Center as a daycare. We are completely open to that and look forward to research beginning on that project as we know, if it's meant to be, it will likely take several years to come to fruition, always in God's perfect timing. If anyone is interested in starting the research or being part of that process, please let one of us know (me, a Council member, or a member of the Parish Ed Committee).

The recommendation to add a second Pastor is high on the Council's list to begin working on and we have begun to identify steps needed to proceed. The process as an LCMC church will differ from earlier processes when we called pastors as an ELCA church and we will keep you informed of the status as we go. This will not be rushed, it will all be led by the Holy Spirit and we will follow God's prompts for the timing and the right person that He leads us to call. God's timing is absolutely perfect and He already knows who the person is who will compliment Pastor Breum's gift of evangelism and work side by side with him to lead our congregation.

Please pray for unity and excitement within our congregation as we follow God's lead to become a beacon to the community, a congregation with a culture that disciples others to seek His will first, knowing that we are new creations in Christ so cynicism, negativity, resentment and bitterness is replaced with grace, mercy, excitement and hope in what remains unseen. So many need Jesus but continue to fall further into darkness because no one is reaching a hand to lift them out. We need to be the hands of Jesus and be intentional about our caring for each other, not hesitant about potentially offending someone but delivering an "I care about you, how can I help" message in love.

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 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 4:17-18

With a prayer for extraordinary Lenten blessings to all,

Joni Wasmund
Council President



Open Arms Food Pantry

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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

When things get back to “normal” we will provide volunteers on the 3rd Wednesday evening of each month from 4:00 to 6:30 pm.

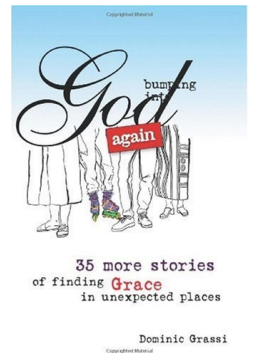
If you have any questions or wish to inquire about volunteer opportunities please contact Ron Placko @ 847.404.3304 or email rdplacko@comcast.net.

Please consider donating at:
<https://www.openarmsmission.org/the-difference-you-can-make>
Thank you again for your generous support!



Bumping into God Again

If you have ever gone through a period when God seems far away or even missing from your life, this month's book is for you. We really can find God in all things, but sometimes our encounters with God can be incredibly small, subtle, and simple. *Bumping into God Again* by Fr. Dominic Grassi gives us a glimpse of the graces we can experience in everyday life and in places where we might least expect to find God's presence. These 35 stories remind us that unexpected graces can be found in countless simple yet marvelous ways. To find God in all things, we need only be open and listening. You can find this book under call number 242GRA.



SMLC Business Directory



Please Text/Call Jerry Doran at 847-271-8632 if you would like a copy of our SMLC Business Directory or if you would like to be included. We are hoping to have a variety of businesses listed (i.e., Babysitters, Leaf-Rakers, House-Watchers, Electricians, Snow blowers, Dog-Walkers, Window Cleaners, House Cleaners, Plumbers, Cake Makers, Iron Workers, Vacuum-Operators, CPAs, Cooks, Carpenters, Financial Advisors, etc.).

Vacation Bible School

Winter may still be here and Spring may be approaching, but we are planning ahead for our very important Summer outreach program, Vacation Bible School, running June 20-24, 2022. We are in need of a **Registrar**. This chance to serve is very important and helps to benefit many children in our community. Please **prayerfully** consider this opportunity and contact Beth Miller stmarkvbsfun@gmail.com, Lori McKenzie lorimckenzie119@gmail.com or Jane Milani Lvmom76@att.net.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2022

WHAT IS A CHURCH MEMBER

If you haven't yet picked up your copy of WHAT IS A CHURCH MEMBER, please stop by the church office or ask any Council member for a copy (one per family please).

As a little peek for those who haven't read the book yet, one chapter will be highlighted in the VOICE each month. This issue is about Chapter 2: I Will Be A Unifying Church Member.



- The world will know we are Christians (or not) by how we treat each other. Thomas Rainer states in the book that “when church members don't work together, the church is weaker as a whole.”
- How do we become unifying members? We should love each other unconditionally. We are all sinners, we are all imperfect. We should forgive each other, and not speak negatively about each other or gossip about others. We need to be giving, willing to sacrifice for each other, and forgive each other. The world is watching, whether we know it or not. What example are we setting?

St. Mark's Endowment Fund Grows!

It's been an exciting year for our fund. In December we received from an anonymous donor a \$25,000 donation, which we used to create a General Fund In Faith account. Combined with our Butterfly/Youth fund we are thrilled to share with the congregation that the market value of both funds now exceeds \$79,000. THANK YOU to all who have been contributing and those that are getting ready to donate!

For those of you who may have missed our mission, the Endowment Fund was created to set aside monies for the future of St Mark. Funds that would not be used for general operating expenses or salaries; money that would take us well into the future for our special needs.

You can donate via the offering plate or electronically as explained on our website here: <https://www.smlc.info/giving/> You can also donate anonymously. Our Endowment Fund is managed/invested by Thrivent Charitable Impact and Investing. If you work with a Thrivent advisor, they can assist with your donation. Thrivent is prepared to accept your donations for St Mark via charitable gift annuities, charitable lead trusts, remained trusts, estate donations at your death, as well as real estate. Yes, cash is acceptable too!

The IRS Required Minimum Distribution came back in 2021. Did you know that the IRS allows you to contribute directly from your IRA to St Mark to meet your RMD without paying income taxes on the contribution? Let's discuss this together. Call or email me. Mel Ellingsen (847) 274-8144, mel-ellingsen@comcast.net.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2022



Camp Timber-lee



Do you have a current 1st - 11th grader that would enjoy being outdoors this summer? Or perhaps you would enjoy getting your child into the outdoors for a week over the summer! Check out Camp Timber-Lee for amazing summer programming to connect children with God, fellowship, and the beauty of nature. There are a variety of experiences from classic camp to horseback riding camp to science camp to music camp and MORE! See their website at <https://www.timber-lee.com/summer-camp/> for all of the details.

Rebecca from Timber-Lee will be at St. Mark on Sunday, March 13, from 8 am to noon to talk with our Sunday School students during their class time, to assist with registration, and to answer any questions between services. She and her assistant (a real snake!) will have a table in the hallway.

St. Mark offers a generous incentive program for any interested campers. Children have the opportunity to perform various service projects for the church to earn money towards their camp registration. Each child is allowed to earn up to, but not more than, half of their camp fees (not to exceed \$250 per camper). Children must register in order to be eligible for the program. Contact Jori Bowen at jmbowen@aol.com to enroll in the incentive program.

Growing Deeper Together



Ladies! Join us April 30, 2022 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship. Speaker Julie Schawel will be joining us and speaking about our identity and who we are in Christ. We are very excited to welcome other women from the Chapel, Torch, Chain of Lakes, and Cross Point churches. Sign-up will be available on the poster outside the fellowship hall or on the website at smlc.info.



Confirmation Service April 24, 2022 @10:30 AM

Please pray for our Confirmands as they work towards completing this step in their faith journey.

✝
**Jaxson D.
Kathryn U.
Regan W.
Andrew W.**
✝

Questions:
smlc.confirmationcom.lindenhurst@gmail.com

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
3/8/22, 4/12/22, 5/10/22



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
3/17/22, 4/21/22, 5/19/22

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.



We Always Have Room for One More Man

(Ages 15+)

Every **2nd Saturday** of the Month.

Next Meeting: March 12th / 7am Food & Fellowship, 8am Training, 9:30am Adjourn

"It's time to win the battle of your mind. Are you ready?" We are using author and pastor Louie Giglio's book **Don't Give the Enemy A Seat at Your Table**. Order your copy or pick up a complimentary copy at our next meeting. **Join Any Time You Can.**



Get added to the HIS Ministry email list to stay connected to this ministry to men by texting/calling Jerry Doran at 847-271-8632 or send contact information

to Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com. Updates are also provided in email.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2022

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Please fill out the following form if you would like to place a flower on the altar for Easter Sunday Worship 2022 at St. Mark.



PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Plant(s) are given:

____ To the Glory of God

____ In Honor of _____

____ In Memory of _____

____ On the Occasion of _____

____ Easter Lily(s) @\$15.00 each = \$ _____

Total Order: \$ _____

____ I will pick up the plant(s) after the 11:00 a.m. Easter Service
Flowers must be picked up by 4pm on Wednesday, April 19th.

____ I would like the plant(s) taken to someone who is ill or shut-in

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER

I have enclosed my payment of \$_____.

Please make checks payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church
All orders must be received on or before Monday, April 4th, 2022!



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2022

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

*Address Service Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed*



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



Stephen Ministry

THE VOICE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

 (847) 356-8140
 www.smlc.info
 smlc@smlc.info

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

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

**NEXT VOICE DEADLINE:
March 15, 2022**

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
March 2022