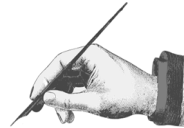


March 2023

President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



At the close of our joint committee meeting in January, those present committed to praying for 3 things: (1) our youth, (2) that the unchurched in our community will come to St Mark for Christian growth and, (3) for our 3 open positions (co-pastor, organist and building maintenance person) be filled by those God calls.

These devoted church leaders meet monthly to drive the future of St Mark through their dedication to fulfilling all that needs to be done to encourage strong fellowship (Congregational Life), to plant the seeds that draw people to St Mark (Evangelism), to ensure our financial position remains strong from month to month (Finance), to plan and prepare for Sunday School, VBS, Confirmation and Bible studies (Parish Ed), to plan and carry out the projects that keep our buildings safe, attractive and well maintained (Property Management), to plan and carry out physical measures that keep us all safe (Safety & Security) and to plan and carry out everything for our worship services (Worship & Music) to give the due honor, praise and glory to our Father who provides everything noted in this paragraph, and more.

The committees meet on the 4th Tuesday evening each month and after their individual meetings, we come together in a joint meeting to share what they are working on so everyone present knows how their committee can support the work being done at St. Mark. There have been some excellent conversations over the past year including a lot of focus on the 3 prayer requests above. Please know that committee meetings are open to anyone who would like to know what is happening within our church. One thing for certain is that it's quite a slippery slope that we tend to try to navigate when we speculate with limited information and that's why the meetings are open, so anyone interested can gain insight.

Continued on page 5

In This Issue:

- ⇒ President's Notes
- ⇒ Pastor's Letter
- ⇒ Friday Night Sing & Pray
- ⇒ Missouri Musings
- ⇒ Council Highlights
- ⇒ Youth Random Acts
- ⇒ Prayer Opportunities
- ⇒ Congregational Life
- ⇒ 30 Days of Prayer
- ⇒ Baptisms
- ⇒ Mission Trip
- ⇒ Feed My Starving Children
- ⇒ Joyful Hearts Singles Group
- ⇒ Safety & Security
- ⇒ What's on the Shelf
- ⇒ Easter Preparations
- ⇒ Women's Bible Study
- ⇒ Thank You's
- ⇒ Library News
- ⇒ Vacation Bible School
- ⇒ Open Arms
- ⇒ Fin Facts
- ⇒ HIS Ministry
- ⇒ Thrivent
- ⇒ Spiritual Gifts Workshop
- ⇒ Support our Church
- ⇒ Easter Flower Order Form
- ⇒ Church Doctor Update

CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events



Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter
 April 6 - April 9

Holy Week



Lenten Suppers

Join us on Wednesday,
 March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd &
 29th at 5:30 PM. Service to
 follow at 7:00 PM.

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

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023



ST. MARK COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Laurie Kerns

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Kellie Rice

FINANCIAL TREASURER

Patrice Sutton

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Cheryl Bengston

Nancy O'Connor

Rodney Lunkenheimer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jerry Gass

Laurie Kerns

Keith Niles

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Donna Bergl
Tricia Cholewinski
Shawn Frank

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Overseen by Elder
Rodney Lunkenheimer

Chris Holmes
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Carl Norlin

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Charlie Burke
Wendy Weidner
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CONTEMPORARY MUSIC & MEDIA COORDINATOR

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Kim Mohr | kimmohr.smlc@gmail.com

NURSERY COORDINATOR

Deb Heide | heidedeborah@gmail.com

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

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023

From the Desk of Pastor Breum

Philippians 1:6 (NLT2) ⁶ And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 2:13 (NLT2) ¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Outside of my office in the narthex two people, Jim Schaufel and Keith Niles, are preparing the walls to be painted. It is part of the preparation work being done to ready St Mark for Easter. Yes, there is work to be done during Lent in our lives, God's wonderful inner working of the Holy Spirit inside of us. From Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday we in the Lutheran church take time to delve into our walks with God, seeking God with our whole heart, mind, and strength and asking God to change us on the inside so we can shine ever brighter for Christ on the outside.

God is doing a work inside of you. It started before you were even aware of God, even at your baptism. Sometimes when people are working to get the church ready they make a lot of noise, drilling, pounding, scraping. It is work that has to be done and I have no complaints. On the other hand, God's inner working in our lives is most often done quietly and we probably are not even aware of it. The Holy Spirit is doing good work on the inside that does become noticeable on the outside. The Bible calls this sanctification, the process whereby God remodels us inwardly so the holiness of Christ can be seen in our lives outwardly.

Please take this time of Lent seriously by attending the special services each week, having fellowship with friends during supper before Wednesday evening worship, and enjoying conversations after the service before leaving for the night.

The spiritual disciplines for Lent will be posted for all to participate in. They will include Bible reading, prayer and fasting, random acts of kindness, and letting go of a particular habit and/or beginning a new healthy habit.

Philippians 2:13 (NLT2) ¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.



First Friday Sing & Pray

Did you know we have been a blessing to over a half dozen PADs visitors who have joined our Sing and Pray? Three individuals have come forward and prayed the *Sinner's Prayer*. We praise and thank the Lord that we were there to minister to each one.

We are a very small group, but mighty in prayer and sing our hearts out. All are welcome to join us Friday, March 3rd from 7:00 pm to around 7:45 pm to in the Sanctuary. Informality is the format, so you are free to come and go as you please. We utilize our *St. Mark Prayer Guide* for guided prayer and scripture readings. We seek petitions from the PADs visitors and encourage each participant to pray whatever is on their heart silently, in agreement, or out loud. No pressure. No expectations. Just God's people coming together to pray and seek his face.

"Devote yourselves to prayer." Colossians 4:2

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

The Hidden You

The apostle Peter gives this advice to Christian wives: "Let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious" (1 Peter 3:4).

There is the part of us that we show, our exterior person. And then there is the inner person. Paul writes: "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16).

Who are you, who am I, really, deep down, on the inside?

God knows. The Psalmist says to God, "You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar" (Psalm 139:2).

God knows our thoughts and the "real" inner you and me. Through faith in Christ, we invite him to work inside us. In invisible ways he convicts, instructs, guides, guards, and renews us. He does this as we pray, read Scripture, worship, share with others, and live our lives in obedient devotion to him.

I was reminded of God's hidden work today. It is February and chilly--14 degrees this morning, and it never got out of the 20s all day. Late in the afternoon I looked out the kitchen door into the woods. I was amazed to see a ribbon of white ice, about a foot long and maybe three inches wide, dangling from a sugar maple limb.

As I watched, a nuthatch landed on the limb. Hanging upside down (as nuthatches do), it pecked at the ice. How did the ice get there? There has been no rain or snow lately. There is no water dripping from above.

A little research and I found this on a Twin Cities website: "A sapcicle is an icicle made of sap. Members of the maple family have sap flowing on warm days in the spring. The sap flows due to a quirk in the structure of maples and is caused by pressure that builds as the result of the freezing and thawing of water in the tree in the spring."

Sapcicles! While visibly the trees here are bare and the landscape bleak, inside the maple trees sap is beginning to flow, despite the freezing temperatures. You can't see it on the outside, but on the inside, there is life.

We have something in common with those trees: there is movement on the inside which no one but God can see. The Bible observes, "Even in laughter the heart may ache" (Proverbs 14:13). There is more going on than those around us can observe.

Here's what I find encouraging: when life seems cold and wintry, and we may feel that spring will never come, sap is flowing. God is at work inwardly.

I often take comfort in this reminder: "It is vain for you to rise up early, to retire late, to eat the bread of painful labors; for He gives to His beloved *even in his sleep*" (Proverbs 127:2 NASB).

Even when I sleep, God is at work. He sustains, shields, and shapes us not only visibly but invisibly. With David we can confess to God, "Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart" (Psalm 51:6).

Three times in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls for devotion and assures us, "Your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:4, 6, 18).

Take heart in God's patient sculpting of the inner you.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023



St. Mark Council News

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

Council Highlights February 2023

Kurt Ulbricht is serving as St. Mark's liaison with the Lindenhurst, Lake Villa, Round Lake Chamber of Commerce. Many St. Mark events will be included in the Chamber's announcements to increase community awareness of opportunities to join us in worship and fellowship.

An additional multi-lens security camera will be mounted with to increase visibility of our property.

As of 2/14/23, 205 responses to the membership questions were received for ServantKeeper updates and tallied for Council review. Those who have not yet responded are encouraged to do so to help us maintain accurate church records.

Council approved \$1000.00 of 2022 Rummage Sale benevolence for use by the Youth Group for Random Acts of Kindness giveaways on February 12.

Melissa Grandt was approved as the second Sunday School Coordinator.

Dean Miller was approved as Parish Education Committee member.

The resignation of Jill Winling from the Finance Committee was accepted with regrets.

The 2023 Audit Team was approved: Pam Preston, Lynn Wetterberg, Brock Millsop, Jerry Doran, Jill Decker, Tricia Summerson, and Wendy Lord. The audit will be conducted on May 11,, 2023.

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

The 3 prayer requests above (or 6 if the 3 open positions are broken out) *need your prayers every day* just as much as the committee and Council member prayers. If we want to see a God-empowered movement initiated, it will require God's power. God acts in response to His people's prayers. We know that God wants everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). We know that He will build His church (Matthew 16:18). We know that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us and will give us what we request (1 John 5:14-15). Therefore, we need to ask.

When you read about the early church in the Book of Acts, prayer is everywhere:

- Acts 1:24 praying before choosing leaders.
- Acts 4:31 (23-24a, 31-35) after persecution praying for boldness...great growth.
- Acts 6:6 (6-7) praying before choosing leaders...great growth resulted.
- Acts 9:40 (40-42) praying for signs and wonders...resulting in great growth.
- Acts 10-11 (Cornelius) prayer surrounded every aspect of the crossing over of the gospel to the Gentiles... a new people group.
- Acts 12:12 praying for the release of Peter from prison.
- Acts 13:1-3 praying before setting aside the first missions/church planting team, Paul and Barnabas.
- Acts 14:23 praying before setting aside new believers in new churches as leaders.
- Acts 16:25 praying in prison, resulting in the conversion of the jailer's household.
- Acts 20:36 praying when departing from a church he had planted.
- Acts 21:5 praying when commending Paul to a dangerous situation and certain imprisonment for the sake of the gospel.
- Acts 22:17 praying in worship and receiving guidance as to future ministry plans.
- Acts 28:8 praying for signs and wonders.

Nothing is changed today. God never changes and still desires our prayers for His church to grow. Please join us in praying for these 3 (or 6) things daily. I truly believe that if we ALL take a few minutes once each day, God will honor our prayers and we'll see His hand move. He wants us to see where He's working so let's pray and *watch with expectation*.

Joni Wasmund
Council President

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023

What do you get when you combine



with



You get awesomeness and lots of smiles!!

On February 12th, four St. Mark youth – Amya Appelt, Ayla Appelt, Avina Doty, and Sam Krook – with the help of Shonda Doty, Debbie Gass, and myself, handed out 20 Valentine's Day cards, labeled from St. Mark, with a \$50 bill in each one of them. (We would like to thank Laurie Kerns for the idea of using unused Rummage Sale Benevolence money for the \$1000.) The youth made a lot of people smile that day and in return got some hugs, but more than that, they got the feeling of helping others and expecting nothing in return. Next time you see Amya, Ayla, Avina, and/or Sam around church, make sure you ask them about their experiences!!



Ongoing Opportunities for Prayer

Are Seeking YOUR Involvement



- *First Friday Sing and Pray.* See you Friday, March 3rd from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the sanctuary. See First Friday, *Pray and Sing*. Current contact Barb Ewert 847-514-5487. See more in this issue of the *Voice*.
- *30 Days of Prayer for Muslims.* Important prayer opportunity for our Muslim neighbors near and far from March 19 to April 18. This is 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. See more in this issue of the *Voice*.
- *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.
- *ZOOM Weekly Prayer Meeting* - Come, pray and be blessed. We meet Tuesdays at 6:30 pm via zoom for about an hour 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.
- The Worship and Music Committee will has posted the 2023 *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 coming church year.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023

Greetings From The Congregational Life Committee

Lenten Soup Suppers

We invite you to join us for fellowship and good food. Lenten Soup Suppers are Wednesday evenings prior to the Lenten church service. We start serving supper at 5:30 p.m. You can expect a delicious assortment of soups, sandwich items and desserts. We need volunteers to help with set-up, serving, and clean up. Have a recipe for a delicious homemade soup? **Sign-up to bring a crockpot full of soup to share.** (Please note that it's so important to **sign-up on the sheets in the narthex** to let us know that you are bringing soup. It helps us plan and make sure that we have enough for everyone that attends.) **Mark your calendars for the following dates: March 1st, March 8th, March 15th, March 22nd and March 29th.** In addition to a delicious meal, the fellowship at the soup suppers is just incredible. Those that have attended the soup suppers know what I mean. For those of you who haven't made it to a soup supper yet, I encourage you to come join us, you'll be glad you did.

It would be great if you would bring a printed copy of your recipe with your name and contact information on it. We've discussed creating a recipe book of the great soups and desserts that our members contribute each week as a fundraiser for the church. The first step to make this happen is to start collecting the recipes.

Volunteer Support Needed for CLC Committee



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.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart." – Elizabeth Andrew

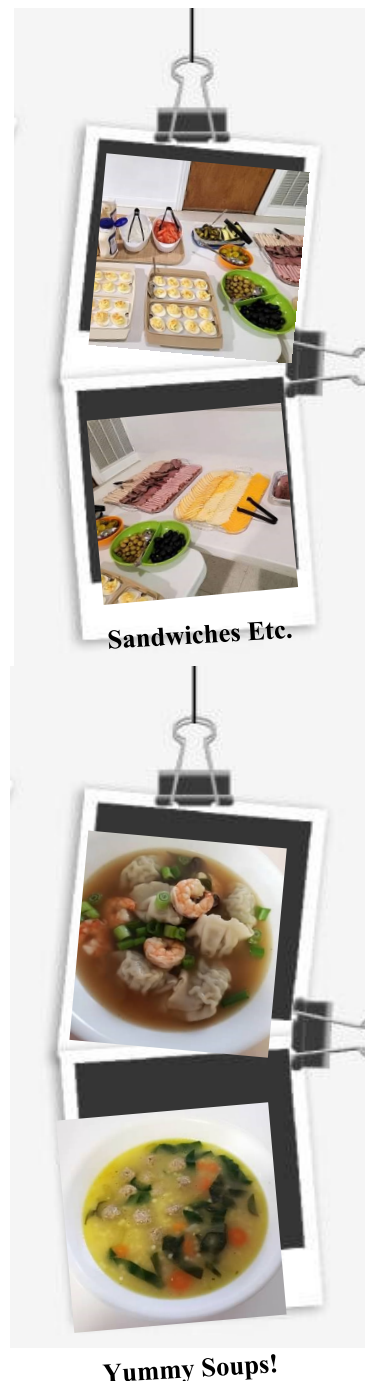
Christmas In July

While working on the annual Operation Christmas Child project this past year, we thought about how busy everyone is during the Christmas holidays so we would like to try something new this year. Start gathering up little toys, school supplies, personal hygiene products, etc. – the types of items that are needed and will fit in a shoe box for OCC. We're going to have a collection all through the month of July in hopes of gathering more of the items that are needed to fill at least 300 shoe boxes. You can visit [Official Shoobox Gift Suggestions \(samaritanspurse.org\)](http://OfficialShooboxGiftSuggestions(samaritanspurse.org)) to see a complete list of what types of items are most needed. Stay tuned for more details coming soon.

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

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023



Sandwiches Etc.

Yummy Soups!

Important Prayer Opportunity for Our Muslim Neighbors Here and Abroad March 19 to April 18, 2023

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 Muslim's 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 33rd 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" 2023 prayer booklet.

What difference can my prayers make? Prayer is one of two offensive weapons, the other 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? Sunday March 19 to Thursday, April 18 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 pray during the season of Ramadan and beyond, how are you going to respond? Are you listening? Will you obey His call?

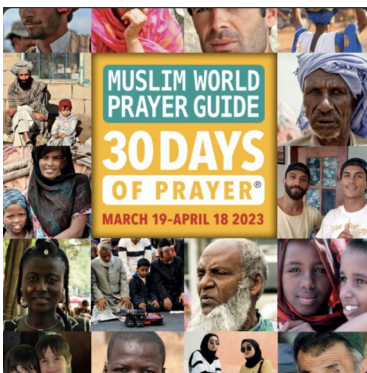
NOTE: Click on this link for a fuller and deeper understanding of listening and obeying from a biblical perspective. <https://youtu.be/6KQLOuIKaRA>

Materials Unfortunately this year hard copies are already sold out. However, digital adult prayer guides only are available from this link. <https://30daysprayer.square.site/s/shop> for the price of \$2.50. This year the Muslim World Prayer Guide focuses on 30 of the largest and most unreached for the Gospel cities on the globe. We are asking you to join with more than 100 international prayer movements in praying that there will be a spiritual awakening in each of these cities, that the name of Jesus would be proclaimed. NOTE: Adult and children prayer booklets from previous years will be available on the Prayer Table in the Narthex.

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. bewert@colsonfellows.org.



This year the Muslim World Prayer Guide focuses on 30 of the largest and most unreached for the Gospel cities on the globe. We are asking you to join with more than 100 international prayer movements in praying that there will be a spiritual awakening in each of these cities, that the name of Jesus would be proclaimed.

The prayer guide ends on the Night of Power. This is the one night each year when followers of Islam look to Allah for a vision of their life in the coming year. We are praying that the Holy Spirit will empower followers of Jesus to share with family and friends the healing vision of our Lord.

BAPTIZED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

February 11th at St. Mark

Charles Kruger

&

Bode Kruger

Son of Melissa and
Charles Kruger

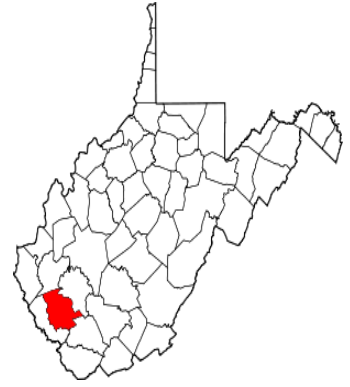


May the guiding presence of God be with these individuals as they grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023

**To the parents of current 8th Graders,
High School Students, & College-Age
Young Adults – the registration link for this
summer’s 2023 Summer Mission
IS NOW OPEN!!**



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

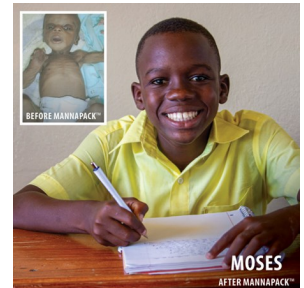
This year’s trip cost has gone up to \$200 per individual but that cost can be lowered by being involved with some fundraising activities we’ll schedule in the future.

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

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



HOW TO HELP KIDS LIKE MOSES



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

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

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

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

If you are REALLY looking ahead, here are the links for the next four months.

- Saturday, April 1st, at 8:45 to 10:45 am ([April's Sign Up](#))
- Saturday, May 6th, 2023, at 8:45 to 10:45 pm ([May's Sign Up](#))
- Saturday, June 3rd, 2023, at 8:45 to 10:45 am ([June's Sign Up](#))
- Thursday, July 6th, at 6:45 to 8:45 pm ([July's Sign Up](#))

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023

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. 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 make new friendships!

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

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



From your Safety & Security Committee

- 1) We have agreed to purchase one more camera (to help cover the area where the columbarium will go) and are looking at the possibility of getting one more.
- 2) In case of an emergency, the upstairs doors in the Ed Center will soon be able to be locked from the inside, just like the library doors, and the windows in the downstairs classrooms will soon have window covers.
- 3) The Rapid Response Team is looking for more people to join it – ESPECIALLY PEOPLE WHO USUALLY ATTEND THE SATURDAY NIGHT SETRVICE. This team is a group of people who have been trained in CPR and in the use of St. Mark's AED and are willing to step up during an emergency. Please contact one of this committee's members if you would like more information.
- 4) Keep your eyes and ears open for an announcement on a fire drill to be held in the spring. Hopefully the weather will cooperate with us this time!?!?



Your Safety & Security Committee—Judy Dunfrund, Mike, Mol, & Deb Zuchowski



Anxious for Nothing

Do you feel weighed down by worry? Does the uncertainty and chaos of life keep you up at night? Is irrational anxiety your constant companion? Let God help you win the war on worry and receive the lasting peace of Christ.

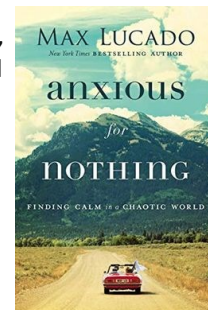
We all encounter anxiety, but we don't have to let worry and fear control our lives. *Anxious for Nothing*, from New York Times bestselling author, Max Lucado, provides a roadmap for battling with and healing from anxiety. *Anxious for Nothing* invites readers to delve into Philippians 4:6-7—the most highlighted passage of any book on the planet according to Amazon—

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

In this book, Max will help you:

- Celebrate God's goodness;
- Ask God for help;
- Leave your concerns with God; and,
- Meditate on good things.

Stop letting anxiety rule the day. Join Max on the journey to true freedom and experience more joy, clarity, physical renewal, and contentment by the power of the Holy Spirit. You can find this book under call number 248.8 LUC.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023

EASTER PREPARATIONS



Well, my dear friends... we have barely put the Christmas décor away and now we are talking about Easter! Is it me, or is time going way too quickly!

Just want to alert folks that the Easter Breakfast/Brunch will be held again this year between the 6 AM Sunrise Service and the 9 AM Service. I will be asking for donations of fruit, baked goods, juice, etc. via a sign up board near the Fellowship Hall entrance so please watch for that.

There are also opportunities for our Confirmands to earn points for handing out palms on Palm Sunday.

The order form for Easter Lilies for the Altar décor can be found soon in the Narthex or on page 15 of this publication.

If anyone has any new ideas for our Easter Celebration, please email me (gmichal48@gmail.com).

Blessings!!

Gae Michal

Thank you to my St. Mark family for all the love, support, and cards of encouragement at the death of my twin sister (Kay's) passing.

- Corky Lodini



Many thanks to Jim Schaufel for his years of service. Jim will be retiring from his position as a staff member at St. Mark at the end of March. We are fortunate to have him continue as a

volunteer with our Tuesday Men's Group. If you happen to see Jim around the building, thank him for a job well done! We will be having a cake reception for Jim on Sunday, March 26th in the Fellowship Hall between services. Please plan to join us!

Thank you to the Caring Casserole Committee for delivering a delicious dinner after my father passed away. We felt very blessed to have such kind church members help make this difficult time a little easier. The dinner was very much appreciated!

Sincerely,

Julie, Matt, and Emily Moreland



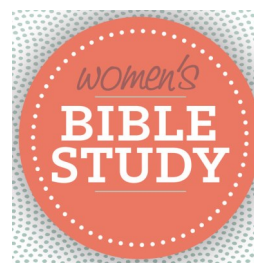
Currently we are updating our library collection. Therefore, we will not be accepting donations at this time.

Thank you.



God is Good! We welcome Melissa Grandt as our second Sunday School coordinator. Thank you for serving our youth in this important ministry

- The Parish Ed Committee



Discerning The Voice of God

Women's 6:30PM Study
Our study will resume on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 6:30 - 8:00 PM. We will be doing a 7 session study by Priscilla Shirer:

Discerning the Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Speaks. The study includes video teaching, discussion, prayer and weekly homework. There is a fee for your workbook.

Please contact Glenda Niffenegger at glengems@comcast.net or by phone before Sunday, April 2, 2023.

Come and be blessed!

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

program, Vacation Bible School, running June 19-

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



Contact Lori McKenzie lorimckenzie119@gmail.com or Jane Milani lvmom76@att.net.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023



Open Arms Food Pantry

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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

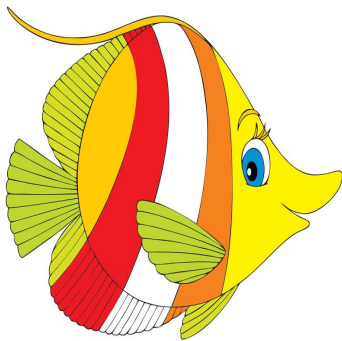
During the last couple years so much has changed for many of our neighbors - from March 2020 through September 2022 Open Arms has added 349 new families – currently OAM is averaging 85 families on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday nights and an additional 89 households get home delivery each Thursday morning. OAM also delivers 37 Northern Illinois Food Bank and 15 OAM back pack bags to local school children.

THANK YOU St. Mark for all you do!

March Collection Items - **Cereal / Soup / Tea**

If you have any questions about OAM please contact Ron Placko at rdplacko@comcast.net or 847-404-3304.

Did you know?



Fin Facts

Last fiscal year the amount budgeted for Capital Improvements was not spent and was moved to a Restricted Fund. Currently the Capital Improvement Fund has \$27,395 and the Building Fund has \$26,935. You can give to either of these funds directly, either online or by check, by designating a fund in the memo field.

Once again, St. Mark is starting a year with giving below what was anticipated. Should the church hire a Co-Pastor this year, regular giving will need to increase to cover the expense. If you do not already give online, please go to Giving at smlc.info. It is easy to set up a one time donation or monthly gift. Any member of the Stewardship or Finance Committee would be happy to walk you through it!

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	
Month of January 2023	\$ 55,100	\$ 46,166	(\$ 8,934)
2022 Fiscal Year (Jan.-Dec.)	\$ 738,350	\$ 647,418	(\$ 88,932)

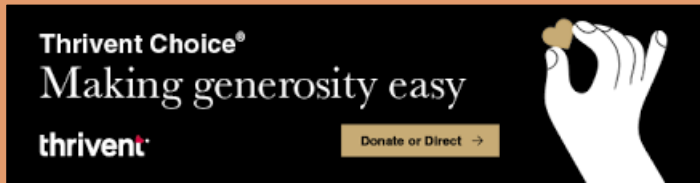
Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023



March 11th / 2nd Saturday / 6:00am PADS
Support (Optional) / 7:00am Breakfast /
8:00am Training / 9:30am Adjourn

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



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

Members have until March 31st to direct 2022 Thrivent Choice Dollars®.

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

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

VOICE Article - March 2023
Spiritual Gifts Workshop 2.0 update
Submitted by Debbie Plishka

We had a great group of folks attend our Spiritual Gifts Workshop 2.0! If you missed, try to find someone who attended and ask them about it. Personally, I enjoyed stepping far outside my comfort zone and facilitating the workshop. I learned a lot preparing for it and was excited to share what I learned with the group.

While working on the presentation and researching more information, I came across a blog post titled “8 Reasons Why All Christians Should Know Their Spiritual Gifts”, written by Dr. Larry Gilbert of www.churchgrowth.org. Here are the eight reasons Dr. Gilbert mentions:

1. Knowing your spiritual gifts helps you understand God’s will for your life.
2. Knowing your spiritual gifts helps you know what God has *not* called you to do.
3. Knowing your spiritual gifts relieves you from serving out of “duty”.
4. Knowing your spiritual gifts helps you understand how the Holy Spirit works through you.
5. Knowing your spiritual gifts fills a deep inner need or void in your life.
6. Knowing your spiritual gifts builds unity among Christians.
7. Knowing your spiritual gifts equips you to fulfill God’s purpose in your life.
8. Knowing your spiritual gifts adds to your self-acceptance. (My side note to this is that we all struggle at some point with accepting ourselves. We want to be better, different, etc. But knowing that the Holy Spirit called you to be who you are helps you accept and understand you were intentionally given gifts to use.)

Dr. Gilbert continued with this: “Spiritual gifts involve God’s stewardship. He assigns us certain tasks (1 Corinthians 12:18) and then equips us to do them in a manner that brings glory to him and fulfillment to us.

1 Peter 4:10-11 (NLT) 10 “God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 11 Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring joy to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.”

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023

Support St. Mark & Local Businesses



Second Tuesday Each Month

CARRY OUT, PICK UP or DELIVERY!
Be sure to bring your coupon and mention it at time of payment!

Present this certificate at the time of payment and **15%** of your order, excluding tax and tip, will be donated to **St. Mark Lutheran Church**.
Certificate must be presented at time of payment.
Not to be used with any other coupons or discounts.

Share with your friends and family.

LINDENHURST LOCATION ONLY

12:00 - 9:00 PM

Visit www.antiochpizzashop.com for full menu.

Valid the **Second Tuesday** of each Month

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

DATES: Second Tuesdays
3/14/23, 4/11/23, 5/9/23



Wendy's

THIRD THURSDAY EACH MONTH!

Now Serving Breakfast!

DRIVE THRU Anytime that day! Be sure to bring your coupon! (paper or electronic)

Show your support for St. Mark Lutheran Church

Stop into **Wendy's® Lindenhurst** anytime on the **Third Thursday** of each month and **30%** of qualifying sales will be donated to **St. Mark Lutheran Church**.

DATE: Every Third Thursday
3/16/23, 4/20/23, 5/18/23

TIME: All Day (Breakfast until Close)

LOCATION: 370 S US Highway 45, Lindenhurst

Present this flyer when ordering!

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

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](https://www.facebook.com/DivineSigns3.16)

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

DivineSigns.godaddysites.com

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

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023

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 2023 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 Tuesday, April 11th.

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

I have enclosed my payment of \$ _____.

**PAYMENT MUST
ACCOMPANY ORDER**

**Please make checks
payable to St. Mark
Lutheran Church**
*All orders must be received
on or before Monday, March
27th, 2023!*

Since We Last Talked.....

St. Mark had an AWESOME Spiritual Gift Workshop, led by our own Debbie Plishka!! Thank you *so much* Debbie for the time you put into preparing for and then leading this meeting!! A thank you also goes out to all of whom attended this event.

If you couldn't make this workshop and you still have not filled out your Spiritual Gift Profile, please find one of the Task Force members to get a questionnaire.

*"Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel,
but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house."*

You ALL have a light to shine in and outside your "house", please find out your gifts!!

A shout out also goes to all our church committees who are working to make St. Mark the place God wants it to be. It was a fantastic Committee Meeting night on February 28th! St. Mark's Church Doctor Task Force hosted a "Thank You" dinner for all the committees working towards Church Doctor's vision for St. Mark. We truly thank you for your efforts and look forward to seeing your 2023 Vision Statements come to fruition!!

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



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2023

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

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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

**APRIL VOICE DEADLINE:
March 15, 2023**

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
March 2023