

March 2024

Cliff Notes

By Cliff Ewert



SHARING OUR MINISTRIES

One of the greatest attributes within St. Mark is it's caring members who over the years have developed many worthwhile ministries, which are published in our Ministry Book. These ministries are available to all members, but what about sharing this good news in our community.

Our community and our friends have the same needs as the members of St. Mark. We are a resource for those who are suffering or are in need of earthly help, or help from our Lord. Some may be looking to become involved in community service projects that help people. The Ministry Book, with more than 65 ministries, can be that resource. Please have one in your home for those who you know are in need.

Our new social media coordinator Donna Bergl, has undertaken a project to communicate our ministries on Facebook, which we pray will gather interest.

When reviewing the Ministry Book, you will find that we have many ministries. A number of them serve the congregation such as Best Practices Ministry Team, Finance Ministry Team and Safety and Security, etc. There are also ministries that serve both the congregation and community. A few are listed below:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Prayer Chain | Holiday Dinner in a Bag |
| Feed My Starving Children | Compassion International |
| Good Samaritan Emergency Fund | Joyful Hearts Singles Group |
| Open Arms Food Pantry | Stephen Ministry |
| Prison Ministry | Vertical Marriage - Date Night |
| Divorce Care | H.I.S. Ministry |
| Caring Casseroles | Helping Hands |

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- ⇒ Church Calendar

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.



*Palm Sunday
Maundy
Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Sunday*
March 24 - March 31



**Join us on Wednesday,
March 6th, 13th, & 20th at 5:30
PM. Service to follow at
7:00 PM.**

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2024



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VOICE ARTICLES, SLIDES, WEBSITE & FACEBOOK REQUESTS

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

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 12th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, March 26th @ 7:00PM

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2024

From the Desk of Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ

They say, time flies when you're having fun. It seems like I'm having too much fun because Lent is here already!

Lent is meant to be a specific time for spiritual growth. This is the time we focus on our relationship with God and each other.

On Ash Wednesday I preached on the three items Scripture says we focus on during Lent. It's found in our gospel reading from Matthew 6. I have invited everyone to participate in the Lenten journey. I say participate because lent is something you can sit out and just go through the motions and not real experience what Lent is all about.

The first thing we're called to do is Pray. To stay in contact with God through prayer. To increase our time with God in communication. Prayer has two components. First is talking with God, to be in relationship with God in conversation. Feel free to talk with God about any topic. God is actively listening to us. Then after speaking with God, we listen to what God has to say. This may be the hardest part of prayer. We intentionally listen to the people around us, with our prayers in mind. I say, "Is God speaking to me in this interaction?" Also pay attention to the mass media you look at. Is God speaking to me through this email or podcast? Is God speaking to me via this TV show or song. This is the way God speaks to me most often, and you too!

Next, we give to the needy. Look for a non-profit that helps needy people and donate. Bring in food to our food bank. Find a needy person and help pay a bill for them. There are a ton of people in need. Find a way to help them.

Finally, Fast. What that means to me is enhance your relationship with God in some way. Add devotional readings to your life. Increase your Bible reading. Look for ways to be in God's presence more than normal. If you have a bad habit, give it up. Fasting has changed over the years. However, the one constant is that fasting helps us connect to God in a deeper way!

Here's the key, all this is done in secret. We don't share with each other what we're doing. It's all between you and God. Lent is about growing more connected to God, growing in relationship with God, and being more Christ like. The church word is sanctification. Lent is a time of active relationship building with God. It takes participation on your part!

I invite you to take a journey with God, called Lent!!!

God's favor,

Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

CLIFF NOTES: Sharing Our Ministries *Continued from Page 1*

In addition we support two groups that use our facilities: AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) and Al-Anon (for families of alcoholics).

Christ commands us in John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so you must **love one another**. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you **love one another**." and we can do that through our ministries.

God Bless

Cliff Ewert



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2024



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

God's Kindness

On the evening of January 21, my mother Dolores Gregory died. My wife Bernie and I can't thank St. Mark members enough for all of the cards and notes of condolence we have received. But here's a wholly inadequate start: THANK YOU!

I learned a lot about funerals from watching Pastor Breum. He had a saying: "God is never kinder than in death." We found that to be true in my mother's final days. She was on hospice, but she never gave up on life. In fact, among her last words to me were, "I just want to get out of here." As weak and ailing as she was at age 93, she still thought she might recover. You could truly say that she died trying. That means: she never lost hope. God kindly kept her out of despair.

On the day before Mom died, my younger sister was able to fly in from Los Angeles. She shared a special bond with my mother. She and my mother had meaningful conversation before Mom went to sleep late that afternoon. She never awoke from that sleep. God kindly kept my mother lucid until her dear daughter arrived. Maybe her arrival gave my mother the assurance she needed to rest in peace.

The staff at the nursing home were very attentive and kind. We have received two cards from that facility: one from the dozens of patients who knew my mother, and another from the staff who cared for her during the almost four years she lived there. It was God's kindness that surrounded my mother with people who became like family to her. That included a staff chaplain who often visited and prayed with my mother.

A few days after Mom died, I had an appointment with a former seminary student who is now a pastor. He reminded me of the question and answer found in the Westminster Larger Catechism. Question 86:

Q. 86. What is the communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death?

A. The communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death is, in that their souls are then made perfect in holiness, and received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies, which even in death continue united to Christ, and rest in their graves as in their beds, till at the last day they be again united to their souls.

"Invisible church" in the question and answer refers to the people in the church who have truly believed in Christ. (Not everyone in the church truly believes.) My mother became a Christian in high school. She suffered many hardships through rearing five children and enduring a divorce in her early 40s. But her faith in Christ remained secure.

I remember when I was maybe ten years old and we were driving home from church. Mom was at the wheel of our '62 Chevy Impala. (My father never went to church, sadly.) She said, "At my funeral, I want them to sing the hymn He Lives." Maybe you know it. The first verse runs: I serve a living Savior/He's in the world today/I know that he is living/Whatever men may say/I see his hand of mercy/I hear his voice of cheer/And just the time I need him/He's always near.

Well, in 2018 we had a talk about her funeral plans. She told me that she changed her mind: she wanted the hymns Rock of Ages and Morning Has Broken to be sung. I will lead her memorial service in early March. I have already lined up two women with beautiful voices to sing those hymns.

It is a kindness from God to know that you are only saying good-bye for a while when a loved one dies if they lived and died believing in Christ.

God was kind by allowing Bernie to be at the bedside when my mother passed away. Mom was not alone in that somber moment; Bernie was reading Psalm 23 to her and singing a hymn that addresses God with these words: Thou art the life by which alone we live/And all our substance and our strength receive/O comfort us in death's approaching hour/Strong-hearted then to face it by Thy power.

While my mother's physical heart finally gave out, God was with her to make her "strong-hearted" in spirit. That was another great kindness.

I will say it again: thank you for the kindness of St. Mark brothers and sisters in Christ for your many prayers and cards that have meant so much. It was not only a kindness of you but of our God.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2024



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 Minutes in a Nutshell

Below is a short summary of the February 2024 Council Minutes:

The Council had a quiet month for business. The Council discussed the hiring of a new Music Director and securing other support personnel for electronic related functions and communications.

A complete set of minutes for the February 2024 Council Meeting is available in the Fellowship Hall.



WONDERING

What are you doing Thursday night, March 7th, at 7 pm?

Well – if you are free, please consider coming to help pack food at FMSC!! Use the link below to sign up or just ask might have noticed a time change. Instead of showing up at 6:45, FM Mike Mol if you need help. For those of you who have packed with us before, you SC is asking us to be there at 7. The session will still end at 8:45.

As I have said in the past, there are 3 different jobs:

- A sit down job.
- A stand up job.
- A job that you'll probably get your exercise for the day.

Sign Up: [FMSC - Thursday night, March 7th](#)

If you haven't been in the Libertyville site lately, you might have missed the exciting news that came out of Fargo, ND, this past January. Yes, exciting things can come out of Fargo in the middle of the winter!!! A 10-day long MobilePack was held in honor of the 10th anniversary of holding the event. The organizers thought ... 10 years ... 10 days ... why not 10 million meals!!!!



With the help of God and a whole lot of people, they almost got there! After all the dust had settled and bags counted, here are the final numbers:

- More than 27,000 volunteers
- 9,712,224 meals packed
- 26,608 kids will be fed a meal each day for an entire year!!

**GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME AND ALL THE TIME,
GOD IS GOOD!!**

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2024

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



We praise God and thank our Father for providing the **Lutheran Church for Missions in Christ** with the spiritual vision for 2024 *The Three Days of Prayer*.

We thank all the members who prayed for St. Mark Church, our children, youth, fellow members, communities, volunteer organizations, elected local, state and national officials in addition to those listed in our brochure.

For the rest of 2024 please utilize our *St. Mark Church 2024 Prayer Guides* for members/visitors; *2024 St. Mark Brochure*, for prayers for our Pastor, Council, committees, Sunday School, youth, families and volunteers; *Youth Prayer Request and Vision for 2024*; and, *Children's Prayer Guides*. They will be posted on our website, smlc.info, under the Prayer Tab and printed copies can be found on the Prayer Table in the Narthex.

We pray that each member:

- Glorify our Lord by;
 - 1) making God the number one priority and seeking His will daily.
 - 2) listening to His voice, and
 - 3) obeying His call to serve both within and beyond St. Mark Church.
- Grow in the faith through worship, Bible study, and prayer; and,
- Develop a personal relationship by seeking to *know* Christ, not just to *know about* Him and petitioning the Holy Spirit to;
 - 1) make us aware of our sins and confess them daily;
 - 2) protect us from all evil and the world's distractions and distortions of the Truth;
 - 3) help us seek God's call upon our lives and trust him to help perform our life mission;
 - 4) sustain and grow St. Mark Church as a "house of prayer" through all adults', youths', children's' and seekers' participation in the discipline of prayer;
 - 5) minister to Pastor, staff, leadership, committees and Council;
 - 6) minister to the **St. Mark Prayer Chain** members, and **Tuesday evening prayer meetings** at 7:00pm currently on Zoom and **First Friday Sing and Pray** (New participants always welcome to both prayer ministries.); and,
 - 7) pour out His Spirit on us and bring revival to us, our neighbors, our state and our nation.

These petitions we ask of you Lord, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE COMING OF CHRIST AND MY FUTURE WITH HIM

Your kingdom come, Your will be done. (Matthew 6:10) You have said, "I am coming quickly." Amen, Come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20) I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to me. (Romans 8:18)¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self (body) is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Open Arms Food Pantry



OAM continues to support more than 200 families every week !

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

The items requested for March are Soup / Peanut Butter / Shampoo
- - Any nonperishable food is always appreciated.

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



Cook County Jail April 13th

If you are interested in attending, please go to behindthewalls.com and register by Sunday, March 24th. If you have any questions or difficulty registering, please call Jeff McKenzie at 847-721-0382.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2024

On Going Opportunities for Prayer

- ⇒ *First Friday Sing and Pray*. See you Friday, March 1st at 7:00 pm. to 7:45 pm in the sanctuary. See *First Friday, Pray and Sing*.
- ⇒ *Lenten Prayer Fellowship* praying together to build up St. Mark Church before/between worship services during Lent. See details in March *Voice*, <https://www.smlc.info/prayer/prayer-guides/>, and Prayer Table in Narthex.
- ⇒ *30 Days of Prayer for our Muslim neighbors, Here There and Everywhere* during Ramadan, Sunday, March 10 to Monday, April 8. See details in March *Voice*, and *Prayer Guides for the Muslim World* on the Prayer Table in the Narthex.
- ⇒ *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. Beginning Tuesdays, until further notice from 6:00 to 7:00 pm on Zoom praying over the previous week of Prayer Chain requests, St. Mark Church, and each other. Contact Persons: Pam Burke 244-430-6226 and Barb Ewert for Zoom link. 847-514-5487.
- ⇒ The Worship and Music Committee will be posting the *2024 Three Days of Prayer Brochure for St. Mark Church, 2024 Prayer Guide, Youth Prayer Guide and a Children's Prayer Guide* on the St. Mark website under Prayer. We prayerfully request you include these various petitions as part of your devotions for our church families, Intention Interim Pastor Steve, staff, church council and committees during this coming church year.



Altar Guild Openings

The Altar Guild is a perfect place to volunteer to serve!! Most of the things we do only take a once, maybe twice a month commitment, and usually on your schedule.

**The albs that are used by the Communion Servers need to be monitored and laundered at least twice a year.

**The beautiful banners seen on either side of the altar are changed depending on the season/holiday.

This is not difficult, but does require some thought. Training will be provided.

**With the addition of Communion being added to many services, additional help will

be needed with the setup/cleanup. This certainly is not complicated, but does require some attention to detail. It might be a great way to involve your teens with you in setting this up!!

If you feel the calling to any of these positions, or have questions, please contact Gae (usually found in the kitchen during Fellowship Hour...or text me at 847-571-8659)

Blessings...

St. Mark's Joyful Hearts - Singles Group

Joyful Hearts is a group for St Mark single people who get together for friendship and fellowship. The commonality and shared experience of being single is what brings us together. We believe that Christian friendships make our lives more fulfilling. Joyful Hearts is not a group that actively seeks dating relationships. We have been getting together once a month at one of our local restaurants for food, conversation and fellowship. Additionally, throughout the month we have gone to the movies, farmers markets, local concerts, etc. If you are interested in joining this group please let us know (you can pick and choose what you want to participate in). This is a great way to get to know other members of the church!

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



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2024

Noah's Nursery News:



I'm happy to report that things are really shaking up in the Nursery! We are in full swing with our new Parents' Morning Out (PMO) program and we will have 2 events behind us by March 1st, 2024. You may be asking what is this program?

In January 2024, the Evangelism Ministry Team started this community outreach program as a means to reach and minister to young families in the greater Lake Villa / Lindenhurst area. Children ages 0-5, can be dropped off here for 3 hours, every 4th Friday of the month from 9 am - 12 pm, as a way to provide a Free break for parents/grandparents etc. Registration is required and can be found at <https://smlc.info/events/>.

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

Also, I will need help distributing flyers for the next PMO event on March 22nd, 2024, so please see me in the nursery for details any Sunday, between 8 am - 11:30 am. Thank you!

In addition to the PMO program, the nursery staff will restart hosting the Parents' Night Out (PNO) program, 4 times per year on Saturday evenings from 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm, to give our working parents/guardians a night out together while we watch their children; again Free of charge. The age range for PNO is 0-12 year olds, 13 and older may volunteer, 18 and older requires a background check, please see me for details.

The first PNO date is Saturday, March 16th, so Save the Date! Registration is required and may be found at <https://smlc.info/events/>, after March 2nd, 2024. **Registration is closed on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 5:00PM.**

The nursery is also open and supporting the "Date Night VERTICAL Marriage, a Small-Group Study. Discover the one secret that will change your marriage! The dates are the 2nd Friday of every month, February-June, the location is in the St Mark Fellowship Hall, time 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, the cost is Free! (Pot luck meal 6:00-7:00.) See Jeff McKenzie with any questions. The nursery will be open during this event and will be staffed from 5:45 pm - 8:00 pm.

Lastly, an update on Amya Appelt! Amya is living and studying in Carlow, Ireland through a CLC initiative. She's there with her best friend, Hannah, and let me tell you these 2 are taking this country by storm! Ha! They are exploring sites in different cities that date back to the 700's, learning the Irish jig and the Irish language, as well as studying! When they aren't playing and observing that is! Amya and Hannah are planning on traveling and visiting Scotland soon which sounds exciting! Speaking of visiting, Amya's parents recently visited the girls in Ireland which was a true blessing! We wish both Amya and Hannah continued success and FUN as they promenaded the Irish countryside! Updates to follow until their return in mid May, 2024.

As you can see, we are busy in the nursery with upcoming PMO and PNO events, Date Nights and living life vicariously through Amya and Hanna!

Stay active, take care, and God bless,



Knowing the Importance of Prayer in God's Eternal Work... building up St. Mark Church through prayer during Lent

"When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. Jeremiah 29:12

Join in Fellowship to seek God's blessing for St. Mark Church to;
continue be a House of Prayer and faithfully engage in the Great Commission.

First note - For a believing church to be engaged in God's eternal work of salvation, restoration, and building up the body of Christ, there are three requirements of the congregation;

Realizing God's work through St. Mark Church can only be achieved, if we seek to be energized by the Holy Spirit.

Praying with prayers of faith to engage God's heart by seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance and giving glory to God for answered prayers.

Understanding God's ordained accomplishments for St. Mark Church will be attained when we, as a congregation, *depend* on the Holy Spirit and each member *willingly exercises* their Spirit's gifts. ¹

Second - Find a small group, a prayer partner, your family, your spouse. For example, a Sunday School class and a Fellowship group can pray between services for the 10:30 am service. For the evening, mid-week Lent service or 8:00 am service, a small group could meet either in the Narthex or Library prior to worship. Thus fulfilling our call to Lenten prayers of sharing and listening to each other and the Holy Spirit.

Third - Pray for a least 10-15 minutes to cover a St. Mark worship service in prayer, note suggested guidelines below*, but as always follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

*In this season of Lent join your St. Mark family in a time of focused prayer before and during weekend and midweek worship services to:

- **Repent** of our sins, individual and corporate (St. Mark Church);
- Ask the Holy Spirit for **revival** within St. Mark Church by;
 - the preaching at St. Mark church.
 - conversions by the power of Holy Spirit at St. Mark.
- Ask the Holy Spirit for St. Mark Church to continue **reformation** for all believers through;
 - practical training and teaching for our soul forming Christian journey.
 - transformation of St. Mark minds - shifting from a temporal to an eternal perspective.
 - making disciples.
- Ask the Holy Spirit for St. Mark to be a church of **restoration** by;
 - nurturing future pastors to live and teach the Gospel.
 - asking the Holy Spirit to embolden each of our St. Mark family to develop new relationships within their own neighborhoods, schools, and work.
 - sharing personal stories of the Christian life at St. Mark.
 - serving community needs through St. Mark based services.
- Conclude with prayers of praise and thanksgiving to the Trinity.

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



**Every Month - 2nd Saturday /
7:00am Breakfast /
8:00am Training / 9:30am Adjourn**

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

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2024



For those of you who don't know, St. Mark has sponsored two children through Compassion International for several years. We currently sponsor Ruma, a 15 year old girl from Bangladesh, and Wesley, a 19 year old young man from Brazil.

Along with this sponsorship, a few of us have been in contact with Ruma and Wesley through the years. We are now looking for people to be the new "Pen Pals" for these two. St. Mark will continue to be financial sponsor, but we are looking for people to be the new writing correspondents. According to Compassion's website, your "job" of being a "Pen Pal" is:

You can write to the child you sponsor either through physical letters or online through our website or app. To begin, we encourage you to send the child you sponsor a personal or family photograph and a short letter of introduction. Our local staff will translate your letter and deliver it to the child you support. Sponsored children often keep their sponsors' photos and letters in their homes as treasured possessions. You may write to the child you sponsor as often as you like. When you write, your sponsored child will benefit from knowing that someone across the world really cares. Your words of encouragement will help them see that they matter and give them hope for the future.

If you or your family are interested in writing to one of these two, please contact Mike Mol. If you just have questions about Compassion International OR would like to sponsor a child of your own, please see their website at Compassion International.

NEXT DATE NIGHT MARCH 8th

The first date night held on February 9th was extremely successful. Nine couples shared a wonderful potluck meal then enjoyed a video from Vertical Marriage with Dave and Ann Wilson of Family Life. We learned that to have a successful relationship in our marriage we need to look to God first. We need to go vertical before we can go horizontal.

For the next date night on March 8th, we would love to double the number of couples that attend. If you are at all interested, please sign up in the narthex, then come to the fellowship hall of St. Mark on March 8th by 6 o'clock. Everyone is welcome, invite your neighbors. There is no need to have come to the first week to attend future sessions.

Babysitting is provided!

Please sign up in the Narthex of the church, so we know how much food to purchase.

God bless you and we hope to see you on March 8th.



BAPTIZED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

February 11th at St. Mark

David Gray Kosmen

Son of Jennifer and David Kosmen

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



First Friday Sing & Pray
March 1st

God is still in the business of answering prayer!

Come join us Friday, March 1st to celebrate a time of reflection this Lenten season. We will be praying God's will for guidance and direction in our lives, church and country. This all begins at 7:00pm for one hour in the sanctuary. Pray silently, in agreement or out loud. It is an informal gathering to come and go as your schedule accommodates, no pressure, no expectations.

The effective prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Colossians 4:2



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2024

Easter Breakfast



Well, it's that time of year again! I didn't

think, with how early Easter is this year, that we would have any blooms outside, but there are multiple "pokey noses" in the gardens!

We will still be offering breakfast after the Sunrise Service this year from 7:30AM - 8:45AM.

There is a poster just outside the Fellowship Hall for the opportunity to sign up to bring some food items, and serving help. Please consider helping with this seemingly popular ministry!

Any questions, or suggestions should be directed to Gae, who can usually be found in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour.

Blessings!

Gae Michal



A huge thank you for all the prayers with Zach & Michelle's big scare this past month! A beautiful, healthy, little girl... Emma... was born 2/16/2024.

The whole new family is so very grateful for your support!

Vacation Bible School ITS COMING!!!

Winter may still be here, but we are planning ahead for our very important Summer outreach program, Vacation Bible School, running **June 17-24, 2024**. 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 or Jane Milani at stmarkvbsfun@gmail.com.



ATTENTION FIFTH GRADE PARENTS

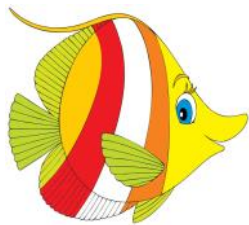
Pastor Abend will be offering a Pre-communion class to all 5th graders, with parent approval. Please expect further details. If your child participates, their first communion will be Maundy Thursday, March 28th.



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

Make a difference in your community, with your community

Thrivent Members, supporting your community is easy with Thrivent Action Teams. Apply to lead a group in a fundraiser, educational event or service activity. Then, gather a team of volunteers to make an impact together. Thrivent provides a customized kit of resources to get you started. Your team provides the passion to bring it to life. Click [Action Team](#) to learn more.



Fin Facts

A Good Start to 2024!

Though giving in January was \$2,351 under budget, giving was \$2,683 above the amount tithed in January 2023. Cash in the bank decreased in the first month of the year by \$9,490. Part of the decrease was due ceiling repairs needed in the kitchen. At the end of January there was \$363,675 in cash and savings, as well as \$60,000 in the Contingency Fund. Endowment Fund donations remained at \$72,519 and Restricted Funds declined by \$12,115 for a total of \$402,995.

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	
Month of January 2024	\$ 51,200	\$ 48,849	(\$ 2,351)

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2024



Important Prayer Opportunity for Our Muslim Neighbors *Here There and Everywhere* **March 10 to April 8, 2024**

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 34th year using the Muslim shorter lunar calendar year is that Christians around the world will join together intentionally, but **respectfully, to learn about, pray for and engage** our world's Muslim neighbors via the "30 Days of Prayer for Muslims" 2024 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 10 to Monday, April, 9 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 Digital adult and children prayer guides at available at <https://www.pray30days.org> 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 and will serve as well as 2024 prayer guides.**

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.

St. Mark Lutheran Church Garden Club

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

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

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

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

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

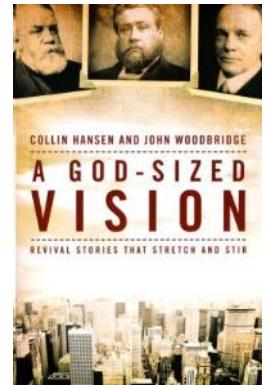


A God-Sized Vision: Revival Stories That Stretch and Stir



In this month's book selection, *A God-Sized Vision: Revival Stories That Stretch and Stir*, authors Collin Hansen and John Woodbridge describe and discuss revivals in faith that have taken place throughout Christian history. The authors also explore the possibilities for today's world. Can God stir revival by his Holy Spirit, even in our culture today? Do we really believe he can? In a day of diminished expectations this book recounts global examples of prior revivals, beginning with the

Reformation and the Great Awakenings. It continues with the Welsh and Azusa Street revivals and those that occurred simultaneously in Asia, followed by the East Africa Revival of the 1930s. More recent revivals in North America that instigated parachurch or evangelistic ministries like those of Billy Graham and the revivals in China, particularly in Henan Province over the last forty years, give further evidence of church renewal. These stories enlarge our hearts, expand our minds, and empower our witness to the power of God at work in human history. Christians with a deep evangelistic commitment who realize that there is more to church growth than field-tested techniques will expand their vision by remembering God's vision, as it has been revealed throughout history. Hansen and Woodbridge mine these stories of renewal to suggest how to get ready for revival today. You can find this book under call number 269 HAN.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2024

Support St. Mark & Local Businesses



Second Tuesday Each Month

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

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

Share with your friends and family.

LINDENHURST LOCATION ONLY

12:00 - 9:00 PM

Visit www.antiochpizzashop.com for full menu.

Valid the **Second Tuesday** of each Month

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

DATES: Second Tuesdays
3/12/24, 4/9/24, 5/14/24



Wendy's

THIRD THURSDAY EACH MONTH!

Now Serving Breakfast!

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

Show your support for St. Mark Lutheran Church

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

DATE: Every Third Thursday
3/21/24, 4/18/24, 5/16/24

TIME: All Day (Breakfast until Close)

LOCATION: 370 S US Highway 45, Lindenhurst

Present this flyer when ordering!

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

Divine Signs is Lake County's premier yard message creation company, dedicated to spreading joy and love in an extraordinary way!

We are excited to announce that we will **contribute 10% of our proceeds to St. Mark Lutheran Church** in Lindenhurst, IL. Simply mention St. Mark Lutheran Church, it is that easy! Tell your family and friends and let's get your next congratulatory event in the schedule!

This promotion is offered for everyone. Contact us directly or visit our sites to learn more about us...



Kevin and Tracy Graul

Phone or text: (224) 223-2786
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Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2024



March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00PM Sing & Pray 7:00PM Transition Team /Library	2 5:30PM Worship
3 8:00AM Worship 9-10:30 Fellowship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 6:30PM Youth Group	4 6:30PM DivorceCare Library	5 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center	6 5:30PM Soup Supper 5:30PM Bell Choir 6:30PM Confirmation 7:00PM Lenten Service	7 9:00AM Quilters 6:00PM Stephen Min. 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM FMSC	8 6:00PM Date Night 7:00PM Transition Team/Library	9 5:30PM Worship
10 8:00AM Worship 9-10:30 Fellowship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship	11 6:30PM DivorceCare Library	12 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:00PM Council Mtg. Antioch Pizza Tuesday	13 5:30PM Soup Supper 5:30PM Bell Choir 6:30PM Confirmation 7:00PM Lenten Service	14 9:00AM Quilters 7:00PM Audit 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	15 7:00PM Transition Team/Library	16 5:00PM Parents' Night Out 5:30PM Worship
17 8:00AM Worship 9-10:30 Fellowship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 6:30PM Youth Group	18	19 Election Day - Fellowship Hall 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 6:00PM Choir Practice	20 5:30PM Soup Supper 5:30PM Bell Choir 6:30PM Confirmation 7:00PM Lenten Service	21 9:00AM Quilters 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study Wendy's Thursday	22 9:00AM Parent's Morning Out 7:00PM Transition Team/Library	23 5:30PM Worship
24 PALM SUNDAY 8:00AM Worship 9-10:30 Fellowship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship	25	26 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:00PM Committee Meeting	27 5:30PM Bell Choir 6:30PM Confirmation	28 7:00PM Maundy Thursday Service	29 12:00PM Good Friday Service 7:00PM Good Friday Service	30 10:30AM Easter Breakfast Set Up
31 EASTER 6:00AM Sunrise Service 7:00AM Easter Break- fast 9:00 AM Easter Service 10:30AM Easter Service						

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

March 2024

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

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Stephen Ministry

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

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