

April 2024

From the Desk of Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ,

Christ is risen, He has risen indeed!!!

The Easter season is upon us. I say season because we celebrate Jesus' resurrection for weeks not just a day. This is correct and orderly because it is such a huge event, it can't be contained into just one week.

When I think of the implications of the resurrection, I see why we celebrate for weeks. Jesus' rising from the dead changes everything! The sting of death has been removed!

One of the changes we will make this year is we will celebrate holy communion for the entire Easter season. I know this means more work for some people, however it's a response to God's one and only son dying on the cross and God's power raising him from the dead. I see this as an opportunity to meet Christ at the table regularly, which isn't a bad thing, but a great thing. I thank those who are going to do the extra work this Easter season, and I appreciate the effort you are all putting in to make this possible.

Speaking of work put in, thank you to everyone who led or participated in the look-to-the-future cottage meetings. The input is invaluable as we move forward and will be utilized at our last large group forum on April 14th following our 10:30 worship service. I invite everyone to the April 14th event. It is not just for those who were at cottage meetings, this is a congregational event and I hope you all take the time to join us!

Christ is risen and gives us all eternal life. He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

God's peace,

Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

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CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

stmarkcommunications@gmail.com.



Transition Forum Luncheon Congregational Event

Sunday, April 14th

11:30 AM

Come help St. Mark plan for the future!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2024



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VOICE ARTICLES, SLIDES, WEBSITE & FACEBOOK REQUESTS

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

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 9th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, April 23rd @ 7:00PM

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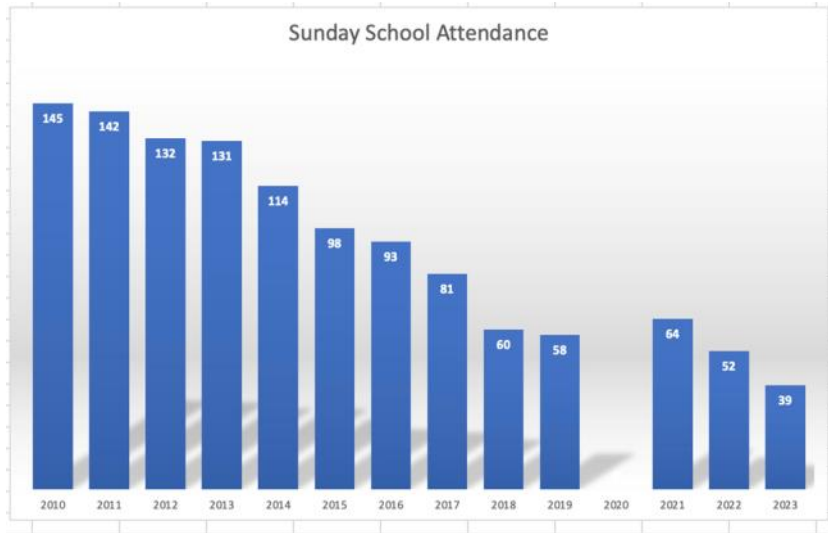


By Cliff Ewert



These Sunday School numbers say more than a thousand words!

Sometimes numbers have a greater impact than words. Statistically, here are the Sunday School enrollment numbers since 2010, a drop of 73%.



There are many reasons for this; downward trend in young families not seeking a relationship with Christ, changing demographics, social pressures, or families seeking a new spiritual experience in another church.

Our challenge is simple, "How do we bring our community, and especially young families with children, to Christ and St. Mark?" Based on various studies done over the past few years, we need to examine how dedicated our church is for spreading the gospel and making disciples of Christ.

Note: No numbers for 2020, Sunday School was remote due to COVID.

Children are the future of Christ's Kingdom here on Earth. Below are some numbers for our Vacation Bible School ministry for the past six years.

2023 - 40	2022 - 57	2021 - 45 COVID
2020 - COVID	2019 - 92	2018 - 105

Christ is our leader and let us give Glory to God as we pray for the future of St. Mark and His children!

God Bless,
Cliff Ewert



Our prayer shawls are available to anyone who is in need of solace via prayer! They are knit/crocheted with a prayer said for the recipient during the entire process. We have some very talented ladies (& gentlemen??) in our congregation who have created a large selection of shawls/lap robes in a variety of colors, patterns, and styles. They are located in a closet upstairs near the video control board. I

just ask that you sign out the shawl when you take it...just to prevent duplicate presentations! If you're not sure where they are, just ask Stevie. There is also a supply of extra yarn if you want to make a shawl to add to the selection!

Questions?? Just ask Gae Michal!!



In case you didn't know... or forgot!...there is a flower chart on the wall near the entry doors inside the building. The fee is \$30, paid in advance in the envelope just below the sign up calendar, showing the reason for your request. The flowers are yours to take home... after the last service. however!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

Jesus' Determination to Save the Lost

Jesus said, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

Jesus laid down his life on the cross. But unless we read the Gospels carefully, we may not realize that the religious leaders of Jesus' day were trying to kill him for months before Good Friday (see John 5:18; 7:1, 19, 25; 8:37).

In fact at one point, the Jerusalem authorities "picked up stones again to stone him" (10:31). "Again" signals that it wasn't the first time. Jesus was a marked man and knew it. Only by the protection of the crowds and the guidance of his heavenly Father did Jesus continually evade arrest.

Jesus escaped that death by stoning by leaving Jerusalem and the surrounding district called Judea. Yet just a few days later he made a decision that shocked his disciples (John 11:7-8):

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?"

Notice they say "are you going there again?" not "are we going there again?" I think they had already decided that returning was not an option.

I was teaching this passage in a church recently, and I saw two people whispering. Later I asked what they were discussing.

They told me: Jesus, after safely withdrawing from Judea where his life was in danger, then turned around and led his disciples right back in. This reminded the whispering people of a classic film: *The Magnificent Seven*. You may remember the cast:

[Yul Brynner](#) as [Chris Adams](#), a Cajun gunslinger, leader of the seven
[Steve McQueen](#) as Vin Tanner, a drifter
[Horst Buchholz](#) as Chico, the young, hot-blooded shootist
[Charles Bronson](#) as Bernardo O'Reilly, the professional in need of money
[Robert Vaughn](#) as Lee, the traumatized veteran
[Brad Dexter](#) as Harry Luck, the fortune seeker
[James Coburn](#) as Britt, the knife expert



So what in the world do *The Seven* have to do with John 11? Here's the comparison that occurred to the people in my Bible class: in the movie, at one point *The Seven* are captured by the villain, Calvera. *The Seven* are ushered from the village and told never to return.

But . . . they go back! Their mission to bring justice to the harassed peasants of the village has captured their hearts. Eventually they succeed in defeating Calvera, though most of them die in the final gun battle.

The movie is based on a 1954 Japanese film *Seven Samurai*. A difference is that *Seven Samurai* does not have the part about *The Seven* leaving, then returning. The people in my class wondered about a Christian influence on the American filmmakers. For they saw an analogy between *The Seven* returning to what seemed like certain death--because of their commitment to saving the people of a village--and Jesus' resolve to return to Judea despite the evident danger, due to his commitment to saving the lost.

It was Thomas who cast the deciding vote for the Twelve: So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Jesus' willing and finally fatal decision to return underscores his decision to do whatever it took to fulfill his mission. This involved not only himself but his close followers. His mission implicated them. The danger he had to risk, they could not evade, either.

So eventually, with Thomas' prodding, they returned to the village of Bethany with Jesus. Bethany was just two miles from Jerusalem. This was the beginning of the end for Jesus' earthly life. But it was the beginning of the fulfillment of God's promise of eternal life for all who believe in Jesus as the Messiah.

May we follow Jesus with the (maybe shaky) resolve of the not-always-so-magnificent-Twelve wherever he leads us this week, even if we've never heard of *The Magnificent Seven*.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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St. Mark Council News

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

Share Your Artistic Talents!

St. Mark may have many members with hidden artistic talents and we would love to have you share them to help our church. We need visual images for the worship screens on Sunday. We could use some designs for social media websites and graphics for some of our publications such as *The Voice*. Please contact Cliff Ewert, Council President, if you would like to share these great talents that God has given you.

St. Mark Needs Your Expertise

St. Mark needs your help! We are seeking a few members to rebuild our Human Resources Committee. We ask that members have prior experience with Human Resources policies and procedures, hiring practices, wage administration, etc. Interested members should contact Cliff Ewert, Council President for this very important church function. The Human Resources Committee is under the guidance of the Trustees. Help St. Mark move forward!

On Going Opportunities for Prayer

- **St. Mark Church Corporate Prayer, *Appealing to the Holy Spirit 24/7***. See April Prayer article in this *Voice* for more details.
- ***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 7:00pm to 7:15pm. we will be meeting on Zoom praying over the previous week of Prayer Chain requests, St. Mark Church and each other. Contact Person: Pam Burke 244-430-6226 and Barb Ewert for Zoom link. 847-514-5487.
- 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. Copies are also available at the Prayer Table in the Narthex. We prayerfully request you include these various petitions as part of your devotions for our church families, Intentional Interim Pastor Steve, staff, church council and committees during this coming church year.

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Greetings From The Congregational Life Committee

Still Looking for Volunteers for CLC

You may not realize it, but the Congregational Life Committee is involved in so many of the activities that you enjoy at St. Mark. There are only three of us on this committee so we need to count on others to be ready to help out as needed. We are still looking for members that could be available to help with our various events throughout the year. Please reach out to Shawn Frank, Tricia Cholewinski or Donna Bergl and let them know if you are available to be on our list of St. Mark members that we can call upon when needed to help us keep all of the fun and meaningful events and activities going. We work hard, but we sure have fun too!

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

Mother’s Day & Father’s Day

We’ll be looking for Confirmation students to help hand out some goodies for all three services for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. We’ll be putting up sign up sheets soon so be on the lookout for those.

Reach out to the CLC for more information: [Shawn Frank](#) ♦ [Tricia Cholewinski](#) ♦ [Donna Bergl](#)

Women’s Brunch

Growing Deeper in Our Faith ... Together

We invite you to join us for brunch and fellowship as we hear from our guest speaker, Linnae Rutkowski, about “All This & Heaven Too”.

Saturday, April 27th
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

St. Mark Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall
This is a FREE event and is open to all women. Registration is required.

Please Join Us!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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

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

HE IS RISEN!!! He HAS RISEN INDEED!!!

Happy Easter from your St. Mark prayer team! We thank each of you for listening and answering our 40-day Lenten call to pray as one corporate body to seek God’s blessings for St. Mark Church to:

- continue to be a House of Prayer, and
- faithfully engage in the Great Commission.

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

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

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

Knowing we have weighty/challenging decisions ahead;

- transitioning from examining ourselves and St. Mark Church,
- formulating our mission and vision,
- finishing the selection of a call team for a Christ-centered pastor,
- calling and hiring a pastor,
- hiring of a music director.

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

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

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



**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 Jerry Doran at 847-271-8632.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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Altar Guild Openings

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

See me during the Fellowship Hour behind the coffee pot!

Bless you,
Gae Michal



**Saturday April 6th, from
9:00 AM - 10:45 AM????**

**We'd love to see you at
FMSC in Libertyville!!!!**

It is a fun and easy way to help kids around the world! With your own two hands, you will turn hunger into HOPE!! As I have said in the past, there are 3 different jobs during each shift:

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

If you have never been before, it is an easy job to learn and there will be plenty of people to help you so **DON'T BE SCARED!!**

Use the link below to sign up or just ask Mike Mol if you need help.

[April 6th FMSC Sign Up](#)

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Noah's Nursery News



I'm happy to report that things are busy in the Nursery! We are in full swing with our new Parents' Morning Out (PMO) program and we will have 3 events behind us by April 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.

Please tell a friend about this amazing program! Registration is required and can be found at <https://smlc.info/events/>.

The nursery is also supporting the "Date Night VERTICAL Marriage, a Small-Group Study. Discover the one secret that will change your marriage!" The 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, and the cost is Free! (Pot luck meal 6:00-7:00.) See Jeff McKenzie with any questions. The nursery will be open during these events and will be staffed from 5:45 pm - 8:00 pm; when children are in attendance.

Our first Parents' Night Out (PNO) on Saturday, March 16th, was successful with 8 children and 10 volunteers. A good time was had by all! Stay tuned for upcoming PNO dates!

Hooray, the nursery has new windows! What a welcome change! Come visit and check it out!

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

Amya and her friend Hannah are exploring sites in different cities, such as: Dublin, Cork City and Edinburgh. They remain busy on their quest to explore all that they can while there!

As you can see, we are busy in the nursery with upcoming PMO events, date nights and watching the whereabouts of Amya and Hannah!

Take care and God Bless.

Deb Heide

St. Mark's Joyful Hearts - Singles Group

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

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



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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You have all heard the saying



Well, I can tell you that some of your St. Mark High School Youth have been doing some pretty amazing things lately!!

On Sunday, March 17th, thanks to Church Council and St. Mark's Benevolence Fund, we distributed \$1000 to 10 people in our area. No strings attached – just a handmade card the youth created telling each individual that God is thinking of them, that they are loved by God, and St. Mark wanted to make their life a little easier with a gift of \$100. Next month I'll have some pictures to include with my article.

On Easter Saturday, we packed and hid Easter eggs in the Ed Center for the little ones to find on Easter morning!! A lot of smiles were seen on both days!



Spring is here and flowers are blooming and so are all the hands-on activities that our students are working on during Sunday School at St. Mark. Intentional Interim Pastor Steve and Melissa Grandt visited the library on Sunday, March 17 during Sunday School for a communion class. Some of

our students celebrated their First Communion on Maundy Thursday.

Denise and I are excited because all students and teachers will be having a live fire drill at the Education Center in April or May with the Lake Villa Fire Department! Lastly, I am so excited to announce that Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for Monday, June 17 through Friday June 21 from 9:00am-12:00pm.



**Soles
For
Jesus**

Thanks to all of you who have donated shoes so far - I just emptied the box for the first time and it was all the way to the top!! Also, thank you for tying the shoes together - if possible - or putting lace-less shoes and/or sandals into an individual plastic bag.

KEEP 'EM COMING!!!!

BAPTIZED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

March 23rd at St. Mark

Luca Philip Green

Son of Leona and
Michael Green

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



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

The 2024 Rummage Sale is only 4 months away. Here's your reminder to start cleaning out your closets, cabinets and basements and boxing up all those great treasures to donate to the sale. We will start collecting in early July...exact date coming soon. Set up will begin around July 8th and we will need all the help you can give. It is a lot of work to put on our awesome sale, but we promise you will have fun and make new friends if you join us. All ages welcomed and no special skills needed. More info coming next month. Questions call Laurie Kerns 847-612-1510

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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Easter Breakfast

Alleluia!! He is risen!! He is risen, indeed!!

Surprisingly enough, we DID have blooms in the garden, despite the early date!!

Thank you to a great crew who helped set up the lilies and the breakfast area!! Thanks to all who brought goodies for the breakfast!!

Thanks to all who joined us for breakfast!! Hopefully you enjoyed all the yummy choices!

Comments, questions or additions....please direct them to Gae Michal...usually found in the kitchen during fellows hour...I'd LOVE to hear your opinions and comments!!

Joyfully!

Gae Michal



Thank you to all who have faithfully continued to donate pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charities. In January over 30 pounds were dropped off at Great Clips in Gurnee (our drop off spot). That's A LOT of pop tabs! As always pop tabs can be put in the marked container in the kitchen any time. Thanks again!

Wendy Rohlwing

Look for our library to be reopening in April!



Our library contains many books: fiction and non-fiction, books for adults and young adults, as well as children to be enjoyed! Looking for some bible-based games and activities - we have those too. Check out Bibliopoly or Apples to Apples (bible edition) and more to play with your friends or kids. Stay tuned for opening updates and availability.

Linda Pohlman

We Thank God for your 2024 Prayers for Muslims during Ramadan March 10 to April 8, 2024



We thank you for your daily prayers for our Muslim neighbors and friends during the 2024 *30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World*. Your prayers make such an impact that Muslims around the world are coming to Jesus at a rate far surpassing any rate recorded in Christian history.¹ Between 2010 and 2030 the Muslim population in the Americas is projected to grow from 0.3% to 0.5%. We have here in Lake Villa an Islamic Center on Monaville Rd., Lake Villa which was established several years ago. Please continue keeping our Muslim neighbors in mind by utilizing your prayer guide. If you are interested in learning how to witness to Muslim friends, please contact me for the information. Barb Ewert 1-847-514-5487.

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



Fin Facts

Donations Lag in February

Though giving in February was \$12,197 under budget, giving was \$29 above the amount tithed in February 2023. Cash in the bank increased by \$5,995. At the end of February there was \$369,670 in cash and savings, as well as \$60,000 in the Contingency Fund. Endowment Fund donations total \$86,904 and Restricted Funds increased by \$1,019 for a total of \$404,014.

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	
Month of February 2024	\$ 60,205	\$ 48,008	(\$ 12,197)

From Logan, WV, to the Middle East

Those two areas of the world may never have been Google mapped together before but for those of us who went on the mission trip last summer – we’re connecting the dots!

Last July, nine of us went to Logan, WV, for an awesome mission trip helping the people of this small town in Appalachia. The organization that organized our mission trips is called Youth-Works and the best leader - by far - I have had in my nine mission trips has been Anna Hysten. She was awesome (and not because she laughed at my stupid jokes)! We have kept in contact since last summer and she just sent me info about her next “adventure”. I told her I was going to tell St. Mark about this, and she was thrilled. Please, please, please – do not feel that you have to donate to her trip (she wouldn’t mind though) but I know you all could pray for her. The following is what I received from her. Thank you in advance for lifting her up.

“Hey Mike! I wanted to let you know about something I'm really excited for and hoped you could pray for me about it. I'm going to be going to the Middle East this summer for two months for an internship where I'll be working alongside long term missionaries, learning the local language, being discipled, and engaging people in the Gospel! Here is my prayer card with some of the things I'd love prayer for, but please pray for me however you feel led!”

**ANNA
HYLEN**



I will be serving in cross-cultural ministry for 2 months this June-July at Global Partners' Fotizo (Turkic-Arabic) site

NEXT

EXPLORING WHO YOU ARE IN GOD'S MISSION

- ✕ Pray that I can humbly come alongside those working in *Fotizo*.
- ✕ Pray for God to use me and my team in powerful ways.
- ✕ Pray for health and vitality during my internship and for our team's unity.
- ✕ Pray that God teaches me more about who He is and what He is calling me to.

Donate:

Give directly to me online by scanning this QR with your phone's camera:



Or give by mailing a check to Global Partners: 13300 Olio Road Suite 400
memo line Anna Hysten Fishers, IN 46037

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 April are Coffee / Baby Wipes / Baby Food Any nonperishable food is always appreciated.

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



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



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

>Welcome

>Welcome

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2024

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!!!!



What's on the Shelf?

Lasting Love: How to Avoid Marital Failure

This month's featured book *Lasting Love: How to Avoid Marital Failure* is by Alistair Begg whose program Truth for Life is heard daily on Moody Radio.

What makes love last a lifetime?

No one marries intending to fail. Each couple that says "I do" hopes for a long and beautiful life together. But as time passes, many drift apart, and some eventually call it quits.

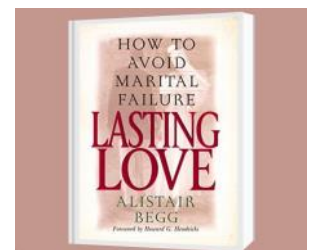
But what about the ones who stay the course, who don't just bear through marriage but actually love it? What's their secret? It's simple, really: there is no secret. They follow God's revealed design.

In *Lasting Love*, Alistair Begg unfolds this design. After laying theological foundations, he builds levels of application, showing how God's blueprint makes marriages sturdy and vibrant.

Ideal for both those considering marriage and those already married, *Lasting Love* is a comprehensive book on the essentials of a great and godly union, such as:

- What the Bible says about marriage vows, gender roles, and parenting
- What to look for in a potential spouse
- How to cure and prevent marital decay

Heed the advice of this pastor who has seen too many marriages come and go. Let yours last a lifetime. You can find this book under call number 248.8 BEG.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 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.

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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
4/9/24, 5/14/24, 6/11/24



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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
4/18/24, 5/16/24, 6/20/24

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.

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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

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Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2024



April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Church offices closed 7PM Call Team-Lib	2 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 6:00PM Choir Practice	3 6:30PM Confirmation	4 9:00AM Quilters 6:00PM Stephen Min. 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	5 6:00PM Transition Team /Library	6 9:00AM FMSC 5:30PM Worship
7 8:00AM Worship 9-10:30 Fellowship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship	8 7PM Call Team-Lib	9 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:00PM Council Mtg. Antioch Pizza Tuesday	10 6:30PM Confirmation	11 9:00AM Quilters 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	12 6:00PM Date Night 6:00PM Transition Team/Library	13 5:30PM Worship
14 8:00AM Worship 9-10:30 Fellowship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Transition Forum Luncheon 6:30PM Youth Group	15	16 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 6:00PM Choir Practice	17 6:30PM Confirmation	18 9:00AM Quilters 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study Wendy's Thursday	19	20 5:30PM Worship
21 8:00AM Worship 9-10:30 Fellowship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship	22	23 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:00PM Ministry Team Meetings 8:00PM Joint Team Meeting	24 6:30PM Confirmation	25 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	26 9:00AM Parent's Morning Out	27 11:00AM Women's Luncheon 5:30PM Worship
28 8:00AM Worship 9-10:30 Fellowship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 6:30PM Youth Group	29	30 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 6:00PM Choir Practice				

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2024

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Stephen Ministry

THE VOICE

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ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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

**MAY
VOICE DEADLINE:
April 15, 2024**

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April 2024