

The VOICE

OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2024

From the Desk of Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ

I'd like to spend my next few articles looking at our vision statements. Our mission statement is **Love God and love all people.**

How can we go about that?

Our vision statements are exactly how we do it!

Our first vision statement is: **Prayer**

We are a people who are about prayer. As Paul writes in Thessalonians *17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit.*

We pray in all circumstances! Prayer is about communication with God through talking and listening. Several people saw this vision statement as too inclusive, that this isn't about the world and others. Yet I propose that prayer is an integral part of everything we do, both at church with the people of God and with and for the world.

Matthew 9 reminds us we are to be out in the world, praying that God's kingdom would come to its fulness and we would be out in the world doing God's work.

35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

We are sent out into the world with prayer as our foundation in our relationship with God!
We are called to love and pray for everyone, even our enemies.

Continued on Page 6

In This Issue:

- ⇒ Intentional Interim Pastor Steve
- ⇒ Meet the Team
- ⇒ Cliff Notes
- ⇒ Missouri Musings
- ⇒ Council Highlights
- ⇒ Ongoing Opportunities for Prayer
- ⇒ Church Elections
- ⇒ Call Committee Update
- ⇒ Importance of Prayer
- ⇒ H.I.S. Ministry
- ⇒ Growing in Love
- ⇒ Children's Ministry
- ⇒ Soles for Jesus
- ⇒ Baptism
- ⇒ Prayer Pals Needed
- ⇒ Women's Bible Studies
- ⇒ Fin Facts
- ⇒ Compassion International
- ⇒ Feed My Starving Children
- ⇒ Joyful Hearts
- ⇒ Safety & Security
- ⇒ Confirmation News
- ⇒ Thrivent
- ⇒ C/3 Youth Group News
- ⇒ Open Arms
- ⇒ Church Directory
- ⇒ Kindred Life
- ⇒ What's on the Shelf?
- ⇒ Lay Readers & Media Assistants
- ⇒ Support our Church
- ⇒ Church Calendar

CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

The deadline for the **September** edition of *The Voice* is **August 15th**.
Please Email articles to:
stmarkcommunications@gmail.com.

2024 **COME JOIN US!**
Harvest Fest

Saturday, September 21st
Noon - 5:00 PM



CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
August 2024



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Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, August 13th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, August 27th @ 7:00PM

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
August 2024



Cliff Ewert has conceded his article space to the Elders this month for an important announcement!



Our Church Needs You!

Elections are coming soon! Our annual meeting is on November 10th. Every year, the Elders are challenged with putting together the slate of nominees for positions that need to be filled. This is a very daunting task. We touch base with quite a few people during July, August and September asking them to consider a position on Council. Sadly, most decline. Some members may have genuine life circumstances that prevent their ability to serve. Here are some of the reasons people provide and what the bible has to say.

- 1) "I don't have the time." Busy schedules, routines and roles can become overwhelming. There are many things that can cause us to take our eyes off God and lose site of Him and the work he is doing in our lives. What is consuming your time? Is it the worries of everyday life; working to achieve wealth; or desires of other things? "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5: 15-16). The past several Council Presidents have aimed to try to keep the length of Council meetings reasonable!
- 2) "I don't think I'm qualified." Any time you start something new there is a learning curve. Fear of not knowing what to do can be anxiety producing. We desire security and control. But we are not in control, God is. Only God. We must set fear aside to make room for the power of God to work through us. "For God gave us a spirit, not of fear but of power and self control" (Timothy 2:17).
- 3) "Been there, done that, it's for the young people." The Bible provides many examples of God using elderly men and women to do His work. As long as you have breath, God has a purpose and plan for your life. Seniors help pass faith down to the next generation; are a source of wisdom; and may have "old ideas" that still apply and can be useful in the present day. "Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you, I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you" (Isaiah 46: 4).
- 4) "I've been on council previously and it wasn't a good experience." Disagreements and ruffled feathers do come along at times while doing "church business." Prayer for the Pastor, the Church, the Church Council is IMPERATIVE. Council members should do as Jesus instructed, "A new command I give you: Love one another, As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will now that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13: 34-35). Even in love, we can still disagree. If you are holding on to grudges or hurt feelings, I urge you to make amends.
- 5) "No one asked me before" The Elders cannot possibly talk to every member of the church, nor can we be expected to know what every person's gifts and talents are. If you are considering or have questions about a particular role, please SPEAK UP! Any Elder or Council member can answer your questions. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

This is not intended to place a guilt trip on members to push them into serving. God calls us to be good stewards, meaning we are to "utilize and manage resources He provides for His glory and the betterment of His creation" (Holman Bible Dictionary). I ask, "In a spirit of unity, do you desire to be a good steward and use your time, talents and treasures to move forward our mission and vision?"

Being a part of a church's council gives you the opportunity to add input into the spiritual support of members, policy guidance, strategic planning, and responsible spending. We invite you to join St. Mark's leadership team!

As the annual meeting and church elections approach, please pray for members' hearts to change and for wisdom as we seek to encourage them to use their gifts to benefit St. Mark which ultimately glorifies God.

Your Elders,

Cheryl Bengston

Rod Lunkenheimer

Nancy O'Connor

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2024



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

Finding Faith

In May I wrote about hope. Scripture says, “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” This month let’s look at faith.

The American poet Emily Dickinson (1830–1886) poked a little fun at faith:

“Faith” is a fine invention
For Gentlemen who *see!*
But Microscopes are prudent
In an Emergency!

There’s some truth there. Microscopes and the scientific enterprise have brought about great good. Of course there have been downsides too. While medicine saves lives, medical technologies and labs produce fentanyl and other abused drugs. These consume lives at alarming rates.

Science has eased and aided human life. But it also lies behind industrial and military capacities that threaten the environment and whole populations. Warring factions in Sudan, depending on arms shipped in from Iran and Russia and elsewhere, have displaced millions and threaten millions more with starvation. Whichever side wins, the result will be tough for any surviving Christians, since both major factions are militant Islamist with no place for Christians in their social vision, if they even have one.

Dickinson’s poem above can be taken to brush aside faith—it’s “a fine invention.” But actually it a priceless gift when we think of faith in Jesus Christ. The Apostle John put it this way: “For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith” (1 John 5:4).

“Born of God” describes what happens when we receive the gospel message. We repent of our sins, trust in Jesus’s death on the cross, and commit our lives to Christ who rose and conquered death, gifting us with eternal life through faith.

That faith, John writes above, overcomes the world. Faith in Christ is the gateway to benefits too numerous to exhaust here. But we can give some examples:

Faith protects us. Believers in Jesus “by God’s power are being guarded through **faith** for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:5). Guarded from what? To name just one example: “In all circumstances take up the shield of **faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one” (Ephesians 6:16). This is why Luther could write: “The Prince of Darkness grim/We tremble not for him.”

Faith, tested, produces stability. “You know that the testing of your **faith** produces steadfastness” (James 1:3). We live in an anxious age. Where and how can we find refuge for our souls? The answer: in Christ, and through faith. His assurance displaces anxiety.

Faith pleases God. “Without **faith** it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). This is shown going all the way back to Abel: “By **faith** Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his **faith**, though he died, he still speaks” (Hebrews 11:4).

Faith opens to us the riches of God’s word, our salvation. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy: “From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through **faith** in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15).

That’s just a short list of the benefits of faith. But none of those benefits are trivial.

Faith is not some “fine invention/For Gentlemen” as in Emily Dickinson’s poem. It is a divine gift to be exercised, nurtured, and enjoyed. For it is written: Through Christ we have “obtained access by **faith** into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:2).



The Missouri Musing article printed in the June/July Voice was actually a copy of a devotion written by Charlie Burke. We apologize to Bob Yarbrough and Charlie Burke for the error!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2024



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.

Important decisions from June and July 2024:

A motion was approved to approve the Worship and Music Director position to be available for approximately \$60,000 per year.

A motion was approved to upgrade the Website software at \$97.00 per month to be paid from the administration budget.

A motion was approved to accept the new pastoral job description as presented by the Call Committee.

The Council was informed that PADS will no longer use churches for lodging. A motion was approved to dispose of St. Mark's PADS equipment.

A Council Retreat was approved for August 17, 2024 to plan for the future of St. Mark.

Ongoing Opportunities for Prayer at St. Mark

- **St. Mark Church Corporate Prayer, *Appealing to the Holy Spirit 24/7***. See Prayer article *March Voice*.
- **Prayers for our nation's, local and state elections**. A timely **non-partisan prayer guide** from the National Day of Prayer Task Force. See Prayer Table and St. Mark website: *smlc.info* under the Prayer Tab.
- **Prayers for the Peace of Jerusalem and Israel** see Prayer Table for prayer guide and St. Mark website: *smlc.info* under the Prayer Tab.
- **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. Check with Connie Saunders, if you want to join.
- **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, *smlc.info*. 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, Intention Interim Pastor Steve, staff, church council and committees during this coming church year. Thank you, Worship and Music Committee and St. Mark Prayer Team.
- **ZOOM Weekly Prayer Meeting** - Come, pray and be blessed. Beginning Tuesdays, until further notice from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. 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.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2024

From the Desk of Intentional Interim Pastor Steve, *Continued from page 1*

Matthew 5:44

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Prayer is both an internal and external vision. We pray in all circumstances!

As we are loving God and all people, prayer is our foundation of how we do that. Prayer is central to following God with our mission statement. We pray to God and pray with and for all people.

Our Second vision statement is: **Worship**

Worship is formal and informal praising God for God's mighty deeds and Jesus' redemption of us and the world!

Isaiah 19:23

23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will go to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria. The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together.

Isaiah writes that God's intended reality is that all people worship God together. Even lifelong sworn enemies like the Egyptians and Assyrians would worship together. Worshiping God with all people is a central tenet of God's plans for God's people. Worship isn't for just the people we like, but for all believers in Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Worship can be formal on Saturday evening or Sunday morning. However, as we see with the disciples, it can also be spontaneous praise God for what God has done, even when we don't fully understand what that is. Worship is part of the great commission that leads us to share the good news of Jesus with all nations.

Revelation 15:4

4 Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

Worship is an internal action for St. Mark. We worship together. However, it is also something we can do anywhere and with anyone. As we have seen worship is part of our calling to love all people through worship of God anywhere. We share God's love as we worship God!

This was in a set of devotions that were written, however due to several factors, they haven't been widely read. It's important that we begin to understand and use them as we move forward to calling a new pastor. You've heard me preach on mission and vision many times. Mission and vision is a critical component to the future of St. Mark.

The council has a retreat this month to look at our future. The mission and vision will be a central part of that retreat. It's never easy to pick up a new habit and using the mission to guide the congregation is new. I equate it to learning to brush my teeth when I was young. At first, I would forget it and my parents had to remind me. More than once, I got up after going to bed to brush my teeth. I had to be intentional about thinking, 'did I brush my teeth?' After a while, I just did it because it was part of my morning and evening ritual. The same thing happens here.

We need to be intentional about using these tools to move us into the future. That's also why the time we're spending together is intentional interim ministry.

God's peace

Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

Save the Date!

Annual Church Meeting and Council Elections

When: Sunday, November 10, 2024

The Board of Elders serves as the Nominating Committee for Council Elections. The nomination process will open August 10, 2024. If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning more about the positions available, please contact one of the Elders.



Council positions that will be decided at the annual meeting include:

- **President-** 1 year term. The president presides over meetings of the Church Council, is the chief administrative officer of the church; and an ex officio member of all Boards and Ministry Teams. Currently serving: Cliff Ewert
- **Secretary-** 1 year term. The secretary keeps the minutes of the Church Council and of the Congregation and publishes and posts them within 15 days of each meeting. Currently serving: Kellie Rice
- **Treasurer-** 1 year term. The treasurer oversees and supports all financial planning, financial records and funds of the Congregation and publishes monthly financial statements. The treasurer also oversees the Bookkeeper and serves on the Board of Trustees. Currently serving: Brock Millsop
- **Board of Trustees-** 3 year term. The Board of Trustees oversees legal and corporate affairs, maintenance of properties and administration of finances. This person will oversee Stewardship Ministry Team. Currently serving: Laurie Kerns
- **Elder –2 year term.** The Board of Elders oversees the Pastor, the spiritual welfare of the Congregation, and its witness, worship and service. This person will be a liaison for the Worship and Music Ministry Team. Currently serving: Cheryl Bengston
- **Elder –3 year term.** The Board of Elders oversees the Pastor, the spiritual welfare of the Congregation, and its witness, worship and service. This person will be a liaison for the Evangelism Ministry Team. Currently serving: Rod Lunkenheimer.

If you have questions about any of the positions, you can reach out to the person currently serving or you can contact one of the Elders. Cheryl Bengston -224-436-3613 Rod Lunkenheimer -847-917-1304 Nancy O'Connor -847-902-8308

Greetings from the Call Committee!

The search process for our new Pastor is going very well.

We have completed our Theology training conducted by Intentional Interim Pastor Steve.

We have compiled a very comprehensive list of interview questions and are proceeding with mock interviews. The mock interviews will help prepare us for conducting interviews with potential pastoral candidates.

We are very excited to report that the search process is underway! The job description is complete and has been reviewed by Church Council. The open position and job description have been posted to several sites, both internally and externally, in accordance with the LCMC process.

The drone virtual tour will be available for candidates on the website for all to view.

The brochure is done and being sent to potential candidates.

We would like to thank you all for your prayers, support, and patience during this process.

Please join us in Prayer.....

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come before you with humble hearts seeking wisdom for St Mark's future Pastor. Grant the Call Committee discernment, endurance, and insight on your plan. Help us, as one body of Christ, to work together and according to Your will. Guide the heart of this chosen person to know, without a doubt, that St. Mark is their new church home. We thank you for your goodness, love, mercy, and perfect timing. In Jesus name, we pray, Amen.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2024



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

⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you^[b] will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. John 15: 7-8

Your St. Mark prayer team thank each of you for listening and answering our continuing call to pray as one corporate body to seek the Holy Spirit's blessings for St. Mark Church to:

- be a House of Prayer,
- faithfully engage in the Great Commission: so we pray for:
 - a GREAT REVIVAL, a third great awakening;
 - opportunities for ongoing DISCIPLESHIP:
 - ◆ a spirit filled teaching pastor,
 - ◆ Biblically grounded teachers to teach believers to bring about their spiritual transformation and as well as nourishing mature believers.

As we pray for revival in our nation, we ask God to stir up spiritual fervor in people's hearts (Ezra 1;1,5). So it is key to pray that God would stir up in people the heart conditions for revival that He has laid out in the Bible. Our culture has forsaken God, neglected God and even rebelled against Him. Mario Murillo says, "Before a great awakening, there must be a rude awakening." "Adversity greater than human self-sufficiency can handle will bring us to the end of ourselves and make us realize our need for God. It is the first step toward people's getting right with Him. Despair brings about the other heart conditions to which God responds."¹

So in this state of desperation note the following are prayer points for August:

- ◆ Pray **Psalm 139:23-24**: before you pray for holy desperation in others. Ask God to reveal any trace of being too comfortable, self-sufficient, and independence in your own heart.
- ◆ Pray according to **Proverbs 9:10** that America's moral slide, both inside and outside the Church, will fill God's people with holy fear and a burning desire to seek Him.
- ◆ Pray through **James 5:4-6** and **Revelation 3:15-20** for the Holy Spirit to open our eyes and burden our hearts against any worldliness and lukewarm condition in the Church.
- ◆ Pray through the prophecy and promise of **Zechariah 14:13-16** for the growing instability in the U.S. to bring about godly fear in our nation that will direct hearts to return to God and worship Him.²

¹Fanning the Flames of REVIVAL, Participating in the Continuous Activity of God, an IFA Prayer Guide. Intercessors for America. IFAPray.org

²Ibid.



**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

August 2024

Growing in Love with God: Practical Steps in Daily Life

When: Sunday September 8

9:20 am to 10:20 am.

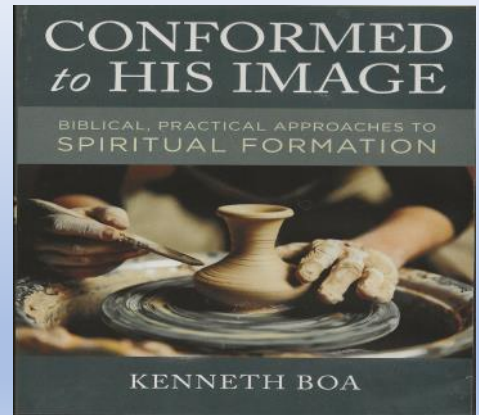
Where : West Wing of the Education Center

Materials: Optional

Facilitator: Barb Ewert

bewert@colsonfellows.org

**Ending your pilgrimage well
with CHRIST** Romans 8:29



A VBS THANK YOU

We dove in and had a SCUBA week at VBS. Many thanks to our VBS Coordinators - Beth Miller,

Julie Rick and Stephanie Flores!! And our VBS Music Directors - Wendy Weidner and Charlie Burke. WE COMPLETED GOD'S UNDERSEA ADVENTURE—THANK GOD!!

More thanks to our adult and youth leaders AND our Pre-K thru 6th grade children who attended.

**A reminder
about another
way we can all
help those vastly
less fortunate
than us!!**



Through a connection at FMSC, I found out about [Soles for Jesus](#). The Mission of this program is to provide new and gently used shoes to the people of Africa who desperately need them. Even though their Mission states "gently used", their website says:

They collect all sizes and kinds of shoes in any condition. Donations of shoelaces are also appreciated. Shoes of any kind, in any condition, even "unwearable", are accepted. SFJ provides shoes to people in Africa which helps prevent both injury and disease and allows children to attend school. No shoe ever needs to end up as landfill.

To help with your donation, I put a box in the coat room near the fellowship hall. If you have any questions about this program, please contact Mike Mol.

*"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40*

Here is a video about the program: [Soles for Jesus Promo Video](#)

BAPTIZED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

July 21st at St. Mark

Desiree Amaya Flores

Jayla Autumn Flores

Mia Ava Flores

Daughters of Stephanie and
Paul Flores III

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



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

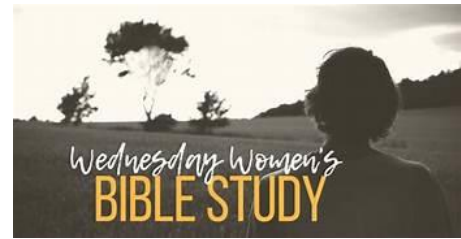
August 2024



Prayer Pals Needed!

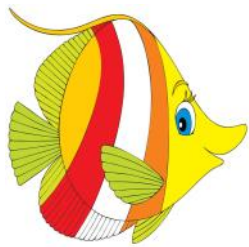
As we prepare to welcome our new Confirmation students, we are looking for 5 to 6 new Prayer Pals. Prayer

Pals are assigned a confirmation student to pray for during the three years of Confirmation. If you have any questions or are interested in being a Prayer Pal, please contact the Confirmation Committee at stmarkconfirm78@gmail.com or reach out to Beth Miller, Lynn Johnson or Johnna Morton.



Ladies, the Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study will begin again this fall. We will be studying the book of John using Melissa Spoelstra's Bible Study entitled *The Gospel of John: Savoring the Peace of Jesus in a Chaotic World*. We will meet from 9:30 - 11:30 AM in the Library beginning on Wednesday, September 11th. Please contact Connie Saunders to sign up and get a workbook.

Calling all women from 18 to 118. Sunday morning Women's Bible Study will be starting in September when Sunday School starts. We will be going through the book "God Never Gives Up on You: What Jacob's Story Teaches Us About Grace, Mercy, and God's Relentless Love" by Max Lucado. The book can be found on Amazon as well as Christianbook.com or logos.com. Make sure you order the book. There is a video study guide available, but we will not be doing the videos on Sunday mornings. I'm sure it would be great information if you want to do a deep dive into the material. We meet in the Ed Center in the East Chapel room on the main floor. Even if you don't have the book you are welcome to join us any Sunday morning! This is also a time to talk about the struggles and praises of life and how God is always with us! If you have any questions or need help getting a book I can help. Looking forward to seeing you in September. Pam Preston



Fin Facts

Did you know?

- When giving online, you save the church money by processing your donation as a check direct from your checking account rather than through a credit card.
- When giving online you can give a one time donation, or set up automatic payments.
- When giving online you can select general giving or special giving for designated funds like flowers, memorial gifts, building fund, etc.

As of June 30th St. Mark had \$394,840 in checking and savings accounts as well as \$60,000 in a contingency account. Giving is \$49,641 under budget through the first half of the year. Due to staff vacancies and careful spending, instead of the budgeted net loss, the church is running a net income for the first half of the year in the amount of \$41,163.

	<u>Budgeted</u> <u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
Month of May 2024	\$ 52,150	\$ 41,228	(\$ 10,922)
Month of June 2024	\$ 52,105	\$ 47,281	(\$ 4,824)
2024 Fiscal Year (Jan.– June)	\$ 327,170	\$ 277,528	(\$ 49,641)

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2024



UPDATE

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 someone to be the new "Pen Pal" for Wesley. A wonderful St. Mark'ian has stepped up and "adopted" Ruma! Could anyone "adopt" Wesley??? St. Mark will continue to be the financial sponsor, but we are looking for a person or family to be the new writing correspondent. 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 Wesley, 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](https://www.compassion.org).

Your



Update!!

Because of St. Mark's wonderful Rummage Sale, our next packing session has been moved back a week. So instead of the first Saturday of the month, we will now be packing Saturday, **August 10th**, at 8:45. ([August's FMSC Sign Up Link - NEW DATE!!!](#)) If this date doesn't work for you or your family, please feel free to sign up anytime you are able. Here is the link to use to find times to sign up! ([FMSC Sign Up](#))

Another amazing update -- through St. Mark's wonderful generosity, **652 Bibles** have been taken from the site -- free of charge. Since we started this, on 8/15/2023, that is just hair short of 2 Bibles a day!!!

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40

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 Lindholm or Nancy O'Connor



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2024



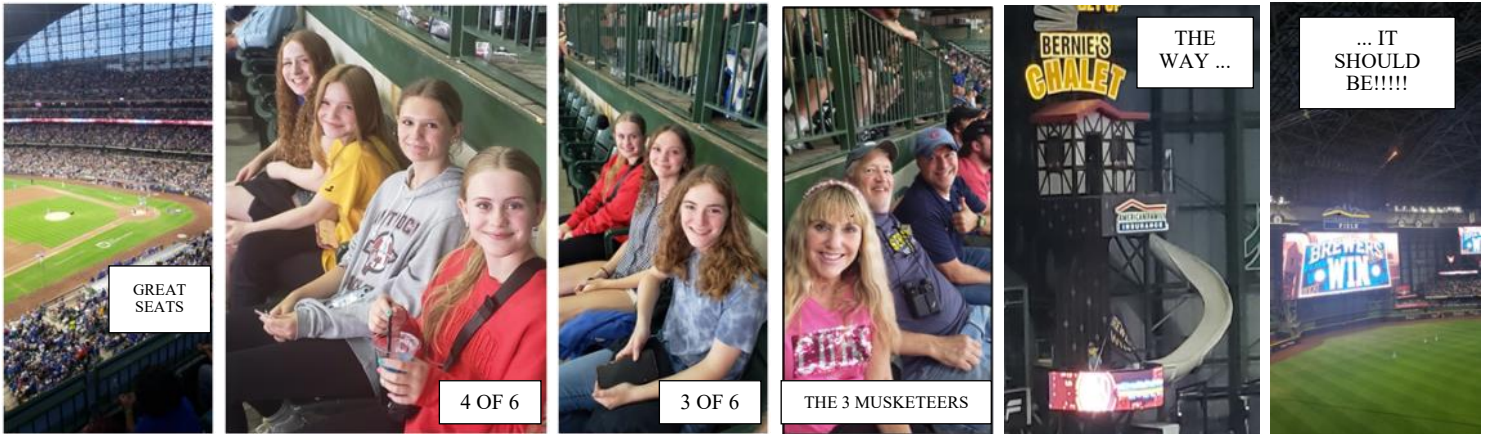
C/3 Youth Group Updates & Information

I'm not sure if any peanuts or Cracker Jack were purchased but 9 of us, through the VERY GENOUROUS donation of a wonderful St. Mark'ian, got to attend the Brewers/Cubs game on Friday night, June 28th. Six HS students and 3 chaperones had a great time at the ol' ballpark! I'm pretty sure only 1 of us went home happy with the outcome though! See pics below.

Our last 2 meetings of the summer are planned for August 4th and 18th. As always, any students (and friends) currently going into high school through college-students-to-be are more than welcome to attend. (C/3 Alumni are always welcomed back!!)



KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR OUR FALL KICK-OFF EVENT!



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 August are Canned pasta (Spaghetti-o's, canned ravioli) / Cereal / Baby Food . Any nonperishable food is always appreciated.

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



Hello St Mark members!
I'm so excited to let you know that the church directories are now available. If you have not yet received yours, please contact me, Patty Lindholm at 847-902-9673

or at lindholm_patricia@yahoo.com; or Stevie Bass, at 847-356-8140 or Stevie@smlc.info.

I just want to thank everyone for their patience during this process and I hope you enjoy your new church directory!

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August 2024



St. Mark Benevolence Recipient

This year's Kindred Life Summer Retreat was titled "Don't Waste a Day." We gathered clients and mentors from all three of our offices at the beautiful Pringle Nature Center in Bristol, WI for a day of community building, rest and restoration.

Everyone was excited to try geocaching for the first time, and we listened to a message after lunch with the challenge to not waste our days by worrying. After listening to singer/songwriter Jess Ray's song Lilies and Sparrows, our Gurnee Program Director Kristin shared that while the world and our culture might tell us that we

waste time by not being productive, the Bible has a different image for us!

As a personal response, each of us crumpled up, and threw away papers with a worry that was holding us back. The group decided to leave walking into a new freedom from fear. As the song reminded us, "Don't waste today being scared of tomorrow."

Thank you for helping teen parents find freedom.

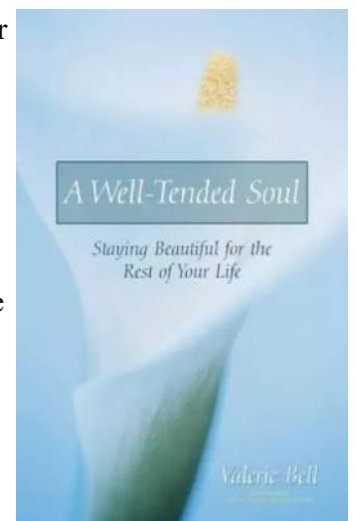
Sincerely,

Eliza LaBelle



A Well-Tended Soul

This month's book selection, *A Well-Tended Soul* by Valerie Bell is for the ladies. You can go to a mirror to find out how your body is doing, but how can you get a picture of your soul? *A Well-Tended Soul* holds a mirror up to your life for a refreshing, unabashedly feminine look at spiritual formation. Valerie Bell shows how to start building a life of incredible richness as you become more internally focused, forming your soul to God's own heart. A well-tended soul is a woman's beautifier. Soul-care weeds out what is malignant and false and builds in what is lovely, worthy, and redemptive. With refreshing candor, empathy, and earthiness, Bell uses her own experiences to help you - Live a deeper, more genuinely connected life - Pursue your truest dreams - Shape the world around you with an authentic spirituality - Discover the power of thankfulness to uproot envy and loss - Build confidence, joy, and beauty into your life - Transcend the fears and losses of aging . . . and much more. You can find this book under call number 248.8 BEL.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2024



Lay Reader List for August



If you are unable to read on a specific Sunday, please switch with someone on the list **and notify the office**. The readings for both Saturdays and Sundays will be out the week before you read.

Saturday, August 3rd	5:30 PM	Johnna Morten
Sunday, August 4th	9:30 AM	Gary Olson
Saturday, August 10th	5:30 PM	II Pastor Steve
Sunday, August 11th	9:30 AM	Carl Norlin
Saturday, August 17th	5:30 PM	Lynn Johnson
Sunday, August 18th	9:30 AM	Jim O’Neal
Saturday, August 24th	5:30 PM	Kathy Kurth
Sunday, August 25th	9:30AM	Kevin Graul
Saturday, August 31st	5:30 PM	II Pastor Steve



Media Assistant for August



Saturday, August 3rd	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, August 4th	9:30 AM	Rich Sidley
Saturday, August 10th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, August 11th	9:30 AM	Jerry Gass
Saturday, August 17th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, August 18th	9:30 AM	Mel Ellingsen
Saturday, August 24th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, August 25th	9:30AM	Rich Sidley
Saturday, August 31st	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 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
8/13/24, 9/10/24, 10/8/24



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
8/15/24, 9/19/24, 10/17/24

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
Facebook.com/DivineSigns3.16
[Instagram@Divinesigns3.16](https://www.instagram.com/Divinesigns3.16)
DivineSigns.godaddysites.com

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2024



August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00PM Stephen Min. 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	2	3 9:00AM FMSC 5:30PM Worship
4 9:30AM Worship	5 7PM Call Team-Lib	6 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 6:00PM Choir Practice	7	8 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	9	10 8:45AM FMSC 5:30PM Worship
11 9:30AM Worship 6:30PM Youth Group	12	13 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 7:00PM Council Mtg. Antioch Pizza Tuesday	14	15 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	16	17 8:00AM Council Retreat 5:30PM Worship
18 9:30AM Worship	19	20 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 7:00PM Ministry Team Meetings 8:00PM Joint Team Meeting	21 6:30PM Confirmation Information Night	22 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study Wendy's Thursday	23 9:00AM Parent's Morning Out	24 5:30PM Worship
25 9:30AM Worship 6:30PM Youth Group	26	27 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center	28	29 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	30	31 5:30PM Worship

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

August 2024