

The VOICE

OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 2024

From the Desk of Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ,

I want to continue to look at our vision statements and how they help direct and lead us in what we are doing here at St. Mark.

Vision statement #3 is:

Provide opportunities and encourage people to grow in Christ.

This vision is all about sanctification. Paul says in [1 Thessalians 5:23](#) *Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Sanctify means to become more Christ like here and now. We do this through our worship, our many Bible studies, and any time we gather and remember Christ and his actions for us and our salvation. Our mission is Loving God and all People, we do this by being more Christ like and providing a place for others to do the same. John, in his gospel, reminds us in Chapter 19 to Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. I think John means more than the Scriptures, but also in our own actions and deeds.

Paul reminds us to provide opportunities and encourage people to grow in Christ; simply meaning to *be imitators of God, as beloved children.* [Ephesians 5:1](#). Paul says this in multiple places in multiple letters to the Church he started.

In [Matthew 28](#) *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,*

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2024 **COME JOIN US!**
Harvest Fest

Saturday, September 21st
Noon - 5:00 PM



CHURCH EVENTS
www.smlc.info/events

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CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or

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www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

The deadline for the **September** edition of *The Voice* is **September 12th**. Please Email articles to:

stmarkcommunications@gmail.com.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
September 2024



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Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 10th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, September 24th @ 7:00PM

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September 2024



Our Contemporary Service. . .

As we move into the future, a question has been raised, "Should St. Mark's Contemporary Service continue to be a blended worship service combining content from both the traditional and contemporary services or should the Contemporary Service be 'truly' contemporary?" The questions below need to be explored with sound answers to help guide not only our membership, but the new pastor who will lead us.

Regardless of whether a service is traditional or contemporary, the goal of any worship service is to totally praise and glorify God!

Research indicates that Contemporary Services are a form of Christian worship that emerged within the 1970s and 1980s. Contemporary worship typically uses modern music in a greater portion of the service than in traditional worship forms. The settings are more informal. Where contemporary worship is practiced in churches with a liturgical tradition, elements of the liturgy are frequently kept to a minimum.

A 2019 article by Dana Horrell, "What is Contemporary Worship" outlines some of the defining features of a contemporary service including music, informality, relevance and technology.

Music. It is basically an innovative use of music that is derived from popular music such as rock, jazz, and folk. Research shows that the majority of songs are about prayer or adoration. Another trait is to place the musicians in front of the worship area instead of the pastor.

Informality. A key to a contemporary service is informality in style, dress, speech and leadership. A relaxed style is promoted as part of the service. In some churches having snacks and drinks may be encouraged as part of the service.

Relevance. Years ago churches began to reach out to youth in ministries that met them "where they are." Some churches altered worship times and day of the week to fit with work schedules and family recreation time.

Technology: According to Ms. Horrell, "Dependence on electronic technology is ubiquitous in contemporary worship. This includes everything from amplified use of electronic guitars, keyboards, and drums in the employment of LED projectors and screens for song lyrics and video clips...."

St. Mark needs to attract more youthful families with children and there is a growing trend among some younger people to prefer the contemporary style of worship.

There appears to be no universal format for a Contemporary Service as every church who selects to have such a service defines the worship parameters for their own membership. Please note, St Mark has had great success with its current Contemporary Service format.

The following questions should be considered to help decide what type of Contemporary Service St. Mark will have in the future.

- How formal or informal should the service be?
- Should the service be led by a Pastor or Worship Leader?
- Should there be a Liturgy in the service?
- What type and how many songs should be sung throughout the service?
- Should there be a confession of sins during the service?
- Should there be a sermon or a Biblical message?
- What should be the musical accompaniment?
- Should a Worship Band be placed in the Altar area?
- Should there be a children's sermon?

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MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

The Greatest of These

In previous months I wrote about hope and faith. Now we consider love: “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13).

There are various kinds of love. You can love the Cubs, the Packers, or the Blackhawks. You can love your car—Subaru ads are based on this. You can love your patio or fresh landscaping. You can love your first cup of coffee in the morning.

But those objects of our love are exterior to us. They don’t love us back. They fulfill some need or desire. But we don’t have a personal relationship with them.

A lot of people have a pet in their lives, a cat or a dog. Some cats are aloof, and they let you know it. But I know a cat named Brutus that rubs up against you like a dog and wants attention. Dogs can be very forward in showing affection. They love their owners! They crave love in return.

Still, as real and important as pets can be to us, they are animals. We were sad several years ago when we had to bury our white German shepherd Wolf. But it wasn’t the same as the deep loss felt at the death of a close friend, child, or spouse.

When Scripture speaks of “the greatest of these,” it is referring to the love that God shows. For example: “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

As humans we have the capacity to receive and reflect God’s love. Theologians call this the *imago dei*—the image of God. We were made in God’s image: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27).

That image was marred when sin entered the world (Genesis 3). Still, we have the capacity, though now we struggle with misguided love.

Our love, human love, is noble and desirable, but it is imperfect. The standard for love biblically speaking is not what we desire, feel, or express, but who God is and what he has done in Christ: “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10). “Propitiation” means the Son bore the Father’s judgment for sins that you and I committed.

When we trust in Christ who died and rose for us, a new love arises in us: “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us” (1 John 4:11–12).

God’s love “is perfected in us.” That’s astounding! But believers in Christ have a front row seat on the love of God. God is infusing love into us: “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:5).

Fortified with God’s love by his Spirit, we find resources beyond the ordinary to love others—our spouse, our children, our neighbor, even those we may consider unlovely. Jesus’ words on this topic are haunting and challenging: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 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” (Matthew 5:43–45).



We may be thankful for the love that has been shown to us, by God and by other people. We may be sure that God is pleased as we, through faith in Christ and a personal walk with him, receive his love with a heart to show that love to others.

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.

Important decisions from August 2024:

The Council meeting for August 2024 was rather short with the only major motion being approved was to purchase additional Bibles for distribution at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville.

The 2025 church budget was on the agenda but was postponed until the September meeting for a comprehensive review.

St. Mark is Moving Forward

St. Mark moved forward by developing goals that support St. Mark's mission of "Loving God and all People" during a Saturday, August 17th Council retreat.

During this working session, the Council members reviewed our Mission and Vision statements. Members were divided into small groups to discuss and develop goals with the mission and vision in mind for what we want St. Mark to accomplish in the next year and then for the following three to five years. After small group discussions, we came back together to brainstorm. Together we developed overall comprehensive goals for the future.



Why do this work? St. Mark is in the midst of searching for a new pastor. This new pastor must be aware of, and embrace, the goals that were established. Forming these goals brings continuity as Council members change and keeps us moving forward. It will be important that Council reviews these goals on a regular basis to learn about successes and where improvement is needed.

Goals for 2025

- Attract more young people, those before confirmation and ages 18 to 25.
- Establish younger youth groups to learn what they need.
- Interact and have shared activities with other area churches.
- Form a task force to review the use of the Ed Center.
- Form a task force to focus on identifying community needs, especially children.

Goals for the Next 3 to 5 Years

- Hire a Youth Pastor.
- Establish a marketing and media team.
- Give Welcome Baskets to new people moving into the area.
- Re-imagine worship services and explore having an occasional outdoor service or have a service on a weeknight and decide on the format of our Contemporary Service.
- Provide regular community events.
- Form a task force and rebuild educational programs for all age groups.
- Have more congregational forums on important issues.

Finally, some members of the congregation may totally agree or disagree with the goals. Other members may have goals to add. Please consider becoming a member of the Council so your ideas can become part of St. Mark's future.

Cliff Ewert
President

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2024

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

An essential vision of the early Church was to provide opportunities and encourage people to grow in Christ. It makes great sense to make it one of ours too!

Vision statement #4 is to **Attract young people and provide what they need.**

In ways we are doing this also. Recent events like Parents Night Out and Parents Morning Out are designed to attract young people and provide what they need. When Jesus encounters people in need of help he instructs his disciples. In **Matthew 14:16** Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." Just provide for people's needs. As he traveled he constantly looked to the needs of others, even when they imposed themselves on him! Jesus knows that people, including young people, are lost and looking for help for physical and spiritual needs. In **Mark 6:34** it states, "When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd."

As followers of Christ, we need to have compassion on our young people and see they really are like sheep without a shepherd, tossed about by so many elements of our culture.

We approach our young people with patience and encouragement in a culture that doesn't teach patience and at times shows little encouragement.

God's blessing to you all as we continue to look at our mission and vision statements.

Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

Cliff Notes, *Continued from Pg. 3*

Or, is the current contemporary service the right combination of songs, confessions, and Biblical messages or sermons?

There are more questions that could be presented. I ask that you prayerfully seek God's guidance about our Contemporary Service so that St. Mark can move forward under God's will.

If you would like to share your comments on the Contemporary Service, send them to me via email to cwert41@aol.com. I will forward them to the Pastor, Elders, and Worship & Music Ministry for their consideration.

God Bless,

Cliff Ewert
President

Conformed to His Image: Biblical, Practical Steps in Daily Life

When: Sunday September 8
9:20 am to 10:20 am.

Where : West Wing of the Education Center

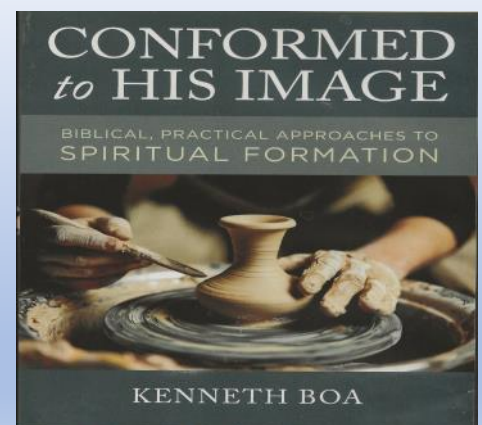
Materials: Optional

**Join us in our journey as we enrich our being to learn
*what our salvation is for in such times as these!***

Facilitator: Barb Ewert
bewert@colsonfellows.org

Ending your journey well with CHRIST

Romans 8:29



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
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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

Ongoing Opportunities for Prayer at St. Mark

- **St. Mark Church Corporate Prayer, *Appealing to the Holy Spirit 24/7.***
 - **Pray for St. Mark Church's weekly vision statement.**
 - **Pray the Call Committee Prayer** and the new pastor.
 - **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.
 - **Prayers for Revival** for myself, family, neighbors, communities, Illinois, our Nation and the world.
 - **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.
 - **Praying God's Promises for Israel** see Prayer Table for prayer guide and St. Mark website: smlc.info under the Prayer Tab.
- **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 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

September 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, and
 - continuing OBEDIENCE by St. Mark's Church to be faithful to the work of prayer.

We must continue and not waver in faithful prayer. For prayer is God's solution for our morally decaying culture. We see in the parable of the wheat and the tares: "*While men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way...* (Matthew 13:25) As the Church we must stay awake, stay on our knees and ask God to move in the hearts and minds of our church (and all our sister churches) leaders and attendees. To that end, the St. Mark Prayer team will share a focused prayer prompt focusing on our church, our nation, elections, Israel, and Revival in weekly announcements.

As a praying people, we are the watchmen who can hinder our adversary from sowing further destruction. Our world has become more unsettling while peace has fled. Pray as you put on God's armor. Christians STAND your ground. (James 5:16; *The effective prayer of a righteous person has great power. (Don't be weary in prayer; keep at it; watch for God's answers, and remember to be thankful when they come).* Colossians 4:2)

A Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

September of 2024: Sunday School at Saint Mark

Changes for Sunday School: Over the summer, Melissa worked on adding some more music in our Simply Loved curriculum. The Parish Education committee along with Pastor Steve has also changed, enriched, and added Sunday school confirmation activities for our middle school students. We also have a donated 3D printer that teachers can use this year! Denise and I feel blessed and want to thank all of our Parish Education committee members for the support with changes that will improve Sunday school for children and visitors. Visitors, volunteers, and helpers are welcome at the Education Center anytime during Sunday school from 9:20-10:20 am. We want to thank all the congregation that joined us for our opening prayer and bubble blowing event to start the Sunday school year!



Important Upcoming dates to Remember:

Rally Day is Sunday, September 8th

Fall Harvest Festival is Saturday, September 21 from Noon until 5:00 pm



SUNDAY SCHOOL

RALLY DAY!

9:20-10:20AM: ED CENTER!

MEET & GREET + CLASS TOUR

CHURCH!

Worship:
8:00-9:00am
10:30-11:30am

PARKING LOT FUN!

SUNDAY
Sept.
8th

10 Garbage Bags Full

You may have heard the rummage sale set a record this year on how much was made!! Thank you to all that helped make the sale a record-setting success and with the awesome cleanup. During the cleanup, any leftover shoes were set aside to be given to Soles for Jesus. Now, I don't know if this is a record but, besides what was in the collection box, we donated **10 BIG GARBAGE BAGS** full of shoes to be sent to Africa!!



The need is still great so if you have any new or used shoes and would like to donate them, the collection box is back in the coat closet off of the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions about this program or would like more information about it, please contact Mike Mol.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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Greetings, fellow St. Mark members! It's hard to believe that we are heading into the fall months already. Summer seems to have gone by in a flash this year! The fall is a very busy time of the year for our Congregational Life Committee. We are sharing information on some of our upcoming activities and we sincerely hope that you can participate in each of them. Feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or need more details.

Halloween Trunk or Treat

St. Mark Trunk or Treat will be on Sunday, October 20th from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. We're looking for church members to decorate their vehicles with a family friendly Halloween theme and pass out treats. Please send a text or email to Donna Bergl at 847-612-4565 or D.bergl@yahoo.com to let us know if you're going to participate and decorate your vehicle. This event is open to the public so please invite your friends and family to bring the kids to trick or treat. Let's build on the enthusiasm from last year and make this our biggest and best Trunk or Treat yet!



Holiday Dinner in a Bag



Please submit names and contact information for those that could use help in providing a Thanksgiving dinner for their family. You can turn in the information to Stevie in the church office. We'll be posting a list of items that are needed. We will also need volunteers to help pack up the items and deliver to locations in the surrounding communities. Watch for the sign up board that will be posted in the church hallway soon. **Have a Thrivent card that you would like to donate so we can buy fresh produce, milk and other items?** That would be so helpful and appreciated! Donation deadline is November 17th. The packing and delivery date is Sunday, November 24th.

Advent Soup Suppers

While it may seem like there's a lot of time before the start of Advent, it will be here before we know it! We hope you are planning to join us for the soup suppers on Wednesday evenings during Advent. The Fellowship during these suppers is wonderful. Plus, we always have five or six varieties of soup, great salads, and all the fixings to make many different kinds of delicious sandwiches. We look forward to seeing you there!



Soup & Sandwich Supper

Congregational Life Committee

Donna Bergl • Inicia Cholewinski • Shawn Frank



The kids are going back to school, the nights are getting cooler, and Christmas commercials are just right around the corner!! Guess what else is coming soon?? Our next fire drill – *yay!!!*

Your Safety & Security Committee will be in contact soon with the Lake Villa Fire Department to see when they are available to help us run the drill. We will also be in contact with the Worship and Music Committee to see when a good Saturday/Sunday would be. We will let you know about this drill and what to do during and after the drill but, if and when, we have one in the Spring of 2025, that one may be unannounced.

Two extra things:

- 1) If you would be willing to be a member of our First Response Team, especially people from the Saturday night service, please let us know. To be a member, you would be willing to be CPR/AED trained and be able to help out in case of an emergency before the First Responders arrive.
- 2) Tim and Mike would love someone to step up and be a member of this committee. We usually only meet every other month, so the time commitment is not a lot.

If you would like more information about our committee and/or would like to help us out, please contact Tim Rick or Mike



Update!!



First, hanks to Sammie Kerns and Danielle Wetterberg, that is me behind all that whipped cream!!! As you may remember, FMSC had a fundraising event where volunteers could donate to have staff members get “pie’d”. Our goal was to feed a family of 4 a meal a day for a year but our wonderful donors thought that wasn’t enough!! We raised over \$1500, which fed 15 people!!

Second - speaking of donations, through the offering taken during VBS, \$454.21 was given to FMSC. This is enough money for 1556 (just in case you didn’t catch that number) **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY SIX** meals!!

Third - speaking of feeding kids, how about feeding souls? Through St. Mark’s generosity, Bibles are being given away for free at the Libertyville site. This “program” started last year on August 15th and since then, over 2 Bibles **EACH AND EVERY DAY** have “walked out the door”!! God is good all the time!

Fourth - our next packing session is Thursday September 5th, at 7:15. Keep your eyes and ears open on how and when to sign up to volunteer. As a reminder, there are sit down jobs, stand up jobs, and move around jobs needed each and every session! If you have any questions, please ask or contact Mike Mol.

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



THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!



All I can say is Thank You God for what is probably our best sale ever!

Everyone who helped at the sale said the same thing. From the first donation drop off to the final box on the truck there seemed to be an atmosphere of cooperation and peace in everything we did. We had lots of awesome help everyday so no late hours working. New volunteers joined us and with our loyal crew, completed tasks that we didn't have to worry about. Almost all donations were in good condition and well sorted which made pricing and sorting so much easier. This all meant that when the sale opened on Thursday we were rested and ready to go.

There were at least 300 people in line between both buildings when we opened the doors at 9:00 AM and from that moment until the sale was over every one of our shoppers were pleasant, patient and thankful. I don't think we ever had so many compliments. We had less donations than usual but so much sold, cleanup was quicker than ever. Hopefully, this is a trend for future sales.

All leftover shoes went to Souls for Jesus. The veterans again came and took clothes for the Veteran's Closet in North Chicago. Fred gathered clothes for the scarecrows for the Harvest Fest. And at 1:00 we offered everything for free, which meant many people received items at no charge. Many of them were thankful and gave us donations of money anyway.

I want to thank every one of the volunteers for all you did to make this a fantastic year with no drama or issues. You are all super awesome and I hope to see you all next year. Right now we are at \$26,881. We have a few items set aside to still sell so we should clear **over \$27,000** by the time we are done!! That is a new record!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

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 September are Canned pasta Toilet Paper / Adult Toothbrushes / Toothpaste . 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!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2024



To all St. Mark high school through college-aged youth/ students and their parents – may God bless this year at school!!!!

By the time you read this, I am assuming all schools have started up and I hope and pray it has started off on the right foot for all of you – including you parents!! I also know some of this article may sound familiar to an email I sent out in August to all the students and parents I have information on, but **if you didn't get**

that email and have a son/daughter in high school, please let me know.

What should or can a High Schooler do during Sunday School time? There are several things available to do to help around St. Mark. (A list of possible options is listed on the C/3 Bulletin Board. And speaking of the bulletin board, there are 2 questions on there you can answer!) Here are two more specific ideas - please contact Denise Schaufel and/or Melissa Grandt if either of these options interests you:

- the Sunday School coordinators are always looking for helpers with Sunday School for the younger kids.
- they are also interested in knowing if you would like to have a Sunday School class just for your age group.

Along with the start of the new school year, our Annual Fall Kick-Off is coming up!! Keep paying attention to announcements for more information on this event!!

And if we are talking seasons, let's talk about summer of 2025 and our next **MISSION**

TRIP!!!! All St. Mark high school students (and friends) are invited to go on this trip but first I need to know - **are you interested in going???** I have been in contact with YouthWorks already looking at different locations but my second question for you is, **if you are interested in going**, would you like the other churches that you would be sharing the site with to have only high school kids, or would you mind being mixed with high school and middle school kids? ***I am also looking for a chaperone or two to go with me. You do not have to have a son/daughter going on the trip.*** Please, please let me know about your interest as soon as possible please!

Best of luck to all students this school year, please let me know if there is anything I can be praying for, and for my questions above, I hope to hear from you soon!! Also - as always, if you would like to help me out and/or have any questions, please let me know! Mike Mol

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2024



Noah's Nursery News

It's been a wonderful summer so far! I hope you are all enjoying it!

We are gearing up for a busy season in the nursery by supporting Sunday worship services and Sunday School hour as well as continuing with our Parents Morning Out (PMO) events still on the fourth Friday of every month!

Perhaps your friends, neighbors, coworkers or a family member needs a break from their routine with their child/children? Or they want to have them socialize with other children in a safe setting? If so, St. Mark provides a FREE 3 hour break with an opportunity to safely play together in a fun, active and supervised setting!

Our next FREE PMO event is on Friday, September 27th, from 9 am - 12 pm. Children ages 5 and under are welcome to join us! Activities and snacks will be provided.

Registration is required for this event and can be found at <https://smlc.info/events/>.

In other news, I'm happy to report that we had another successful Parents Night Out (PNO) on Saturday, June 29th! And a good time was had by all!

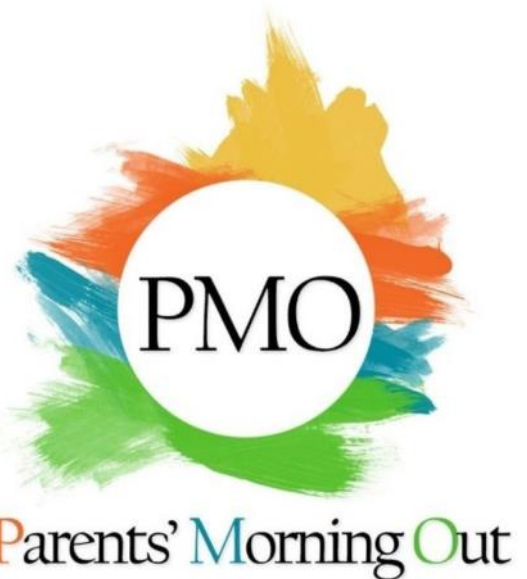
Stay tuned through the Voice and posted flyers regarding our upcoming dates which will be announced once determined as 2 more PNO events will still take place this year!


As always, we remain busy in the nursery between coverage during Sunday worship services, Sunday School hour, and PMO/PNO events! We look forward to seeing you and to providing these amazing services!

If you have any questions, suggestions or you'd like to volunteer in the nursery or during these upcoming events, please see me at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Richest blessings,

Deb Heide





**Sunday School for
2024-2025!!**

Sunday School Team Teachers and Assistants are needed and time is running short! If you are feeling the Holy Spirit leading you in this essential children's ministry, please contact Denise, Melissa, Lori or Jane.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2024

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND

Do you know what Stewardship is, would you like to? Contrary to popular belief, it's not just about raising money for the Church. Let's look at our story about Stewardship:

The story you are about to hear is true. The names have been changed to protect the innocent. The following interview is with Ed Norton and Alice Kramden.

Ed: You know Alice, this is my city, Lindenhurst, Illinois, I work here, I do Stewardship. In addition, I tithe a lot to this church, I volunteer my time for Altar Guild, I chair Altar servers and I work on Tuesdays with the Men's Group. My talent is a Locksmith and I provide my services at no charge. The way I see it, I own a big piece of this church.

Alice: Is that what you think?

Ed: Yup, all I know are the facts, ma'am. why?

Alice: Who do you think provides you with the money you earn, the time you have and the talent you use?

Ed: My boss?

Alice: NO!

Ed: My Wife

Alice: NO!

Ed: Then whom!

Alice: God. He provides you with everything.

Ed: Really!

Alice: That's what being a good Steward of God's church means. God has first given you your time, talents and possessions, signs of His precious Love. By doing all you do, it shows your appreciation for what God has given you.

Ed: Wow! God does really Love me

Alice: Yes, He does.

The dramatization above is to draw attention to the Stewardship Committee's upcoming Stewardship Weekend, to be announced soon.

Now before you get all worried, "Oh boy, all they want is to do pledge cards for more money." Even though we encourage tithing, that is not our focus during Stewardship Weekend.

Our program is to encourage the use of your time and talents to assist in so many committees and projects that already exist now. What better way to thank God for all He has provided you, than by getting involved in our many Ministries. Stay tuned and watch for announcements in the coming weeks.

Thank you from the Stewardship Committee.

Alice and Ed (Laurie Kerns and Carl Norlin) and Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

Ask Stewie:



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
September 2024



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.



St. Mark Harvest Fest

Join us for food, music and kid activities at St. Mark's Harvest Fest!

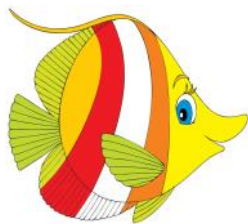
When: Saturday, September 21, 2024

Time: Noon - 5:00 PM

Where: St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1822 E. Grand Ave., Lindenhurst, IL 60046

Who: ANYONE! Please invite family, friends, neighbors. This is a COMMUNITY EVENT!!

Activities: Games for Children, Bouncy House, Scarecrow Stuffing, Bingo, Craft Vendors, Face Painting, Petting Zoo, Food Trucks and more!!



Fin Facts

Did you know?

As of July 31st St. Mark had \$383,700 in checking and savings accounts as well as \$60,000 in a contingency account. The cash balance has increased by \$80,000 over last year. Instead of the anticipated loss of (\$25,000) in the budget for the end of July, the church has a gain of \$31,000 through the first seven months of the fiscal year in spite of an average \$10,000 per month decline in budgeted general tithing. The gain is due to staff vacancies and careful spending.

At the 2023 Annual Meeting the Congregation stepped out in faith and approved an anticipated loss of \$35,850 for this fiscal year. The proposed 2024 budget will be published soon.

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	
Month of July 2024	\$ 55,090	\$ 36,356	(\$ 18,734)
2024 Fiscal Year (Jan.- July)	\$ 386,470	\$ 320,321	(\$ 66,148)

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
 September 2024



Lay Reader List for September / October



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

Saturday, September 7 th	5:30 PM	Johnna Morten	Saturday, October 5 th	5:30 PM	Johnna Morton
Sunday, September 8 th	8:00 AM	Cliff Ewert	Sunday, October 6 th	8:00 AM	Carl Norland
	10:30 AM	Deb Zuchowski		10:30 AM	Kristi Knull
Saturday, September 14 th	5:30 PM	II Pastor Steve	Saturday, October 12 th	5:30 PM	II Pastor Steve
Sunday, September 15 th	8:00 AM	Lynn Wetterberg	Sunday, October 13 th	8:00 AM	Bonnie Millsop
	10:30 AM	Bill Blecke		10:30 AM	Rhonda Doran
Saturday, September 21 st	5:30 PM	Lynn Johnson	Saturday, October 19 th	5:30 PM	Lynn Johnson
Sunday, September 22 nd	8:00 AM	Bonnie Millsop	Sunday, October 20 th	8:00 AM	Jim Schranz
	10:30 AM	Jerry Gass		10:30 AM	Kevin Graul
Saturday, September 28 th	5:30 PM	Kathy Kurth	Saturday, October 27 th	5:30 PM	Kathy Kurth
Sunday, September 29 th	8:00 AM	Betty Osterle	Sunday, October 28 th	8:00 AM	Cliff Ewert
	10:30 AM	Gary Olson		10:30 AM	Deb Zuchowski



Media Assistant for September / October



Saturday, September 7 th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser	Saturday, October 5 th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, September 8 th	8:00 AM	Mel Ellingson	Sunday, October 6 th	8:00 AM	Mel Ellingson
	10:30 AM	Jerry Gass		10:30 AM	Jerry Gass
Saturday, September 14 th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser	Saturday, October 12 th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, September 15 th	8:00 AM	John Gray	Sunday, October 13 th	8:00 AM	John Gray
	10:30 AM	Rich Sidley		10:30 AM	Rich Sidley
Saturday, September 21 st	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser	Saturday, October 19 th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, September 22 nd	8:00 AM	Mel Ellingsen	Sunday, October 20 th	8:00 AM	Mel Ellingsen
	10:30 AM	Jerry Gass		10:30 AM	Jerry Gass
Saturday, September 28 th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser	Saturday, October 26 th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, September 29 th	8:00 AM	John Gray	Sunday, October 27 th	8:00 AM	John Gray
	10:30 AM	Rich Sidley		10:30 AM	Rich Sidley

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
September 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
9/10/24, 10/8/24, 11/12/24



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
9/19/24, 10/17/24, 11/21/24

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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DivineSigns.godaddysites.com

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2024



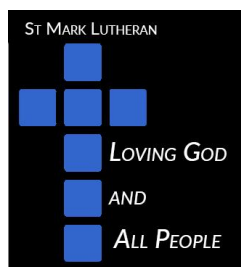
September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30AM Worship	2 Labor Day OFFICES CLOSED	3 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center	4	5 6:00PM Stephen Min. 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	6	7 7:00AM Mens Group 5:30PM Worship
8 8:00AM Worship 9:20 Sunday School AND Confirmation 10:30 Worship RALLY DAY	9 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	10 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:00PM Council Mtg.	11 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation	12 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	13	14 7AM HIS Ministry 5:30PM Worship
15 8:00AM Worship 9:20 Sunday School AND Confirmation 10:30 Worship 6:30PM Youth Group	16 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	17 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 7:00PM Council Mtg.	18 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation	19 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study Wendy's Thursday	20	21 Noon-5PM HARVEST FEST 5:30PM Worship
22 8:00AM Worship 9:20 Sunday School AND Confirmation 10:30 Worship	23 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	24 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 7:00PM Ministry Team Meetings 8:00PM Joint Team Meeting	25 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation	26 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	27 9:00AM Parent's Morning Out	28 7:00AM Mens Group 5:30PM Worship
29 8:00AM Worship 9:20 Sunday School AND Confirmation 10:30 Worship 6:30PM Youth Group	30 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care					

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
September 2024

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

*Address Service Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed*



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



Stephen Ministry

THE VOICE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

☎ (847) 356-8140
🖱 www.smlc.info
✉ smlc@smlc.info

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

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

**October
VOICE DEADLINE:
September 12, 2024**

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
September 2024