

# The **VOICE**

## OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 2024

### From the Desk of Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ

This month we'll look at how we are loving God and all people through vision statements 5 and 6.

Vision statement 5 is: **Share our gifts both materially and spiritually.**

We use our spiritual gifts to build each other up. Likewise, God has expectations about our sharing of our God given material gifts too.

*1 Corinthians 1* Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. *2* You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. *3* Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. *4* There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. *5* There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. *6* There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. *7* Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. *25* so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. *26* If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. *27* Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. *31* Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

Our gifts are very different from each other given to us for the building up of the body of Christ, the Church. The sharing doesn't stop with our spiritual gifts but extend into our material gifts given to us by God.

The very thought that we get our material gifts from God can be a foreign concept to us. Our culture teaches you have what you worked for and earned. James book calls into question that line of thinking.

*Continued on page 3*

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### CHURCH EVENTS

[www.smlc.info/events](http://www.smlc.info/events)

Complete Details Inside or

**Find Us** Online@

[www.smlc.info](http://www.smlc.info)

### ARTICLE DEADLINE

The deadline for the **November** edition of *The Voice* is **October 12th**.

Please Email articles to:

[stmarkcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkcommunications@gmail.com).

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**Save the Date!**  
**Sunday, November 10, 2024**  
**@9:15AM**

**Annual Reports and Proposed 2025  
Budget are available in the Narthex  
beginning October 10th.**

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

October 2024



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Intentional Interim Pastor Steve Abend | [pastor@smlc.info](mailto:pastor@smlc.info)

**CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR**

Stevie Bass | [Stevie@smlc.info](mailto:Stevie@smlc.info)

**OFFICE ASSISTANT**

Julie Hennelly | [Julie@smlc.info](mailto:Julie@smlc.info)

**MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN**

Rick Wilhelm

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Barb Griffith | [Barb@smlc.info](mailto:Barb@smlc.info)

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**VOICE ARTICLES, SLIDES, WEBSITE & FACEBOOK REQUESTS**

Put type of request in title | [StMarkCommunications@gmail.com](mailto:StMarkCommunications@gmail.com)

**Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, October 8th @ 7:00PM  
**Next Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, October 22nd @ 7:00PM

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# Let's Communicate!

By Cliff Ewert



I frequently hear that St. Mark doesn't effectively communicate with the members, or that the church does not provide needed information. During this past year there have been a number of initiatives to make more information available about St. Mark.

St Mark's Facebook website contains a variety of current information on members, events, services, and other important news that targets both the community and our members. Under the guidance of Donna Bergl, Facebook has become a major source for public information.

St. Mark's website at [www.smlc.info](http://www.smlc.info) is loaded with information and is currently undergoing an upgrade to make the site more robust. Under the direction of Webmaster Mel Ellingsen, this site contains information about our ministries, events, prayers, staff, etc. You can also obtain minutes on the church council and committees from <https://smlc.info/minutes/>. Recently, hackers tried to obtain information from our website so some sensitive information may be limited for security reasons.

Every Wednesday, Julie Hennelly, from our staff, sends out Wednesday Announcements via email of current events that are relevant for the week.

Current important information is also shared during the start of our worship services with important announcements to keep members informed on the work of the church, youth programs, Bible studies, etc.

And, if you are interested in our financial status or want to read the minutes from our Council, ministries, or committees you will find copies of these reports on the north wall of the Fellowship Hall. Every month new documents are displayed so the information is current.

At the September Council meeting a discussion was held regarding the establishment of a Communications Committee to better serve both internal and external communications. Better communication will help everyone!

If you have any suggestions for making our communications more effective, please feel free to contact me.

Cliff Ewert, President

## ***Intentional Interim Pastor Steve,*** *Continued from page 1*

*James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, These good gifts come to us from God not to horde, but to share with others. 1 Peter 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:*

Vision statement 5 reminds us to share the great things God has give us, both spiritly and materially with others!

Vision statement #6 is: **Maintain a safe and supportive place for people.**

As I read the vision statement I heard the word Sanctuary. A place to seek refuge from the world and all its problems and values.

*Psalms 18:2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

God provides a refuge for us out of God's great love and mercy for all people.

*Psalms 36:7 How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.*

It is because of God's great love and offer of refuge for all people that makes this statement so important. God provides refuge to all who seek it, as God's people we follow God's example of giving sanctuary to all people.

*Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

God provides a refuge for us in our time of need, God expects us to do the same for others. We are God's instruments of providing refuge for everyone and is an essential part of loving God and all people.

As we follow our mission to be loving God and all people vision statement 5 and 6 are critical places where God can make a significant impact on people's lives through us and St. Mark.

Next month we'll look at our last 2 vision statements.

God's peace,

Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

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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 September 2024:

Below are important decisions from the September 2024 Council meeting:

A motion was approved for a 2025 youth mission trip at dates to be determined. The trip will be to the Blue Ridge Mountains, Rutherford City, North Carolina.

A motion was approved for a bulletin board honoring congregational members and their relatives who are currently serving in the military.

A motion was approved to replace church siding at a cost of \$13,380 plus a 10% contingency fund for unexpected problems.

The 2025 budget was reviewed with some minor changes being made. Approval of the budget was made by an email vote.

A brief discussion was held on establishing a Communications Committee to better serve both internal and external communications.



If you or a family member are currently serving in any branch of our armed forces, would you please let me know. I would like St. Mark to honor them and pray for them by making a photo gallery that we all can see at St. Mark. Once you tell me who they are and in what branch they serve, I will let you know how big of a picture I would like. Thank you and please thank them for their service.

Mike Mol



## Maybe one good thing that came out of Covid was that we started our Helping Hands Ministry.

Even though we haven't been as busy as we started out, we are still receiving calls for help every now and then. With that being said, I would like to ask you two things:

- 1) If you are willing to be a "helping hand", please let me know. The time commitment for this ministry is not a lot and the work is not that hard. You just need to be willing to help people from St. Mark or the community.
- 2) I have been leading this ministry from the beginning but now would like to step down from that position. I would be more than willing to help you "learn the ropes" of what this position entails and would stay on as a helping hand. Please pray about this role and if you have any questions, please feel free to ask me.

Mike Mol

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# Greetings from the Call Committee!

First of all, I know we mentioned that the virtual tour is now on our SMLC website. If you haven't had a chance, please go and check it out. It is really a great video and gives a wonderful tour of our beautiful church and grounds.

Secondly, we held our first "mock interview". For anyone who is not familiar with what a mock interview is, IIP Steve provided us with a current pastor who we could "practice" asking interview questions of, so that when it's time, we may pose to actual candidates. It gave us the opportunity to experience what we may encounter in an actual interview. The experience was so helpful and insightful.

Please keep praying for us to receive more resumes and for our next Senior Pastor to reach out to us soon!

### Call Committee Prayer

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

*We come before you with humble hearts, seeking wisdom for St Mark's future pastor. Grant, 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 the chosen person to know, without a doubt, St Mark is their new Church home. We thank you for your goodness, love, mercy, and perfect timing.*

*In Jesus name, we pray.*

*Amen*



**BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS  
OF RUTHERFORD CTY, NC  
HERE WE COME IN 2025!!!**

**The location for MISSION TRIP 2025 has been decided. What I need to know now is: **WHO WANTS TO GO!!!** All current St. Mark high school students (and friends) are invited to go on this trip.**

\*\*\*I am also looking for a chaperone or two (especially females) to go with me. You do not have to have a son/daughter going on the trip. PLUS – you get to go for free!\*\*\*

On-line registration has not opened yet, but I will let you know when you can sign up. Each student's cost for the trip (around \$200) can be lowered by being involved with some fundraising activities we'll schedule in the future.

There is a sign-up sheet on the C/3 Youth board opposite the Fellowship Hall. Signing up does **NOT** lock you into coming **NOR** paying for the trip but gives me an idea on how many spots I need to reserve.

**Please, please let me know about your interest as soon as possible!**

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## Some Thoughts About Faith and Politics

I have always been kind of a political junkie. I have memories of watching political convention coverage with my dad as early as 1968. On election night in the year 2000, my wife went to bed around midnight and when she woke up around 6:00 a.m., I was still glued to the television. She shook her head and said, “Why are you still up?” And I said, “Because we still don’t have a president!” Unfortunately, I had to go to work that night. I was so tired that I probably talked about Abraham rowing the Ark across the Red Sea.

So, I follow politics. I read about politics. I have strong political ideas. And I usually enjoy the presidential election season. It’s an opportunity for the nation to debate important issues which will affect all of us for many years to come. And it’s an opportunity for each of us to exercise one of the most important freedoms that we have in this country – the freedom to vote for the candidate of our choice.

But then we come to the election of 2016. Many of you have asked me who I am going to vote for. I won’t tell you in this article. All I will tell you is that I will vote – I will not give up that right. And I will vote for someone whom I do not wholeheartedly support. The candidates who are running are not the ones that I would have chosen. But they are all that we have. So, I will make a choice.

First, I will examine the candidates’ positions on the political issues that are important to me as well as the social issues that are important to me. And then I will choose a candidate. I might have to hold my nose when I am in the ballot box, but I will choose. I will vote. And as I vote, I will remember three things:

1) God is bigger than politics.

No matter who wins the election this year, my first allegiance is always to my God. Politicians will sometimes let me down, but God will never let me down. Psalm 146:3 says, “Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.” This doesn’t mean that we should never put any trust in our leaders. It simply means that our ultimate trust is in God alone. Politicians are human beings. They are sinners. They are not saviors. Our only unshakeable hope is in the cross of Christ.

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers (and sisters) dwell in unity.”  
Psalm 133:1, ESV

2. It is our duty to pray for the next President.

Even if the person that I vote for is not elected. I will pray for the new President. If the new President has serious moral flaws, I will pray that God will change his/her heart. If the new President is pursuing harmful policies I will pray that God will give her/him the wisdom to change course. Paul says in Timothy 2:2 that we should pray “for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.” I will follow this godly advice from Paul.

3. We must never allow politics to divide the body of Christ.

Paul says in Ephesians 4:5-6 that as Christians, we have “one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.” As long as we are unified in our faith, and in agreement regarding the Word of God, we should not allow the political arguments of the world to tear us apart. We should be able to worship together, to serve together, and to share the Gospel together. In fact, when we display Christian unity, even in the midst of our political differences, we send a powerful message to the world. We tell the world that Jesus Christ means more to us than our party affiliations. And God is pleased. Psalm 133:1 says, “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers (and sisters) dwell in unity.”

Amen and Amen.

Pastor William Shields

*(Reprinted from the September 2016 edition of the Voice.)*

\*\*\*\* ALL ARE WELCOME \*\*\*\*



A Pastor Appreciation Recognition Cake will be served in Fellowship Hall from 9:15am to 10:00am on Sunday, October 20, 2024, in support of our beloved Intentional Interim Pastor Steve Abend. Please join us!  
BLESS OUR PASTOR INITIATIVE

Dear Church Family,

You are invited to participate in the “National Bless Your Pastor Initiative” traditionally held in the month of October. We are instructed in I Thessalonians 5:12 to “make sure you show your deep appreciation for those who cherish you and diligently work as ministers among you.”

To accomplish this, you are encouraged to show your appreciation for Intentional Interim Pastor Steve by preparing a card or letter that expresses this gratitude for the shepherd that God has positioned to guide and disciple us during our transition period. Place your note in the box labeled, “Bless Our Pastor Initiative” located in the Narthex. Your card may contain anything you wish to convey to Intentional Interim Pastor Steve, from a simple card to a letter detailing your appreciation or how he has impacted St. Mark or you personally.

On Sunday 10/20/23, the collection of cards will be presented to Intentional Interim Pastor Steve during a cake cutting reception between the first and second service (9:15am to 10:00am) in Fellowship Hall.

Your participation and support are greatly appreciated!

St. Mark Prayer Team



## from your friendly neighborhood Safety and Security Committee

- 1) We will be having a “called” fire drill for all 3 services in October so look forward to more exciting news and updates about that. Battalion Chief LT. Biggs from the LVFD will be here to assist us with and inform us about the drill.
- 2) In case you didn’t know, we have currently 2 AED units on site (one in the Narthex and one upstairs in the Ed Center) and 4 First Aid kits (one near each AED unit plus one near the Nursery and one near the SS bulletin board downstairs in the Ed Center).
- 3) We recently had 5 members of St. Mark’s “First Response” Team get recertified in their CPR/AED training. This team has been put together to help in an emergency before the professionals get on site. To be a member of this “First Response” Team, you need to be certified in both areas. We would love to have more members on this team - [ESPECIALLY FROM THE SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE!!](#) So if you would like to join, please let Mike or Tim know, and we’ll sign you up for the class to be held in the fall. There are two parts to the training - an online part and a hands-on part. A small fee is involved with getting certified, but our committee pays for most of the training.
- 4) If you have any interest in helping St. Mark stay safe and secure, please see Mike or Tim - we’d welcome you with open arms to join our committee! There are no prerequisites in knowing anything about safety and security to be a member - just the willingness to help. We usually meet on every other 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month but more often if needed. Thank you for thinking and praying about joining the team and/or our committee.

And finally, the members of your Safety & Security Committee are always looking for your help and are willing to listen to your suggestions/concerns/ideas regarding the health and well-being of those who attend St. Mark. Please talk to us if you have any questions!

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**ADVENT IS COMING AND  
SO IS STEWARDSHIP AWARENESS SEASON**

**SAVE THE DATES: SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS DECEMBER 1 THRU 22**

HOW DO WE CARE FOR WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US AS WE WAIT FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

**WATCH FOR UPDATES**

## Stewardship Season

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 Stewardship and how it is really meant.

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 Season

**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, then by getting involved in our many Ministries.**

Thank you from the Stewardship Committee.  
Alice and Ed (Laurie Kerns and Carl Norlin)

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**American  
Red Cross**



# Every Drop Counts: Be a Lifesaver Today!

Join us in making a difference in the world at our Annual Blood Drive. Your act of kindness could be the reason someone gets a second chance at life.

**Wednesday  
Oct. 16, 2024**

**9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
St. Mark Luthern Church  
182 E. Grand Ave, Lindenhurst**



Register to donate blood at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or scan the code:



**More information**

[director@llrchamber.com](mailto:director@llrchamber.com)

847-732-2465

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# Noah's Nursery News

Happy Fall Y'all! We remain busy in the nursery by covering Sunday worship services, Sunday School hour as well as continuing with our Parents' Morning Out (PMO) events on the fourth Friday of every month! So "Save These Dates": October 25th, November 22nd and December 27th!

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, October 25th, 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 the Nursery was represented at the Harvest Festival on September 21st, and we also had another successful Parents' Night Out (PNO) on Saturday, September 28th! In which, three new families joined us and a fun time was had by all!

In lieu of the 4th and final PNO for this year, I've decided to have a Parents' Afternoon Out (PAO) on \*December 7th, from 1 pm - 5 pm, so parents may Christmas shop/prep without their children, while they have fun instead with their peers at St. Mark! (\*Date subject to change).

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

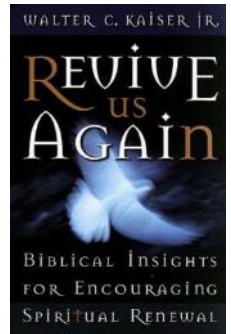
God's richest blessings,

Deb Heide



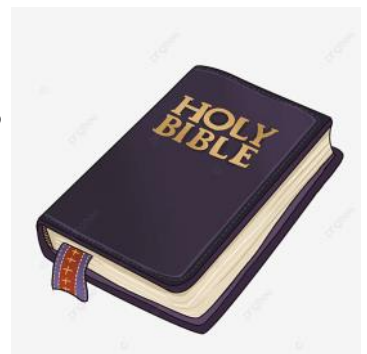
## ***Revive Us Again: Biblical Principles for Revival Today***

We have been hearing about true revivals in the present day. Have you ever wondered what it would take to begin one right here in our church, our community and our homes? Walter C. Kaiser Jr.'s book *Revive Us Again: Biblical Principles for Revival Today* is full of useful guidelines and suggestions for revival. With his usual scholarship and vision, Dr Walter C. Kaiser Jr. reveals spiritual principles inherent in the great awakenings of the Bible and shows us how to prepare the way for revival today. Revivals like those led by Moses and by John the Baptist provide us with clear examples of what God can do when His sovereign will is acknowledged and obeyed. Read this book and help prepare the way for revival in your community, your church and most importantly your heart. You can find this book under call number 269.21 KAI.



## **October of 2024: Sunday School at Saint Mark**

The start of Sunday School on September 8th went extremely well. Denise and I want to thank all our teachers, congregation, and students that came to blow bubbles, sing songs, listen to a prayer outside, and enjoyed lots of games at Saint Mark church. We hope to have our Sunday school students keep learning about scripture, but also focus more on prayer! Students always create crafts, sing songs, and watch videos while learning about the bible. This year our 6th through 8th graders will have enrichment confirmation activities during Sunday school. We are blessed that Intentional Interim Pastor Steve will be working with our middle school students at the Education Center



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## C/3 FALL KICK-OFF

DID WE GET LOST?? You'll have to wait until the next VOICE to hear how we did but I assume we had a blast whether we got lost or not.

We will get back to our "normal" every-other-Sunday night meetings in October.

Best of luck to all students this school year, please let me know if there is anything Deb or I can be praying for. Also - as always, if you would like to help us out and/or have any



St. Mark's next packing session is scheduled for Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, at 8:45 in the morning. Please use the following link to sign up: [October's Sign Up Link](#). 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.

If this Saturday morning doesn't fit into your schedule, please feel free to sign up for a shift or 2 that fits better into your schedule!! [FMSC](#)

PLEASE HELP MORE KIDS SMILE LIKE THIS ONE!



## On Going Opportunities for Prayer at St. Mark Church

- **St. Mark Church Corporate Prayer, *Appealing to the Holy Spirit 24/7*.** See Prayer article in this October *Voice*.
  - **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](mailto: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](http://smlc.info) under the Prayer Tab.
  - ***Praying God's Promises for Israel*** see Prayer Table for prayer guide and St. Mark website: [smlc.info](http://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](http://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 7:10 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.

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## **Knowing the Importance of BOLD Prayer in God's Eternal Work... Appealing to the Holy Spirit 24/7 for Revival and...**



### **Remembering...**

God's Promise to the Israelites as they were about to enter the Promised Land.

*So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the LORD your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you." Deuteronomy 3:16 Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you." Deuteronomy 3:18*

### **Noting God's faithfulness**

God's Answer to the church's petition in prison and his response.

*<sup>5</sup> But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him. <sup>11</sup> When Peter came <sup>[a]</sup> to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all <sup>[b]</sup> that the Jewish people were expecting." Acts 12: 5,7, 11-12.*

Read the fourth chapter of the Book of Acts which records just one of those daring prayers and the nearly unbelievable events that followed a time of very bold prayers. Most of us pray that God will do something *to* us or *for* us. But God wants to do something *in* us and *through* us. Prayer changes our heart from being self-centered to being Christ centered and offering ourselves to be in God's service unto His Glory. That can be done only through our cooperation, through our yielding to God in receptive prayer, first in quietness and then in action. Remember His promises to Israel and Christians are contingent on being "strong and courageous!" "Be not afraid!" The great "I AM" is with us . "Do NOT be discouraged!"

So it was for Martin Luther on a dark early evening of April 16, 1521 at the Diet of Worms after a previous night of audacious prayers declaring ... "I am bound to the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not retract anything, it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience, I cannot do otherwise. Here I stand. God Help me. Amen." Christ was the center of His life and Martin had the courage to stand before the great political and Church authorities of his day knowing God was with Him.

Today we are amid a 500-year historical geo-political turning point. As one writer, Dr. John Seel, stated "we're not in an age of change, but a change of age."<sup>1</sup> Our world as we have known is changing, so profoundly that our histories going forward are going to be altered. Thinking of the fall Rome (475 AD) and Luther at the Diet of Worms.

The issues facing the church stem from wholesale changes of assumptions, global actors, and personal experiences. As a result an American culture once grounded in Christianity has shifted overtime from a neutral to a negative and now to outright hostile attitude toward Christian doctrines, values and morality. This hostility is not conscious or explicit, but implicit, not personal, but foundational, and not political but cultural.<sup>2</sup>

Thus, we must first seek God through prayer so know Him, to love Him, to trust Him, to abide in Him, then to ACT in His will as Joshua, Peter and Martin did, thus glorifying God and His works. So friends, keep praying 24/7 as we seek the Holy Spirit and His guidance for St. Mark Church, our leaders, our members, our families, our communities, our state of Illinois, our Nation, our current leaders, our candidates, our elections, our world. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against <sup>[a]</sup> flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.<sup>3</sup> intensifying spiritual warfare. Let's pray...

O Lord, I thank You that You can use ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. The source of the power is not from us, but from Your Holy Spirit.

May I not set my sights low, but expect great and wonderful things from You, even things I do not understand. Sometimes I am gripped with fear and insecurity, and these are the times when I have taken my eyes off You. I want to be faithful to the many opportunities You have given me so that I will learn to look to You for all things.

May I learn the wisdom of abiding in Christ as a branch abides in the vine, so that I will draw my life and impact from You instead of trying to create life on my own. In that light do not let my emotions be my guide, but your living Word and wise Christians so on the day I stand before you I will hear the words, "well done good and faithful servant."

I ask for Your Spirit to exhort, encourage, comfort, and teach me in the times when I embrace the wisdom of obedience, and even in the times when I stray from You.

Because following Christ is not really about inviting Him into our lives, but embracing His invitation into His life. In the name of Jesus. Amen and Amen<sup>5</sup>

By the time you have this October *Voice*, please check out [A Call to Prayer for National Healing](#) materials focusing on the urgent need for repentance, corporately and individually to return the God of the Bible at our prayer table in the Narthex.

<sup>1</sup> Seel, John, "A Change of Age, America and the West Stand at a Civilizational Inflection Point.

<https://www.aaronrenn.com/p/a-change-of-age>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ephesians 6:12.

<sup>5</sup> Boa, Ken, [Transforming Prayers](#), Trinity House Publishers; First Edition, 2013.

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

October 2024





# MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

## *Trained by Constant Practice*

*Everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil (Hebrews 5:13–14 ESV).*

The words above call on Christians to grow up. They were written to a church, perhaps in first century Jerusalem, whose members were facing persecution for their faith. Some were deserting the church and going back to their former ways.

At the core of their problem, the writer says, is their failure to move past the milk stage. Young Christians learn about repentance and faith in Christ and baptism and basic Christian teachings and church practices. That’s a good starting point.

But God saves us from our sins through faith in Christ so that we will begin to feed on a more varied and nourishing diet. There is the meat of Bible study and weekly sermons. There is the bread of worship and communion with Christ. There is the constant practice of turning from sin and pursuing righteousness. There are the vegetables of living for God and others (our spouse, our children, our friends, our co-workers, the larger society) instead of serving ourselves.

At least such service can seem like vegetables. Over time, it becomes like dessert: we learn to delight in giving ourselves to Christ and his will for us, which is not to live self-indulgent lives but lives of caring, devotion, hospitality, generosity, and outreach.

As the passage above puts it, we have our “powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” We are weaned from the milk of the ABCs of Christian faith and practice. We do more than simply attend church, as important as that is.



See the snake? It’s a copperhead. It could have bitten me—it was lying in the dark garage on top of a trash can by the light switch. As soon as I turned on the light, I saw it.

By “powers of discernment” from observing many snakes, I knew what it was. “Trained by constant practice” of whacking weeds with that stick, I instantly nailed it right behind the head. Now it could not strike, being dead.

I hate to kill snakes—they are so beneficial in so many ways. We have black snakes and water snakes and garter snakes and many other kinds all around us. But I draw the line at copperheads in the garage.

But what if I had not instantly recognized that copperhead? Good thing I had discernment!

As Christians, every day our powers of discernment can grow “by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” Led by God’s Spirit and word, we can flourish on the solid food God provides.

Is your diet milk or meat? Not to sound dramatic here, but there are copperheads of testing and temptation lying in the dark ahead of every one of us. How are your powers of discernment? Are they being trained by constant practice?

The gospel invites us, not to sip from a cup that leaves a silly milk mustache, but to dine at a table of hearty fare that will satisfy our souls, benefit others, and glorify God.

***Serve The Lord With All Your Heart***

October 2024



# Lay Reader List for October/ November



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, October 5 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Johnna Morten	Saturday, November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5:30 PM	Johnna Morton
Sunday, October 6 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Carl Norland Kristi Knull	Sunday, November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Carl Norland Kristi Knull
Saturday, October 12 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	II Pastor Steve	Saturday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	II Pastor Steve
Sunday, October 13 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bonnie Millsop Rhonda Doran	Sunday, November 10 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bonnie Millsop Rhonda Doran
Saturday, October 19 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Lynn Johnson	Saturday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Lynn Johnson
Sunday, October 20 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Jim Schranz Kevin Graul	Sunday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Jim Schranz Kevin Graul
Saturday, October 26 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Kathy Kurth	Saturday, November 23 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Kathy Kurth
Sunday, October 27 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Cliff Ewert Deb Zuchowski	Sunday, November 24 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Cliff Ewert Deb Zuchowski
			Saturday, November 30 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	II Pastor Steve



# Media Assistant for September / October



Saturday, October 5 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser	Saturday, November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, October 6 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Mel Ellingson Jerry Gass	Sunday, November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Mel Ellingson Jerry Gass
Saturday, October 12 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser	Saturday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, October 13 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	John Gray Rich Sidley	Sunday, November 10 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30AM	Charlie Burke Rich Sidley
Saturday, October 19 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser	Saturday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, October 20 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Mel Ellingsen Jerry Gass	Sunday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Mel Ellingsen Jerry Gass
Saturday, October 26 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser	Saturday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, October 27 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	John Gray Rich Sidley	Sunday, November 24 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	John Gray Rich Sidley
			Saturday, November 30 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Johnna Morton

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

October 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](http://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**  
10/8/24, 11/12/24, 12/10/24



# 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**  
10/17/24, 11/21/24, 12/19/24

**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](http://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](http://DivineSigns.godaddysites.com)

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

October 2024



# October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center	2 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation	3 6:00PM Stephen Min. 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	4	5 7:00AM Men's Group 5:30PM Worship
6 8:00AM Worship 9:20 Sunday School AND Confirmation 10:30 Worship	7 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	8 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:00PM Council Mtg. Antioch Pizza Tuesday	9 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation	10 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	11	12 7:00AM HIS Ministry 5:30PM Worship
13 8:00AM Worship 9:20 Sunday School AND Confirmation 10:30 Worship 6:30PM Youth Group	14 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	15 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center	16 8AM Red Cross Blood Drive 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation	17 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study  Wendy's Thursday	18	19 7:00AM Men's Group 9:00AM Confirmation Retreat 5:30PM Worship
20 8:00AM Worship 9:20 Sunday School AND Confirmation 10:30 Worship  1PM Trunk-or-Treat  9:15 AM PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY	21 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	22 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 7:00PM Ministry Team Meetings 8:00PM Joint Team Meeting	23 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation	24 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	25 9:00AM Parent's Morning Out	26 7:00AM Men's Group 5:30PM Worship
27 8:00AM Worship 9:20 Sunday School AND Confirmation 10:30 Worship 6:30PM Youth Group	28 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care	29 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center	30 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation	31 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study		

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