

May 2025

From the Desk of Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

I've heard that it's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters. Over my life I've learned that this statement is most certainly true!

Recently we've hit a couple of bumps along the way during the transitional time. The situation was ugly and very disheartening! However, we didn't stick our heads in the sand and we didn't hide the fact that an unscrupulous person may have been taking advantage of the trust placed in them. We hit the bad situation head on and dealt with it.

First, we disclosed what we knew and we will continue to do so as we uncover new items.

Second, we had a couple of forums where we could have an honest conversation about not only what happened, but how it made us feel.

Finally, we didn't put up a gag order or tell people they couldn't continue to talk and share their feelings, instead we did the opposite and encouraged people to get out their feelings and frustrations!

It's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters! And I think St. Mark handled the situation with love and forgiveness in our hearts and minds.

Sometimes the measure of a person shows up in these critical moments of our lives. What I learned from the recent situation around our administrator is that this congregation is filled with God-loving people who have hearts of compassion and mercy, because that's what we've received from God ourselves.

Continued on page 3

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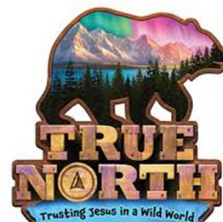
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Confirmation Sunday

Vacation
Bible School
June 16th - 20th

Registration is
open!



CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

The deadline for the June/July edition of *The Voice* is **May 12th**. Please Email articles to:

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

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 13th @ 7:00PM

Hello St. Mark Family!

It's time to lean into our future!

In the coming months, the people of St. Mark will be called upon to participate in the life of the Church in a few new ways. The first is by giving input on a new Constitution, Bylaws and organizational structure. This is something that has been a concern for some time and the Constitution Team has prepared drafts that will be reviewed by Council in early May and then reviewed by the congregation by the end of June. It is the goal to have the Constitution and Bylaws approved at a Congregational Meeting by the end August. More to come on this but suffice it to say, we would like as everyone involved in the vetting of the proposed drafts.

In addition to the Constitution project, recall in February we had a forum that allowed the Congregation to develop ways to live into our Mission and Vision? It is time to start working on this. After reviewing the data from the forum, The Transition Team identified four opportunities to allow us to live into our Mission and Vision. Here they are:

Having a Movie Night

Creating a Women's Bible Study/Service Ministry Group

Having a Community Lunch/Dinner

Developing and growing Youth/Family Ministry

There is only a basic structure on how to approach these opportunities. First, we need to create Mission and Vision Teams. Second, the teams will identify which of our Vision Statements these opportunities fit into. Third, Teams will plan how to accomplish the opportunity, and, lastly, they will implement. For example, the Mission and Vision Team could see that a Movie Night would fit into our Vision of attracting young people and what they need. The team would then plan how to do this by meeting to talk about what movie to have, what audience to focus on (e.g. families, youth, grandparents and grandchildren, etc), snacks, location (at St. Mark or elsewhere), and timing. Then, have a Movie Night. The goal is for the Mission and Vision Team to accomplish this opportunity.

Mission and Vision Team signups will start late April. There will be various ways to sign up. We will have the traditional sign-up board outside the Fellowship Hall. We will also utilize the back of the attendance sheets and the Transition Team mailbox (Transitionteam1822@gmail.com) as we have used in the past.

Living into our Mission and Vision is not for the Transition Team or Council to achieve. This is the Congregation's opportunity. Over the past two years, the Transition Team has learned a lot about how to shepherd the congregation during this time. One thing we have learned is the only failure that we don't want to face is not doing anything. If we are unable to accomplish these things, we will try again. We will succeed.

Please prayerfully consider participating.

In His Glory!

John

Intentional Interim Pastor Steve, Continued from page 1

On a side note: John and I had just had a conversation about me leaving and if it was time. We both agreed, St. Mark had grown so much during this time that you all were certainly capable and ready to be without me. After the situation happened, we both thought, 'well things have changed', but they haven't. You're ready to move forward without me because you truly believe that it's not what happens to you, but the way you react which is critical.

Leaving is always the hardest part of my role as an Intentional Interim Pastor! We've grown to love you and know that as we go our separate ways our hearts are hurting. However, this is the calling Penny and I received from God and we have embraced it, despite the hurting at the time to leave.

It's been an incredible time. St Mark has excelled in caring for Penny and me during the toughest part of my life! Penny and I will miss you all and your love shown to us will never be forgotten. You are all truly our sisters and brothers in Christ!!!

God's Peace,

Intentional Interim Pastor Steve and Penny



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

Below are important decisions from the March 2025 Council meeting:

- Council approved authorization to assign proxy for Church Mutual Annual Meeting to elect its Board of Directors. (Church Mutual insures St. Mark, which creates voting rights for Church Mutual's annual meeting in May.)
- Council approved the purchase of Albs and Rope Cinctures from the Memorial Fund.
- Council approved the creation of Robe Cleaning fund to have St. Mark's existing Altar Robes cleaned.
- The Church Council will be having a retreat on May 2 and 3 to review drafts of a new Constitution and Bylaws. Once reviewed and approved, the congregation will be allowed to review in a series of meetings in late May and early June.



Past and current Sunday school teachers, Prayer Pals and congregation, please come and honor our confirmands with their families on Sunday, May 18th at 10:30am. The confirmation class will be participating in this memorable service with II Pastor Steve celebrating Emily Andrews, Lindsey Floren, Natalie Floren, Lily Honaker and Rylan Walsh as they continue their lives with God's people.

Prayer Pals

Our 6th, 7th and 8th graders celebrated with a third get-together with their Prayer Pals on April 13th during Sunday School. A special thanks to the dedicated Prayer Pals who help guide our Confirmation students by keeping in contact with them and keeping them in their prayers.



Please prayerfully consider volunteering to be a Prayer Pal for our new Confirmation students starting in the fall



When have you last given thought to or reminded to set aside a daily time to focus on the practice of “Spiritual Disciplines”? Dallas Willard cites fifteen,¹ noting each is a mere tool to help us grow in working out our salvation. Certainly not a suggestion to practice all in a consistent or rigorous manner. Before dismissing a particular discipline and when the time is right trying it out for a week or so. Does it fit your temperament and your circumstances? Over time it is wise to occasionally engage in ones you would normally dismiss to experience their unique benefits.²

Benefits of the Disciplines

- Time-tested ways of incarnating spiritual life
- Vehicles for internal transformation
- Grows skill in living before God
- Equips with resources on three warfare fronts - the flesh, the world and the devil
- Confers perspective and power
- Disciplines replace habits of sin with habits that cultivate character.³

In the June/July *Voice*, a look at prayer as a spiritual discipline as well as an invitation to an **Interactive Prayer Workshop**, Saturday, June 7, 9:30am-3:00pm including lunch!

¹ Willard, Dallas, The Spirit of Disciplines. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1988.

Disciplines of Abstinence (solitude, silence, fasting, frugality, chastity, secrecy and sacrifice) and disciplines of engagement (study, worship, celebration, service, prayer, fellowship, confession, and submission).

² Dr. Ken Boa describes twenty spiritual disciplines. (solitude and silence, prayer, journaling, study and meditation, fasting and chastity, secrecy, confession, fellowship, submission and guidance, simplicity, stewardship and sacrifice, worship and celebration, service, and witness).

Boa, Ken, Conformed to His Image: Biblical, Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation, Revised Ed., Zondervan Academic, 2021, pp.72-87.

³ Conformed In His Image | Part 8 | (Sunday Morning Study 10/20/24) video. 13:13-16:45 10/20/24 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtXZbs0na2E>

Questions, comments email Barb Ewert - Bewert@colsonfellows.org.



If you or a family member are currently serving in any branch of our Armed Forces or any First Response Unit, 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 how they serve, I will let you know how big of a picture I would like. Thank you and please thank them for their service.

As I write this to you. Denise and I are reflecting on the past year. We have seen an increase this year on service projects. We would like to thank all the terrific Sunday school teachers who are extremely flexible when our congregation gives us additional service projects for our students. The end of the Sunday School year is always busy, but late this month our middle school students taught a lesson to our younger students and did an outstanding job! Denise and I are extremely thankful for another terrific year and want to thank IIPastor Steve, our teachers, assistants, and all the volunteers that came to support Sunday school for the 2024-2025 school year!



We had an informative meeting and many great ideas were shared. We are going to extend a 50 ft. by 25 ft. section to the garden in the ground where we will plant various vegetables and pumpkins. We are also going to make a trellis in the center row, from box to box, so we have a tunnel of vegetables to walk under. This will, hopefully, allow us to double our capacity. If you are interested in joining the group, reach out to Fred. Text him or call for basic duties and availability. The most involvement is to help with planting, watering, and in the latter part of the season picking crops and bringing them to our garden cart.

The planting date is May 17th at 9:00AM. We will post on the screens during services. We had a tremendous turnout last year. If you have a wheelbarrow to bring to expedite the process that would be awesome. Gardening tools will be available, but if you want to use your own feel free to bring them. Children and grandkids are welcome as well. It can be a great family event. Hope you can all make it.

God's blessings to all.

"Come Grow with Us at the Garden of Eaten."

On Going Opportunities for Prayer at St. Mark Church

On Going Opportunities for Prayer at St. Mark Lutheran Church

- **Pray the Call Committee Prayer** for the new pastor.
- **St. Mark Church 2025 Prayer Guide for Church, leaders and members and Youth Prayer Guide** on the St. Mark website under Prayer tab, *smlc.info*. Copies are also available on the Prayer Table in the Narthex.
- **National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 1-** See more details here in the May *Voice* and National Day of Prayer handouts on the Prayer Table in the Narthex.



Opportunities to Pray with Fellow Members

- ***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.
- ***ZOOM Weekly Prayer Meeting*** - Come, pray and be blessed. Currently Thursday 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 and Barb Ewert for Zoom link.

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](http://www.compassioninternational.org).



Greetings from the Call Committee!

Greetings from the Call Committee!

As we reflect on Easter 2025, we can all be encouraged by the hope, renewal, and promise for the future of St Mark!

The Call Committee is actively reaching out to other religious leaders, friends, business acquaintances, and on-line resume searches to seek candidates who are looking for opportunities to serve as Senior/Lead Pastors. We have updated the job description and have reposted it on the LCMC website. We have also re-sent the trifold brochure in hopes that now that the busy Easter season is over, Pastors will have more time to consider other opportunities.

We are so encouraged by the upcoming spring/summer season! We can all be so proud that St Mark is one that any Pastor would be excited to serve. We are prayerfully optimistic that as spring approaches, we will see renewed interest in our Senior Pastor position!

As always, thank you for your continued prayers, support, and patience during this process.

The Call Committee

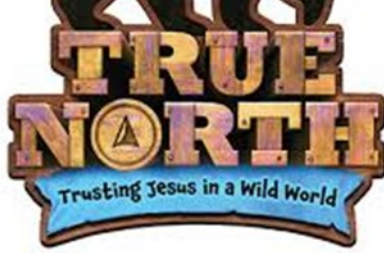
Call Committee Prayer

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





Join us for the ultimate Alaskan adventure! As kids trek the tundra, we'll build a rock-solid foundation and point them to Jesus, their unmovable, unshakable friend forever!

When: Monday, June 16th – Friday, June 20th

Time: 9:00 am - Noon

Who: Preschoolers (3-years old and potty-independent) through 6th graders (for the 24-25 school year)

KIDS & STAFF REGISTRATION OPENED APRIL 1st

Use this QR Code OR go to the

St. Mark website (www.smlc.info/kids/)



VBS SUPPORT NEEDED!

Putting together one of St. Mark's largest congregational and community outreach programs requires many people with various talents. **WE HAVE A SPACE FOR YOU!**

How can you help BEFORE VBS?

Adopt a prop: Can you follow directions to make some decorations or lesson props? Written directions and supplies will be provided. Work from the comfort of your own home and bring back completed props. Look for these opportunities at the VBS table in the Narthex.

Join our Decorating Crew: Want to have a part in turning St. Mark's campus into the Alaskan tundra? From building to crafting, we need all skill sets. We'll be meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays after Memorial Day. Look for more details at the VBS table in the Narthex.

How can YOU help the week of VBS?

Station Leaders: Using a provided curriculum, share the Bible story, lead games, make crafts, sing songs, or prepare snacks. Must be over the age of 18; will require a background check through St. Mark.

Crew Leaders: Experience VBS with a group of preschool or elementary kids as your crew moves through the different stations/activities. Must be 7th grade or older.

May 12th
1:00PM - 5:30PM



Join our First
Responders for coffee
between services on
Sunday, May 4th
9:00AM - 9:45AM

The 2025 St.
Mark
Rummage Sale
will be July
31st, August
1st & August
2nd. Collection
will begin in
early July. Set up will start around
the 2nd week in July. Start saving all
your great treasures and plan to join
us for fun, fellowship and
work. Questions ask Laurie Kerns.



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.



Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire and Overlooked Ways of Meeting God

This month's book selection is *Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God* by Lauren F. Winner. Winner, is a leading writer at the crossroads of culture and spirituality and author

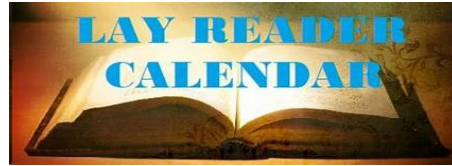
of *Still* and *Girl Meets God*—joins the ranks of luminaries such as Anne Lamott and Barbara Brown Taylor with this exploration of little known—and, so, little used—biblical metaphors for God, metaphors which can open new doorways for our lives and spiritualities.

There are hundreds of metaphors for God, but the church only uses a few familiar images: creator, judge, savior, father. In *Wearing God*, Lauren Winner gathers a number of lesser-known tropes, reflecting on how they work biblically and culturally, and reveals how they can deepen our spiritual lives.

Exploring the notion of God as clothing, Winner reflects on how we are "clothed with Christ" or how "God fits us like a garment." She then analyzes how clothing functions culturally to shape our ideals and identify our community, and ruminates on how this new metaphor can function to create new possibilities for our lives. For each biblical metaphor—God as the vine/vintner who animates life; the lactation consultant; and the comedian, showing us our follies, for example—Winner surveys the historical, literary, and cultural landscapes in order to revive and heal our souls. You can find this book under call number 231.7 WIN.



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, May 3 rd	5:30 PM	Johnna Morton
Sunday, May 4 th	8:00 Am	Lynn Wetterberg
	10:30 AM	Bill Blecke
Saturday, May 10 th	5:30 PM	IIPastor Steve
Sunday, May 11 th	8:00 AM	Bonnie Millsop
	10:30 AM	Gary Olson
Saturday, May 17 th	5:30 PM	Lynn Johnson
Sunday, May 18 th	8:00 AM	Betty Oesterle
	10:30 AM	Kevin Gaul
Saturday, May 24 th	5:30 PM	Kathy Kurth
Sunday, May 25 th	8:00 AM	Carl Norlin
	10:30 AM	Kristi Knull
Saturday, May 31 st	5:30 PM	Johnna Morton



Saturday, May 3 rd	5:30 PM	OPEN
Sunday, May 4 th	8:00 AM	Mel Ellingsen
	10:30 AM	Jerry Gass
Saturday, May 10 th	5:30 PM	OPEN
Sunday, May 11 th	8:00 AM	OPEN
	10:30 AM	Julie Rick
Saturday, May 17 th	5:30 PM	OPEN
Sunday, May 18 th	8:00 AM	OPEN
	10:30 AM	OPEN
Saturday, May 24 th	5:30 PM	OPEN
Sunday, May 25 th	8:00 AM	OPEN
	10:30 AM	OPEN
Saturday, May 31 st	5:30 PM	OPEN



2025 National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 1

The National Day of Prayer exists to mobilize unified public prayer for America.

2025 National Day of Prayer Theme is **Pour Out to the God of Hope and Be Filled.**

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13

2025 National Prayer <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/equipping/2025-national-prayer>

Notes on the National Day of Prayer Poster

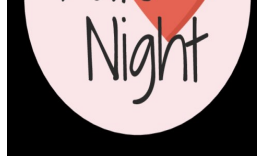
The Heart Behind the Art - Note the role of prayer in the creation of National Day of Prayer theme artwork. The title of which is "Our Only Hope."

The 2025 National Day of Prayer theme artwork was painted by an extraordinary United Kingdom artist, Julie Ann Scott. NDP Task Force president Kathy Branzell prayed and talked with Julie from start to finish in the painting of this incredible work. It was a powerful and prayerful process and Julie beautifully describes shaking and sobbing as she painted what the Lord was showing her, only after much prayer and fasting asking Him what He wanted her to paint, to show her what HOPE is all about. HOPE is the only way to live. HOPE is the only way to live. HOPE is the only way to live.

Held the second Friday of the month from 6:00PM - 8:00PM. The name of the study is "From This Day Forward."

Babysitting is provided. Bring a side dish to pass, the main course will be provided.

Date night is open to the public and you do not need to attend every month.



Cereal
Sugar Free Items



All non-perishable food is accepted always!

***Currently, 346 households visit Open Arms Mission each month, sometimes twice a month.

St Mark's Joyful Hearts - Singles Group

Joyful Hearts is a group for St Mark single people who get together for friendship and fellowship. The commonality and shared experience of being single is what brings us together. We believe that Christian friendships make our lives more fulfilling. Joyful Hearts is not a group that actively seeks dating relationships. We have been getting together once a month at one of our local restaurants for food, conversation and fellowship.

Additionally, throughout the month we have gone to the movies, farmers markets, local concerts, etc. If you are interested in joining this group please let us know (you can pick and choose what you want to participate in). This is a great way to get to know other members of the church!

Contact Patty or Nancy
Lindholm_Patricia@yahoo.com



First Communion

Wishing God's grace and blessings to our early communion students; Jayla Flores, Ellias Carbajal, and Ethan Koslosky, who made their First Communion on

Maundy Thursday with their families. May the love of Jesus fill their hearts and guide them throughout their lives.

KITCHEN DONATIONS

We LOVE getting donations for usage in the kitchen...but would you please leave them on the island counter. That way:

- 1) We will know the item being donated.
- 2) It will be placed in the correct location.

Thanks for your help!



PRAYER SHAWL WEEKEND!

On the weekend of May 3rd - 4th, we will be having a PRAYER SHAWL display! If you have been working on one, this would be a good time to get it into the bins!

If you know of someone that could use the comforting wrap of a prayer shawl, please come prepared to take one home.

The Prayer Shawl bin has been moved from the balcony to a closet in the back (former) Sunday School room. It is marked.

We also have an abundance of unused yarn donated. These remnants would be a perfect project to make warming scarves for the angel tree!! Guessing from the amount we have, it would mean hundreds of scarves!! This might be a good project for the younger ones



... closer...
July 19th – 26th

Spindale

NC

As you read this, we've had our first meeting and the group is fired up and looking forward even more to our upcoming adventure.

Speaking of the group, here is the list of this trip's participants: Ayla Appelt, Avina Doty, Abbey Johnson, Leah Koslosky, Erin Pasdiora, Joey Reimer, Lori McKenzie, Jeff McKenzie, and myself.

Please keep this trip in your prayers. A few of the things you can pray for are:

- Ease in the planning
- Healthy participants
- Safe travels
- To have the Spindale'ites open to our visit

We would also love for you to help us out financially to make this trip a success. In the Narthex, you'll find Stock Sale Envelopes labeled \$1 through \$100. Take the envelope with the amount you feel comfortable giving, put your donation in it, and return (at your earliest convenience) to either Mike Mol, Lori or Jeff McKenzie, or any of the participants going to Spindale, or the offering plate during service.

I have received information from YouthWorks about the area and thought I'd share with you.

Part of the Appalachian Mountain range, the Blue Ridge Mountains are known for having a blue hue when seen from a distance. Rutherford County – home to the YouthWorks Blue Ridge Mountains site - is known for Chimney Rock State Park and Lake Lure. These natural sites drive tourism to the area and were famously featured in iconic scenes of the movie Dirty Dancing. With its small-town charm, scenic parkways, and hiking trails, the area has much to offer.

While not lacking in natural beauty, the small towns of Rutherford County have struggled to provide other necessary resources for their residents. The county (comprised of Rutherfordton, Forest City, and Spindale) experienced economic challenges after the loss of textile mills and minting of gold coins which historically brought economic stability to the area. In recent years, projects in the downtown areas have brought new restaurants, shops, and tourism to the area as residents strive to revitalize their towns. Recently, many homeowners and businesses experienced significant loss after catastrophic flooding due to Hurricane Helene.

I know a lot of you have already asked me about this and here is what YouthWorks shared as their "Donation List". I will put a box in the narthex if you would like to help.

Donations: We are partnering with YMCA Youth Programming this summer for donations of arts and crafts supplies as well as games (e.g., frisbees, soccer balls, etc.) and cleaning supplies.

Something new this year is that YouthWorks also sent Prayer Requests before the trip.

- For this community: Be praying for the ongoing work and ministry of community organizations as they meet tangible needs of residents in Rutherford County.
- Continue to pray for partnerships that will happen in Rutherford County this summer and that we continue to build deeper relationships with the community members!
- Continue to pray for the community as they recover from Hurricane Helene and recent wildfires.
- Pray that as YouthWorks arrives for summer 2025, we can support the community well and add to the great things happening there already.

If you have any questions, thoughts, concerns, ideas, please feel to share with me. Mike Mol

God is good all the time. And all the time, God is good!!



Medical Reserve Corps volunteers collect donation from drop sites and deliver them to Lake County Veteran's Family Services and Veterans Path to Hope, nonprofits dedicated to providing housing, employment assistance, peer support, caregiver training, and counseling services to veterans.



Following the donation drive, Lake and McHenry counties will hold state-mandated emergency preparedness exercises in June. They will use the collected donations to simulate the process of unloading and distributing medical countermeasures in an emergency.

Some items in need are: Canned goods, pantry goods, household items such as cookware, coffee pots, can openers, household cleaning products, gas cards or Walmart/Target gift cards and personal care items.

Look for the DROPBOX in the hall near the fellowship hall.

At any point in life our burdens can become too great to bear alone. This is where a trained **Stephen Minister** can come alongside to help. Stephen Ministers are lay members of the congregation that have gone through extensive training to provide high quality, **confidential**, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting or overwhelmed by the burdens of life.



Stephen Ministry

You don't need to carry your burdens alone. If you — or someone you know — might benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, please contact the church office to and ask to be directed to the Stephen Ministry team. At any point in life our burdens can become too great to bear alone. This is where a trained **Stephen Minister** can come alongside to help. Stephen Ministers are lay members of the congregation that have gone through extensive training to provide high quality, **confidential**, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting or overwhelmed by the burdens of life.

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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



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.

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DATES: Second Tuesdays
5/13/25, 6/10/25, 7/8/25



Now Serving Breakfast!

Wendy's

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
5/15/25, 6/19/2025, 7/17/2025

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 Gaul

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May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00am Men Discuss Grp BYO breakfast 9:00am Quilters Grp 6:30PM Stephen Min. 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible	2 7-9pm Council Retreat	3 7:00AM Men's Group 9-2pm Council Retreat 5:30PM Worship
4 8:00AM Worship 9:20 Sunday School AND Confirmation 10:30 Worship 9am Honor 1st Responders in Lake Villa & Lindenhurst	5 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7-8:45PM FMSC 7:30PM AA	6 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00PM Choir Practice	7 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation	8 8:00am Men Discuss Grp BYO breakfast 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	9 6:00 PM Date Night	10 7:00AM HIS Ministry 5:30PM Worship 11:30-2:00pm Pick up flowers at Bethel Lutheran Church for the Cool Plant Sale
11 8:00AM Worship 9:20 Sunday School AND Confirmation 10:30 Worship 6:30PM Youth Group	12 10:00AM AL-Anon 1:00 PM –5:00 PM Blood Drive 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:30PM AA	13 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:00PM Council Mtg.	14 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation	15 8:00am Men Discuss Grp BYO breakfast 9:00 Quilters Grp 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	16	17 7:00AM Men's Group 9:00 am Garden Club Planting Day! 5:30PM Worship
18 8:00AM Worship 9:20 Sunday School AND Confirmation 10:30 Worship Confirmation Sunday 10:30am	19 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:30PM AA	20 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 11:15am Counters Brunch 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00PM Choir Practice	21 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation	22 8:00am Men Discuss Grp BYO breakfast 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	23 9:00AM Parent's Morning Out	24 7:00AM Men's Group 5:30PM Worship
25 8:00AM Worship 9:20 Sunday School AND Confirmation 10:30 Worship 9:20-10:20 VBS Kick-off 6:30PM Youth Group	26 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:30PM AA	27 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00PM Choir Practice	28 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation	29 8:00am Men Discuss Grp BYO breakfast 7:00PM Arise Practice 7:00PM Adult Bible Study	30	31 7:00AM Men's Group 5:30PM Worship



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 Jullie@smlc.info

**June/July 2025
VOICE DEADLINE:**