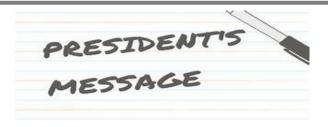


The VOICE

OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 2025



by John Bengston

Hello St. Mark Family,

Back to school time and Fall is right around the corner. I want to highlight a few things.

In late August, Council approved retaining Vanderbloemen, a Christian Staffing and Consulting Firm to work with the Call Committee in the search for a new Pastor. Vanderbloemen is well-known and comes highly recommended. The Call Committee will continue to drive the call process and Vanderbloemen will be assisting in finding qualified candidates. Please continue to pray for St. Mark and encourage our Call Committee as the work they are doing is so important. Many thanks to the entire team: Shawn Frank, Kevin Graul, Kevin Korom, Patty Lindholm, Karissa McGill, Pam Preston, and Tom Sanderson.

At the September Council meeting, Council voted to recommend the adoption of a new Constitution and Bylaws. This is the result of the Constitution Committee's hard work and the input of the Congregation at the Forums in August. The Congregation will vote on the adoption of the new Constitution and Bylaws at the Congregational Meeting in November. Final drafts are available for review.

Also in August we had the return of the Church picnic! I was unable to attend, but I heard many wonderful things. The outdoor worship service was also well received. I enjoyed watching the service on YouTube. Many thanks to Congregational Life and Worship and Music for putting this together.

We also had our first weekend of Healing Services at the end of August. What a powerful service. Our Prayer and Care Ministries did a wonderful job in coordinating these and thanks to Pastor Brian for shepherding us to do this service.

We are so blessed with so many opportunities, and I encourage you to look forward and support our Mission and Vision with your time, talents and treasures.

All Glory to God!

John



Sunday, November 9, 2025
One Service at 9:30 AM
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
Annual Meeting at10:30AM
Annual Reports and Proposed 2026
Budget are available in the Narthex
beginning October 13th.

In This Issue:

- ⇒ President's Message
- ⇒ Meet the Team
- ⇒ Council Highlights
- ⇒ Alpha
- ⇒ Stephen Ministry
- ⇒ Pop Tabs—30 Pounds!
- ⇒ Spiritual Gift of Prayer
- ⇒ H.I.S. Ministry
- ⇒ Thank You from Mike Mol
- ⇒ Call Committee Update
- ⇒ Feed My Starving Children
- ⇒ Love Notes Thank You
- ⇒ Home Needed
- ⇒ Outdoor Service at Stades
- ⇒ Open Arms
- ⇒ What's On the Shelf
- ⇒ Helping Hands
- ⇒ Safety & Security
- ⇒ Divorce Care
- ⇒ Sunday Bible Study
- ⇒ Trunk or Treat
- ⇒ Service Members
- ⇒ Parents' Morning Out
- ⇒ Wed. Morning Bible Study
- ⇒ Sunday School Announcement
- ⇒ Opportunities for Prayer
- ⇒ Lay Readers & Media Assistants
- ⇒ Compassion International
- ⇒ Support our Church
- ⇒ September Calendar

CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or **Find Us** Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

The deadline for the **November** edition of *The Voice* is **October 13th.** Please Email articles to:

stmarkcommunications@gmail.com.

Loving God and All People

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Interim Pastor Brian Metke | pastor@smlc.info

OFFICE MANAGER

Julie Hennelly | OfficeManager@smlc.info

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Jim Schaufel

BOOKKEEPER

Barb Griffith | Barb@smlc.info

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Paul Cramer | Paul@smlc.info

NURSERY COORDINATOR

Deb Heide

VOICE ARTICLES, SLIDES, WEBSITE & FACEBOOK REQUESTS

Put type of request in title | <u>StMarkCommunications@gmail.com</u>

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, October 14th @ 7:00PM Next Committee Meetings: Tuesday, October 28th @ 7:00PM



St. Mark Council News

To keep you better informed about Church Council decisions Council Minutes, Committee Minutes and monthly Financial Statements can be found on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Below are important decisions from the September Council meeting:

Motion to approve recommendation of adopting a new Constitution and Bylaws at the November Council Meeting.

Motion to approve the Active (Voting) Roster for the Annual Meeting in November. (There 298 Active members.) Motion to approve Patrice Sutton as an additional member of the Audit Team.



Every Thursday Night Through November 16th

6:00 - 8:00 PM

WHAT IS ALPHA?

It is a place to explore the Christian faith with others.

This Class is perfect for new members!

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall

Includes: Dinner, Video, Pastoral Teaching on Faith, Table Discussions, **Questions for Pastor Brian**

Each session includes a time to connect with others, hear a talk on some element of faith, and then a chance for people to share their own questions and perspectives with the group. If you want to listen that's okay, too. We create a nonjudgemental and open environment where it's easy for anyone who is an atheist, skeptic, or simply curious about faith to explore questions of life with new friends. Topics include: Is there more to life than this? Who is Jesus? How does God guide us? How can I resist evil?



We know God has created each of us in His image, however, we also know that we are each a unique person with no one exactly like us. Each of us encounters life events, situations. gains and losses that no one else experiences precisely as we do. Unique good times are great while our unique bad times are often difficult.

We all endure misfortune, illness and losses that no one else may experience in our very personal way. We may feel alone in facing life's very real loss, disappointment or frustration. We

know God loves us, but in the midst of pain or loss, we may lose sight of His comfort and healing. It is at such times that a Stephen Minister can help.

A Stephen Minister will listen, support and walk with you as you search for the way forward. This help is confidential, free of charge and available as long as needed. St. Mark Church is blessed to have a team of Stephen Ministers trained and prepared to serve.

When you, or someone you know, find yourself burdened or overwhelmed by events that you struggle to manage, contact Paston, Deb Zuchowski, or call the church office at 847-356-8140 to see if a Stephen Minister might help.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to donate pop tabs. In June over 30

POUNDS

were dropped off at Great

Clips in Gurnee!! They take them to the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Please continue to donate your pop tabs to this very worthy cause.

3

The container is located on the kitchen counter next to the refrigerator.

Wendy Rohlwing

Loving God and All People

October



A Time of Harvest and Transformation

The signs, scents, and colors of October arise each Fall morning to remind us that change is in the air. Not just the transition of the seasons, but a spiritual awakening. A growing sense that the Lord is blessing St. Mark Church as we focus on our mission statement: "As we are loving God and all people, prayer is our foundation of how we do that. Prayer is central to following God." "We are a people who are about prayer." "We pray in all circumstances! Prayer is about communication with

God through talking and listening. Prayer is an integral part of everything we do, both at church with the people of God and with and for the world." ¹

This blessing of our first vision, Prayer, is flourishing under the leadership of Pastor Metke.

Being faithful to one's daily prayer time and participation in St Mark's corporate prayer practices are vital to making the vision of prayer a reality. Note, growing your own relationship with Jesus¹ through scripture- based prayer is the cornerstone to personal spiritual maturity as well as to St. Mark church's spiritual transformation.

At the same time it is vital to:

- Ask for <u>spiritual protection</u> by faithful practice of keeping the shoes of peace, the breastplate of righteousness, and belt of truth on 24/7 and using the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Word and prayer <u>when called to</u> stand for Christ.²
- "Pray against all evil influences and messages dwelling in social media, mass media, education, multimedia, video games, cliques, medical "experts."
- Ask for physical protection for our weekly services, activities and ongoing ministries.

The fruit of the Spirit is the manifestation of St. Mark's CHURCH's REVIVAL! It is harvest time! Pray first, then ACT upon on pathways laid down by the Holy Spirit.

Questions, thoughts contact Barb Ewert, bewert@colsonfellows.org

²Tony Evans, *Weapons of Authority*, December 8, 2022 https://tonyevans.org/podcast_sermons/the-weapons-of- authority/ ³Ibid. Ephesians 6:10-18



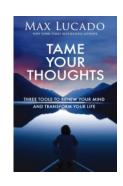
Every Month
2nd Saturday

7:00am Breakfast / 8:00am Training / 9:30am Adjourn

God loves up too much to let us be stuck with "stinking thinking." Learn 3 key thought-management tools to help deal with thought problems like worry, guilt, anxiety and other types of mental quicksand.

*Books and breakfast are provided. Free will offering.

We always have room for one more man. (15+) Send your contact information to <u>Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com</u>.



Thank you for my "retirement" gifts – I really appreciate them!!

St. Mark – you have always been so thoughtful and generous with the youth of our church and their friends. Thank you for that too. Please keep these young adults in your prayers. Also please continue to prayer for our next youth leader. Whomever he or she is,

they will have a great group of kids to work with!!

Thank you again -- Mike Mol



¹ https://smlc.info/what-we-believe/ St. Mark Lutheran Church, About Us.



Per the discussions held in Council President John Bengston's recent forums, we are happy to announce that we have officially hired Vanderbloemen Church

and Nonprofit Staffing Agency to assist us in our search for our next Lead/Senior Pastor. Vanderbloemen is a Houston, Texas based executive search firm that specializes in serving churches and other organizations in their leadership searches. We have been assigned an executive search consultant who we will be meeting with to go over our church's expectations and needs. Please remember, this is still a process, and change will not happen overnight. It requires patience and endurance from us all. This is an exciting time for our church!

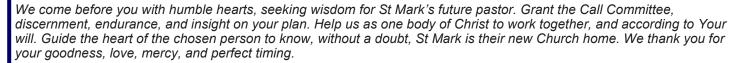
We will continue to keep you up-to-date as more information becomes available.

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

The Call Committee

Call Committee Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,





Two FMSC **Updates!!**

First – if you get this soon enough, our next packing event is Saturday, October 4th at 9:00 in the morning in Libertyville and here is the link to sign up for that session (Saturday, Oct 4th, at 9). If you can't make it to this one, our next packing day will be Monday, November 3rd at 7 pm and here is the link to sign up for that day (Monday, Nov 3rd, at 7). If you haven't seen in the Fellowship Hall, St. Mark has helped pack 155,088 meals – that comes out to feeding 425 kids a meal a day for a year!!!



Second – another way to help is to look on your calendars and see if you could help pack at Hope Filled Holidays at Pathway Church in Arlington Heights on December 11 - 14. This is what FMSC calls a Mobile Pack. In those four days they "only" want to pack over 850,000 meals!!! Open registration starts in mid-October so please consider joining a lot of people feeding starving kids. (FYI - the church is about 40

minutes south of St. Mark.)

As always, if you have any questions, please ask Mike Mol.



My cousin, aka best friend, Gae handed me a letter the other day with wishes from people on the prayer chain. Well, I have to say it brought tears of joy and thankfulness to my eyes!

Through my cancer journey, I have felt the love and support of so many people, and I have been very touched by it. Love makes a person stronger and able to cope with things that might otherwise seem insurmountable.

I am doing well and feel as though I will go through these times one day at a time with strength . I thank you all so very much for your support, and I know that God is holding us all in his hands.

Hopefully, I will be able to meet all of you at some point, but in the meantime, my very best to you.

Fondly,

Mary

Surget Dital & her family (the RIMI missionaries) are living in the basement of the RIMI offices....since January!!! They would love to find a 2 bedroom home/ apartment under \$1200. If any one can help them find something, they would be most appreciative!



On *Sunday, October 5th,* St. Mark Lutheran Church will help host an *additional* Sunday Worship Service at Stade's Farm & Market, beginning at 10:30 AM. Join us for joyful worship, uplifting music, heartfelt messages, and fresh farm air at 3709 Miller Rd, McHenry, IL. The service features Vern's Farm Report and complimentary donuts and coffee. Hosted by Pastor Brian Metke, Vern Stade, and St. Mark Lutheran Church. This outdoor, family-friendly gathering includes lawn chairs and umbrellas—provided for your comfort. Rain or shine, we'll be worshiping together.



(9:30a Traditional Service will also be held at St. Mark.)



Summer Open Arms Food Pantry

Please donate these items in October

Jelly Peanut Butter Soup

All non-perishable food is accepted always!

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

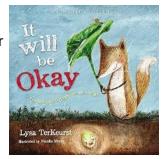


It will be OK

This month's book selection is a beautiful read aloud picture book to share with a child you love. For many children, the idea of growing up creates fears that are

sometimes real and sometimes imagined. How can kids learn that

even when they face new and unfamiliar situations, they don't have to be afraid? Written by *New York Times* bestselling author Lysa TerKeurst, *It Will Be Okay* will help kids discover that, in the end, it really will be okay because we have a God who is good and kind and always with us. You can find this book under call number E TER.





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:

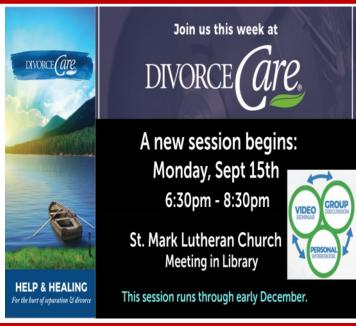
- 1) If you are willing to be a "helping hand", please let me know. The time commitment for this ministry is not a lot and the work is not that hard. You just need to be willing to help people from St. Mark or the community.
- 2) I have been leading this ministry from the beginning but now would like 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.

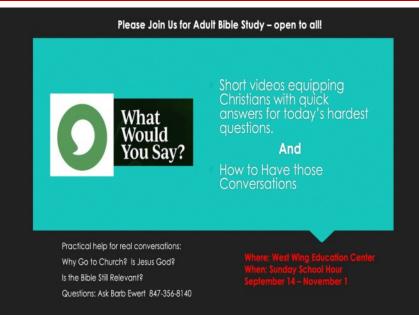
Mike Mol



Safety & Security Team is looking for help from those of you who attend the Saturday night service OR the 8 am Sunday service.

The S & S Team needs some more people for St. Mark's "First Response" Team from these two services. 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 CPR/AED/First Aid (the committee pays for most of the training). So, if you would like to join, please let Mike Mol or Tim Rick know, and we'll sign you up for the class to be held as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for making a St. Mark a safer place to be!!







Sunday, October 26th 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Decorate your vehicle with a family friendly Halloween theme. Let's get more church members involved than ever before to make this our best Trunk or Treat yet!

Use this link to sign up: http://bit.ly/48dKjyV Contact Donna Bergl for more info.



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.

Mike Mol



STORIES * GAMES * ACTIVITIES *

SNACK * FUN *

Women's Wednesday Bible Study



When: Begins Sept. 17th Time: 9:30am - 11:00am Place: Church Library

*Workbooks will cost \$17.00

Anyone can sign up by contacting: Connie Saunders csauntea@aol.com

Bible Sunday

We celebrated our third grade students receiving their Bibles on Sunday, September 28 at the 10:30 worship service. This occasion, an important event in their spiritual journey, will encourage them to be in God's word with the support and guidance of their family and our church community.



Announcement

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, November 9th due to Annual Meeting!

On Going Opportunities for Prayer at St. Mark Church

Prayer Literature located in plastic wall holders outside office.

- Pray for yourself confession, praise, thanksgiving, petitions, protection, participate in healing prayer end of October.
- Pray the Call Committee Prayer for a new pastor.
- Church council/committees 2025 Three Days of Prayer Handout. Plastic Wall Holders
- 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.
- Love Notes Updated weekly from St. Mark Prayer Chain and sent out on Wednesdays of each week round table in front of sanctuary double doors.
- Circle of prayer (pink sheets inserts/ handout) college students, prayer chain, homebound pray for highlighted individuals in your insert/handout during the week.
- Pray at the Communion Rail after service on the south side.
- Pray for one another as the opportunity arises.
- **Prayers for Revival** Pray according to Proverbs 9:10 that America's moral slide, both inside and outside the church, will fill God's people with holy fear and a burning desire to seek Him.
- Pray for our communities, Illinois, our elected National, State and Local officials, America and the world.
- **ZOOM Weekly Prayer Meeting** Come, pray and be blessed. Currently <u>Thursday until further notice from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. we will be meeting on Zoom</u> praying over the previous week of Prayer Chain requests, St. Mark Church and each other. Contact Person: Pam Burke 847-356-8140.



Lay Readers & Media Assistants For 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, October 4th 5:30 PM Johnna Morton Sunday, October 5th 8:00 AM Bonnie Millsop Sunday, October 5th 10:30 AM Deb Zuchowski

Saturday, October 11th 5:30 PM Taylor Houser Sunday, October 12th 8:00 AM Carl Norlin Sunday, October 12th 10:30 AM Gary Olson

Saturday, October 18th 5:30 PM Lynn Johnson Sunday, October 19th 8:00 AM Lynn Wetterberg Sunday, October 19th 10:30 AM Kevin Graul

Saturday, October 25th 5:30 PM Kathy Kurth Sunday, October 26th 8:00 AM Lynn Wetterberg Sunday, October 26th 10:30 AM Deb Zuchowski



Saturday, October 4th 5:30 PM Aleea Houser Sunday, October 5th 8:00 AM Johnna Morton Sunday, October 5th 10:30 AM Julie Rick Saturday, October 11th 5:30 PM Aleea Houser Sunday, October 12th 8:00 AM Johnna Morton Sunday, October 12th 10:30 AM Jerry Gass Saturday, October 18th 5:30 PM Aleea Houser Sunday, October 19th 8:00 AM Johnna Morton Sunday, October 19th 10:30 AM Julie Rick Saturday, October 25th 5:30 PM Aleea Houser Sunday, October 26th 8:00 AM Mel Ellingson Sunday, October 26th 10:30 AM Julie Rick



For those of you who don't know, St. Mark has sponsored two children through Compassion International for several years. We currently sponsor Ruma, a 15 year old girl from Bangladesh, and Weslley, a 19 year old young man from Brazil.

Along with this sponsorship, a few of us have been in contact with Ruma and Weslley through the years. We are now looking for someone to be the new "Pen Pal" for Weslley. A wonderful St. Mark'ian has stepped up an "adopted" Ruma! Could anyone "adopt" Weslley??? 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 Weslley, 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.

Support St. Mark & Local Businesses



Second Tuesday Each Month

<u>CARRY OUT</u>, <u>PICK UP</u> or <u>DELIVERY!</u> 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** 10/14/2025, 11/14/2025



TI

THIRD THURSDAY EACH MONTH!

Now Serving Breakfast!

<u>DRIVE THRU</u> 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** 10/16/2025, 11/17/2025

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 Graul

Phone or text: (224) 223-2786
Facebook.com/DivineSigns3.16
<u>Instagram@Divinesigns3.16</u>
DivineSigns.godaddysites.com



October 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 8:00AM Men's Discuss Grp BYOB 9:00AM Quilter's Grp 6:00PM Stephen Min. 6:00PM Alpha 6:30PM Arise Practice	3	7:00AM Men's Group 9:00AM FMSC 5:30PM Worship
6 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:30PM AA	7 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00PM St. Mark Ringers 6:00PM Choir Practice	8 6:30PM Confirmation Class	8:00AM Men's Discuss Grp BYOB 6:00PM Alpha 6:30PM Arise Practice 7PM Adult Bible Study	10	7:00AM HIS Ministry 5:30PM Worship
13 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:30PM AA	8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00PM St. Mark Ringers 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:00PM Council Mtg Antioch Pizza Tuesday	9:30AM Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation Class	8:00AM Men's Discuss Grp BYOB 9:00AM Quilter's Grp 6:00 Alpha 6:30PM Arise Practice 7PM Adult Bible Study Wendy's Thursday	17	18 7:00AM Men's Group 5:30PM Worship
20 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:30PM AA	21 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00PM St. Mark Ringers 6:00PM Choir Practice	9:30AM Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation Class	8:00AM Men's Discuss Grp BYOB 6:00 Alpha 6:30PM Arise Practice 7PM Adult Bible Study	9:00AM Parent's Morning Out	25 7:00AM Men's Group 5:30PM Worship
27 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:30PM AA	28 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00PM St. Mark Ringers 6:00PM Choir Practice 8:00PM All Teams Meet	29 :30AM Bible Study 6:30PM Confirmation Class	8:00AM Men's Discuss Grp BYOB 6:00 Alpha 6:30PM Arise Practice 7PM Adult Bible Study	31	
	6 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:30PM AA 13 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:30PM AA 20 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:30PM AA	10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:30PM AA	1 1	1	1

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

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



Service Times

Traditional

Saturday | 5:30PM

THE VOICE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday | 8:00AM Traditional 10:30AM Contemporary

TO RECEIVE THE VOICE ONLINE EMAIL Julie@smlc.info

November 2025 **VOICE DEADLINE:** October 13, 2025

> Loving God and All People October 2025