



The VOICE OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2026



by John Bengston

Dear St. Mark Family,

We are blessed! There is so much happening at St. Mark! God has a plan for us! God has us on a path! Please take time for prayers of thanksgiving for all that is happening and continue to pray for our search for a new Pastor.

At February's Council Meeting, we created a Benevolence Team to help seek out Benevolence opportunities and assist in vetting. Are you interested in participating in this important team? Please contact any Council Member if you are or if you have any questions. The time commitment is not a large one and is a great way to serve. Not your thing but you feel you are being called to volunteer? Not sure what is available? A Council Member can point you in the right direction or pick up a Ministry Book in the Narthex to see the different opportunities. Volunteers are needed everywhere and are welcome.

You've probably seen... Our Property Team upgraded the Education Center Kitchen which was followed by an upgrade of the Fellowship Hall Kitchen. What a great job they have done! So many wonderful comments: the craftsmanship, the colors, the tile backsplash, the cabinets, and drawers that actually work to name a few. Thank you to all who worked on these projects. More projects will be underway soon to take care of our building and grounds.

This past Sunday (February 8) we went live with upgraded media equipment. Many of you may have noticed that the Media Center is now in the back of the sanctuary under the Organ Brass in the balcony. Our media volunteers can now see the service!

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Holy Week

*Last Supper April 1st
Dinner/Theatre 5:30 PM*

*Good Friday Services
1:00 PM & 7:00 PM*

*Easter Services
6:30 AM, 9:00 AM &
10:30 AM*

*Easter Breakfast following
first service.*



**WEDNESDAY
Night
LENTEN MEALS**

Lenten Suppers are Wednesday evenings prior to the Lenten church service. We start serving supper at 5:30pm. Mark your calendars for March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th.

CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

stmarkcommunications@gmail.com.

Loving God and All People

March 2026



ST. MARK COUNCIL

PRESIDENT
John Bengston

VICE PRESIDENT
Robin Korom

COUNCIL SECRETARY
Susie Soukup

FINANCIAL TREASURER
Bill Renninger

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Robin Korom	Todd Korth	Johnna Morton
Keith Niles	Nancy O'Connor	Kathy Shelley

ST. MARK MINISTRY TEAMS

FELLOWSHIP

*Supported by Council Member
Johnna Morton*

Donna Bergl
Tricia Cholewinski
Shawn Frank

HUMAN RESOURCES

*Supported by:
Church Council*

Jerry Gass Laurie Kerns
Scott Soukup

SAFETY & SECURITY

*Supported by:
Church Council*

Mike Mol Tim Rick

FINANCE

*Supported by Treasurer
Bill Renninger*

Brock Millsop	Pam Preston
Sharon Wick	Lynn Wetterberg

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

*Supported by Council Member
Nancy O'Connor*

Melissa Grandt	Lori McKenzie
Jane Milani	Dean Miller

OUTREACH

Supported by Council Member Todd Korth

Chris Holmes	Laurie Kerns
Rod Lunkenheimer	Jeff McKenzie
Fred Natschke	Kurt Ulbricht

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

*Supported by Council Member
Keith Niles*

Robin Korom Jim Schaufel

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

*Supported by Council Member
Robin Korom*

Laurie Kerns Carl Norlin

PRAYER, WORSHIP & MUSIC

*Supported by Council Member:
Kathy Shelley*

Cheryl Bengston
Charlie Burke
Wendy Weidner

INTERIM PASTOR

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 | StMarkCommunications@gmail.com

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 10th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meetings: Tuesday, March 24th @ 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 February Council meeting:

Motion approving use of restricted rummage sale funds to pay for the Kitchen projects in the Education Center and Fellowship Hall.

Motion approving Lou Korom, Jerry Doran, Jill Decker, Wendy Lord, Bonnie Wagner, Patti Lindholm, Pam Preston, Brock Millsop, Sharon Wick, and Lynn Wetterberg to serve on the Audit Team. (The Audit is tentatively set for March 23.)

Motion approving the formation of an Ad Hoc Benevolence Team with appointments to follow.

Motion approving Lynn Wetterberg, Pam Preston, Brock Millsop and Sharon Wick to the Finance Committee.

This year's Lent Supper dates are: 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, and 3/25.
No Lent Supper on Ash Wednesday.
Supper: 5:30–6:45pm
Service: 7:00pm



Ministry Teams can host one of these evenings! Hosting includes: Choosing a fun theme for your meal; Preparing or Purchasing food for 50-60 guests; Set up and Clean up. The congregation is welcome to contribute desserts, sides, or other items too!

President's Message, Continued from Page 1

While there is still some fine tuning that we need to work out, the audio and video upgrades will improve our streaming quality for our remote viewers. For those attending services in person, we now have assisted listening capabilities by using either your own personal smart phone or transmitters that the church has for members and visitors to use. I was able to test this at the services on February 8 with headphones and it came through quite clearly.

God is GOOD!

Blessings,

John

Sundays
March 8, 15, 22
9:20 - 10:15am
Library

NEW
MEMBER
CLASSES

2026 Thirty Days of Prayers for Muslims

Pray for Muslims with Faith, Hope and Love



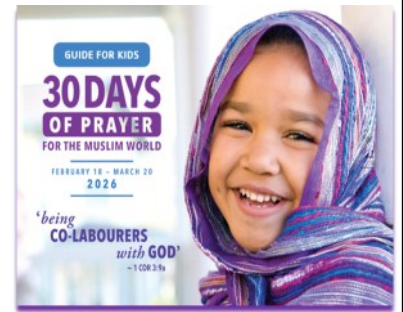
We Thank God for your 2026 Prayers for Muslims during Ramadan

We thank you for your daily prayers for our Muslim neighbors and friends during the 2026 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World. Your prayers make such an impact that Muslims around the world are coming to Jesus at a rate far surpassing any rate

recorded in Christian history.¹

Please continue keeping our Muslim neighbors in mind by utilizing your prayer guide and the newly converted ones in Iran. Revival is in the air.

¹Garrison, David, *A Wind in the House of Islam: How God is Drawing Muslims Around the World to Faith in Jesus Christ*, Wigtake Resources, LLC, 2014.



What would you say? America's Christian Heritage: Fact or Fiction

During this 250th anniversary year of the Declaration of Independence, this series of messages presents ten things every Christian should know about the founding of America. What difference does this information make to me? Martin Luther wrote, "I am much afraid that schools will prove to be great gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth."¹ Gibbs 68

This series, *America's Christian Heritage: "The Rest of the Story,"* proceeds from the observation that much of contemporary public education has either minimized or omitted discussion of the role of Divine Providence in America's emergence as a republic. The purpose of this work is not to assume a particular conclusion, but to invite you, the reader, to do a critical examination of whether, and to what extent, concepts of Divine Providence influenced the nation's founding. To that end, I will share evidence drawn from primary sources, historical facts, events, observations, references, quotations, and eyewitness testimony—material that has too often been relegated to the "dustbin of history."

As you read the Columbus' quotations and references below, think about the following questions and jot down your thoughts before you read the rest of the story.

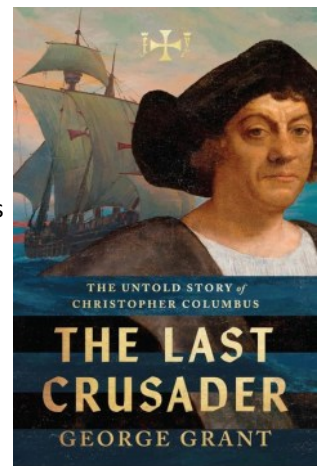
Why did Columbus set sail on the uncharted ocean blue waters of 1492? To what purpose(s)?

What were the motivations for the Europeans to be the world's great explorers?

What would Western Civilization look like without Columbus' sailing to the West and those that followed him?

In 1453, when Columbus was three years old, the Ottoman had Turks besieged and overran the Christian city of Constantinople with grim results that mirror the Palestinians ravaging the Israel settlements in October, 2023. The fall of the Byzantine Empire effectively placed major eastern trade routes under Muslim authority, significantly disrupting commerce between Europe and Asia and presenting a direct challenge to Christendom.

Furthermore, the Muslims wanted control of all of Europe as well. History and law professor Dr. John Eidsmoe points out: "The Muslims looked upon Europe as a prize to be secured in the name of Allah." (Eidsmoe, Columbus & Cortez. p.55) Here is the context for Columbus' historic 1492 voyage to America - the ongoing conflict between two competing worldviews (forces): Christianity and Islam. (Gibbs p.23)



Continued on Page 7



Greetings from the Call Committee!

The Call Committee continues to be in contact with Vanderbloemen for current updates. The lead recruiter and his colleague are still in the process of sourcing and screening candidates.

The Call Committee is excited to begin the interview process once candidates are presented to us. We will keep you updated as we have more information to share.

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

Psalm 34:17

“The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.”

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 the Call Committee, discernment, endurance, and insight on your plan. Help us as one body of Christ to work together, and according to Your will. Guide the heart of 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.



St. Mark’s next scheduled packing sessions are as follows:

Saturday March 07, 2026, at 8:45 AM - 10:45 AM [March's Sign-Up Link](#)

Monday April 06, 2026, at 7 PM - 8:45 PM [April's Sign-Up Link](#)

Monday May 04, 2026, at 7 PM - 8:45 PM [May's Sign-Up Link](#)

I know we usually pack on Saturday mornings in the even numbered months and Monday nights in the odd numbered months but for our “normal” March and April dates, the Libertyville site is closed. So we switched our “normal” schedule around – I hope this doesn’t mess you up too much!

There are, as always, 3 different jobs during each packing session:

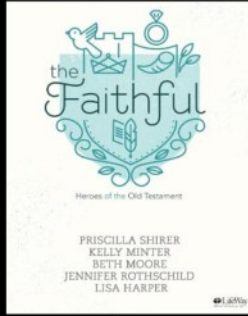
- A sit down job putting label stickers on all the bags.
- A stand up job packing the bags.
- A “get your exercise” job working in the warehouse.

If these dates don’t work in your schedule, please feel free to [use this link](#) to sign up at times that are better for you and/or your family.

If you have any issues signing up for any of these dates and/or have questions about FMSC, please free to contact Mike Mol. **ALSO – IF TRANSPORTATION TO THE SITE IS AN ISSUE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW!!**

LADIES, PLEASE JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS FOR THIS NEW BIBLE STUDY IN MARCH!

WE MEET IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY



EVERY WEDNESDAY 9:30-11:00AM

Contact Connie Saunders to sign up



Plant Sale

**Coming in March
Cool Plant Sale
Details coming soon!**



Winter Open Arms Food Pantry

Please donate these items

**in March
Soup, Peanut Butter
Shampoo**

All non-perishable food is accepted always!

2025 ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS ARE READY FOR PICK-UP!

End of Year GIVING Statements

PLEASE TAKE HOME YOUR ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENT IN THE NARTHEX



4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice

This month's book is *4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice* by Mark and Patti Virkler.

No interpreter necessary!

Use these four keys to unlock the mystery of hearing God's voice for yourself! Transform and deepen your relationship with your heavenly Father starting today.

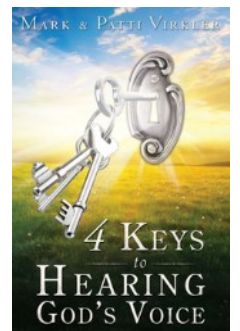
Based on the highly popular and successful book, *How to Hear God's Voice*, this exciting new book emphasizes the 4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice.

"When I learned to hear God's voice after 11 years as a believer without it, every part of me was radically transformed. Thousands have told me they have had this same metamorphosis, and I believe that this will become your testimony also," writes co-author, Mark Virkler.

The keys that are examined, discussed in detail, and can be immediately applied to your life are:

- #1 How to recognize God's voice as spontaneous thoughts.
- #2 Learning how to become still before the Lord.
- #3 Looking for vision as you pray.
- #4 Realizing the importance of two-way journaling.

Filled with insights from years of hearing from God, *4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice* also includes visual aids that enhance the teaching and learning experience. Very reader-friendly, you will find that the concepts and principles are easily adapted to your personal circumstances and lifestyle. You can find this book under call number VIR 248.4.



What would you say? America's Christian Heritage: Fact or Fiction, *Continued from page 4*

It was general knowledge in the late 15th century that the world was round. (Grant's Theology Pugcast Feb. *Voice*) So going west to reach Asia was not beyond the realm of possibility. Columbus wrote in his *Book of Prophecies*,

It was the Lord who put into my mind (I could feel His hand upon me) to sail to the Indies. All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous illumination from the Holy Scriptures." (Gibbs p. 22) Columbus elaborates further: "For the execution of the journey to the Indies I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics, or maps. It is simply the fulfillment of what Isaiah prophesied...These are great and wonderful things for the earth, and the signs are that the Lord is hastening to the end. The fact that (the) Gospel must still be preached to so many lands in such a short time - this convinces me." (Gibbs p.25)

Kay Brigham, a biographer and Columbus translator described him as a man of prayer and devoted Christian. She also noted it was his "unquenchable faith in divine Providence which enabled him to achieve in the face of adversities and hardships." She also writes he had "a kindly attitude toward the natives and was concerned about their salvation." (Gibbs p.24)

Read Columbus' own words in a letter written on February 15, 1493 to the King of Aragon and Isabella Queen of Castile during his return voyage:

I forbade that they (the Indians) should be given things so worthless as pieces of broken crockery and broken glass, and lace points...I gave them a thousand good, pleasing things which I had brought, in order than they might be fond of us, and furthermore might become Christians and be inclined to the love and service of Their Highnesses and of the whole Castilian nation, and try to help us and to give us of the things which they have in abundance and which are necessary to us." ²⁰ Gibbs p 25 ⁷

"In short, Columbus tried to implement the golden rule in his initial dealings with the native Americans." Gibbs p.25 ⁸

Columbus was once considered one of the greatest heroes in American history. More cities, streets and towns are named for him than almost any other historical figure other than Washington and Lincoln. In 1892 the Pledge of allegiance was created on the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America. Written by a Baptist minister, Rev. Bellamy for school children nationwide to recite as the American flag was raised during the 400th anniversary celebrations. (Gibbs p.17) Now over 500 years later some Americans condemn both the holiday and the man.

"The National Council of Churches has decried "the genocide, slavery, ecocide, and exploitation that followed in Columbus wake.'" (Gibbs p.18)

Russell Means, a Native American activist, described the Italian explorer: "Columbus makes Hitler look like a juvenile delinquent. He was a racist, a mass murderer, a slave trader, a rapist, and a plunderer." (Gibbs P.18)

In July 2020, amid nationwide protests following the killing of George Floyd and clashes with police, the City of Chicago removed the Christopher Columbus statue from Grant Park. Supporters of the removal argued that the statue represented a colonial legacy associated with harm to Indigenous peoples and no longer reflected the values of many Chicago residents. Originally it been a gift from Chicago's Italian American community, for the 1933 *Century of Progress World's Fair*. (Chicago Sun Times)

Columbus was by no means a perfect saint, he was man of flesh and blood, a Christian who was a poor administrator, full of pride and seeking money for the voyage to bring salvation to the world and defeat the Muslims after the Christianization of the Orient. As George Grant calls him, "The Last Crusader." The Westerners went out to conquer the world in the 16th Century for God as well as for gold. (Gibbs p.22) So too for Columbus. However, "if we remove Christianity, its impact on Columbus, we must then remove the man entirely, because without his faith and his belief in God's call upon his life, it is unlikely he would have ever attempted to sail to the West." (Gibbs p.12)

Furthermore...Dr. Eidsmoe points out, that

"if we blame Columbus for all the bad things that happened to the Indians because of the Europeans coming to the America, then in fairness, we must also credit him for the good things." (Gibbs 21) He continues, "Let us credit them (Europeans) for its (Western culture's) achievements and contributions to art, music, architecture, ethics, liberty law, government, a Constitution that has served as a model across the world, an economic system that has produced the greatest good for the greatest number and the highest level of prosperity the world has ever known, a spirit of ingenuity and achievement that led to unparalleled medical and technological advance. (Gibbs p.12)

Now that you have just a hint of the "rest of the story, are there insights or new information to include in your original responses at the beginning of this message? If so, spread the rest of the story - the evidence of Divine Providence call to Columbus and others in the founding of America.

Eidsmoe, [Columbus & Cortez, Conquerors for Christ](#), New Leaf Press, Green Forest, AR, 1992.

Gibbs, Dr. David, Newcombe, Jerry, [One Nation Under God, The Ten Things Every Christian Should Know About the Founding of America](#), Christian Law Association, 2003.

Grant, George, [The Last Crusader: The Untold Story of Christopher Columbus](#), Canon Press, May, 2025.



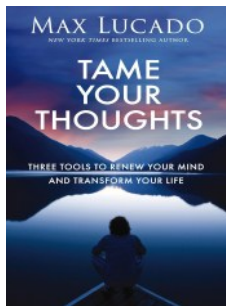
Every Month
2nd Saturday

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 Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com.



OUR NEW KITCHEN



If you have not seen it yet, please stop by to admire it. It looks like a magazine display! More storage than we ever had... and drawers that actually CLOSE without a fight!

Thanks to our tireless fellas that orchestrated it all! Not sure if they want their names made public, but if you have been in the Fellowship Hall any given day of the past few weeks, you would have seen one or all of these selfless men at work. THANK YOU seems inadequate. **AMAZING** for sure! Really makes the kitchen look brand new.

If you cannot find what you are looking for, keep looking! No tags will be placed on **these** beautiful cabinets!

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, your personal relationship with God. *2026 St. Mark Church Prayer Guide*
- **Pray the Call Committee Prayer for a new pastor.**
- **Church council/teams** - *2026 St. Mark Church Prayer Guide*. **Plastic Wall Holders.**
- **Prayers for building up young saints** - *2026 Interactive Children's Prayer Booklet: Training Up Children* (timely resource for parents/grandparents, other family members and significant others).
- **Offering Prayers at Communion Prayer Tables** during services.
- **Prayers offered after each service at the Communion Rails.**

St. Mark Prayer Chain, a wonderful group of fellow Christians, praying for all prayer requests and praising God for His listening to our petitions, and answered praises of God's glory. 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, or call the office, 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)** - young adults, health concerns, homebound, and loss - 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.
- **Intercessory Prayers for the Nation** - our communities, our elected national, state and local officials to put the well being of America above all. And a one minute prayer every evening for protection of America against Spiritual Warfare - the world, the flesh and the Devil.
- **ZOOM Weekly Prayer Meeting** - Come, pray and be blessed. Currently Thursday until further notice from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. we will be meeting on Zoom praying over the previous week of Prayer Chain requests, St. Mark Church and each other. Contact Person: Pam Burke 847-356-8140.



Loving God and All People

March 2026



Lay Readers & Media Assistants For March



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, February 28 th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, March 1 st	8:00 AM	Lynn Wetterberg
Sunday, March 1 st	10:30 AM	Deb Zuchowski
Saturday, March 7 th	5:30 PM	Johnna Morton
Sunday, March 8 th	8:00 AM	Carl Norlin
Sunday, March 8 th	10:30 AM	Gary Olson
Saturday, March 14 th	5:30 PM	Johnna Morton
Sunday, March 15 th	8:00 AM	Bonnie Millsop
Sunday, March 15 th	10:30 AM	Kevin Graul
Saturday, March 21 st	5:30 PM	Lynn Johnson
Sunday, March 22 nd	8:00 AM	Cliff Ewert
Sunday, March 22 nd	10:30 AM	Zuchowski's
Saturday, March 28 th	5:30 PM	Kathy Kurth
Sunday, March 29 th	8:00 AM	Betty Oesterle
Sunday, March 29 th	10:30 AM	Gary Olson

Saturday, February 28 th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, March 1 st	8:00 AM	Mel Ellingsen
Sunday, March 1 st	10:30 AM	Jerry Gass
Saturday, March 7 th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, March 8 th	8:00 AM	Johnna Morton
Sunday, March 8 th	10:30 AM	Jerry Gass
Saturday, March 14 th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, March 15 th	8:00 AM	Johnna Morton
Sunday, March 15 th	10:30 AM	Jerry Gass
Saturday, March 21 st	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, March 22 nd	8:00 AM	Johnna Morton
Sunday, March 22 nd	10:30 AM	Jerry Gass
Saturday, March 28 th	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, March 29 th	8:00 AM	OPEN
Sunday, March 29 th	10:30 AM	OPEN



Do you enjoy talking with others?
Do you love our church?
We need you on Welcome Team!

Welcome Team is a fun and easy ministry opportunity at St. Mark.

For each service on Sunday morning, three to five people play a part in welcoming others. One or two members stand at each entrance door to hold the doors open for people entering and welcome them to the service. These greeters are instrumental in making sure that people entering the church for services feel welcome and important to our congregation. First time guests can get basic questions answered right at the door.

At the welcome table at the back of the church, a team member is available before and after the worship service to answer basic questions, talk with guests, give them a small gift bag, and take their information for selecting one of the charities to which the church will send a donation. Since Pastor Metke has started announcing this at the beginning of the service, we have had many more people give us contact information!

At the present time, we do not have enough team members to take on these responsibilities for all of our Sunday services. Our membership changes periodically and especially during the winter, when some members like to visit warmer places. We would also love to set up a Welcome Team at the 5:30 service as well.

Our usual commitment is one Sunday per month at one service. We also have members who greet for the 5th Sunday of the month or serve as substitutes when members cannot make their designated Sunday.

If you would prefer to work more behind the scenes, we also have a member who receives names of first-time guests and sends them a follow up email or note in the mail. This would also be a place that you could serve.

We need members to step up to take on this important commitment. Please contact Joyce Mol or the church Office Manager for information and/or to take on any of these roles. Thank you!

Support St. Mark & Local Businesses



Second Tuesday Each Month

CARRY OUT, PICK UP or DELIVERY!
Be sure to bring your coupon and mention it at time of payment!

Present this certificate at the time of payment and **15%** of your order, excluding tax and tip, will be donated to **St. Mark Lutheran Church**.
Certificate must be presented at time of payment.
Not to be used with any other coupons or discounts.

Share with your friends and family.

LINDENHURST LOCATION ONLY

12:00 - 9:00 PM

Visit www.antiochpizzashop.com for full menu.

Valid the **Second Tuesday** of each Month

Antioch Pizza ■ 224-444-8657
1856 E. Grand Ave., Lindenhurst

DATES: Second Tuesdays
3/10/2026, 4/14/2026



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
3/19/26, 4/16/2026

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.



Stephen Ministry is There for You

Are you feeling a need to talk one-on-one with an unbiased individual about a concern or issue that you are facing with complete confidentiality? St. Mark has many Stephen Ministers who are prepared to help.

St. Mark's Stephen Ministry team has studied and trained over a period of several months under the guidance of other experienced Stephen Ministers. Together they discuss on a regular basis materials that have been created to help individuals facing loss, illness, alcohol and drug dependency, divorce and other issues. Continuing education is conducted monthly to expand, reinforce and enhance a Stephen Minister's focus to provide support and prayer for St. Mark members. All help is free, confidential and continues as long as necessary.

If you or someone you know becomes overwhelmed by life's losses, disappointments or frustrations, contact Deb Zuchowski (847-691-5327), or the church office (847-356-8140) to request the help of a Stephen Minister.

Loving God and All People

March 2026



Nursery News

Happy soon to be Spring! We extend a warm welcome to our new families into the nursery! We are busy playing there and at our monthly Parent's Morning Out (PMO) events and our quarterly Parents' Afternoon/Night out events (PAO/PNO).

Here are the upcoming PMO dates on Fridays from 9:00AM - 12:00PM.

March 27th April 24th May 22nd

The next Parent' Night Out (PNO) event is scheduled for Saturday, March 14th from 5:00 PM - 8:00PM.

We invite you to bring your children, grandchildren, and/or neighborhood kids to come and play on our new toys at all of our events!

Registration is required for the above events and is located on our website. Details regarding each event can be found there as well.

As noted, the Nursery Staff and our volunteers are in full swing for continued fun and FREE activities at our many scheduled events!

We wish you God's richest blessings during Lent, Easter and the upcoming spring season.

Deb Heide and the Nursery Volunteer Staff

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT **Saturday, March 14th**
5-8pm
Ages 12 and under



PARENTS
Night Out

A donation of non perishable items is welcome for Open Arms Mission in Antioch, IL.



PARENTS'
MORNING OUT

Register online at: smlc.info

Friday, March 27th 9:00AM- Noon Children 5 & under



First Communion Class

April 22, Wed. 5:30 pm
Bring a "Sack Lunch"
Adult Accompanies Child
3rd grade and older
Sign up in Lobby
"First Communion Sunday" 10:30 April 26

Loving God and All People
March 2026

REVIVE RETREAT

Our regional “Revive” Retreat wrapped up its annual weekend with a beautiful reminder of the unity Christ prayed for: “May they all be one.”



This year’s retreat brought together 13 different churches and 5 clergy from various denominations, all centered on the grace of God through Jesus Christ. Over the weekend, 31 participants reflected on life’s purpose and

listened for God’s call in their own journeys. They experienced Christ’s love and forgiveness through Scripture, testimonies, drama, prayer, the labyrinth, quiet time, walks, worship, and music.

A heartfelt thank-you to the 54 volunteers who poured out their time and talents to make the weekend possible at the Salvation Army Camp in East Troy.

If you’re interested in being part of this life-giving experience, the next Revive Retreat will be held in February 2027.



This year’s Vacation Bible School will be held:

June 22nd - June 26th

VBS Celebration Sunday: June 28th

VBS Training: June 17th 6:30pm

Loving God and All People

March 2026

Easter Lily Order Form

Please fill out the following form if you would like to place a lily plant on the altar for Easter Sunday Worship 2026 at St. Mark Lutheran. The last day orders will be taken is Wednesday, March 18th.

Please PRINT all information!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Plant(s) are given:

_____ To the Glory of God

_____ In Honor of _____

_____ In Memory of _____

_____ On the Occasion of _____

_____ Easter Lily(s) @ \$16.00 each Total Order \$ _____

_____ I will pick up the plant(s) after the 11:00am Easter Service on April 5th.
(Flowers must be picked up by 4pm on Tuesday April 7th)

_____ I would like the plant(s) taken to someone who is ill or shut-in.



Spring Is Coming! Order Your Plants Today!

27th Annual COOL Plant & Flower Sale

PICK UP AN ORDER FORM

from your coordinator
or download from
bit.ly/COOLplantsale



ORDERS DUE:

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

**WHEN DO I PICK UP
MY ORDER?**

Saturday, May 9, 2026

11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Bethel Lutheran Church
5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee

Please watch your email for pick-up details.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Your Coordinator

Wendy Rohlwing

(name of coordinator for church)

847-356-2168

(contact information for church coordinator)

OR EMAIL plantsale@coolministries.org



Order beautiful plants to benefit COOL 🌸 Help feed and house our neighbors in Lake County
And remember, flowers make great gifts for Mother's Day!

Loving God and All People

March 2026

✨ Join Us for Wednesday Lenten Meals at St. Mark! ✨

Each week during Lent, we gather for a delicious meal and fellowship before our Wednesday evening worship service — a simple, meaningful way to pause, connect, and prepare our hearts for the season. We'd love to have you join us! Meals are served 5:30–6:45 p.m., followed by worship at 7:00 p.m.

Here's what's coming up:

🍷 2/25 – Sponsored by Prayer, Worship & Music Ministry

Theme: Mexican Night Tacos, flavor, and fellowship, a perfect combo.

🍷 3/4 – Sponsored by Youth, Family & Sunday School Ministry

Theme: Chili & Cornbread A cozy, crowd-favorite classic.

🍷 3/11 – Sponsored by Outreach Ministry

Theme: Sloppy Joe Night Comfort food that brings everyone together.

🍷 3/18 – Sponsored by Fellowship Ministry

Theme: St. Patrick's Celebration Corned beef and all the festive fixings.

🍷 3/25 - Sponsored by Women's Light Ministry

Theme: Pasta Night Pasta, salad, garlic bread — a warm and hearty send-off to our Lenten meals.

Bring your family, invite a friend, and enjoy a meal prepared with love by our ministry teams. We can't wait to share these Wednesday evenings with you as we walk through Lent together.

All are welcome! 🌿

Loving God and All People

March 2026

Aspire

1 night – 3 hours Just for Women
An evening full of laughter, learning, stories & music

Author & Bible Teacher
MELISSA SPOELSTRA



Comedy by
MICHELLE MILLER MCNAIR



Music by
MIA KOEHNE



**FRIDAY
MARCH 27, 2026**

**SPRINGBROOK
COMMUNITY CHURCH**
10115 W. ALGONQUIN RD.
HUNTLEY, IL 60142

7:00PM SHOW
6:30PM PANEL TIME
6:00PM DOORS OPEN

Come early and join us for
a 15 minute panel time with
all 3 ladies based on
Hebrews 12:1-2 called
“Running the Race”

ADVANCE TICKETS

General Admission – \$30
VIP/Reserved – \$40
Group tickets for 10 or more – \$25
VIP/Reserved Groups for 10 or more – \$35
Group sales call 480-812-1100

VIP/Reserved Includes reserved seats
and a snack bag

Purchase tickets at **480-812-1100** or online at:
ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com

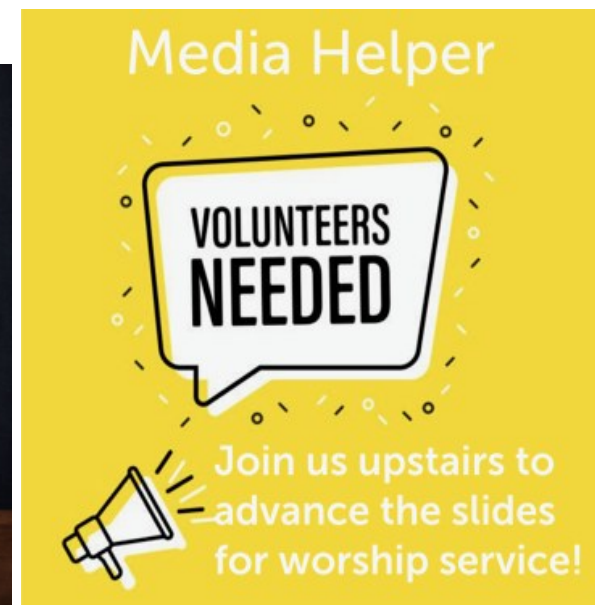
Aspire has been doing ministry for
over 10 years and we hope you can
join us for a great ladies night out!

Upcoming Event for LIGHT:

Ladies, please consider attending this women’s event on March 27th. There will be a sign up in the fellowship hall, as well as on Sign up Genius. We hope to car pool there to have even more fellowship with each other!

This should be a very fun evening . If more than 10 of us want to attend, we can get a lower price ticket for admission.

It will be a great ladies night out!



Join us for: The Last Supper (meal/dinner theatre) on Wed, April 1st

Sacred Seder Supper

"Lord's Supper"

Wednesday April 1, 5:30 pm
\$15 adults & \$10 Teens



Menu:

Chicken Breast
Salad (Italian & Ranch)
Dinner Roll
Cheesy Potatoes
Green Beans
Cheesecake
Lemonade, Water, Coffee
Holy communion (Matza & Grape Juice)



St Mark Lutheran Church



Loving God and All People
March 2026



March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00AM Traditional Worship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Contemporary Worship	2 10:00AM AL-Anon 7:30PM AA	3 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00PM St. Mark Ringers 6:00PM Choir Practice	4 9:30AM Bible Study 6:00PM Confirmation Class 5:30PM Lenten Supper 7:00PM Lenten Service	5 8:00AM Men's Discuss Grp BYOB 9:00AM Quilter's Grp 6:00PM Stephen Min. 6:30PM Arise Practice	6	7 7:00AM Men's Group 9:00AM FMSC 5:30PM Worship 1:00 Parent's Afternoon Out
8 8:00AM Traditional Worship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Contemporary Worship	9 10:00AM AL-Anon 7:30PM AA	10 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00PM St. Mark Ringers 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:00PM Council Mtg <i>Antioch Pizza Tuesday</i>	11 9:30AM Bible Study 6:00PM Confirmation Class 5:30PM Lenten Supper 7:00PM Lenten Service	12 8:00AM Men's Discuss Grp BYOB 6:00PM Stephen Min. 6:30PM Arise Practice	13	14 7:00AM HIS Ministry 5:30PM Worship 5-8pm Parent's Night Out
15 8:00AM Traditional Worship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Contemporary Worship	16 10:00AM AL-Anon 7:30PM AA	17 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00PM St. Mark Ringers 6:00PM Choir Practice <i>Voting Day</i>	18 9:30AM Bible Study 6:00PM Confirmation Class 5:30PM Lenten Supper 7:00PM Lenten Service <i>*Last day to order lily</i>	19 8:00AM Men's Discuss Grp BYOB 9:00AM Quilter's Grp 6:30PM Arise Practice <i>Wendy's Thursday</i>	20	21 7:00AM Men's Group 5:30PM Worship
22 8:00AM Traditional Worship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Contemporary Worship	23 10:00AM AL-Anon 7:30PM AA	24 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00PM St. Mark Ringers 6:00PM Choir Practice 8:00 Committee Meetings	25 9:30AM Bible Study 6:00PM Confirmation Class 5:30PM Lenten Supper 7:00PM Lenten Service	26 8:00AM Men's Discuss Grp BYOB 6:00PM Stephen Min. 6:30PM Arise Practice	27 9:00AM Parent's Morning Out	28 7:00AM Men's Group 5:30PM Worship
29  8:00AM Traditional Worship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Contemporary Worship	30 10:00AM AL-Anon 7:30PM AA	31 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00PM St. Mark Ringers 6:00PM Choir Practice <i>*Last day to order cool plant sale</i>				

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

*Address Service Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed*



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



Stephen Ministry

THE VOICE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

TO RECEIVE
★ THE VOICE ONLINE
EMAIL Julie@smlc.info

**April 2026
VOICE DEADLINE:
March 12, 2026**

Loving God and All People
March 2026