



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

May 2026



by John Bengston

Dear St. Mark Family,

Christ is risen! We are saved! Lent is a time of repentance and reflection. Easter is our salvation. We are saved because Christ died for our sins. We have a lot to be thankful for during this time, and I urge everyone to give a prayer of thanksgiving for these things. As a Church we should be happy that God has provided us continued spiritual leadership with Interim Pastor Metke. Pastor is leaving at the end of April, but we will see him from time to time as we continue in a search for a new Pastor. We are thankful to Interim Pastor Metke for all that he has done for us and for all the new experiences we had during his service.

Please continue to pray for our Call Team as they work with Vanderbloemen consultants in looking for a new pastor. God's hand is with us in this process, and we surrender this process to Him and to His perfect timing. Thank you to the team: Shawn Frank, Kevin Graul, Kevin Korom, Patty Lindholm, Pam Preston, Karissa McGill, and Tom Sanderson for their work and continued efforts.

As we continue to move forward there are opportunities for all to consider:

As we approach the summer months, VBS volunteers will be needed. The work that needs to be done varies greatly so be on the lookout for these opportunities.

Also, this summer is the Rummage Sale. More information will be available at the right time.

As we are near the end of the school year, please prayerfully consider serving as a Sunday School Teacher in the fall.

*Continued on page 3*

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## CHURCH EVENTS

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

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

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

## ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

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

**Loving God and All People**  
May 2026



## ST. MARK COUNCIL

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**PRESIDENT**  
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**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Robin Korom

**COUNCIL SECRETARY**  
Susie Soukup

**FINANCIAL TREASURER**  
Bill Renninger

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Keith Niles	Nancy O'Connor	Kathy Shelley

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Tricia Cholewinski  
Shawn Frank

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### BOOKKEEPER

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

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Paul Cramer | [Paul@smlc.info](mailto:Paul@smlc.info)

### NURSERY COORDINATOR

Deb Heide

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

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

**Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, May 12th @ 7:00PM  
**Next Committee Meetings:** Tuesday, May 26th @ 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 April Council meeting:

Motion approving the 2025 Audit Report.

Motion to approve revised Sections B (Council Leadership Responsibilities) and C (Council Board, Ministry Teams and Committee Responsibilities) section of the Policies and Procedure Manual.

Motion appointing Deb Zuchowski, Walter Klein, Ted Squires to the Benevolence Committee.

Motion approving \$750 to support Andrew Trathen's mission work in Alaska.

Prior to the Council Meeting, via email, Council approved the Shakes Roofing estimate to replace the building roof for \$102,000 plus twenty percent. Work will begin in early May, weather permitting.



Past and current Sunday school teachers, Prayer Pals and congregation, please come and honor our confirmands with their families on **Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am**. The confirmation class will be participating in this memorable service with Pastor Metzke celebrating *JOVANNI GUILLERMO CARBAJAL* and *LAYLANNI ELSA SALEEN CARBAJAL* as they continue their lives with God's people.

April 12th at St. Mark

**Harlow Renee Bell**

**Daughter of:  
Jennifer Popp &  
Tyler Bell**



Through Baptism you become a member of God's family!

## Congratulations 1st Communion students:



Averie Barnett,  
Isaiah Grampounik  
Greg Koniecki  
Colby Twarling  
Logan Twarling  
Brecken Walsh

## President's Message, Continued from Page 1

Lastly, there are several open Council positions for next year. If you are interested in serving, please contact a council member.

There are other opportunities as well. Please prayerfully consider using your time and talents for these ministries.

Blessings,  
John



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

Join us at Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God! VBS is the perfect spot for kids to explore who God is. Faith takes root as kids discover God is their loving creator; wonder washes away doubt in the life giving truth that God loves them deeply!

**When:** Monday, June 22nd – Friday, June 26th

**Time:** 9:00 am - Noon

**Who:** Preschoolers (3-years old and potty-independent) through 6th graders (for the 26-27 school year)

**KIDS & VOLUNTEERS REGISTER BY JUNE 15th**

Use this QR Code OR go to [vbspro.events/p/smlc2026](https://vbspro.events/p/smlc2026)



## VBS SUPPORT NEEDED!

Putting together one of St. Mark's largest congregational and community outreach programs requires many people with various talents.

### BEFORE VBS:

**VBS Kick-off Workshop:** Help turn St. Mark's campus into the rainforest?

We'll be working on oversized flowers, vines, birds, butterflies, etc.

Date: Saturday, May 30th AND Saturday, June 6th

Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Who: Youth, Adults, Families – all ages and abilities welcome!

**Adopt a prop:** Would you like to make some of the decor or prepare some teaching materials from the comfort of your own home? **Look for these at the VBS table in the Narthex in early June!**



### DURING VBS:

**Station Leaders (2 adults needed at each station):** Using a provided curriculum, share the Bible story, lead games, make crafts/do science demos, sing songs, **or** prepare snacks. Must be over the age of 18; will require a background check through St. Mark.

**Crew Leaders (2 teens/adults needed per crew):** 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.

If you have got any questions or want to chat about VBS, please contact Beth Miller at [stmarkvbsfun@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkvbsfun@gmail.com) or reach out to our Parish Education Committee.

Save the Date!!!  
July 30, 31 & August 1st



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.

*Loving God and All People*

May 2026



Greetings from the Call Committee!

We have been assigned a new recruiter from Vanderbloemen. We are working closely with him and are excited about the future and the search happening for our new Lead/Senior Pastor!

We are looking forward to having candidates presented to us so that we can begin the interview process. 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 119:65

We have been assigned a new recruiter from Vanderbloemen. We are working closely with him and are excited about the future and the search happening for our new Lead/Senior Pastor!

The Call Committee

**Call Committee Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father,



**Welcome to St. Mark Church:**

**Ethan Schwartz  
Ted Squires  
Hailey Galler**



and join us at



that night!!

Here is the link to sign up: [Monday, May 4th, at 7 pm!!!](#)

If you can't make that date and would like to plan ahead a bit, here is the St. Mark's packing event schedule for the summer:

[Saturday, June 6th at 8:45 am](#)

[Monday, July 6th at 7 pm](#)

[Saturday, August 1st at 8:45 am](#)

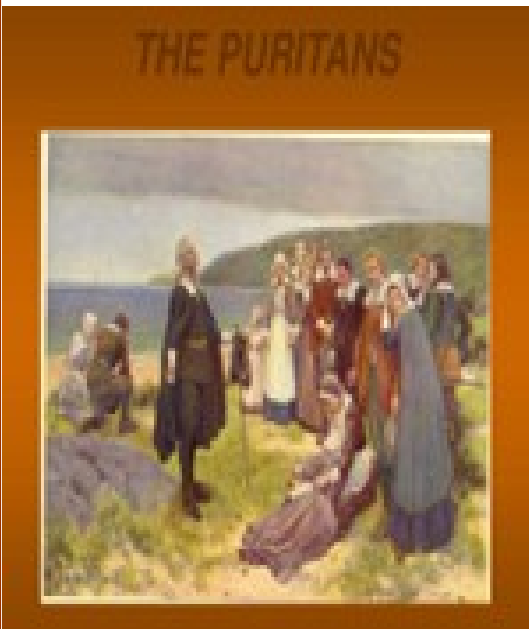
After an awesome packing night in April, St. Mark members have now packed 207,720 meals, which means, **we have fed 569 kids a meal a day for a year!!!** Will you join us for any of the dates above to help us reach 600 kids and more!!! Now ... 207,720 meals are nothing to sneeze at, but FMSC as a company hit a pretty big milestone the other day. It has been in business since 1987 and recently it hit it's FIVE BILLIONTH meal!!! Yes, that is *billionth* with a B!!!!

If you would like to become involved with FMSC in other ways, you could attend the annual gala at Drury Lane on May 2<sup>nd</sup> ([Gala Info and Registration](#)). You could also sign up to volunteer at any time that works better for your schedule at the [FMSC Volunteer Sign Up Link](#).

Besides packing meals, St. Mark, you have been *VERY* generous with your donations of bibles to be given away at the Libertyville FMSC site. Since you started this program in August of 2023, 1765 bibles have been taken by persons in need. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!!

If you have any questions and/or need any help signing up, please see or contact Mike Mol.

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



The question for this May, during the 250th year of the United States, is this: Were the first settlers primarily secular thinkers, or were they deeply shaped by Christian belief and purpose? This month we consider the Puritans' vision—"a city on a hill"—and their mission: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."<sup>1</sup> These were not merely poetic phrases, but guiding convictions rooted in Scripture.

The Puritans, a group of committed Christians, believed they had entered into a covenant with God. Trusting in His providence, they did not see their journey as accidental, but as directed. Their goal was not simply survival or prosperity, but to establish a community ordered by God's Word—a "pure" church and society shaped by biblical truth. A model to validate their vision to the Church of England.

How were you first introduced to the Puritans? Through Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*—with its focus on adultery? Or through depictions of the Salem witch trials in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*? Over time, these portrayals have been shaped largely by negative impressions. Why? For nearly 400 years, historical texts and literary works have interpreted the Puritans through changing cultural and political lenses. More recently emphasizing orthodox Christianity fosters oppression and intolerance while overlooking fundamental beliefs and historic contributions to the foundations of America.

Setting aside later criticism, the legacy of Puritan New England can still be seen in aspects of American life. At its core is the biblical idea of covenant—a binding

agreement not only among people, but also with God. This concept shaped their understanding of government, community, and personal responsibility.

In August, 1629 John Winthrop arrived in Salem, New England expecting a thriving settlement. Instead, he found what he described as a "shipwreck" of a colony—marked by hardship, scarcity, and discouragement. In the face of these circumstances, he reflected with Scripture and prayer on insights he felt the Lord had given him on his long voyage over the Atlantic. Was it all for nothing?

That evening Winthrop wrote a speech what would become *A Model of Christian Charity*. This document stands alongside the *Mayflower Compact* in importance but goes further by explaining not just what the settlers would do, but **why** their plantation could succeed—if it remained faithful to God.

At its heart was the idea of covenant love—how people should live in relationship with one another under God. Based on the Sermon on the Mount Winthrop taught that Christian love should define the colony. He wrote,

"Thus stands the cause between God and us. We are entered into covenant with Him for this work."<sup>2</sup> He warned that if they honored this covenant, God would bless their efforts. But if they failed to uphold it, they would face consequences. Their system of government, therefore, was not merely a set of agreed-upon laws; it was rooted in a moral and spiritual commitment between God and themselves being accountable to God Himself.

Drawing on Micah 6:8, Winthrop summarized their responsibility:

"...to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Only by living this way, he argued, could they avoid failure and build a thriving community—"knit together in this work as one man." In this vision, faith was not peripheral—it was foundational to their identity, purpose, and hope for success. "Their goal, according to Cotton Mather's early history of New England, was to settle, "a Church State among them, and for making a Confession of their Faith, and entering into a holy Covenant, whereby that Church State was formed."<sup>3</sup>

"Just as the Pilgrims had drafted their own covenant to form a 'civil Body Politic,'" it was the practice of religious nonconformists all over New England, including the Puritans to form a political covenant by committing themselves to God first and then to each other. This practice, common in New England, ultimately paved the way for the U.S. Constitution.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, Professor Sculley Bradley, University of Pennsylvania, has noted the contributions to American life by the Puritans has been more of a blessing, in that they gave us the first free public education, our first books, and first college, Harvard established in 1636. For a more in depth overview of the Puritans and their history click on this link <https://www.history250.org/films-1/v/episode-8-a-city-founded-upon-a-hill> - about 10 minutes.

So, "What Would You Say"? is American Christian Heritage: fact or fiction?

<sup>1</sup>Marshall, Peter and Manuel, David, *The Light and the Glory, Study Guide, Did God Have a Plan for America?* Fleming H. Revell Co., Old Tappan, New Jersey, 1982, p.28. Gibbs, David C. Jr. and Newcombe, *One Nation Under God, The Things Every Christian Should Know About the Founding of America*, Christian Law Association, Seminole, Florida, 2005, p.39. <sup>2</sup>bid.p.38. <sup>3</sup>bid.p.40. <sup>4</sup>*Issues and Answers, Heroes of History*, Research and Educational Manuel, SAC Publishers, Herrin, Il., 62948, 1983,p.8.

**Join us on the first Sunday of the month (June - November) at 10:30 AM for an inspiring worship service at the farm!**

**Experience a morning of faith, fellowship, and uplifting worship at Stade's Farm & Market.**

**Free coffee, water, and our signature apple cider donuts will be available to all attendees.**



A little over a year ago many of you filled out our "Here I Am" form highlighting the areas at church you were willing to help with. We thank everyone for filling out the forms and hope you have had an opportunity to volunteer in one or more of the ministries you signed up for. While this form was for ministries in the church there are many other ways you can volunteer to help St. Mark. We will highlight some of those ways here and in future Voices.



St. Mark has a wonderful part time cleaning lady who keeps our church looking great for all the activities we have during the week and for services on the weekend. There are however many chores that are outside her job description that need to be done. This is where we could use your help. Things like washing outside windows and screens, dusting and polishing all the wood in the sanctuary, wiping down all the cabinets in our beautiful new kitchen, finding all the cobwebs and bugs that seem to pop up daily especially in the summer in unused areas and many other chores. These are all things that can be done at your convenience. Grab a friend or two, pack up your cleaning supplies and go to work. You can do this anytime the church is open. If you want to work after hours contact Laurie Kerns and we will open the church for you. If you see something that you feel needs to be done please do it. If we work together St. Mark will look awesome for all that come in. Thanks for your help. God's house is just like your home, it takes everyone's help to run smoothly.

The Stewardship Ministry Team.....Carl Norlin and Laurie Kerns

**Loving God and All People**

May 2026



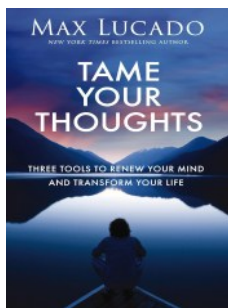
Every Month  
2nd Saturday

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](mailto:Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com).



RACINE DAY OF CHAMPIONS

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Registration deadline May 17

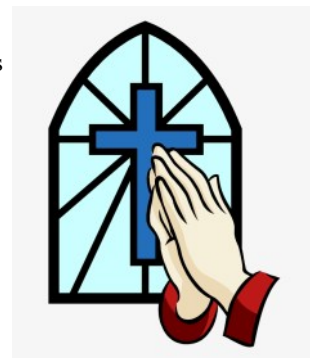


Register at [behindthewalls.com](http://behindthewalls.com)

## 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 Sunday School Prayer Booklet* (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](mailto: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: St. Mark Office Manager, 1-847-356-8140.



Loving God and All People

May 2026

**You all have been doing a great job of supplying shoes for this awesome cause – thank you!!**

This is just a peek into what it means when you put your shoes/boots in the collection box in the coat room!!



**Soles  
For  
Jesus**

If you would like to get involved even more, I invite you to check out their “Stroll for Souls” event coming up in June. This park is only about an hour and 20-minute trip from St. Mark’s parking lot. For more information on this event, here is the link: [Stroll for Souls](#). And if you would just like to know more about this organization, here is their website: [Soles for Jesus](#). If you have questions or need help signing up, see Mike Mol.

## **Operation Drop Box is Back!**

The Lake County Health Department’s second annual Operation Dropbox donation drive is officially underway! Operation Dropbox benefits over 3,000 local veterans through Veterans Path to Hope.

Donation needs include:

- ◆ Canned goods (soup, canned meat/fish, fruit/vegetables)
- ◆ Pantry items (peanut butter & jelly, condiments, salad dressing, mac & cheese)
- ◆ Personal items (shampoo & conditioner, deodorant, body wash, toothpaste, etc.)
- ◆ Household items (pots, pans, utensils, manual can opener, laundry detergent, garbage bags, paper products)

We will NOT be accepting any household décor, clothing, blankets, towels or holiday decorations. Donations will be accepted through May 31<sup>st</sup>.

For a full list of accepted items and donation locations near you, please visit [lakecountyiil.gov/5302/Operation-Dropbox](http://lakecountyiil.gov/5302/Operation-Dropbox).



## **Partnership with Faith First Church in Genoa City**

**Sun, May 17**

**GOOD  
NEIGHBOR  
PROJECT**

**Sign up  
in Lobby**

**Hospitality Team: 9am - Noon/4:45-6:30pm**

**Loving God and All People**

May 2026



**Last Day of Sunday School Is May 17th**

# St. Mark Lutheran Church Summer Worship Schedule

*Begins May 30th, May 31st*

**Saturday's 5:30pm  
Sunday's 9:30am**

**1st/3rd Traditional  
2nd/4th Contemporary**

## ALTAR GUILD OPENINGS

- 1) We need someone to set up communion on the 3rd Sunday of the month. It can be done after the 8:00AM service or before the 10:30 service. It only takes about 15 minutes and is a way to get involved in giving back to your church that gives so much to you! Training is provided, but it is really simple.... just a commitment!
- 2) The linens used on the altar need occasional laundering and pressing. If you would consider doing this simple ministry during the winter months of November thru April.... Another simple GIVING ministry.
- 3) Also needed is someone to arrange the Altar Flowers on the 1st weekend of the month. It only requires a love of flowers! We have an account, so unless you want to donate the blooms, just go pick out what you want at Floral Acres.

Please contact Gae Michal with any questions...or better yet, to volunteer! She can usually be found in or near the kitchen during Fellowship Hour.

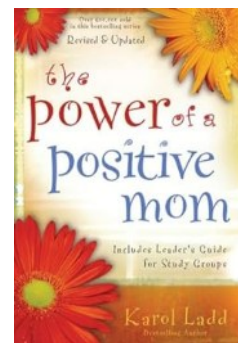


## The Power of a Positive Mom

Since Mother's Day is this month, our book selection is for and about mothers. Every mother feels a profound sense of responsibility when it comes to parenting. The effects of parenting decisions have long-lasting implications on our children, but making those important decisions can be challenging. *The Power of a Positive Mom* offers seven time-tested principles that will help guide you in making the right choices when it comes to raising your child:

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. The power of encouragement        | 2. The power of prayer                 |
| 3. The power of a good attitude      | 4. The power of strong relationships   |
| 5. The power of your example         | 6. The power of strong moral standards |
| 7. The power of love and forgiveness |  |

With a chapter for single moms, sections on kids and technology, e-mom references, links to author videos, and more, both stay-at-home and working mothers will find practical and spiritual guidance and encouragement to help you become the mother you've always wanted to be. You can find this book under call number 248.8 LAD.





Spring has sprung! And we wish you a warm welcome from Noah's Nursery!

We are busy playing in the nursery and at our monthly Parents' Morning Out (PMO) events as well as our quarterly Parents' Afternoon/Night Out events (PAO/PNO)!

The upcoming PMO schedule on Fridays, from 9 AM - 12 PM is as follows:  
May 22nd & June 19th

There is a change in weeks in June due to VBS. July: N/A due to church wide rummage sale.

Check out some fun from our last PMO on March 27th:



The next Parents' Afternoon Out (PAO) event is scheduled for Saturday, JUNE 20th, from 1 pm - 4 pm.

Registration is required for all of these events and details are located on our SMLC website.

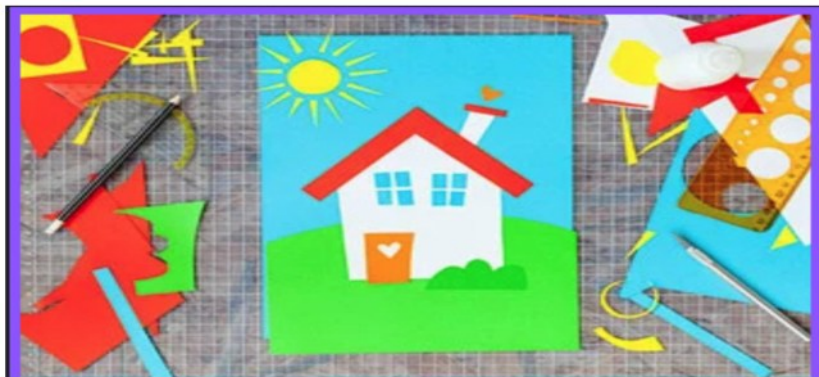
As always, we invite you to bring your children, grandchildren, &/or neighborhood kids to come and play on our New Toys at any of our events!

As stated, the Nursery and our volunteers are in full swing for continued fun with Free activities at our scheduled



Register online at: [smlc.info](http://smlc.info)

Friday, May 22nd 9:00AM- Noon Children 5 & under



**ALL INDOOR CRAFTS WELCOME!**

**WHEN:**  
**FRIDAY, MAY 15TH**  
**6:00PM - 10:00PM**

**SATURDAY, MAY 16TH**  
**8:00AM - 4:00PM**

**COST:**  
**\$20 Per Person for Both Days**  
**\$10 For One Day**  
**(Includes a meal both days)**

We'll provide you with your own work table, power, cutting mat/iron, and fellowship

**Loving God and All People**

May 2026

# Support St. Mark & Local Businesses



**Second Tuesday Each Month**

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

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

Share with your friends and family.

**LINDENHURST LOCATION ONLY**

12:00 - 9:00 PM

Visit [www.antiochpizzashop.com](http://www.antiochpizzashop.com) for full menu.

Valid the **Second Tuesday** of each Month

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

**DATES: Second Tuesdays**  
5/12/2026, 6/9/2026



**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**  
5/21/2026, 6/18/2026

**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](http://www.hamrafundraising.com).

## MAY Open Arms Misson

Mac and Cheese  
Pasta  
Cereal  
Pasta Sauce



## COOL Plant & Flower Sale

### Plant Pick-up Reminder

**Thank you for your orders this year!**



**Order Pick-up:**

**Saturday, May 9, 2026**

**11:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

No early pick-ups, please.

Please watch your email for pick-up details.



**Bethel Lutheran Church**

**5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee**

(Corner of Fuller Road and Grand Avenue)



**Additional plants will be available for purchase at the sale:**

- Vegetables
- Herbs
- Hanging bas
- Patio pots

If you would like to volunteer for the plant pick-up, please sign up at [bit.ly/2026COOLplanthelp](http://bit.ly/2026COOLplanthelp) or email us at [plantsale@coolministries.org](mailto:plantsale@coolministries.org)

**Loving God and All People**

May 2026



## Team Update

First – we had 7 St. Mark First Response Team members get re-certified in First Aid/CPR/AED thru the Lake Villa Fire Department in early April. **THANK YOU TO THESE SEVEN!!** Another class will be offered soon so, if you currently are a First Response member and need to be re-certified, OR, you would like to become a team member, please keep your eyes and ears open for the next training date and/or talk to Tim Rick or Mike Mol.

Second – speaking of keeping your eyes and ears open, we may have a fire drill in early May during our worship services and during Sunday School.

Third – to let you know, the S & S Team has purchased 3 *LifeVac* devices – one for the kitchen, one for the nursery, and one for the Sunday School area. If you have never heard of this life saving piece of equipment, here is the website that will give you more information about the device and a video tutorial on how to use it: [LifeVac](http://LifeVac.com). We will also give an announcement about this at all the services in the near future.

Fourth – as always, if you see and/or hear of anything that we should be brought to our attention, please contact Tim Rick or Mike Mol. If you would like to join our team, see Tim or Mike also. We are a team that prays that we are never needed around the church!!

## Remember this map?



Have you changed where you are sitting lately?  
(Well, probably not – we are Lutherans!!)

But in case you have, do you know where to go  
in an emergency?

Just a friendly reminder to check the  
Emergency Cards in the pews every now and  
then so that you are prepared.

We will be having a practice fire drill during  
service on May 3rd.



A floral  
arranger is  
needed for  
the 1st  
weekend of  
the month.  
What a  
perfect way  
to serve the  
church!

Contact Gae Michal with  
questions



Every year we pray and seek the Lord for the National Day of Prayer theme that will guide our year and unite the tens of thousands of prayer gatherings we host from coast to coast.

This year on May 7, 2026, we will unite and pray as our new 2026 theme calls us to, **“Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations.”**

Last year President Kathy Branzell was inspired by a prayer that the apostle Paul prayed over the believers in Rome.

In 2026, the theme is inspired by a passionate prayer of Thanksgiving, prayed by King David in 1 Chronicles 16 after bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. This chapter records Israel celebrating the return of the Ark after being separated for 70 years earlier. While God was always watching over Israel and just a prayer away from them and King David, the Ark of the Covenant represented the presence of God having been constructed at the command of God and carried by the Levites with Moses as they wandered and waited to enter the Promised Land and eventually stolen from the tabernacle in Shiloh at their defeat in the battle in

Ebenezer. Thankfully, we have an entire year to unpack 365 days or more of all the prayers and prompts we can glean from this theme.

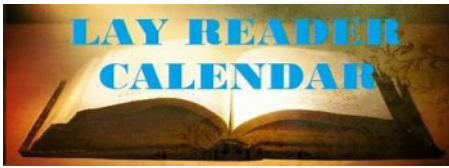
They are excited and delighted to share the 2026 National Day of Prayer theme with you, and ask that you commit to pray with them each week as God blesses us as we seek Him in Scripture and fervent prayer and glorifying Him through the 2026 National Day of Prayer theme that prompts us to, **“Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations.”**

**Loving God and All People**

May 2026

**NATIONAL  
DAY OF  
PRAYER**





# Lay Readers & Media Assistants For May



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.**

Saturday, May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 AM	Lynn Wetterberg
Sunday, May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:30 AM	Gary Olson
Saturday, May 9 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Johnna Morton
Sunday, May 10 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM	Carl Norlin
Sunday, May 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 AM	Betty Oesterle
Saturday, May 16 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Lynn Johnson
Sunday, May 17 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM	Bonnie Millsop
Sunday, May 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 AM	Deb Zuchowski
Saturday, May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	5:30 PM	Kathy Kurth
Sunday, May 24 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM	Cliff Ewert
Sunday, May 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 AM	Kevin Graul
Saturday, May 30 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Lynn Johnson
Sunday, May 31 <sup>st</sup>	9:30 AM	Zuchowski's

Saturday, May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 AM	Johnna Morton
Sunday, May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:30 AM	Jerry Gass
Saturday, May 9 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, May 10 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM	Johnna Morton
Sunday, May 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 AM	Jerry Gass
Saturday, May 16 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, May 17 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM	Johnna Morton
Sunday, May 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 AM	Jerry Gass
Saturday, May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, May 24 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM	Johnna Morton
Sunday, May 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 AM	Jerry Gass
Saturday, May 30 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	Taylor Houser
Sunday, May 31 <sup>st</sup>	9:30 AM	Jerry Gass

**BUNCO Queen**  
(Ladies In God's Holy Truth)



June 6 2:00pm  
Fellowship Hall

Ladies,  
please join us for  
fellowship, fun,  
and games!

Please join us Sunday, May 3rd at 9:00am  
to show our appreciation for their service.

## NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS DAY



Planting Day: May 17th

Help us get "The Garden of Eatin'" started! We are planning on having the garden tilled beforehand, weather permitted.

See Fred Natschke for more information



# May 2026

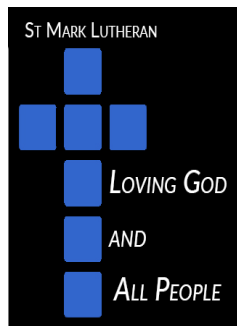
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>Registration begins VBS</i>	2 9:00AM FMSC
3 8:00AM Traditional Worship 9:00AM 1st Responder's Day 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Contemporary Worship  Fire Drill	4 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:00M FMSC 7:30PM AA	5 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00PM St. Mark Ringers 6:00PM Choir Practice	6 6:00PM Confirmation Class	7 8:00AM Men's Discuss Grp BYOB 9:00AM Quilter's Grp 6:00PM Stephen Min. 6:30PM Arise Practice	8	9 7:00AM HIS Ministry 11:30AM Plant Pick Up at Bethel Church 5:30PM Worship
10 8:00AM Traditional Worship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Contemporary Worship	11 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:30PM AA	12 <i>Antioch Pizza Tuesday</i> 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00PM St. Mark Ringers 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:00PM Council Mtg	13 6:00PM Confirmation Class	14 8:00AM Men's Discuss Grp BYOB 6:30PM Arise Practice	15 Crafter's Weekend 6PM-10PM	16 7:00AM Men's Group Crafter's Weekend 8AM-4PM 5:30PM Worship
17 Confirmation Sun 8:00AM Traditional Worship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Contemporary Worship	18 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:30PM AA	19 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00PM St. Mark Ringers 6:00PM Choir Practice	20	21 8:00AM Men's Discuss Grp BYOB 9:00AM Quilter's Grp. 6:30PM Arise Practice  <i>Wendy's Thursday</i>	22 9:00AM Parent's Morning Out	23 5:30PM Worship
24  8:00AM Traditional Worship 9:20AM Sunday School 10:30AM Contemporary Worship	25 10:00AM AL-Anon 6:30PM Divorce Care 7:30PM AA	26 8:30AM Men's Group 10:00AM Bible Study Ed. Center 5:00PM St. Mark Ringers 6:00PM Choir Practice 8:00 Committee Meetings	27	28 8:00AM Men's Discuss Grp BYOB 6:30PM Arise Practice	29	30 5:30PM Worship
31 9:30AM Summer Worship Begins						



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

**THE VOICE**  
A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 🖱 [www.smlc.info](http://www.smlc.info)  
 ✉ [smlc@smlc.info](mailto:smlc@smlc.info)



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

**June/July 2026  
 VOICE DEADLINE:  
 May 12, 2026**

TO RECEIVE  
 THE VOICE ONLINE  
 EMAIL [Julie@smlc.info](mailto:Julie@smlc.info)

**Loving God and All People**  
 May 2026