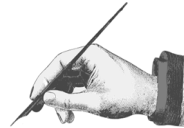


April 2023

President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



Two weeks ago, we shared a final weekend of worship with our beloved Pastor Terry Breum as he celebrated retirement with plans to move back to his home State of Washington. After 22 years of God's blessings through Pastor Breum's ministry and friendship, we rest in God's promises of faithfulness and provision for him, his family and for St. Mark. We will all miss his enthusiasm, his gift of evangelism, his spontaneity, and his love for Jesus. Picturing him on his tractor with his headphones on, listening to Christian music with the mountains in the foreground ahead of him can make it a little bit easier to let go of sadness, replace it with the joy of the Holy Spirit and anticipate what God has planned for us. Romans 8:28 tells us "All things work for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose". Two things we know are that the Holy Spirit is the One who guides people to where God can use them and that Pastor Breum follows the Holy Spirit's prompting. We trust that He, the Holy Spirit, will powerfully guide Pastor Breum as he follows the Lord's lead.

We are God's church and God has good things in store for us. We will seek an interim pastor and I pray that we'll all pull together and be there for each other as we work through this transition. There will be different journeys for each of us over the coming weeks and we will love each other through them. We are told to be strong and courageous and not afraid or discouraged because the Lord our God is with us wherever we go. Joshua 1:9.


Continued on page 4

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- ⇒ Vacation Bible School
- ⇒ Thank You
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- ⇒ HIS Ministry
- ⇒ Thrivent
- ⇒ Support our Church

CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events



Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter
April 6 - April 9

Holy Week

Check this out



Look Inside For Information on:

- Call Committee Update, pg 6*
- Confirmation Students, pg 5*
- Congregational Life, pg 8*
- Prayer Opportunities, pg 7*
- Parent's Night Out, pg 15*
- Vacation Bible School, pg 12*

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

The deadline for the **May** edition of *The Voice* is **April 15th**. Please Email articles to: deb@smlc.info & stmarkcommunications@gmail.com.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2023



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joni1812@sbcglobal.net | 847-404-9185

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Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 11th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meetings: Tuesday, April 25th @ 7:00PM

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2023



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

Trustworthy Father

The lines of some hymns stick with us. Here's one: "The arm of flesh will fail you / you dare not trust your own." That's from a hymn called "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus."

We trust in God, through faith in Jesus Christ, not in people. Not even in ourselves. Let me say that more strongly: *especially* not in ourselves.

The Bible teaches us that even though Jesus was the Son of God, he "learned obedience through what he suffered" (Hebrews 5:8). He trusted his heavenly Father as life threw him all kinds of curves. Jesus said, "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me" (John 5:30). He trusted the Father.

He trusted the Father even on the cross: "Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!' And having said this he breathed his last" (Luke 23:46).

When Peter trusted in himself, it got him into trouble. Recall that scene from the night Jesus was betrayed: "Peter said to him, 'Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!' And all the disciples said the same" (Matthew 26:35). Big talk. Hours later Peter denied Jesus. All the disciples deserted him with the possible exception of John.

Jesus warned those who "trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt" (Luke 18:9). He also warned against the human tendency to seek human approval rather than God's approval: "I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?" (John 5:43-44).

Here's the point. It's important that we trust in God, through faith in Christ, more than we trust in anything or anyone else.

We have a trustworthy Father, who sent his trustworthy Son. By the Holy Spirit God has given us his trustworthy word the Bible: "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

Politics will disillusion us. Financial markets are fickle. Our bodies will eventually age. People will let us down. Only God is worthy of our ultimate trust. This is a great theme of the Psalms: "Put not your **trust** in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation" (146:3). "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to **trust** in man" (Psalm 118:8). "**Some** trust in chariots and some in horses, but we **trust** in the name of the LORD our God" (20:7).

This doesn't mean we live paranoid lives, suspicious of everything around us. There is much goodness in the world. We are blessed with many trustworthy family members and friends. And don't forget our dog or cat who depend on us, as we depend on them. And they come through! Well, most of the time.

But there is a level of commitment that we reserve for God only: "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). We know this God saves only through faith in Christ. "The Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame' (Romans 10:11).

Prayer Shawl Exhibition

On the weekend of April 22-23rd we will be displaying our vast array of beautiful prayer shawls. These have been hand crocheted/ knitted with a prayer in each stitch, for the well-being of the recipient! Please plan on stopping by our display after each service. You will be able to take one...or two...for people whom you think could benefit from this comforting Ministry! We keep a list of the recipients so that duplicates are not given. There is also a supply of yarn available. I you are familiar with "granny squares", all the scraps that we have could easily be made into a small comfort shall. Even if you do not want to make a completed shawl, just make the squares. I know we have folks who would gladly put them together!

Hoping to see you there!

Gae Michal



Spring and the Easter season is a great time to renew our trust in our trustworthy Father.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2023

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

St Mark has a glorious future ahead and God will lead and guide us.

Over the past year and a half, we've been implementing some initiatives. Let's take a look at how we're doing with the gifts and talents God has provided.

Our list of 161 recommendations included 61 that were all blessings for which to thank God. There was purpose in including those 61 individual blessings for which to give thanks. We are inclined to get caught up in our busy lives and many things God provides for us are taken for granted so each Tuesday over 61 weeks last year and early into this year, each of the blessings was highlighted in a prayer request distributed through the email list maintained by the church office. Please continue to pray for these blessings – this isn't a one and done. God provides these things continually and it is right to thank Him continually for them.

Our Call Committee's search has been active and has been updated to seek a Senior Pastor instead of a Co-pastor.

Close to 100 of you completed your Spiritual Gifts profiles so we have a good picture of the primary strengths across our congregation. Service and helps are prominent and that should come as no surprise when we consider the faithful servants who keep St Mark running smoothly, the majority unseen except in God's eyes and the eyes of those who know who they are and all they do.

We've had 2 Spiritual Gift workshops to help people know how to use their God given gifts.

More of you have joined Bible studies and new Bible studies have begun. Several of the participants are non-St Mark members and were invited by our members, just as we were encouraged to do.

Live-streaming continues each week and our Facebook presence is drawing more of you to help us be more visible to social media users outside St Mark whenever you "like", comment or share a post.

Our beautiful new outdoor message sign significantly updated our property appearance and when the plantings bloom this spring and summer, it'll look even more beautiful.

If you read the Council minutes, you're aware that a Community Garden is in the works, to be located at the NW end of our property. This will be a fabulous outreach opportunity.

We've received many responses to the membership questionnaire that was recently distributed via email and snail mail. If you haven't yet responded or don't recall receiving the questionnaire, paper copies are available in the narthex under the bulletin board. Please complete one to help us update our membership rolls.

That leaves a number of recommendations yet to be initiated and completed and if you recall any of them resounding with you, please let a Council member know of your interest in participating. If you need another copy of the recommendations, you can obtain one from the church office.

I wish you all a very special Holy Week of remembering the Passion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, culminating with the abundant Joy of the Holy Spirit as we celebrate Christ's resurrection and our freedom from the bondage of sin.

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!!

Joni Wasmund
Congregational President

From your Safety & Security Committee



Now that Daylight Saving Time is upon us and the first day of Spring has come and gone, have you:

- 1) checked the batteries in your smoke detectors at home?
- 2) checked the batteries in your carbon monoxide detectors at home?
- 3) prepared for power outages with possible bad weather this spring?

These are just a few suggestions your S & S Committee would like to remind you of and for you to be aware of. Besides wanting St. Mark to be safe, we want you to be safe in your homes also!!

Your Safety & Security Committee—Judy Dunfrund, Mike, Mol, & Deb Zuchowski

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2023



St. Mark Council News

To keep you better informed about Church Council decisions we briefly present the major items from our meetings. Should you desire in-depth information, please go to <https://smlc.info/minutes/> for additional Council and Committee minutes.

Council Highlights April 2023

The Financial Audit has been rescheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2023 due to date conflicts in March and April.

A motion carried to pay Paychex \$1942.65 to file for an Employee Retention Tax Credit of \$13,598.52 on behalf of St. Mark. Paychex assumes potential liability for filing errors and eliminates potential liability on St. Mark.

A motion carried to approve the location of a Community Garden on the northwest corner of St. Mark's property. A restricted fund was approved for potential donations to the Garden.

A motion carried to approve 2023 Confirmands: Alyn Appelt, Madeline Butler, William Honaker, Leah Koslosky, Samuel Krook, Reina Maciareillo, Zeke Quane, Matthew Sanderson, Sydney Schneider.

A motion carried to create a restricted fund for Easter Breakfast donations and to donate excess Easter Breakfast donations to the 2023 Mission Trip after all Easter Breakfast expenses are paid.

A motion carried to approve new Evangelism Committee members, Kurt Ulbricht and Fred Natschke.

The Council accepted with regrets, Pastor Terry Breum's retirement, effective Monday, March 20, 2023.



April 30, 2023 @ 2:00pm

Please pray for our Confirmands as they work towards completing this step in their faith journey.

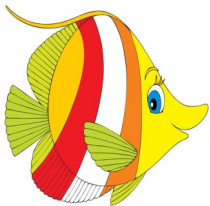


- Alyn Mary Appelt, daughter of Ryan and Lisa Appelt**
- Madeline Genevieve Butler, daughter of Christopher and Rebecca Butler**
- William Henry Honaker, son of Andrew and Becky Honaker**
- Leah Grace Koslosky, daughter of Peter and Sarah Koslosky**
- Samuel Ivor Krook, son of Patrick and Laurie Krook**
- Reina Marie Maciareillo, daughter of Alfred and Sarah Maciareillo**
- Zeke Love Quane, son of Rob and Lori Quane**
- Matthew William Sanderson, son of Tom and Jackie Sanderson**
- Sydney Kate Schneider, daughter of David and Christine Schneider**



Questions: smlc.confirmationcom.lindenhurst@gmail.com

Did you know?



There are many expenses associated with running a church. In the first two months of 2023 St. Mark spent \$5,912 on utility bills for our two buildings. Other building maintenance expenses for January thru February totaled \$12,018. These are what we called fixed expenses, and must be covered each month.

If you do not already give online, please go to Giving at smlc.info. It is easy to set up a one time donation or monthly gift. Any member of the Stewardship or Finance Committee would be happy to walk you through it!

Fin Facts

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	
Month of February 2023	\$ 51,100	\$ 58,670	\$ 7,570
2023 Fiscal Year (Jan.-Feb)	\$ 106,200	\$ 104,836	(\$ 1,364)

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2023

CALL COMMITTEE

Greetings from the call committee! Previously, we had received 7 applicants for the co-pastor position we were seeking to fill. The position had been posted since September of 2022. Several of them were not a good fit for St Mark. Language barriers and needs beyond what we can offer were the main reasons. One applicant was pursued and an interview held via zoom. Ultimately, the applicant decided not to pursue further with us for personal reasons. This all took place before Pastor leaving. Everything happens at God's perfect timing. Perhaps God chose not to fill the co-pastor position because He knew we were going to be needing something more. (A thought that was shared with us and makes perfect sense!)

With the recent departure of Pastor Breum, the committee will be re-wording the position available and updating the posting. We will be expanding our search beyond those that identify with 'available for call' on the LCMC website. If you know of anyone interested, please have them submit their résumé to us at jobssmlc@gmail.com.

We also seek prayers for endurance, discernment, and wisdom as we move forward. We appreciate all prayers for this new search and for our church as a whole!

Thank you and God Bless!

"You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness."
Ephesians 4:4-6 MSG

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Where is it you might ask? When the Peace Garden and Columbarium project was announced about one year ago, it was expected that the Columbarium would be in place by the fall with the garden to be completed this spring. Well, clearly the project is behind schedule. Why?

- ◆ The manufacturer of the columbarium was delayed by several months receiving the granite needed for the structure. Its expected availability for delivery of last fall has been extended to late spring.
- ◆ Our landscape architect had emergency cancer surgery followed by a heart attack and then a broken leg. His creation of the necessary construction drawings for contractors have been delayed during his various recovery periods. We now have design drawings and a foundation drawing but are still waiting for the peace garden dimensional drawings needed for site excavation.



The first step when the weather permits is to make the foundation for the columbarium. The committee is now searching for concrete contractors to construct the foundation. Once that is done, we will be able to receive the columbarium when the manufacturer completes it.

Peace Garden & Columbarium Committee

Cheryl Bengston, Jim O'Neal, Bob & Nita Parnley

YOUR 2023 LOGAN COUNTY, WV, MISSION TRIP THEME



Homework. Jobs. Notifications. Practices. Family. Friends. Entertainment. The Future. The Past. Thoughts. Hopes. Worries.

Everything wants your attention!!

Even when life is filled with good things, it can feel overwhelming. Maybe you even find yourself rushing through life, consumed by busyness and countless options, not having the space to truly see what God is inviting you into.

But remember, when you're on a journey, it helps to get your bearings – to find that spot on a map that tells you, “You Are Here.” In the Bible, we see that's true for us too. As we learn to slow down and look to Jesus, we get a clearer focus for our lives.

YOU ARE HERE.

You are here to love the Lord your God and to love your neighbor. You are here to share what you have and who you are. And you are here to unite together as we discover how to live like Jesus.

So there you have it folks – in a nutshell. If you would still like to join us, please sign up by using this [2023 Mission Trip Sign Up Link](#). I would like to have our first meeting for the trip on April 16th at 9:15 AM, in the back multi-purpose room. Please bring any questions you may have about the trip - leave your check book at home!! Right now, the trip costs \$200/participant BUT we haven't done any fundraisers yet so that cost could go down!!

Next on the agenda is the St. Mark Annual East Egg Hunt!!! I invite any and all high school youth and friends (and confirmands who would like some Ministry Opportunity Points) to join me, Saturday, April 8th at 10 am at the Ed Center, to pack the eggs with goodies and to then hide them for the children of St. Mark to find them at 10:20 Easter morning!!

As always – feel free to contact me at 847-276-8739 or at MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com.

Ongoing Opportunities for Prayer

Are Seeking YOUR Involvement



- *First Friday Sing and Pray*. **Cancelled** on April 7 due to conflicting with evening Good Friday services.
- *30 Days of Prayer for Muslims*. Important prayer opportunity for our Muslim neighbors near and far from March 19 to April 18. This is Ramadan, the season of fasting and praying. As they fast and devote themselves to Islamic rituals, you're invited to join other Christians in prayer that many Muslims will be drawn into a relationship with Jesus. See more in this issue of the *Voice*.
- *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.
- *ZOOM Weekly Prayer Meeting* - Come, pray and be blessed. We meet Tuesdays at 6:30 pm for about an hour praying over the previous week of Prayer Chain requests, St. Mark Church and each other. Contact Person: Pam Burke 244-430-6226 and Barb Ewert for Zoom link. 847-514-5487.
- The Worship and Music Committee has posted the 2023 *Three Days of Prayer Brochure* on the St. Mark website under **Prayer**. We prayerfully request you include these various petitions as part of your devotions for our church families, Pastor, staff, church council and committees and for the Church Doctor training and program during this coming church year.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2023



Greetings From The Congregational Life Committee

Fellowship - The Best Part of Soup Suppers

We've had a nice turn out at our Wednesday evening soup suppers. If you haven't attended a soup supper recently, we encourage you to join us when Advent season rolls around. The soups, sandwiches, salads and desserts that we serve are really yummy, but the fellowship that takes place is even better. It's a great way to get to know some of your fellow St. Mark members and visit with those that you already consider friends. Please plan to join us on Wednesday evenings in November & December.



One of our long-term projects is a cookbook featuring the soups and desserts that our members bring to our soup suppers. The soups that we serve each week are so delicious that we'd like to collect recipes from you to create a cookbook that could be a fundraiser for our congregation. Please consider sharing your favorite soup recipe with us, whether you have brought it to a soup supper or not. Dessert recipes are also needed.

You can submit your recipe to Donna at d.bergl@yahoo.com, bring a printed copy to us and/or drop a copy in our CLC mailbox.

Still Looking for Volunteers for CLC

You may not realize it, but the Congregational Life Committee is involved in so many of the activities that you enjoy at St. Mark. There are only three of us on this committee so we need to count on others to be ready to help out as needed. We are still looking for members that could be available to help with our various events throughout the year. Please reach out to Shawn Frank, Tricia Cholewinski or Donna Bergl and let them know if you are available to be on our list of St. Mark members that we can call upon when needed to help us keep all of the fun and meaningful events and activities going. We work hard, but we sure have fun too!

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." – Winston Churchill

Mother's Day & Father's Day

We'll be looking for Confirmation students to help hand out some goodies for all three services for Mother's Day and Father's Day. If your student needs some service hours this is an easy way for them to help us out and earn an hour or two. We have an online sign up for Confirmation students that would like to help out:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084BA4A92CA5FE3-confirmation>

Reach out to the CLC for more information: Shawn Frank ♦ Tricia Cholewinski ♦ Donna Bergl

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2023



Soup Supper

Fellowship Fun

Important Prayer Opportunity for Our Muslim Neighbors Here and Abroad March 19 to April 18, 2023

A mighty spiritual battle has and is continuing to rage between Christians and Muslims for hearts, minds and souls worldwide. Have media soundbites convinced you that Muslim's are to be feared or hated? Have you observed these attitudes in yourself, family, or even within a church setting? A well-documented fact, but not generally reported in Western media, is that unprecedented numbers of our world's Muslim neighbors have discovered the heart transforming presence of Christ in their lives over the last three or so decades. This awakening is the result of prayers, witnessing and softening of Muslims' hearts by the wooing of the Holy Spirit.

This year Lent, Easter and Ramadan calendars are overlapping with Easter falling one day before "*Laylat al-Qadr*, the "Night of Power", which celebrates the revelation of the Quran's first verses to the Islamic prophet Muhammad. It is an exceptionally significant event - prayers and good deeds done on this night are considered to be of greater value than all the prayers and good deeds done in a thousand months. This night is also known "Night of Destiny", when many believe their fate for the following year is determined. Therefore, it is especially important for Muslims to pray for forgiveness and blessings on this night, and many will pray throughout the night. It is also believed that the angels spend this night in constant journey between heaven and earth, dispensing peace and blessings on believers as they pray.

This is the night of all nights when Jesus reveals himself to Muslim individuals in their dreams."¹

How to pray on this night of Monday, April 17 (one day after Easter):

That God will miraculously reveal Himself to them in their dreams and visions as Muslims are seeking God with real focus.

Many Muslims are seeking forgiveness for their sins on this night. Pray that they will have a revelation of Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

Pray for this *Night of Destiny* to bring opportunities for followers of Jesus to share the Gospel with their family and friends.

When Do I Pray? Sunday, March 19 to Tuesday, April 18 during Ramadan, the season of fasting and praying. As they fast and devote themselves to Islamic rituals, you're invited to join other Christians in prayer that many Muslims will be drawn into a relationship with Jesus. And, if the Holy Spirit calls you pray during the season of Ramadan and beyond, how are you going to respond? Are you listening? Will you obey His call?

NOTE: Click on this link for a fuller and deeper understanding of listening and obeying from a biblical perspective. <https://youtu.be/6KQLOuKaRA>

Materials Unfortunately this year hard copies are already sold out. However, digital adult prayer guides only are available from this link. <https://30daysprayer.square.site/s/shop> for the price of \$2.50. This year the Muslim World Prayer Guide focuses on 30 of the largest and most unreached for the Gospel cities on the globe. We are asking you to join with more than 100 international prayer movements in praying that there will be a spiritual awakening in each of these cities, that the name of Jesus would be proclaimed. **NOTE: Adult and children prayer booklets from previous years will be available on the Prayer Table in the Narthex.**

For more information on "Why pray for Muslims?" Click on the link to view a short video (a little over 3 minutes) <https://youtu.be/EGjWWth9b2M>.

In praying for your Muslim neighbors here and abroad, you are carrying out His commandment to "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matt. 22:39.)

Please contact Barb Ewert for questions and or more information. bewert@colsonfellows.org.



Open Arms Food Pantry Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Did you know? That OAM continues to support more than 200 families every week!

Thank you for all your continued support in filling the "yellow barrels"!! It's truly heart warming to see our Congregation continuing to reach out to help our neighbors in these unique times.

The items requested for April are **Coffee, Pasta and Pasta Sauce**. Any nonperishable food is gladly accepted.

If you have any questions about OAM please contact Ron Placko at rdplacko@comcast.net or 847.404.3304.



Meet Anna

Featuring a segment called "Getting to Know You" regarding our nursery volunteers!

Let me begin by telling you about a beautiful Sunday in the Nursery on October 5th, 2014. It started off like any other Sunday in there with prepping for the children to arrive until all of the sudden a young gal entered and said: "Hi, I'm Anna Hill and I'd like to volunteer my time in the nursery!" I said, "Great" and then I introduced her to Jackie Sanderson and myself and asked Anna when she'd like to start and how often she'd want to volunteer? Anna said: "I'm able to start now and I'm available every Sunday!" I said: "Wow, that's awesome!" I remain impressed by Anna's courage that day as well as her commitment with the young children of St Mark to this very day, almost 9 years later! Thank you Anna!

Continued on page 15

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2023



ATTENTION ALL KIDS 2nd GRADE AND YOUNGER!!!

PLEASE COME TO THE ED CENTER AT 10:20 ON EASTER MORNING FOR THE ANNUAL ST. MARK YOUTH GROUP EASTER EGG HUNT!!

We'll have two different areas for "hunting"
one area for kids 4 years old and under
one area for kids between 5 years old and 2nd grade

I invite any and all high school youth and friends (and confirmands who would like some Ministry Opportunity Points) to join me, Saturday, April 8th at 10 am at the Ed Center, to pack the eggs with goodies and to then hide them.

As always – if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mike Mol at 847-276-8739 or at MEMOL2Elks@gamil.com.

A FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN Update



The war in Ukraine disrupted the world's food supply and continues to send devastating ripples across the globe. In one year, we've seen the world's breadbasket turn to bread lines.

According to the World Food Programme, more than 349 million people are currently facing acute food insecurity — up from 287 million in 2021.

Friends, that's 62 million more people just trying to survive.

We're in a historic hunger crisis that doesn't have an end in sight. But the meals you provide are turning hunger into hope in some of the most critical hotspots around the world.

What You Can Do To Help

First: pray for the war in Ukraine to end and that this historic hunger crisis comes to end also.

Second: volunteer to pack food in Libertyville. Since you are reading this after St. Mark's April packing session (did we set a new record like we did in March??? -- 25 BOXES!!), please sign up to volunteer when you, your family, your friends, your business, etc. are free to come in! Just go to [FMSC Volunteer Sign Up](#) and pick a date that works for you!!

IF you are willing and able, we have two special sessions coming up this month!! These packing sessions are FMSC's Good Friday Fully Invested sessions. On April 7th, we have two open times: 9 am and 11:30 am. (Use the link above.) For a donation of \$63/person or \$189/household donation (a household donation covers members of a family living in the same home), you can help pack food and pay for it at the same time!

OR sign up for St. Mark's next packing session: [Saturday, May 6th, at 8:45 am](#)

Third: please consider donating to an awesome cause!! FMSC would gladly except your one-time donation, but we also have a monthly giving program called "Something Greater". If you have the resources available, please look at the following information for ways you can help fed the hungry [Ways to Give to FMSC!!](#)

Thank you so much!!!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2023

St. Mark's Joyful Hearts - Singles Group

Joyful Hearts is a group for St Mark single people who get together for friendship and fellowship. The commonality and shared experience of being single is what brings us together. We believe that Christian friendships make our lives more fulfilling. Joyful Hearts is not a group that actively seeks dating relationships. We have been getting together once a month at one of our local restaurants. Additionally, throughout the month we have gone to the movies, farmers markets, local concerts, etc. If you are interested in joining this group please let us know (you can pick and choose what you want to participate in). This is a great way to make new friendships!

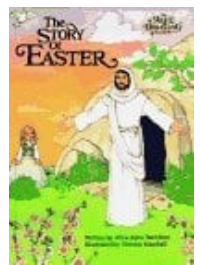
We are also exploring ways we can support the church. We are a new group and appreciate all suggestions!

Contact Patty or Nancy Lindholm_m_Patricia@yahoo.com or NEOConnor@comcast.net



The Story of Easter

Easter is right around the corner and this month's book selection is written for young children to help them understand and appreciate the true meaning of Easter. *The Story of Easter*, written by Alice Joyce Davidson and illustrated by Victoria Marshall is a book the whole family can enjoy together. It begins with little Alice reading the story of Easter in her Bible. She is able to enter the story and experience the time at the empty tomb and the days and weeks afterward when Jesus returned to spend time with His followers. Alice learns about Jesus' sacrifice for us and leaves the Biblical days to return home and share the gospel with others. The book, written in rhyme, is full of colorful illustrations that will hold the attention of a young child. You can find this book under call number E DAV.



FROM YOUR CHURCH DOCTOR TASK FORCE

We had an awesome committee meeting/dinner this past February – your St. Mark committees came up with an exceptional list of [2023 Vision Statements](#)!! **BUT ... THEY STILL NEED YOUR HELP!!!!**

The following is a Daily Devotion written by Rick Warren on March 12, 2023. It pertains to your worldly contribution, but it can also be used for your St. Mark contribution – please read and consider what you can do to help **“contribute”??!!**



“What Will Be Your Contribution?”

“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings.” 1 Peter 4:10 (TLB)

What will be the contribution of your life **(in the world AND at St. Mark)**? Are you going to use your God-given talents and abilities to benefit yourself or other people **(in the world AND at St. Mark)**?

The Bible says, “God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings” (1 Peter 4:10 TLB).

God wired you to make a difference. He wired you to make a contribution in this world **(AND at St. Mark)**. You were not put on this Earth just to take up space, **(be a country club member at St. Mark)**, use resources, retire, and die. God uniquely shaped you so you can make a unique contribution **(in the world AND at St. Mark)**.

You need to ask yourself, “Based on how God wired me, what is the greatest contribution I can make **(in the world AND at St. Mark)**? How can I make a difference **(in the world AND at St. Mark)**?”

Continued on Page 13

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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EASTER PREPARATIONS

Just want to alert folks that the Easter Breakfast/Brunch will be held again this year between the 6 AM Sunrise Service and the 9 AM Service. I will be asking for donations of fruit, baked goods, juice, etc. via a sign up board near the

Fellowship Hall entrance so please watch for that.

There are also opportunities for our Confirmands to earn points for handing out palms on Palm Sunday.

If anyone has any new ideas for our Easter Celebration, please feel free to talk to me.

Blessings!!

Gae Michal



I would like to thank everyone who prayed, called, texted, sent cards or flowers and/or dropped off food during my recovery. I have never felt so loved. Each card I opened brought tears of

happiness and a smile to my face. All your thoughts and prayers were a big part of my recovery. Your calls to Ken kept him strong as he cared for me. Thank you for that. Through the grace of God I should have a full recovery. Thank you all for being a part of that.

Love,
Laurie Kerns

THE CONFIRMATION MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Beginning Fall 2023, the church needs 2-3 people to provide the organizational/administrative support necessary to help our 7th/8th graders complete their confirmation. This includes setting up the activities and preparing materials at the beginning of the confirmation year, communication during the year, and facilitating end of year activities.



This is a great way to support our youth! Confirmation typically runs beginning of September thru end of April.

We have a detailed description to help.

PLEASE contact Jane Milani lymom76@att.net or Lori McKenzie lorimckenzie119@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School

SAVE THE DATES FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

Stars, Planets, Comets...Oh My God, you are AWESOME!

3-2-1...Blast off for some star-studded Bible adventures!

We'll learn how Jesus' light shines even in the darkest parts of the universe!

Join us for some light years of faith-building fun!

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1st

When: Monday, June 19th – Friday, June 23rd

Time: 9:00am - Noon

Who: Preschoolers (3-years old and potty-trained) through 6th graders (for the 23-24 school year)

Be on the lookout for more details and registration information on SMLC website!

If you have any questions about VBS or would like to volunteer to be part of our VBS crew, please **contact Beth Miller at smarkvbsfun@gmail.com**.



VBS Mission Control Members Needed!

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1st

We are searching every corner of our SMLC galaxy looking for adults (over 16 years of age) to lead His children on an out-of-this-world adventure that will leave an everlasting, faith-based impression!

Can you be the hands and heart of God, shining His incredible love for His children?

Can you be one of our VBS stars?

We can't do this without you!

We are in need of:

Co-director (working to organize VBS materials, donations, and training)

Station Leaders (using a provided curriculum, share the Bible story, lead games, make crafts, sing songs, **or** prepare snacks.)

Crew Leaders (experience VBS with a group of preschool or elementary kids)

Got questions? Please **contact Beth Miller at smarkvbsfun@gmail.com or reach out to our Parish Education Committee.**

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2023



NO H.I.S. MINISTRY THIS MONTH!
We will get back together on May 13th (2nd Saturday).
8:00am Training / 9:30am Adjourn

As announced in March, we are taking a spring break to celebrate Easter with our families and friends. **What does Easter really stand for?**

The meaning of Easter is that Jesus is the Lord of new beginnings, new days, and new lives. Easter means that the incomprehensibly great power of God was on full display at the Garden Tomb where Christ lay. That same great power that raised Christ from the dead now works in us who believe (Ephesians 1:19).

The Three Gaps Hindering Your Church's Work



With the best of intentions, churches may embrace practices, language, or priorities that hinder people from connecting faith in Christ to all of life. The good news is that with honest reflection and intentionality, churches can pursue a better path, prioritizing language and habits that help people live more integrated lives.

Join Made to Flourish Executive Director Matt Rusten as he unpacks three gaps churches must address if they want to help their congregations live more seamlessly, connecting faith to where they spend most of their time, at work.

Registration required.

No products will be sold. Made to Flourish is not affiliated with, or endorsed by, Thrivent. The views expressed in this presentation by Matt Rustin and Made to Flourish are their own and not necessarily those of Thrivent or its affiliates. The material presented has been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable and is current. For additional disclosures, see [Thrivent.com/social](https://thrivent.com/social).

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From Your Church Doctor Task Force, *Continued from Page 10*

In the Bible, the Good Samaritan is an example of someone who had margin in his life so that he could make a contribution. Remember the story? A guy was mugged on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho. The attackers beat him up, robbed him of all his stuff, and left him for dead at the side of the road. The first guy who came walking by and saw him was a religious leader who had no margin in his life. He was in a hurry and basically said, "I don't have time to help this guy." And he walked on. Another religious leader walked by. He said, in effect, "I've got my own agenda. I've got my own goals and ambitions. I'm too busy. I don't want to be associated with that guy anyway." And he walked past the dying man.

The third guy came along, and he had every reason to pass. He was a Samaritan, and the Samaritans and Jews hated each other. But he stopped anyway. He put this total stranger on his donkey, took him to the nearest hotel, and told the manager something like this: "You feed him, you clothe him, you restore him to health, and I'll pay for it."

When was the last time you helped someone in need? (**One of our Lenten Spiritual Disciplines is to do 3 Random Acts Of Kindness – have you done yours yet????**) If it's been so long you don't even remember, you probably don't have any margin in your life. But this guy did. He had time margin; he left early enough to stop along the way to help somebody in need. He had financial margin; he was able to give away his money. And he had energy margin; he was able to help because he wasn't stressed out.

Every day of your life, you walk by people you could help (**in the world AND at St. Mark**). But if you're overloaded and only focused on your own life, you can't stop to help anybody. You can't make a contribution.

When you boil it all down in life, there are only two kinds of people: givers and takers. Which are you going to be?



3 POINTS TO PRAY ABOUT

- What unique abilities has God given you? How are you using them to bless others (**in the world AND at St. Mark**)?
- How does culture try to convince you to be a taker instead of a giver?
- In what ways can you build margin into your life so that you are focused on other people (**in the world AND at St. Mark**) and not yourself?

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2023

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
4/11/23, 5/9/23, 6/13/23



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
4/20/23, 5/18/23, 6/15/23

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
[Instagram@Divinesigns3.16](https://www.instagram.com/divinesigns3.16)
DivineSigns.godaddysites.com

(Please be patient, our website is under construction.)

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2023

Noah's Nursery, *Continued from page 8*

Getting to know more about Anna:

Anna has been a hairdresser for 5 years since her graduation from high school. She enjoys spending her free time with her 2 cats, Mac and JoJo.

Anna's favorite holiday is Halloween and Fall is her favorite season. She also enjoys spending time with children and truly loves the snuggles from them both here at church and in her outside family life as well.

Anna is truly an asset to St Mark where she shares her gifts with us every Sunday!

As a reminder, the nursery is open for infants to 4-year-olds every Sunday for the 8 am and 10:30 am services as well as during the Sunday School hour. We are also open on Wednesday evenings during lent for the 7 pm services.

God bless,
Deb Heide

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Saturday, April 22nd

5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

This Earth Day, enjoy a night out while we watch the kids!

FOOD

**Pizza, Drinks, and
Popcorn**



FUN

**Crafts, Games, and
Movie**

“The whole earth is the Lord’s and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1).

For: Children of St. Mark Families

Ages: Birth – 11 (12-17 year olds and Sunday school teachers are welcome to volunteer-please contact Deb Heide)

Where: St. Mark Lutheran Church (Please meet in the Fellowship Hall)

Cost: FREE (We ask that you please bring a non-perishable food donation for Open Arms Food Pantry)

*Please RSVP by 4/16/23 by returning the bottom of this flyer to your Sunday school teacher, the church office, or Deb Heide in the nursery. Any questions please see Deb Heide in the nursery or email heidedeborah@gmail.com.

Parents Night Out – 4/22/23

Name and Age of Child/Children: _____

Parent Name and Phone Number: _____

Will they be eating pizza? (It will be cheese only) Yes _____ No _____

Any information our volunteers should know (i.e. allergies, potty training, etc.):

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

April 2023

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

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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
Sunday | 10:30AM
Contemporary

★ TO RECEIVE
THE VOICE ONLINE,
EMAIL DEB@SMLC.INFO

**MAY VOICE DEADLINE:
April 15, 2023**

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
April 2023