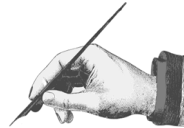


June/July 2023

President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



In just two short weeks, Pastor Steve Abend and his wife, Penny, will be part of our St. Mark family as he serves as our Intentional Interim pastor for the coming 18 months. Thank you, Jesus!!!

Although 18 months may seem like a long time, it will fly by as Pastor Steve helps us prepare for our next Sr. Pastor. The Advent season is a time for prayerful, thoughtful preparation for Christ's coming so although we could put away the Thanksgiving leftovers and string the Christmas lights the next day without preparing for Christ's coming in between, we'd miss out on those treasured worship services in between as well as our personal time with Jesus between the end of November and December 24th. That might not be a perfect analogy comparing one month to 18 months, but there's a lot for us to do that can't be done in a rushed manner, lest we miss out on finding out who we are today (who can tell me what St Mark's mission statement is? No fair peeking at our website), soul searching if that's who we are meant to be; does our Mission Statement truly reflect who God intends we be? And if not, how do we become the congregation He wants us to be, so we know what gifts in a pastor we'll be looking for?

Making disciples isn't yet our primary strength as a congregation, yet that's what Jesus told us we're supposed to be doing in His Great Commission when He ascended. He didn't say visit with your friends over coffee and doughnuts,

Continued on page 5

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- ⇒ Support our Church

CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Let's all welcome our new
Intentional Interim Pastor
Pastor Steve Abend
and his wife Penny!
June 12, 2023



VBS

June 19th-23rd

See Details Pages 7-9

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

ST. MARK COUNCIL



MEET THE TEAM

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Joni Wasmund
joni1812@sbcglobal.net | 847-404-9185

VICE PRESIDENT

Laurie Kerns

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Next Council Meetings: Tuesday, June 13th and July 11th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meetings: Tuesday, June 27th and July 25th @ 7:00PM

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2023



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

Trustworthy Spirit

Two months ago in The Voice I wrote about our trustworthy heavenly Father. Last month I wrote about the trustworthy Son. Now let us consider God’s trustworthy Holy Spirit. He is present and at work in our midst. Here is evidence and a bit of explanation of that work.

Many of us were uplifted by a recent St. Mark event: the April 30th confirmation service. Why are confirmation services such an encouragement? There are several reasons.

1. The confirmands. These are young women and men who attended dozens of classes over the span of two years and wrote out their own testimony of faith in Christ. These students are our own sons and daughters. Their names deserve repeating here:

Alyn Appelt	Reina Maciareillo
Madeline Butler	Zeke Quane
William Honaker	Mathew Sanderson
Leah Koslosky	Sydney Schneider
Samuel Krook	

It was encouraging to be reminded of their dedication and see evidence of their desire and determination to follow Christ.

2. The congregation. The confirmation service took place at 2 PM on Sunday. Many who attended had already worshipped on Saturday evening or Sunday morning. Yet they returned on Sunday afternoon to celebrate the occasion and show support for the nine students above as they made this significant public statement of their faith. This show of love affirms St. Mark’s character as a church that continues to care for its young people. Jesus’ words, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 19:14), apply to teenagers too!

3. Holy communion. On April 30th we shared in the first communion of the nine confirmands. It is the work of the Holy Spirit by the word of God that saves us through faith, but the body and blood of Christ present in the communion elements confirm and nourish us. At the end of the communion service come those words which are my very favorite in the Lutheran liturgy: “The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.” Those words remind and reinforce us in our conviction that God’s promises are true, and our lives are secure in him despite the uncertainty, threats, and fears that are part of life in this post-pandemic world.

4. God’s trustworthy Holy Spirit. None of the encouragements above would amount to much if they were based on human strength alone. But we have hope not because of ourselves but because of the Spirit who is one with the Father and the Son. God the Spirit looms large, being mentioned directly 247 times in the New Testament. Even in the Old Testament, we find “Spirit” 80 times.

God’s Spirit is mightily at work from creation (“And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters” [Genesis 1:2]) to consummation (“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come’” [Revelation 22:17]).

Because of the Holy Spirit, we have hope in the areas listed above: the confirmands, the congregation, and holy communion. By the Spirit we are baptized and mystically made one: “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body ... and all were made to drink of one Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Because of the Holy Spirit our prayers are effective: “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words” (Romans 8:26).

Because of the Holy Spirit, followers of Christ have hope in a world that can seem hopeless: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope” (Romans 15:13).

That benediction is not shaky wistfulness but a divine promise! For Jesus said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ... to the end of the earth.”

That Holy Spirit witness through the ages is why the church exists. It’s why St. Mark exists. It’s why nine confirmands confessed their faith in word and in holy communion on April 30th.

I close with words I shared with the confirmands at the confirmation service: “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11). Like all of Scripture, those words are given by ... the Holy Spirit!

By God’s Holy Spirit, St. Mark members from newest to oldest can together take heart in his sure promise.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 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 May 2023

Motion carried to name Debbie Plishka as Financial Secretary for the remainder of 2023.

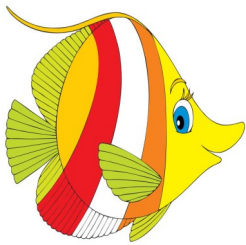
Motion carried to name Rick Wilhelm as Maintenance Technician.

Motion carried to create a position for a full-time Director of Worship and Music.

Motion carried to set up "Positive Pay" with State Bank of the Lakes to reduce exposure to potential check fraud based on 2 instances which occurred during the month of April.

Motion carried to approve the purchase of three new air conditioning units to replace old units that require costly maintenance before they begin to fail.

Did you know?



Fin Facts

The Association of Related Churches states that the average church spends 50% of it's annual budget on personnel. Other research has found that the percentage spent on staff can range anywhere from 46% to 60% of a church's budget. Where does St. Mark fall, you may ask? Below are the actual percentages from Fiscal Year 2022 and what has been budgeted for 2023. Other research states that a church should have 1 full time employee for every 76 active members of a congregation. St. Mark has approximately 380 active members, which would mean we should have 5 full time staff. We currently have only two full time staff members, including our Intentional Interim Pastor!

	<u>Typical %</u>	<u>2022 St. Mark Actual</u>	<u>2023 St. Mark Budget</u>
Compensation	50%	52.5%	58%
Benevolence	10%	10%	10%
Building Maintenance/ Mortg./Capital Projects	15%	28.8%	22%
Ministries & Administration	15%	8%	10%
Savings	10%	.7%	0%

Currently St. Mark has \$280,402 in checking and savings accounts as well as \$60,000 in a contingency account. St. Mark is on strong financial footing and able to invest in additional staff.

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	
Month of March 2023	\$ 67,650	\$ 52,283	(\$ 15,367)
2023 Fiscal Year (Jan.- April)	\$ 231,050	\$ 210,856	(\$ 20,649)

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2023

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

but we do that *really* well. Fellowship is very important to a congregation, but should we be better at fellowship than we are at making disciples? Making disciples might sound like it requires a particular spiritual gift to do so but that can't be true because Jesus told ALL of us to go and make disciples and we know we've all been blessed with different spiritual gifts. Let's use them!

And let's also anticipate all that God will do through all of us together over the coming months and years. St Mark has SO much potential to be SO much more than we are as a magnet for the unchurched. It's starting with the Community Garden and VBS coming up in the short term and I, for one, can't wait to see those events and all the other works God will accomplish for our community through us.

Blessings on your summer,

Joni Wasmund
Congregational President

Some **SCIENCE** from your Church Doctor Task Force

Pam Burke recently got an email from Dr. Keith Nemece of the Total Health Institute out of Wheaton, IL. He had some very interesting thoughts and figures on volunteering.

Maybe volunteering at St. Mark could improve your health?

“Does the world pay back heroes for their selflessness? Or do “good people finish last?” Is there any reward in life for those who sacrifice for others? Does living out of love and concern for others have a physical, mental, or emotional reward?

Without God, life is “survival of the fittest” because without Him our only motivation is selfishness. But research has thrown us a surprise: there is a reward for selflessness - in longevity. The altruistic tend to live longer! Something good happens inside when we give of ourselves, and that translates to better health and longer life.

The concept of sacrifice for the greater good is built into life. Complex life could not have developed otherwise, and for single cells to climb the ladder of complexity to become organisms, cells had to learn to work together and even give their lives for others at times. Each step up in complexity requires more selflessness for the sake of the organism, against the rule of survival of the fittest. For society to advance, the same has to happen: the societies that succeed ultimately do so because of the selflessness and concern for others of its members. We have designed into us special and counter-nature characteristics which can only be called by one name: love. When we respond to that design, we are benefitted physically and mentally, even when others don't appreciate or know about our actions.

Science confirms this. Researchers at the University of Michigan, as published in Health Psychology, took data from the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study that tracked a random group of 10,317 men and women aged an average of 69 years and questioned them at various stages of life as to whether they did any volunteer work, how regularly, and the motives behind their volunteering. The mortality rate for those who did no volunteer work was 4.3%. For those who did some volunteer work, the mortality rate dropped to 2.3%. Those who were doing volunteer work regularly had an average mortality rate of 1.8%. Then they considered the motives for volunteering, as some had self-centered reasons (wanted the social involvement, or to make friends with someone, etc.) but those who had altruistic motives had the lowest mortality rates in each grouping of volunteers, whether occasional or regular. The researchers' conclusion was that the desire to help others, to know they had purpose and value in life, and to make a positive difference improved longevity.”

Maybe volunteering at St. Mark could improve your health?



Save the Date! Annual Church Meeting and Council Elections

When: Sunday, November 12, 2023

The Board of Elders serves as the Nominating Committee for Council Elections. The nomination process will open August 12, 2023. If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning more about the positions available, please contact one of the Elders.



Council positions that will be decided at the annual meeting include:

- President - 1 year term.** The president presides over meetings of the Church Council, is the chief administrative officer of the church; and an *ex officio* member of all Boards and Committees. Currently serving: Joni Wasmund
- Secretary - 1 year term.** The secretary keeps the minutes of the Church Council and of the Congregation and publishes and posts them within 15 days of each meeting. Currently serving: Kellie Rice
- Treasurer - 1 year term.** The treasurer oversees and supports all financial planning, financial records and funds of the Congregation and publishes monthly financial statements. The treasurer also oversees the Financial Secretary and Bookkeeper and serves on the Board of Trustees. Currently serving: Patrice Sutton
- Board of Trustees - 3 year term.** The Board of Trustees oversees legal and corporate affairs, maintenance of properties and administration of finances. This person will oversee Congregational Life Committee. Currently serving: Jerry Gass
- Elder - 3 year term.** The Board of Elders oversees the Pastor, the spiritual welfare of the Congregation, and its witness, worship and service. This person will be a liaison for the Worship and Music Committee. Currently serving: Cheryl Bengston

If you have questions about any of the positions, you can reach out to the person currently serving or you can contact one of the Elders. Cheryl Bengston -224-436-3613, Rod Lunkenheimer -847-917-1304, Nancy O'Connor -847-902-8308



**June 10th / July 8th / 2nd Saturday / 7:00am
Breakfast /
8:00am Training / 9:30am Adjourn**

Join in person or via zoom on the 2nd Saturday of the month (Men age 15+). Become part of something good and GET PLUGGED IN. We always have room for one more man. Send your contact information to Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com or text 847-271-8632.



With immense gratitude, we thank Taylor Houser, Dr. Steve Greggo and Dr. Bob Yarbrough, for leading us in worship these past 2 months. We have been tremendously blessed by their love for God and for St. Mark. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2023





Vacation Bible School has space for YOU!

June 19th through June 23rd

Welcome to Stellar VBS! Launch kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Stellar rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun.

To increase SMLC community outreach and to accommodate SMLC families, this year, we're offering **2 sessions of VBS!**

VBS (daytime)	FAMILY VBS (evening)
Mon., June 19 - Fri. June 23	Mon., June 19 - Fri. June 23
9:00am - Noon	6:00pm - 7:30pm
3yrs - 6th graders (kids need to be potty-independent)	Families Children must attend with at least 1 adult. Curriculum is tailored to 3yrs - 6th grade.
VBS Registration	Family VBS Registration
	

REGISTER BY MONDAY, JUNE 12th

More information can be found at www.SMLC.info or email Beth Miller at stmarkvbsfun@gmail.com.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2023

VBS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS (Teens and Adults)

Our VBS program relies on adult and teen volunteers to provide songs, stories, crafts, games, and God's word!

USING THE PROVIDED CURRICULUM/SCRIPT can you...

- Work with a team (adults and teen assistants),
- Read/Teach a Bible Story,
- Play a video and guide a discussion,
- Make a craft or explore with a science "gizmo",
- Play music videos to teach songs and motions,
- Play games,
- Smile, laugh, make memories, share God's word, and exemplify God's LOVE for His children



If **YES** is the answer to any of these, we have a place for you on our VBS adventure!

If you'd like more information about volunteer opportunities, please use this link [Volunteer Opportunities](#) or contact a VBS Director at stmarkvbsfun@gmail.com.

TOGETHER, let's make VBS a BLAST!

Beth Miller
VBS Director



SMLC VBS 2023

JUNE 19th - 23RD

St. Mark Congregation,
One of the most important ways to prepare for Vacation Bible School (VBS) is to pray. Over the next few weeks, please join us in prayer for every aspect of our VBS. Thank you!

May God bless you,
2023 VBS Directors
(Beth Miller/Jane Milani/Julie Frank)

Week of May 28th: Our Community

Lord, thank you for where you have placed us and allowed our roots to grow. We pray that our VBS will bring unity throughout the community. We pray our community will be transformed by your goodness and mercy. May the good news learned at VBS extend beyond our church walls and reach the families in our community. Don't let the good news end after VBS ends, but be carried throughout our area for all the days to come. Allow our VBS to bring families, friends, co-workers, and kids closer together to YOU! Amen



Continued on page 9

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2023

Our Church



Lord, thank you for our church and giving us a space in which we can gather and praise your name. We pray these walls will be a welcoming space for all who enter. We pray your Holy Spirit will fill this place and the hearts of all who are here. Allow our church to be a place for those who are eager to grow closer to you. Allow our church to be a place for those who don't know you. Transform their hearts through your mighty love. Thank you for the opportunity to pour into the lives of all who enter this place. Amen

Week of June 4th: Our Staff

Lord, thank you for our VBS staff. Thank you for giving them a heart for your children and for being a vessel through which you will work. Give them energy throughout all the stages of VBS. Guide them through planning, coordinating, running, and following-up with VBS. Allow them to be constantly reminded why we do this. Give them a renewed focus and commitment during the coming month. We thank you for the lives that will be changed through your use of our staff's hard work, dedication, and faithfulness. Amen



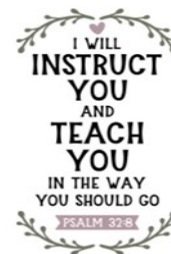
Our Families



Lord, thank you for the families that will be a part of VBS. For those families who know you, we pray their love for you would be strengthened at VBS. For those families who don't know you, we pray their lives will be transformed through VBS and that their hearts will become on fire for you. Let relationships strengthen and grow with you at the center. We pray each family finds community and connection to your Church. Thank you for the families that will continually seek you above all else. Amen.

Week of June 11th: Our Volunteers

Lord, thank you for our volunteers and their willingness to serve. Give them energy, strength, and excitement as they get ready to pour into our kids. Allow them the opportunity to go deeper with their crews and find the boldness to share your love with everyone they encounter. Let your Holy Spirit guide their thoughts, words, and actions throughout the week. We pray they will connect with the lessons and with their kids, and we thank you for the lives that will be changed through them. Amen



Our Kids



Lord, thank you for all the children who will walk through our doors for VBS. May their hearts be open to hear what it is you would have for them. Let their love for you grow. Let this be a place in which they feel comfortable, safe, and heard. Give them the courage to ask questions. Let them leave with an understanding of who you are and the love that you have for them. Give them the boldness to share this good news with their families and friends after VBS! Amen

Week of June 18th: Our VBS

Lord, we give this VBS to you. Let this event be an opportunity to pour into the lives of kids in our congregation and community. Let your Holy Spirit speak to the hearts of each child, leader, volunteer, parent, and family. Let us glorify you in all that we do. We pray this week strengthens relationships, changes hearts, and brings kids, families, and volunteers closer to you! Amen



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2023



Rummage Sale 2023 Save the Date! August 3rd, 4th & 5th

The Annual Rummage Sale is just 2 months away. This article will give you the timeline for donations and set up and also all the ways you can help not only at the sale but also from home. First the timeline...

July 5th Donation collection begins 9:00-4:00 Monday thru Friday. For different drop off times or pick ups of larger items you cannot drop of yourself, call Laurie at 847-612-1510.

July 10th Ed Center set up begins.

July 24th Main Building set up begins.

July 31st, August 1st & 2nd St. Mark members pre-shop.

August 3rd, 4th & 5th Sale Dates

August 5th at 3:00PM Clean Up

A poster will be up in July with days and times we will be working, for you to sign up.

Items We Do Not Accept

Mattresses or box springs, large appliances like stoves, refrigerators, microwaves, paints or chemicals, large mirrors without frames, large glass top tables, heavy desks, TVs, large exercise equipment, computers, large entertainment centers, encyclopedias, textbooks, magazines, Christmas trees, chandeliers, ceiling fans, wall to wall carpet, pool tables, ping pong tables, cribs, expired car seats, tires, building material, anything broken or with missing parts, sleeper sofas, pianos or organs, and aquariums. These items do not sell and are hard to get rid of after the sale. Please only donate clean, resalable items. If you would throw it out, so will we.

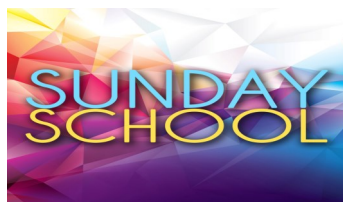
How You Can Help

When donating items put like items together. Kid's clothes in one bag, women's clothes in another, linens in another, housewares in one box, books in one box, tools in another, etc.. This greatly helps us when setting up. When you drop off items please leave them in the boxes or bags. Also please do not tightly tie bags closed. We reuse them to pack up after the sale, but if we cannot open them we have to rip them up and throw them away. Come help setting up the sale. We take help of all ages, but do ask that an adult stay with younger children. Confirmation students can earn service points. We have jobs for everyone! No special skills required. If you can open a box or bag, hang or fold clothes, or set items on tables you are qualified! Our help is getting older each year and we really would love to welcome some younger faces. Join us even if you only have an hour to give. Many new friendships are made at the sale. It is a great way to get involved and meet new people. Work the sale. This involves straightening up after shoppers, helping shoppers with their items, answering questions, etc..

Continued on page 11

THANK YOU SUNDAY SCHOOL

Parish Ed would like to thank our Sunday School staff:



Coordinators - Denise Schaufel and Melissa Grandt

Teachers - Connie Saunders, Amya Appelt, Sarah Koslosky, Izzy McBride, Maria Hill, Page Wolf, Sam Kveton, and Carin Kveton

Assistants - Kelly Gregori and Rhett Wolf

Music Leader - Karissa McGill

And all who have subbed in our Sunday School.

It has been a wonderful year and we thank God for all of you and all you have taught our children.

PS: Please pray about how you can help our Sunday School this coming Fall. We might need teachers and we can always use more substitute teachers (you would be a helper in one of the classrooms) on our list.

Please contact Parish Ed with any questions.



COOL PLANT SALE

THANK YOU to ALL who supported the 2023 COOL Plant Sale.

It is estimated that about \$6,000 was raised, all of which will go directly to COOL programs.

God is Good! (ALL of the time!)

Wendy Rohlwing

MANY THANKS TO OUR CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE!

Becky Butler, Kristi Knull and Lori Quane are stepping down after many years of service on the Confirmation Committee. Parish Ed wants to thank them for all they have done. They were instrumental in organizing the program, assisting Pastor Breum and helping our confirmation students at this important faith stage of their life. We could not have done it without you!



Rummage Sale 2023 August 3rd, 4th & 5th *Continued From pg*

Help with cleanup. Much help is needed at 3:00PM on Saturday to pack everything up and put the church back in order. The last 2 years we finished the Ed Center after church on Sunday. It would be nice to have enough help to get it all done on Saturday!

Help with pick ups. Our pick up crew is aging and could use a few strong younger guys to help. If you have a pick up truck, or if you can ride along with them, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Bake items for the bake sale. These can be dropped off Wednesday night or any time during the sale.

Do you know of any organizations, groups or individual that could use any of our leftovers? If you get us their contact information we will call and see if they want to come and pick up anything. Or if you are willing to pick up for them let us know.

Many hours of work go into making our sale a great success. Our volunteers work hard, but we also have great fun making the church look better than most department stores. Our customers always tell us that we have one of the best sales around. Make it a family affair. My grandkids have grown up helping at the sale and can't wait for it each year. They usually get their school wardrobe each year at the sale. One perk of helping, you get to pre-shop! Hope to see you all, come make some new friends and help the church with this great fundraiser.

Questions call Laurie Kerns at 847-612-1510

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2023



After July 21st, St. Mark and the City of Logan can say we have “**WORKED TOGETHER**” and we can’t wait to see what that is like!!

Until then, please continue to pray for the trip, all the participants, the YouthWorks organization itself and all staff preparing all the sites, as well as the people of Logan to have their hearts open and ready for our help.

Speaking of YouthWorks, St. Mark has been using this organization to help facilitate our mission trips for a long, long time. If you ever wondered who or what they are, here is their organization’s website link. [YouthWorks](#) Feel free to discover how much of a difference they make in the lives of so many youths in America each and every summer.

As you read this article, we will be just finishing off our annual “Pick An Envelope” fundraiser and starting off our second one – be on the look out for what it is????? We thank you in advance for all your financial assistance in making this trip possible. St. Mark – you are VERY GENEROUS!!!

Praying in Unprecedented Times

“And the sons of Issachar, men who *understood the times* with knowledge of what Israel should do...” 1 Chronicles 12:32

Understanding the times (culture) is what we’re about as Christians. There are unprecedented things that we have never experienced. As noted above, we are to know, how we ought to live and what to do in such a times as these.

Question? “How Then Shall We Live?” The answer is found in Philippians 2:15-16.

“...that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach.” (In other words, your *character*).

“...in the midst of a *crooked and perverse generation*,” (the *culture*),

“among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life,” (your *calling*),

so that in the day of Christ I may have cause to glory...” (the *coming of Christ*)

So how do we live this out each day? We live with character, integrity, purpose, calling, and hope. Christ is to be the center of our life, not the self. In this roiling, crazy time more than ever we need to understand that our need for security, being significant, and having satisfaction comes not from this world, but from God.

Living this out begins with prayer (Philippians 4: 6-7). When you are overcome with emotions, seek to train yourself to refocus and catch that emotional concern with your mind. Ask “Why am I anxious, why am I in despair, why am I despondent, why am I angry, or any of these things?” Think of your emotions as a diagnostic tool are telling you something’s wrong. Ask yourself, “What is wrong with my thinking?” Then realize I’m allowing something that I shouldn’t be is ruling my thoughts. So Paul writes “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving...” make request be made known to the Lord. So I turn the anxiety, fear, concern into a prayer and send it back to Him with a (hard) thanksgiving. So instead of taking it on and bear the weight that only God can bear, I give it to Him. Note, it (being anxious) will come back, but then I give it back and the more I give it back, I am training myself to where it (being anxious) stays up there more and more. Over time as you make this a habit, you find true peace which guards your heart and mind even while living in a world of fear.

Philippians 4:6-7 ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

To be continued in August *Voice*.

For more information contact Barb Ewert, bewert@colsonfellows.org

¹The Second Commandment and 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (the Message) ¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.

Drop by the **Prayer Table** in the Narthex for additional materials.

Resource, Ken Boa, Questions & Answers 3/17/23 <https://youtu.be/kTZONqyA6is>



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 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



Opportunities for Prayer are Blossoming at St. Mark Church, House of Prayer

New Opportunities for Prayer

2023 Youth Mission Trip scheduled for **Saturday, July 15th through Saturday, July 22nd**. Mike Mol is asking for prayers as they plan, prepare, and pack for this mission trip.

Please pray for the VBS outreach utilizing the guidelines found on either VBS table or the prayer table in the Narthex.

Ongoing Opportunities for Prayer

First Friday Sing and Pray beginning **June 2nd and July 7th** at 7:00pm in the sanctuary for praise and worship followed by prayer. See full announcement in this June *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 requests.

Weekly Prayer Meeting - Come, pray and be blessed. 6:30pm - 7:15pm Wednesday evening via Zoom.

We pray over the previous week of Prayer Chain requests, St. Mark Church and each other. Contact Person: Pam Burke 244-430-6226, Zoom Link - Barb Ewert

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, Interim Pastor, staff, church council and committees and for the Church Doctor training and program during this church year. Click on this link <https://www.smlc.info/prayer/>

For more information contact Barb Ewert, bewert@colsonfellows.org

¹The Second Commandment and 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (the Message) ¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.

² See **Prayer Table** in the Narthex.



Fellowship Server



If anyone feels the need or nudge to host(ess) Fellowship Hour, see Gae Michal at the coffee counter!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2023

Greetings From The Congregational Life Committee

Father's Day Services Help Needed

Thank you to those that helped hand out the cookies for Mother's Day. We are still looking for Confirmation students to help hand out some goodies for both Father's Day services. 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>

Operation Christmas Child - Christmas in July

Savvy shoebox packers know that it's never too early to start shopping, packing, personalizing, and fundraising for shoebox gifts. By donating shoebox gifts all year long, you can send the Good News of Jesus Christ and the great joy of receiving an Operation Christmas Child shoebox to more boys and girls around the world!

Rather than wait until the busy Christmas season, we are going to start collecting items for OCC in July. Please start gathering items that will fit in a shoebox to be ready for our July collection. You can visit [Official Shoebox Gift Suggestions \(samaritanspurse.org\)](https://www.samaritanspurse.org) to learn more about what types of items are most needed. Here are some ideas to help get you started. **Please remove as much packaging as possible when donating.**

Personal Care Items

- Comb & Hairbrush
- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Lip balm
- Solid deodorant

Clothing & Accessories

- Shirts and pants
- Underwear
- Shoes and socks
- Flip-flops
- Hat/scarf/mittens
- Wrist watch
- Sunglasses

School Supplies

- Pencils
- Manual pencil sharpener
- Erasers
- Colored pencils
- Pencil case
- Pens
- Crayons / Markers
- Notebooks
- Blank index cards
- Solar-powered calculator
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue stick
- Small adhesive tape



CHURCH

We're working on the details for our annual church picnic.

Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

Enjoy the summer!

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

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2023



Regina Brett

When Regina Brett turned 50, she wrote a column on the 50 lessons life had taught her. She reflected on all she had learned through becoming a single parent, looking for love in all the wrong places, working on her relationship with God, battling cancer and making peace with a difficult childhood. It became one of the most popular columns ever published in the newspaper, and since then the 50 lessons have been emailed to hundreds of thousands of people.

Brett now takes the 50 lessons and expounds on them in essays that are deeply personal. From "Don't take yourself too seriously-Nobody else does" to "Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift," these lessons will strike a chord with anyone who has ever gone through tough times--and haven't we all? Regina Brett will make you see the possibilities in your life in a whole new way. You can find this book under call number 646.7 BRE.

Prayer Shawl Request

What a great feeling to find our once overrun supply of Prayer Shawls is just about depleted! So I am putting out a request for al to get busy knitting or crocheting.

Any color, any pattern, even just a simple knit/purl or chain stitch is acceptable.

This would be a great way to LEARN the simple stitches! Teach your kids... or grandkids. I have some yarn available if needed, but just about one 4 oz. skein will produce a shawl on size 10 needles with about 50-80 stitches; knit to at least 3 to 4 ft., or until the yarn is used up. Fancy or simple, fringed or not....does not matter. However, whatever you do will be amazing! The only thing I ask is that the yarn used is soft, which makes the finished product cozy.



Please pray this prayer before beginning each session:

O God, who has included all commandments into one commandment of LOVE, we humbly pray that you will create in our heart such a sincere love of one another, that we may be children of our Father in heaven, and true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen

And bless when finished with this prayer:

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only hope in time of need, we humbly beseech you to behold, visit, and relieve the sick servant for whom this shawl is given. Look upon them in your mercy; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; and give them patience under their affliction. In your good time and using all wise means, restore them to health and enable them to lead their life to your glory. Grant that they may dwell finally with you in life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Any shawls you make can be given to the office, or give them to me during the Fellowship Hour at the coffee counter.

God bless you for joining this ministry!

Gae Michal

A
QUICK
NOTE

FROM YOUR SAFETY & SECURITY TEAM

As we mentioned at the Town Hall meeting, the next security camera is in the process of being installed. (As you read this – it actually might already be installed?!). Martin Technology has run the wiring and are waiting for the weather to be a bit more consistent, and plates to come in to mount the camera to the pole at the north end of the parking lot.

Also mentioned at the meeting, if you are CPR certified and would like to be on St. Mark's "Rapid Response Team", please let us know. We especially need team members for the Saturday night service. If you are NOT certified but would like to help out, let us know also!!

With summer coming on, kids will be out of school and with the nice weather, people will be out and about so please slow down when you see kids playing outside.

Just a reminder if anyone sees anything that we need to keep an eye on or that we need to attend to, make sure you are bringing your concerns to the committee.

Your S & S Committee: Judy Dunfrund, Al Maciareillo, Mike Mol, and Deb Zuchowski



Volunteer Opportunity

Banner Coordinator

This entails coordination of the banners seen on either side of the altar area. They do not need to be changed each week, but they do need to be coordinated with the church calendar and special events. Training will be given!

Communion Set Up

A person(s) to reset the altar elements and communion trays for the 8:00AM service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays (in the fall). This entails minimal effort requiring about 15-20 minutes of time. Usually if you can get to church by 7:30AM there is plenty of time to fulfill this simple task. Training provided. Young or old... men or women, or both! Contact Gae at the coffee counter for more info.



Open Arms

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 June are **Adult Pull-Ups (Medium & Large)/Deodorant**. July items are **Cereal/Dish Soup/Jelly** 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.

BAPTIZED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

May 6th at St. Mark

**Dexter Robert
Khristian Van Wey**

Son of Kamryn
& Mathew Van Whey

May the guiding presence of God be with this individual as he grows in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2023

Holy Smokes ARE BACK!



Attention all youth and their friends (freshmen in HS-to-be through seniors in college-to-be) are invited to join us this summer around the fire pit. Please plan on attending and also plan on having fun playing some games, eating S'mores, and just hanging out around the fire.

As of right now, we're planning on meeting at 6:30 (rain or shine) on:

June 4th, June 11th, July 9th, and July 30th (August dates to be determined later)

Let's pray for good weather so we can enjoy the beauty of summer nights. If it is raining, we'll meet in the Ed Center. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mike Mol at 847-276-8739 or MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!!

FIRST FRIDAY SING AND PRAY!



What does prayer have to do with Revival?

A revival (awakening, out pouring, a renewed spiritual interest) is characterized by an increased desire to be in the presence of a holy God. Every revival in American history was marked by unified prayer.

And now, revival is here! Hundreds of thousands on college campuses have been touched by this mighty move of God in our day as their hearts are filled with praise of our God and love for each other instead of the liberal, demonic agenda that causes them to question their identity, their nation, their God.

"I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, Renew them in our day, in our time make them known..." (Hab. 3:1).

No passage better describes our moment in time.

Unified prayer both *leads to* revival *and sustains* revival. We have prayed for this and now need to continue to fuel God's activity. We have asked Him to continue to use us in this. We need everyone's prayers and intercession.

Come join us for First Friday Sing & Pray June 2 and July 7. It is an informal gathering from 7:00 to 8:00pm. Pray whatever is on your heart silently, in agreement, or out loud. No pressure. No expectations. Stop in for 30 minutes or stay until the end, whatever works in your schedule.

The effective prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Colossians 4:2



For you planners out there, below are the FMSC sign up links for the next three months to help pack food for kids like Lauza. Summertime

at FMSC is usually our slow time so please check your calendars and join us for as many as you can make!

[Sign up for Saturday morning June 3rd](#)

[Sign up for Thursday night July 6th](#)

[Sign up for Saturday morning August 5th](#)



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

June/July 2023



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

In this article, I'd like to introduce Mary Johnson to you and also mention highlights about our first Parent's Night Out event!

Meet Mary

Mary became a member of St Mark in 1978 and was married to her beloved husband, Ken, also in 1978 at Trinity Lutheran in Waukegan, IL. Together they raised two sons in Lindenhurst and she's the proud grandmother of 5 grandchildren.

Mary was an environmental science teacher for high school students for 23 years. She remains passionate about saving the earth as demonstrated by her teaching St. Mark youth all about endangered and extinct animals and our role with protecting them at the first Parent's Night Out event held in April. (See included pictures.)

Mary has many hobbies such as: making quilts for Quilts of Valor, writing, walking, swimming, traveling, and volunteering in the nursery and with PADS.

Mary has volunteered in our nursery for over 10 years, and she enjoys nurturing the children as well as reading and working puzzles with them.

Mary's many talents include her confidence in herself and her ability to teach others, her patient and understanding nature, as well as her overall willingness to help however she can while emulating a Christian spirit. I am grateful for Mary's contributions and suggestions in the nursery and with the children of St Mark over the years. Thank you, Mary!



Parent's Night Out ... A Success!

On April 22, 2023 we held our first Parent's Night Out event which was a huge success! Our nursery hosted this event which was sponsored by Thrivent Financial to whom we are most grateful! The pizzas, crafts, and Christian goodie bags were all donated by them through the assistance of Jerry Doran; thank you, Jerry!

We had 17 children, and 14 volunteers participate in this event, and we kept the children busy with Earth Day presentations and crafts, active games, and the movie "The Lorax"! A good time was had by most while their parents were able to reconnect and rejuvenate!

A big shout out of thanks goes to our nursery volunteers who worked hard to pull this together for our families!

We took at least 50 pictures of this fun-filled evening which are captured in a photo album and in the nursery so come and visit us to see it! (Pictures here are just a brief preview!)

We hope to have another event like this in December, maybe sooner, which we may open up to the community as an outreach endeavor.

As noted, we had a unique opportunity to shine in God's glory as God intended with: Mark 10:14 "But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God'".

God's richest blessings,
Deb Heide

P.S. We are still collecting Cards for Seniors so please consider completing them throughout the summer! The basket for collection is on the table right outside the church office. 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
6/13/23, 7/11/23, 8/8/23



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
6/15/23, 7/20/23, 8/17/23

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

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June/July 2023

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Stephen Ministry

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 smlc@smlc.info

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

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**AUGUST VOICE DEADLINE:
July 15, 2023**

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June/July 2023