

September 2023

President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



Mother Theresa was well known for her compassion and love for humanity. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitutes a threat to peace. This is one of her writings that sits on my dresser in my home:

People are often unreasonable and self-centered. FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. BE KIND ANYWAY.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. BE HONEST ANYWAY.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous. BE HAPPY ANYWAY.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. DO GOOD ANYWAY. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. GIVE YOUR BEST ANYWAY.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. IT NEVER WAS BETWEEN YOU AND THEM ANYWAY.

Last year, we provided a little book to each family at St. Mark, titled I AM A CHURCH MEMBER. I confess that I was sad to see a copy of the book in the rummage sale donations. Why did that make me sad? Because the idea was to read the book from time to time to reinforce who God intends His church to be. I'm not making any judgments because perhaps the donor passed and because God doesn't work in coincidences, I believe that little book may have been picked up by someone else who needs to read it.

In the Introduction of the book, the author addresses the decline of churches and how we can blame the secular culture or the godless politics of our nation, on how the church has hurt us or on churches themselves. But what the author proposes is that we look in the mirror because.....

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COME JOIN US!

2023

Harvest Fest

**Saturday, September
16th, 2023**

Noon - 5:00 PM



CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

The deadline for the October edition of

The Voice is **September 15th**. Please

Email articles to: deb@smlc.info &

stmarkcommunications@gmail.com.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2023



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Next Council Meetings: Tuesday, September 12th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meetings: Tuesday, September 26th @ 7:00PM

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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From the Desk of Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

Greeting brothers and sisters in Christ

We're moving forward! The Transition team has begun meeting and has already begun to think ahead regarding what needs to be attended to during the interim period. I'm excited to be part of the transition here at St. Mark. Patrick Krook, Nancy O'Connor, Kurt Ulbricht, and Bonnie Millsop all stepped forward and volunteered to help lead us during the transition. John Bengston came forward to be our Chair, Pam Burke our recorder, and Joyce Mol to be the communicator within the team. Again, I'm so excited to be working with this team!

This is indeed an exciting time to be here, it is really your time to share your vision of what God can do here. I preached on dreaming big a couple of weeks ago. God is with us, who can be against us? Let the Spirit of God open new possibilities for us all. With God all things are possible! I loved that Debbie Plishka picked up the theme for devotions on Friday August 11th. God is truly calling the people here to begin to think about the mission and vision, to not be restrained by human thoughts, but to DREAM BIG, to see where God could take us with the power of the Holy Spirit!

The interim period is the time you as a congregation can chart your own course. To have the conversation about where God is leading you, and not feel constrained, but freed by the power of the Holy Spirit!

I'm so glad to be on this journey with you, God is good...

Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

TRANSITIONS

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

many church members have lost the biblical understanding of what it means to be part of the body of Christ. Although all 6 chapters contribute to the health of the body, Chapter 2 is about Being a Unifying Church Member. To be a source of unity, we are never to be a divisive force, we are to love our fellow church members unconditionally and while it doesn't mean we agree with everyone all the time, it does mean we are willing to sacrifice our own preferences to keep unity in the church. Gossip and the lack of forgiveness gives the enemy exactly what he wants, a wedge that he can use to divide and destroy.

We still have copies of the book and it's a quick read so please stop by the church office or ask any Council member for a copy.

I'm writing about this today because of the importance of being unified during our transition journey. Again, we don't have to all agree with each other's opinions, but we should remember that they are opinions. The definition of a dialogue is a conversation between two or more persons or an exchange of ideas and opinions. You'll notice there's no reference in the definition to attempt to persuade or convince one opinion over another. How refreshing to consider an open conversation that leaves room for acceptance of an alternate opinion and no room for judgment.

That leads me to share a post I recently saw: "Be careful what you think you know about someone. You're probably wrong. "How wonderful would it be if we took the time to get to know someone before making up our minds about them. Thanks be to God that He teaches us grace as we receive it from Him.

The summer flies by so quickly and I'll miss our 9:00 services when we all worship together. But Rally Day is almost here, and our kids will be back in Sunday School and our first Harvest Fest is coming up on September 16! Please invite your friends and neighbors for a day packed with fun for the kids and great fellowship. So many good things to come by God's design.

Blessings to you all.

Joni Wasmund

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2023



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

Trustworthy Prophets

Who is your favorite recent US president? Was it Ronald Reagan? Bill Clinton? Donald Trump? Joe Biden? Whatever your choice, that president was probably someone you felt you could trust.

Trust in public officials has declined in recent years, and the Bible may give us a clue why: “If a ruler listens to falsehood, all his officials will be wicked” (Proverbs 29:12). Presidents make decisions based in part on their advisors. If those advisors are simply “yes men,” saying what they think the president wants to hear, their counsel will be corrupt. They will not speak truth: they will manipulate the truth to please the president. The result will be flawed decisions.

You are not a president, and neither am I, but we do make decisions - important decisions that determine the course of our lives. Where do we get our advice?

God has sent prophets to inform his people. Jesus looked at people through the lens that Isaiah provided: “Jesus said to them, ‘Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, *This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me*’” (Mark 7:6). Ouch! But Jesus said what people needed to hear. He trusted the prophet Isaiah, because he knew that Isaiah spoke and wrote what God’s Holy Spirit gave him to say.

In the Bible, the major prophets are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. The minor prophets are Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zachariah, and Malachi.

These prophets (and many others) were not just serving up their own big ideas. Peter observes that none of what they wrote “was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21).

The prophets do not tell us what we want to hear. Rather, they tell us what God thinks we need to know.

Most importantly, the prophets point us to Christ and the salvation he brings. “Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories” (1 Peter 1:10–11).

We learn here the core of the message of the prophets. It was about grace. They were filled with “the Spirit of Christ.” They pointed to Christ’s suffering (the cross!) and “subsequent glories” like his resurrection, ascension, and victorious return, which we now await.

Seven times the New Testament speaks of “false prophets” (Matthew 7:15; 24:11, 24; Mark 13:22; Luke 6:26; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 4:1). The world is full of talk about religion and Jesus. Careful! There is a lot of misinformation. It is the biblical prophets we should trust.

Let me conclude with some news that will make many in Chicagoland very happy: the St. Louis Cardinals are having a horrible season! The Cubs are doing much better.

But early this spring, the sports pundits predicted that the Cards would run away with the Central Division. They were completely wrong! The Cards have been competing mainly for last place.

Be careful whom you believe about the future, especially the future of your life and soul. Don’t be like a president listening to sycophantic advisors - men or women who flatter and say what you want to hear.

Study, learn, and take to heart the trustworthy prophets whose writings connect us with our saving Christ and God.



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 August 2023

A Council Retreat has been scheduled for Oct 13-14.

A motion passed to reclassify the bookkeeper position from part-time to full-time, effective September 1, 2023. The additional coverage will provide significant assistance to the Church Administrator by serving as cross-trained support and assuming some of those responsibilities as well as the responsibility of recording tithes and offerings and preparing year-end statements for donors.

The 2024 Budget was passed for presentation to the congregation during the Annual Meeting on November 12th.

A motion passed to use rummage sale proceeds to purchase utensils for the kitchen and two vacuums for use during and after annual rummage sales.

Preliminary discussion: Bylaw and Constitution verbiage change from “committee” to “ministry team” and “oversee” to “support” in reference to liaisons and their respective committees.



“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

Proverbs 11:25

Since 2022 and continuing (hopefully!!) until FMSC is out of business, members (and their friends) of St. Mark will have an opportunity to feed hungry children around the world. I have reserved one table (19 people) once a month – either on a Thursday night or a Saturday morning. The schedule St. Mark will follow is:

Thursday, September 7th, at 6:45 to 8:45 pm ([September's Sign Up](#))

And for those of you who like to plan ahead!!

Saturday, October 7th, at 8:45 to 10:45 am ([October's Sign Up](#))

Thursday, November 2nd, at 6:45 to 8:45 pm ([November's Sign Up](#))

Saturday, December 2nd, at 8:45 to 10:45 am ([December's Sign Up](#))

Thursday, January 4th, 2024!!, at 6:45 to 8:45 pm ([January's Sign Up](#))

We will keep this schedule up – odd numbered months Thursday nights, even numbered months Saturday mornings – so that people with different schedules can fit into either the night or morning sessions.

There are three different jobs at FMSC:

There is a sit down job putting labels on the bags we use to pack the food.

There is the job of actually packing the food.

There is a warehouse job for those of you who would like their exercise.

To register to help, please use the above link(s) to sign up. The reason to sign up before our scheduled time is to make sure the Libertyville site has enough room for us and, if we don't fill all 19 slots, we can give up some of our slots to others who might be able to help (but let's think we'll always fill our 19 slots!!). FYI, when you sign up, FMSC will ask for your email. They do NOT sell your email to any other company, but they will send you an email when the food you packed reaches its final destination with one of our 217 partners in 106 different countries!!

If you have any issues signing up, have questions about these events and/or FMSC in general, please contact Mike Mol at 847-276-8739 or MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2023



September 9th / 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.

A **Flourishing** Life is a Choice Based in Prayer

St. Mark Church, is a House of Prayer

“Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.”

Colossians 4:2 NLT



Praying for Life Choices and more...

As summer begins to fade into fall, the transition of the seasons is upon us. It is also the time of year when life choices past, present and those impending, manifest themselves. Over time our choices increasingly narrow as we make key life decisions - school choices, career choices, marriage choices, etc. aiming to make a “first class” life for ourselves. Teens struggle to know who am I; where did I come from; what’s my purpose; what happens after I die? Adults too can continue to struggle with the same questions, especially when earlier choices fail to deliver the expected outcomes. Today’s worldly culture is peddling life choices too - bad ideas, deceitful choices, misleading worldviews that are creating sufferers, victims and death rather than a “life that is full and good.”

I wrote the above last September. How is your journey progressing? Did you seriously seek God’s purpose for your life in the last 12 months through prayer, devotions, scripture as well as seeking mature Christians’ thoughts? Did you listen for His call? Did you lay aside the world’s wooing? If you heard His whisperings and chose the narrow path, you are on an extraordinary and unique journey. It will be full of indescribable adventures, challenges, sufferings, doubts, and joy for being who and for what God made you. And most precious of all you will find your relationship with Him growing deeper and deeper as the years roll along. Prayer is one of the essential disciplines for this journey to end well.

In the film *Chariots of Fire*, there is a significant scene when Eric Liddell¹ takes his sister Jennie for a walk in the hills of Scotland to explain his commitment to training for the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris. He tells her, “I’ve decided - I’m going back to China. The missionary service accepted me.” Jennie rejoices to hear this, since she fears her brother’s calling to be a missionary is being threatened by his interest in running.

However, Eric goes on to say, “But I’ve got a lot of running to do first. Jennie - Jennie, you’ve got to understand. I believe that God made me for a purpose - for China. But He also made me fast! And when I run, I feel His pleasure. To give it up would be to hold Him in contempt. You were right. It’s not just fun. To win is to honor Him.”

Liddell was a man of focus and passion because he pursued a growing sense of God’s purpose for his life. “When I run, I feel His pleasure” - what do you do that makes you feel God’s pleasure? Frederick Buechner put it this way in *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*: “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” As you become a person of calling and purpose, you come to realize that God’s good pleasure is also your good pleasure. Seek satisfaction apart from Him, and you will never find it; seek to please Him first, and you discover that satisfaction is a byproduct of the pursuit of God.²

¹January 23, 2018 - Eric Liddell (1902 – 1945) was a **Scottish Olympic champion at 400 m and a famous Christian missionary**; his inspirational life was captured in the film ‘*Chariots of Fire*’.

²Boa, Ken, *Handbook of Wisdom, Biblical Insights for Everyday Life*, Zondervan, 2011.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2023



Rummage Sale 2023

God is Good!



God is Good....All the Time....How many times have we repeated this phrase in church? More times than I can count, but this year it was never more true. This year it represents the biggest God sighting of my life. This year I can't just write a glowing thank you to all my wonderful very helpful fellow workers, I have to tell you how very Good God Really Is.

I have been helping to organize the rummage sale for about 30 years and those who know me know how much I enjoy this time each year. If you know me you also know February 27th I had a heart attack and I am very lucky to be alive. Everyone thought we would not be doing a sale this year but by God's grace, my family's care and all your prayers I healed quickly and was given the okay to do the sale with limitations. Here is where my God Sighting begins.

We started collecting donations, setting up the Ed Center and pre pricing items. I was on restricted hours so we were only working daytime hours, but

God sent such awesome volunteers...new and old...that each day we left with almost everything done. (God sighting #1. Me not working long hours.) We did have a very small group that came in a couple evenings to reorganize and get things ready for the next day. Setting up the main building started with a lot of brand new people helping us old timers move tables, chairs, boxes, bags and large furniture. Through all of this we were noticing how we had fewer donations than normal. (I don't think the ladies that hung about a million pieces of clothing would agree with this). But what I noticed was we had less donations but more volunteers. And what was great was many of these volunteers were new to the sale. (God sighting #2. New friends and fellowship). We did work all day now but I was watched over and helped by so many sometimes I felt like I could go take a nap and not be missed. (God sighting #3. Feeling God's love through others.)

The sale started and we all said it was one of the best ever. When we opened the doors the line was wrapped around the building. (Hint... don't ever ask Pastor to count people in a line, but it was a lot). All our shoppers were so happy to be at the sale and were so pleasant even when they had a long wait in line to check out. (God sighting #4. No stress or drama to deal with). We had plenty of workers during the sale and were able to keep up with cleanup and consolidating.

On Saturday when we put everything for free at 1:00 people seemed to come from everywhere and take away lots of great treasures. We had decided to close at 3:00 this year instead of 5:00 and when 3:00 came there was a lot less to clean up. Having less donations now didn't seem so bad. (God sighting #5. Quicker and easier clean up). Those vacuuming the Ed Center might argue this one. It did take a couple days after to haul away furniture, take down racks and put away supplies but that is normal. All this was made possible by the wonderful, awesome, hard working and faithful volunteers. Know I love and appreciate all of you more than you will ever know. You are truly my gift from God. (God sighting #6. Learning how important your church family is).

ALL THE TIME...GOD IS GOOD!!

P.S. Even though we had less donations, we still made over \$22,000!!!

Laurie Kerns



Annual Church Meeting and Council Elections

November 12th



WE NEED YOU!

Do you desire to serve God and the church?

LOVE- John 13:34-35 reads "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are to love one another."

SHARE- Romans 12:6 reads: "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them."

UNITE- Romans 12:4 reads "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body and we all belong to each other."

We are in a time of transition. Now is the time to step up and serve! Being a part of a church's council gives you the opportunity to add input into the spiritual support of members, mission fulfillment, policy guidance, strategic planning, and responsible spending. We invite you to join St. Mark's leadership to work together in a spirit of harmony (respectfully and lovingly), to share your gifts and talents, to unite with other member leaders to make the tough decisions that will ultimately glorify God.

Please take a look at the opportunities and reach out to an Elder if you want to learn more:

Cheryl Bengston 224-436-3613

Rod Lunkenheimer 847-917-1304

Nancy O'Connor 847-902-8308

Church Council - Duties of the Officers

President (1 year term):

The President presides over meetings of the Church Council and Congregation. The President is: 1) the chief administrative officer of the church and 2) an ex officio member of all Boards and Ministry Teams (committees).

Secretary (1 year term):

The Secretary keeps the minutes of the Church Council and of the Congregation. The Secretary publishes and posts them within 15 days of each meeting. The Secretary oversees the maintenance of the archives of the Congregation including annual reports of the Pastors, annual reports of the Congregation and minutes of the meetings of the Congregation and Church Council.

Treasurer (1 year term):

The Treasurer oversees and supports all financial planning, financial records and funds of the Congregation. The treasurer publishes and posts the monthly financial statements. The treasurer oversees the functions of the Financial Secretary (if any) and Bookkeeper and serves on the Board of Trustees.

Elder (3 year term):

The Board of Elders consists of three persons plus the President serving as *ex officio*. Elders encourage spiritual growth of the Congregation, conduct the Pastor's annual performance evaluation, oversee and support Ministry Teams (Worship /Music, Parish Education or Evangelism). Elders also support Outreach Ministries of the Church, seek out and encourage persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel and exercise church discipline as needed.

Trustee (3 year term):

The Board of Trustees consists of three persons and the Treasurer plus the President as *ex officio*. Trustees oversee the legal and corporate affairs, maintenance and administration of finances. Trustees oversee Ministry Teams (Property and Management, Stewardship or Congregational Life), review monthly Treasurer reports, appoint an annual auditing team and oversee benevolence activities and requests.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2023

On Going Opportunities for Prayer
St. Mark Church needs YOUR Prayers
America needs Your Prayers!



First Friday Sing and Pray is on Friday,

September 1 in the Sanctuary for worship and praise through music, and prayer. Contact person is Pam Burke 244-430-6226.

Fall Harvest Saturday, September 16. Please pray for strong community support, many hands to make St. Mark a shining light and be blessed with a sun filled day.

Please consider utilizing the *Fast Forward America, 40-Day Prayer Guide: America is in Need of an Unprecedented Spiritual Awakening* posted under the St. Marks Webpage, [Prayer Tab https://www.smlc.info/prayer/prayer-guides/](https://www.smlc.info/prayer/prayer-guides/). You can also view a sample copy on the Prayer Table in the Narthex next to Pastor's office.

St. Mark Prayer Chain, your 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 Wednesdays 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, Intermediate and Senior pastor search, staff, church council and committees and for the Church Doctor training and program during this coming church year.

St. Mark's Joyful Hearts - Singles Group

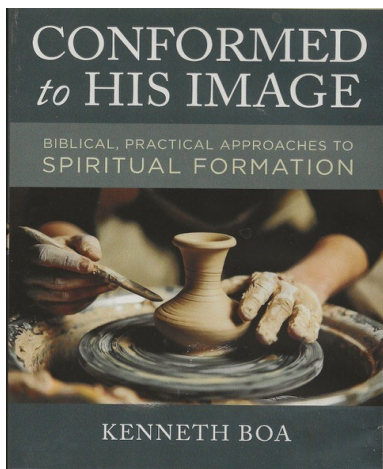
Joyful Hearts is a group for St Mark single people who get together for friendship and fellowship. The commonality and shared experience of being single is what brings us together. We believe that Christian friendships make our lives more fulfilling. Joyful Hearts is not a group that actively seeks dating 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 get to know other members of the church!



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

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2023



Growing In Christ

Ken Boa: Conformed to His Image

Fall Bible Study 2023

Facilitator - Barb Ewert

Goal of this Study

The Scriptures speak of our lives as a pilgrimage - we're aliens and strangers in a land that is not our final home. Everyone's on a life journey. The wise will stop and consider who they are in God's eyes, where they've been, where they are, and where they are going. They'll also take into consideration the advice and maps of experienced travelers. True spiritual formation is Word-based so that it may result

in the complete equipping of those training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

*"In spite of this prevailing tendency to conform (to the culture/world), we Christians have a mandate to be nonconformists. The Apostle Paul, who knew the inner realities of the Christian faith, counseled, "Be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." We are called to be people of conviction, not conformity; of moral nobility, not social respectability. We are commended to live differently and according to a higher loyalty."*¹

Format

View a brief video about 11-12 minutes. Discussion based on study guide questions, but not limited to the guide. All sessions involve individual reflection, which can serve for personal growth and/or group edification. About an hour.

When: Begins Sunday, September 17th at 9:20am.

Where: Education Center, West Wing.

Materials: Optional

Boa, Ken, Stewart, Michael, Abel, Jenny, Conformed to His Image Study Guide: Biblical, Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation, Zondervan, 2020. \$20 on Amazon

I hope and pray this study will both broaden and deepen your spiritual understanding while spurring greater commitment to and intimacy with Christ as you journey through life.

If interested, email me bewert@colsonfellows.org or call/text me 1-847-514-5487. Check Prayer Table in the Narthex for full Syllabus and signup.



Exciting news! It's church directory time!

Our church has selected Universal Church Directories to help us with our new church directory. Each family photographed will receive a complementary 8 x 10 portrait to be sent to their home. Plus you will receive a complementary directory. All family members are welcome and encouraged to participate, even extended family! You may even bring your furry friends! This is a great opportunity to start your holiday shopping as these portraits make wonderful gifts.

Photography sessions will be held Thursday, October 5th through Saturday, October 7th. In-person sign-up sessions have started before and after each church service. In addition, there is a website that will be made available for you to go into and schedule your own appointment on week days. Sign up is easy and quick.

We need volunteers to help with the sign-up process for our families and on photo day to help sign families in. Please contact Patty Lindholm by email at lindholm_patricia@yahoo.com for more details.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2023



How to cultivate generosity, based on a new study by Thrivent and Barna.

Watch Party / Lunch Provided

OCT 4 (WED) 11:00am

St. Mark / Lindenhurst

RSVP Text Jerry Doran 847-271-8632) or

Register [https://www.thrivent.com/](https://www.thrivent.com/member-network/chicagoland/events)

[member-network/chicagoland/events](https://www.thrivent.com/member-network/chicagoland/events)

**No products will be sold. For additional disclosures, see [Thrivent.com/social](https://www.thrivent.com/social)*



St. Mark Harvest Fest

Join us for food, music and kid activities at St. Mark's Harvest Fest!

What: Harvest Fest

When: Saturday, September 16, 2023

Time: Noon - 5:00 PM

Where: St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1822 E. Grand Ave., Lindenhurst, IL 60046

Who: ANYONE! Please invite family, friends, neighbors. This is a COMMUNITY EVENT!!



CONFIRMATION

Attention Confirmation Students and Parents!

Here are two important dates:

- First night of class will be Wed., September 13th at 6:30pm
- Fall Confirmation Retreat will be Sat. Oct. 21st from 9am - 2pm

Questions, please contact the Parish Education Committee.



With a thankful heart, I so appreciate the prayers, cards and hugs extended to me and my family in the recent passing of my brother. Despite the difficulty of saying goodbye to our big brother, God's grace abounded and we are at peace. Thank you for your encouragement and kindness.



With thanks and joy,

Joni Wasmund

Almost heaven, West Virginia

We weren't quite in the Blue Ridge Mountains, nor did we see the Shenandoah River, but the mission trip was still AWESOME!!!! Ayla A, Amya A., Avina D., Abbey J., Logan J., Luke J., Ava K., Cheryl B., and I had a wonderful trip and would first like to thank you, St. Mark, for your prayers for the trip and your generous donations to make it happen!!

Our trip was to [Logan, West Virginia](#) – a small town of about 1500 people, tucked in the southwest corner of WV, and of those 1500 people, approximately 21% live below the poverty level. Despite this sobering fact, it was a beautiful area surrounded by big hills (I'm not sure I'd call them mountains) covered with trees, with lots of little creeks and [hollers](#) everywhere!



Our destination for the first day was Louisville, KY, and on the way, Twinkies were eaten and laughs were had! Once we got to Louisville – be careful how you say that name!! – we enjoyed a nice riverboat ride, ate some good food, and, for the people on the lucky side of the hotel we stayed at, enjoyed a nice fireworks display before we went to bed!! The next day, before getting to Logan, we made a slight detour to visit Asbury University, the home of last year's [revival](#) and to let Ava introduce us to her beautiful horse Odin!



Once on site in Logan, we were split into two groups – the Thundering Herd and the Mighty McCoy's. The Herd were sent to help the kids at the Big Ugly Community Center – yup, you read that right – the "Big Ugly"!! It is named after a river that runs through the holler but in my eyes, it wasn't very big nor was it ugly, but that's what they called it!! At this center, kids from nursery school age to high schoolers, came to hang out and have fun, get a free lunch, and have summer "school". (As a former teacher, I'm not sure how much schooling was going on.) This center also had a free clothes giveaway room and had plans to start up a food pantry for the area. Our kids loved on the nursery school kids right away and at the end of the week, they had to literally pull some these youngens off of our kids!!

The Mighty McCoy's on the other hand, got a little more dirty than the Herd did – actually – a LOT MORE DIRTY!!! Their first 2 days were spent at a local school emptying and painting 3 rooms, cleaning desks and other furniture, and cleaning and organizing the recess room. Their 3rd day was spent at [Chief Logan State Park](#) where they hauled away logs (old telephone poles) from an unsafe bridge. And on their last day, they visited an assisted living home where they sang songs and performed a "skit" (please ask the kids about this "skit"!!). They next went to a warehouse to separate clothing that would be dispersed to 10 elementary schools and then *finally* finished their day by assisting residents at a clothing closet where all items are free.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2023

Mission Trip Continued...



YouthWorks theme for the week was “You are Here” and with each daily devotions in the morning and at “The Gathering” each night, we (and this is good for ALL of us) were reminded that we are here to Love, to Share, to Unite, and to Go into this world to spread the Good Word! So please continue to pray for the people of that area! Even though they live in a beautiful area of our country and are WONDERFUL people to talk to, they still need a lot of help. Logan is in the heart of coal mining country and with the decline of that industry, the decline of Logan began. Logan is the county seat of Logan County so there are a lot of government buildings downtown, but we walked by city blocks of little shops and stores that are empty or just closed. The people have a great sense of humor and do love their fire hydrants!!



On Friday, after saying some tough good-byes to good friends made in a very short time, we hit the road for home. Before getting home, though, we had three very “interesting” but different stops. First was a stop in Point Pleasant, WV, to see the infamous MOTHPMAN!! After paying our respects to it(??), we headed off for lunch at HillBilly Hot Dogs. (If you are every traveling along the border of Ohio and West Virginia near Lesage, west of Charleston, I highly recommend it - good food and a lot of laughs!!) And finally, we stopped at the Creation Museum, outside of

Cincinnati. Besides the museum itself (which is very interesting and thought provoking), we got to see two different “shows” in their amazing planetarium!



So after 1407.3 miles in the van, making new friends from 4 different churches (one from Maryland, one from Pennsylvania, and two from Illinois), seeing old friends (we got to see Chris, Angel, and Isaiah Harris at the museum – Chris is now a pastor at a church outside of Cincinnati) we are home! It was a great trip – lots of fun, lots of work, lots of God moments, and lots of love for each other and the people of Logan.

Maybe not heaven but almost!!

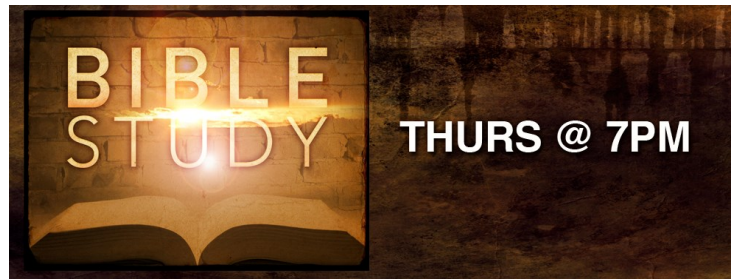
Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2023



Rally Day will be at St. Mark on Sunday, September 10th from 9:20-10:20 in the morning. All students will get to meet their Sunday School teachers. Students will be playing games and will have a small snack. If you have further questions contact Denise or Melissa. Denise and Melissa are looking forward to seeing future Sunday school students at Rally Day!

The first day of Sunday school is Sunday, September 17th at 9:20-10:20 at the Education Center. The Education Center is next to St. Mark Lutheran Church. All Sunday school classes are downstairs in the Education Center. The address for St. Mark's Education Center is 1840 East Grand Avenue, Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046. Denise and Melissa are looking forward to the start of Sunday school.



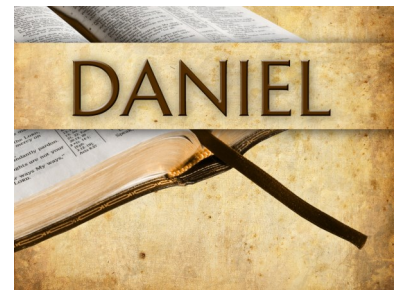
Re-convening September 7

We will begin with the book of Daniel, who throughout the book receives revelations from God, including dream interpretations. Daniel bridges the entire Babylonian captivity of the Jews and includes miracles from God.

What Revelation is to the New Testament prophetically and apocalyptically, Daniel is to the Old Testament.

All are welcome!

Please join us!



From your Safety & Security Committee

- Remember -- the kids are back in school so be careful driving around any school and/or it's playground.
- Keep your eyes and ears open for our next fire drill. It will be sometime this fall so it is not too cold outside waiting for the fire department to give us the OK to go back inside.
- We thank Judy Dunfrund for her time serving on the S & S Committee.

Her insights and contributions were extremely valuable and added to the continued safety of St. Mark!!

- With Judy leaving our committee, we are looking for another member. If you have any interest and/or questions, please talk to Al Maciareillo, Mike Mol or Deb Zuchowski.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2023

PADS HOMELESS SHELTER MINISTRY

2023/2024



St. Mark will once again be a Pads site for the upcoming October thru April season. For those of you who don't know Pads is a county wide program that helps to house the homeless at different churches each night of the week. St. Mark is open on Friday nights. We will need many hands to run the site from 5pm on Friday night to around 7am on Saturday morning. Ways to help.....

Set up...usually about 5:00pm-6:00pm...make up the sleeping pads, set up tables and chairs, bring out supplies and if needed get kitchen set up. Perfect for scout troops.

1st shift...5:00pm-11:00pm...heat up food, serve dinner, clean up kitchen, pass out supplies as needed and visit with guests.

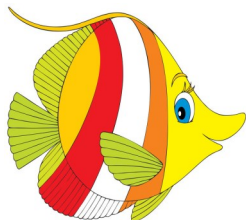
2nd shift...11:00pm-3:00am...easy shift...guests are sleeping....bring a book to read or grab a friend to visit with, if needed make bag lunches for next day.

3rd shift...3:00am-7am...wake guests, make breakfast and serve, clean up kitchen and pass out lunches.

Clean up...5:00am-7:00....gather laundry, wipe down pads, clean bathrooms, put all supplies away and whatever else is needed.

Food donations....we need people to make or donate food for dinner, breakfast and lunches. Doesn't have to be homemade. Order pizzas or chicken, grab a dessert from Jewel or buy supplies for lunches.

St. Mark has been a Pads site for about 30 years. We need lots of help to continue this much needed ministry. More info in coming weeks. To volunteer to work at the site call Jill Decker 847-445-7502. To be on the list to bring food call Laurie Kerns 847-612-1510. So grab a friend or family member and join this great ministry. Info on signing up coming soon. Sign up for one time or as many time as you like.



Did you know?

As of July 31st St. Mark had \$303,450 in checking and savings accounts as well as \$60,000 in a contingency account and \$337,986 in Restricted Funds. Due to staff vacancies, the church is running a net income (gain) through July in the amount of \$69,473.

Fin Facts

Instead of the anticipated loss of (\$40,136) in the budget for the end of July, the church has a significant gain of \$69,473 through the first seven months of the fiscal year.

At the 2022 Annual Meeting the Congregation stepped out in faith and approved an anticipated loss of \$35,850 for this fiscal year. In spite of income coming in on a monthly average \$5,000 below budget, God has provided. The proposed 2024 budget will be published soon. Once again we will be asking for approval of a loss in 2024. Our church is financially sound and God will provide as he always does.

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	
Month of July 2023	\$ 55,350	\$ 50,391	(\$ 4,959)
2023 Fiscal Year (Jan.- July)	\$ 394,750	\$ 350,798	(\$ 43,952)

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2023

The Congregational Life Committee
Invites You To Join Us



**Sunday, October 22nd
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

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

Stay tuned for more details.

Contact Donna Bergl at d.bergl@yahoo.com for more info.

Are you
Concerned about
the future of
St. Mark?

*First
Friday
Sing &
Pray*

*What about the future
of our country?*

If your answer is YES, then join us for First Friday Sing & Pray on Friday 9/1/23 in the sanctuary. We start at 7:00pm for one hour beginning with singing praise to God then concluding in prayer for our church, country, families, the lost and personal needs. Pray silently, in agreement or out loud. It is an informal gathering to come and go as your schedule accommodates, no pressure, no expectations.

*The effective prayer of a
righteous man availeth
much.*

Colossians 4:2



The Five Apology Languages

"I said I was sorry! What more do you want?"

Even in the best of relationships, we mess up. We say and do things we deeply regret later on. So we need to make things right. But just saying you're sorry isn't enough. That's only the first step on the road to restoration.

In *The Five Apology Languages*, Gary Chapman, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the *Five Love Languages*, partners with Jennifer Thomas to help you on the journey toward restored relationships. True healing comes when you learn to:

Express regret: "I'm sorry."

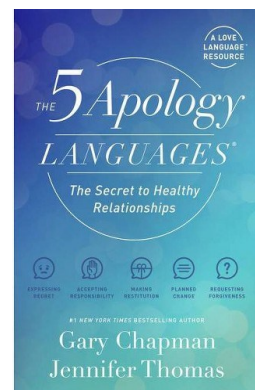
Accept responsibility: "I was wrong."

Make restitution: "How can I make it right?"

Plan for change: "I'll take steps to prevent a reoccurrence."

Request forgiveness: "Can you find it in your heart to . . . ?"

Don't let hurts linger or wounds fester. Start on the path to healing today and discover how meaningful apologies can make your friendships, family, and marriage stronger than ever before. You can find this book under call number 158.2 CHA.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2023

Ushers Needed

Are you willing to serve?

We Need More Ushers!

Hello all. For the past few months, with the combined 9:00 service, we have been utilizing ushers from both the 8:00 and 10:30 services and things have been going quite smoothly. In September, however, we will return to the two Sunday services, and this would be a good opportunity to recruit additional usher team members.

The usher duties are essentially as follows:

- Arrive about fifteen minutes before the service to hand out bulletins or other items to worshippers as they arrive.
- During the service, take a headcount of all present, both adults and children, including all in the nursery (this can be done by one or two of the ushers).
- Collect the offering and attendance sheets after the sermon.
- On communion Sundays, guide the worshippers up for communion.
- After the service, at least two ushers will be needed to sort out the offerings and attendance sheets and place in designated places.
- Lastly, after the service, do a quick check of the pews to pick up any bulletins, candy wrappers, or other items, and make sure no one left anything.

For the team to function smoothly, we need four people per service. This is where we could use the additional help. We currently have, for most services, two people signed up to help. We have the teams set up so that each team is assigned the same Sunday each month (i.e., 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th). There are generally four 5-Sunday months a year and for those, we usually get volunteers from the four other teams.

We would really appreciate your consideration to help with this important part of the service. If your schedule is such that you can't commit to being on a regular team, you can also sign up to be a substitute. All help is greatly appreciated.

Thank you and God Bless!

Jim Schaufel (8:00 head usher) (847) 340-6387

Kevin Graul (10:30 head usher) (224) 223-2786



High School Students

(and your parents)!!!

will be run the same way as last year. We will NOT meet at the “regular” Sunday morning time but will meet *every other Sunday night* in

the Ed Center at 6:30. Debbie Gass and I will be starting this class on September 17th. Please join us and bring along a friend. If you have any questions, please talk to Mike Mol.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

September 2023



**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 September are **Cereal / Canned Pasta**. 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.

**Noah’s Nursery News
Meet Amya!**



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

In this article, I would like to Introduce you to Amya Appelt!

Amya has been a member at St Mark for 18 years; her entire life! She was baptized here and confirmed here as well in 2019. In addition, Amya came to the nursery that year and she graced us with her presence and with her love of children. She has also been a preschool Sunday School teacher going into her second year and she was an assistant teacher prior to that.

Amya has gone on three mission trips with St Mark and the one this summer in West Virginia was her favorite because of the interaction and connection with other churches and their members and leaders.

This past May, Amya graduated Cum Laude from Antioch High School. She was an honor student and on the National Honor Society as well. Amya plans on going to CLC in August, where she will achieve her Associates degree within a year due to acquiring 30 college credits while in high school! To say that Amya is an overachiever is an understatement!

Amya has also worked during her schooling, being at the Lindenhurst Park District, a nanny for area families, as well as attending to seniors as a pool monitor this past summer.

On her limited down time, Amya enjoys spending time with her tightknit family, playing tennis and doing her recently acquired skill of crocheting. As a matter of fact, Amya and her family achieved their goal of camping at all five Great Lakes this summer! Way to go!

Amya’s favorite season is Fall due to the pretty colors and the cooler temperatures. Christmas is her favorite holiday as she enjoys doing activities together with family focusing on and preparing for the Christmas season.

Amya’s many gifts include her ability to draw young children to her just by being in their presence! As demonstrated In the nursery, she truly enjoys getting to know the children, their personalities and joining and engaging them by playing with their favorite toys/likes etc. She’s truly a remarkable young lady with the true Christian spirit of serving and giving to others as God intended.

Thank you, Amya, for the many blessings that you so easily bring to the children of St Mark!

We truly appreciate your gifts provided thus far and look forward to sharing in many more years with you to come!

Sincerely,
Deb Heide

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
9/12/23, 10/10/2023, 11/14/2023



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
9/21/2023, 10/19/23, 11/16/23

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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September 2023

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 (847) 356-8140
 www.smlc.info
 smlc@smlc.info

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

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EMAIL DEB@SMLC.INFO

AUGUST VOICE DEADLINE:
September 15, 2023

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
September 2023