

October 2023

President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



As I write this, our first annual Harvest Fest is to be held tomorrow, Saturday, September 16th. I'm praying, as I know are many of you, for God's Holy Spirit to be present in all His glory as we invite and welcome our community into fellowship with us. We plant the seeds and God waters them and nourishes them to grow and it will be so very exciting to see how He draws people to Himself through this event. A huge thank you to our Evangelism team, Fred Natschke, Rod Lunkenheimer, Kurt Ulbricht, Jeff McKenzie, Patrick Krook and Chris Holmes, and our Congregational Life team rock star, Donna Bergl, for all the time and effort they invested, planning, and working tirelessly to make this adventure happen. Oxford Languages defines an adventure as "an unusual and exciting, typically hazardous, experience or activity." Of course, hazardous elements were omitted to ensure safety and fun would rule and that many more years of Harvest Fest would be in our future at St. Mark. Thank you, all who attended, brought family, friends, and neighbors, and extended a warm welcome to our community and went the extra mile to invite them to join us in worship.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." Mark 16:15

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Save the Date!

Sunday, November 12, 2023 @10:10AM,
 immediately following the 9:00AM service
 (no 8:00 or 1030 service that day).

Annual Reports and Proposed 2024 Budget
 will be available in the Narthex beginning
 October 15th.



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

CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

October 2023



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BOOKKEEPER

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NURSERY COORDINATOR

Deb Heide | heidedeborah@gmail.com

Next Council Meetings: Tuesday, October 10th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meetings: Tuesday, October 24th @ 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

I recently went to a gathering of LCMC pastors in Aston, IL. We gathered for fellowship, prayer, education, and mutual caring for each other. While it was two hours away, it was worth every minute of the drive to be with brothers and sisters who are called to be pastor. As we went around the table sharing, I became aware that God was present in so many congregations in so many ways.

When it came to my time to share, I described how it was so awesome to be here in Lindenhurst. My faith grows from being in so many houses and from hearing so many stories of how God has touched so many people in so many ways. One blessing of being an intentional interim pastor is getting the opportunity to see how God is present in the congregations where I have served and am now serving!

We don't live in isolation, we are connected to each other through God's sacrifice of God's one and only son, Jesus. That makes us brothers and sisters in God's family. This is real and has huge implications. We are connected by the Holy Spirit who dwells in and among us. We don't live in isolation from God or each other.

As we move forward preparing for a new pastor, we aren't alone! God is present in all our differences. God calls us to be in relationship with God and each other.

It is so easy to forget that we're all in this together. As followers of Jesus, we're family and connected in so many ways. It was so comforting to meet with fellow pastors who remind me and you all that we're not alone!

Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

TRANSITIONS

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

When Jesus said those things, they weren't suggestions, but instructions, commands. It's not easy because we feel like we're not sure what to say to a stranger but once we've met them, they're no longer strangers. So, we first build relationships and get to know one another so they see us as regular people and not strangers who believe in a God they don't know. They won't care what we know until they know we care.

I'm also writing in anticipation of our Transition Team's first forum with all who attend on Tuesday, September 19th. This team is so dedicated and so engaged, meeting every Friday evening to accomplish steps in accordance with Intentional Interim Pastor Steve's coaching. Huge thanks to John Bengston, Pam Burke, Bonnie Millsop, Joyce Mol, Nancy O'Connor, Patrick Krook, and Kurt Ulbricht for serving on this team for the very significant purpose of leading us to the next step of providing our Call Committee the criteria for calling our future Pastor. We'll spend time celebrating our Heritage this month as we look back at our history that shaped us into who we are as a congregation today. Please participate in the events that the Transition Team prepares because your input is critical to plans for our future.

Praising God for all He's doing today in and among us, all He has done in our past, and all He will do in the coming months. It's a very exciting time for us as we seek His guidance.

Joni Wasmund
Congregational President

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

October 2023



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

The Apostles' Creed: Worth More Than a Yawn

I preached at St. Mark Sunday morning, August 27. After the sermon we stood to say the Apostles' Creed. I saw someone yawn. I won't mention their name.

Who could blame them? A preacher's best can still be boring. Also, science tells us that yawns can be triggered by low oxygen levels. That probably describes a lot of us by the end of a Sunday morning sermon. We feel ready for a nap. Sometimes we may even be taking one. Yes, during the sermon. Then our spouse pokes us, hopefully before we start to snore.

Here are some reasons, though, why the creed we say in worship should snap us to alert rather than stupefy us:

(1) The creed is a wonderful teaching tool. It summarizes the Bible under the Trinitarian headings of Father, Son, and Spirit. By frequent repetition it lodges deep in our memory. It rings deeply true in our heart. It provides a framework for reading the Bible, for approaching God, and for sensing God with us in our daily lives. We can say it in our daily prayers to confirm and celebrate our faith.

(2) The creed links us with God's people through the ages. Most of the elements of the creed can be traced back into second century church practice - and every clause finds some basis in Scripture, which is still more ancient. Reciting the creed places us in a confessing heritage that has observed God's faithfulness and unchanging truth across language groups, geographic boundaries, and nationalities for two millennia. There is staying power in this glorious lineage.

(3) Creedal convictions connect us with each other presently. We are local but part of something bigger than local. We live in a divided society, we keep hearing. And there is truth to that claim. On the other hand, the largest religion worldwide is Christianity. What unites the true church everywhere in 2023? A major tie is certainties we share about God, the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit.

Some of us have felt this commonality deeply while worshiping in other countries. The customs, language, and dress may be different from what seems normal to us. But we share the same true and living God confessed by the church wherever the God of the Bible is still affirmed and worshiped. God does not change from country to country, any more than he alters from age to age. His kingdom is sovereign and united overall. The creed is both a call to worship and a means of worship. We feel afresh the truth and mystery of Scripture's reminder that there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:5-6).

(4) The creed is a means of knowing God better. It gives us clear categories for thinking about the eternal God in the majesty of the manner he has revealed himself to us:

"I believe in God the Father Almighty" reminds us that there is a caring sovereign being who made all things. As heavenly Father he upholds his people by his grace, guidance, and love.

"I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord" affirms the truth of the Gospels' testimony to Jesus' coming in fulfillment of dozens of Old Testament prophecies. He died for our sins, rose victorious over death, and will return in judgment. By faith and fidelity to him, be ready!

"I believe in the Holy Spirit" calls forth recollection of multiple saving works of God: the holy universal church, the communion of believers in Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, the resurrection of the body, and the promise of heaven with its joys and rewards - "the life everlasting."

When we rise to recite the Apostles' Creed, instead of stifling yawns, we should actually probably be suppressing heartfelt cheers.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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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 September 2023

Motion carried to approve a Constitution/Bylaw verbiage change for presentation to the congregation during the Annual Meeting on November 12th. The verbiage will change the word “committee” to “ministry team” wherever it appears in the documentation to further the fact that our volunteers strive to serve in capacities matching their spiritual gifts as opposed to the business-like connotation of “committee” and associated perception of bureaucracy.

Motion carried to approve the revised Requisition and Purchase Policy.

Motion carried to approve the Memorial Committee requests for 2023-2024

Motion carried to donate \$4,500 of Council Discretionary Benevolence funds to Shining Abilities, an organization that serves families in Lake and McHenry Counties through recreational programming for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Motion carried to donate \$2,500 of Council Discretionary Benevolence funds to SaveMessiah.org. Messiah Lutheran Church in Joliet IL (LCMC) is required to return \$485,000 in donations received over the past decade that were unknowingly part of fraudulent activity on the part of the businessman who donated them. Messiah has used the donations in ministry over the past decade and did nothing wrong however the SEC has the legal right to claw back all donations made by the individual at fault.

Church Mutual is preparing quotes of increased fraud coverage for St. Mark in light of the situation above.

The State of IL now requires every Illinois employer with five or more employees to offer their own retirement program for employees or facilitate Secure Choice, a free program offered by the State. After review of various options, St. Mark will register with Illinois Secure Choice.

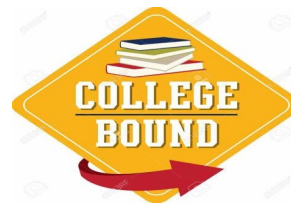


Save the Date!

Sunday, November 12th, 2023 @10:10AM, immediately following the 9:00AM service (no 8:00 or 10:30 service that day.)

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Church Elections



St.
Mark
Cares



If you have college students or a young adult serving in the military, please forward their addresses to:

Cheryl Bengston at cbengston58@gmail.com

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

October 2023



October 14th / 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 Call to 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

Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14



The signs, scents, and colors of October arise each Fall morning to remind us that change is in the air. Not just the transition of the seasons, but a spiritual awakening. A sense that the Lord is soon responding to millions of His people's continuous prayers and supplications. Dismantling evil, overthrowing corruption in government, reclaiming skills-based curriculums, teaching traditional history grounded in historic documents, events, people, and classroom debate, neutralizing weaponized media, and restoring America's soul. A shaking is on the horizon.

Yes, the Lord is moving! Awake, Christian Soldiers! Do NOT fear. We, St. Mark Church, stand as soldiers of the cross, we have been commanded to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel and make disciples! We, the churchgoers, are God's Calvary help to rescue our fallen world. Our King is calling us to duty. Will you be ready at your post with your witness-words and deeds? Or are you letting yourself be either hindered or intimidated by man? Do you not fear God more, the one who can kill your body and soul?² He is our mighty fortress against the mounting evil in the land. Trust Him to protect you, encourage you and preserve you. We are commissioned to, *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in [b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*¹

As His soldier put your armor on each day.² Your offensive weapons are not earthly ones, but prayer and Scripture. Pray before battle each day as you are called to be a witness, a harvester, or a disciple. At evening tide be filled with gratitude; seek His mercy and protection.

A bountiful harvest of seekers and new believers will be coming to St. Mark Church's doorsteps, to your personal mission field seeking to hear the Good News of the Gospel and be discipled. Seek and listen to God's guidance and direction for equipping yourself as a soldier of the Cross at St. Mark.

Pray for revival for yourself, your families, your neighbors, your co-workers, and enemies too! Join today with believers praying for the restoration of America to her original calling to be a light on a hill to all nations. Amen and amen!!!

¹ Matthew 28: 19-20

² Ephesians 6:10-16

² Matthew 10:28

And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in [a]hell.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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



- *First Friday Sing and Pray* is on Friday, October 6 in the Sanctuary for worship and praise through music, and prayer. Contact person is Pam Burke 244-430-6226.
- 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/> 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 Tuesdays at 6:30 pm for about an hour praying over the previous week of Prayer Chain requests, St. Mark Church and each other. Contact Person: Pam Burke 244-430-6226 and Barb Ewert for Zoom link. 847-514-5487.
- The Worship and Music Committee have 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 Transition Team.

come **Join
US**

Please Join Us - Have you recently looked at our "Please Join Us" bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall? If not, please take a look!! There are many activities/Bible studies offered. "Please Join Us" for one or more!! If you have questions or lead an activity that is not shown, please let Parish Ed know. Thank you!

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

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Halloween Trunk or Treat

St. Mark Trunk or Treat will be on Sunday, October 22nd from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. We're looking for church members to decorate their vehicles with a family friendly Halloween theme and pass out treats. Please send an email to Donna at D.bergl@yahoo.com to let us know if you're going to participate and decorate your vehicle. This event is open to the public so please invite your friends and family to bring the kids to trick or treat. Let's build on the enthusiasm generated at the awesome Harvest Fest that was put together by the Evangelism Committee and make this our biggest Trunk or Treat yet!

Holiday Dinner in a Bag

Please submit names and contact information for those that could use help in providing a Thanksgiving dinner for their family. You can turn in the information to Deb in the church office. We'll be posting a list of items that are needed. We will also need volunteers to help pack up the items and deliver to locations in the surrounding communities. Watch for the sign up board that will be posted in the church hallway soon. **Have a Thrivent card that you would like to donate so we can buy fresh produce, milk and other items?** That would be so helpful and appreciated! Donation deadline is November 15th. The packing and delivery date is Sunday, November 19th.



Operation Christmas Child

St. Mark will be packing boxes for needy children around the world again this year. Thank you to everyone that has already donated during our Christmas in July. We are off to a good start, but there are still

many more items on our wish list. The Amazon list is still active. You can use this link to have one or two items delivered directly to the church: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/9P20JNPIHNT8?ref_=wl_share

Advent Soup Suppers

We hope you are planning to join us for the soup suppers on Wednesday evenings during Advent. The Fellowship during these suppers is wonderful. Plus, we always have five or six varieties of soup, great salads, and all the fixings to make many different kinds of delicious sandwiches. We look forward to seeing you there!

Operation Christmas Child

Donation Suggestions:

- Combs
- Hairbrushes
- Compact mirrors
- Nail clipper and file
- Stick deodorant
- Bar soap
- Kids Sunglasses
- Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Pencil cases
- Crayons
- Markers
- Pens
- Coloring pads
- Coloring books
- Picture book
- Notebooks
- Small adhesive tape
- Watercolor paint sets
- Toy cars
- Yo-yos
- Small dolls
- Small Frisbees
- Small kites
- Etch A Sketch
- Hacky sacks
- Jump ropes
- Playing cards
- Crank Flashlights
- Drawstring Backpacks
- Fidget Toys
- Mini Plush Toys

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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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/member-network/chicagoland/events>

**No products will be sold. For additional disclosures, see Thrivent.com/social*



2nd Grade Bible Sunday

Sunday, October 29, 2023 the second graders will be receiving their Bibles during the 8:00 am and 10:30 am service. During the Sunday School hour teachers, students, parents and grandparents are invited to meet in the Ed Center together. Children will be able to explore their Bibles and parents and grandparents can share their favorite verses. Any questions please contact Melissa Grandt or Denise Schaufel at stmarksunschool@gmail.com.



How Can I Help?

Fall is upon us and soon the holiday season will be in full swing. This is one of the busiest times of the year for the church and much help will be needed. Announcements will be made and Voice articles will be written. The Stewardship Committee is encouraging everyone to step forward and help wherever you can. Some of the ministries that will need help through the end of the year are.....**Trunk or Treat, Operation Christmas Child, Advent Soup Suppers, Holiday Dinner In A Bag, Sunday School Christmas Program, Ushers and Lay Assistants for Advent and Christmas Eve Services and Special Requests from the Transition Team.** These are all very important ministries that we can all help with in some way to make the holiday season run smoothly and not be overwhelming for anyone. So when the call goes out please step up and help. This church belongs to us all, so let's work together and join at least one ministry team. Together we will have a great season.



Your Stewardship Committee

WINTER COAT DRIVE

Soon it will be getting very cold, and there are many children in this area who need our help to stay warm. Please prayerfully consider helping by donating a child's winter coat – boys and girls size 12 months to adult medium. We will be collecting **new** coats only from October 1 until Thanksgiving. Once purchased, the coat can be dropped in the coat collection box located in the narthex. The coats will then be distributed through local schools and organizations.



If you have questions, please contact Sharon at berniesharon@comcast.net. Thank you for helping.

***** ALL ARE WELCOME *****

A Pastor Appreciation Recognition Cake will be served in Fellowship Hall from 9:00am to 10:00am on Sunday, October 22, 2023, in support of our Intentional Interim Pastor Steve Abend. Please join us!



Dear Church Family,

You are invited to participate in the "National Bless Your Pastor Initiative" traditionally held in the month of October. We are instructed in I Thessalonians 5:12 to "make sure you show your deep appreciation for those who cherish you and diligently work as ministers among you". To accomplish this, you are encouraged to show your appreciation for [Intentional Interim Pastor](#) Steve by preparing a card or letter that expresses this gratitude for the shepherd that God has positioned to guide and disciple us during our transition period. Place your note in the clearly labeled drop off box "Bless Our Pastor Initiative" located in the Narthex. Your card may contain anything you wish to convey to Intentional Interim Pastor Steve, from a simple card to a letter detailing your appreciation or how he has impacted St. Mark. On Sunday 10/22/23, the collection of cards will be presented to Intentional Interim Pastor Steve during a cake cutting reception between first and second service (9:00 to 10:00am) in Fellowship Hall.

Your participation and support are greatly appreciated!
St. Mark Prayer Team

God is still in the business of answering prayer!

First Friday Sing & Pray

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and stream in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

God has given St. Mark a wonderful opportunity to transition into the church body he desires us to become. Prayer is the foundation which ignites the Holy Spirit to begin activating our prayer requests. Come and join us for Sing & Pray on Friday, October 6, 2023 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in the sanctuary.

Our mighty Lord inhabits the praises of his people as we begin the session in song and then allow time for prayer regarding our church, world situations, our country, current events, the lost, family members, friends, and of course personal prayer requests. Please consider bringing those in your life who need prayer.




Please feel free to come and go as you please. Stop in for 30 minutes or stay until the end whatever works in your schedule. We want to keep our gathering informal. Pray whatever is on your heart silently, in agreement, or out loud. No pressure. No expectations. Just God's people coming together to pray and seek his face.



"Devote yourselves to prayer"
Colossians 4:2

JUST A
Couple things

From your Safety & Security Committee

➤ We haven't decided on a date yet but keep your 's and  's open for when we have our fall



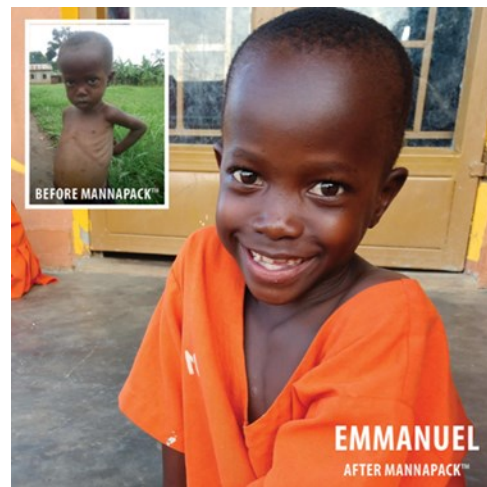
➤ If you are interested in joining the committee, please ask Deb Zuchowski, Mike Mol, Judy Dunfrund, or Al Maciareillo how much fun we have at our meetings!! We don't meet every month but more of an as needed basis!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

October 2023



HOW TO HELP KIDS LIKE EMMANUEL



*(Ask me about Emma -
it is an .amazing story!!).*

St. Mark has reserved 1 table (we can get more) for the following date:

**Saturday morning, October 7th,
from 8:45 to 10:45**

If you are tech savvy, you can go to FMSC.org, click “Volunteer” on the right of the top row/line, scroll down the right side of the window and click “Looking for a Specific Group?”, and

enter .4WNXDD. for this event.



For those of you who are less tech savvy, please contact Mike Mol either at 847-276-8739 or MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com. You can also try to find me before or after services and I will help you sign up.

A quick reminder - there are three types of “jobs” at FMSC - a sit down job, a standing job, and a moving/lifting job.

*He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.
Psalm 146:7*

With the blessings of Worship & Music and the Council, I took some of our old unused Bibles and put up this shelf at FMSC. Since Tuesday, August 22nd, 29. Bibles have been taken!!!

PRAISE BE TO GOD!!



PADS HOMELESS SHELTER MINISTRY 2023/2024

Last month we told you all the ways you could help with PADS this season. There has been a slight change. PADS Lake County has received enough funding that they plan to be able to house all the guests in hotels for the whole 2023/2024 season. This means there will be no guests in churches this year. They are in the process of determining what help the churches can give. As soon as we know how we can help we will let everyone know. Stay tuned for updates. Jill and Laurie

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

October 2023



I like choices and doing it my way

Hi I'm Stewardship's "Ask Stewie". In this month's redux article, I want to remind you about online giving.

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee which includes Laurie Kerns and (Stewie) Carl Norlin. So, I know I like choices and really like to do it my way. At St. Mark we have many choices in worship styles, types of music and even how we give of our tithes and offerings. For so many years our committee has encouraged our members to use online giving. Well, the good news is our members have continued to increase the use of online giving. The use of paper checks in envelopes has been reduced, However, if you prefer to continue to write a paper check; it will **really help** our counting teams by writing your name (if using a pew envelope), the check number and amount enclosed on the envelope. This also helps the Financial Secretary in recording your donation for the annual statement.

As I began, we like choices and doing it our way. Let's look at how Online giving gives you choices:

First off here are reasons to consider online giving.

- You can choose not to fill out those envelopes and carry them or mail them to church.
- There is a cost savings to the church.
- There will be no more offering checks to write.
- Regular and consistent giving helps our church with budgeting. It evens out the annual giving.
- You can schedule your contribution even if you are on vacation or maybe are a "Snow-Bird". Your offering will come when you want it to, even when you are gone. Special offerings, no problem, they can be planned in advance.
- Online giving has all the special giving categories including, but not limited to, Flower Fund, HIS Ministry, and special offerings such as Memorials, to name a few.
- Helps the counting teams (a volunteer group) with less checks to count and tabulate.
- Assists our Financial Secretary, by tabulating giving reports since all information is provided electronically.
- Remember you can do it your way. You can schedule a contribution that is convenient for you, just as though you were writing a check. It can be made weekly, biweekly, or monthly. Any amount you would like, just like you would have done for the envelope.
- Or if you would prefer, the contribution could be scheduled for any amount and on any schedule as a reoccurring contribution that is done automatically.



To help you navigate the choices and our website, see the information below that outlines where and how to start online giving. Let's increase our participation in online giving. So, Sign-up today.

Here's how you can continue your support for St. Mark online with your Tithes and Offerings.

- Go to the St. Mark website at www.smlc.info.
- Go to **Give** at the top of the page.
- Tithes & Offerings appear.
- You have three (3) options.
 1. Click Here for – to be redirected to a secure website for online donations by credit card, debit card, or checking account information.
 2. Click Here for – to download and print a form that can be returned to our office (to the attention of "Financial Secretary") to be set up for automatic recurring withdrawals.
 3. Click Here for – to be redirected to the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app which explains everything associated with the smartphone app. Using this app, you can use your smartphone to make either a onetime or reoccurring donation to St. Mark.

God's blessings – from Stewie and the Stewardship Committee



**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 October are **Toilet Paper/ Adult Tooth Brushes**. Any nonperishable food is gladly accepted.

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

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

October 2023

St. Mark High Schoolers!!



Debbie G and I would love to see you and your friends at our bi-weekly Sunday meetings at 6:30 at the Ed Center! (If it is nice enough out, we might even meet around the fire pit.). Right now our plans are to meet:

October 1st, 15th, and 29th.

Please join us for a night of fun, food, and fellowship as we try to help you be a Christian in your world today - a very tough job!!

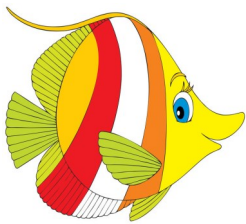
Also

NOW ON SUNDAY MORNING?

On Sunday mornings you are now free to

- help in other Sunday School classes,
- join one of the Worship Bands,
- start up your own Worship Band,
- become more involved with the “behind-the-scenes” work of the Contemporary Service,
- revive the puppet and/or drama group we used to have at St. Mark,
- direct (or group-direct) the Christmas program,
- join a Bible study,
- be on the Welcome Team, or

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU THINK OF?



Fin Facts

Financial Position & Budget

As of August 31st St. Mark had \$314,777 in checking and savings accounts as well as \$60,000 in a contingency account and \$317,297 in Restricted Funds. Due primarily to staff vacancies, and in spite of contributions being \$52,986 below budget, the church is running a net income (gain) through August in the amount of \$81,092.

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 of \$6,500 below budget, God has provided. Please take the time to review the proposed 2024 budget. 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. It is time to invest in the future of our church!

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Unrestricted Offerings</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
Month of August 2023	\$ 55,350	\$ 43,586	(\$ 11,664)
2023 Fiscal Year (Jan.– August)	\$ 452,035	\$ 399,049	(\$ 52,986)

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

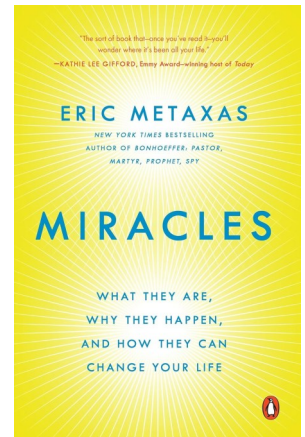
October 2023



Miracles: What They Are, Why They Happen, and How They Can Change Your Life

The Old Testament is full of the stories of God's miracles, but how often do we hear of miracles occurring in this day and age? Author Eric Metaxas tackles this difficult topic in his book *Miracles: What They Are, Why They Happen, and How They Can Change Your Life*. Not since C. S. Lewis in 1947 has an

author of Eric Metaxas's stature undertaken a major exploration of the phenomenon of miracles. In this groundbreaking work, Metaxas examines the compatibility between faith and science and provides well-documented anecdotal evidence of actual miracles. With compelling—sometimes electrifying—evidence that there is something real to be reckoned with, Metaxas offers a timely, civil, and thoughtful answer to recent books by Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and Sam Harris. Already a New York Times bestseller, *Miracles* will be welcomed by both believers and skeptics—who will find their minds opening to the possibilities. You can find this book under call number 231.7 MET.



Noah's Nursery News Meet Tena!



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

In this article, I would like to introduce you to Tena Brock!

Tena was born in Waukegan, IL and she and her family have been members at St Mark for 3 years. She married her husband Nate at Illinois Beach State Park on a beautiful sunny and 80-degree day in May of 2018, and they have two adorable children, Zoey (3) and Jaxon (1). Both children have been baptized here at St. Mark.

In addition, Tena volunteered in the nursery in 2020, and she shares her wisdom, friendliness and practicality with our children and the nursery team. In fact, last December, Tena shared her knowledge of CPR by providing a refresher training class for the entire nursery team. We truly appreciate her time and dedication with this endeavor!

Among her hobbies, Tena really enjoys spending time with family, gardening, cooking, being outdoors in general, shopping for great deals, and running! As a matter of fact, Tena has been training since January of this year to participate in the 2023 Bank of America Chicago Marathon to benefit the American Cancer Society on Sunday, October 8th, 2023. She will be running 26.2 miles! May the force be with her!

Tena is an RN and team lead at the GI Lab at the City of Hope in Zion, IL. For a little background, her dad had cancer when she was young, and she became a nurse as her own personal thank you for the nurses and doctors who saved her dad's life. What a compassionate inspiration!

Tena's favorite season is Autumn as she enjoys being outside in the cooler air and cooking big Sunday dinners, like chili, while watching football! Her favorite holiday is Christmas because she likes decorating, shopping and the spirit of it all!

Thank you, Tena for the many blessings that you so easily bring to the children of St Mark! We truly appreciate your compassionate spirit and eagerness to teach others as well as your practical approach as demonstrated in the nursery these past three years!

Tena, May God Bless you as you run in the Chicago Marathon soon, we lift up prayers for a successful race!

Sincerely,
Deb Heide

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

October 2023

Support St. Mark & Local Businesses



Second Tuesday Each Month

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

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

Share with your friends and family.

LINDENHURST LOCATION ONLY

12:00 - 9:00 PM

Visit www.antiochpizzashop.com for full menu.

Valid the **Second Tuesday** of each Month

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

DATES: Second Tuesdays
10/10/2023, 11/14/2023, 12/12/2023



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
10/19/23, 11/16/23, 12/21/23

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.

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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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Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

October 2023

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LINDENHURST IL 60046

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Stephen Ministry

THE VOICE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

 (847) 356-8140

 www.smlc.info

 smlc@smlc.info

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

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

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

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
October 2023