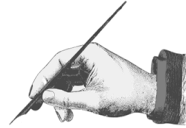


November 2023

President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



This is such an exciting time for us as our Transition Team leads us through our journey over the coming months. We'll be able to see the opportunities to discover who we can be as St Mark Lutheran Church. So much groundwork has been laid and now we get to start building on our heritage.

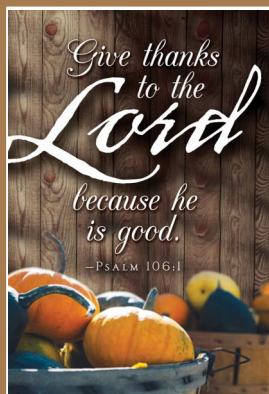
In light of the preparation-for-change mode we'll be in for the remainder of this year and into the coming year, these quotes should serve to motivate us to optimistically pursue all that God has planned for us:

- “There is nothing permanent except change.” ~ Heraclitus
- “If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” ~ Frederick Douglass
- “Change is inevitable. Growth is optional.” ~ John Maxwell
- “There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind.” ~ C.S. Lewis
- “Growth and comfort do not coexist.” ~ Ginni Rometty
- “Courage is the power to let go of the familiar.” ~ Raymond Lindquist
- "Change begins at the end of your comfort zone." ~ Roy T. Bennett
- “Any change, even a change for the better, is always accompanied by discomforts.” ~ Arnold Bennett
- “Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.” ~ John F. Kennedy

Continued on page 5

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- ⇒ Stephen Ministry
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- ⇒ Winter Coat Drive
- ⇒ Feed My Starving Children
- ⇒ First Friday Sing & Pray
- ⇒ High School Youth/Sunday School/Quake
- ⇒ FMSC
- ⇒ Baptism/PADS/Ask Stewie
- ⇒ Open Arms
- ⇒ Support our Church



Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday,
 November 22nd
 At 7:00PM

Pie Social to follow in fellowship hall

Council Elections

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, November 12, 2023 @10:10AM, immediately following the 9:00AM service (no 8:00 or 1030 service that day). Annual Report and Proposed 2024 Budget is available in the Narthex.

CHURCH EVENTS
www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or Find Us Online@
www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

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



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joni1812@sbcglobal.net | 847-404-9185

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BOOKKEEPER

Barb Griffith | Barb@smlc.info

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Andy McBeath

NURSERY COORDINATOR

Deb Heide | heidedeborah@gmail.com

Next Council Meetings: Tuesday, November 14th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meetings: Tuesday, November 28th @ 7:00PM

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2023

From the Desk of Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

Greeting brothers and sisters in Christ

God has done marvelous things! I am so amazed at how the colors on the trees come out. The reds and oranges just make the trees pop! It's such a beautiful sight. Seeing the transition from summer to fall is my favorite season of the year!

Ecclesiastes 3: 11 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

There are seasons congregations go through too and we're in the season of transition from one pastor to another. This can be an anxious time because it can be difficult, at best. Over the years I've witnessed, with the power of the Holy Spirit, congregations transform into healthy Christ centered places. I trust God here in this place and in each and every one of you!

The transition team has been hard at work. Our forums are created to help us all move forward together. The events like the heritage weekend are designed to help you remember your collective paths. To begin to move forward requires a look back. Like fall, this can be a beautiful time to see the congregation show it's colors.

It's an exciting time to be here at St. Mark, in this season of change. There are seasons ahead for St. Mark. Other events will be focused on who we are now and then where we are headed with the final season calling a new pastor!

Like the fall, walking with congregations and trusting in God is by far my favorite thing to do! I look forward to our time together.

God's peace
Intentional Interim Pastor Steve

TRANSITIONS

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2023



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

Trustworthy Writings

Artificial intelligence (AI) is being discussed everywhere these days. Computers are being programmed to produce writings that are not a result of direct human authorship. Should we trust texts produced by AI like we trust letters from a friend? Should we trust a book produced by AI like we do one written by an expert on that subject? Probably not.

Should we trust the Bible in what it tells and teaches us? My answer would be yes. For one thing, it was not produced by AI. We can be grateful. It comes to us from our heavenly *Patēr* (Father), not Mark Zuckerberg's Meta.

For another - and this is decisive - Jesus endorsed the Bible. He quoted from the Old Testament frequently and said, "the Scriptures cannot be broken" (John 10:35). He appointed his followers to write the New Testament by the Spirit who led them.

When Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to his disciples. One of the things he told them was: "Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44). Let's just take the Psalms as an example. How did Jesus fulfill them? Two examples out of dozens:

1. Jesus summarized his suffering (the cross) and exaltation (resurrection, ascension, victorious return) by citing Psalm 118:22: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone" (Matt 21:42; see also Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; 1 Pet 2:7).
2. Psalm 22 stands out, not only in what it predicts, but in what it models about how study of God's word, hiding it in our hearts, equips us to live faithfully. Because Jesus knew this Psalm, he was able to cling to it in his dark hours on the cross:

<p>Ps 22:1 <u>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?</u> Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? 2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.</p> <p>3 <u>Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.</u> 4 <u>In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.</u> 5 To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.</p> <p>6 But I am a worm and not a man, <u>scorned by mankind and despised by the people.</u> 7 <u>All who see me mock me;</u> they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; 8 "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"</p> <p>9 <u>Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.</u> 10 <u>On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God.</u></p> <p>11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and <u>there is none to help.</u> 12 Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; 13 they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.</p>	<p>Words uttered on the cross, capturing his suffering.</p> <p>Jesus clung to the hope of the Father's faithfulness.</p> <p>Jesus felt the sting of rejection. See Matt 27:43 for how mockers fulfilled this.</p> <p>David's sense of God's care from before birth was also Jesus'. God's past care gives hope for the future.</p> <p>Jesus' disciples had deserted him, and anyway where he was going, they could not follow (John 13:36).</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Continued on page 5</i></p>
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<p>14 <u>I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;</u> 15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.</p>	<p>The agony of the cross</p>
<p>16 For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; <u>they have pierced my hands and feet</u>—17 I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me;</p>	<p>Pierced: John 20:25</p>
<p>18 <u>they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.</u></p>	<p>Lots and garments: Matt 27:35</p>

What King David wrote a thousand years before Christ, the Son of David felt and voiced as he completed his messianic mission: “For our sake [God] made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21).

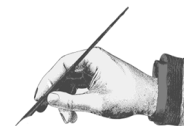
The Psalms are part of an Old Testament division called “the writings.” They consist of Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, and Chronicles.

These writings are trustworthy, just like the rest the Old Testament, and the New Testament too.

We wonder about AI and can be sure that some of it will be baloney. Some may prove toxic. Not so the “the writings,” nor any other portion of God’s word. These writings, as David said, are “more to be desired . . . than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb” (Psalm 19:10).

We pay for the technology that brings us AI. The gold and honey found in Scripture are offered as a gift to us - God’s pure grace received through faith - provided by the work of Christ.

President’s Message *Continued from page 1*



“In any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth or step back into safety.” ~ Abraham Maslow

"If you want to fly, you have to give up what weighs you down." ~ Roy T. Bennett

The last quote perfectly reflects why our Transition Team led us through phase 1 of our journey, Coming to Terms with History. It was a critical step to being able to leave hurt, misunderstandings, and secrets behind us and to replace them with truth and forgiveness. Several of the quotes above squarely touch on the pain that can come with change, but they’re spot on – the process of change isn’t easy. I don’t know if there is any pain involved in the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a Monarch butterfly but there’s exquisite beauty in the end after all that work. That’s what we have waiting for us when we choose God’s lead over our own agendas.

Coming this month is our new Director of Music, Andy McBeath, starting with us on November 8th. Thank You, Lord, for bringing Andy to us! Andy’s debut will be during the 5:30 p.m. Saturday service on 11/11.

As a reminder, our Sunday services will be consolidated into one 9:00 a.m. service on November 12th, followed by our Annual Congregational Meeting at 10:10 a.m.. Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting and be an integral part of making decisions for our future. We’re a family and families make decisions together -- we need you.

Blessings to all for a wonderful Thanksgiving. "Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind, for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." - Psalms 107:8-9

Joni Wasmund
Congregational President



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 October 2023

A Council retreat was held on Friday evening and Saturday morning, 10/13-14, led by Intentional Interim Pastor Steve. The material presented was exceptionally beneficial to all.

The 2024 Council nominee slate was approved for presentation to the congregation during the Annual Meeting on November 12th.

The 2022 Audit Report (conducted on 8/29/23) was approved.

A request of the Memorial/Worship & Music Committees to purchase a new piano cover was approved.

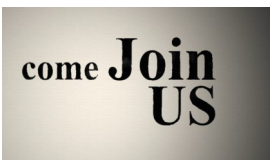
The resignation of Judy Dunfrund from the Safety & Security Committee was accepted with regrets.

The Seminarian Ministry and Christian Ministry Scholarship Policies were approved.

The 2024 Benevolence recommendations were approved.

The retirements of Deb Zuchowski and Rhonda Doran, effective end of year 2023, were accepted with regrets.

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!

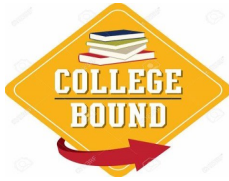


Council Elections

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


**Annual Report and Proposed 2024 Budget is
available in the Narthex.**

**ANNUAL
MEETING**



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

November 2023

Greetings From The Congregational Life Committee

Operation Christmas Child

The amazing journey of a Shoebox Gift begins with You and results in Evangelism, Discipleship, and Multiplication. We've got a goal to pack 300 boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year. That means we'll need your help to collect as many of our wish list items as possible. We'll be packing on **Sunday, November 12th**. There is only one church service at 9:00 a.m. followed by the annual meeting. We'll start packing after the meeting at **approximately 11:30 a.m.** and will be packing for a few hours.



The Amazon list is still active and has been updated to reflect items that are really needed. 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

Holiday Dinner in a Bag



For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. MATTHEW 25:35

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.

Please see our list of items that are needed that is posted at the church. . ***Have a Thrivent card that you would like to donate so we can buy fresh produce, milk and other needed items?*** That would be so helpful and appreciated!

Donation deadline is November 15th. We'll be packing up the items immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, November 19th. We're looking for volunteers to deliver the baskets that afternoon. Please sign-up if you're able to help pack and/or deliver.

Advent Soup Suppers

Mark your calendars to join us for great fellowship and delicious food. There will be a soup supper starting at 5:30 p.m. followed by an Advent service on December 6th, 13th and 20th. We always have at least five different kinds of hot, delicious soup along with a large variety of sandwich fixings, salads, and yummy desserts. It's a great way to get to know other church members and to really get into the holiday spirit. ***Please join us!***



Soup
Supper

Operation Christmas Child Donation Suggestions:

- Combs
- Hairbrushes
- Compact mirrors
- Nail clipper and file
- Stick deodorant
- Bar soap
- Kids Sunglasses
- Small bouncing balls
- Mini plush toys
- Pencil cases
- Crayons
- Markers
- Pens
- Coloring pads
- Coloring books
- Picture books
- 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

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2023

Is Christ in Your Thanksgiving Prayers?

St. Mark Church, a House of Prayer

The phrase "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!" is found in six different verses ([1 Chronicles 16:34](#), [Psalm 107:1](#), [Psalm 118:1](#), 29, [Psalm 136:1](#), [Jeremiah 33:11](#)).

In 1789, George Washington proclaimed "a day of public thanksgiving and thanks" to thank God for his protection and as the source of all that is good. In his proclamation, he wrote,

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be —That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks —for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation...

Note: “ ‘God is not a glorified Santa Claus, who gives us everything we want, then fades out and lets us run our way. He gives, but in giving He gives of himself too. And the best gift God ever gives us is Himself too. He gives answers to prayer, but after we’ve used up the answer or don’t need it anymore, we still have God.’ Reflect on whether you have been realizing that gift of God Himself in your prayer life. Or have you been so self-centered on the gift or blessing that you have missed the Giver of the gift? If it is the latter, ask God for forgiveness and for change in your heart and prayer time”¹ as the season of Thanksgiving this Fall comes upon us and transitions into the Christmas season of Joy for the gift of His son, Jesus.

¹Tozer, A.W. *Prayer*, Seaver, W.L., *Prayer, Communing with God in Everything - Collected Insights*, Moody Publishers, Chicago, 2016. P.128.

St. Mark’s Three Days of Prayer

January 9-11, 2024

Matthew 21:13 “It is written, He said to them, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer.’”

To honor God’s Word, seek His guidance, and protection let us all begin the new year with a focus on prayer. St. Mark will be participating in our 9th LCMC *Three Days of Prayer* from Tuesday, January 9 through Thursday, January 11, 2024. So mark your calendars now for our intentional time of prayer.

Please uplift St. Mark Church in your prayers as we seek God’s will for our church to refocus on our mission in this season of transition. For each of us to make disciples through loving and serving others, sharing our time, talents, treasure, growing in our faith and worshipping the Lord by being a living sacrifice.

Romans 12:1 *Brothers and sisters, in light of all I have shared with you about God’s mercies, I urge you to offer your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice to God, a sacred offering that brings Him pleasure; this is your reasonable, essential worship.*



Current prayer guides are found on our Prayer Table next to the Pastor’s office. 2024 Prayer Guides will be ready to be picked up the weekend before the *Three Days of Prayer*, but the format for the event has yet to be determined. Watch for updates in the bulletin around mid-December. Our prayer is for each St. Mark family, member, youth and child to listen for God’s call to prayer and answer with a willing heart, mind and soul. Please contact Barb Ewert (b1182ray@aol.com) for questions and/or suggestions.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2023

On Going Opportunities for Prayer



- International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians Sunday, November 5 and throughout the month of November.
- First Friday Sing and Pray See you Friday, November 3rd at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.
- St. Mark Prayer Chain, a wonderful group of fellow Christians, praying for all prayer requests and praising God for His listening to our petitions, thanksgivings, and praises for His responses. Email requests and praises to smlcprayers@gmail.com. Please share with the Prayer Chain how God has responded to your prayer request,
- Zoom Weekly Prayer Meeting - Join us, pray, and be blessed. Tuesday, 6:30 pm. We pray over the previous week of Prayer Chain requests, St. Mark Lutheran Church, and each other. Contact Person: Pam Burke at pamelaburke02@gmail.com. Barb Ewert for Zoom link.
- The Worship and Music Committee has posted the 2023 Three Days of Prayer Brochure and other prayer guides on the St. Mark website under Prayer. We prayerfully request you include these various petitions as part of your devotions for our church families, Intentional Interim Pastor, staff, church council and committees and for the Church Doctor training and program during this church year. Click on the link or copy to your browser <https://www.smlc.info/prayer/prayer-guides/>.



Thanksgiving Pie Fellowship

We will be having our midweek Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, November 22nd at 7:00pm and yes..... there will be a time of pie-eating fellowship following the service!

We will need lots of help as well as pie donations. Watch for the sign up to come. Remember: confirmands are encouraged to help!

Questions? Contact Wendy Rohlwing at churchlady51@aol.com

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

November 2023

Noah's Nursery News: **Meet Sarah!**

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

In this article, I would like to introduce you to Sarah Heide! (My lovely daughter.)

Sarah has been a member of St Mark since 1998, although she was baptized at Trinity Lutheran church in Waukegan, she considers our church her home of worship.

In June of 2020, Sarah gave birth to two beautiful twin daughters, Charlotte and Leah. These "twinados" keep her very busy! (Prayers needed as they are both currently potty training!!)

Sarah is also a part-time assistant manager at Dollar Tree in Lindenhurst, where she truly enjoys interacting with the customers and her coworkers.

She began volunteering in the nursery in 2018, and we are lucky to have her because she assists on a moment's notice when myself or another volunteer cannot attend as scheduled.

Sarah's favorite season is Autumn with all the wonderful colors and her favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. She cherishes time spent with family as well as being able to sing and laugh whenever possible.

We appreciate the gifts that Sarah brings to the nursery, especially by being available at a moment's notice. Thank you, Sarah!

Sincerely, Debbie Heide



The Case For Christ

Is there credible proof that Jesus of Nazareth really is the Son of God? In *The Case for Christ*, Lee Strobel, former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune and New York Times bestselling author, retraces his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith and builds a captivating case for Christ's divinity.

In this revised and updated edition of *The Case for Christ*, Strobel cross-examines a dozen experts with doctorates from schools such as Cambridge, Princeton, and Brandeis, asking hard-hitting questions--and taking a deeper look at the evidence from the fields of science, philosophy, and history.

In his comprehensive investigation, Strobel doesn't shy away from challenging questions, including:

- * How reliable is the New Testament?
- * Does evidence for Jesus exist outside the Bible?
- * Is Jesus who he said he was?
- * Is there any reason to believe the resurrection was an actual event?
- * What does all of the evidence point to--and what does it mean today?

Winner of the Gold Medallion Book Award and twice nominated for the Christian Book of the Year Award, *The Case for Christ* has been adapted into a major motion picture and has now sold over 5 million copies worldwide.



This edition includes scores of revisions and additions, including updated material on archaeological and manuscript discoveries, fresh recommendations for further study, and an interview with the author that tells dramatic stories about the book's impact, provides behind-the-scenes information, and responds to critiques of the book by skeptics.

Strobel's thorough examination reads like a captivating, fast-paced novel. But it's not fiction: it's a riveting quest for the truth about history's most compelling figure. You can find this book under call number 232.9 STR.

You can find this book under call number 231.7 MET.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2023

BIBLE BLESSINGS

On Sunday, October 29, 2023 our second grade Sunday School students, Greg Koniecki and Colby Twarling received their very own Bibles. May their Bible be a light for their journey through life.

stmarksunschool@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th

We will be celebrating Jesus' birth with a nativity program and a fun family party!!!

Christmas Program....

Sunday School Christmas Program
Needs Helpers.

Cindy Zwicke is planning the Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00. There will be a nativity play followed by a fun family party.

Cindy needs a co-chair and additional volunteers to help plan and make this celebration of Jesus' birth a success. Please consider taking part in this joyous event.

Contact Cindy Zwicke or Parish Education.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PLAY PARTS

Sunday School parents - there will be a letter coming home about the December 10th Christmas Program and play part sign-ups. Please save the date and look for more information.

Christmas Decorating



We will be decorating the sanctuary and narthex on **Monday, November 27th at 6PM.** The confirmands are encouraged to sign up with a parent. It usually takes about 2 hours... but that depends on how many we get to help! The more we get, the faster we get done!

I cordially invite anyone who has a willing heart and hands to join us!! It never ceases to amaze me how it all comes together with no set way of doing it! It never looks the same, but always looks fantastic!

I will have a sign up sheet outside of the fellowship Hall. Please join the fun! Any questions, see me behind the coffee pot on Sunday!

Gae Michal gmichal48@gmail.com

*** We will be taking down the décor
Monday January 8th 2024!!!

This past October all our Sunday school teachers and students were very busy giving thanks and creating cards for Pastor Steve. With the fall weather came some extra fun activities for our students and families at St. Mark. Students. Families participated in a Scavenger Hunt the last week in October. It was also fun to see some students and families at the annual Trunk and Treat event.



For November, our students and Sunday school teachers will be working on service projects. We will continue to collect offering for Feed My Starving Children for the remainder of the Sunday School year. Any student of St. Mark is always encouraged to bring friends to visit Sunday school throughout the year; all are welcome.

Submitted by: Melissa Grandt
St. Mark Sunday School Coordinator
stmarksunschool@gmail.com

Blessings and God Sightings

Do you Know???... Gae Michal

Debbie Heide gave me a great idea of getting to know some of the folks around church!!! So I admit to copying her...but there are so many folks around here we may know...but don't know anything ABOUT!!

Not knowing where to begin...I figured I'd start with someone I know quite well...ME!! So here goes...

I was born in Milwaukee, Wisc...so am a Packer fan through and through! In 1968 I was sent to an interview for a United Airlines Stewardess position by a lady in the personnel business. Turns out this would be the first of many God sightings in my life! I was hired and started what would be a 38+ year career as what became known as a Flight Attendant. I was based in Chicago for my entire career. I lived on the far north side of the city until 1980 when I bought my first house in Zion. After what I thought were disasters at the time, I ended up in Lake Villa in a cute little house right next door to where I presently live. (God sighting #2) I bought this house in 1983 when my son, Zachary, was only 6 months old. Needing to find a church to raise him in, I found St Mark! I walked in the doors and was met by Ed Bybee and Roy Jacobs. When I asked if I could bring a baby into the service, (which at that time was held in what we now call the Fellowship Hall!), they assured me that was just fine! Actually, I never saw Zach again until after the service!! He got passed around to anyone who wanted to hold him!! I knew I was HOME!!! That feeling of HOME has never changed!! (God sighting #3).

I consider my children as my God sightings #4 and #5...they saved my life!! Everything I have done since they came into my life, was thanks to them being here!! I was blessed (#6) to be able to fly schedules that allowed me to leave late at night and return first thing in the morning, so was able to be a full time Flight Attendant AND a full time Mom!! Blessing #7 was finding Laurie Kerns to watch my kids overnight while I was gone 3-4 nights a week!

I was part of the first years of the Lake Villa Timberwolves; volunteered at the local schools; helped start the P.A.D.S. program here at St. Mark (Laurie Kerns was and still is the food coordinator since 30+ years ago!); started serving coffee before the new Sacristy was built in 1991; have served as Council secretary for 2 years; have taught Sunday School (found out that wasn't my forte!!!); am presently in charge of the Altar Guild; and yes, am still serving coffee!!

If it's possible, I consider that I have had too many blessings!! Thank God for all of them!!...and thank all of you for making me feel at home!!

God is good...all the time...God is good!!...(stolen from Mike Mol!!)

Please give me suggestions for other people you want to know more about!! Catch me behind the coffee counter most Sundays...

Stephen Ministry



Stephen Ministry is a team developed and trained to provide Christian-based confidential, one-on-one Christian care for people who are experiencing a personal crisis or a life disrupting event. If you or someone you know is experiencing loss, divorce, financial stressors, terminal, or extended illness, is supporting someone with terminal illness, or other life-altering event, please consider contacting our Stephen Ministry team.

Please note we are not licensed therapists but trained volunteers who can provide emotional support during a difficult time. Please reach out to Intentional Interim Pastor Steve Abend or Deb Zuchowski (our Church Administrator/ Stephen Ministry Referral Coordinator) to see about being matched with one of our wonderful Stephen Ministers.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2023

LIVE READERS NEEDED

(No experience needed. Just willingness.)

Can you read out loud? In front of people? We are looking for members who can read Scripture out loud in front of the congregation during services.

This is a great chance to get involved in your church. You don't have to be a fabulous public speaker. Training will be provided. If you can read and talk out loud at the same time, then we want you!

Contact II Pastor Steve or any member of the Worship & Music Committee for more information.



First Friday Sing & Pray Nov 3rd

God is still in the business of answering prayer!

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*



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....**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 Tatro at berniesharon@comcast.net. Thank you for helping.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2023



Well ... what else would you do on a Photo/Video Scavenger Hunt then pose in a convertible with a live chicken, get lost trying to read a map (that happens to be upside down), and salute a total stranger's flag???

Actually, there was a lot more to do and a lot more fun had by all. This year's C/3 Youth Group Kickoff Event was a blast!!! The end score might have been a tie between the juniors and the freshmen but who's counting??

In November, our next get together will be either the 12th or the 19th so keep your eyes and ears open to see what is decided. We'll meet at the Ed Center at 6:30 and, as always, friends are invited!

High Schoolers – please don't forget that just because we don't meet on Sunday mornings there is nothing for you to do at church during that time!!

On Sunday mornings you are now free to

- 1. help in other Sunday School classes,**
- 2. join one of the Worship Bands,**
- 3. start up your own Worship Band,**
- 4. become more involved with the “behind-the-scenes” work of the Contemporary Service,**
- 5. revive the puppet and/or drama group we used to have at St. Mark,**
- 6. help with the Christmas program,**
- 7. join a Bible study,**
- 8. help during Fellowship Hour (or just *come* to Fellowship Hour)**
- 9. be on the Welcome Team, or**

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU THINK OF?

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2023

ATTENTION ALL 6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADERS

QUAKE 2024 is coming up in January of 2024!

What is QUAKE you might ask? Well, according to their website:

Quake events are weekend retreats created specifically for youth in grades 6-12. Since 1966, we have hosted Quake events at hotels and water parks across the country. Quake partners with youth leaders to encourage teens to become established in their faith, empowered for Christian living, and enabled to live a life of ministry and leadership.

This year's theme is:

BREATHE.



Matthew 11:28



And it will be held at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg on January 26th – 28th, 2024. Here is their website but this far out, the site isn't as detailed as it will be later: [QUAKE Info?](#) The cost will probably be \$100 or less for each participant.

^^

What am I really interested in knowing right now though – is there anyone who is interested in going? If so (or even if you have questions), please contact me, Mike Mol, at church, at 847-276-8739, or at MEMOL2Elks@gmail.com.



If you are looking to pack food for FMSC in a different location and/or environment than Libertyville, this may be for you!!

In Arlington Heights, at a church that is only 36 minutes away from St. Mark, a Hope Filled Holiday IL MobilePack™ Event is being held From December 14 – 16, over 660,000 meals are hoped to be packed during these 3 days.

This link will take you to the registration site: [Hope Filled Holiday.](#)

As always, if you have questions, please talk to Mike Mol or call him 847-276-8739.



BAPTIZED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

May the guiding presence of God be with these individuals as they grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

October 22, 2023

Jackson Robert Popp

Son of Lauren & Justin Popp

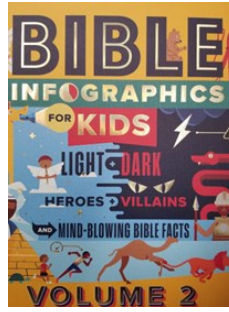
October 29, 2023

David M. Whitescarver

Son of Barbara & Clifford Ewert

Zoey Eileen Wipperfurth

Daughter of Kathryn & Michael Wipperfurth



Saint Mark Library Mission

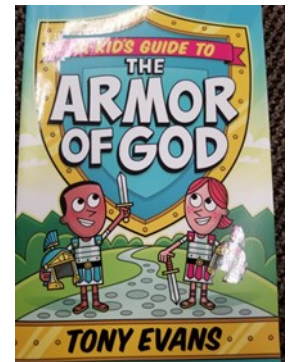
**Do you Know???...
Linda Polman**

I wanted to take a minute to introduce myself as I assist in moving forward with the reopening of our St. Mark library. My name is Linda Pohlman and I am recently retired after working 30 years in the McHenry and Antioch schools, the last few at Oakland Elementary school in the library. I also enjoyed teaching Sunday School to 4 years olds at St. Mark for 20 years. My hope is to help in updating and adding additional, new and donated materials, to our library and help in making them available to our members/families.

Coming from an educational background, my first mission is to share with our Sunday School teachers and our St. Mark families, materials that we have available for our children.

Please stay tuned for more information regarding the reopening of our library planned for November.

Thanks,
Linda



PADS

**HOMELESS SHELTER
MINISTRY
2023/2024**

Previously 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

November 2023



Help Us Send Gift-Filled Shoeboxes in Jesus' Name

The amazing journey of a Shoebox Gift begins with **You** and results in Evangelism, Discipleship, and Multiplication.

We've got a goal to pack 300 boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year. That means we'll need your help to collect as many of our wish list items as possible. We'll be packing on Sunday, November 12th. There is only one church service at 9:00 a.m. followed by the annual meeting. We'll start packing after the meeting at approximately 11:30 a.m. and will be packing for a few hours.

The Amazon list is still active and has been updated to reflect items that are really needed.

For added convenience, you can have the items delivered directly to St. Mark.
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/lz/9P20JNPIHNT8?ref_=wl_share



RED Pointsettias—Save the Dates!

Dec 1st: Forms Available in Narthex
Dec 10th: Orders Due (Sunday)

Christmas Eve

Dec 24th: Pickup after 8:00PM Service (Sunday)
(All plants must be picked up by Wednesday Dec 27th.)

SUNDAY

November 12, 2023

9:00AM—**Service**

(No 8am or 10:30am Service)
(No Sunday School)

10:10AM

Congregation Meeting
Council Elections
(Immediately following service)

11:30AM

Operation
Christmas Child
(Immediately following Meeting)

10 NOV 2023

LIVE BAND!

MUSIC CONCERT

ST. MARK SANCTUARY
FRIDAY, NOV. 10TH @ 7PM

1822 E GRAND AVE,
LINDENHURST, IL 60046

LUTHERAN NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL BAND!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 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 November are **Laundry Soap / Baby Food**. 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

November 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
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
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.

Divine Signs is Lake County's premier yard message creation company, dedicated to spreading joy and love in an extraordinary way!

We are excited to announce that we will **contribute 10% of our proceeds to St. Mark Lutheran Church** in Lindenhurst, IL. Simply mention St. Mark Lutheran Church, it is that easy! Tell your family and friends and let's get your next congratulatory event in the schedule!

This promotion is offered for everyone. Contact us directly or visit our sites to learn more about us...



Kevin and Tracy Graul

Phone or text: (224) 223-2786
Facebook.com/DivineSigns3.16
[Instagram@Divinesigns3.16](https://www.instagram.com/Divinesigns3.16)
DivineSigns.godaddysites.com

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2023

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

*Address Service Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed*



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



Stephen Ministry

THE VOICE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

☎ (847) 356-8140
🖱 www.smlc.info
✉ smlc@smlc.info

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

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

**DECEMBER/JANUARY
VOICE DEADLINE:
November 15, 2023**

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
November 2023