President’s Notes

By Robin Korom

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Call to Action!

Your help is needed to fill all of the open Council Positions, please prayerfully consider serving your church in this important capacity. You may be wondering if you are qualified for a position such as an Elder or a Trustee, you are! If you have a heart for service and something inside you is prompting you to do this, answer the call. Any of your current council members, would be more than happy to talk to you further about what is involved in serving on council. Please help us to have a full slate of candidates and perhaps even some opposition so that our congregation has choices!

Elections are to be held at our Annual Meeting on Sunday November 11th, between the services.

I hope everyone has noticed some of the new facilities improvements around St. Mark. We installed a new exit door on the south side of the Fellowship hall to bring the door size up to code and allow for higher occupancy in that area. We replaced the colored Plexiglas and ill-fitting storm windows on the southeast and southwest sides of the hall and what a difference it makes having some natural sunlight brightening up that room!

I want to thank Carl Dunfrund and his crew of volunteers for their help in hanging up the new acoustic sound panels. We are hoping that they will help improve the sound quality and make it easier to enjoy conversation during fellowship times. Please give me your feedback as to the level of improvement you experience. There are additional measures that we can take to further help the sound/noise but we felt starting with the panels was a good first step.

Deb is working with the paving company to repair the parking lot in the northeast corner by the Ed Center.

We have also added an additional furnace to service the back Sunday School area which, as you know, is also used as a sleeping area for our PADS program. That area was very cold in the winter and after conducting a study of our current HVAC systems, we found that the furnace serving that area was inadequate. Adding a second unit was the best solution and so that work is underway as I write this article. Once completed we will be testing for heat loss to determine if additional insulation is needed in the attic and if it is necessary to consider window replacement in that area.

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Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

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Dear Friends,

Attending the national gathering of our denomination, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) was an absolute thrill and uplifting experience. Pete Bolender and I drove to Des Moines, Iowa and participated in the gathering with approximately 800 people in attendance. Both Pete and I met several pastors and had extended conversations with them over meals and other opportunities. The persons we met were from all over the United States. What is so good about attending is one senses the Presence of God in the entire event. We are meeting fellow Christians who love Jesus, who honor the Word of God, and are putting their spiritual gift(s) to use to the glory of God.

The main speaker, Kent Hunter was outstanding. I heard Kent Hunter speak back in 1991 where he spoke on Luther’s theology of the cross emphasizing the resurrection side of the cross. Some of the material I used in a recent sermon came from that series of lectures. I told Kent Hunter that I remembered the gist of his lectures from that time. He appreciated the compliment. His talks at the LCMC conference were invigorating, inspiring, and challenging. He told us to get off our spiritual b…. (rears) and teach others to do the same. What ignites a church, what lights a church on fire for Christ is when those in the pews discover their spiritual gift(s) and put them into action. You will be hearing much about spiritual gifts in the near future and you will be given opportunities to discover what your gift(s) are. The confirmation students have been taking spiritual gifts tests for years and it is an experience that changes those in the class. Now it is time for the rest of us to do the same.

Sharing Christ with persons outside of the church and discipling people in the church were a large part of the teaching also. The persons that Pete and I met had stories to tell us that were highly inspirational and deeply moving. A few expressed pain from difficult experiences in their churches and it was good for them to have a person they could open up to in a safe place. God has taught them much through the difficulties and yes, you could see the pain on their faces but also the peace that comes from experiencing new growth and insights produced by the power of the Holy Spirit. They are in the process of being healed in God’s perfect timing. Pete and I prayed with each person that we met.

Every LCMC church in Illinois had a time of fellowship which was so enjoyable. Pastor Shields could not attend the conference but his church was represented and it was wonderful to hear what they had to say. Pastor Shields’ ministry is flourishing. We also spent time with Matt Shields who is no longer in pastoral ministry. Matt is in a ministry that recruits young people to go into the mission field, his new calling. We were also greeted by Pastor Dawn Spies who now lives in California.

Thank you for your kind expressions of thankfulness on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. It is an honor to serve as your pastor. God has much in store for us as we all grow closer to Jesus and to one another, putting our spiritual gifts into action. The best is yet to be.

God Bless,

Pastor Breum

P.S. A great prayer, “Lord send a revival and let it begin with me.”
Yearnings

It was just a news item on my iPhone: “Marty Balin, founder of 1960s group Jefferson Airplane, dies at 76.” But the story struck me with a force that surprised me. Why?

Part of it is what I’ll call the celebrity death effect. When famous people die, it dominates the news cycle, sometimes for days. So far this year we’ve mourned Aretha Franklin, John McCain, Burt Reynolds, Neil Simon, and others. For a few hours, at least, we feel the loss.

Part of it is simple human sympathy. We probably don’t want to die, and when “famous” people expire, I am reminded that someday that will be me.

But in the case of Marty Balin (above), a line in the article was what arrested my attention: “Mr. Balin . . . was known for his yearning tenor on the ballads ‘Today’ and ‘It’s No Secret’ and on the political anthem ‘Volunteers.’”

“Yearning tenor.” That nails the mystique that certain voices in certain songs convey and evoke. The 1960s were an era (at first I typed “error,” and there would have been truth in that) of deep unrest. The Baby Boomers were entering adulthood. The sexual revolution was exploding. Viet Nam was dividing the nation.

The song “Volunteers” performed at Woodstock featured Marty Balin’s “yearning tenor” (enhanced by Grace Slick’s backup vocals). You can get the flavor (though the musical quality is not great) at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzHBr0ndKus

We live in a flawed world, and we yearn for something better. Poets, including recording artists, in every generation cry out in search.

But this is not a new longing. The church father Augustine famously said to God in his Confessions: “Our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you.” Restlessness is a symptom of yearning.

Or some 1,400 years prior to Augustine, there was the psalmist David:

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
    my soul thirsts for you;
    my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Jesus yearned for disciples that weren’t so hardhearted and thickheaded. Our modern translations sometimes don’t record it, but Jesus used a word we could translate “O!” to convey a deep desire for things to be different than he typically found them. “O unbelieving and perverse generation!” (Matthew 17:17). “O foolish people, slow in heart to believe all that the prophets said!” (Luke 24:25; my translations).

Jesus yearned for people to wake up and trust him through spiritual rebirth. He still does!

Christ’s apostle Paul likewise expresses yearning with that Greek expression “O!”: “Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!” (Romans 11:33).

I’m not a tenor, and if there is yearning in my voice, it’s just to find the right note once in a while. But Marty Balin and Jefferson Airplane were on a search common to us all. If our hearts have made that connection of which Augustine spoke, and to which David, Jesus, and Paul point, we have a consolation and hope that probably eludes many of the rich and famous.

Yet even in their sad deaths we can be encouraged in yearning when we cry out, not into the void of human despair, but to the one who promises, “Seek and you will find” (Luke 11:9).
Another project that is underway is the replacement of the lighting in the Education Center. Utilizing some of the funds that our Rummage Sale Team has raised, we have had a plan designed to upgrade the lighting on the entire first floor. This will be a real benefit to all the groups that meet in the Ed Center and will certainly make it much easier during the rummage sale events.

As we shared with you at last year’s annual meeting some of our facilities projects had been put aside for several years. This year we committed to investing money into our Church and Ed Center so that these facilities can continue to meet the needs of our congregation in the years to come. In 2019 you will see these types of projects continued. If you have any suggestions for improvement please don’t hesitate to contact me.

In His service,
Robin Korom, Council President

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President’s Notes Continued

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

John and I have been so overwhelmed by the beautiful caring extended to us during John’s illness. With each card and good wishes, we could feel the prayer that came with it. We thank all of you who sent cards and those who offered a caring casserole.

Marilyn & John Florip

Recycling Changes!

Due to the decreased value of non-paper items and the cost of labor to sort recyclables, our waste management company has decided that beginning November 1st, we will only be recycling paper and cardboard.

Please make sure that all other items go into the trash.

Thank you very much for your cooperation!
Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
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Bible Sunday
October 28, 2018
"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Thus sayeth the Lord. (Proverbs 22:6 ESV)

† Jackson Cunningham
† Charlotte Engel
† Lily Honaker
† Ashtyn Rupe

† Blythe Strand
† Rylin Walsh
† Tyler Whitehead

Congrats to the 2nd-graders and their families as they receive the gift of God’s word!

Attention Voting Members

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on November 11th, 2018 immediately following the first service.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers, approve the annual budget and the recommended changes to the by-laws

A Special Invitation to Collin Crowl’s Senior Recital

Date: Saturday, November 11th
Time: 4:30 pm
Place: Hammerschmidt Memorial Chapel
208 Alexander Blvd.
Elmhurst, IL 60126
https://goo.gl/maps/YuifVDmrXMD2

All are encouraged to attend to help celebrate Collin’s amazing accomplishment!

BAPTIZED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD
AT ST. MARK IN OCTOBER

Payton Louis Whitehead

May the guiding presence of God be with this individual as he grows in the knowledge of Jesus Christ!
Thanksgiving Pie Social

Come to the Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 21st, then join your fellow members and visitors for a piece of pie immediately following the service.

What a great way to begin the Thanksgiving holiday with worship and fellowship! Please bring your favorite pie to share! All beverages will be provided.

November 28th  December 5th  December 12th

Relax, come out of the cold and bring your friends to the St. Mark Advent Soup Suppers beginning at 5:30 pm! Come for delicious homemade soups, desserts, and fellowship and then stay for Advent Services at 7:00PM.

Watch for the sign-up sheets coming soon!

Caring Casserole Needs YOU!

The Caring Casserole Committee is looking for a 3rd committee head. You would be responsible for calling committee members to arrange a meal and then delivering the meal. This occurs about 4-5 times a year. Please prayerfully consider helping with this wonderful ministry!

If you need more info or have questions, PLEASE contact Lori McKenzie

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Every month St. Mark collects food and sends 6-8 volunteers to the Open Arms Mission, a community-based food pantry whose mission is to provide daily living necessities while encouraging self-sufficiency for individuals and families in need. They serve an average of 298 families per week in the Lake Villa, Lindenhurst and Antioch areas.

Food donations may be dropped in the yellow barrels at either of the main entrances. To volunteer at the sight, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Dates: The 3rd Wednesday of every month   Times: 4:15-6:30pm
If you would like more information, please contact Terri Selz at tselz@yahoo.com.

November Donation Item: Canned Soup

Community Fellowship Events

Flyers available at smlc.info/events. These events are a fun, easy way to contribute to the mission of St. Mark! Just dine-in, carry-out or visit the drive-thru.

A portion of your sale benefits our mission here and abroad.

**COUPON IS REQUIRED FOR WENDY'S for St. Mark to receive credit**

Next Event: November 13th

Please contact Brenda Klein or Kim Maatta with any questions.

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
November 2018
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Help for Hurting People

Do you know someone who is hurting and wish you knew what to say? Have you seen someone who is going through a difficult time in life and wish that you could help? Have you ever heard a person talking about their difficulties and wanted to offer encouragement? If so, please consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers are ordinary people who have been carefully trained to offer care and encouragement to those in need. As a Stephen Ministry congregation, St. Mark is in a unique position to reach out to the many hurting people in our congregation and beyond, but we need your help. We need men and women who are willing to attend the training and serve as Stephen Ministers here at St. Mark. A new training class begins in January 2019.

If you think you might be interested please contact Janet Breum at revsbreum@comcast.net or Ian Griffith at ianhgriffith@me.com. We would love to talk to you about Stephen Ministry and how you can help.

Mitten Tree

With the coldest season of the year approaching, the mitten tree will be assembled to serve those in need. New mittens, gloves, hats and scarves will be collected. (Sets are welcome too.)

Collection will begin after Halloween and continue through Thanksgiving.

Mark Your Calendars!

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Monday, November 26th @ 6:00pm

Do you know someone who is hurting and wish you knew what to say? Have you seen someone who is going through a difficult time in life and wish that you could help? Have you ever heard a person talking about their difficulties and wanted to offer encouragement? If so, please consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers are ordinary people who have been carefully trained to offer care and encouragement to those in need. As a Stephen Ministry congregation, St. Mark is in a unique position to reach out to the many hurting people in our congregation and beyond, but we need your help. We need men and women who are willing to attend the training and serve as Stephen Ministers here at St. Mark. A new training class begins in January 2019.

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Angel Tree Ministry

St. Mark will once again participate in Angel Tree Ministry. This ministry provide gifts for the children of incarcerated parents, and in many instances, this is the only gift that the child will receive! Tags with the children’s names will be on the Christmas tree in the narthex the weekend of Thanksgiving starting Saturday evening and then again Sunday morning. Tags will be available the following weekend if there are any still hanging. Gifts should be returned by December 9, 2018. Please prayerfully consider doing this outreach ministry. If you have questions please contact Sharon Tatro or the church office.

We are also in need of people to help deliver the gifts to the families. (This is a great confirmation Ministry opportunity!) Thank you very much for your help!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
November 2018
St. Mark will be participating in our fourth LCMC Three Days of Prayer. We are asking for your earnest prayers that Our Lord guide each of our hearts and minds to prepare and participate in this extraordinary time for St. Mark and the Lutheran Church as we celebrate the 501st year of the Reformation.

Our prayers are to make these three days a special occasion to 1) glorify and honor Our Lord, 2) petition God for a spiritual revival of our church body, and 3) that the Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds to His direction for our church and for the the world as Christian persecution grows.

"God is calling out a remnant of believers throughout the world who understand the role of prayer in their daily lives. These people have learned that prayer is not a five-minute exercise in the morning devotion time, but it is a vital strategic tool to discern and know God's will and purposes in their everyday lives. You see they have learned that their daily occupations are their ministries to God and others for the life of this world."

"Martin Luther saw prayer as crucial to human life, a life created by the relationship to God. In this relationship God starts a conversation, communicating God’s words of law and promise. Prayer is a part of the human response to God’s speaking, a response itself shaped by the words of command and promise. Luther thought that God’s promise to hear prayer defines both the nature of God and the nature of the human relationship to God, as well as the human approach to life. Luther’s comments and instructions on prayer permeated his work. Luther sought to build an evangelical prayer practice that reflected the key insights of his theology: just as God redeems the unworthy human, so God promises to hear and respond to the one praying, despite his or her unworthiness. Humans respond to God's actions in law and promise when they pray regularly, forthrightly, honestly, and frequently." \(^1\)

Today God is first! Put prayer on the front lines, instead of making it an afterthought, and you will begin to see renewed power in your daily life. You will also find life becoming more simple, focused and joyful.

Please mark your calendars and set aside a time to join your St. Mark family in at least one of our LCMC Three Days of Prayer, Tuesday, January 8, Wednesday, January 9 and Thursday, January 10. There will be opportunities for individual, family and group prayers. Prayer guides will also be available, if desired. Watch weekly bulletins for updates and signup information in mid-December.

Our prayer is that each St. Mark member (Adult-child) listen for and answer Christ's call to prayer. Please contact Barb Ewert (b1182ray@aol.com) for questions and/or suggestions.

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Take Your Best Shot

By: Austin Gutwein and Todd Hillard

This month’s book selection teaches us that God can use anyone he chooses, even a young child, to accomplish His will and His work. Only God could weave a story that would captivate people all over the world, bring thousands of people from 17 countries to a free-throw line, raise over a million dollars in international AIDS relief, and build a school and medical clinic in Zambia. And only God could do it through the hands of a nine-year-old boy. Austin made a difference by shooting hoops.

*Take Your Best Shot* captures Austin's amazing adventure and challenges the readers to make a difference. No matter where you are, no matter what your skills are, no matter what your age, you can make a difference! You can do something bigger than yourself.

You can find this book under call number 261.8 GUT.
What are you passionate about? What do you invest your heart and soul into? Maybe it’s your family or your career. It could be your faith or relationships, perhaps a hobby you enjoy?

At St. Mark our Youth are passionate about being Unashamed. This appears in many areas of their lives. They are Unashamed to be themselves and have fun at Youth Night, and running around in a corn maze or laser tag arena. They are Unashamed to serve their church, communities and beyond through: missions trips, Feed My Starving Children, acolyting, caroling to shut-ins, assisting in Sunday school, or simply folding tables and chairs.

Yet at no time do their Unashamed attitudes shine brighter than when talking about and sharing their faith. One of our students recently hosted an exchange student from Spain. The three weeks she was in the states she attended youth group. At the end of those weeks we prayed over her for safe travels and a faith-filled life. She said this trip and time in Illinois reminded her how much Jesus loves her, because of the rest of the students.

Paul’s words in Romans 8 to "be unashamed of the Gospel" are alive and well. May we all strive for this attitude in our daily lives and in our faith. Join our youth in living Unashamed.

Youth Ministry Calendar

**NOVEMBER:**

**4th:** Youth Group 6:30-8:00pm

**11th:** Youth Group 6:30-8:00pm

**17th:** (Sat.) Feed My Starving Children 
For 7th grade-high school 
1:15 (Leave church)-5:15 (Return to church after Culver’s)

**25th:** Youth Group 6:30-8:00 pm
Come one, Come all to the St. Mark Christmas Program 2018

**Date:** December 9th

**Time:** 10:30 am

**Who:** Children 3 years-High School

**Can Adults Help?** Of course, and there are several ways to be involved! (See contact info below.)

We have a Great Message to tell and many children who can use their musical or acting gifts to help share the Great News! Please watch for sign up sheets and start preparing!

If you already know that you want to help in any way, please contact Melissa Miller (miller9365@gmail.com) or one of the Sunday School Coordinators.

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**Sunday School Offerings:** Please keep bringing in your offering money and book donations to help support Bernie's Book Bank! Book donation bins are located next to the Sunday School Coordinators' desk and in the basement of the Ed Center.

**November 11:** Sunday Fun-day - The high school class is organizing a fun day for PreK - 8th grade during the Annual Congregational Meeting so our Sunday school teachers can attend the meeting.

**December 16:** Sunday School Christmas Party!

**Confirmation Advent Schedule Begins November 28th!**

Every Wednesday from November 28th-December 12th both classes meet together from 6:00 pm-6:45 pm in the Ed Center.

After class, please go to the Sanctuary for the 7:00 pm Advent Service.

**Remember that soup suppers start on the 28th at 5:30pm!**

*Serve The Lord With All Your Heart*

November 2018
Family Movie Night at St. Mark will be returning on Friday, November 9 at the Ed Center.

We will be showing the movie October Sky. This movie is based on the memoir of Homer Hickam who grew up in the coal mining community of Coalwood, West Virginia. One of the St Mark mission trips stopped in Coalwood as they traveled back home. This is a story about growing up with little or no hope and pursuing a dream of something better. It is a heartwarming and touching film that ultimately is about hope and community coming together to show us the angels of our better natures. Bring some Kleenex!

This movie is a perfect compliment to the new film about Neil Armstrong, The First Man.

Bring your family and friends and join us for a wonderful time.

Movie at 7:00 pm.
Ed Center Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Beverages will be available. Please bring a snack to share!

If you have any questions, please speak with Jim or Sharon Schranz.
H.I.S. Ministry:
A ministry to every man
7:30 AM
Saturday, November 3rd
Saturday, December 1st

Forty-five men registered during our Registration Weekend, to either help lead and/or participate in this new ministry. This group of men are seeking to be defined by Christ standards for Humility, Integrity and Spiritual awareness of who God has created us to be. All men are welcome to join. This includes your sons, your neighbors, co-workers and yes, even your relatives. Basically the men in your ‘neck of the woods’.

Our main focus (vision) is to create an environment where men can grow and be more effective where they are, ‘As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend’ (Proverbs 27:17). Our first goal is for men to know (on a daily basis) that they are loved by God ad He desires to have a relationship with them. In other words, you are not alone (Philippians 1:30 and John 13:34-35). Another goal is that we are successful and prosperous, not just in an earthy sense, but in a spiritual sense as well (good soil, Luke 8:15). And, finally, be doers of the word (active participants (Hebrews 10:24-25).

We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7:30AM on the following Saturdays; November 3rd and December 1st. Next year we will build our schedule around the 4th Saturday of the month.

In HIS service, questions can be directed to Jerry Doran at Doran.Jerry@gmail.com.

Lydia Circle is a Bible study for women of all ages - anyone is welcome. No preparation is needed. Members of the group take turns leading the study material. We meet the second Thursday of the month from September through May. Please join us in the Ed Center at 9:00AM for light refreshments and fellowship. The one hour study begins at 9:30AM.

Upcoming meeting dates are: 11/8/18, 12/13/18, 1/10/19, 2/14/19, 3/14/19, 4/11/19, and 5/9/19.

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Holiday Dinner in a Bag” provides the staples of a holiday dinner for an individual or family that is in need. We will deliver the meals to the recipients on Sunday, November 18th. If you know of an individual that can use the assistance, please complete the form below and place it in the basket on the Welcome Center labeled, “Holiday in a Bag”. If you are interested in making a food donation, below is the list of items needed: Mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, vegetables, fruit, yams, butter and rolls.

There will be a designated drop-off area set up in the church for these items.

We also need volunteers to help deliver the dinners, a sign-up sheet will be located next to the basket on the Welcome Center.

Any questions, please contact: Karen Hiner, Dale Kumpula, Sue Paulson or Terri Selz.

Your Name and Phone #____________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

Name, Address and Phone # (if possible) of Recipient Family:
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

How Many Family Members?________________________
