

Love • Grow  
**WORSHIP**  
 Share • Serve  
 St. Mark Lutheran Church

# The **VOICE**

## OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2021

### President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



Here we are, more than halfway through 2021 already and getting ready to celebrate 60 years of God's blessings on our congregation. Time goes so fast, and who knew back in 1956, when a small committee was formed to discuss establishing a Lutheran church in Lindenhurst, that their vision would reap decades and decades of fruit? *God did!!* That small committee circulated a petition to obtain signatures of those interested, a survey was made of the Lindenhurst community to determine interest and viability and that led to the purchase in 1960 of our original 4-acre site at a cost of...a whopping \$35,000 (less than today's \$40,000 average new car cost). Of course, back then it was a fair price and in light of all that has come of that purchase, we got the better end of the deal. I say that because being a member of this church family is one of the best things that could happen to anyone. To this day and future days, we have Gus Fabry, Bill Kaub, Leland Hansen, Robert Randall and Bert Langager to thank for following God's prompting. Thank you, guys!

The end of the month will bring our own Mathew Magera back to preach the weekend of 8/28-29 to kick off the celebration of a month of our former kids who have become pastors, Jared (and Chris) Parmley and Dan Doran in addition to Mathew (and Lane), returning once each weekend, ending with the grand finale of Pastor Shields and Lisa joining us on 9/25-26. In advance of the celebration beginning, let's give a huge thank you to our Congregational Life committee for taking on this celebration when they were asked to as recently as just a few months ago. Brooke Frusti, Shawn Frank and Donna Bergl jumped right in and called on the event planning experience of Robin Korom, Jeanne Hansen and Tricia Cholewinski to help. These ladies are preparing a wonderful celebration with ideas for everyone and we're going to have a great time of celebration.

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#### **CHURCH EVENTS**

[www.smlc.info/events](http://www.smlc.info/events)

Complete Details Inside or

**Find Us Online@**

[www.smlc.info](http://www.smlc.info)

#### **ARTICLE DEADLINE**

The deadline for the September edition of *The Voice* is **August 15th**. Please Email articles to:  
[stmarkcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkcommunications@gmail.com)  
 & [deb@smlc.info](mailto:deb@smlc.info)



#### **You Will Find:**

- ⇒ Start-up Dates!
- ⇒ Ways to Give!
- ⇒ Ways to Serve!
- ⇒ Ways to Grow!
- ⇒ Invitations and Events!

#### **LIVE STREAMING**



Every Sunday at

8:00 and 10:30 am!

**Serve The Lord With All Your Heart**

August 2021



## ST. MARK COUNCIL

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Joni Wasmund  
[joni1812@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joni1812@sbcglobal.net) | 847-404-9185

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### PASTOR

Terry Breum | [Pastor@smlc.info](mailto:Pastor@smlc.info)

### YOUTH & MEDIA COORDINATOR

Josiah Frusti | [Josiah@smlc.info](mailto:Josiah@smlc.info)

### CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Deb Zuchowski | [Deb@smlc.info](mailto:Deb@smlc.info)

### OFFICE ASSISTANT

Rhonda Doran | [Rhonda@smlc.info](mailto:Rhonda@smlc.info)

### CONTEMPORARY MUSIC COORDINATOR

Brock Zwicke | [Brock.smlc@gmail.com](mailto:Brock.smlc@gmail.com)

### ORGANIST/TRADITIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR

Open Position

### NURSERY COORDINATOR

Deb Heide | [heidedeborah@gmail.com](mailto:heidedeborah@gmail.com)

### BOOKKEEPER

Barb Griffith | [Barb@smlc.info](mailto:Barb@smlc.info)

### FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Patrice Sutton | [PatriceS@comcast.net](mailto:PatriceS@comcast.net)

### MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Jim Schaufel | [James.schaufel@yahoo.com](mailto:James.schaufel@yahoo.com)

**Next Council Meeting:** Wednesday, August 11th 6:15-6:45 pm.

**Next Committee Meetings:** August 24, 2021 @ 7:00pm

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August 2021

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# From the Desk of Pastor Breum

Thank you for taking the time to read "The Voice." Hard work goes into the production of the articles that are sent your way. There are times when I run out of time to get an article in, and I apologize for that. It usually happens during Holy Week. If you are one of those who always reads the voice, I would like to know. I will not buy you an ice cream cone, but it will affirm that the hard work so many involve themselves with is well worth it. Yes, you are worth it.

I noticed this past Sunday (7-18-21) several back in church for the first time since Covid became a reality with church attendance. What a privilege to welcome brothers and sisters in Christ, true Christian family, back into worship.

Right now, there are people working hard in the Ed Center and the Old Fellowship Hall preparing for the Rummage Sale. It is wonderful to see so much "stuff" donated for the sale. The workers are so diligent and deserve our applause for their sacrificial time and talents.

Personally, I am looking forward to what we will discover about our church through the work of the Church Doctor. Thank you for your openness and honesty when filling out the surveys. Only the Church Doctor people will see your responses. It is all confidential.

What excites me is what we will be able to implement to further the ministry of St Mark. It will involve everyone's participation and we will all be working toward the same goals. The vision of the council to do this is a great step of faith.

Right now, the youth are on the mission trip. To send so many young people off to do ministry with the help of the adult leaders is truly a privilege. I cannot wait to hear their stories. During worship on August 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> you will be able to hear some of those stories.

Something that is heavy on my heart is the education of our students and how Covid has impacted the educational system. From pre-school to grad-school, every person's life involved in education has changed. I want to pray right now for this difficult season of time. Dear Heavenly Father, we lift up to you every teacher, administrator, aide, student, social worker, counselor, school nurse (and anyone I did not include), for the start of school in a few weeks. Lord, we pray for the health of every person. May those not vaccinated wear their masks out of respect to keep others healthy. May those who do not wish to be vaccinated be treated respectfully and not be ostracized. May the entire educational system consist of people grateful to be back in class in person. We yield to you the tension and sometimes enemies the problem with Covid has created. Help all to show self-restraint, self-control, and respect toward those who have had to make the difficult decisions by following the established rules of our state. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

God Bless,

Pastor Terry Breum



You are invited to the  
Ordination Service  
of  
*Daniel Ryan*  
*Doran*  
on  
September 19th, 2021  
4:00PM  
St. Mark Lutheran Church  
1822 E. Grand Ave. - Lindenhurst, IL 60046



# MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

## Discovering Peace

One of the pains of the pandemic was restriction. We were not allowed to move about freely. Travel was curtailed. Public gatherings (like church) were canceled.

I was reminded how restless we are. People long for freedom to move, act, express themselves, connect with others, and at times be alone.

Now that COVID restrictions are being reduced, we are enjoying more freedom. Last week I traveled to Minneapolis to teach a five-day course on 1 Timothy. In the airport I bought a book to pass the time. The title was *Whatever It Took*. It was the memoirs of a World War II paratrooper.

I thought of some of our St. Mark veterans, like the late Ed Bybee (WW II) and John Hemauer (Viet Nam).

The book *Whatever It Took* recounts the memories of a 95-year-old named Henry Langrehr. He was born in 1924 and grew up in Clinton, Iowa. His German-descent parents were Catholic and Lutheran, but neither attended church. Henry was never even baptized. When he jumped out of the plane at the Normandy invasion in June 1944, he was an atheist.

Yet on an opening page of the book we read: "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

Why would an atheist quote Jesus?

Well, two things happened during the war that God used to change Henry's heart. One was the time two fellow soldiers died in his arms from battlefield wounds. Both died reciting what Henry later realized was the Bible.

You find this on page 124 of the book. "John" died with the Lord's Prayer on his lips. "Bill" was saying Psalm 23 as his life ebbed away.

What stuck with young Henry was the look of peace on their faces. No desperation. No struggle or terror. Henry was amazed. He knew if he were dying, he would lack that peace.

The other thing that moved Henry toward God was the faith of his fiancée, Arlene. She had promised to wait for him till after the war, and she did. Henry went missing in action. There was no word for months. Finally, Arlene learned that he was a POW. During all that time, her faith that he would return never wavered.

He did return. Henry became convinced that there was something to Arlene's prayers and faith. She had that same peace and steadfastness that he had seen in his buddies who died. He writes, "I started taking lessons with Arlene's Lutheran pastor. He baptized and confirmed me. I became a Lutheran and a firm believer in God" (p. 199).

The book is vague about details, but we know what that Lutheran pastor must have shared if Henry truly found God: the good news of Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and rose from the grave so that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Not long ago, Pastor Breum shared devotions on the fruit of the Spirit. The second fruit is "peace." We all seek it. "Never satisfied are the eyes of man," Scripture says (Proverbs 27:20 ESV). In 1968 the Moody Blues sang, "We're all looking for someone." How true! In 1987 Bono and U-2 sang, "I still haven't found what I'm looking for." There's probably a song that is popular right now that says the same thing.

Post-pandemic, we crave freedom to be out and about. We're so thankful to talk to each other without masks! But in our outward movement, we seek inward peace. Henry the paratrooper found it through faith in Jesus Christ. Henry and his faithful wife Arlene remind us of Jesus' promise: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you" (John 14:27).



# St. Mark Council News

To keep you better informed about Church Council decisions we briefly present the major items from our meeting. Should you desire in-depth information, please go to <https://smlc.info/minutes/> for additional Council and Committee minutes.

## **Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, August 11th, 2021 6:15-6:45 pm (one time change)**

As we more comfortably return to in-person worship, we've removed the ropes separating the pews with the exception of the far-right sections on the main floor and balcony. Those pews will remain reserved for those who are more comfortable wearing masks and sitting apart from those who do not wear masks. We will continue to provide space to ensure the comfort of all worshipping.

The nursery will re-open on August 22nd for children to be cared for during worship services by our amazing Deb Heide, Nursery Coordinator, and her team of volunteers. Since children under the age of 2 are not required to wear masks but unvaccinated children over the age of 2 should wear masks, the two nursery rooms will be designated accordingly with each age group, under 2 and over 2, assigned to each of the two rooms. All toys and surfaces will have been sanitized, carpets will have been cleaned and caregivers will wear masks during nursery hours in the spirit of encouragement.

Sunday school will be in-person and teachers and coordinators will follow the same Covid mitigation protocols as the schools. At this time, children over the age of 2 through age 12 and those unvaccinated over the age of 12 will need to wear masks as will teachers in the spirit of encouragement.

Communion will continue to be served with the pre-packaged elements for a while longer while the safety of servers handling the wafers and bread is still questionable. Partaking at the altar will be revisited in the fall. Pastor's provision of several moments of reflection following the Words of Institution brings a meaningful time of meditation with God during this significant part of worship.

Starting in September, worship bulletins will be prepared for the 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. services, and the screens will continue to be used at all 3 services. We will provide both bulletins and screens to ensure we meet the needs of those who watch computer screens all week long and need a reprieve and those who enjoy the screens. Printed announcements will not be inserted into the bulletins but will be made available on the table near the offering boxes underneath the bulletin board in the narthex for those who like to take them home as reminders of upcoming dates events.

Three time-sensitive matters were discussed and unanimously approved during a Council meeting via Zoom on 6/16/21, prior to the July 13th Council meeting. The 3 approved motions were documented during the July Council meeting:

- We accepted a proposal for a diagnostic church consultation and follow-up from Church Doctor Ministries at a cost of \$12,500 plus mileage and hotel travel expenses.
- We opened the church buildings for use by groups and members as was allowed pre-COVID with reliance on the hosts of each event to comply with all remaining active COVID mitigation protocols.
- A disbursement of 10% of 2020 Rummage Sale funds were donated to the Antioch Traveling Closet.

**Council News continued on page 16**

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# 60th Anniversary Celebration!

*60 years already?!*

**Sunday, September 26th at St. Mark after the 10:30 am service.**

Congregational Life, along with other members of the congregation, are working hard to plan for the 60th anniversary of St. Mark Lutheran Church.

## **Important Dates:**

- Saturday and Sunday, August 28 & 29: Pastor Mathew Magera will be preaching.
- Saturday and Sunday, September 4 & 5: Pastor Jared Parmley will be preaching.
- Saturday and Sunday, September 18 & 19: Daniel Doran will be preaching.
- Saturday and Sunday, September 25 & 26: Pastor Bill Shields will be preaching.

***Please contact Congregational Life to share old photographs and other historical information.***

If you have any please email them to [brooke.frusti@gmail.com](mailto:brooke.frusti@gmail.com)  
or bring them to church.

*All photos and mementos will be returned!*



## Lutherdale Fest



## QUILT AUCTION

Lutherdale  
N7891 US Hwy 12 Elkhorn, WI  
(262)742-2352  
<https://www.lutherdale.org/quilt-auction>

## 35th ANNUAL

Lutherdale has a policy that no child will ever be turned away from summer camp for financial reasons. The quilt auction makes it possible for youth to attend summer camp and experience God's love in a powerful way at Lutherdale. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 this year.

## **AUGUST 14, 2021 9 AM to 3 PM**

**LIVE AUCTION STARTS AT 10 AM  
OVER 200 QUILTS TO BID ON**

Silent Auction • Food Concessions • Baked Goods  
Pontoon Rides • Gift Gallery • Crafts • Fabric Sale

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**ST. MARK STUDENT MINISTRY**  
**CALENDAR**

**AUG  
UST**

**C3**

**C3**

**2021**

**1ST- LAKE DAY 12-3P**

**15TH- HOLY SMOKES 6-8P**

**27TH- END OF SUMMER LOCK-IN**

QUESTIONS?  
[JOSIAH@SMLC.INFO](mailto:JOSIAH@SMLC.INFO)

# Sunday School Teachers Needed!



We are planning to meet **in-person** following Covid guidelines/protocols!

If you are interested or have any questions please contact  
Lori McKenzie, Jane Milani, or email [stmarksunschool@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksunschool@gmail.com)

## Mark Your Calendars!

*Sunday School Rally Day: Sunday, September 12, 2021.*

Registration information will be announced soon!

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## Confirmation 2021-2022

The Confirmation Committee would like to welcome everyone back to the SMLC Confirmation Program. Enjoy the rest of your summer and see you soon! - Becky, Kristi and Lori

### Important Dates:

- *August 16:* Registration packets available electronically or at church. (Those entering 7th grade or older may join!)
- *September 1 at 6:15 pm* -Orientation Night (*Only in-coming* 1st and 2nd year students should plan to attend.)
- *September 8:* First night of Confirmation class (Time TBD)
- September 25: Confirmation Retreat (Tentative)
- October 31 at 2:00 pm: Confirmation Service for 2nd-year class



Please email questions to:  
[smlc.confirmationcom.lindenhurst@gmail.com](mailto:smlc.confirmationcom.lindenhurst@gmail.com)



## Nursery Reopening!

I am extremely pleased to announce that the nursery will be opening back up on Sunday, August 22, 2021!

Our volunteers will diligently clean and sanitize every toy, piece of furniture, basically every square inch of the room to ensure the safety of our little ones!

Going forward, our nursery will be available on Sundays, during both services, for children 0-4 years old.

At this time, children 3 and over and all nursery volunteers are asked to wear a mask while in attendance in the nursery to protect themselves and others.

New, visiting and/or existing nursery families or interested volunteers, please email any questions to [heidedeborah@gmail.com](mailto:heidedeborah@gmail.com)

In the meantime, we look forward to welcoming and sharing God's love with all of our nursery-age children.

Sincerely, Deb Heide (Nursery Coordinator)

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# BAPTIZED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

August 1, 2021

**Zoey Grace Brock**

Daughter of Kristena & Nathan Brock

May the guiding presence of God be with Zoey as she grows  
in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

## **President's Message Continued:**

I hope you took the opportunity to complete the Church Doctor electronic or paper survey a few weeks ago so Church Doctor has your data and opinions to include in the analysis which is currently underway. Soon, on August 9-11, many of you will have the opportunity to share details of your thoughts, opinions and ideas in person with Tracee Swank and Kent Hunter of Church Doctor. Thank you in advance to all who will participate. These interviews will be so significantly valuable to Church Doctor's work in formulating recommendations for us as to what we can do to be the church God intended for us to be when he prompted those guys back in 1956. There is just so much more we should be doing as a church and we need help in determining what those things are and how to do them. One of the questions in the second link asked us this: While change doesn't come naturally for us, are you open to improvements that would make your church more effective for mission and ministry, even though you may be stretched out of your comfort zone? We joke about not liking change because we're Lutherans but the question did say change doesn't come naturally for *us* and since the question wasn't tailored just for St. Mark, we're safe to say it's human nature. And that's why we need the expertise of Church Doctor, to show us things we might not want to see but that God wants us to see. Once the presentation of the survey and interview results is given to us by Tracee on Sunday, Oct 10, 1:00 - 4:00 pm (please mark your calendars today to keep that afternoon free), Tracee will answer any and all questions you have on the results and Church Doctor recommendations. Then we get to develop action plans to become the best we can be. Thank you, Jesus, for bringing us to where we are today, celebrating 60 years with the opportunity in the near future to become all *You* want us to be for *Your* glory.

Blessings to all of you and your families,

Joni Wasmund (Council President)

## VBS: It was a PRICELESS week

With God's blessings, congregational support, and 35 *volunteers*, we welcomed kids back to St. Mark; the buildings were filled with singing, laughing, and the word of God! During the week, 46 *kids* learned songs, met our special Bible Buddies, played games, and learned that God's treasure isn't diamonds, rubies, or gold – it's **YOU!** In addition, the families raised over \$145.00 for *Feed My Starving Children* and collected 226 *donations* for *Open Arms Food Pantry*.

Thank you to everyone who supported VBS – **you** are treasured!



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## Remembering ACTS: Praising God During Challenging Times

What is the first action you take, when life confronts you with difficulties, hardships, and challenges? Deal with it yourself? Consult with trusted friends, experts, pastors, doctors... If their solutions fail, seek God's 911 line, prayer.

Why do you think our auto-response follows the above pattern? One who has a Christian mindset will usually follow the acronym ACTS and will reflect a more

balanced prayer – Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. (Not included is a closing prayer of thanksgiving.) It is also reflecting the model established in the Lord's prayer.

When making a supplication, the Christian mind is focused on an eternal perspective with the goal that one's prayer is geared to meld with God's will. The Christian trusts that God's answer is the one that will be a blessing from the eternal perspective even though from the temporal perspective it does not appear to be anything like a blessing. This response is born of training and practice reflecting a habit that develops over time, usually 40 days. But, as with all good habits, it must be practiced daily. Bad habits need no practice and they just bubble up. So to help you to practice ACTS, here is a scripture to assist you with **Adoration**. *Next, pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship.*

"Great and Great and marvelous are your deeds,  
Lord God Almighty.  
Just and true are your ways,  
King of the nations.<sup>4</sup>  
<sup>4</sup> Who will not fear you, Lord,  
and bring glory to your name?  
For you alone are holy.  
All nations will come  
and worship before you,  
for your righteous acts have been revealed.  
Revelation 15:3-4

<sup>1</sup> LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory  
in the heavens. Psalm 8:1

How great are your works, LORD,  
how profound your thoughts!  
<sup>6</sup> Senseless people do not know,  
fools do not understand,  
<sup>7</sup> that though the wicked spring up like grass  
and all evildoers flourish,  
they will be destroyed forever.

<sup>8</sup> But you, LORD, are forever exalted.  
Psalm 92:5-8

### Opportunities for Prayer

The Worship and Music Committee has posted the *2021 Three Days of Prayer Brochure* on the St. Mark website under **Resources**. We prayerfully request you include these various petitions as part of your devotions for our church families, Pastor, staff, church council and committees and for the life of the world during this church year.

**Pray for the Church Council as it reviews the survey results and interview thoughts and comments.**

### Weekly Prayer Meeting - Pray and be Blessed at Home Wednesday evenings 7:00pm via Zoom

Contact Persons: Pam Burke 224-430-6226

Linda Brissey: [chaseco@aol.com](mailto:chaseco@aol.com)

One can pray silently, out loud or in concert.

We pray in unity of the Holy Spirit from St. Mark's Lutheran Church weekly prayer chain list, the 2021 *Three Days of Prayer* brochure and lift concerns for our community, state, nation and worldwide.

Contact Barb Ewert, [b1182ray@aol.com](mailto:b1182ray@aol.com) or 1-847-514-5487.

# Join the Welcome Team!



*This important ministry is easy and fun!*

Once a month, or as a substitute, team members greet those arriving for our Sunday services.

We are starting up again after the pandemic, and are *looking for members to fill all of our spots!* A smiling face is all that is needed!

Pick your service time, and give me a call, text, or e-mail to let me know you are available either once a month or as a substitute.

Joyce Mol at [jempetersen@gmail.com](mailto:jempetersen@gmail.com).

## Donut Pick-Up Needed:

*Live in or near Gurnee???*

We have been getting our donuts from Mariano's in Gurnee.

Would someone be able to pick them up every Sunday after 7 am and before 8 am??

Thanks for your help!

To volunteer, please contact Gae Michal at [gmichal48@gmail.com](mailto:gmichal48@gmail.com)

## Fellowship Hour Servers Needed!



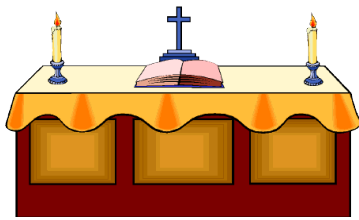
*We ALL love the donuts and coffee between services!* There are openings for servers available for one Sunday each month. (The commitment is for one Sunday a month.)

You will need to arrive about 7:15 am to do the set up. Instructions provided! It's fairly easy...if you have ever planned a gathering, party or large family dinner, you can do this!! The only thing we ask you to provide is the juice (about 1 qt.). There should be cream in the fridge.

This is a *GREAT* way to meet new members that you might not have encountered before!! Even if you go to the 10:30 service...one day a month you could arrive about 8am to get the pot going, meet the OTHER HALF of our church!!

If interested, see me during coffee hour!...and God bless you!!

Gae Michal [gmichal48@gmail.com](mailto:gmichal48@gmail.com)



# Become a Member of the Altar Guild

*If you are looking for a quiet, unseen way to serve,  
this is the perfect opportunity!!*

**The first opening is for the 1st Sunday every month:** We need someone who can reset the altar and refresh the communion trays from the Saturday evening service. This is usually done before the 8am Sunday service so you may need to arrive around 7:30 am on Sunday.

**The Second opening is for someone to monitor the white albs:** These are the robes used by the cantors, altar and communion servers. This can be done on your schedule, usually a monthly monitoring will do. The albs need to be hung properly and in order and occasionally they need laundering, pressing and repair (snaps).

If interested or if you have questions, contact me or see me during fellowship hour...  
I'm often found in the kitchen!!!...and God bless you!!  
Gae Michal [gmichal48@gmail.com](mailto:gmichal48@gmail.com)



**Celebrate Recovery**  
A CHRIST-CENTERED Recovery Program

## Celebrate Recovery

Hurts, Habits, and Hang-ups! Many of us struggle with them, some more than others. It's part of growing up in a fallen world, and since none of us had perfect parents, chances are we carry some kind of hurt, habit, or hang-up with us during parts of our life. I was raised in an Irish, Catholic, Alcoholic home, so by the time I reached early adulthood I had serious substance abuse issues as well as an identity that was primarily shame based. I did not believe I was worthy of God's love.

Some of us are able to shake off our hurts, habits, and hang-ups and lead productive, fulfilling lives. The rest of us choose to deal with these issues in less than productive ways. We struggle with alcohol and drug addiction, co-dependency, anger, depression, gambling, sexual purity, compulsive spending, pornography, eating disorders, food addiction, relationship difficulties, trust, forgiveness, and resentments. We use these dysfunctional behaviors to hide from the inner turmoil and pain that can overwhelm our daily lives. In 2007, when my destructive choices finally brought me to my knees, God led me to a program called Celebrate Recovery. That's where my journey to healing began.

Celebrate Recovery (CR) uses a biblical variation of the traditional 12 steps developed by Alcoholics Anonymous, but instead of using God "as you understand Him," it specifically uses Jesus Christ as a "higher power"! For me personally, that made all the difference in the world. In addition, there are eight principles of recovery based on the eight beatitudes found in the book of Matthew. CR is much more than another program for alcohol dependency. It reaches out to people with all kinds of compulsive, dysfunctional behaviors as described above. I found sobriety through AA, but I addressed my deeper issues and discovered my true identity in Christ through CR. As a result, I no longer operate from a shame-based identity. I know who I am in Christ!

Interested? There are anonymous CR meetings in several Lake County locations. Google can help you find one. I attend CR at the Chapel in Grayslake. We are sponsoring a Celebrate Recovery Event called "UNCHAINED" on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5PM. There will be worship, information tables, guest speakers, opportunities for prayer, and even a free lunch! If you struggle with any of the issues listed above, think about attending. It just may be the start of your healing journey!

**For questions, please contact Charlie Burke at 847-406-9105 or [barliechurke@hotmail.com](mailto:barliechurke@hotmail.com).**

# Women's Bible Studies

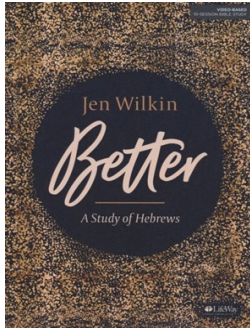
***Attention St. Mark Women, Wednesday Evening Study Begins  
September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30-8:00pm in the Library.***

Join us as we look at Jen Wilkin's study, **BETTER:**  
A verse by verse study of the book of HEBREWS

This ten-session study includes daily personal time with God through home study, group discussion, DVD teaching and prayer time.

Come and be blessed!

Please sign up or contact Glenda Niffenegger at [glengems@comcast.net](mailto:glengems@comcast.net) by  
Sunday, AUGUST 29th.  
There is a \$20 fee for the workbook payable at our first session.



## ***Great News!***

***Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study is Back!***

We will be starting in September!

Our first study is Psalm 23 by Jennifer Rothschild.

Please join us!

If you would like more information or to sign up,  
please contact Debbie Plishka at [dplishka@gmail.com](mailto:dplishka@gmail.com).



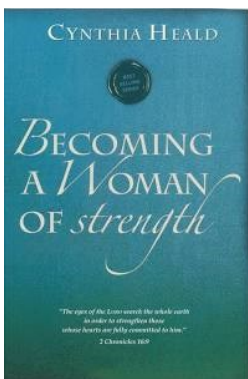
## ***Sunday Morning Bible Study***

***Starting on Sunday, September 19, 2021***

Come join us between services for a women's Bible study. This fall we will be looking at Cynthia Heald's "Becoming a Woman of Strength" study. This study will seek to assure us of God's desire to strengthen and equip His children as we encounter the difficulties and obstacles of this life and to encourage us to depend on the strength of the Holy Spirit to commit, wait, seek, pray, serve and persevere throughout our lives.

All women are welcome to attend. Even if you've never studied the Bible before, please consider attending. We will help you! The cost of the books will be \$9.50 each. There are some free books available for those who cannot afford the cost.

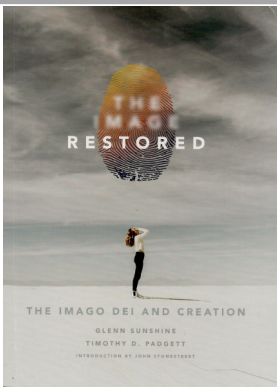
Please email Janet at [revsbreum@comcast.net](mailto:revsbreum@comcast.net) or Tricia at [tbsumer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tbsumer@sbcglobal.net) to let us know you are interested in attending so we can have enough materials available.



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# Growing In Christ Studies

Late Summer/Early Fall 2021

This fall we will be reading Dr. Glenn Sunshine and Timothy D. Padgett, *The Image Restored, the Imago Dei and Creation, 2021* and discussing what it means to be a human. The author looks at fourteen aspects of the image of God, what it has meant in history, and its implications for today. Sunshine details what the Bible says about human purpose and abilities, the effects of sin on humanity, the impact of redemption, and the restoration of humanity's original calling in Christ. Our discussion will be focusing on the root of our culture-wide confusion on what it means to be human. Briefly...

- The culture has forgotten what it means to be human because our culture has forgotten God.
- As Christians we know that we are made in the image of God, however can you explain what it means to bear the image of God? How is the world different because we bear his image? What are the implications of the imago dei for the various layers of society?

The book is available at Amazon: Paperback \$9.99 and Kindle \$4.99 As of now, I will be utilizing Zoom as a kick off format. The first meeting will around the week of September 6th. Hope you can join us for an insightful discussion and prayer.

If you have questions or want to join the discussion, please contact Barb Ewert, [b1182ray@aol.com](mailto:b1182ray@aol.com). Please Text/call 847-514-5487 no later than Monday, September 6 to join so I can send you the Zoom link.

Glenn Sunshine is a former Professor of History at Central Connecticut State University and a Senior Faculty Member of the Colson Fellows. An award-winning author, Glenn has published books, articles and book chapters on history, theology, and culture, online and on both sides of the Atlantic. He is also part of the Theology Pugcast, which brings a Christian theology perspective into our current culture.



## We Always Have Room for One More Man!

(Ages 15+)

Every **2nd** Saturday of the Month. (Zoom & In-Person)

**Next Meeting:** August 14th / 7am Donuts & Coffee, 8am Study Time, 9:30am Adjourn

Are you a slave? In this month's study we'll consider the Tyranny of the Urgent, by Charles Hummel. Ian Griffith will lead this two part series (Aug/Sept) to help free us from being slaves to the tyranny of the urgent.

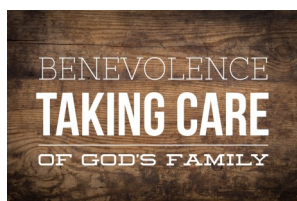
To be added to our mailing list; send your name, email, phone number, and mailing address to [Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com](mailto:Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com) or call/text Jerry Doran at: 847-271-8632.

Please monitor your email for this lesson (hard copies will be provided at the meeting). Updates are also provided in email.

**Each month's discussions are independent of one another, so join any time!**



**Zoom.com  
Meeting ID:  
712-154-5277**



# Monthly Benevolence Highlights



## Compassion International

Compassion International has been a fixture on the front lines of outreach ministry since 1952, with over 1.9 million children being sponsored by Christians around the world. Benevolence from St. Mark has made an

indelible impact in their church-based Child Sponsorship Program. Not only do children within impoverished communities receive regular medical checkups, nutritious food, health and hygiene training, as well as, educational assistance, they also develop a relationship with Christian sponsors within our community. We currently sponsor two children and have a designated person who corresponds with them regularly. Ultimately, through that connection and personal mentorship on the ground, they develop a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ.

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” - James 1:27

We value the continued collaboration with Compassion International because we see, not just the much-needed impact of direct material assistance, but also learn the names and faces of those children we sponsor and they get to know the name and face of Jesus Christ through St. Mark.

If you would like to directly sponsor a child in need, simply visit:

[Sponsor a Child - Compassion International - Child Sponsorship](#)

Lynn J. is our current contact for the Compassion International children that St. Mark supports. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn at [rcjlmj@comcast.net](mailto:rcjlmj@comcast.net).



## Lutheran Churches in Mission for Christ

St. Mark is a community Lutheran Church and a member of the LCMC. LCMC stands for Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, which calls itself a movement, not a denomination. Our membership and Benevolence in support of

their mission benefits St. Mark in many ways.

LCMC acts as a resource clearing house for our Church Life Ministries, Youth Ministry, and even COVID-19. They act as a vital networking hub between St. Mark mission partners, International Members, LCMC Lutheran Men's Association, and Women of the Word Association.

Within LCMC, our network of church communities is accountable to one another for our churches and pastors, and leadership is rooted in biblical scriptures and Lutheran confessions. Most importantly, we are all working together to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations. In addition to Pastoral Ministry management, LCMC also does the profound work of Church Planting, ensuring the Body of Christ grows with local churches, each with their own unique strengths, skills, talents, and cultural roots. St. Mark is proud to serve Christ along side our fellow LCMC members.

For more information about our associations of congregations who are free in Christ, visit:

[Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ \(lcmc.net\)](http://lcmc.net)



# Open Arms Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Open Arms pantry by filling the **Yellow Food Barrels**, and through monetary donations! Your support of this program is much needed and very much appreciated! Please keep the donations coming!

Summer collection items are: Laundry Soap and Canned Vegetables

Please consider donating at:

<https://www.openarmsmission.org/the-difference-you-can-make>

Questions, contact Ron at rdplacko@comcast.net

*Thank you for your heart for the hungry!*

## **Council News Continued:**

A motion to accept Patty Lindholm's resignation as Sunday School coordinator was accepted as was a motion to accept Melissa Strand as the new Sunday School coordinator. We thank both ladies for their dedication and service to our Lord and to the children and congregation of St. Mark and wish them both many more blessings and fruitful years of service to come, Melissa in her new role and Patty as she continues to serve in other roles.

The Welcome Center bar was removed earlier this year in preparation for the new flooring to be installed and as open and welcoming as the entry space is now, the bar will be re-purposed to another group or individual to put to good use via the rummage sale or Market Place. It served us well, and now we have an opportunity to share it with the next owner.



## Clothing Donations

St. Mark now has a clothing donation bin located in the back parking lot of the Education Center. Acceptable donations are as follows:

All clothes and shoes in any condition (Holes and torn items are fine.). Towels, sheets, comforters, curtains, small rugs, just about any kind of textiles in any condition as they recycle what cannot be reused. Small toys, pots and pans, and other small kitchen items. NO electronics or larger kitchen items like microwaves, toaster ovens, etc. will be accepted. Also, NO baby items like car seats, cribs, etc. will be accepted. Please do not leave items outside the bin.

St. Mark will receive 5¢ per pound for all textiles. Please help spread the word to your friends about our bin. Remember right now to save good items for our Rummage Sale.

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# Cards for Seniors



Great news! Since we started this ministry in December 2020, we have given our area seniors 386 greeting cards! Wow, that's fantastic! Many thanks to those of you who have faithfully participated!

While speaking recently with the Antioch Township, they have requested our continued support in this endeavor, even though things have opened up, because the recipients are grateful for our kindness, thoughtfulness and connection in this way!

**So please keep those greeting cards coming to bring God's light, peace and love to those in need!**

**The drop-off basket for the cards is on the table outside the church office.**

Gratefully,  
Deb Heide



For all who had a hand in the beautiful handmade cloth tote bag filled with wonderful, very thoughtful gifts, our heartfelt thank you for brightening our day. God bless you all. Sharlene and Bonny Hendrickson.



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## Prayer Shawls



A **Prayer Shawl** is knitted/crocheted with a prayer said at the beginning and end of each work session to cover the recipient with God's blessing and warmth. The shawls are presented to a person having any kind of struggle, medical or mental, to assure them of God's constant love and involvement in their life!

There are **Prayer Shawls** available in various sizes and colors, just for the taking! Just ask Deb Zuchowski to show you the location and pick whichever one you like. I only ask that you sign the sheet on the top of the box, so that we may keep track of who has received one. You may take as many as you need for anyone you think needs one.

There is also quite a bit of yarn up there, especially perfect for Granny Squares. Even if you just want to crochet the squares, someone will gladly fasten them into a shawl. Please look over our inventory and take what you feel you can use.

Please contact Gae Michal if you have any questions at [gmichal48@gmail.com](mailto:gmichal48@gmail.com).



# Our Lives Have Changed and So Has Our Giving

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee which includes Laurie Kerns, Pete Bolender, and me, Carl Norlin. Thank you so much for signing up for online giving. *During the period of January 2020-June 2021, our members have increased the use of online giving by 80% with new users increasing 56%.* For those who have not had a chance to join online giving, please see the instructions below which outline where and how to begin. Let us continue to increase our participation in online giving. So, sign-up today!

Here's how you can continue your support to St. Mark:

- a. Go to the St. Mark website at [www.smlc.info](http://www.smlc.info).
- b. Go to [Giving](#) at the top of the page.
- c. Tithes & Offerings appear.
- d. You have three (3) options.
  - i. Click Here for – to be redirected to a secure website for online donations by credit card, debit card, or checking account information.
  - ii. Click Here for – to download and print a form that can be returned to our office (to the attention of "Financial Secretary- Patrice Sutton") to be set up for automatic recurring withdrawals.
  - iii. Click Here for – to be redirected to the GivePlus+ website which explains everything associated with the smartphone app. GivePlus+. Using this app, you can use your smartphone to make a one-time or recurring donation to St. Mark.

Thank you and stay safe and healthy.

God's blessings – The Stewardship Committee (Laurie Kerns, Carl Norlin and Pete Bolender)



## Living In God's Love By: Billy Graham

In these days of contention, disagreement, and strife it is good to look to Billy Graham's message of God's love contained in his book *Living in God's Love*. Billy Graham's now legendary first New York Crusade in 1957 was a touchstone that affected an entire generation. Nearly fifty years later, the Reverend Billy Graham returned to New York in June 2005 for what was likely his final Crusade, preaching the power of God's love to hundreds of thousands of people over three life-changing evenings.

*Living in God's Love* contains all three sermons from this important event and it includes an original introduction and an afterword both written by Billy Graham specifically for this book. *Living in God's Love* also features black-and-white photographs from the 2005 New York Crusade, and a moving foreword by his daughter Anne Graham Lotz.

Billy Graham's message of the transforming power of Christ's love is one that is needed now more than ever. You can find this book under call number 252 GRA.

# Support St. Mark AND Local Businesses



## Second Tuesday Each Month

**CARRY OUT Available!** Be sure to bring your coupon!

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

224-444-8657

Visit [www.antiochpizzashop.com](http://www.antiochpizzashop.com) for full menu.

Valid the **Second Tuesday** of every Month

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

**DATES: Second Tuesdays**  
**8/10/21**



## 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**  
**8/19/21**

**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](http://www.hamrafundraising.com).

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The **VOICE**  
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Stephen Ministry

## THE VOICE

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🖱 [www.smlc.info](http://www.smlc.info)  
✉ [smlc@smlc.info](mailto:smlc@smlc.info)

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

★ TO RECEIVE  
THE VOICE ONLINE,  
EMAIL [DEB@SMLC.INFO](mailto:DEB@SMLC.INFO)

**NEXT VOICE DEADLINE:**  
**August 15, 2021**

***Serve The Lord With All Your Heart***  
August 2021