

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

The **VOICE**

OF ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2021

President's Notes

By Joni Wasmund



God bless our Confirmands! On Sunday, October 31, thirteen of our young people marked the completion of the program of confirmation ministry, a period of instruction in the Christian faith as confessed in the teachings of the Lutheran Church. Praise God for His call upon each of these young lives to walk with Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit every day of their lives. We wish bountiful blessings of God's daily provision, protection and guidance for each of you and your families throughout your lives.

Thank you to all of you who spent the day with us on October 10th when Dr. Kent Hunter and Tracee Swank, founder and leader of ChurchDoctor Ministries presented their oral report. A tremendous amount of work and so much prayer resulted in an extremely comprehensive profile of St. Mark which led to their spot-on identification of our core strengths, our previously known and unknown ceilings and solid, Christ-centered recommendations for us to consider as we continue to follow God's lead. Time constraints limited the volume of data able to be presented but hard copies of the full report are available for you to pick up in the narthex. I encourage everyone to view the full report because there's a ton of information that there was insufficient time to cover and it might be interesting to you as it was to many. The oral presentation was recorded and resides on a private link for St. Mark members. If you would like the private link to access the video, please contact me or Deb Zuchowski.

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CHURCH EVENTS

www.smlc.info/events

Complete Details Inside or

Find Us Online@

www.smlc.info

ARTICLE DEADLINE

The deadline for the Dec/Jan edition of *The Voice* is **November 15th**. Please Email articles to:

stmarkcommunications@gmail.com
& deb@smlc.info



Save the Date!
Sunday, November 14,
2021 @ 9:15AM

Join Us at
Advent Worship



Advent Services

Join us on
Wednesday,
December 1st, 8th
and 15th @
7:00PM

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2021



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Deb Heide | heidedeborah@gmail.com

BOOKKEEPER

Barb Griffith | Barb@smlc.info

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Patrice Sutton | PatriceS@comcast.net

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Jim Schaufel | James.schaufel@yahoo.com

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 9th @ 7:00PM
Next Committee Meetings: Tuesday, November 23rd @ 7:00PM

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2021

From the Desk of Pastor Breum

Major Truths from a Minor Prophet

I have found much encouragement reading the minor prophets. I am much more familiar with the major prophets. The difference between major and minor prophets is one of size. The major prophets wrote more. Here are some verses that shouted out to me.

Habakkuk 1:2-4 (NLT2) *²How long, O LORD, must I call for help? But you do not listen! "Violence is everywhere!" I cry, but you do not come to save. ³Must I forever see these evil deeds? Why must I watch all this misery? Wherever I look, I see destruction and violence. I am surrounded by people who love to argue and fight. ⁴The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts. The wicked far outnumber the righteous, so that justice has become perverted.*

Habakkuk lived 600 years before Jesus was born. What he wrote could have been written yesterday with all that is happening locally and worldwide. I encourage you to read the entire book. It is only 3 short chapters. Today, things are not worse than ever. There are no new sins under the sun. Sinful human behavior does not improve over the ages. It is a constant current that will not be stopped until the Lord Jesus comes again. God answers Habakkuk's question directly. In the answer we discover that God sees all that is happening and will actively bring correction to the sins of the day. God sets things up to occur, so people are humbled and repent.

Habakkuk 2:4 (NLT2) *⁴"Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by faith." There are nuggets of gold through the Bible. We go treasure hunting every time we open the Bible, and this is one of them. "The righteous will live by faith." This one short phrase changed the life of Luther and sparked the reformation in Germany. Yes, there is evil all around us. God's salvation is even greater than all the darkness we see. God saves us, rescues us from this mess by giving to us "faith", the ability to believe in Jesus Christ. And in that faith is the righteousness of Jesus Christ that makes us right with God and heaven bound. The gift of faith and the righteousness of Christ are given to us by God's grace. The phrase in Habakkuk is further explained by Paul in Romans and elsewhere. Luther felt like he entered the gates of paradise when he finally understood "the righteous will live by faith."*

Friends, our answer to today's catastrophes is to live by faith, a continual belief and trust in Christ that outshines the darkness and sin of our day. **Habakkuk 2:14 (NIV)** *¹⁴For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. The glory of the Lord has shined and will continue to shine and one day the entire earth will be covered by it. Evil loses and goodness wins. Sin is stopped in its tracks and righteousness reigns supreme. Please see the full picture and don't get discouraged by only seeing the present darkness.*

Habakkuk 2:20 (NIV) *²⁰But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him."* Friends, if we were to lay eyes on Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ruling the universe from the Throne Room of God, our complaints would be silenced. We would be completely overwhelmed by God's holiness. Nothing is escaping God. His works are perfect. We may not see what God is doing, but that is what living by faith is all about. Faith is that inner assurance, certainty, and confidence that God is who he says he is. *"Faith cometh by hearing and the hearing of the word of Christ."* We can be silent before God and read his word. God is speaking clearly. Are we listening?

Habakkuk 3:18-19 (NIV) *¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will be joyful in God my Savior. ¹⁹The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to go on the heights."* After listening to God, Habakkuk ends on a high note some may call ecstatic. I call it encouraged to the max. Habakkuk has become my favorite minor prophet. To see the problems and still to be able to rejoice in the Lord and enjoy new heights of faith in God is true godly maturity.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving to us the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Thank you for creating faith in Jesus inside of our souls by your grace. May we cling to Jesus, rely on Jesus, and trust in Jesus far more than ever. In these dark days, help us to rejoice in the Lord and experience new heights that are ours through Jesus. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

God Bless,
Pastor Breum



MISSOURI MUSINGS

BY BOB YARBROUGH

Surprise Pumpkins

And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how (Mark 4:26–27).

These words of Jesus remind us that God's work in the world defies our understanding. Sometimes we try to be faithful, but we don't see the fruit of our labor. We pray and don't get an answer. We share the gospel with someone but to no avail. Recently Pastor Breum wrote in a devotional that he asked a group of teenagers if he could pray for them. Their reply was no.

But Jesus' words reassure us. He describes a farmer planting seeds. After planting, the farmer goes about his life. As for the seed, it "sprouts and grows; he knows not how." As the Bible says elsewhere, it is "only God who gives the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:7).

Over the summer I saw a dramatic example of seed growing and the gardener not knowing how. I was the gardener. In late April I planted three hills of cucumbers and four hills of squash. Once everything sprouted, a plant came up on its own--a volunteer. It looked like a squash, or maybe a cantaloupe, and it was more robust than the other plants. Maybe it was even a watermelon! I let it grow.

We had some good rains and the garden took off. Before I knew it, that volunteer plant had taken over everything else. We only had a few cucumbers. Under the thick foliage of the rogue watermelon (I thought), I could see a few squash here and there. But I spent my time working on the tomatoes and peppers. I kind of gave up on the squash side of the garden.

But late in the summer the "watermelon" started to turn orange. The rogue plant was a pumpkin! I didn't even plant a pumpkin. But then we remembered that last fall Bernie made a pie from a pumpkin. She put the seeds in the compost bin. Over the winter I dumped the bin in the garden. Evidently, in the spring, one of those seeds sprouted. That single plant dominated a 14' x 30' section of the garden.

What was truly amazing was the yield. In early September when I picked the pumpkins, I was expecting maybe a dozen. The thick leaves were hiding over 50 pumpkins!

As for the squash, which I thought had been crowded out, there were about two dozen acorn squash and an amazing 45 butternut squash! I had to use a construction wheelbarrow to cart everything to the house. Twice.

Here is my point. God gave growth to the pumpkins (and much else) which I didn't even plant. And that's how it is in God's kingdom. He gives much growth and blessing in matters that we don't pray about or even know about. The richness of his grace is far greater than our ability to direct or micromanage it.



This does not mean that we should not seek God's blessing. It does mean that we should thank God that he is "able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). If he can produce a rich harvest when the gardener didn't even know what was growing, he can surely save souls, preserve his church, heal a nation, and bless the whole world.

No wonder Jesus also said, "Have faith in God" (Mark 11:22).

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2021



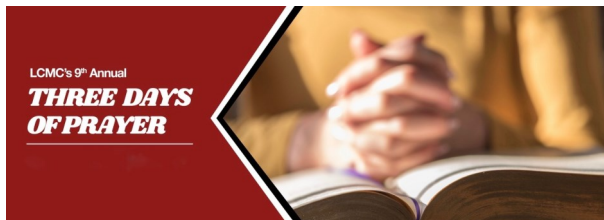
St. Mark Council News

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.

Our Action Plan Task Force is in place to start our Movement for Improvement journey! Thank you, Pam Burke, Jerry Gass, Kristi Knull, Mike Mol, and Pam Preston for serving on this team! After this group reviews all the recommendations we received from our ChurchDoctor consultants, Kent Hunter and Tracee Swank, they'll determine who, committees, groups or individuals, is best suited to develop action plans for each recommendation. That's not to say that standing committees or groups will be required to develop the action plans because this process is intended to engage the entire congregation. Even if you only love the idea of a recommendation but don't have any expertise in it, if you have any interest in it, your thoughts and opinions will be welcome as brainstorming sessions begin. Please let a Council member know if you have ideas!

We are still in need of a Treasurer on the 2022 Church Council. We have never been in the position of not having a Treasurer because the one God taps on the shoulder has responded in the past so this is unfamiliar territory. No nominations are allowed during the Annual Meeting according to our Bylaws but God has a plan for us. Are you part of this plan He has for us? Please ask God before you answer.

Copies of the book, I AM A CHURCH MEMBER, were distributed to each family after each worship service the weekend of 10/16-17. If your family did not receive one yet, they're available in the church office for pick up. We encourage each family to read this short 80 page book that serves to guide how we think about what is really involved in being a faithful church member. Future sermons are likely to be based on this small but powerful book so please get your copy!



St. Mark's Three Days of Prayer January 11-13, 2022

Matthew 21:13 "It is written, He said to them, 'My house will be called a house of prayer.'" To honor God's word, let us all begin the new year with a time of prayer.

St. Mark will be participating in our 7th LCMC *Three Days of Prayer* from Tuesday, January 11 through Thursday, January 13. So mark your calendars now for our intentional time of prayer.

Please uplift St. Mark Church in your prayers as we seek God's guidance for our church to refocus on our mission. 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.*

Printed 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 2021

STUDENT MINISTRY

NOVEMBER 2021

NOVEMBER 7TH

NOVEMBER 14TH

NOVEMBER 21ST

**Youth Group
6:00-8:00 PM**

**O.C.C. Packing
12:00-3:00 PM**

**Youth Group
6:00-8:00 PM**



**2022 Family
Mission Trip
July 23rd-30th**

Register today: josiah@smlc.info



**Operation
Christmas Child
Packing Party
November 14th**

Serve those who
have less by
donating and
packing small
gifts and
necessities for
children around
the world.

STUDENT MINISTRY SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



*"Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be terrified,
do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God will
be with you wherever you go."*

Joshua 1:9

QUAKE IS BACK!!

THE QUAKE
RETREAT FOR 6TH-
12TH GRADERS
RETURNS
FEB. 25TH-27TH

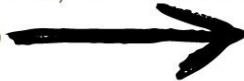


THEME FOR 2022

The 2022 Quake theme is **Courageous**. We have been saved by a loving Lord who courageously battled the forces of earth and hell and was victorious. We who have the Crucified, Resurrected and Living Christ living in us are empowered to live courageously as the Holy Spirit leads us in our journey of life.

WHAT IS QUAKE?

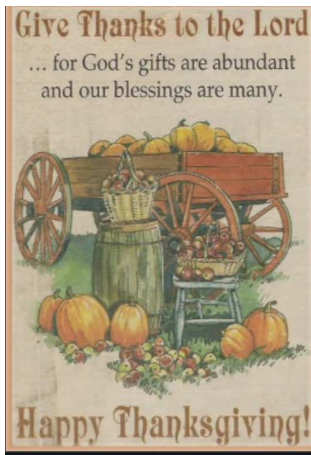
A retreat to grow in your relationship with God and with one another. Building those up through workshops, games, activities and more! Registration info



**GO TO SMLC.INFO
UNDER:
STUDENT MINISTRY
TO FIND THE
REGISTRATION
LINK AND MORE
INFO**

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2021



Putting Prayer in God's Perspective

When is prayer at it's best?

A.W. Tozer writes, "Prayer at its best is the expression of the total life."¹ What does that look like when we make our choices throughout the day? Does my choice glorify God or myself? Does my choice show love to my family? To my neighbor? Does my choice reflect a living sacrifice as a worship to God (Romans 12: 1-2) or do I crawl off His altar? Do you pray about these choices at the beginning of the day and thank God in the evening for His grace to be His servant and friend?

Tozer shares the insight, "A spiritual journey awaits us as God reshapes our petitions, molds us more into the image of His Son, and brings closure to the matter prayed about in such a way that His holiness, His mercy, His love, and His glory are ever magnified."²

Christians who are seeking "*a more satisfying prayer life, one that elevates and purifies every act of body and mind and integrates the entire personality into a single spiritual unit*" will find it is only the result of a life lived in the Spirit. Tozer writes, "*To pray effectively it is required of us that there be no unblessed areas in our lives, nor parts of the mind or soul that are not inhabited by the Spirit, no impure desires allowed to live within us, no disparity between our prayers and our conduct.*"³ Too high of a standard? Is God not the Lord of the impossible? Through the cross of Christ God has made provision for His children to be delivered from the yoke of sin. (Romans 6:11) There is no doubt the redemption in Christ "*has sufficient moral power to enable us to live in a state of purity and love where our whole life will be a prayer.*"⁴

Such prayers which raise out of this kind of total living will have about them a wondrous power not known to the careless or the worldly Christian.⁵

So one way to start is practicing **A lifestyle of gratitude** to get our eyes off of ourselves and onto God. This practice is one-way God can turn the difficulties of life into a redemptive tool by developing a sense of gratitude for God's goodness of life and His tender mercies. Here are four categories to start with: (1) the glory of God's creation; (2) material blessings; (3) relational blessings (people in your life); and (4) spiritual blessings. Thank God for each of these things daily.⁶

This Thanksgiving may you enjoy and be blessed listening to this Harvest hymn, *Come, ye thankful people, come.*

<https://music.youtube/msOzJ6DY7EA>

Opportunities for Prayer

The Worship and Music Committee has posted the 2020 *Three Days of Prayer Brochure* on the St. Mark website under *Prayer*. Also please pray for the wisdom and discernment of the Church Council and the congregation as they seek Your will and guidance for St. Mark fulfilling the Great Commission in your world.

Weekly Prayer Meeting - pray and be blessed.

Wednesday evenings 7:00pm via Zoom

Contact Persons: Pam Burke 224-430-6226. Linda Brissey: chaseco@aol.com

Our Prayer Meeting is open to all ages to lift those up in need of prayer for healing, comfort, peace and praise. Join us and be blessed.

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

²Tozer, p. 14.

³Tozer, p.18.

⁴Tozer, p.19.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Boa, Ken and Jenny Abel, A Guide to Practicing God's Presence, A Companion Guide to Life in the Presence of God, Trinity House Publishers, 2018.



**Monday, November 29th
6:00PM**

The holiday season is upon us and that means it is getting very close to time to decorate the church!! I want to remind everyone that many hands make less work! Confirmation students can earn a ministry opportunity point by stopping by to help decorate and we certainly need some adults along to help us climb the ladders to set up the tree, etc. If you are able to assist in readying the church for the holidays, please email or call Gae Michal at gmichal48@gmail.com.

What's New In Safety & Security?

October was Fire Prevention month. By now you probably know that St. Mark had its first fire drill the weekend of October 23rd. Some of you may have noticed we numbered the doors and most of the windows for our first responders. This was all part of our preparation for the drill. The preplanned drill was announced before the services, and all were instructed on how and where to exit. We had resources from the Lake Villa Fire Department here to help us assess how we did. According to those resources, St Mark passed with flying colors. In the event of a real-life emergency, we wanted to prepare you as to your role and what to do. We would like to thank the Worship and Music committee, Brock Zwicke, our Contemporary Music Coordinator, the ushers, the contemporary band, Deb Heide, our Nursery Supervisor, and our nursery staff for doing their part to make this happen.



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.
- 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)

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2021

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

The next step in our journey is to work with the Action Plan Task Force to determine the order of implementation of the recommendations. Pam Burke, Jerry Gass, Kristi Knull, Mike Mol and Pam Preston will serve as our Fab 5 Task Force to support the process of developing the steps needed to implement each recommendation. Over the next 3 months, they will review the recommendations and identify where each recommendation fits. During this time, if any of the recommendations spark your interest, please let any Council member, Fab 5 member or Pastor Breum know because now that the foundation is ready, it's time to build and you can be an integral part of the process by sharing your ideas. Now is the time for your involvement. Stay tuned for a near future opportunity to participate in an open group brainstorming review of all the recommendations.

Our upcoming Annual Meeting is only a couple of weeks away and I encourage you to attend. Why? Because even when the purpose sounds routine, approving reports, approving the new 2022 Council members and voting on the 2022 budget, this is YOUR church. It's your opportunity to speak and hear from your church family. You know how it is when your kids aren't interested in family functions anymore because they're busy with their friends? Please give us an hour before or after worship that day just to stay in the loop with your church family.

At the time I write this, we still have an open Treasurer spot on the Council roster for 2022. The Elders have made numerous announcements before worship services and have approached 12 people who they felt God calling them to ask. I pray that someone will answer soon.

Have you heard the story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody? There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

You may have heard that story before; the author appears to be unknown according to various websites but Somebody should have taken credit because it's a good story! It clearly doesn't apply to many servants at St. Mark but maybe there will be someone who reads this and feels God tugging on his or her heart. And not only for the Treasurer role, maybe for a different opportunity. A sure way to be everyone's BFF is to be the one who picks up and delivers the doughnuts Sunday mornings! Please just let us know what you'd like to do. There's something for everyone, no matter your age or how long you've been part of our family.

Change my heart, Lord, so when I pray, my requests are in accordance with what *You* want and not what I want. In Jesus' name, amen.

What if today, we were just grateful for everything?" — [Charlie Brown](#)

Have a blessed Thanksgiving,

Joni Wasmund
Council President



Attention Voting Members!

Please plan to attend the
Annual Congregational Meeting

November 14th

The meeting will begin at 9:15am.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- elect officers
- approve annual budget
- approve annual reports



Thank you, thank you, thank you!

This is Pete Bolender and I want you to know how much Patty and I appreciate your prayers and cards since the Sunday of the 60th Anniversary. On our way home after the 8:00 service I told Patty I felt like I was about to pass out while driving. We went to the Emergency Unit at Grand and Deep Lake roads and I was taken to Vista in Waukegan where a pacemaker was installed on Monday morning. I feel great and will be golfing by the end of October. God has been good to me all my life and I want to let you know how grateful I am to have such a wonderful family here at St. Mark.

Thank you and God's blessing,

Pete

Thanksgiving Pie Social



The Pie Social is back! Join us for pie and fellowship following the Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 24th. We are also looking for people to donate pies. A sign-up sheet will be available as we get closer to the event. Questions? Please contact Wendy Rohlwing at churchlady51@aol.com.

Operation Christmas Child Packing Party!

Join us Sunday, November 14, 2021 12-2pm for our shoebox packing party! Lunch will be served from 11:45 - 12:30, with packing of shoeboxes starting at 12:30. These shoeboxes will be packed full of various items that will be sent to children in other countries who, without these boxes, might not get anything for Christmas.

Donation collection is under way. For information on what can be donated check out <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/> or the table in the Narthex.



Angel Tree Is Back!

We are very excited to have Angel Tree back at St. Mark this year. Be on the lookout for the tree in the Narthex (end of November) tagged with the names of Angel Tree families in need of hope. Will you help us provide gifts on behalf of incarcerated parents? Questions Contact Brooke Frusti brooke.frusti@gmail.com or Jill Decker decker0393@sbcglobal.net.



Congratulations!

On Sunday, October 31st the following students received their very own Bible.

Andie B.
Sophie C.
Joey K.
Norah R.

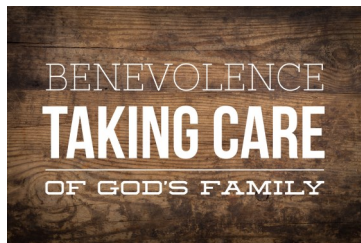
Elias C.
Mia F.
Emily M.
Johnny S.

Danielle W.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2021



Monthly Benevolence Highlights

A Safe Place

St. Mark supports A Safe Place with 5% of the yearly Benevolence from your giving. A Safe Place is the sole provider of services exclusively addressing domestic violence and human trafficking in Lake County, Illinois. Through multi-faceted programs they assist victims in transforming their lives after violence, prevents future abuse by addressing its root cause through abuser intervention programs, and educates the community about domestic violence and human trafficking. A Safe Place is a recognized 501 (c)3 listed under Lake County Crisis Center for the Prevention & Treatment of Domestic Violence Inc.

It is the goal of A Safe Place to learn more about domestic violence and human trafficking, their causes, and appropriate responses to them, in an effort to encourage a whole-community response to the abuse in our midst, breaking the cycle of violence, thus creating safe and healthy communities. Donations to A Safe Place enable the organization to provide services free of charge to survivors.

Programs include a Crisis Help Line, emergency and ongoing housing assistance, court advocacy, group and individual counseling, a MENToring program, family visitation center, outreach and training. Over the years A Safe Place has positively impacted 33,000 lives in the Lake County area.

Further information regarding the mission and programs offered by A Safe Place can be found at asafeplaceforhelp.org.



thrivent
Connecting faith and finances for good.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®
Thrivent Financial members that have Choice Dollars® have until Wednesday, March 31 to direct them

Thriving Minds Want to Know...

Be Wise with Money



November 9, 2021 at 12:00PM

Savvy Tax Strategies with Mike Fuehrmeyer, Financial Consultant with

Thrivent: Want to understand how taxes might affect your retirement? This webinar provides a fundamental overview of the topic, including: 1. The critical tax question you must answer before retirement. 2. The Social Security “tax trap”, and ways to avoid it. 3. Mistakes to avoid when it comes to your investment portfolio, health care, and estate. *No products will be sold.*



November 30, 2021 at 12:00PM at 6:00PM

Money Canvas by Thrivent Member Network. Many in our communities struggle with budgeting and saving behaviors--- the foundation of financial well-being. We're on a mission to change that! Learn how to build a long-term mindset and habit of saving first. No products will be sold. For additional information, see https://thrivent.zoom.us/webinar/register/1216256934130/WN_nVwbvhNuRPOT8m98mv9roQ

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2021



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!

November collection items are: **Laundry Soap & Jelly**

Please consider donating at: <https://www.openarmsmission.org/the-difference-you-can-make>

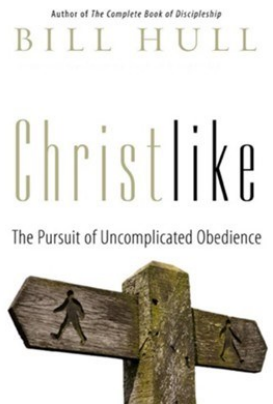
Open Arms will be closed from November 19th thru November 29th in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thank you for your heart for the hungry!



Christlike: The Pursuit of Uncomplicated Obedience

This month's book selection is *Christlike: The Pursuit of Uncomplicated Obedience* by Bill Hull. The final court of whether or not you are becoming like Jesus is not attending another church program but how you act in daily life. *Christlike* aims to change outward actions by inner spiritual growth through uncomplicated obedience in our relationship with God. Author Bill Hull uses his experience as a pastor and his background in disciple making and spiritual formation to show how Scripture memory plays an integral role in your discipleship. Explore what it means to be a Christian and what your role is in the kingdom of God. You can find this book under call number 248.4 HUL.



BAPTIZED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

OCTOBER 10th AT ST. MARK

Penelope Jay Rigali

Daughter of
Michelle & Joshua Rigali

OCTOBER 23rd AT ST. MARK

Kase William Smiley

Son of
Kayla & Kevin Smiley

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



60th Anniversary Celebration!

Thank You!

A special thank you to all of those who came out and celebrated St. Mark's 60th Anniversary! We are so thankful to: Pastor Jared Parmley, Pastor Mathew Magera, Pastor Daniel Doran, and Pastor Bill Shields for coming and preaching; Worship & Music for all of the wonderful music; and Robin Korom, Tricia Cholewinski, Jeanne Hanson, and Parkway Catering for making it such a wonderful event. We love St. Mark and are so excited to see what the next 60 years will hold!

- Congregational Life Committee



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2021

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 for full menu.

Valid the **Second Tuesday** of every Month

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

DATES: Second Tuesdays
11/9/21, 12/14/21, 1/11/22



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
11/18/21, 12/16/21, 1/20/22

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.



We Always Have Room for One More Man

(Ages 15+)

Every 2nd Saturday of the Month.

Next Meeting: November 13th / 7am Donuts & Coffee, 8am Training, 9:30am Adjourn

"It's time to win the battle of your mind. Are you ready?"

We kick off a new study this month using author and pastor Louie Giglio's book ***Don't Give the Enemy A Seat at Your Table***. Get added to the HIS Ministry email list to stay connected to this ministry to men by texting/calling Jerry Doran at 847-271-8632 or send contact information to Ministry2EveryMan@gmail.com. Updates are also provided in email.

Order your copy in advance or pick up a complimentary copy at our next meeting.



Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2021



St. Mark Holiday Dinner-In-A-Bag



"Holiday Dinner in a Bag" is a ministry that will provide the staples of a holiday dinner for an individual or family in need. We will deliver these meals to the recipients on **Sunday, November 21st**, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. If you know of an individual or family who can use assistance, please complete the form below with family information and place it in the basket on the table in the Fellowship Hall labeled, **"Holiday in a Bag"**, send to SMLC by mail, or email smlc@smlc.info.

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 area set up in the Fellowship Hall for you to drop off donations.

We will also be looking for **volunteers** to assist with the delivery of these items.

A sign-up sheet will be located next to the basket in the Fellowship Hall.

Any questions, please contact a Congregational Life Committee member:

Brooke Frusti, Shawn Frank, Donna Bergl or Tricia Cholewinski

Your Name and Phone # _____

Name, address and phone # (if possible) of Recipient Family:

How Many Family Members? _____



Order Your Poinsettia Plants Today!



I/We would like to order ____ (quantity) RED POINSETTIA plant(s) at \$11.00 each for the 2021 Christmas Eve Worship Services.

Please place this completed form in the box in the Narthex. Deadline for Ordering is Monday, December 13th.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR INFORMATION

____ **Name:** _____

____ **Phone:** _____

PLANTS ARE GIVEN: (Please print clearly!)

____ To the Glory of God

____ In Honor of _____

____ In Memory of _____

____ In Celebration of _____

PLANT PICK UP:

____ I will pick up the plant(s) after the 11pm Christmas Eve Service. (Plants must be picked up by Tuesday, 12/28/21.)

____ I would like the plant(s) taken to someone who is ill or shut-in.

PAYMENT:

I have enclosed my payment of \$ _____

(PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER. Please make checks payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church.)

Thank You!

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart

November 2021

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
Sunday | 10:30AM
Contemporary

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

NEXT VOICE DEADLINE:
November 15, 2021

Serve The Lord With All Your Heart
November 2021