

Lately I've found myself to be quite hungry. It seems that Baby Boy Webb (due May 4, if you missed our announcement in November!) needs a little extra to keep on going! And yet, while I've felt hungry, I have at the same time been aware that I am not really hungry, not in the sense that others who do not have food or not enough food often are. My hunger pales in comparison to theirs, and I'm humbled to reconsider my hunger. What does it really mean to hunger? How can I out of my abundance aid those who really and truly hunger?

This comes from an awareness created by the Metro Chicago Synod and Bishop Miller as they've raised a challenge before us. During the Synod Assembly last June we voted unanimously to pass a resolution to support ELCA World Hunger. This resolved that "that the congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod accept the challenge to raise one million dollars for ELCA World Hunger between **June 1, 2016, and October 31, 2017**; and that 100% of the offerings from the 2016 and 2017 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly worship services be designated for ELCA World Hunger." Since then, the synod has been raising awareness and challenging our congregations to meet this goal.

It seems to fit quite well with the work of St. Mark. Our mission statement is "Nourishing God's People, Body, Mind and Spirit." It is no secret that we like to feed people around here. We serve three meals to PADS guests each Monday into Tuesday. We gather food for the Mount Prospect Food Pantry and the Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry. Our Backpack Ministry gives food to children who would otherwise be hungry over the weekend. We collect canned food in our shopping cart brigade at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. We gather for meals: Mardi Gras Potluck (coming soon!), Lenten Soup Suppers, Senior Lunch, Nibblers. In addition to that, we will give \$1000 to ELCA World Hunger from our benevolence in 2017.

And yet, I am confident that we can do more. This congregation is a generous one. In October we passed the Cubs hat to raise money to buy goats through ELCA World Hunger and raised \$300 in one Sunday, enough to buy six goats! Let's continue that generosity. In the coming months you will hear of various opportunities. On **February 5** we will celebrate **Souper Bowl of Caring**. You are encouraged to bring canned goods, but also have the possibility of making a monetary donation. The food will go to the Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry, the monetary donations to ELCA World Hunger. Then on **February 12** you can get a **Valentine Gram** for your loved ones by giving a donation to ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts for pigs, fruit trees or bees. More opportunities will come in the coming months. In the meantime, you are always welcome to check out the ELCA Good Gifts Catalogue on the Coffee Table or at [www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts) for gifts for those hard to buy for friends and family. Together with our friends in Metro Chicago Synod and the church as a whole we can make a difference in ending hunger world wide!

Peace,  
Pr. Christie

P.S. Passionate about this cause? We would love your help in planning future opportunities to raise funds. Let me know of your interest!



# 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6 pm Youth Choir	1	5 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	2
	5 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 1 pm Basketball	6:30 pm PADS	11 am Private Event 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball	7 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Youth Choir 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm FaithWalk	8	9 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir
12 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 12 pm Return from Lutherdale Ski/ Snowboard Retreat 1 pm Basketball	13 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm PADS 7 pm Mary Circle 7 pm Foundation	14 12:30 pm Deborah Circle 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball	15 9 am Volleyball 9 am Quilting 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Youth Choir 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm FaithWalk	16 1 pm Senior Lunch Bunch 5 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	17 11 am Preschool Gym 1 pm Preschool Gym 4:30 pm Basketball 5 pm Leave for Lutherdale Ski/Snowboard Retreat	10 9 am Basketball 6:30 pm Nibblers
19 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 1 pm Basketball	20 TKP Costume Sorting 6:30 pm PADS	21 TKP Costume Sorting 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council	22 TKP Costume Sorting 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Youth Choir 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm FaithWalk 7 pm Stewardship	23 TKP Costume Sorting 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	24 TKP Costume Sorting 11 am Preschool Gym 1 pm Preschool Gym 4:30 pm Basketball	25
26 8 am Worship 8:30 am Tastefully Simple Tasting Party 10 am Worship 11:15 am Annual Meeting 1 pm Basketball	27 12:30 pm Bridge Club 6:30 pm PADS	28 9 am Quilting 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Mardi Gras Potluck				



Join us as we remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. Gather for worship, the giving of ashes, and communion as we begin our Lenten journey.

## one hope

Re-Membering the Body of Christ

One Hope: Re-Membering the Body of Christ is a rich ecumenical resource designed to help Catholic and Lutheran communities mark the approaching 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

As a way to celebrate our Christian Unity this year, the St Mark/St Raymond Ecumenical Ministry invites you to spend...

**four - 1 hour sessions on the Sunday afternoons of  
February 12, 19, 26 and March 5  
3:00 pm—4:00 pm**

...gathering in the St Raymond Parish Ministry Center  
301 S I-Oka Ave. (corner of I-Oka and Milburn)

\*\* for elevator access to an upper room, please mention this when registering.

We gather to dig into the church's rich traditions and discover the unity that already exists. The cost of the book One Hope is \$10. Please register with Pastor Christie at 847.253.0631 by Tuesday, February 7 so we can order books.

## ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday,  
February 26**

Immediately following  
10 am worship

Copies of the 2016 Annual Report will be available starting Sunday, February 12



Dear St. Mark,

On behalf of the Mount Prospect Historical Society, I would like to thank you all for showcasing St. Mark Lutheran Church for the 29th Anniversary Christmas Housewalk.

We were so excited to have St. Mark on the Housewalk for the second time! The volunteers were so wonderful and so were the homemade cookies and refreshments. Thank you for the luminaria and for helping us get everything set up. The church was beautiful and everyone had such a wonderful evening.

Thank you for helping us create such a lovely event for all to enjoy!

Sincerely,  
Jill Tumberger  
2016 Housewalk Co-Chairman

## Treasurer's Report

Fellow members,

I am pleased to share our financial results for 2016, pending a few minor adjustments. We ended 2016 with income of \$465,319, exceeding our budget by \$31,119. Our expenses of \$448,282 exceeded our budget by \$14,082. So we ended the year with a surplus above budget of \$17,036. This result was mainly driven by exceptionally generous giving through offerings, expenses above budget for property maintenance and operation, and expense control in compensation. In 2016 we withdrew \$8,500 per quarter from our bequest account to balance our budget. Since we achieved a \$17,000 surplus for 2016, I have directed Nancy Hundley to return \$17,000 back to the bequest account, conserving our funds for future budget year gaps or unknown emergencies. The Council affirmed this decision at its January meeting.

I would like to personally thank you for faithfully completing or increasing your offering pledges last year, and thanks in advance if you have increased your offering pledge for 2017. Our costs for maintaining and operating our buildings continue to increase, and of course, we want to continue to increase minister and staff salaries according to the increasing cost of living. We have been able to meet all of our budgetary needs with income, thus incurring no debt. Where appropriate, we have also used dedicated or memorial funds given to the church by our members to offset costs that otherwise would have come from income. All of this year's goals can be accomplished if we all pull together and commit ourselves to generously share our financial blessings to do the ministry of St. Mark Lutheran Church in our community.

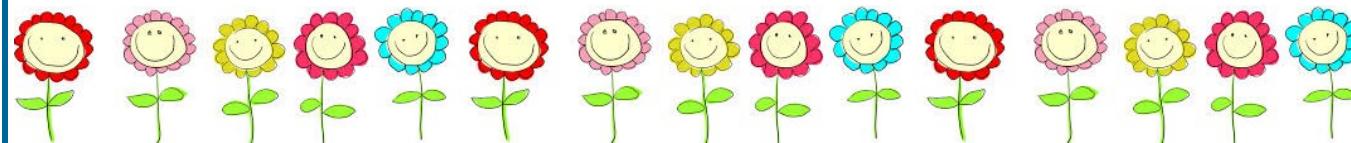
Looking ahead to 2017 and 2018, we are preparing to replace major sections of roofing on our buildings, so additional capital funds will be needed to keep our buildings in safe and well-maintained condition. You will be hearing more about this from the Council in future meetings and publications. But for now, let's celebrate a year of positive financial results, and thank our Lord for His abundant blessings and for our vibrant, generous church family! If you have any questions about the budget or our finances, please contact me.

In Christ's service,  
Jeanne Kueter, Treasurer



Dear Members & Staff of St Mark,  
Thank you for the gift of a lovely Christmas plant.  
Barbara Wiebe

Thanks for the lovely poinsettia plant.  
Jan Schulz



TREASURER'S REPORT



## What's Happening in Youth & Family Ministry?

### SUMMER TRIPS

By: Deacon David Webb/  
Jill Galyon



### Taizé Pilgrimage of Trust in St. Louis May 26th—28th

St. Mark high schoolers, college students and young adults will join other young people between the age of 14-30 from different churches across the world at the St. Louis stage of the Pilgrimage of Trust. The weekend will include prayer in the style of Taizé with brothers from the community. There will also be workshops and Bible studies. Travel options with St. Raymond's and other ELCA congregations in the area are being worked out so students might have a deeper and fully ecumenical experience.

[http://www.taize.fr/en\\_article20213.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article20213.html)



### Butler, Indiana June 25—July 1

St. Mark's yearly summer week of service with TeenServe will be in Butler, IN this year. Participants will spend the week doing light construction projects, painting, and refurbishing parts of the community of Butler. Participants will get the chance to build relationships with community members and experience the power of community building when faith communities lead the way to take care of the most vulnerable members of their communities. Evenings will be spent listening to a speaker, hearing testimonies, worshipping with the band Zealand Worship, and playing fun games. Join us!! (Current 7th graders through young adult eligible). <http://www.teenserve.org/>



### ELCA National Youth Gathering June 27—July 1, 2018

Participants will travel to Houston, TX to experience the scope and size of the ELCA as thirty to sixty thousand young people come together as church to hear music, speakers, engage in service, and learn about the church's work in the world. (Current 7th graders through current 11th graders are eligible to participate. Current high school seniors and college students are eligible to apply to be volunteer workers at the event.)

<http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering>



### Leadership Lab July 24-29

Participants will spend a week at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL playing games, meeting people from around the country, and taking part in LAB's church leadership development program that is a BLAST. (Program open to current 8th graders through adult) <http://leadershiplab.net>

**Tastefully Simple:** This is an ongoing fundraiser throughout the year. Money from this fundraiser will help pay for these trips! Simply go to: [tastefulsimple.com/web/mciske](http://tastefulsimple.com/web/mciske), shop, then choose St Mark as the host at check out. SIMPLE! Tasting Parties: Feb 26, Mar 19, Apr 2 in the narthex.

**tastefullysimple.**



Join us for our annual

## OPEN HOUSE!

Saturday, February 4th

10 am to 12pm

Craft for kids • Meet the staff  
Tour the classrooms • Learn about the curriculum  
Review program options including:  
Traditional Preschool, STEM Kindergarten Enrichment & Extended Care

We welcome all children and their families to join us!  
St. Mark is on the leading edge of early childhood education featuring updated curriculums that focus on creative & critical thinking in a nurturing, fun, safe and playful learning environment.

Kids not only learn how to 'play nice in the sandbox', but practice real world problem solving in a collaborative setting to help develop social skills and foster a love for learning.

Can't make it on the 30th? Then please call or email us for a personal tour and visit with our Director!

Barb Zediker • [stmarkpreschool@stmarkpmp.org](mailto:stmarkpreschool@stmarkpmp.org) • 847.873.1110

We are a top school in the Northwest Suburbs with competitive tuition and flexibility to help suit your busy schedule.

200 S. Wille St.  
Mt. Prospect, IL  
60056







St. Cecilia Parish invites you to attend a **TAIZÉ** prayer service on

Sun, Feb 26, 5pm  
in the church.  
700 S. Meier Rd, Mt. Prospect

Please join us!

#### What is Taizé Prayer?

- Meditative singing: short songs, repeated again and again. Meditative singing becomes a way of listening to God.
- Silence and prayer: At times prayer becomes silent. Peaceful communion with God can do without words. God does not want to impress, but to be understood and accepted.
- Icons: Icons contribute to the beauty of worship. They are like windows open on the realities of the Kingdom of God, making them present in our prayer on earth.

Presented by St. Cecilia YM (Teen Catholics In Action)  
and our Faith Formation Ministry

### St. Mark Preschool Annual Family Pasta Dinner Night

Join us for a fun filled evening with family and friends! Meet new parents, visit with the teachers, win exciting prizes, and enjoy a delicious pasta dinner!



Dinner Includes  
Pasta, salad, bread, & dessert  
Lemonade, wine, & beer available (bring ID)

Special Events  
6:00 Preschool Children Sing  
Raffle and Silent Auction

Questions? Please contact Joanne Mazzocco [joanne.mazzocco@comcast.net](mailto:joanne.mazzocco@comcast.net) or 630-596-7776

Raffle Prizes Include:  
Restaurant Gift Certificates • Chicago Bears Tickets • American Girl Dolls •  
1 Hour Massage • Kohl Children's Museum Family Passes • Class Gifts • Gift Baskets •  
and so much MORE!

#### Advance Tickets

Adults: \$7  
Children (ages 3-12): \$4  
Seniors: \$6  
Children under 2: FREE!

Tickets can be purchased at the door for adults \$9, children \$5, and seniors \$7

\*Tickets may be purchased by filling out the attached form. Return by February 3rd.

#### St. Mark Preschool Pasta Dinner Ticket Purchase Form

Please fill out the form and return to St. Mark Preschool with payment.  
Checks may be payable to St. Mark Preschool and Enrichment Center

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children (3-12): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Seniors: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number or Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to purchase 50/50 Raffle Tickets!

\$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00

Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Included: \_\_\_\_\_



ELCA World Hunger  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

Looking for something fun to get your sweethearts for Valentines Day? Spread the love with ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts Valentines Gift Grams! On Sunday, February 12, we will have these grams available in the Narthex. Give a donation, get a valentine (there are 3 to choose from!), and help end world hunger! The money raised will go to purchase pigs, fruit trees, or bees for hungry people throughout the world!



## “Living Stewardship”



You will recall that our fall emphasis on stewardship included a broadening of the traditional giving of money and volunteering to work in the ministry programs of the congregation to understanding that all of our daily living is included in the category of stewardship. Luther emphasized the concept of “vocation” as including everyone’s roles: children in school, retired people, men and women who are working as teachers, accountants, bricklayers, plumbers, construction workers, parenting, banking, homemaking—in other words, everything we do everyday is our vocation. Your daily life is your calling (assuming you’re not doing something illegal or dishonorable!) and God blesses and values that as part of your contribution to the good of your community and society.

There has been a tradition in the Christian Church that elevates some vocations above others. In the traditional church structures (e.g., Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican) certain people were set apart through consecration, ordination, or some special designation that implied, or sometimes stated that these roles were more important to God than the more common ones. In my childhood, I heard the phrase “full time Christian service” in referring to those who became pastors, missionaries, or church school teachers. Luther felt the church had gone too far in this direction, and taught from Scripture that all work is honorable and that lay people and clergy are equal before the cross of Christ. He went so far as to say that the gospel means all of us are priests to each other, and that together, through our service to each other, we form the body of Christ. So all of us are in full-time Christian service, whether we are butchers, bakers or candlestick makers.

Luther did not feel that specialized roles in the church were unimportant however. Clergy, teachers, and church musicians have important roles. But their roles do not give them special status or favor in God’s economy. Rather they have special responsibilities to use their gifts and training for the good of all. So pastors need to preach

faithfully, organists need to play as beautifully as possible, teachers need to impart knowledge—all to the glory of God, not themselves. The barber should cut and shave well, the baker should create the best bread possible because their vocations are just as important to God as the priest and bishop.

How does this help deepen our stewardship living? When we realize that in our daily interactions with people, whatever we do is our response to God’s love for us. If we show disrespect or an uncaring or superior attitude, our common life is diminished. But when I do something that is needful for society, when I do my tasks well so my community functions for the good of all, I’m giving back to God who created me to live and serve others. In doing my daily tasks with love and respect for the neighbor, I know that God blesses my work and it makes life meaningful and good.

One of the changes we’ll work on during 2017 is to remind ourselves weekly that our offering to God is not limited to the money and time we give to the church, but includes what we give through our daily work and living that makes the life of another better. That can be doing our regular duties well, even if that is unrecognized by others. But it also may include those holy moments when you were able to share the love of Jesus Christ with a person in need of a spiritual or physical lift—not necessarily in words, but through actions that made you and that person feel better. That’s stewardship of God’s gifts. Sometimes simply expressing gratitude to a person who did their job well can make you and that person have a better day.

As we embrace more forms of electronic giving, we need to have something to put in the “offering” plate that represents this broader understanding of stewardship. Your stewardship team is working on a simple “stewardship report” that identifies you as an electronic giver, but also solicits reports of the stewardship of daily living. More to come soon.

Pr. Carl Anderson for the Stewardship Team

## Living Wisdom Program Offered at St. Mark

By Deacon David Webb



Between January and April Contemplative Outreach of Chicago is offering four day-long workshops on a variety of topics related to prayer and spirituality at St. Mark. Several people have asked what the workshops are all about. The programs and people involved come from a diverse background of people from within and around the church who seek to live active lives of prayer rooted in the Christian contemplative tradition. Their work and workshops revolve around integrating a prayer practice like Centering Prayer, Christian meditation, lectio divina, the Welcoming Prayer, or hesychasm (an Orthodox spiritual tradition of praying the Jesus Prayer) into active, everyday life. These are prayer practices that are rooted in scripture and help nurture one’s relationship with God much like any devotional practice. These prayer practices are often practiced individually or in small groups, in monasteries or in retreat settings, and apart from daily work and life.

The Living Wisdom program is designed to offer participants a greater sense of community in their prayer lives and offer conversations and practices that integrate prayer with daily life. Members of Centering Prayer groups from St. Mark, St. Raymond’s, and St. Simon’s in Arlington Heights along with 40 others from all over the Chicago Metro Area are participating in the workshops.

If you are interested in learning more about the Living Wisdom Program, Contemplative Outreach of Chicago, Centering Prayer or any other prayer practices please let me know. Throughout Lent there will be several opportunities to explore different prayer practices like the ones listed above and soon a prayer space at St. Mark will be set aside for regular usage. Below, I will include links and resources if you are interested in learning more.

### Contemplative Outreach

Contemplative Christian communities trace their roots to groups of third century Christian communities and members of Christian contemplative communities began coming to America in the 1800s, but it wasn’t until the 1970’s that Christian

Contemplative communities began teaching prayer practices to lay people. Contemplative Outreach is one of those first organizations. Cistercian monks in Spencer, Massachusetts formed Contemplative Outreach as a way to teach Centering Prayer to lay people. Today the non-profit organization has chapters around the world dedicated to teaching contemplative prayer practices.

<http://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/>  
<http://centeringprayerchicago.org/>

### Dorothy Bass: Practicing Our Faith

Dorothy Bass is a member of the ELCA and the director of the Valparaiso based Practicing Our Faith project. Many of her popular books have explored the richness and depth of prayer practices throughout our life of faith. You can find more information about her work and publications here: <http://www.practicingourfaith.org/>

### Dr. Lisa Dahill: Truly Present

Dr. Dahill is an ELCA pastor and professor who serves at California Lutheran University. Her ministry and research have been into the spiritual practices and thinking within the Lutheran tradition. Her book, *Truly Present*, was one of the first books on the subject that I read. The church has several free copies if you are interested!!! You can see more here: <https://www.amazon.com/Present-Worship-Matters-Augsburg-Fortress/dp/0806651474>

### Martin Luther

Dr. Luther, a monk, professor, and pastor, was steeped in the Christian contemplative tradition. He practiced and adapted contemplative prayer practices for lay people throughout his ministry. Often we only hear about his diatribes against the hierarchy of monastic life. In one of his most accessible writings Luther describes to his barber his daily practices of praying the catechism an imaginative and meditative prayer practice that is beautifully called “The Four Garlands.” You can read Luther’s letter here: [http://www.se.lcms.org/uploads/simple\\_way\\_pray\\_luther.pdf](http://www.se.lcms.org/uploads/simple_way_pray_luther.pdf)

## Thoughts from the Loft



When you look at the organ at St. Mark, you will see pipes located above the choir loft. Did you know there are pipes on both sides of the choir loft as well? It's kind of like surround sound on a stereo. This is a model for organs of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries on North Germany, like some of the instruments J.S. Bach would have played. That is a very special thing, to hear this wound'rous machine, the organ, every week.

Peace to all of you,  
Tim



## Senior Lunch Bunch

**Thursday, February 16, 2017, 1:00 pm**  
**Gail's Carriage Place**

306 E Rand Rd, Arlington Heights, IL

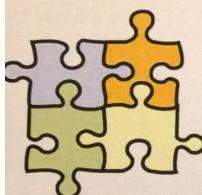
(Corner of Rand Rd & Arlington Heights Rd, in Northpoint Shopping Center)

**RSVP to Marilyn by Monday, February 13**

**Friday, February 17**

**7 pm in the Great Room**

Join us for Fun, Fellowship and crafting! Bring a personal craft project to work on.



## Craft Connection

"Come, all of you who are gifted craftsmen, construct everything that the Lord has commanded." Exodus 35:10 (NLT)

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another..." Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)



## NIBBLERS

Enjoy food? Come and join the Nibblers as they find new places to eat around our community each month. February Nibblers will meet at Tapalpa Mexican Restaurant, 770 S. Arlington Heights Rd. in Elk Grove Village on Saturday, February 11th at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP to Ken and Gina Dahlgren (kgadahl@aol.com) by Wednesday, February 8th so that we can let the restaurant know the final count. All are welcome at the Dahlgrens following dinner for fellowship.



## of the Women of the ELCA



**Ladies Bunco & Dessert Night**  
**Friday, February 3, 7:00 pm**  
**In Fellowship Hall**

Gather for a sweet treat followed by an evening of Bunco. Even if you don't know the game—yet—come join in the fellowship and fun! It's SOOOOO easy to learn! Bring a wrapped "White Elephant" gift for the prize table.

**Wednesday, February 15 & Tuesday, February 28,**  
**9:00 am**

Lutheran World Relief quilting  
Upstairs, Education wing



**Mardi Gras Potluck Dinner**  
**Tuesday, February 28, 5:45 pm**  
**In Fellowship Hall**

New Orleans is coming to St. Mark and everyone is invited to the FUN!!

Deacon Dave will be cooking up some pancakes and everyone else bring your favorite "potluck" dish (see below):

Last name beginning with:

A-M Bring a pasta or meat dish

N-Z Bring a salad or dessert

WOW & FaithWalk kids: Bring your favorite toppings for pancakes

Pop, coffee and lemonade will be provided.

A short "Palm Burning" service will conclude the evening.