



St. Mark Lutheran Church

CrossBeams

A publication of St. Mark Lutheran Church, Mount Prospect, Illinois

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Volume 57, Issue 2

February, 2018



Hear again the powerful stories of God's redeeming work

Noah and Family ♥ Abraham and Sarah
♥ Moses ♥ The Israelites

Wednesdays in Lent

February 21 & 28, March 7, 14, & 21

Morning: 11am Worship, 11:30am Soup Lunch,
Noon Bible Study

Evening: 6pm Soup Supper, 7pm Worship &
Prayer Stations*

*Faithwalk class time will continue following worship until 8pm



"I will make a new covenant ... I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." ♥Jeremiah 31:31-33

This year **Lent is for Lovers**, as it begins on Valentine's Day with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. What could be more romantic than remembering that you are dust and to dust you shall return side by side in community with those you love?! We hope you will join us for worship at 11am, 6pm Family Service and 7pm.

During the season of Lent we will then journey together through the stories of God's covenant with God's people throughout history to the new covenant that we know in Christ Jesus, the covenant that is **Written on Our Hearts**. We will return to stories we might feel we know by heart- Noah and the Flood, Sarah and Abraham, Moses and the Exodus. We will dig into them and see how they warm our heart anew both through sermons on Sunday mornings and powerful storytelling at our Midweek Worships on Wednesdays. You are also invited to partake in the Lenten Daily Devotional "You are the Way" which will look at the heart of who Jesus is through "I am" statements as found in the gospel of John.

Beyond these offerings, I invite you to consider what God might be laying on your heart as a way to mark this season in one of the three faith practices of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. Taking something on, giving something up, spending time connecting with God, the purpose of these things is to remember the covenant of love God claims us with and tend to it. See below for some fun heart-focused ideas. My prayer is that you find God's love written on your hearts.

Prayer

- ♥ Attend our midweek worships Wednesdays at 11am & 7pm
- ♥ Sit quietly and imagine a big red heart, Valentines style, and feel God's love for you
- ♥ Practice a heart of gratitude - reflect each evening on what you are grateful for that day
- ♥ Use the Lenten Daily Devotional as a start to your prayer

Fasting

- ♥ Fast on Wednesdays, breaking the fast with our soup lunch or soup supper
- ♥ Refrain from things that hurt your heart- that might have to do with food, or it might have to do with name calling or gossip sharing
- ♥ Do something good for your heart- get out and move, call a friend, read a book that warms your heart, pursue a new passion

Almsgiving

- ♥ Consider what you are most passionate about, find a charity connected to that passion and donate time or money
- ♥ Consider giving to heart disease research
- ♥ Spend time considering where God is calling your heart to give of yourself, your time, and your possessions during the coming year

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Christie





Dear Pastor Christie and members of St. Mark Church,
I want to thank you for the beautiful poinsettia plant and for the
birthday flowers. The visits and prayers for Bob are also greatly
appreciated. Thank you so much.

God bless you all,
Dorrae Teepe

Dear St. Mark Friends,
Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia plant delivered by
Kathie Hetland. I really appreciate it.

Linda Ernst

Fellowship Event:

CRAFT BEER TASTING



Saturday, February 10th, 7:30 PM

Fellowship Hall

Sample various beers you may not have tried!

Tastings and snacks included for \$12/person

RSVP to Jan Scott: scotts507@yahoo.com

-or- Rachel Potter: rachel.k.scott1@gmail.com



What's Happening in Youth & Family Ministry?

Sunday, Feb. 4
 the St. Mark Youth will be collecting canned food items and cash donations. All food donations will be taken to the Mount Prospect Food Pantry and all cash donations will be sent to ELCA World Hunger. Please help us Tackle Hunger!



Tastefully Simple Fundraiser

Thank you to all who have been supporting our youth through this fundraiser. The next tasting is **Sunday, February 18**.



In the meantime, check out the products online and place your orders there. Simply go to: tastefullysimple.com/web/mciske, shop, then choose St Mark (St M) as the host at check out. SIMPLE!! (This is an on-going fundraiser throughout the year.) Money raised helps support Youth trips and activities.



Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2018

11am, 7pm

6pm Family Worship

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.

Ministry Opportunities

Coming soon.....Check out the bulletin in the Great Room hallway for opportunities available to serve. Volunteer positions needed will be posted. If you are interested in a position, contact the person listed on the posting. If you have a position in your ministry to post, contact Jill in the church office.



God's Promises to the Great Family

By Deacon Dave

As we get ready for Lent, we begin telling the stories of The Great Family. Throughout Lent and most especially on the evening of the Easter Vigil, we tell the stories of how God has been a part of the human family (i.e., The Great Family-Great because of God). The stories remind us that throughout our collective memories and our religious tradition, God has walked with us, made promises to us, and deepened our relationship with God - Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and Noah's Family and the animal families, Abraham and Sarah's family, Moses and God's People, The Royal System, the Exiled, and the Gathered People.



These stories are not just a reminder of the ways God has saved God's people in the past, but they are part of a larger story that finds its culmination in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus will tell the disciples that he does not cancel out the Torah and the Prophets, but instead is the fulfillment and embodiment of God's story.



"My sheep hear my voice.
I know them, and
they follow me."

- John 10:27

Jesus tells two stories that are almost like book ends in our faith formation to The Great Family Stories: The Parable of the Good Shepherd and the Parable of the True Vine. The Parable of the Good Shepherd is like the introduction to The Great Family. In The Good Shepherd, we find the one who knows all of the sheep by name and leads them to good, green grass and cool, clear water. The Good Shepherd leads them through the scary, dangerous places and when one goes missing the Good Shepherd will go looking for the one, even if there are 99 others. The parable provides us an image of a heavenly parent that provides safety, love, and belonging to each one of us. The Great Family stories are then examples of all of the ways God, the Good Shepherd, is with God's people.

Much of Jesus ministry provides examples of how he is the Good Shepherd, reminding and exemplifying to the people how God has been with them in the past. Jesus healed, called, found, taught, cared for, navigated, walked with, dwelled, and fed the people. The second parable that book ends the other end of The Great Family gives us an image of how God and Jesus will continue to be with us in this next phase.

In The Parable of the True Vine, coincidentally at the end of his ministry, Jesus describes his connection to God like that of a vine and a vine grower. Jesus uses extensive language about how Jesus, God, and Jesus' followers are all connected like the vine, fruit, branches, and leaves. Sofia Cavalletti a famous religious formation scholar asks the question: "When you look at the grapevine can you tell the difference between the vine and the branches? Maybe, but much of the time it is impossible to tell the difference between the vine and the branches. I wonder if Jesus is telling us something about Jesus and Jesus' followers?" Cavalletti also asks: "What about that sap that flows through the vine into the fruit? What is that life blood that flows through all of us? Is it not, the blood of Christ?"



"I am the
true vine and
my Father
is the
gardener."

John 15:1

So in this season as we continue to reflect on these powerful images and stories we invite you to continue living as if you have been grafted into the life of Christ and as if you are a beloved member of God's family? We "remember" these stories and tell them, but we are meant to reenact them with our lives!

Thoughts from the Loft

A hymn commonly sung the final Sunday before Ash Wednesday is "How Good, Lord, to Be Here!" (ELW #315). It is a recounting of the many reasons to rejoice in Jesus' Transfiguration. I can recall on more than one occasion musical experiences I was not completely excited about. Then I started accomplishing the musical task and realized it was just meaningful to be doing it, whatever the outcome. Simply put, it was good to be in the moment, praising God. As our songs of praise to God turn to the solemnity of the Lenten season, many we remember our calling to be in the moment, worshipping the One who saved us all.

Peace,
Tim



Senior Lunch Bunch (or anyone who would like to join us)

Thursday, February 15

1:00 pm

Le Peep Restaurant

(10 E. Northwest Hwy., Mt Prospect)

RSVP to Marilyn at 847-508-5512 before Monday, February 12.



"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)

Friday, February 16
7pm in the Great Room
Bring a personal craft to work on
for the evening.
Looking for crafters to share their
craft with the group. Contact Jill in
the church office or at
jgalyon@stmarkmp.org



Sunday, February 25
Immediately following
10 am worship
Copies of the 2017 Annual
Report will be available
beginning Sunday, February 11.



Tuesday, February 13 **5:45 pm**

Mardi Gras Potluck Dinner
Great Room

Wed. & Tues. Feb. 21 & 27 **9:00 am**

Quilting
2nd floor, Education wing



Quilters

The quilters are back to their regular schedule in February. Join them on **Wednesday, February 21, and/or Tuesday, February 27**. They meet at 9 am on the second floor of the education wing.



MARDI GRAS POTLUCK DINNER

Tuesday, February 13
5:45 pm in Fellowship Hall

Start thinking about what favorite dish you will bring to pass. Last names beginning with

A-M: Bring a salad or dessert

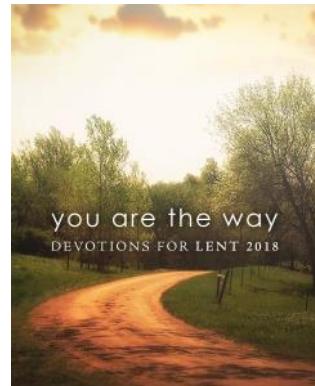
N-Z: Bring a pasta or meat dish

Pop, coffee & lemonade provided.

Palm burning service to end the night.

Lenten Devotionals

In the Gospel of John, Jesus describes himself with a series of “I am” statements: “I am the light of the world,” “I am the good shepherd,” “I AM,” and so on. This beautiful, full-color devotional explores one or more “I am” sayings of Jesus during each week in Lent. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, reflection, and prayer. Explore these “I Am” Statements of Jesus this Lent as we journey our way to the new covenant in Christ, written on our hearts in love. **Pick up your free copy today!**



Your Benevolence Supporting our Community and Beyond

The St. Mark Foundation awards grants to a variety of non-profit organizations. We emphasize funding local needs and those organizations with whom St. Mark participates in ministry. Organizations are asked to submit an application to be considered.

For 2018, these organizations have been selected to receive Foundation grants:



- **Holy Family Ministries** – Academic, spiritual, and life experiences for children and adults in underserved Chicago neighborhoods, funds will support student tuition
- **Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry** – Funds will support local food distribution
- **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois** – Funds will support postage for the Storybook Project helping children stay connected to their incarcerated parents
- **Lutheran Volunteer Corps** – places volunteers full-time in social-justice organizations, funds will support Chicago participants
- **Mount Prospect Emergency Food Pantry**
- **Northwest CASA** – Assists victims of sexual assault, funds will support prevention education
- **Northwest Compass** - Provide emergency services, education and empowerment for those who are vulnerable or in crisis
- **WINGS** – Assist woman and children escaping domestic violence and abuse, funds will support daily needs for safe houses
- **Journeys/The Road Home** – Providing shelter, services & housing to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in suburban Cook County, funds will support PADS
- **Children's Advocacy Center** – Healing place for abused children, funds will support the "Safe from the Start" program
- **RefugeeOne** – Creating support and opportunities for refugees, funds will support the Refugee Assistance fund.
- **ELCA Missionary** – Rev. Carrie Ballenger Smith, serving in Jerusalem. Read her sermons at: KnitPurlPrayPreach.blogspot.co.il and follow her on Instagram @doulapastor for a peek at life in Jerusalem
- **ELCA World Hunger** - From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, funds make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty

Funding for these grants is provided through your benevolence giving (that third category on your envelope), as well as gifts to the Foundation. If you wish to make a donation to the St. Mark Foundation for these grants, or if you have any questions, please contact a member of the Foundation or the church office. Thank you for your support!



PRESCHOOL &
ENRICHMENT CENTER

...Learning Through Play

Join us for our annual

OPEN HOUSE!

Saturday, February 10, 2018

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 4th? Then please call or email us for a personal tour and visit with our Director!

Barb Zediker • 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. Mark Preschool's Annual Pasta Dinner Night



**Silent
Auction**

Friday, February 23, 2018

5.00 – 8.00 pm

Fellowship Hall



**Children Singing
Performance**

**Raffle
Prizes**

Prizes Include:

Bears Tickets, Wolves Tickets, Ride to School in a Fire Truck or Police Car, Class Gifts, Restaurant Gift Cards, Massage Gift Cards, 50/50 Raffle and much much more!

Advanced Meal Tickets

Adults: \$10 Seniors: \$8 Children (ages 3-12): \$5 Children under 2: Free

Raffle Tickets

\$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00

Adult & Senior meal tickets are \$2 more each at the door.

Dinner includes: Pasta, Salad, Bread, Dessert

Lemonade & Wine

Questions? Contact Maggie Parniak: maggieparniak@gmail.com or Kerry Weaver kewaco@gmail.com



2018 Pasta Dinner Ticket Form

Please fill out the form and return to St. Mark Preschool with payment.

Checks payable to *St. Mark Preschool and Enrichment Center*

Return by February 9th

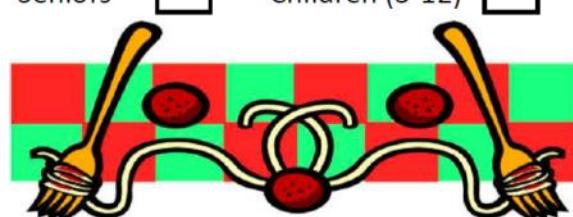
Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Number of Dinner Tickets: Adults Seniors Children (3-12)

Number of Raffle Tickets:

Total Amount Included: _____





2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir | 1 4:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Basketball | 2 6:45 am Basketball 6:30 pm Nibblers |
| 4 8 am Worship 10 am Worship | 5 6:30 pm PADS | 6 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Book Study | 7 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4 pm Basketball 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm FaithWalk | 8 3:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir | 9 4:30 pm Basketball 5 pm Youth Retreat | 10 7 am Basketball 7:15 am Youth Ski Trip 10 am Basketball 12 pm Basketball 7:30 pm Craft Beer Tasting |
| 11 8 am Worship 10 am Worship | 12 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm PADS 7 pm Mary Circle | 13 12:30 pm Deborah Circle 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball 5:45 pm Mardi Gras Potluck Dinner 7 pm Worship & Music | 14 ASH WEDNESDAY 9 am Volleyball 11 am Worship No Bible Study No WOW 6 pm Family Worship 6 pm Basketball No FaithWalk 7 pm Worship | 15 1 pm Senior Lunch Bunch 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir | 16 4:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Craft Connection | 17 6:45 am Basketball 8 am COC 3 pm Basketball |
| 18 8 am Worship 10 am Worship | 19 6:30 pm PADS | 20 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council | 21 9 am Quilting 9 am Volleyball 11 am Lenten Worship 11:30 am Soup Lunch 12 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Basketball 6 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm FaithWalk 7 pm Lenten Worship | 22 3:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir | 23 4:30 pm Basketball 5 pm Preschool Pasta Dinner | 24 |
| 25 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 11:15 am Annual Meeting | 26 12:30 pm Bridge Club 6:30 pm PADS | 27 9 am Quilting 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball | 28 9 am Volleyball 11 am Lenten Worship 11:30 am Soup Lunch 12 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Basketball 6 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm FaithWalk 7 pm Lenten Worship | | | |

