



St. Mark Lutheran Church

# CrossBeams

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

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December, 2017

## Thanksgiving Celebration





Wonder.

Recently I watched a video of a little girl meeting her baby sister. Baby sister is all wrapped up, and big sister takes a peek in at her face. "Whoa!" she exclaims. Then she begins to unwrap the swaddle and the tiny hands appear. "Tiny fingers!" she says. "Whoa!" And then, upon further contemplation, another "Whoa!" and a "Mommy! Look!"

It is a scene of wonder. Wonder at a baby.

He holds his little hand out in front of him, turning it this way and that, wiggling his fingers. The look on his face is one of awe. What is this thing? How is it moving? Am I doing that? I find Thomas engaged in wondering at his hand a few times a week, and as I watch his wonder, I am filled with wonder myself. How is this hand here, attached to this wonderful little boy?

It is a double scene of wonder. Wonder at a baby.

Wonder is defined as "a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable."

During this Advent season, you are invited to **wonder** with us--wonder at a baby, born in a manger. Feel the surprise as we prepare again for Christ's surprising birth, the beautiful, unexpected gift of Emmanuel, God with us. Marvel at the amazingness that God would choose this path, this form, this way of bringing light into the darkness. It is the most **wonderful** time of the year, so stop, listen, see, and wonder with us.

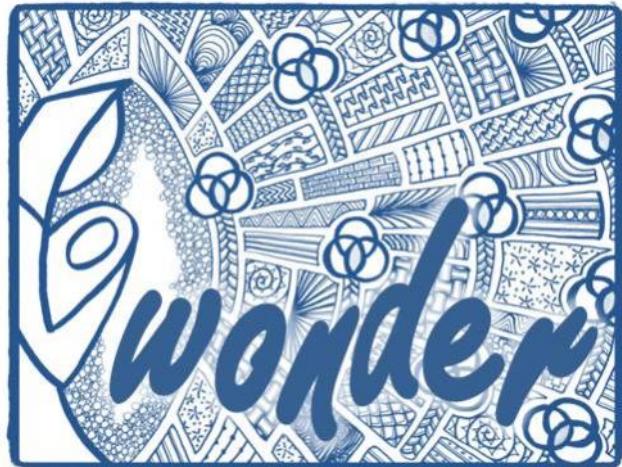
Pick up an advent devotional that will help you with the practice of stopping in this busy season, listening to God, reflecting on scripture, and practicing poetry as a means for helping us wonder and appreciate life.

Attend our Wonderful Advent Activities. We begin with making advent wreaths on December 3, baking cookies and caroling on December 10, and making gingerbread houses on December 17.

In worship, we will wonder together as we wait for the advent of our king, for Christ to come again, as we wonder at John the Baptist's humble preparing the way, and Mary's trusting yes to welcome God within her. We will wonder and marvel together at the dramatic and musical gifts of our choirs and WOW and Faithwalk youth in our combined Christmas Program/Cantata on December 17. And we will make our way to that wondrous and joyous day of Christ's birth together.

God invites us to stop, listen, and experience the wonder of this most wonderful time of year.

In wonder,  
Pastor Christie





*Thank you for all the ways you make the world a brighter place...  
Thanks for the flowers that were on the Altar on Sunday  
(Nov. 12) in memory of my husband. The flowers are so very  
beautiful.*

Love in Christ,  
Shirley Lee

Thank you for the flowers I received for my birthday.

Donald Tremper

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, December 24**

Sunday worship: 10 am

Christmas Eve Worship:

4 pm Family Service

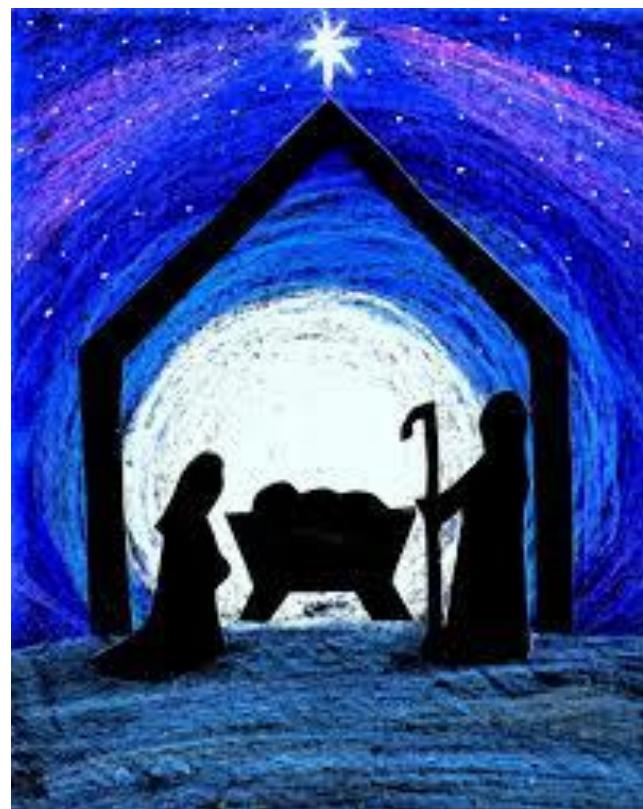
& 10 pm Candlelight Service

### **Monday, December 25**

Worship at 10 am

### **Sunday, December 31**

Worship at 10 am





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

By: Jill Galyon

## The Ultimate Lock-In At Enchanted Castle November 10-11

On Friday, Nov. 10, sixteen youth and three adults participated in the Metro Chicago Synod's youth activity for middle school and high school youth—the Ultimate Lock-In! We arrived at Enchanted Castle in Lombard at 9 pm. Enjoyed some ice breaker games, heard a speaker/singer and ate some pizza all before being let loose on all the FUN that is Enchanted Castle. We left to go home at 5 am. A fun time was had by all!!!! Special THANKS to Eric Jakubowski & Peter Stone!!



## Tastefully Simple Fundraiser

Thank you to all who continue to support the Youth through this fundraiser. We plan to continue this fundraising effort into 2018 to help with expenses for the upcoming Youth Gathering in Houston, as well as other Youth trips in the future. **Our next tasting will be Sunday, December 10** but you can continue to check out products online and place your orders there. Simply go to: [tastefulllysimple.com/web/mciske](http://tastefulllysimple.com/web/mciske), shop, then choose St Mark (St M) as the host at check out. SIMPLE!! Future tastings in the New Year.



## Refugee Resettlement

By Deacon Dave



Friends, the Refugee Family we are resettling is on their way!

We greeted them at O'Hare on November 30<sup>th</sup>. They

come to Chicago via Ethiopia and Eritrea. They boarded an air plane sometime after November 29<sup>th</sup> not knowing where they would land until the pilot on the plane welcomed them to Chicago. Each member of the family is allowed to bring two 50lbs bags. Our family brought less than that with them. Check out the bulletin board in the hallway for more pictures and updates on how the family is doing.

As you prepare to celebrate Christmas this year I hope you will consider welcoming a refugee family as part of your Christmas celebration. Mary and Joseph traveled a great distance and with Jesus' birth they embarked on a greater pilgrimage and exile. Political enemies of the king, the Holy Family, that serene and peaceful looking trio, spent twelve years living in exile as refugees. This Christmas we get the chance to walk with a family as they journey further in their refugee pilgrimage. We get the chance to share God's abundant hospitality and the chance to experience God's endless grace as we wait to see how it is that this holy family bears God in our midst.

If you would like to visit with the family in the midst of their resettlement let me know so that we can begin the training and background check process. There will be future opportunities to go on outings with the family if you would like to do something out and about! Please continue to hold the family in your prayers as we journey together!



### Refugee Ministry/St. Lazarus Bakery

The oven is on and bread will be available for purchase 9-11 am on Sundays, December 3rd—December 17th. You can purchase full size loaves for \$5 or baguettes for \$2.50. Proceeds will help fund the current Refugee families' resettlement. Monetary donations also are welcome.

## Advent

With the many things happening during the season of Advent we are inviting you to take time to stop and wonder a little bit as we prepare for God's great entrance into human life on Christmas. On top of the Advent Wonder Activities on Sunday night, the Advent devotional, the Christmas Program & Cantata, the Preschool PJ pageant, and the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, we will have an interactive station set up right outside the transept that will help you get ready for Christmas. There will be lots of sensory activities to help you learn about the Christmas story. The interactive display will be curated by WOWand FaithWalk students.



## Thoughts from the Loft



What carols will be running through your head this Christmas? Will they be sacred or secular? We all can admit that the music of Advent and Christmas speaks to each one of us in a special way. I hope you will find at least a few tunes that give you strength as we live out this most wonderful time of the year. May we do it with a joyful song!

Peace,  
Tim



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

### Annual Christmas Lunch

**Thurs., Dec. 21  
1:00 pm**

**Trezeros Kitchen & Tap  
(302 W. Northwest Hwy, Mt Prospect)  
With Christmas Music by Tim**



Lunch includes salad, entrée, beverage & dessert

Cash bar available

Choose one entrée:

Angus Burger with fries

Cod Sandwich with fries

Chicken Parmesan with spaghetti

Chicken Caprese Sandwich with soup

**Cost = \$20 per person**

**Bring a wrapped White Elephant gift**

**RSVP with main course choice and payment to Marilyn at 847-508-5512  
before Monday, December 18.**

# Women of the ELCA

**Saturday, December 2** **9:00 am**

Trim the Church  
Sanctuary, Narthex, Great Room

**Saturday, December 9** **9:00 am**

Holiday Outing to Woodstock

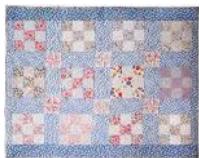
**Wednesday, December 20** **9:00 am**

LWR Quilting  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor education wing



## Quilting

The quilters will meet just once this month. Take a break from your holiday preparations and give them a hand on **Wednesday, December 20**. They meet at 9 am on the second floor of the education wing.



## Trim the Church



Many hands make light work! Consider coming to help decorate our church for the Advent/Christmas season on Saturday morning at 9:00 am on December 2.



## Holiday Trip to Woodstock

**Saturday, December 9**  
**All are Welcome**

Depart from Mt. Prospect Metra Train Station at 9:11 am

Enjoy Holiday Shopping or a Carriage Ride in the Square

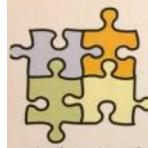
Gather for Lunch together at Public House at 12 noon

Optional—Nutcracker Ballet at the Opera House at 2 pm

(see Kim Perlich or Kathie Hetland regarding tickets)

Return to Mt. Prospect via Metra Train on your own.

Contact Kim Perlich or Kathie Hetland for more information.



## 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)

**Friday, December 15**  
**7 pm in the Great Room**

Bring your favorite appetizer or plate of Christmas Cookies to share along with a personal craft to work on for the night.

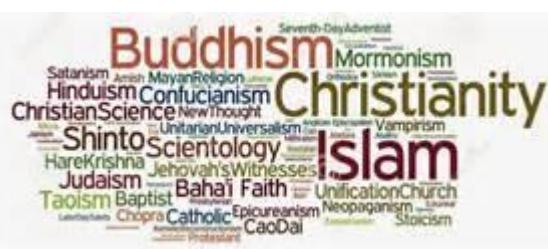
## Stewardship

The movement from Thanksgiving into Advent and then finally to Christmas creates what for most of us is the busiest time of the year. It's somewhat strange I think, that the most meaningful spiritual focus of these three seasons is Thanksgiving, which really has no religious history. But it taps into the heart of Christian discipleship, a spirit of gratitude. Thankfulness gladdens the heart, and enriches the soul. Not only when we feel blessed with ample food and the necessities of daily life, but also when we realize that we have received from God our very life, as well as the joy and nurture of relationships we celebrate with parents, siblings, relatives and friends.

On November 19, we concluded our annual focus on giving with an opportunity for making a commitment or pledge for financial support of St. Mark ministries. Following the 10:00 a.m. service, we enjoyed a light lunch and heard personal stories regarding living generously from Judy Fell, Paul Post, Chuck and Marie LaPaglia. After much laughter and applause, we realized once again what a blessing it is to be part of this gathering of God's people.

Remember to use the blue pew cards to indicate that you use electronic giving, and also to share your experiences during the week where you were blessed to give of yourself (volunteer work, giving of time and presence, helping someone in need) or when you received a blessing from another's generosity. May your Advent preparation and celebration of the birth of the Messiah bring joy and peace to you and yours.

*Pr. Carl Anderson for the Stewardship Team*



## Worship Field Trips

Join us for our first Worship Field Trip as we visit Congregation Judea in Long Grove for a Shabbat and Chanukah service **Friday December 15<sup>th</sup>** 7:30-8PM. We will leave the St. Mark parking lot at 6:45.

Our second worship field trip will be Sunday, January 28th. We will visit the Bahai Temple in Wilmette. We will leave right after worship and have time to look around the grounds and temple before a 12:30 worship service and information session at 1PM. Bring a lunch to eat on the way.

Let Deacon Dave know if you would like to attend either event and if you would like to drive or ride along.

**Want to be notified about special announcements from St. Mark but don't have an email address?** Contact the church office or Kathie Hetland at 708-609-7298 to be added to the call tree. Please contact her even if you were on the previous call tree so we can make sure we have everyone.





## So, What Will the Ecumenical Committee be up to Next?

**December 18, 2017** -- Provide dessert for PADS

**March, 2018** -- Attend a Fish Fry and Stations of the Cross devotion at St. Raymond (date TBD)

**July 4, 2018** -- Shopping Cart Brigade to march in Mt. Prospect July 4 parade

**Late summer, 2018** -- Barbeque

### ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Now through Sunday, December 17



**Sunday December 17 at 10 am One service only**

### Calling all Young Adults!!!

### Come to the 2nd Annual Ugly Sweater Brunch!

Saturday, December 23rd at 11am

in the Great Room

RSVP to

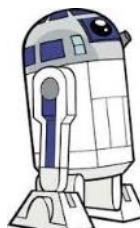
Deacon David Webb  
[dwebb@stmarkmp.org](mailto:dwebb@stmarkmp.org)



### Star Wars and the Bible: Faith Conversation Groups are Forming

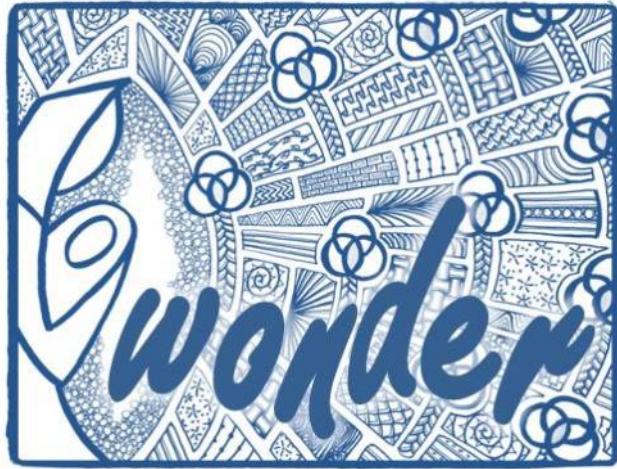
People interested in talking about the Star Wars series and the ways it echoes the Bible will form a group to watch movies, eat themed snacks, or read from the Star Wars canon contact Deacon Dave to sign up. We

are forming intergenerational groups, 7-10 year old groups, 11-13 year old groups, 13-17 year old groups, and 18+ groups. There is an online group forming as well!



### Star Tree

The annual Star Tree for Holy Family Children, Concordia Place and PADS guests is up in the Narthex. Please make your selections. Concordia Place gifts due back Dec. 3, Holy Family by Dec. 10 & PADS by Dec. 17.



# wonderful Advent Activities

**Sundays, 4pm, The Center**  
*Fun for all ages!*

### **December 3: Advent Wreaths**

Make an Advent Wreath for home devotions and candle lighting. All supplies provided. \$15\*. RSVP to [dwebb@stmarkmp.org](mailto:dwebb@stmarkmp.org) by Nov. 30.

### **December 10: Cookie Bake and Caroling**

Bake and decorate cookies, join in the caroling and deliver to people in the community.

### **December 17: Gingerbread Houses**

Assemble and decorate a gingerbread house. \$15\* covers all supplies. Bring a base to transport your house home. RSVP to [dwebb@stmarkmp.org](mailto:dwebb@stmarkmp.org) by Dec. 13.

\*Scholarships available.



# 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 4:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Basketball	2 8 am Basketball 9 am Trim the Church 12 pm Basketball 4 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Nibblers
3 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 11:15 am Budget Meeting 4 pm Wonder-ful Nights of Advent Advent wreaths 6 pm Preschool PJ Pageant	4 6:30 pm PADS	5 11 am Private Event 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball 6:45 Private Event	6 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm FaithWalk	7 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	8 4:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Basketball	9 8 am Basketball 9 am Holiday Outing to Woodstock 12 pm Basketball 2 pm Basketball
10 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 8:30-11:30 am Tastefully Simple Tasting 4 pm Wonder-ful Nights of Advent Cookie Bake	11 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm PADS 7 pm Mary Circle	12 12:30 pm Deborah Circle 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Preschool Advisory Board Mtg & Xmas Party 7 pm Worship & Music	13 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm FaithWalk	14 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	15 4:30 pm Basketball 6:45 Worship Field Trip 7 pm Craft Connection 7 pm Basketball	16 8 am Basketball 12 pm Basketball 1 pm Basketball 5 pm Private Event
17 10 am Worship with Children's Christmas Program and Cantata 4 pm Wonder-ful Nights of Advent Gingerbread House	18 6:30 pm PADS	19 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council	20 9 am Volleyball 9 am Quilting 6 pm Basketball	21 1 pm Senior Lunch Bunch 3:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir	22	23 10 am Basketball 11 am Ugly Sweater Brunch 3 pm Private Event
24 CHRISTMAS EVE 10 am Advent Worship 4 pm Christmas Worship 10 pm Christmas Worship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED 10 am Worship 6:30 pm PADS	26 CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE OFFICE CLOSED	27 9 am Volleyball	28	29	30
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE						

