



St. Mark Lutheran Church

# CrossBeams

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

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## 30-hour Famine Retreat March 9-10, 2018





*For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. -I Corinthians 1:18*

April Fools! Happy Easter! On April 1 we will be saying both of these things. This year, in the year that church holy days connect with worldly celebration days (like Ash Wednesday and Valentines Day), we experience this delightful mashup. I like it. Easter is the day we celebrate God's great joke on death-- for death thought he won, we thought Jesus was dead on the cross, but on Easter morning we find that Jesus is miraculously, amazingly alive!

It's gotten me thinking about the foolishness of being a Christian. For truthfully we start in foolishness. The first chapter of I Corinthians outlines it for us. Proclaiming the cross is foolishness. Proclaiming one who died in the most horrific shameful way, and proclaiming it proudly is foolish. Proclaiming that the one who died in this way is now alive- well that is even more foolish. But as Paul writes: "For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." And so we begin in foolishness, and we don't stop there.

Many of our Christian practices seem foolish by the world's standards. We gather on a Sunday morning, a day when many people are sleeping in. And we gather to sing! In public! With others! We gather with people that are different than us, people who vote, live, think and spend their days and lives differently than we do. We share a meal together, the great many of us, a meal that we believe is the body and blood of Christ, that doesn't look like much, but feeds us and sustains us in a different way than a regular meal does. We give away our hard earned money. We welcome and take care of people that much of the world has forgotten or would rather forget. We love. We don't fear talking about death. We celebrate life in the midst of death and hear the promises of God for life eternal. We are fools for Christ!

This Easter season (which lasts 50 days because one day cannot contain all the joy of Easter!) we will live our foolishness joyfully as we celebrate LIFE-together. Each Sunday we will sing joyfully, together. We will hear of Christ's appearances to the disciples after his death and resurrection. We will learn of the early church's ways. We will hear from I John about LOVE and how powerful and amazing it is.

We will also do the important and challenging work of thinking about how we as a community of St. Mark, different though we may be, come together around a shared set of values. On Sunday, April 22, you are invited to join us after 10am worship for lunch and an exercise in discerning our values. All are welcome. All are necessary as we share the stories of St. Mark's impact on our lives and discern from those stories our key values. (see page 3)

Also in this season, when we are joyfully aware that death has lost its power, we will address death without fear. See page 3 for more information on our Death Has Lost Its Sting Forum Series. Also, be on the lookout in the coming months for information about the Columbarium and Memorial Garden.

Together we are fools for Christ, celebrating LIFE-together!

Peace,  
Pastor Christie



## Core Values Conversation Sunday, April 22

11:15 am  
Fellowship Hall

What is at the heart of our congregation?

Join us as we discern together the core values of St. Mark. We will gather for lunch and conversation, sharing our stories of life at St. Mark and the values they exhibit.

Want to bring something? We welcome desserts to share!

Questions? Contact Pastor Christie

## Death Has Lost Its Sting

A series of forums on the End of Life for the Season of Easter—when we can look death in the face and know it isn't the end.

**Sundays, 9am-9:45am**  
**Great Room**

### **Advanced Directives: Sunday, April 8**

Sharon Blazek, St. Mark member, will help us explore how to make our wishes for end of life care known to our families and caretakers.

### **End of Life Giving: Sunday, April 15**

Timothy P. Urness, Regional Gift Planner of the ELCA Foundation, will guide us in how we can give to the ministry of St. Mark even after our death through our wills or through our estates.

### **Pre-planning Your Funeral/ Memorial Service: Sunday, May 6**

Pastor Christie will give an overview of the options for services. Then you can select Bible Readings and songs, etc. Your choices will then be on file here at St. Mark to help your family when the time comes.



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

On March 9 & 10, three High school youth along with Deacon Dave and Mrs. G. (Jill Galyon) participated in the 30-hour Famine Retreat. After eating lunch on Friday, we began a juice fast, drinking juice for meals & snacks and water for the next 30 hours. To keep our minds off of food, we stayed busy learning about hunger. (Pictures of this event are on the cover of this CrossBeams). First we went to the grocery store and tried to buy 15 meals (enough for 5 days) with \$7.50. Then we returned to church and packed trail mix for our PADS guests. We did some research about hunger and put the information up on a Bulletin Board. To finish the evening activities, we had a candle lighting/extinguishing ceremony representing the number of children that would die in 2 minutes from hunger related issues. On Saturday, we walked a mile before drinking our breakfast juice, representing how many have to walk miles to get water. We packed bags of food for our Backpack ministry and then went to Feed My Starving Children to pack meals. Any time over the weekend when we were sitting talking or watching movies, we were making paper chains which we hung in the sanctuary for Sunday morning worship and kept them up for Wednesday Lenten worship that week. We made 3600 links which represents the number of people who die of malnutrition in an hour—the time we are at Sunday morning worship! On Saturday evening, we broke our fast with rice, beans and fruit as we discussed our experience of the weekend.



## Tastefully Simple Fundraiser

Thank you to all who have been supporting our youth through this fundraiser.



The next tasting is **Sunday, April 22**, which will continue to showcase the new spring line of products. All purchases get you entered in a raffle for more Tastefully Simple products!! Our winner from last month was Abby & Mary Sorum! So ... Come by and sample some tasty goodies. Also, check out the products online and place your orders there. Simply go to: [tastefullysimple.com/web\\_mciske](http://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. In 2017, we raised \$1140.90, exceeding our goal of \$1000! We have set a loftier goal for 2018—\$1500! Can you help us reach it?



## Crosswalk

By Deacon Dave

“Crosswalk” seems more like a Lenten newsletter article title, not like an Easter newsletter article title! Maybe it was the early article deadline or the particularly sunny day while I was writing my article that led to the topic. Anyway, here we are, in Easter and talking about crosses.

This spring we have been considering the crosses that adorn our worship space and campus. I wanted to organize a prayer station activity in which people went on a mini-pilgrimage around the church and enjoyed the many crosses that are a part of our worship. FaithWalk students helped me find many of the crosses. They have such fresh eyes. They see many things I look past or they spend more time during the sermons looking around. Judy Fell, Cynthia Pershing, and Carole Bloomquist helped me find more information about of the crosses. And over the last few weeks I have been thinking about these beautiful crosses.

On many days the crosses are less visible than on other days, but as we began to look at them the sheer number of crosses began to be apparent. As we considered all these crosses we also began to realize many of them had stories, theological ideas about God, and unexpected graces embedded in them. Maybe those things make this idea of crosses in Easter more reasonable. Maybe it is the element of surprise and new life that is such a big part of Easter and spring that ties crosses and Easter together. I’m not sure, but like Easter every year I find myself walking into a new world, slightly awkwardly and unsure, but full of optimism and eager to see the signs of new life. Even in the most unlikely places, like the Cross.

For me, the most interesting pairing happened in the midst of the crosses and Lent during a children sermon. I was trying to weave together the idea of the crosses in the worship space with the paper chains that the older students had made for the 30 Hour Famine (each of the links of our black and gray paper chains, 3,600 in total, represented each of the people who would die that hour from hunger). Really without planning to say it, I said: “There are a lot of crosses in this space. I wonder if there are more than the paper chains? I guess I hope that there are.” I guess that’s also why I’m writing about crosses in Easter. My Easter hope this year is that there are more crosses (places of God’s unexpected love and resurrection) in our world than the chains of death and loss.

I wonder what you have found interesting or surprising about the crosses in our space? I wonder if you have a favorite cross? I wonder if you have any crosses you might want to share or display at St. Mark? I wonder if there are crosses you have seen that I haven’t? I wonder.



## Thoughts from the Loft

Easter is a time that conjures up many good musical memories for me. Playing the Hallelujah Chorus and other favorites I find especially meaningful. What about the time after Easter Sunday? Could that time possibly be just as meaningful as Easter Sunday itself? I find music for the entire season of Easter uplifting, as it points us to the empty tomb. Even when the music is in a minor (sad) key rather than a major (happy) key, we sing our praises with gladness. Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Peace,  
Tim



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

**Thursday, April 19**

**1:00 pm**

**Elly's Pancake House**

(372 E Golf Rd., Arlington Heights)

**RSVP to Marilyn Gosell by Monday, April 16  
at 847-508-5512**



**Friday, April 20  
7pm in the Great Room**

## **Continuing the Smorgasbord of Crafts**

1. Come & make a fleece blanket for Project Linus or Ronald McDonald House. Fleece will be provided. Free Will offering collected to cover the cost of material. The blankets will be donated to these charities.
2. Come & fold origami doves for the Make A Wish Foundation. 1000 doves indicate a wish has been granted. These will be used at a Benefit in June.
3. Come & cut fabric squares that will be used by the St. Mark quilters for the LWR quilts. OR
4. Bring your own personal craft to work on!

**Come and join the FUN & FELLOWSHIP!**

(Recommended for 6th grade through adult)



**Friday, April 13** **7:00 pm**  
Ladies Night Out at the Movies  
Great Room

**Wed. & Tues. April 18 & 24** **9:00 am**  
Quilting  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Education wing

**Sunday, May 6** **11:15 am**  
Rachel's Day



### Quilters

Join the quilters and help make those beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They will gather **Wednesday, April 18 and Tuesday, April 24 at 9am** on the second floor of the education wing.



# COMING SOON

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!



**Rachel's Day**  
**BBQ & Bake Sale**  
**Sunday, May 6**



## Ladies Night Out...At the Movies

All women are invited to join us for fellowship, fun and laughter while we relax enjoying the 2 movie selections. Sit back, eat some popcorn, and laugh or cry with friends. A wonderful evening.

**7:00 pm 1st Showing: *The Greatest Showman* (2017)**  
Featuring: Hugh Jackman & Michelle Williams

**9:00 pm 2nd Showing: *The Greatest Show on Earth* (1952)**  
Featuring: Charlton Heston & Betty Hutton

**Friday, April 13 in the Great Room**  
Doors Open at 6:30 pm





## 2018-19 Church Council

Sharon Blazek—President

Barb Bloomquist—VP

Gina Dahlgren—Secretary

Jeanne Kueter—Treasurer

Janet Adams

Paul Brask

Emily Fleming

Kathie Hetland

Michael LoRusso

Jill Permanian

Paul Post

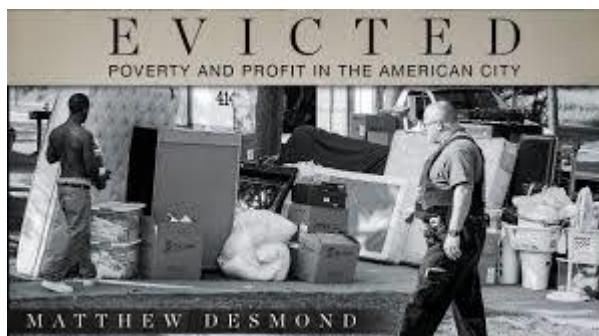
Jan Scott

Let us remember our leaders  
in our prayers.

## Book Study

Carl Anderson and David Webb will lead a discussion class of the book by Harvard sociologist Matthew Desmond, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. This book is a nonfiction work that reads like a novel. It offers a close up nonjudgmental look at the lives of tenants and landlords in the struggle to find housing and some sense of "home" in the poverty stricken area of Milwaukee during 2008 - 2009. For those of us involved in the PADS program, this is a must read as it brings us close to the real characters' daily lives.

We will hold a two-week class during late April/early May on either Monday or Tuesday evenings. It will be most helpful to get the book early and read it before the class. Desmond does not suggest easy answers to the grinding cycle of poverty, unstable family structure, and poor education but helps us experience it up-close. This is an "adult" book with an unvarnished look at real people, but is an excellent read for HS students as well. Amazon sells it for about \$12. More details later.



## Thomas Turns 1!

← From this to this →  
and everything in between,  
you've watched him grow with us!  
Join us for **cake** after each worship  
on Sunday, April 29th to celebrate  
Thomas's First Year!  
No gifts please—simply the gift of  
your presence in our lives!





What a surprise to see the beautiful array of flowers! Thank you! The message of God's love is especially meaningful to me, and it more than "made my day"!

Peace and Love,  
Patricia Garbarino

## St. Mark Foundation Educational Gift Applications

Are you a graduating high school senior? Are you pursuing further education such as college? If you have not previously received a scholarship or gift from the Foundation, we invite you to apply for a St. Mark Foundation Educational Gift. We will award a one-time gift to each student who has graduated high school and is pursuing further education. Applications are available from the St. Mark website, [www.stmarkmp.org](http://www.stmarkmp.org). Applications are due Friday, April 27, at 12:00 Noon, so get your application now! Completed applications can be emailed to [stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org](mailto:stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org).



## Women's Golf League

The Women's Golf League will begin play May 3 at Arlington Lakes Golf Course.

We are a friendly non-competitive group who enjoy golf and each other.

The League plays Thursday mornings May through August.

Interested? There is a spot for you!!

Contact:

Janet Adams (847-830-5678)  
Nancy Snell (847-431-9116)

or  
the Church Office  
(847-253-0631)



## Men's Golf League

### Organizational Meeting:

Wednesday, April 25  
7 pm at the St. Mark Center

### First night of Golf:

Wednesday, May 2  
At the Buffalo Grove Golf Course  
Every Wednesday at 4:30 pm

Sign-up in the Narthex or contact:  
Les Ashton at 847-977-1062;  
Jack Adams at 847-804-2403; or  
Mark Sorum at 847-833-4915



## EASTER HOLIDAY HOURS

**The Church Office will be closed on Good Friday, March 30 and Easter Monday, April 2**



## Come to Capannari's on Monday, April 23rd—3-9pm

Enjoy some treats, help raise extra money for the Preschool and give them a chance to be... Capannari's Coolest School!!!

Capannari's Ice Cream, 10 S. Pine St., Mt. Prospect, IL



## Welcome New Members!!

On February 11, we welcomed new members into our midst.

Rob, Jill, Ella and Lucy Bahmann discovered St. Mark through the girls playing basketball at the Center. They tried out our worship and liked that we have a blend of traditional and modern components. The family enjoys time together at sporting events or Indian Princesses through the YMCA. Ella has joined Faithwalk and Lucy will begin next year.

Sharon Stobe joins us from a lifetime of being a Lutheran. She came to St. Mark last fall to try out a different Lutheran church and stayed because she likes our traditional worship. Sharon found she knew many people here from her activities in gardening and writing groups. Sharon has pursued a variety of hobbies over the years and currently enjoys flower arranging.

Justin, Kerri, Ashley and Kaylee Thorsen connected with St. Mark through the preschool. In 2016 we baptized Kaylee and Kerri and this year the family decided to make their membership official. Ashley enjoys WOW and the family participates in our events. They write: "We like to be as active as possible. Ashley likes to play with her babies and sister, Kaylee likes to do whatever her sister does. Kerri likes volleyball and to workout. Justin likes to workout and chase the kids around with Kerri."



Bahmanns—Rob, Jill, Ella & Lucy



Thorsens—Justin, Kerri, Ashley & Kaylee



# 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 8:30 am Easter Breakfast	<b>2</b> OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm PADS	<b>3</b> 11 am Private Event 6 pm Basketball 8:15 pm Basketball	<b>4</b> 9 am Volleyball NO Bible Study NO WOW 5 pm Basketball NO FaithWalk	<b>5</b> 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 8 pm Basketball	<b>6</b> 9 am Basketball 6:30 pm Nibblers	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Advanced Directives <b>10 am Worship</b>	<b>9</b> 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm PADS 7 pm Mary Circle	<b>10</b> 12 pm NW Conference 12:30 pm Deborah Circle 4 pm Communion Workshop 5 pm Private Event 6 pm Basketball 7 pm Worship & Music 8:15 pm Basketball	<b>11</b> 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 5:40 pm WOW Worship 6 pm Community Meal 6:30 pm FaithWalk 7:30 pm Basketball	<b>12</b> 4:30 pm FaithWalk 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 8 pm Basketball	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Ladies Night Out...At the Movies	<b>14</b> 8 am COC 9 am Basketball
<b>15</b> 8 am Worship 9 am End of Life Giving <b>10 am Worship</b>	<b>16</b> 6:30 pm PADS	<b>17</b> 6 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council 8:15 pm Basketball	<b>18</b> 9 am Quilting 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 6:30 pm FaithWalk	<b>19</b> 1 pm Senior Lunch Bunch 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir 8 pm Basketball	<b>20</b> 7 pm Craft Connection	<b>21</b> 9 am Basketball
<b>22</b> 8 am Worship <b>10 am Worship</b> 8:30 am Tastefully Simple Tasting 11:15 am Core Values Conversation & Lunch	<b>23</b> 12:30 pm Bridge Club 3 pm Preschool Capannari's Night 6:30 pm PADS	<b>24</b> 9 am Quilting 6 pm Basketball 8:15 pm Basketball	<b>25</b> 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Basketball 6:30 pm FaithWalk 7 pm Men's Golf Organizational Meeting	<b>26</b> 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir 8 pm Basketball	<b>27</b> 12 pm Educational Gifts Applications Due 7 pm Basketball	<b>28</b> Private Event—All Day
<b>29</b> 8 am Worship <b>10 am Worship</b> Thomas's Birthday Cake following both services	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm PADS					

