

It is odd to be so filled with waiting and expectation in the season of Lent. Advent is the season of waiting, not Lent. And yet, I find myself living Lent with such anticipation for new life this year as we prepare for the birth of Baby Boy Webb in early May. It does seem apropos with our Lenten theme of Living the Questions, though, that my anticipation of baby's birth comes with many questions: how bad will the diapers really be? Will he ever sleep? Will I ever sleep? Will I know what to do? It also comes with many questions for you all as well: How will we get to celebrate this birth? How will ministry be covered? How will our needs be cared for during parental leave? While I will have to live my way into the answers I have about being a mom, I can answer some of your questions.

How will we get to celebrate the birth of Baby Webb?

David and I are so delighted that we will get to raise this baby within this community of St. Mark. They say it takes a village... we are glad to have one! We will share the joy of the first months with you via pictures that will be posted on St. Mark's Facebook page, sent out in the weekly Eblast as well as put on the bulletin board by the Great Room, on the slides before Sunday worship and in the June Crossbeams. We will also delight the day Baby Webb gets to meet you all. This will likely happen after Pastor Christie's 8 week maternity leave. We know that is a long time for you all to wait! However, it feels right to us for health reasons (vaccines) as well as life reasons as we take time to bond with our baby, learn each other's routines, and live a life where sleep (and keeping a tidy house) is a luxury. We've had 2 years of living into being your pastor and deacon, and want to give ourselves time to live into being parents before we try to meld our roles of deacon and pastor with that parenting. We thus ask for privacy in the home as we figure out how to do this whole parenting thing. Please refrain from calling or dropping by the house during our time of leave.

How will parental leave work?

Pastor Christie will be taking 8 weeks of maternity leave. Deacon David will take 2 weeks of paternity leave, and then balance home time with covering the things that need to happen over the summer in his ministry here. During their leave time Christie and David will not be working – this includes checking emails or responding to phone calls about church matters. Please direct any questions or concerns to the church office or Carol Floros, the Council President.

Who will cover ministry during this time?

The ministry of St. Mark is the work of the people. We will all be giving of our time and our talent to keep ministry running smoothly during this time. The plans for my specific areas of ministry are as follows. Rev. Carl Anderson and Rev. Vivian Becker will cover presiding responsibilities for Sunday worship. Pastor Carl and Pastor Vivian will also preach some weeks, as will Deacon David as well as guest preachers from ministries we support. Pastoral care concerns will be covered by lay ministers for homebound visits and initial hospital contact as well. Pastor Carl Anderson will be the pastor on call for emergency situations and pastoral care follow up as necessary. Administrative questions can be directed to the office to be distributed to Executive Committee, Council, office staff and Deacon David.



2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9 am Basketball Len Bazan Funeral 10 am Visitation 11 am Funeral Service Lunch to follow 6:15 pm Nibblers
2 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 11:15 am Baby Shower for the Webbs	3 6:30 pm PADS	4 ELECTION DAY 11 am Private Event 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm Basketball	5 9 am Volleyball 11 am Lenten Worship 11:30 am Lenten Lunch 12 pm Bible Study 4 pm Basketball 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Soup Supper 6 pm Youth Choir 6:30 pm FaithWalk 6:45 pm Lenten Worship 8 pm Basketball 9 pm Basketball	6 4:30 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	7 11 am Preschool Gym 1 pm Preschool Gym 4:30 pm Basketball	8 8 am Living Wisdom Program 10 am 1st Communion Workshop
9 PALM SUNDAY 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	10 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm PADS 7 pm Mary Circle	11 12:30 pm Deborah Circle 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm Basketball	12 9 am Volleyball 4 pm Basketball 5 pm Basketball 8 pm Basketball 9 pm Basketball	13 Maundy Thursday 4:30 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Worship	14 OFFICE CLOSED Good Friday 11 am Preschool Gym 1 pm Preschool Gym 4:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Worship	15 Easter Vigil 6 pm Egg Hunt 7 pm Worship Donut Party following worship
16 EASTER 8 am Worship 8:30-9:45 am Easter Breakfast 10 am Worship	17 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm PADS	18 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council	19 9 am Volleyball 9 am Quilting 4 pm Basketball 5 pm Basketball 8 pm Basketball 9 pm Basketball	20 1 pm Senior Lunch Bunch 5:30 pm Basketball	21 11 am Preschool Gym 1 pm Preschool Gym 7 pm Ladies Night Out...at the Movies	22
23 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	24 12:30 pm Bridge Club 6:30 pm PADS	25 9 am Quilting 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm Basketball	26 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4 pm Basketball 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Youth Choir 6:30 pm FaithWalk 8 pm Basketball 9 pm Basketball	27 4:30 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	28 11 am Preschool Gym 1 pm Preschool Gym 4:30 pm Basketball	29
30 8 am Worship 10 am Worship						



TOGETHER WE ARE THE ST. MARK FOUNDATION

St. Mark's benevolence program flows through the Foundation, giving grants each year to various ministries and organizations. In Matthew 25 we see the clear picture Jesus paints of how we are to live as people of God. We are to feed the hungry, provide drink to those who thirst, be a welcoming community, clothe the naked, tend to those who need care. We do these things as we follow the teachings of Jesus.

How many opportunities to give do you receive in the mail each week? Sometimes it is overwhelming. Some come from our favorite charities which we give to regularly, so we might be glad to see them. Many, however, are nuisances. How do we get on so many mailing lists when we have never given to those causes? Charities often sell their mailing lists to others, so a gift to one charity of our choice might lead to receiving numerous solicitations. St. Mark does not sell or share its mailing list, so we can be assured that giving to and through St. Mark is protected. We can also be assured that St. Mark Church, the Foundation Board, and the ELCA are very careful to use the gifts received wisely for their ministries, and they work hard to research ministries and organizations they support. The application form for grants from the St. Mark Foundation includes requiring tax status, purpose, financial statements, effectiveness, and an explanation of how grant monies would be used. The Foundation Board takes into consideration duplicity of the population served, includes ELCA related organizations such as World Hunger and missionaries, gives consideration to local services as well as other factors before deciding which ministries and organizations to support and the amount to offer. Substantial grants are given to those ministries and services with which we have hands-on partnerships, such as Journeys/PADS and Holy Family Ministry's School.

The Foundation Board has set a 2017 goal of increasing St. Mark's benevolent giving so that we can do more. The Foundation receives funds from the congregation's designated gifts to "Benevolence". There are three boxes on your offering envelopes to indicate how you want your offerings to be used. All are important; Current (operating expenses), Benevolence (caring for others), Capital (property maintenance). You will find "Benevolence" in the middle box. If you make your offering electronically, be sure to indicate your designation to the St. Mark office.

We receive offering envelopes indicating "Remembrance-Memorial" included each month in the offering envelope packet. You can add to benevolence giving by designating gifts in memory or in honor of special people in your life.

A third opportunity is to name the St. Mark Foundation in your will. How gratifying to know we can help others even beyond our earthly lives.

When we combine our gifts and collectively give substantial amounts to help others, we can accomplish so much more than we can with small gifts to many causes. Together, we are the St. Mark Foundation. Together, we are doing God's work.

Nancy Snell, Secretary, for the St. Mark Foundation Board

Jenny Grahn, Carol Floros (Council Representative), Ron Freeman, Elizabeth Furreboe, Carolyn Krause, Rich Schultz, Pr. Christie Webb

How can we show love for new baby Webb until we get to meet him?

As you wait to meet Baby Webb, we would first of all love your prayers for a healthy birth and first months of life as well as patience and perseverance for David and me as we learn how to be parents. The next best gift of love for Baby Boy Webb is the gift of time with his parents. We appreciate you giving us that time. You are welcome to drop cards or notes at the Church Office and we will pick them up in a timely manner. We also know that we are a community that likes to feed people (Nourishing God's People: Body, Mind, and Spirit is our mission statement after all) so we are arranging a schedule for providing meals. Please connect with Sharon Blazek if you are interested in being part of this way of supporting us. Meals will be dropped off at St. Mark and we will pick them up there. In the meantime, enjoy the pictures and stories we share and know that we have a long life together of watching this little one grow.

In closing, I want to say how wonderful it is to be part of this community at this time in our lives as we dive head first into the adventure of parenthood. St. Mark is a deeply caring community and we've known and felt your care in these months of pregnancy and will feel it surround us as we welcome baby into the world. Thank you for your love and care!

In Christ,
Pastor Christie



This is Baby Webb's latest picture. His forehead is on the left, his face is looking at you and he is sleeping on his side with hands under his chin.



“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. Use a chair provided, or bring your own comfortable chair. Sit back, eat some popcorn, and laugh or cry with your friends. A wonderful evening.

7:00 p.m. 1st SHOWING:

“Bringing Up Baby” 1938

Featuring: Katharine Hepburn & Cary Grant

9:00 pm 2nd SHOWING:

“Saving Mr. Banks” 2013

Featuring: Tom Hanks & Emma Thompson

**Come and share the evening. Bring a friend.
Soda, coffee and popcorn provided.**

On Friday April 21, 2017

**At St Mark Lutheran Church
200 S. Wille Street**

In the St Mark Great Room.

7:00 p.m. To 11:00 p.m.

**Contact: Kim Perlich at 847-253-4073
For more information.**



DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 p.m.



PRESCHOOL OPEN REGISTRATION

Openings in our 3's class. Early bird registration fee of \$70 has been extended if you register your child by April 15.

After that the fee will be \$95.

Call 847-873-1110 with questions or to tour the school.

SAVE THE DATE

Support the Preschool at their Capannari's day on May 10th from 3-9 pm
And at their Walk-a-thon on Friday, May 12th.



MEN'S ANNUAL CORNED BEEF DINNER has moved to the Fall!

Save the Date: Friday, October 13



*This year for the **Easter Vigil** we will gather outside for the new fire and then hear the stories of God's salvation throughout history around that new fire, campfire style, the way these stories were originally told and told throughout the ages. We will have chairs available, but if you have camping chairs feel free to bring them. Please wear clothing appropriate for some time outside as well as inside as we will then proceed into the sanctuary to continue the service. Rain plan is to have a "campfire" in the Great Room. Join us for what is one of my favorite worship services of the year! Questions: contact Pastor Christie.



Pop Up Bakery...
St. Mark Bread Baker's Guild is sponsoring a pop up bread bakery April 18th, 19th, and 20th. We are looking for

volunteers! Anyone interested in learning a simple bread recipe, baking biscuits, making butter, granola, and other fun things is welcome to join us. Please contact Deacon Dave.

We're also looking for sturdy casserole pans or dutch ovens that you are willing to loan us or donate to the bakery.

Community Garden

The Community Garden team is getting ready for the spring thaw! Please contact Deacon David if you would like to claim some organic garden space, donate some seeds, or if you would like to spend time outside watering and weeding.





2017-18 Church Council

Carol Floros—President
 Mike LoRusso—Vice President
 Sharon Blazek—Secretary & Worship & Music
 Jeanne Kueter—Treasurer & Communications
 Barb Bloomquist—At-Large
 Paul Brask—At-Large
 Gina Dahlgren—Stewardship
 Tom Ernst—Property
 Bob Fehling—Property
 Kathie Hetland—Congregational Care
 Jan Scott—Fellowship
 Peter Velic—Youth Representative

Holy Week 2017



Bread is the Church

By Deacon David Webb



We find ourselves in that time of year when bread becomes a big part of our church conversation.

Whether we find ourselves putting in

our orders of Hot Cross Buns, participating in the yearly Communion Workshop, or looking for something to go with Lenten Soups, bread is not just on our minds! On Maundy Thursday Jesus will leave the disciples with a loaf of bread and remind them that this bread is his body. Jesus will tenderly give them his body and entrust them to care for it, bake it, share it with the hungry, and see that it grows and expands.

There will be several opportunities to ruminate on this mystery of the church this spring! Several first hand opportunities to enjoy this gluten rich crusty mystery of the church!

Communion Workshop Saturday April 8th from 10AM-2PM

We offer our yearly Communion workshop for students and families who are interested in learning more about Holy Communion. The workshop is open to everyone! Whether your students already receive communion, don't yet receive communion but would like to, don't yet receive communion and maybe aren't ready to, this workshop is a great learning and fun opportunity.

There isn't an age when students are "more ready" to receive Holy Communion. We believe that Holy Communion is a mystery that unfolds our entire lives. As Christians we spend our whole lives participating in the ritual and learning as much as we can, no matter how old we are. We also believe that there is more than one way to celebrate First Communion as a family. Some parents like their children to wait until they can intellectually enter into the ritual more deeply when they are older. Some parents like children to participate and learn and grow from an early age. At St. Mark we strive to make the service meaningful for your family.

At the workshop we bake bread, make grape juice, watch Holy Moly, tell Bible stories, learn about Holy

Communion, help set up communion, learn the names of communion vessels, taste the elements, make communion collages, and get a back stage tour of the sacristy.

Students who are receiving communion for the first time can receive communion at the Maundy Thursday service April 13th 7PM, Saturday April 15th at the Easter Vigil 7PM, or any of the Easter Sunday services April 16th. Make arrangements for the workshop and First Communion with Deacon Dave.

Maundy Thursday Worship Thursday April 13th 7PM

On this one of a kind liturgical night, we worship around the Lord's Table. Communion is celebrated with elements the children made at the First Communion Workshop. Students will also receive First Communion that night. This worship service gives us the chance to witness exactly how church is built around the bread and wine.

St. Lazarus' Practicing Resurrection Pop-Up Bakery

St. Mark's Bread Bakers Guild is sponsoring the St. Lazarus Pop-Up Bakery. A pop-up bakery is a bakery that is not bound by a fixed location, any oven will do! Lazarus, of course, was the friend of Jesus who was brought back from the dead. He is also the runner up patron saint of Bakers. St. Honore with his cream filled cakes won out.

The guild likes Lazarus because he practiced resurrection and often times our baking requires a lot of trying again and again and at times all out resurrection. In the same vein of second chances, we've decided to hit the ovens this Easter to raise money for our refugee ministry at St. Mark which is in the business of making sure good people get a fresh start.

Deacon Dave's famous rustic country bread that has been making an appearance at Lenten Soup Suppers will be available to pick up April 18th, 19th, and 20th. St. Lazarus' will also offer some of their favorite baked goods for sale as well like biscuits, cookies, cereal, pizza dough and homemade butter. All you need to do is pick up an order form and return it to Deacon Dave. You never know St. Lazarus' Bakery might pop up again before you know it!



Thoughts from the Loft

First of all, you should know that major keys are happy and minor keys are sad. Many of our Lenten hymns are in minor keys to reflect the solemnity of the season. Many of our Easter hymns are in major keys to reflect the joy of the season.

One time I sight read a piece for a teacher of mine. When I was done the teacher pointed out to me that the piece was in a major key and not in a minor key. He said, "Tim, it is a happy piece, not a sad one!" That is a good reminder as Easter dawn approaches. It is a happy time to celebrate our redemption from sin and evil and the promise of eternal life with our Lord. Blessings on your Lenten and Easter journey.

In peace,
Tim

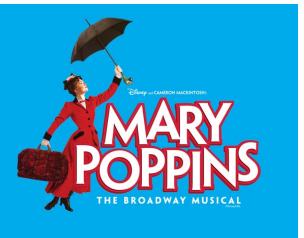


Attention Middle School & High School Youth

Auditions for The King's Players 2017 production are coming soon! Mark your calendar!

Saturday, May 6th 9am—Noon

Sunday, May 7th 1-3:30 pm with Callbacks at 6 pm.

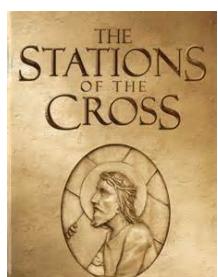


Stations of the Cross

Friday, April 7

7:00pm

Join us at St. Raymond's for an ecumenical stations of the cross. Hear reflections from



St. Mark members as well as St. Raymond's about each station. The stations of the cross are a rich way to journey through Lent and Jesus' final hours.

Hungry? Join us for the Fish Fry beforehand! Doors open for the Fish Fry at 5:00pm.

Adults \$11, Seniors \$10, Children \$7



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 church office. Applications are due **Friday, April 21, at 12:00 Noon**, so get your application now! Completed applications can be emailed to stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org.

of the Women ELCA

Wed. & Tues. April 19 & 25 9:30 am

Lutheran World Relief quilting
2nd floor, Education wing

Friday, April 21 7:00 pm

Ladies' Night Out at the Movies
Great Room

Friday, May 5 12:30 pm

Church Women United
May Friendship Day Luncheon
"Kindling New Fires of Love"
Location TBA

Sunday, May 7

Rachel's Day
Join us for BBQ following 10 am worship
On the Center Lawn
Bringing awareness to protecting our children

Thursday thru Sunday, July 13-16

Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering
Minneapolis, MN



Senior Lunch Bunch

Thursday, April 20, 2017

1:00 pm

Trezeros Kitchen & Tap

302 W. Northwest Hwy, Mt. Prospect

**RSVP to Marilyn Gosell by
Monday, April 17**

Monthly Quilting

Looking for a creative outlet? Join the ladies who make those beautiful Lutheran World Relief quilts you see in church on Thankoffering Sunday.

In **April** they will meet in the quilt room on the second floor of the education wing at 9:30 am

Wednesday, the 19th, Thursday, the 25th



10th Triennial Gathering

"All Anew"

Minneapolis Convention Center

Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 13-16

Besides meeting fellow W/ELCA sisters from all over the country – you can hear inspiring speakers, participate in worship, attend workshops, view films, shop the exhibit hall, attend special events and engage in servant opportunities. Much too much to list here! Check out welcatg.org. While you're there, download an "All Anew" coloring sheet!



FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

April 8th from 10AM-2PM

is our yearly Communion workshop for students and families who are interested in learning more about Holy Communion. The workshop is open to everyone! Whether your students already receive communion, don't yet receive communion but would like to, don't yet receive communion and maybe aren't ready to, this workshop is a great learning and fun opportunity. Make arrangements for the workshop and First Communion with Deacon Dave.