



St. Mark Lutheran Church

CrossBeams

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

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Volume 57, Issue 10

October, 2018

God's Work, Our Hands

A day of worship, fellowship and service



Service projects included Mats for the Homeless, Fleece blankets for Project Linus, School & Health kits for Lutheran World Relief and Cookies for our Firefighters.



St. Mark Values: GROWING

“Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word, lord let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.” These words of a song we often sing during offering are rich in metaphor for our life in faith. Throughout scripture, growing, like a plant grows, has been used as a metaphor for what it means to live and learn in faith. In Psalm 1 it says, “Happy are those who delight in the law of the Lord. They are like trees planted by streams of water.” In John Jesus says “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” Jesus tells parables about mustard seeds, about seeds that are planted in good soil and bear fruit.



When we gathered last spring to talk about our values, you told stories of your children learning about God here and about faith development in your own life. You recognized raising up people of faith, education, making disciples, passing on the faith, mentoring, spiritual growth, faith formation, and learning about others as gifts this congregation offers. These are the ways you described the values that we have collected into the overarching value of **GROWING**.

GROWING is one of our top values here at St. Mark. (As are **WELCOME**, **CONNECTING**, and **CARING**, which we will highlight in the CrossBeams in coming months.)

Truth be told, I’m not very good at growing plants. I can’t tell you the number of office plants I’ve let die, or that I’ve passed on to someone who would nurture them back from the brink of death. I have had some success with flowers in the garden recently, but well we can probably give Deacon David most of the credit for that. He is much better at watering them. I’m just not that good at growing plants. But growing in faith is different than growing plants, right?

Or maybe it isn’t so different. A seed of the good news is planted in our hearts. It may sit dormant for a bit, but soon through the tending of the Holy Spirit, it begins to take root. It reaches down into our hearts and our life, and then grows, green branches, shooting out into the light of our lives. How does a plant grow strong? Water, Light, and Good food/ soil. Water= baptism. Light= Sitting in the light of God in prayer and practices which open us to the presence of God. Food/Soil= Learning opportunities, books, sermons, conversations.

How are you tending with God to the growth of your faith? Did you know that we are never done growing in faith? I have a bachelors and a masters degree in theology, and I still learn something new every day! What are you hungry for in terms of learning and discovering about God? How might we work together to satisfy that hunger?

Friends, we want to grow and shoot forth the fruit of our faith, in gifts joyfully offered in service, in kindness, in gentleness, in love for our neighbor. God, grow in us. May our hearts be good soil.

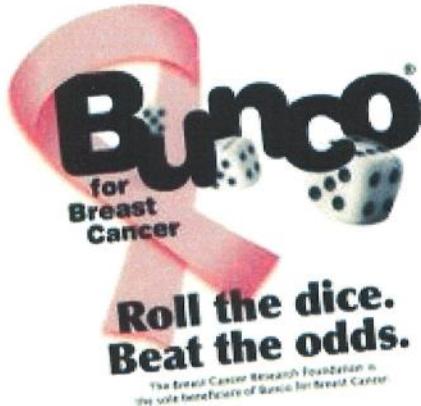
In Christ,
Pastor Christie

BUNCO for Breast Cancer

*A Benefit for the
Breast Cancer Research Foundation*

Sunday, October 7, 2018

BUNCO begins at 1:00 p.m.



**Tickets: \$25 before September 16 and
\$30 after**

Reservations required.

**Contact Janice Serafini @
847-394-5854 for ticket information**

St. Mark Lutheran Church Center
200 S. Wille St., Mt. Prospect, IL



What's Happening in Youth & Family Ministry?

By: Deacon David Webb

As we begin the year, watch for bulletin board space to be taken over by our youngest members. There is a circle of young people and their families that many Sunday morning people have not had the pleasure of meeting. Check out the bulletin boards and make plans to join this part of the St. Mark community for Community Meal Wednesdays or Service Project Thursdays.



Playgroup, Stories and Snacks, and Preschool Chapel- Pastor Christie hosted her first Wednesday afternoon Playgroup session and a good group of little ones explored the story of Creation with their parents. Stories and Snacks, a playgroup-children's church hybrid had its first Sunday morning session. Two little ones had fun exploring the church and working with the stories for the day. The bigger success was that 8 middle school and high schoolers came to help as well. The Preschoolers and Kindergartners are back in the building and their life and love is bringing joy wherever they go! We wish the Preschool Staff and leadership a year full of blessings.



WOW!- Our first sessions of WOW! have seen us growing our already largest group of WOW! since Deacon Dave started four years ago. Students and parents are enjoying the prayer activities and stories. We are focusing on things families can do at home this year to deepen their experience of God everywhere! Please feel free to contact Deacon Dave if you are interested in taking some of these stories and activities home. They are designed with children in mind, but they are certainly for everyone.

Faithwalk- Our first sessions of Faithwalk have seen a great group of young people who love being at church with friends and who are eager to talk about the stories in the Bible and their lives. Service and taking on leadership responsibilities at church are a big part of this year of learning so don't be surprised when you see young people doing big things around church and Mt. Prospect.



SHINE!

Shine! And Leadership Development- High School students are working very hard on weekly leadership development projects. Student projects involve supporting the youth and family ministry programs and nurturing the gifts and talents that they want to develop at church. Students work on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons at church after school. This year's calendar of service projects, fundraisers, and faith journeys will soon be out and reflect student's goals for their year of ministry.

Worship Assistants and Young People in Worship- Students of all ages have been taking on greater responsibility within Sunday worship services. Church is the work of the people and our youngest members have been sharing their gifts with us and making church a richer more meaningful experience. Students are reading the lessons, serving as assisting minister, preaching, serving communion, helping with children's church, and doing their weekly work (playing, crafting, singing, being joyful, etc).



Children, Church, Faith and Adults

By: Deacon David Webb

Our lectionary texts on Sunday, September 23 have raised some questions for us about children, church, and our faith. Jesus puts a child on his lap and tells the disciples that if they welcome a child in their midst they are literally welcoming Jesus and more importantly the very presence and glory of God. On the next Sunday (September 30) Jesus, still with the child on his lap, says if you were to hurt the faith of a child, you may as well “sleep with the fish (Mark 9:30-50).” This raises interesting questions for us about how we welcome children into our life together. All of us understand children in such a different way I think it is important if we begin by asking questions. Who are children in our faith community? Are children empty vessels that need to be filled with knowledge? Are children less tall humans that are learning to be better behaved, socially adept adults? Are children and children’s programming a means to get their parents, fresh donors and new volunteers, into church? Are children noisy nuisances who belong in the nursery? Are children messy inconveniences that don’t belong in church? Are children a gift from God? Are children a blessing to any community they are a part of? Are children already spiritual beings? Do children and childhood represent the golden age of faith in our lives with their trust and vibrant relationship with God?

I enter the conversation with those questions toward the end of the list. For me and the work I do at St. Mark, young people represent the goal of our lives of faith. The goal is not an accumulation of knowledge and astute theological terms. The goal is not a perfectly executed worship service. The goal is not a vibrant and emotional worship service. The goal is not a Biblical generosity. The goal of our lives of faith is a gentle, curious, trusting, and hope-filled response to God’s love, to children, and the vulnerable. All those other things may come, but if we are not learning them from the children in our midst we will find our work harder than it needs to be.



Thoughts from the Loft

On Sunday, October 14 at 4pm, I will play an organ recital at St. Mark. A variety of pieces will be featured, ranging from Bach to 20th century music. The final piece on the program is one of my favorites. More than one of my teachers have played it. It is the last movement (Final) of Louis Vierne's First Organ Symphony. Organ Symphonies came to be in France in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They were composed to imitate an orchestra. It is very interesting how an organ can imitate an orchestra with its various, colorful sounds. I hope you will come on the 14th to celebrate the King of Instruments, the organ!



Peace!

Tim



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

**Thursday, October 18, 1:00 pm
Pizza Party at Fellini's Restaurant**
(1729 W. Golf Rd., Mt. Prospect)

\$11.00 per person
(includes salad, pizza, soda or iced tea)
Beer and wine available

**RSVP with payment to Marilyn Gosell by Monday, October 22
(847-508-5512)**

Upcoming Outings:

Thanksgiving Pot Luck—Thursday November 15

St. Mark Fellowship Hall, 1:00 pm

Turkey & dessert will be provided—Bring a dish to pass

RSVP to Marilyn by 11/12/18



Christmas Lunch—Thursday, December 20
SAVE THE DATE
Details to follow



Sunday, September 30
Thankoffering Sunday

Sunday, October 7 **1:00 pm**
Bunco for Breast Cancer
Center

Wed. & Tues. Oct. 17 & 23 **9:00 am**
LWR Quilting
2nd floor education wing

Saturday, October 27 **9:00 am**
Metro Chicago Synodical Women's Conference
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Aurora



Quilting!

Join the ladies who work on those beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief. This month they will meet on:

**Wednesday, October 17 &
Tuesday, October 23**



THANKOFFERING SUNDAY

On Sunday, September 30, Women of the ELCA will celebrate Thankoffering Sunday. Besides displaying and blessing quilts, health & school kits that will go to Lutheran World Relief, it is also the time we collect our annual Thankofferings, gifts of thanks to God for the many blessings in our life. This offering is sent, in total, to support the churchwide Women of the ELCA ministries. Please use the blue envelope in your bi-monthly envelope packet or a pew envelope. Please mark it "WELCA THANKOFFERING."



October 7th at the Center
Doors open at Noon, Bunco begins at 1pm
Tickets now on Sale Sundays in the
Narthex



SYNODICAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The women of the Metro Chicago Synod will hold their annual gathering on Saturday, October 27, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Aurora, under the theme "Radical Hospitality". Contact Gail Radtke, 847-255-2977, for more information or if you would be interested in attending.



There will be
NO Craft Connection in October.

**Join us in November for
"Christmas Card Buffet"**
Card Stamping led by Jeanne Kueter
along with the usual
Smorgasbord of Crafts.
Save the Date
Friday, November 16

Update on Columbarium and Memorial Garden at St. Mark

As you may have noted, the remodeling of the narthex area into a columbarium with a meditation chapel by the transept is underway. The columbarium structure was shipped to us August 30, and a volunteer crew of Jerry Heidlauf, Gordy Lund, John Sorum, Dan Hetland, Les Ashton, Mark Sorum, Mike Anderson, Hans Perlich and I were able to get it through the doors! Dan Hetland, John Sorum, and I did the demolition of the closets. Tom Weidman, our contracted carpenter, began remodeling of the space on September 17, beginning with the removal of the existing staircase railing and reconstructing it at a lower height and bringing it into compliance with existing code. The space will be more open and the beautiful stained glass windows much more visible. We hope to have the project completed during October.

We don't have the final numbers on the construction cost, as we've decided to take a time and materials approach and use volunteers where appropriate. But we hope to come in under the \$25,000 that we projected for the remodeling and construction of the meditation space. We have paid for the columbarium with a loan from the Endowment fund, and with the use of memorial funds dedicated to the project together with the reservation contributions, we will cover the columbarium costs. Note the colorful financial poster boards developed by Julie Wenzel to track our progress. We are continuing to seek donations for this project, so if you have been considering your own funeral planning or wish to contribute to this ministry, please contact any member of the committee.

Together with the proposed garden, this represents an important new St. Mark ministry that provides a beautiful place for the cremains of a loved one together with an easily accessible place to meditate and honor the memory of that person.

We have received from the landscape architect an initial conceptual sketch of the memorial garden. It uses the area along the north side of the church property and would be a beautiful enhancement of that area. After the committee has a chance to review these plans with the architect, we will be presenting a recommendation to the council for this phase. We do not plan to proceed with this phase until there is sufficient financial support to cover the cost.

Carl Anderson for the committee: Marilyn Gosell, Lynn Istwan, Dianne and Dick Quast, Nancy and Gary Snell, Julie Wenzel, Keith Youngquist,



**Preschool Sunday
October 14**



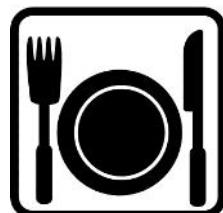
Help Wanted! St. Mark

Preschool is looking for someone to help with lunch M-F 11:30am-1:30pm. Salary will be about

\$9-10/hour. Duties include prepping lunch, setting tables, serving lunch, covering teachers' lunch breaks, and cleaning up after lunch is complete. If interested, contact Preschool Director Barb Zediker at 847-873-1110 or bzediker@stmarkmp.org

Enjoy food? Come and join the Nibblers as they find new places to eat around our community each month. All are welcome!

October Nibblers will meet at Granite City Brewery, 801 Plaza Dr., Schaumburg (near Woodfield Rd and Meacham) on **Saturday, October 6 at 6:30 pm**. All who wish to join us, please RSVP to Eve Smith (evesmith99@yahoo.com) by Thursday, October 4.





Dear Ladies,
Thank you! We are so very grateful for your loving kindness and hard work, helping us to celebrate Jason's life.

You are always ready and cheerfully willing to rise when you are called upon to serve. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Sincerely, Ron and Beth Freeman

A note from Marilyn Gosell and Judy Fell: We both would like to thank each and every one of the ladies who devote time and energy to preparing food and working on the kitchen crew. St. Mark is indeed blessed to have so many willing workers. Additionally, we all thank the members of the congregation for the privilege of serving. There is a solemn joy in being called upon to meet such special needs.

Dear Pastor Christie, Jill, and St. Mark,

Thank you! Thank you! We are so grateful to you for letting us store clothing at St. Mark. This was a huge relief and opened up needed space at Lucille Resale. Then, letting us sort and putting together a POWER TEAM to help was the best bonus ever. They made a huge job easier and fun and best of all-quick! That saved us hours of work. St. Mark is always so generous!

Thank you! Margaret Flanagan
Holy Family Ministries

To our St. Mark Family-

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Pastor Christie and all those who called and/or sent words of encouragement after my recent fall & surgery. Special thanks to Carole Hauslein and the Prayer Chain, and to the delightful new member Tonya, who delivered the beautiful altar flowers to our home. Your kindness was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Roberta Lund



Martin Luther Says:
Join us for
Reformation Sunday
October 28
Wear Red!
Bible Bash activities during
Snacks & Stories (9-9:45) and
Children's Church!



Music Director
Timothy Spelbring
will be presenting an
organ recital at
St. Mark on Sunday,
October 14 at 4pm.
Come hear music that
will feature the King of
Instruments, the
organ! Works by Bach, Mendelssohn,
Vierne, and others will be
performed. All are invited!

THE JOY OF GIVING

Our stewardship ministry at St. Mark has included an emphasis on financial giving in the fall, which ends this year on Commitment Sunday, November 11. The purpose of the fall stewardship emphasis is threefold: to provide a time for members to reflect on their personal giving to St. Mark ministry; to uplift biblical teachings to guide us in our reflection; and to provide information about how the money received is used. Throughout the year, the Stewardship Committee has been using the blue cards in the pews to help us think about giving of our time.

The St. Mark budget is the plan our leadership develops as they estimate income and forecast how it will be used. That plan is essential to operate and to be transparent and accountable. Individuals and families need similar plans. In your reflection time during the stewardship emphasis this year, the Stewardship Committee encourages laying out a financial plan for 2019. Start with your anticipated income and determine how you will spend those funds. Often giving is determined by what is left after we have taken care of our obligations and desires. Here is a challenge: begin a spending plan with the amount you intend to give to St. Mark and other charitable organizations; next, list financial obligations (needs); finally, your discretionary spending (wants) will be determined. You are encouraged to take this leap of faith by beginning with your giving as you contemplate a spending plan for 2019. Experience the JOY OF GIVING rather than the same feeling of obligation you may have when you pay the mortgage or the electric bill.

We all have stories and feelings about our own personal giving. We add to the collection of stories as time goes on. What is the first story you remember about your giving? What feelings come to mind when you think of that story? What other giving stories and associated feelings do you recall? Have you felt the JOY OF GIVING? If not, we encourage you to work toward it - it's life changing and definitely worth the leap!

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Nancy Snell for the Stewardship Committee,
Carl Anderson, Gina and Ken Dahlgren, Susan Supergan, Doug Trezise, Pastor Christie Webb



Save the date for our Stewardship Kick Off Lunch

FIFTY SHADES OF GIVING

Sunday, October 14

Following 10am worship @ The Center
*Join us for lunch and conversation about
 the many ways we can give!*



2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	12:30 pm Bridge Club 6:30 pm PADS	11 am Private Event 6 pm Basketball	9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4 pm Basketball 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Basketball 7 pm Stewardship	3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Basketball 7:30 pm Vocal Choir		5:30 pm Nibblers
7 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 1 pm Bunco for Breast Cancer Fundraiser	1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm PADS 7 pm Mary Circle	9:00 am Preschool Gym 6 pm Basketball 7 pm Worship/Music	9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 12 pm Metro Chicago Ecumenical Team 4 pm Basketball 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Basketball	3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Basketball 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	9 am Preschool Gym 10 am Private Event	
14 Preschool Sunday 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 11:15 am Stewardship Kick-off Lunch 4 pm Organ Recital	6:30 pm PADS	9 am Preschool Gym 6 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council	9:00 am Quilting 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4 pm Basketball 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Basketball 7 pm Foundation	1 pm Senior Lunch Bunch 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Basketball 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	9 am Preschool Gym	
21 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	6:30 pm PADS	9 am Quilting 9 am Preschool Gym 6 pm Basketball	9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Playgroup 6 pm Community Meal 6 pm Basketball	3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Basketball 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	9 am Preschool Gym 4:30 pm Basketball	
28 Reformation Sunday 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 9 am Snacks & Stories	6:30 pm PADS	9 am Preschool Gym 6 pm Basketball	9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Basketball			

