



St. Mark Lutheran Church

# CrossBeams

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

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## November Fun for ALL Ages



Senior Thanksgiving Lunch



Ultimate Lock In at Enchanted Castle



*"May you surround them and fill them with the peace that passes all understanding."*

These words find their way into almost every prayer I pray in pastoral care situations, be they in hospitals, rehabilitation

centers, homes, my office. In addition, I sign most emails and letters with the sign off "Peace." Why is that? What am I hoping for? What I'm praying for is that sense that God surrounds you, that you are in God's hands, that God is working for good and working in mercy. That all of that will help you know peace in your heart, an inner stillness, like the feeling of a deep breath, a warm hug, a comfortable blanket. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says "Do not let your hearts be troubled." In Philippians, Paul writes "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." This is what I'm hoping, that even in the midst of the hardest moments of life, we will know Christ's peace, unfathomable, surprising, so needed.



This December we find both our Advent theme of PEACE, and our St. Mark Value of CARING, come together in a mashup of focus. CARING is one of our top values here at St. Mark (along with WELCOMING, GROWING, and CONNECTING). We value Caring: for the sick, the hurting, the grieving in our midst and beyond. When we care for people in such situations, when we minister to them through the ministry of presence and prayer, my hope is that they will experience the peace of Christ in knowing that they are not alone, but surrounded by God, and surrounded by this community.

In the pages that follow you will find many ways that you are invited this season to share PEACE through caring. Each Sunday, we will create a space for peace in worship, to care for you as you care for others. We will also have Sanctuary: A Peaceful Space on Thursday evenings from 6-7:30 in the church. Come take a some time for a deep breath in the midst of this busy season, and enjoy some soft music and the beauty of the decorated sanctuary. Deacon David has PEACE programming for children. We have Advent Devotionals to carve out peace in your life. Pick up an ornament from our Star Tree and purchase a gift to care for someone in need. Attend the preschool PJ Pageant on December 9 and help young families know they are surrounded by community. Come bake cookies at Cookie Bake on Dec. 16. Celebrate another way we care for the grieving with the Columbarium Dedication on Dec. 2. Contact Pastor Christie or Kathie Hetland if you would like to help deliver poinsettias to homebound members after Christmas.

And, then, consider how you can keep up that caring work in the New Year. Can you visit with a homebound member? Can you bring homebound members communion? Can you deliver flowers? Can you join the prayer chain and pray for those in need? Can you give rides to people who need them for doctors appointments, etc? Can you pray for people as a Healing Minister at our monthly healing service? Can you greet grieving families on the day of memorial and funeral services and coordinate flower distribution after services are complete? If you answered yes to these, or think of another way you can CARE for the sick, the hurting, the grieving in our midst and beyond, contact Kathie Hetland, chair of Congregational Care.

And friends, may God's PEACE be with you this season and always.

Peace,  
Pr. Christie



Beginning December 2 we will spend the season of Advent considering **Peace** and the Prince of Peace whose advent into the world brings peace to us all. Join us for worship each Sunday filled with peaceful moments. Try out **Sanctuary: A Peaceful Space**, on Thursdays December 6, 13, and 20. The church sanctuary will be open from 6-7:30pm with candles lit, Christmas Trees lit, and some quiet music playing. This is a chance to just catch your breath for a few minutes, or however many you can get! Deacon Dave is offering an hour of **Advent Peace for Children** 0-9 and their parents from 6-7 each of those Thursday nights. Participants can come to one or all of the sessions of story, art, and spending time with God. Registration for Advent Peace for Children is required. Email Deacon David to sign up now. **Devotional materials** are now available in the narthex to help you find peaceful moments in your daily life. Questions? Contact Pastor Christie.

# exploreGod™

*If God is good, why is there pain and suffering in the world? How can I know for sure that the Bible is reliable? Does prayer really work?*

Have you ever asked yourself any of these questions? Do you feel like you're not really allowed to ask them in church? Well, we've got good news: we all have questions! We want St. Mark to be a safe place to ask questions. On January 13 we kick off our Explore God series. We'll embark on an 7-week journey, looking at some of the hard topics that challenge all of us—believers and nonbelievers alike. Each Sunday will feature these questions. Then, we'll get together once a week to watch a few videos and discuss them openly. We all have questions. We all wonder. Our Explore God series will be a safe place to explore answers with others. So invite your friends, and come explore with us!

Interested in being a discussion group leader?  
Contact Pastor Christie (curriculum and training will be provided).



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

By: Deacon David Webb

Youth ministry is off to a great start again this year. So far we have upwards of 60 young people participating in St. Mark ministries. Join us at WOW! on Wednesdays from 4:30-6 most Wednesdays and 4:30-7 on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Join us for Faithwalk on Thursdays from 4:30-6. Or check out the bulletin board for more information about all the other work we're up to elsewhere.



**Playgroup, Stories and Snacks, and Preschool Chapel-** The Preschoolers and Kindergartners are getting ready for Preschool PJ Pageant on December 9<sup>th</sup>. **As well we are getting ready for Holiday Fun Night, December 8<sup>th</sup>, St. Nicholas Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, and the Christmas Program December 16<sup>th</sup>.**



**WOW!**- Students and parents are enjoying the prayer activities and stories. We are telling the story of Sarah and Abraham and Mary, Joseph and Jesus. **We are getting ready for Holiday Fun Night, December 8<sup>th</sup>, St. Nicholas Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, and the Christmas Program December 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**Faithwalk.** Students and guides have been busy preparing for the **Christmas Program on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10AM worship.**



**SHINE! And Leadership Development-** High School students are working very hard on weekly leadership development projects. Students packed care packages for college students and have been invited to join an Interfaith Youth Council hosted by the Niagra Foundation.

**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).



### Tastefully Simple Fundraiser

Thank you to all who came by the last tasting and helped support our Youth. The next tasting will be on **Sunday, December 16**...last chance to stock up for the holidays. In the meantime, check out the products online. Can't make it to the tasting? Place your order online. 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!

## Peace On Earth

By: Deacon David Webb

In all of the gatherings of young people, (WOW!, Faithwalk, SHINE!, and Children's Church) we have been asking the question: "What does peace on earth look like?"

Children seem to know that there is an innate connection to peace with all of human life. They know that there are wars and conflicts from which we need peace. They know that there are neighborhoods that fight wars against drugs and violence. They know that families everywhere experience conflict and division. They know that people, regardless of their lives, are always searching for inner peace. They know that those without food and shelter are constantly searching for a different kind of peace.

Each December as we prepare for Christmas we know that there is a peace we are waiting for that hasn't come yet. This year will be no different. As we get ready for Christmas, we await the full coming of the Prince of Peace and the Kingdom of God that is justice and peace for all.

As Advent begins there will be many opportunities to reflect on peace on earth and share your vision and prayer for peace, but take this moment to get started. What does peace on earth look like?



**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](mailto:bzediker@stmarkmp.org)



All St. Markers are invited to the  
**Annual Preschool Christmas PJ Pageant**  
**Sunday December 9 at 6pm** in the Sanctuary

Come in your pajamas and join in for an evening of singing, stories and ICE CREAM!!

## Thoughts from the Loft

The Christmas carol "Silent Night" is 200 years old this year. Composed in 1818, it has an interesting history. A priest named Joseph Mohr had a problem at his church come Christmas 1818. The organ was infested with mice and not playable. Mohr sought other options for music making and found a poem he wrote a few years before. He brought that poem ("Silent Night") to a local musician and organist, Franz Gruber. Gruber set the text to a melody that would be accompanied by guitar. What resulted is the "Silent Night" we know and love today. On that Christmas in 1818 this simple carol was played in a simple way, with guitar. We can cherish the story behind this beloved carol this year.

Peace!

Tim



### Senior Lunch Bunch Annual Christmas Lunch

**Thursday, December 20  
1:00 pm**

**TREZEROS KITCHEN & TAP**  
(302 W. Northwest Hwy, Mt Prospect)  
With Christmas Music by Tim



Lunch includes soup or salad, entrée, beverage & dessert  
Beer or wine available

Choose one entrée:  
Angus Burger with fries  
Cod Sandwich with fries  
Wedge Salad  
Chicken Parmesan with spaghetti  
Cost = \$22 per person

Please bring a pair of childrens or adults new unwrapped mittens or gloves. We will give them to the LCC Food Pantry in Arlington Heights

**RSVP with entrée choice and payment to  
Marilyn Gosell before Monday, December 17**



**Saturday, December 1** **9:00 am**

Trim the Church

**Sunday, December 9** **1:00 pm**

Holiday Outing  
Holiday Inn at the Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre

**Wednesday, December 19** **9:00 am**

Quilting in the Ed. Wing



#### Trim the Church

Join in on Saturday morning, December 1 at 9am, as we decorate for the Advent and Christmas seasons. The more helpers there are, the quicker it will go. Coffee and sweets will be provided.



#### Holiday Outing to Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre **HOLIDAY INN** **Sunday, December 9** **For the 1:00pm performance**

**There are 20 reserved seats available  
\$40 per ticket**

**Tickets are now available on Sundays  
in the Narthex**

## Christmas Worship Schedule

**Christmas Eve Worship  
4 pm & 10 pm**

**Christmas Day Worship  
10 am**





Dear St. Mark Members,  
Thank you so much for the beautiful altar flowers you sent  
for my birthday. They were delivered by a lovely couple,  
Sigrid and Jim Eddy. I enjoyed the flowers and appreciate  
your thoughtfulness.

Thank you,  
Marion Markham

Dear St. Mark Family,  
Thank you for the lovely altar flowers. So cheery—they  
brighten these cloudy days. So nice to be remembered!  
May you all have a blessed holiday season!

In Jesus name -  
Lois Ennes



**Columbarium Dedication  
Sunday, December 2**  
during the 10 am worship service

The Church Office will be closed  
for the holidays on the following  
days:

Monday, December 24  
Tuesday, December 25  
Wednesday, December 26  
Monday, December 31  
Tuesday, January 1





**Calling all Young Adults!!!  
Come to the 3rd Annual Ugly  
Sweater Brunch!  
Sunday, December 23  
at 11am in the Great Room.  
RSVP to Deacon David Webb**



### **Children's Christmas Program**

**Sunday, December 16  
during the 10 am  
Worship Service**

### **CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

**Sunday,  
December 23  
At 10 am  
One Service ONLY!**



### **Order Your Christmas Poinsettias**

**Now through Sunday, December 16**



## **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 21  
7pm in the Great Room**  
Bring your favorite appetizer or plate of  
Christmas Cookies to share. Bring a  
personal craft to work on or choose one  
we have available.

**Craft of the Night:  
Fleece blankets for Project Linus**

**Come and join the  
Fun & Fellowship!**

*(Recommended for 6th grade through adult)*



### **STAR TREE**

The annual Star Tree for  
Holy Family children,  
Concordia Place and  
PADs guests is up in the  
Narthex. Please select  
your stars. Holy Family & Concordia Place  
gifts due back Dec. 9 and PADs gifts by  
Dec. 16.

**Calling all Middle School & High School  
Youth...**



### **COOKIE BAKE**

**Sunday, December 16  
5-8:30 pm at the Center**  
Come bake and deliver goodies to our  
fire fighters, police officers, hospital  
workers and church members.

# Holiday Fun Night

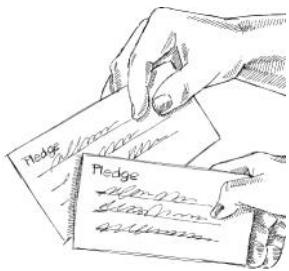
December 8  
4:30-8:30pm  
at the St. Mark Center

Parents let us watch  
your kids and wrap your gifts while you enjoy  
some free time!

Movies, Crafts, Games, Snacks, and Gift Wrapping  
(\$2 per gift)

Babysitting: \$15 for 1st child,  
\$10 for 2nd child, \$5 for the 3rd or more  
children

RSVP to Deacon Dave [dwebb@stmarkmp.org](mailto:dwebb@stmarkmp.org)



## Commitment Cards

You can still return your pledge cards for 2019.  
Place it in the offering plate or mail/bring it into the  
Church Office.



# 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 8 am Basketball 9 am Trim the Church 6:30 pm Nibblers
<b>2</b> 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 11:15 am Budget Meeting	<b>3</b> 12:30 pm Bridge Club 6:30 pm PADS 7 pm Foundation	<b>4</b> 9 am Private Event 11 am Private Event 5:30 pm Basketball	<b>5</b> 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	<b>6</b> 4:30 pm FaithWalk 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Sanctuary: A Peaceful Space 6 pm Advent Peace for Children 6 pm Basketball 6 pm Band Practice 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	<b>7</b> 9 am Preschool Gym 4:30 pm Basketball	<b>8</b> 8 am Basketball 4:30 pm Holiday Fun Night
<b>9</b> 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 12 pm Holiday Outing 6 pm Preschool PJ Pageant	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm PADS	<b>11</b> 9 am Preschool Gym 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Worship/Music	<b>12</b> 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	<b>13</b> 4:30 pm FaithWalk 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Sanctuary: A Peaceful Space 6 pm Advent Peace for Children 6 pm Basketball 6 pm Band Practice 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	<b>14</b> 9 am Preschool Gym 4:30 pm Basketball	<b>15</b> 8 am Basketball 4 pm Private Event
<b>16</b> 8 am Worship 10 am Worship with Children's Christmas Program 8:30-11:30am Tastefully Simple Tasting 5 pm Cookie Bake	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm PADS	<b>18</b> 9 am Preschool Gym 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Volleyball 6 pm Basketball	<b>20</b> 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Sanctuary: A Peaceful Space 6 pm Advent Peace for Children 6 pm Basketball 6 pm Band Practice 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	<b>21</b> 9 am Preschool Gym 6 pm Basketball 7 pm Craft Connection	<b>22</b> Private Event
<b>23/30</b> 10 am Worship with Christmas Cantata 8:30-11:30 am Fair Trade 11:15 am Ugly Sweater Brunch  <b>8 am Worship</b> <b>10 am Worship</b>	<b>24/31</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> OFFICE CLOSED <b>4 pm Worship</b> 6:30 pm PADS <b>10 pm Worship</b>  <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm PADS	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> OFFICE CLOSED <b>10 am Worship</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am Volleyball	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6 pm Basketball  <b>11 am Private Event</b>

