



St. Mark Lutheran Church

CrossBeams

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

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May, 2018

Happenings in April



Core Values Luncheon: We ate and shared our fondest memories at St. Mark.



Easter Breakfast Helpers

Craft Connection: We continue to make doves for the Make-a-wish Foundation.



Ladies Night at the Movies: Women gathered for movies and fellowship.

Thomas turns 1!
Let's eat cake!



Christ calls us to spread the good news, to care for our neighbor, to live in love. But how each community of Christians does this work differs based on what they hold as most important. Thus, as we discern our values, we discern what makes us who we are, and how we are called to live more and more into who we are as community.

What is the culture of St. Mark? What is at the heart of who we are? What are our core values? What is most important to us now? How do we live these values in our actions and decisions? How do our values guide our way forward? These are the questions we are pondering at St. Mark in the midst of considering our LIFE-together.

Values are funny things sometimes. You can say you value something, but then discover that your espoused values do not match your behaviors and actions nor do they match the stories you tell. But if we can align our values with our narratives and our behaviors, then we hit the sweet spot of really defining our culture here in this place.

After worship on Sunday, April 22 our congregation gathered over lunch to work together to discern our core values. Our conversation centered on this question: What is my most meaningful memory of St. Mark? Each person gathered shared their most meaningful memory. There were stories of children being confirmed, baptized, married in this community. There were stories of lifelong friends met, friends who care for you in the most trying times, but also in the joyful times. There were stories of teaching young people the faith, as Sunday School teachers, as chaperones on trips, as Boy Scout leaders. There were stories of growing in the faith as adults, with prayer nights, with education opportunities, by engaging in ministry and being trained and equipped for that ministry. There were stories of feeling profoundly welcomed, of being cared for by the entire community in the midst of life's hardest moments. There were stories upon stories about how this congregation is meaningful in the lives of the people gathered as the community of God.

As we heard the stories we began to hear themes within them. Themes like raising people up in the faith from birth until death, benevolence and giving generously, caring for each other and our community, serving, youth, music, welcoming, outreach. These themes begin to get at our values, the things that are most important to us.

In the coming weeks the Council will take these themes and work with them to discern from them our top values and then to look at what those values call us to do and to be in the coming years. As we continue this process we will share with you what we hear and discern. We also welcome your input. If you missed our conversation on April 22 but have a story you would like to share about your most meaningful memory at St. Mark please email Pastor Christie at cwebb@stmarkmp.org, write her a note, or catch her in the office sometime.

As always, it is a joy to serve Christ in our LIFE-together!

Peace,
Pr. Christie



Finance Report

Submitted by
Jeanne Kueter, Treasurer

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH 2018 FINANCIAL RESULTS THROUGH MARCH 31

GENERAL FUND	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
INCOME	\$ 104,786.68	\$ 119,780.04
EXPENSES	\$ 114,734.05	\$ 119,780.04
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (9,947.37)	\$ -
 BENEVOLENCE		
INCOME	\$ 8,197.00	\$ 11,978.01
EXPENSES	\$ 11,977.98	\$ 11,977.98
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (3,780.98)	\$ 0.03
 CAPITAL FUND		
INCOME	\$ 5,808.50	\$ 6,012.00
EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ 21,750.00
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 5,808.50	\$ (15,738.00)



Outreach Team

Are you passionate about connecting with the community that surrounds us? Do you have gifts for welcoming new people among us? We would love your help on our Outreach Team- newly reforming this spring. Join us on May 24th at 7pm for our inaugural meeting. Can't make the meeting but still interested in being on the team? Contact Mike LoRusso with your interest.

Death Has Lost Its Sting

Pre-planning Your Funeral/ Memorial Service: Sunday, May 6 9am-9:45am in the Great Room

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?



The last
Community Meal
of the program
year will be held
on

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

at 6 pm

Come & share a meal and
connect with others.

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN



**July 23rd—28th,
2018**
**Augustana
College**
Rock Island, IL
Leadershiplab.net
A Ministry of the ELCA

Leadership lab is a week of study, worship, and relationship building. All current 8th graders through Adults can participate. Previous St. Mark participants have raved about this experience—learning about leadership skills and themselves.

Do you have the desire to be a leader?
Come to Leadership Lab!

Contact Deacon Dave or Jill Galyon for registration information. Registrations due to Jill by Monday, May 7.

Tastefully Simple Fundraiser

Thank you to all
who have been
supporting our



youth through this fundraiser. The next tasting is being planned. **All purchases get you entered in a raffle for more Tastefully Simple products!!** Check out the products online and place your orders there as well. Simply go to:

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?



Confirmation Day is May 20, 2018

Four Youth—Kayleigh Schultz, Abby Sorum, Ryan Stone, and Melissa Wahlen—will be confirmed on this day. Posters and gift bags will be in the hallway, outside the Great Room, starting Sunday, May 13. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they prepare for this special day.

Pentecost and Confirmation: May 20, 2018

By Deacon Dave

At St. Mark we celebrate Confirmation on the third Sunday of May every year. This year we have the double celebration of celebrating Pentecost on the same day. I always love the overlap of celebrations that happen with Confirmation in the Easter season.

During the season of Easter we celebrate how Jesus is with us in a new way! On Pentecost we take a deep breath and our first step into the future trusting that the Ascended-Jesus is still with us. We celebrate Jesus' ascension to heaven ten days before Pentecost, so we find ourselves without the physical form of Jesus like the disciples and we wonder how Jesus will be with us. The miracles and wildness of Pentecost exceed our expectations and in some ways even go many steps above what we dreamed when Jesus says I will not leave you orphaned. A fire burns in our hearts and minds, a violent wind breathes life into our dry bones, and a community forms around us: The Body of Christ.

On this Confirmation-Pentecost Sunday we will celebrate all those things, but also the very specific way Jesus is with Abby, Kayleigh, Ryan, and Melissa in a new way. As their teacher and mentor I could not be happier or prouder of the young leaders they have already become in this church. Each of their stories shines a light of God's goodness into our community and world and they are not even 14 years old. Each one of them is already established in one, if not several, ministries at St. Mark. We look forward to watching how God continues to work in each of their lives and for the many gifts they will share with the St. Mark community. We look forward to the breath of life they will continue to breathe into this world with God and we listen for the wisdom and truth of God they will interpret for



Summer Trips

YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS

St. Mark Youth will have the opportunity to participate in three trips this summer.

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering; Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. This summer from June 27-July 1, the youth will be hosted in Houston, TX. Emily Mockenhaupt will be representing St. Mark at the Gathering and will be part of the group going from Lutheran Church of Martha & Mary.

Cultural Experience in Mexico: High School youth are invited to join us July 7-14 as we travel to Mexico City and Santiago de Queretaro to explore worship in different places, weave tighter connections of community and develop an understanding of pilgrimage. Parents and students interested in this trip must attend an informational/organizational meeting on Thursday, May 10 at 6:30 pm in the Great Room.

Leadership Lab: Leadership lab is a week of study, worship, and relationship building happening July 23-28 at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. Registration due Monday, May 7.

Thoughts from the Loft

On May 20 we celebrate the Day of Pentecost. Whenever I play in church or in recital I feel the Holy Spirit is at work. One never knows how a piece of music will go in front of an audience until it happens! When it does happen, and even if it happens in a way we didn't expect, the Holy Spirit has a hand in it. Perhaps we can celebrate that this Pentecost season! Come, Holy Spirit!

Peace,
Tim



**Friday, May 18
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)

HOLY FAMILY



The Annual Fun Day for Holy Family School's 4th & 5th graders will be on Tuesday, May 29 this year. Volunteers (about 15) are needed to help with the day. Please contact Cynthia Pershing or George & Charlotte Elder if you are interested in helping.



Sunday, May 6 **11:15 am**

Rachel's Day
Center Lawn

Wed. & Tues. May 16 & 22 **9:00 am**

Quilting
2nd floor, Education wing



Quilters

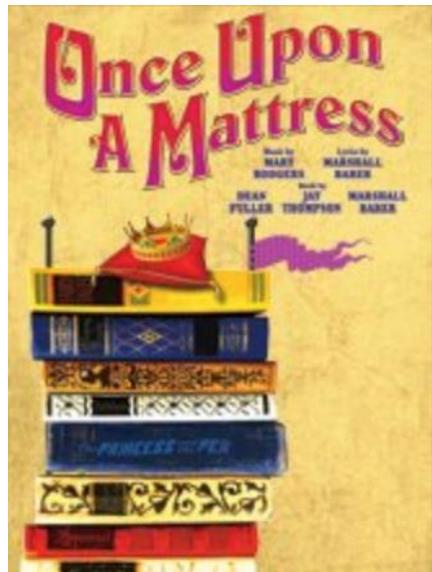
Join the quilters and help make those beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They will gather **Wednesday, May 16** and **Tuesday, April 22 at 9am** on the second floor of the education wing.



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

Join us outside the Center after 10 am worship for our annual fundraiser benefitting children. This year's BBQ and bake sale proceeds will again go to the Intact Family Recovery Program at Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)

Stop by for lunch or a sweet treat to take home.



AUDITIONS FOR THE 2018 SUMMER PRODUCTION WILL BE HELD ON:
SATURDAY MAY, 5 FROM 9AM – NOON
OR
SUNDAY, MAY 6 FROM 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

CALL BACKS WILL BE HELD ON
SUNDAY, MAY 6
FROM 6:30 PM – 10 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.

Pentecost Flower Garden



Help decorate
 the church on Pentecost Sunday by
 purchasing a pot of red geraniums.
 These flowers will be available for
 pick up after service or can be
 given to be donated to home-
 bound members or used to plant
 outside the church. Order forms
 in Sunday's bulletin. \$12.50 each.
 Orders due by Sunday, May 13th.

Lutheran World Relief

On Friday, April 20, 2018, Carl Anderson and Lynn Istwan attended the 41st Annual Spring luncheon of Friends of LWR. This group supports and promotes the LWR quilt making activities of Lutheran Churches in the northern Illinois area, including LC-MS congregations. It's a joy to gather with almost 200 quilters and congregational leaders who support this ministry of quilts, care and school kits. We heard reports from a congregation whose pastor and other volunteers was able to go to the Newark warehouse where all the quilts and kits are unpacked from the boxes we ship them in and reassembled in large bundles for shipping overseas to areas of need in 16 different countries including Nepal, Peru, Honduras, and India. One church at our table had done over 700 quilts last year! (They have a group of 12 quilters and meet every week!)

We were privileged to hear a report from Dr. Steven Bouman, an ELCA pastor and former bishop of the Metro New York Synod during the 9/11 disaster in 2001. He currently serves as director of the ELCA Domestic Mission unit, which includes promotion and education about LWR and ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Relief. He gave a powerful sermon on how effectively we witness to those in need by being there with the school kits the kids love, the quilts that so many hands have produced, and the care kits assembled by loving hands. We can be proud of the work LWR and the ELCA accomplish through cooperative caring for our neighbor.

Lynn reports that the St. Mark quilters are in need of more hands. She will welcome male or female, old or young, skilled or unskilled sewers. The quilters meet the 3rd Wednesday and 4th Tuesday of each month (except July) at 9:00 am upstairs in the Education wing. To date, they've made 70 quilts and can always use sheets, pillowcases, tablecloths, cloth napkins, mattress pads, etc.



Columbarium and Memorial Garden Update

The columbarium team has continued to develop plans for the construction of an indoor columbarium at St. Mark. The group has worked with Keith Youngquist and his architectural firm to develop a very attractive columbarium/meditation chapel in the area immediately outside of the transept. In April the council approved the financial plan and construction drawings presented by Nancy Snell and Carl Anderson. We will have informational meetings before and after worship services during selected Sundays in May and June so that all will have a chance to see the plans and consider this option for their funeral planning. Information will include the fees involved for its use.

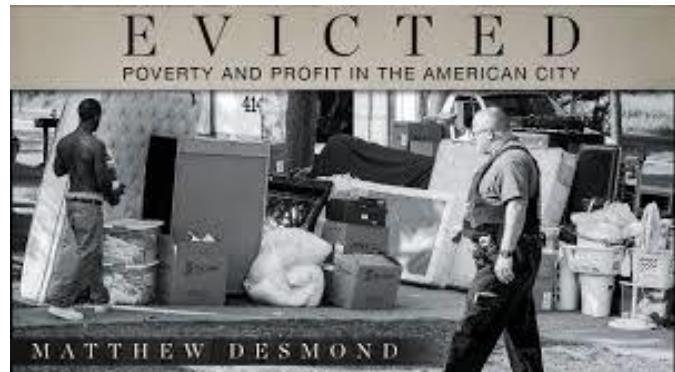
The columbarium is phase one of the project which also includes a memorial garden on the northeast corner of our church property. Our plans for this are in the preliminary phase and are dependent on available finances. They include moving the memorial patio by the side door to a more accessible and prominent location.

The columbarium will be ready for installation in late August. It will be open to all St. Mark members and families.



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-session class—on Tuesday, May 22 & 29 at 7 pm in the Great Room. 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. Contact Pastor Carl or Deacon Dave about getting a book—\$10 each.



SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH ALL SENIORS ARE INVITED Thursday May 17 at 11:45

Plan to meet in the St. Mark parking lot to carpool to The Moorings on Central Road in Arlington Heights for an informative program and salad lunch provided by The Moorings.

We spend years and years planning for retirement. Yet, when it arrives, there are still critical decisions to make. That's why it's so important to know options available to us. The program provides an opportunity to become informed and evaluate various housing arrangements in our area. To make the most of the years ahead, housing arrangements play an important role in determining how much freedom we can really have. The key is finding what fits each of us best. Come and experience an interesting and informative program about senior living options, and enjoy a salad lunch prepared for us by The Moorings.

RSVP to Marilyn Gosell at 847-508-5512 by May 10. Due to construction on the Moorings campus, parking is limited so carpooling is helpful.

**THE MOORINGS
OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS**
A Presbyterian Homes Community

Welcome New Members!!

On April 29th, we welcomed new members into our midst.

Dion and Diane Luper join us through Diane's mother's connection to member Carol Hauslein. Recently married, Dion and Diane were looking for a church to call their own, and even came back after Diane's first visit on Preschool Sunday- when the liturgy rhymed and she wondered "Is it always like this?" Dion works in computers and enjoys working with his hands doing home improvements.

Diane works in the health club industry and enjoys gathering her children and family together.



Julie Wenzel

Diane & Dion Luper

Julie Wenzel is the daughter of members Marilyn and the late Wally Wenzel. Julie grew up at St. Mark and we are delighted she has returned. Julie built a career with Zurich Insurance and enjoys spending time with family and friends, watching the Chicago Cubs, spending time at Rock Cut State Park, and enjoying her fur baby Reno, as they work on walking nicely on the leash and squirrel etiquette.



2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		11 am Private Event 6 pm Basketball 8:15 pm Basketball	1 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 6:30 pm FaithWalk 7:30 pm Basketball	2 4:30 pm FaithWalk 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:45 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir 8 pm Basketball	3	4 9 am Basketball 9 am The King's Players (TKP) Auditions 6:30 pm Nibblers
6 <i>Rachel's Day</i> 8 am Worship 9 am Forum: Pre-planning Your Funeral/Memorial Service 10 am Worship 11:15 am BBQ & Bake Sale 1 pm Council Retreat 1 pm The King's Players (TKP) Auditions 6:30 pm TKP Callbacks	7 6 pm PADS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 7 pm Foundation	8 12:30 pm Deborah Circle 6 pm Basketball 7 pm Worship & Music 8:15 pm Basketball	9 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Basketball 5:40 pm WOW Worship 6 pm Community Meal 6:30 pm FaithWalk	10 11:30 am Preschool Mother's Day Tea 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:45 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir 8 pm Basketball	11	12 9 am Larry Ball Visitation 10 AM Larry Ball Memorial Service 9 am Basketball
13 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 2 pm Private Event	14 11:30 am Private Event 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Summer Suppers 7 pm Mary Circle 7 pm The King's Players (TKP) Orientation	15 6 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council 7 pm TKP Rehearsal 8:15 pm Basketball	16 9 am Quilting 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 6:30 pm FaithWalk 7 pm TKP Rehearsal 7:30 pm Basketball	17 1 pm Senior Lunch Bunch 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:45 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir 8 pm Basketball	18 7 pm Craft Connection	19 9 am Basketball
20 <i>Confirmation Sunday</i> 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 1 pm TKP Rehearsal	21 7 pm TKP Rehearsal	22 9 am Quilting 6 pm Basketball 7 pm TKP Rehearsal 7 pm Book Study: Evicted 8:15 pm Basketball	23 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Preschool End of the Year Show 7 pm TKP Rehearsal	24 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:45 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir 8 pm Basketball	25	26
27 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	28 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	29 9 am Holy Family Fun Day 6 pm Basketball 7 pm TKP Rehearsal 7 pm Book Study: Evicted 8:15 pm Basketball	30 9 am Volleyball NO Bible Study 5 pm Basketball 7 pm TKP Rehearsal	31 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:45 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Basketball		

