



St. Mark Lutheran Church

CrossBeams

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

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September, 2017



Baptism of Thomas James Webb Sunday, August 27





We gathered under the tall trees on the grassy lawn, meeting each other, eating, playing, and celebrating. It is not an unusual experience for St. Markers to gather and eat with people. But this event was different. For you see those gathered were not just from St. Mark, but also from Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary as well as Grace Lutheran. And it wasn't just Lutherans gathered, but Muslims as well, with friends from the Turkish American Society present. This was my experience at the Refugee Resettlement Summerfest this past month. There was something powerful about seeing some of you gathered at tables deep in conversation with women wearing the burka, with people from a different culture than you, celebrating the work we are able to do, to resettle a family from Syria, when we gathered our resources together. There was beauty in this gathering.

We gathered after the events in Charlottesville, seeking to bring together people for a prayer vigil; people from various churches, synagogues, mosques; people from different Northwest Suburbs. By the time you read this the Shine a Light Together prayer vigil will have taken place. There is beauty in this gathering.

We came together on a Sunday afternoon to dream and plan. And God moved through our gathering and called us to look beyond ourselves, to this wider community in which we live. Our council retreat was filled with ideas and plans for ways to gather the community beyond our doors for events and growth. There was beauty in that gathering, as well as beauty in the gatherings that will come from those ideas.

Sometimes in my life I notice patterns, things coming together, repeating themselves in different forms. As I survey these scenes from the picnic, the prayer vigil, and the council retreat, I see a distinct pattern. God is gathering. God is gathering people for amazing awe-inspiring ministry to the world.

Every week in worship we start with the Gathering. We confess our sins and hear God's forgiveness so that we can move beyond those things that often prevent us from gathering. We come together in song. We greet each other with words of peace. We pray. God is gathering us each week to be community.

In the month of September, our community life together will focus on gathering. We will gather back together after summers full of vacations and pauses from regularly scheduled programming. We will gather to bless young people as they return to school with a backpack blessing on Sept. 17. We will gather supplies for health and school kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will gather together for God's Work, Our Hands/ Rally Day on Sunday, September 17 for a community-wide picnic as well as to assemble those kits. And we will gather to bless our quilts and kits and send them off into the world on September 24.

Gather us in God. Gather us in!

In Christ,
Pr. Christie

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday

God's Work, Our Hands Outdoor Worship and Community BBQ **Sunday, September 17**

We here at St. Mark are good at feeding people. It is our mission in fact- To Nourish God's People, Body, Mind and Spirit. On September 17, we will put our hands to use feeding our community. We will invite our neighbors on the 100, 200, & 300 blocks of Wille and Pine Streets, the preschool families and The King's Players to join us for a picnic after an outdoor worship*. You are also encouraged to invite your neighbors as well. We are excited for this time of fellowship and food and need your hands to make it possible!

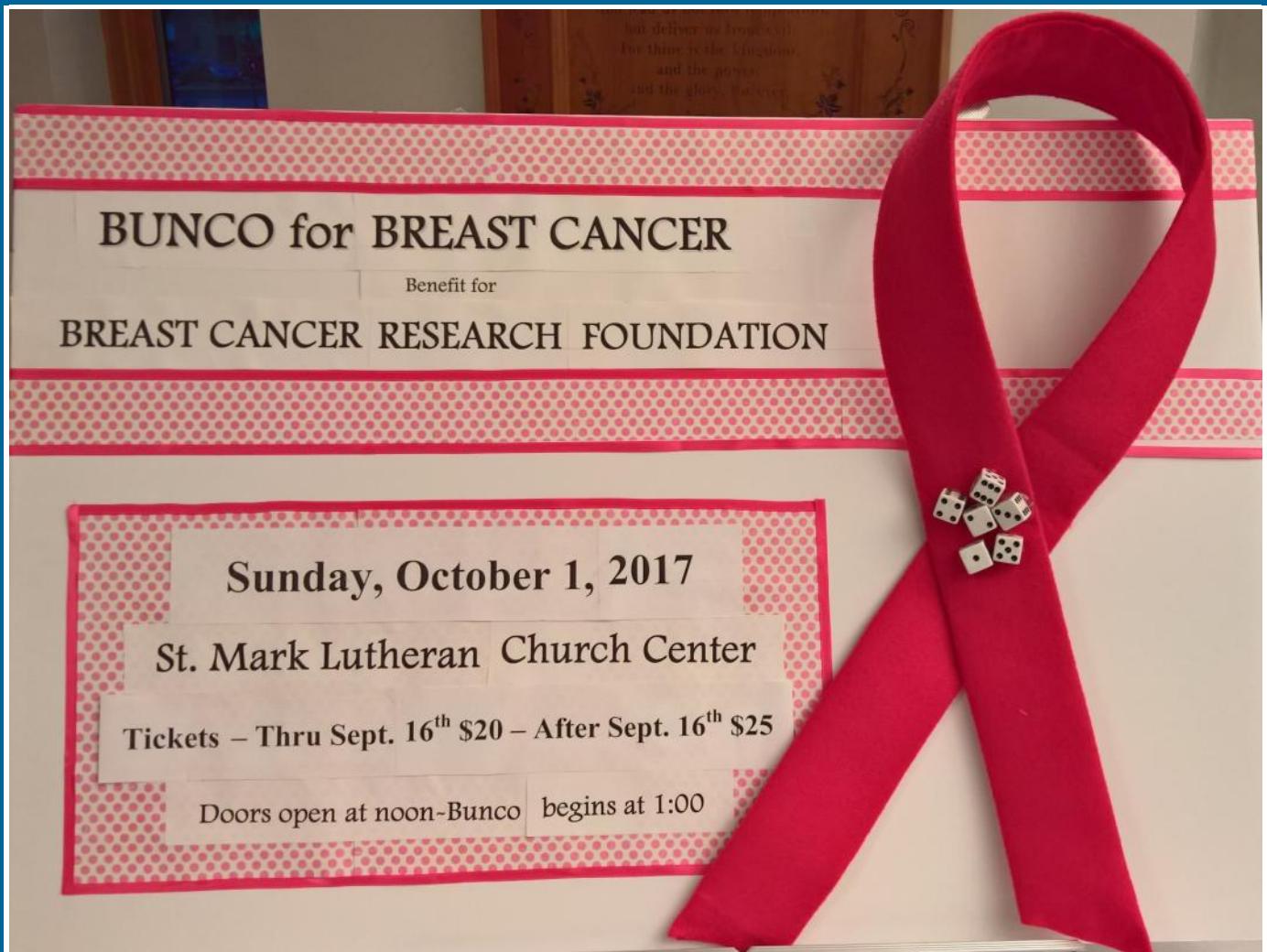
Here's how you can put your hands to use:

- Center Clean Up- Sat., Sept. 9, 9am
- Set Up 1- Collect chairs and items for easy access for Sunday- Sat., Sept. 16, 4pm
- Set Up 2- Set up chairs for worship, tables and chairs for picnic- Sun., Sept. 17, 8:30am
- Clean up- Sun., Sept 17, 1:30pm
- Picnic Hospitality- Greet people, replenish food- Sun., Sept. 17, 11am
- Children's Activities- Create and lead activities for kids- Sun. Sept 17, 11am-1pm
- Grill Masters- Sun. Sept. 17, 10:30am-1:00pm
- Side Dishes/Salads- Prepare a dish and bring it for the BBQ
- Desserts- Prepare a dish and bring it for the BBQ
- Drinks- Bring 3 2-liter bottles of beverage
- Invitation Distribution

God will use our hands to nourish our community!

*Canopies are needed. Do you have something that we can set up to help provide shaded seating for that day? Let Pastor Christie know!

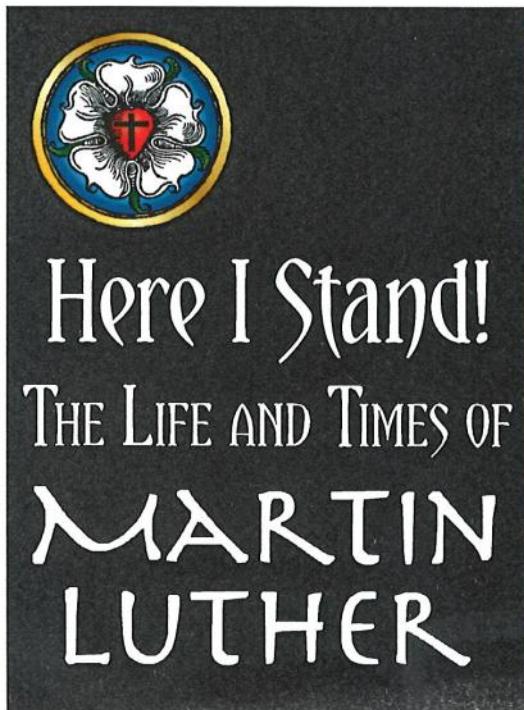




**Tickets available in the narthex on Sunday mornings or
contact Janice Serafini at 847-394-5854**

Reservations required





TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 7:30 P.M.

The 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation—when Protestant churches broke off from Catholicism—provides an opportunity to take a closer look at this religious movement's towering figure: the German monk turned rebel Martin Luther.



Rather than focusing on his theological philosophy, German Historian Anette Isaacs will explore Luther's colorful and riveting life story and provide captivating insights into daily life in the 16th century, thus painting a fascinating picture of this highly dramatic episode in the history of humankind.

Spaces have been reserved for St. Markers. Contact Dianne Quast at 847-635-7773 if you are interested in attending.



Mount Prospect Public Library
explore the opportunities

10 South Emerson Street • Mount Prospect, IL 60056 • 847/253-5675 • www.mppl.org

The King's Players

St. Mark Community Youth Theatre



Thank you to everyone who came out to see "Mary Poppins". We really appreciate seeing St. Mark members at the performances and we hope you enjoyed the show!



Resettlement SummerFest
Saturday, August 19





I would like to say thank you for the many cards, altar flowers, calls and just good wishes during my recovery. I feel so blessed to be part of such a caring church family.

Carole Hauslein

Dear Pastor and St. Mark Members,
Just wanted to say thank you so very much for the beautiful altar flowers you brought me for my 96th birthday! It helped make it a very special birthday.

Sincerely,
Bette McDade

Dear St. Markers,
Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers honoring our anniversary. They were much appreciated.

Fondly,
Ron and Beth Freeman



Come help Clean the Center Saturday, September 9 9 am

In preparation for the Community BBQ for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, September 17, come and help spruce up the Center. Many hands make light the work!

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

God's Work Our Hands/ Rally Day Outdoor Worship & Community BBQ Sunday, September 17

One Service at 10am, followed by lunch on the Center Lawn

Bring your chairs or blankets for worship. We will have some chairs provided including some with arms for ease of getting up and down, as well as some shade if you need it. See sign ups outside the Great Room and page 3 herein for more info on how to put your hands to work.

Don't forget to wear your GWOH shirts on the 17th! First 15 people to sign up who don't already have shirts—get one FREE!

We will also assemble LWR Health and School Kits at the BBQ. Many hands make fun (and light) work!



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

By: Jill Galyon



Registration has begun for WOW and FaithWalk. Come join the fun! Classes begin on Wednesday, September 20th.

WOW—Children's Christian Education (3 yrs through 5th grade) is from 4:30-6pm weekly on Wednesday. Parents are invited to join us for worship at 5:40pm. FaithWalk—St. Mark's Confirmation Program (6th-8th grade) is from 6:30-8pm weekly on Wednesday.

Backpack Blessing—Bring your backpacks to church with you on Sunday, September 17 for a blessing as you start the new school year!



Tastefully Simple Fundraiser

Thank you to all who continue to support the Youth through this fundraiser. We plan to continue this fundraising effort into 2018 to help with expenses for the upcoming Youth Gathering in Houston, as well as other Youth trips in the future. Our next tasting will be October 15 but you can continue to check out products online and place your orders there. Simply go to: tastefulsimple.com/web/mciske, shop, then choose St Mark (St M) as the host at check out. SIMPLE!! Future tastings on November 19 and December 10.

Corn Maze & Cookout—Sunday, October 9 at 4 pm

(FaithWalk & High School Youth)

Join us on our adventure to Richardson Farms in Spring Grove, IL. Enjoy the Corn Maze, hot dogs over a campfire, s'mores, and more. This year's maze is *108 Years in the Making For a Cub's World Championship*. Don't worry about being out late on Sunday night, Monday is Columbus Day and NO SCHOOL!



**Calling all 8th grade though High School youth!
June 27-July 1, 2018 in Houston, TX**

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.

Contact Deacon Dave ASAP if you want to go to the Youth Gathering. Registration is due by Sunday, September 10!

The Gifts of Baptism

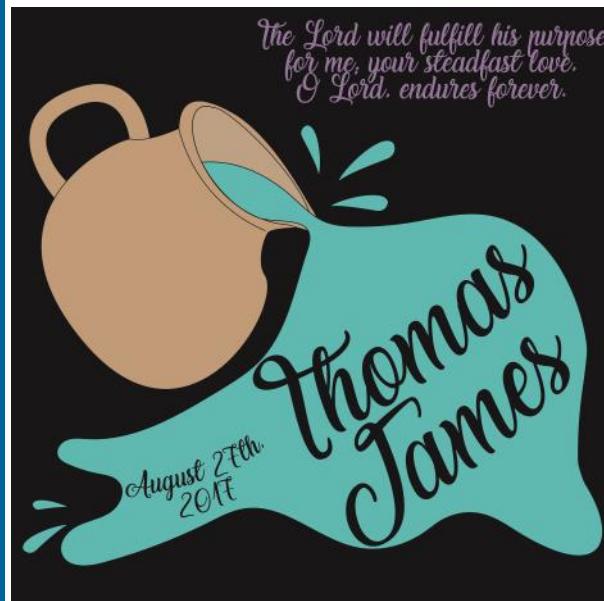
By Deacon Dave

As we have been preparing for Thomas' baptism day a few verses from the text from Romans have been staying with me: "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice" and later in the text, "For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us." Usually when we talk about the gifts of baptism we talk about the forgiveness of sins, the gift of faith, or God's abiding presence, but the gifts of a name and a community are the ones I am most thinking about right now.

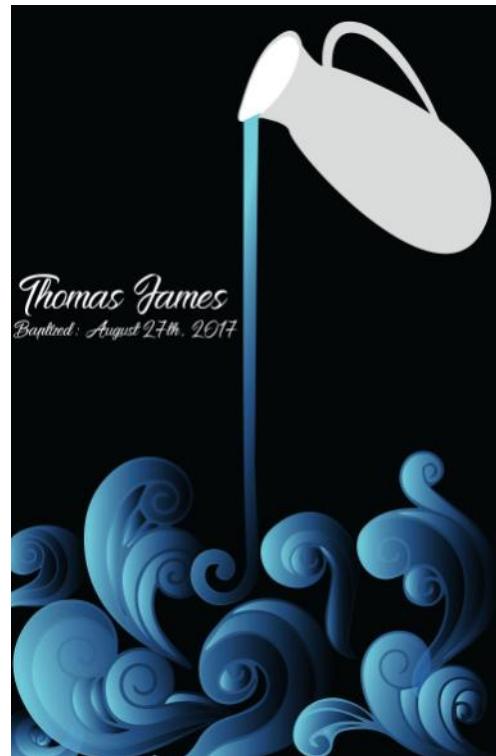
Maybe it is because Pr. Christie and I put so much effort into giving a name to Thomas James or because Thomas was born on the Feast of St. Mark or because he has such a wonderful community around him at church or because he just loves to come to church and see you all already that the gift of a name and a community are the two things that bring me the most joy right now. On Sunday, August 27, he got to be in the midst of his family and friends as we all promise to make him a part of the holy family. God named and claimed this little one "beloved" and marked Thomas with God's very own name.

As he gets older, we will continue to tell him about this day and teach him how to celebrate it! We will tell him about the people who were there that day in person and in spirit. We will tell him about all those people who love him so dearly, especially about the ones he does not see so much anymore, the ones who have gone on before, our dearly departed. The ones whose love is still with us, the great

cloud of witnesses, the ones for whom he is named, the ones who held him when he was young, the ones whose love made us who we are. And, we will remind him of the gifts that you gave him, especially the immaterial ones: the prayers, the blessings, and the wisdom. We will teach him about this special place, this holy family and loving community, this great cloud of witnesses that is present and most especially so when we gather at the font or at the table to worship God. And, together we will teach him how to share in the gratitude of an overflowing heart the gifts God gave us with the whole community. Our hearts will be filled with joy to see God's love and grace working in a new generation to inaugurate the continued coming of the Kingdom. Amen.



Art Work by Claire Embel



Thoughts from the Loft

Did you know that the musical term for a round is a canon? The most obvious that comes to mind is "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Several hymns can be sung in canon! Two that come to mind are "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" (ELW #771) and "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" (ELW #565). The use of canon goes back centuries and lead to more complex counterpoint, or the use of several melodies to create a whole piece. Very cool, in my humble opinion!

Blessings,
Tim

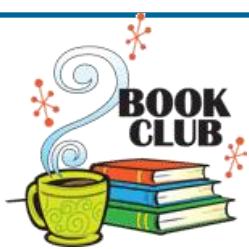


**will NOT meet in
September.
Join us again on
Friday, October 20.**

ORGAN RECITAL AND RECEPTION Sunday, September 17 3:30 pm



Come enjoy organ music played by Music Director Tim Spelbring. Reception to follow. Contact Marilyn Gosell at 847-508-5512 if you can bring cookies.



Book for September:
Small Great Things
By
Jodi Picoult

Meet for discussion on Monday,
September 11 at 1pm in the Great Room



**Senior Lunch Bunch
Thurs., Sept. 21
1:00 pm**

**at
Brick City Tavern**

34 S. Main St., Mt. Prospect

We will be on the 2nd Floor
(They have an elevator.)

**RSVP to Marilyn at 847-508-5512
by Sept. 18 if you plan to attend.**



August 6 through September 3

LWR kit supply collection
Narthex

Sunday, September 17

"God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday
Rally Day

Wed. & Tues. Sept. 20 & 26

LWR Quilting
2nd floor education wing

9:00 am

Sunday, September 24

Thankooffering Sunday

Sunday, October 1

Bunco for Breast Cancer
Center

1:00 pm

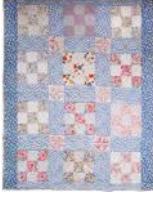


Quilters

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

Wednesday, September 20th

Tuesday, September 26th



On September 24, Women of the ELCA will celebrate **Thankooffering Sunday**. Besides displaying and blessing some of the quilts and the health and 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 His many blessings. This offering is sent, in total, to support the churchwide Women of the ELCA ministries. Please use the blue envelope in your bi-monthly packet, or a pew envelope. **Please clearly mark either one "WELCA Thankooffering."**

Thank you!

ST. MARK WOMEN OF THE ELCA LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SERVICE PROGRAM

As in the past, the Women of St. Mark are asking for the help of our entire congregation in the collection of items needed to prepare SCHOOL KITS AND HEALTH KITS for Lutheran World Relief. As stores seem to be placing school supplies on sale earlier each year, we are providing this list of items that will be needed so you can take advantage of sale prices this summer. PLEASE NOTE: WE CAN ONLY USE THE EXACT ITEMS THAT ARE REQUESTED BY LWR. All items must be in by September 3.



This year the congregation is invited to assist in assembling the kits at the annual "God's Work, Our Hands" day of service on September 17.

ALL DONATIONS CAN BE PLACED IN THE COLLECTION BOXES LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.

HEALTH KIT ITEMS

Bath Towels (dark color recommended)

Bath size bars of soap

Hair combs with wide teeth

Tooth Brushes

Nail clippers with file attached

SCHOOL KIT ITEMS

70 sheet spiral notebooks of ruled paper

Blunt scissors

12 inch ruler with centimeters on the other edge

Pencil sharpeners

Boxes of 16 or 24 crayons

Unsharpened Pencils #2

Ballpoint pens (no gel ink)

Pink Erasers

We are able to purchase some of these items in bulk at a more reasonable cost. If you prefer to contribute funds toward the purchase of these items, please place your gift in a pew envelope marked for WELCA Kits.

How we are blessed being a part of St. Mark

The first Sunday after we moved into Queretaro was the day after we left Chicago. We were staying at a hotel, looking out the window and feeling we are still part of you-sitting in the church praying with you.

Two and a half years ago, we came from Japan for Manabu's job transfer to Chicago. Experiencing moving a few times, it always takes a while until we feel the new town as our home. Being Japanese expatriates living in Illinois, there are a few things that made us amazed, such as magnificent views stretching as far as the horizon, the richness of nature in this land, the size of grocery stores and its items compared to Japan.



Sunday worship was also one of culture shock - as Japanese the social phenomenon of many of us is no religion. We don't have religious education in Japan, usually we learn about God's existence from older people through various seasonal festivals still left in Japan. We were curious about what was going on in the Church but never went in there because not knowing about God made us feel scared to be there. Until one summer Sunday, we met Deacon David at the Church entrance. He was smiling, welcoming and escorted us to a seat. On that morning I was taking my boys on a walk as Manabu was on a business trip for more than one week at that time. We were kind of lost sheep, not knowing where to go and what we wanted to do on that morning. So the boys started peeking in the St. Mark Church entrance and here we are. Since then we can't stop exploring God's love and works.

Pastor Christie and Deacon David were spending time with us, even using their private time for us, to teach and talk about being Christians. Mrs. Galyon always gave us a warm welcome and a big hug and invited my 3 boys to play in her office. We can't put into words our appreciation of how much love we received from this Church. We feel every one of you are part of our family, which made us not lonely and we always looked forward to visiting Sunday worship to see you again.

We had only two Easters there after we were baptized. Two years may be too short to learn about God. But we pledge that we are Christians and we chose it with all of your support. Learning from the

bible what Jesus told us makes our life more rich and we found God's abundant love through praying. Knowing we are all connected under one God eases our loneliness. But we do miss you and St. Mark so much now.

Thank you so much for being with us. You are our treasure that we found in St. Mark. We will always keep you all in our prayers. Please visit us in Queretaro, Mexico.

Sincerely,
The Saito family





Worship Field Trips

Have you ever wanted to experience worship in different communities? Have you ever wondered what worship at a Roman Catholic or Orthodox Church is like? Have you wanted to learn more about worship at a synagogue or mosque? If so the Adult Education Team would like to invite anyone interested in planning some "Worship Field Trips" to **join us at 9:15AM on Sunday, September 24th between services.** We will plan 4-6 worship experiences in the community, so bring your curiosity and your calendars. Each field trip will consist of a worship experience and a light meal or refreshments afterward as we talk about what we experienced. If you cannot make it that Sunday but are interested please let Deacon Dave know where you might like to visit.

Backpack Ministry

The children have gone back to school so St. Mark is starting up it's Backpack Food Ministry again. With food and cash donations from our congregation and the Mt.



Prospect Lions Club, we have been able to send a backpack of healthy food home from school over the weekends for 10 Mt. Prospect children for the last 8 years!

Your donations now will help us keep the pantry stocked for the school year. Here is the list of food needed and there is a collection basket by the shopping cart in the Narthex and another basket at the Evergreen St. Entrance. Thank you for your support of this important ministry!



Choirs are starting up again! Come join us! Thursday, September 7

The Adult Bell Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Bell Choir Room, September through May, and plays once a month on Sunday.

The Adult Vocal Choir rehearses on Thursday night at 7:30 pm in the Choir Room, September through May, and sings three times a month on Sunday.



SAVE THE DATE
PET BLESSING
Sunday, October 8
Following 10 am
worship

Backpack Ministry Needs:

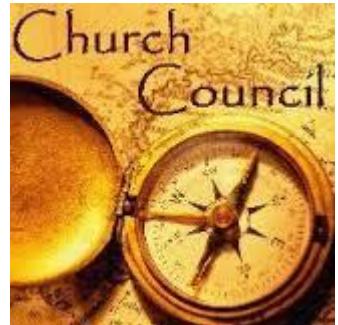
Single Serve Cereal Boxes
Oatmeal in Individual Packets
Cereal Bars
Raisins in small boxes
Granola Bars
Individual Jell-O cups
Peanut Butter/Jelly
Canned Spaghetti/Ravioli
Canned Beef Stew/Chili
Boxes of 'Helper' Meals
Canned Tuna
Vienna Sausages
Chicken pouches
Macaroni and Cheese
Canned Soup
Canned Fruit
Fruit Cups
Canned Vegetables
Juice Boxes
Shelf Ready Milk
Pudding Cups
Cookies in Individual Packets

**No Glass Jars
or
Microwavable
items**

Council Retreat

On a Sunday afternoon in August, your 2017-2018 Council met for a council retreat. The theme of our gathering was “Making All Things New,” stemming from Isaiah 43:19 “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

After some reflection on our goals from last year with celebrations of things accomplished and recognition of areas that still need attention, we moved into dreaming and planning. We began by asking the question: Where is God leading and calling this congregation? Overwhelmingly response was to reconnect with community: to bring the church community to another generation, to connect with people who don’t have good experience with churches, to stand for welcome and inclusivity, to reconnect with the Mt. Prospect community. We are called to teach, guide and mentor, to empower people to use their gifts, to create a vibrant worship experience, to feed people, and look to long term plans for this place we all love.



With these things in mind, we then moved into an asset mapping experience where we brainstormed all the gifts we have here at St. Mark, then considered how we can combine those gifts into new action items. The most energy came through in ideas for community events. Our plan is to have 3-4 community events over the year. Our first event will be a community picnic for God’s Work Our Hands on Sunday, September 17. Other ideas included Open Gym on Sunday afternoon in the winter months, Food Truck Friday in our parking lot, game nights, madrigal dinner and outdoor movies. Other interest involved developing Men’s Ministry, especially in regard to building/fixing things as well as a ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) breakfast club, connecting and deepening ministry with our missionary in Israel, continuing care for outdoor spaces, and many cooking and feeding people ideas (Is there a St. Mark Pizza Oven in our future? Or a Chopped Cooking Competition?)

Our time together was full of energy, inspiration and joy in the call to share the good gifts of St. Mark with a wider and wider community. Stay tuned for more information and inquiries about where you might be interested in participating.



Men’s Corned Beef Dinner Saturday, October 14, 2017 At the St. Mark Center

6:00 pm Doors open
7:00 pm Dinner is served

Tickets = \$35 per person
Available now on Sundays
in the narthex

Harrington’s will provide the dinner.



2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	4 LABOR DAY Office Closed	5 9 am Preschool Parent Coffee 11 am Private Event 3:30 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball	6 9 am Volleyball 3:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	7 3:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	8	9 am Clean the Center
10 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	11 1:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Summer Suppers	12 3:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	13 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6 pm FaithWalk Parent Meeting 7 pm FaithWalk Guide Meeting	14 3:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6 pm FaithWalk Parent Meeting 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	15	16 Set-up for God's Work, Our Hands
17 8 am Worship 10 am Worship with Backpack Blessing 11 am Community BBQ, God's Work, Our Hands Service Day & Rally Day 3:30 pm Tim Spelbring's Organ Recital & Reception	18 4 pm Basketball 7 pm Foundation	19 3:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council	20 9 am Volleyball 9 am Quilting 11 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Youth Choir 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm FaithWalk	21 1 pm Senior Lunch Bunch 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	22	23
24 Thankoffering Sunday 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	25 12:30 pm Bridge Club 4 pm Basketball	26 9 am Quilting 3:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	27 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm WOW 5:45 pm Community Meal 6 pm Youth Choir 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm FaithWalk	28 3:30 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	29	30

