

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
200 South Wille Street  
Mount Prospect, Illinois  
60056-3121

December 2016

God's  
work.  
Our  
hands.



**St. Mark Lutheran Church**

847/253-0631

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Email: [stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org](mailto:stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org)

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**Staff**

Pastor	Rev. Christie Webb	<a href="mailto:cwebb@stmarkmp.org">cwebb@stmarkmp.org</a>
Music Director	Timothy Spelbring	<a href="mailto:tspelbring@stmarkmp.org">tspelbring@stmarkmp.org</a>
Parish Administrator	Nancy Hundley	<a href="mailto:nhundley@stmarkmp.org">nhundley@stmarkmp.org</a>
Office Administrator	Jill Galyon	<a href="mailto:jgalyon@stmarkmp.org">jgalyon@stmarkmp.org</a>
Youth & Family Ministry	Deacon David Webb	<a href="mailto:dwebb@stmarkmp.org">dwebb@stmarkmp.org</a>

**Sunday Worship**

Chapel Service ~ 8 am      Worship Service ~ 10 am

**Wednesday Youth Christian Education (Sept. – May)**

WOW (3 yrs through 5<sup>th</sup> grade)      FaithWalk (Confirmation 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade)  
4:30-6:00 pm      6:30-8:00 pm

**Wednesday Adult Christian Education**

Bible Study 11:00 am

**Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm      Friday 8:30 am – 12 pm noon

**St. Mark Preschool & Enrichment Center**

847/873-1110

Web: [stmarkpreschoolcares.org](http://stmarkpreschoolcares.org)

Preschool Director      Barb Zediker      [bzediker@stmarkmp.org](mailto:bzediker@stmarkmp.org)

**The mission statement of the people of St. Mark:**  
**To nourish God's people in Body, Mind and Spirit.**



St. Mark Lutheran Church

# CrossBeams

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December, 2016

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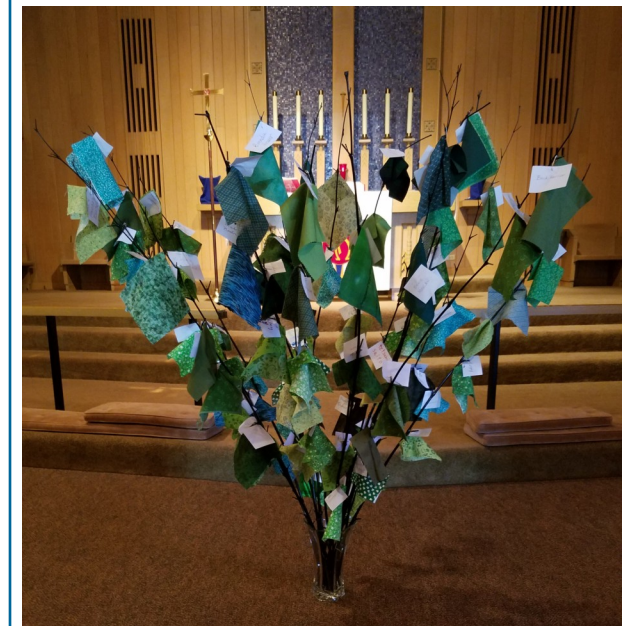
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**Baptism:** Michael Knudson was baptized on Sunday, Nov. 6. He is the son of Elizabeth and Alan and the grandson of Tom & Joan Cork.



**Tree of Life Banner**

On Sunday, November 6, in celebration of All Saints' Day, fabric squares with loved ones names attached were blessed. These fabric squares will be made into leaves for the banner. The banner will be dedicated in 2017.



## In November



**Senior Thanksgiving—Thursday, November 17**



Words are powerful. They mean something. They stick around longer than we expect, and have an effect we often don't anticipate. They can come back to haunt us. They can inspire us to reach heights we never dreamed. They can give us the goose bumps. They can make us feel safe. Words have a power to them. I've been reminded of that recently, especially watching the power of words and stories play out in the political arena these past months.

In this Advent season, we await the birth of The Word among us. In the first chapter of the gospel of John we read:

*“<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being... <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.”*

The Word of God was in the beginning, when God spoke words into the chaos, words like light, sun, moon, plants and animals. God spoke these words and they came into being. Those are some powerful words! And then, in the birth of the Christ child, that Word took on flesh and lived among us. We all know the power of that Word, in our lives and on our world, over and over and over again.

This Advent, as we gather together for worship and conversation we will look at the words of the prophet Isaiah. Prophets are known for their powerful words, words that were thought to come from God. The work of the prophet is to speak these words into the world, to speak them boldly. They are words we need to hear, even if we might not want to hear them. Isaiah spoke powerful words.

- Words of **peace**: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.” (Isaiah 2:4)
- Words of **hope**: “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” (Isaiah 11:1)
- Words of **joy**: “Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.” (Isaiah 35: 6)
- Words of **promise**: “Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)

In this Advent season, as we prepare for the coming of the Word of God made flesh, the child in the manger, the Christ who will come again, we will spend time focusing on the powerful words of PEACE, HOPE, JOY and IMMANUEL (God with us). We will ask what these words mean for us, what they mean for the world, and what they inspire in us as we live our daily lives. Join your words and ideas with those of others in this community as we celebrate the power and promise these words bring.

In Christ,  
Pastor Christie



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	2 11 am Preschool Gym 1 pm Preschool Gym 3:30 pm MP Housewalk 4:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Basketball	3 8 am Basketball 11 am Basketball
4 8 am Worship 10 am Worship Tastefully Simple Tasting Party between Worship Services 11:15 am BUDGET MEETING 1 pm Basketball 6 pm Preschool PJ Pageant	5 6:30 pm PADS 7 pm Foundation	6 11 am Private Event 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Advent Evening Prayer & Conversation	7 9 am Volleyball 10:30 am Advent Morning Prayer 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Youth Choir 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm FaithWalk 9 pm Basketball	8 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	9 11 am Preschool Gym 1 pm Preschool Gym 4:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Basketball	10 8 am Basketball 11 am Basketball 1 pm Basketball
11 8 am Worship 10 am Worship w/ Children's Christmas Program 1 pm Basketball 3 pm Holiday Outing to Metropolis 5 pm Cookie Bake	12 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm PADS 7 pm Mary Circle	13 12:30 pm Deborah Circle 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Advent Evening Prayer & Conversation	14 9 am Volleyball 10:30 am Advent Morning Prayer 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Youth Choir 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm FaithWalk 9 pm Basketball	15 1 pm Senior Lunch Bunch 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	16 11 am Preschool Gym 1 pm Preschool Gym 4:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Basketball 7 pm Craft Connection	17 8 am Basketball 1 pm Basketball 4 pm Private Event
18 10 am Worship w/ Christmas Cantata 11:15 am Chili Cookoff/Tailgating Party 1 pm Basketball	19 6:30 pm PADS	20 9 am Quilting 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council 7 pm Advent Evening Prayer & Conversation	21 9 am Volleyball 10:30 am Advent Morning Prayer 11 am Bible Study	22 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	23 CHRISTMAS EVE OBSERVANCE Office Closed	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 11:30 am 1st Annual Ugly Sweater College Christmas Brunch 4 pm Worship 10 pm Worship
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10 am Worship	26 CHRISTMAS DAY OBSERVANCE Office Closed 12:30 pm Bridge Club 6:30 pm PADS	27 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	28 9 am Volleyball	29 6 pm Basketball	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE



## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 18 at 10 am  
Only one Worship Service that day



### ADVENT TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

On Monday, December 5 @ 7pm, St Raymond de Penafort Church in Mt Prospect will be hosting an Ecumenical Taizé Prayer Service for the season of Advent. This style of prayer has its roots in an ecumenical community in Taizé, France which from its beginnings has worked for reconciliation among Christians and throughout the whole human family. We will join our hearts in meditative sung refrains and prayers, as well as reflective silence. Please consider taking time out from the busy rush of the season to spend an hour praying together for God's peace throughout the world and within our hearts. For more information, contact Brian Fife, music director, at 847-253-8600 x136.

### Coffee, Chocolate and More!

Our last sale of the year will be December 18. Remember to stock up for the holidays, both for your family needs and for gifts. These items make excellent gift baskets for young and old, and you can guarantee they will be used and appreciated. In addition to our regular coffee, tea, chocolate, almonds and olive oil, we have some new products.

- Apricot and mango fruit/nut bars for \$1.50 each.
- Both dark and milk chocolate minis that sell 5/\$1.00
- The large chocolate bars are now slightly smaller and have a lower price: \$2.50 each or 3/\$7.00
- The single serve coffee cups for Keurig brewers are now only \$7.00 for a box of 12 cups

If you need a larger quantity of a particular item, let us know and we can order it in time for Christmas giving. All the LVR items are fair trade and benefit small farmers around the world. They thank you for your support!



## Advent Midweek Study and Worship

Join us for worship, community, coloring (optional) and conversation as we dig into Isaiah and what these words of hope, peace, joy and Emmanuel mean in our lives.

### Tuesday Nights

Conversation 7:00pm

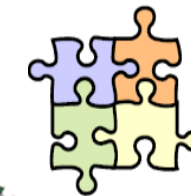
Evening Prayer 8:00pm

### Wednesday Mornings

Morning Prayer 10:30am

Bible Study 11:00am

**Weekly until Christmas**



## 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 16  
7 pm in the Great Room**

### Cookie Exchange and Christmas Craft

**Bring 2 dozen cookies and go home with your choice of 2 dozen cookies baked by St. Mark friends!**

**Then we will make a Christmas Craft. Come join the fun!**  
(Recommended for 6th grade through adult)

### SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING CRAFT NIGHTS:

**Friday, January 20: Bring a personal craft & enjoy fellowship with others.**

(Craft Connection meets on the 3rd Friday of each month except July)





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

By: Deacon David Webb/  
Jill Galyon



**Children's Christmas Program**  
**Sunday, December 11**  
during the 10 am Worship Service



**COOKIE BAKE**  
**Sunday, Dec. 11**  
**5-8:30 pm at the Center**



### Calling all College Students!

While you are on  
break, you are  
invited to

The First Annual Ugly Sweater  
Brunch!  
December 24th at 11:30 am in the  
Great Room  
Christmas Cookies, Lattes/  
Espressos, Egg Bake & French  
Toast Casserole  
RSVP to Deacon David Webb  
dwebb@stmarkmp.org

### Tastefully Simple Tasting Party in the Narthex Sunday, December 4!

This is an on-going fundraiser  
throughout the year. Simply go to:  
tastefullysimple.com/web/mciske,  
shop, then choose St Mark as the  
host at check out. SIMPLE!



### Tailgating & Chili Cook-off Sunday, December 18 Following 10 am worship

**Come watch the game on the big screen at the Center**  
**Bring your best chili recipe for tasting or your favorite snack food to**  
**share! Hot dogs and beverages provided.**

**ALL are invited for the Fun!**



### CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Saturday, December 24**  
**Worship at 4 pm Family Service**  
**& 10 pm Candlelight Service**

**Sunday, December 25**  
**Worship at 10 am**

**Sunday, January 1**  
**Worship at 10 am**

### Christmas Cookies

By Cynthia Pershing

I've been baking Christmas Cookies for over 50 years. I learned from my Mom and Aunt. In our homes it wasn't Christmas unless we had the cookies. I give them as gifts. I even gave them to the Holy Family School silent auction for many years. My husband Bruce and daughter Brenda were told they couldn't have any until Christmas Eve dinner. Now I give them for the St. Mark Bunco Christmas basket. I can't put into words how much I enjoy baking them. I make 7 or 8 kinds. Here is one of the recipes I'll share with you:



### ENGLISH TOFFEE COOKIES

1 cup butter	1 cup brown sugar
1 egg yolk (beaten)	1 tsp vanilla
2 cups flour	1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt	8 Hershey Bars and chopped nuts

Cream butter and sugar. Add egg yolk. Beat until light. Add vanilla. Beat, add flour with salt and baking powder sifted together. Spread into a large cookie pan and pat down to cover the pan evenly. Bake at 350 for 20 minutes. Place the broken up Hershey Bars on top of hot dough and spread. Sprinkle with chopped nuts. I use pecans. Enjoy!

### “Thanksgiving for Stewards”



We have concluded our annual emphasis on stewardship this fall with our “commitment” Sunday on Nov 20. As we have now celebrated Thanksgiving and are in the new season of Advent, our thoughts are centered on the Christmas season and stewardship of our gifts – both giving and receiving. May you find this season to be a blessing as you share generously with those you love.

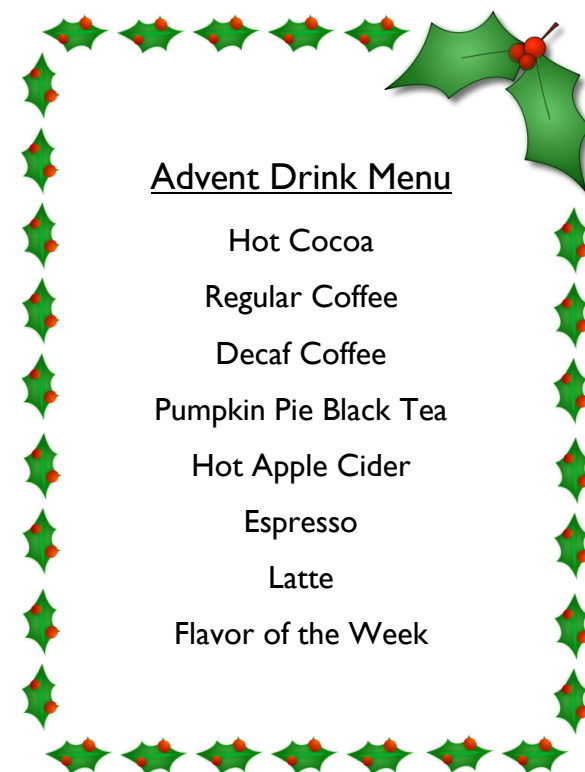
We thank those of you who have made your annual commitment, and also want to remind those of you who were not yet able to do so, due to travel or other commitments, that you can still indicate your commitment to the ministries of St. Mark during 2017 by contacting the church office, or simply mailing in your commitment card and ministry sheet to St. Mark.

If you are considering electronic giving in 2017 and have questions as to how to arrange this, contact Nancy Hundley at the church office. You can also arrange this through the “billpay” or similar programs at your bank or financial institution. If you need further information regarding involvement in any of the ministries of St. Mark, please call Jill at the church office and she can connect you with the right person. We pray that you will enjoy the blessings of good stewardship and generous living in 2017!

*Pr. Carl Anderson for the Stewardship Team.*

### ADVENT COFFEE HOUR

Sundays in Advent, join us during coffee hour for seasonal beverages to help us prepare for all festivities of the season. Youth and Fellowship are joining forces to bring specialty coffees and tea to the coffee hour between services and following the 10am worship.



### The Holy Family

By Deacon David Webb

One of my favorite parts of Christmas is getting the Nativity Set out! The display of the Holy Family is one of my favorite visuals of the Christmas season. It is the heart of the Christmas mystery. It isn't a mystery in the sense that we can't understand it, but it's a mystery because it constantly gives us new understanding and new insight into the power and love of God.

So much is communicated in the little figures and scenes. I love the peaceful and pastoral image of two people who love each other, joined by strangers, and animals in a strange city on the night of the birth of their first son. I love the sense of community and support inherent in the little gathering. I love the harrowing story of two people who travel for so many days and nights, exhausted and desperate to find a place just to rest; two people who are outcasts, without resources, and lost, doing everything in their power to bring God's love to birth in the world. I love the way we call them the Holy Family, though they are almost wholly different than our “ideal” of what a family should be! I love that a twelve year old girl, a middle aged man, some celestial beings, God-incarnate, smelly shepherds, and some random livestock comprise the first Christmas gathering; only days later they are joined by three wanderers from faraway lands. Instead of happily ever after, the family is then forced to flee under the cover of darkness to protect their lives and live as refugees in a foreign country. I love that, no matter all the crazy and wild details of the story, the little figures or an icon or image of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus seem totally grounded on the love they have for each other.

This little picturesque scene filled with so many contradictions, paradoxes and oddities is just such a remarkable theological gift for us as we live into the future. No matter where we go, how we travel, what events we face, how lonely we are, how exiled we are, how much we struggle to find our place in the world, try to figure out what it means to be family or church, we can always return to the gift of this little gathering of rag tag and scandalous characters who traveled great distances, did amazing and mundane things, and found a way when it looked hopeless. It gives us the chance to see what is possible when we are grounded in the love of God.





## Thoughts from the Loft



Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all! (ELW #276, vs. 1)

The adult bell choir will be playing an arrangement of this hymn this Christmas. I don't think it's an accident that Jesus entered this world in a humble way. The text of this hymn captures that for me in a very special way. All of our gifts, be them big or small, can remind us this Christmas of the love that came down for each one of us, Christ the child who is Lord of all!

Peace to all of you,  
Tim



### Senior Lunch Bunch Annual Christmas Lunch

**Thursday,  
December 15, 2016, 1:00 pm**  
**Des Plaines Elks Club**  
495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL  
With Music by Tim



Lunch includes Caesar salad, veggie medley, choice of entrée, coffee, tea or iced tea and dessert.  
Cash bar available.

#### Choose one Entree:

London Broil with baked potato  
Chicken Kiev with rice pilaf  
Lemon Pepper Sea Bass with rice pilaf

**Cost is \$18 per person**

**Bring a wrapped 'White Elephant' gift**  
**RSVP with main course choice and payment to Marilyn**  
**before Friday, December 9**

## Women of the ELCA

**Sunday, December 4, 12:30 pm**

St. Raymond Women's Club  
Christmas luncheon  
Atlantis Banquets

(By advance paid reservation only)

**Sunday, December 11, 3:00 pm**

**Holiday Outing**  
**It's A Wonderful Life:**  
**A Live Radio Play**  
**At the Metropolis**  
**Theatre**  
**In Arlington Heights**  
**Tickets: \$24 each seat**



Contact Kim Perlich, 847-253-4073

**Tuesday, December 20, 9:00 am**



Lutheran World Relief quilting  
Upstairs, Education wing

**~SAVE THE DATE~**

**Friday, January 27, 7:00 pm**

Bunco and Dessert  
Bring a wrapped white  
elephant gift to share  
Fellowship Hall



Join us for our annual

## OPEN HOUSE!

**Saturday, February 4th**  
**10 am to 12 pm**

Crafts for kids ~ Meet the Staff  
Tour the classrooms

Learn about the curriculum

Review program options including:  
Traditional Preschool, STEM Kindergarten  
Enrichment & Extended Care

Can't make it on the 4th? Contact Director  
Barb Zeiker for a personal tour  
847-873-1110

WOW!!!! What a great time the St. Mark Book Club had at our last meeting. For November, our book was *The Kitchen House*. Our meeting was held at Carol Martin's house. Carol told us that she had a surprise for us. She had contacted the book's author, Kathleen Grissom and Kathleen was going to call us to discuss the book. We talked to her for some time. What a treat!! St. Mark Book Club meets the 2nd Monday each month in the Great room at 1:00 pm. JOIN US!!

