



St. Mark Lutheran Church

CrossBeams

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

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Volume 57, Issue 6

June, 2018



Confirmation Sunday May 20, 2018





The Green and Growing Season

The lovely luscious blooms jumped out at my heart from the page. Pinks in bright fuschia or pale rose. Oranges the color of the sunset. Whites of lacy fancy. I wanted those flowers--out in my garden brightening each day and in vases and arrangements all over my house. The magazine article where I saw those blooms reignited a passion within me. It highlighted the work of Erin Benzakein and Floret Flowers, a flower farm in Washington State (www.floretflowers.com) where Erin grows the most amazing flowers for the purpose of cutting and sharing their beauty with the world. These images sent me to the garden store, and then outside to get my hands dirty pulling weeds and planting and nurturing new growth.

We find ourselves in the church year at the beginning of the Season after Pentecost, a green season of "ordinary time." It is a green and growing season, really quite the opposite of "ordinary" both in the church and out in the garden. All this has me thinking about our faith lives and how we grow in faith. "Growing in Faith" is one of our highest values here at St. Mark. This is the title we are giving to the overarching category that includes education, raising up people of faith, passing on faith and making disciples, spiritual growth, mentoring and leadership, learning about others, family ministry, and cradle to grave ministry. This overwhelmingly was the top contender you all identified as a theme in your most meaningful moments at St. Mark.

Recently on the day we confirmed four wonderful young people, I was remembering my own confirmation. I was realizing that while in some minds Confirmation means the culmination of learning in faith, for me, and for all of us really, it is just the beginning. I can look back on my life and see the different stages of learning and growing in different ways. Those Bible Studies that opened up scripture for me. Those mission trips that put my faith into action through my hands. The college theology courses that expanded my understanding of God. Those spiritual practices that deepened my roots in practicing the presence of God. The leadership opportunities that called forth gifts from me I didn't know I had to be put to use for the kingdom of God. The encounters with other faiths that helped me realize how big God is. I suspect that you too have many seasons of growing in faith in your own life since Confirmation. For the truth is, we are never done growing in our faith.

This green and growing season I challenge you to think deeply about your faith life and where you are needing the gardener God to tend to your growth. Is it at the roots/ in the soil? Are you needing time in prayer, time in God's presence drawing nurture and nutrients? Is it in strengthening your stem? Are you in need of knowledge and insight from Bible studies, or book readings, or conversations and experiences that help you think about faith? Is it in producing the fruit of our faith, in acts of service, in sharing our gifts with the world for the good of the kingdom of God? Whatever it is, I hope that you will be inspired by the lushness of the season of summer outside, this green and growing season, to tend to and invite God to garden and grow your faith life as well.

Peace,
Pastor Christie

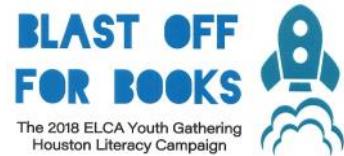




On June 26th, Emily Mockenhaupt will leave on her way to Houston to represent St. Mark at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. She will be traveling with youth & adults from Lutheran Church of Martha & Mary, returning on July 2nd. Below are two ways you can help Emily and the community she will be serving and learning about.

IN-KIND GIVING

The Gathering has recognized the need to lift up literacy in Houston. So for this year's In-Kind offering, books will be collected for students in Pre-K through 6th grade—Blast Off For Books (The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Houston Literacy Campaign). We will be collecting books to send to Houston starting **Sunday, May 27th through Sunday, June 10th**. Please buy only the books that are listed. All books must be new or gently used.



Our partners at the Houston Independent School District identified the following books for Gathering participants to bring to Houston.

- *Bad Kitty* (Series) by Nick Bruel
- *Elephant and Piggie* (Series) by Mo Willems
- *Frog and Toad* (Series) by Arnold Lobel
- *It's Shoe Time* by Mo Willems and Brian Collier
- *Little Bear* (Series) by Elsa Holmelund Minarik
- *Mercy Watson* (Series) by Kate DiCamillo
- *Amulet* (Series) by Kazu Kibuishi
- *El Deaf* by Cece Bell
- *Ghost* by Raina Telgemeier
- *Mighty Jack* by Ben Hatke
- *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson
- *Secret Coders* (Series) by Gene Luen Yang
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (Series) by Jeff Kinney
- *Dog Man* (Series) by Dav Pilkey
- *Dragon Masters* (Series) by Tracey West
- *Eerie Elementary* (Series) by Jack Chabert
- *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- *Frank Einstein* (Series) by Jon Scieszka
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *I Survived* (Series) by Lauren Tarshis
- *Laura Ingalls Wilder* by Crystal Allen
- *Matilda* by Ronald Dahl
- *Nerds Book 1: National Espionage, Recue, and Defense Society* by Michael Buckley
- *One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate
- *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams Garcia
- *Origami Yoda* (Series) by Tom Angleberger
- *Some Kind of Courage* by Dan Gemeinhart
- *The Cross Over* by Kwame Alexander
- *The Lions of Little Rock* by Kristin Levine
- *The Year of Billy Miller* by Kevin Henkes
- *Wonder* by Raul Palacio
- *Creepy Pair of Underwear* by Aaron Reynolds
- *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin
- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena
- *Mango, Abuela and Me* by Meg Medina
- *Martina and the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale* by Carmen Agra Deedy
- *Pete the Cat* (Series) by James Dean
- *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt
- *Why Am I Me* by Paige Britt



Buy a meal...

BUY-A-MEAL Sunday, June 3rd

Help Emily eat while she is away by sponsoring one of her meals
Buy a Breakfast for \$5, Lunch for \$10 or Dinner for \$15.



What's Happening in Youth & Family Ministry?



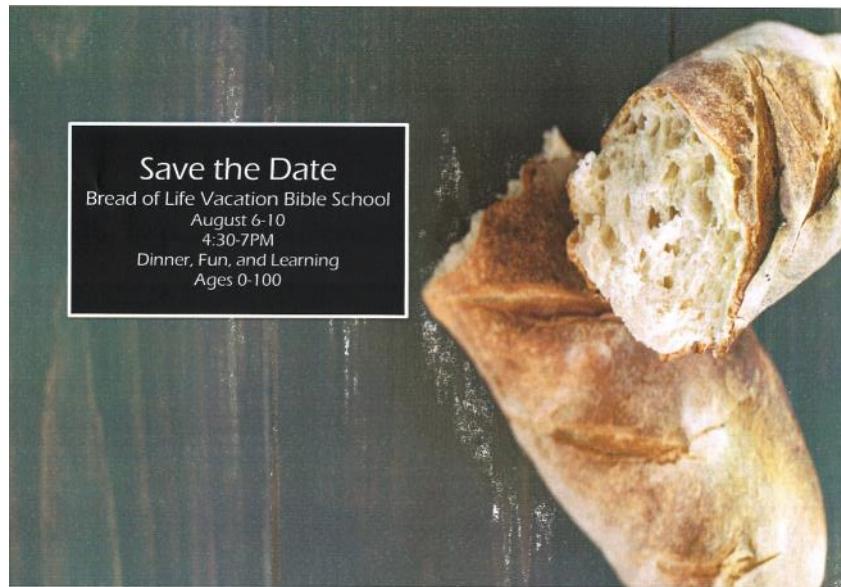
Graduate Recognition Sunday June 10

Please let us know about your graduate (8th grade, High School, College or beyond).

Contact us by email at stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org; on a *Connection Card*; or call the church office. Let us know all that apply: name of graduate, school graduating from, school going to in the fall & degree by June 6.

Tastefully Simple Fundraiser

Thank you to all who have been supporting our youth through this fundraiser. The next tasting will be June 10th. All purchases get you entered in a raffle for more Tastefully Simple products!! Recent winners include: Mary & Abby Sorum, Mary Goodrich and Greg Hallstrom. If you miss the tasting, 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?



Youth Ministry This Summer at St. Mark

By: Deacon David Webb

There are many things happening at St. Mark and in your lives this summer! Let us know what you are up to! Send us pictures or videos of what you are doing; enjoying God's creation, sharing the friendship and love of Jesus, or on some holy adventure with the Holy Spirit. You can send pictures to dwebb@stmarkmp.org. The following are all the summer activities we have planned. Contact me if you have any questions or would like to join any of the projects!



0-9 Year Olds

Children's Church: Join us for programming during 10AM worship on Sunday mornings. There will be a children's message and age appropriate activity during children's church.

Acolyting: Contact me if your student would like to acolyte or learn to acolyte this summer.

Bread of Life, July 29th-August 26th: Stay tuned for special announcements about special programming for the Bread of Life Season. There will be programming for all ages, especially on Sunday mornings.

Vacation Bible School, Bread of Life, August 6th-10th 4:30-7: Join us for dinner and lots of fun!

10-12 Year Olds

Children's Church: Middle schoolers have a great time helping with Children's Church activities on Sunday morning. Please contact me if your student is interested in helping.

Acolyting: Contact me if your student would like to acolyte or learn to acolyte this summer.

Vacation Bible School, Bread of Life, August 6th-10th 4:30-7: There will be middle school activities as well as volunteer opportunities. Contact me to sign up.

13-22 year olds

Bread of Life, July 29th-August 26th: Stay tuned for special announcements about special programming for the Bread of Life Season. There will be programming for all ages, especially on Sunday mornings.

Leadership Development Projects: Students High School Students and above are invited to apply to help lead ministry opportunities for the upcoming year. Contact me for applications.

Community Garden Help maintain, harvest, and preserve our small crop of fruits and vegetables this summer. We work select Mondays and Tuesdays.

Storycorps: Learn more about St. Mark members and help conduct interviews as we catalog our living history. Work Days TBD.

Children's Church and Wow: Student can be a part of the planning and implementation of all the fun we have in St. Mark's ministry with children. We work select Mondays and Tuesdays.

Friends in Christ: Students can help design and cultivate this ecumenical and interfaith ministry that will seek to grow relationships between people of different faiths, offer students the chance to worship with different faith communities, lead peace workshops, and participate in international interfaith pilgrimages. Work Days TBD.

Community Nights: Students would plan, promote, and participate in open gym and open house nights at the center with games, sports, dinner, and arts activities planned. Work Days TBD.

Acolyting: Students can serve in an acolyte leadership capacity with additional duties scheduling other acolytes, filling candles, etc. Sunday and Monday work days.

Worship Leadership: Student can help read the lessons, serve as assisting ministers, and preach during 8am and 10am worship services.

Thoughts from the Loft

One of the greatest feats in engineering is an organ, in my humble opinion. With its thousands of pipes made of metal and wood, the sounds an organ makes can be like a subtle flute or a brass band. Its many moving parts that transfer the wind from place to place causes the organ to breathe like a real person! All of the physics involved, from sound waves to tuning slots, makes the organ a complete miracle in the production of musical sound. What a blessing it is that we even get to sing with it every Sunday to glorify God. As we appreciate the beauty of God's creation this summer, I might suggest we also appreciate a feat of God's creation, the pipe organ.

Blessings,
Tim



Thank you so very much for our sending blessing on Sunday, May 13! It meant a lot to our whole family. You are all very special to us and we will continue to pray for all at St. Mark.

Sincerely, The Molini Family
Tony, Tina, Matt (and Ally), Michele and Ryan



**Friday, June 15
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 & cut fabric squares that will be used by the St. Mark quilters for the LWR quilts. OR
3. Bring your own personal craft to work on!

Come and join the FUN & FELLOWSHIP!

(Recommended for 6th grade through adult)



Wed. & Tues. June 20 & 26 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, June 20 and Tuesday, June 26 at 9am** on the second floor of the education wing.



THANKS SO MUCH to everyone for your generous support of the Rachel's Day fundraiser. The money we have raised will be sent to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' Intact Family Recovery Program. If you'd still like to contribute, see Kim Perlich or clearly mark a pew envelope "Rachel's Day".

THANK YOU....THANK YOU!!!



Announcing: The King's Players' 2018 Summer show **2018 Revue Show** *July 26-29, 2018* **at Forest View Educational Center Theater**

When life hands you lemons, as they say, make lemonade! Sadly, we did not get enough actors to produce *Once Upon A Mattress* this summer. Instead, this is going to give us an opportunity to do something we've long wanted to do. Rather than doing a book musical, we will put together our own revue show, giving our cast an extraordinary opportunity to perform musical numbers from a variety of shows—even more than they would in an ordinary book musical! It will be a challenging and creative endeavor.



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.



The Prayer Chain would welcome any new members who are interested in becoming part of this important ministry. There are no meetings to attend or reports to write, just a sincere desire to pray for your fellow St. Markers and their concerns. If you are interested please call or email me.

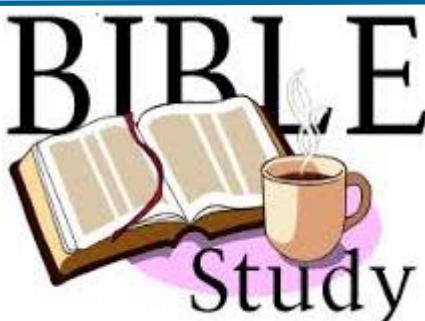
Carole Hauslein

847-255-1483

Rhch300@comcast.net



Update: Due to unforeseen circumstances, Rich Schultz will be attending the Metro-Chicago Synod Assembly Friday and Saturday, June 8 & 9 in place of Carol Floros. Thank you Rich for serving in this way. Please keep the Assembly in your prayers as we go about the work of the larger church.



**Bible Study
is taking a break!**
There will be no bible study in June or July.
See you in August!!

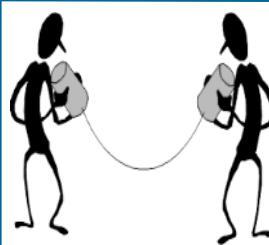
Mount Prospect July 4 Parade

This year St. Mark and St Raymond will be pushing shopping carts in the parade to collect food for the Mt. Prospect Food Pantry. Volunteers will be needed to get/return carts, push carts, count & organize the food, etc. Keep an eye out for more information!



Patriotic Music

Music Director Tim Spelbring will play patriotic music on Sunday, July 1 following 8 am worship and then before 10 am worship. Be sure to come and enjoy.



Communications Meeting

Monday, June 18, 7 pm in the Library
Help us tell the story of the good things happening at St. Mark.
Contact Carol Floros 847-567-5327 for more information.

Columbarium and Memorial Garden Update

Many of you attended one of the information sessions after worship services on May 20 and saw the illustration boards showing the appearance of the columbarium and the sample bronze faceplates that will make up the face of the structure. Everyone agreed that the design is very attractive and that the area outside of the entrance to the transept will have a much improved appearance with new lighting, a better view of the stained glass windows and a small meditation chapel in front of the columbarium.

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.

Beginning in June and throughout the summer there will be additional opportunities to learn more about how you can support the development of the project through reservations of niches in the columbarium as well as contributions to the construction cost of the proposed garden.

The columbarium will be ready for installation in late August; the team is currently exploring plans for the development of the garden. There will be opportunities to donate to the cost of items in the garden such as benches, sculpture, or plantings. Plans are to incorporate the existing memorial patio into the new garden. We welcome your questions and ideas!

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



Needed: Hastas, Daylilies and Sedum

The gardening crew is in need of Hastas, Daylilies and Sedum to fill in the gardening beds around the church. If you have an abundance in your yard and need a place to move these plants to, the gardening crew would be happy for your donation!





**VBS REGISTRATION
IS OPEN**

Shipwrecked

At Lutheran Church of the Cross

July 16 - 20, 2017

1-4 pm

We are ready for the Fun!

Plan now to be a part of Shipwrecked VBS

At Shipwrecked VBS kids will venture onto an uncharted island where kids survive and thrive. Anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms. Join us for SHIPWRECKED Vacation Bible School and learn how Jesus rescues all of us. Shipwrecked is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids will see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of our exciting activities that help faith flow into real life. Get ready to learn of God's love! Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and shoes safe for outdoor activity.

VBS at LCC is offered at **NO COST** to the community, but space is limited so register early!

SHIPWRECKED VBS will be creative fun for kids age 3 - completing 5th grade.

(Note: children need to be able to use the restroom independently).

Older kids can be crew leaders and should register under volunteer registration.

Come explore God's word...and never be the same again!

To register go to our website: www.sharegodslove.org

Click upcoming events. Just below the Shipwrecked VBS picture, click the link. This will take you to the VBS registration website. Click "participant registration" and follow the instructions. Are your creative juices flowing through your soul screaming "VOLUNTEER" ? Click on volunteer registration instead of register participant. Please pass on this information to your family and friends. Want more information? Please call us if you have questions we would be happy to pass along the chatter from the Ship's crew!

Katherine and Jodi

847-804-3545 or 847-971-8873



2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 6:30 pm Nibblers
8 am Worship 10 am Worship	3 6 pm Mutual Ministry 7 pm The King's Players (TKP) Rehearsal	4 11:00 am Private Event 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 7 pm Stewardship 7 pm TKP Rehearsal	5 9:30 am Volleyball 4:30 pm Basketball 7 pm TKP Rehearsal	6 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	7	8 SYNOD
Graduate Celebration 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 11:15 am Summer BBQ 1 pm TKP Rehearsal	10 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Summer Suppers 7 pm Mary Circle 7 pm TKP Rehearsal	11 2:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 7 pm Worship/Music 7 pm TKP Rehearsal	12 9:30 am Volleyball 12 pm Basketball 7 pm TKP Rehearsal	13 2:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	14 7 pm Craft Connection	16
Father's Day 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 1 pm TKP Rehearsal	17 7 pm Communications 7 pm TKP Rehearsal	18 2:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 7 pm TKP Rehearsal	19 9 am Quilting 9:30 am Volleyball 12 pm Basketball 7 pm TKP Rehearsal	20 2:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	21	22 23
8 am Worship 10 am Worship 1 pm TKP Rehearsal	24 7 pm TKP Rehearsal	25 9 am Quilting 2:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council 7 pm TKP Rehearsal	26 9:30 am Volleyball 12 pm Basketball 7 pm TKP Rehearsal	27 2:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	28	29 30
		ELCA YOUTH	GATHERING (Houston)			

