



MARKSMAN

WORSHIP WEEKLY

with a blend of traditional and contemporary music.

SUNDAYS ON-SITE

Mask-optional for those fully vaccinated. Communion now offered at the altar as well as in the pews.

September 5 –
end of summer schedule
8:30 am and 10:30 am.

September 12, Rally Day -
fall schedule begins
8:30 am and 11:00 am.

SUNDAYS ONLINE

Watch the second service our YouTube channel
StMarksLutheranChurch
WashingtonIllinois

CONTACT US

Office 309-444-4618
200 S Main Street
Washington, IL 61571
office@stmarkswashington.org

Childcare & Preschool
309-444-4686

Facebook:
stmarkswashington
Website:
stmarkswashington.org

Facebook
@stmarkswashington

From Your Senior Pastor

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead

Christians are called to change the world - and we are doing so, one life at a time. None of us can fully accomplish Christ's mission alone, so we work together in what I call Team Jesus. This Team began when Jesus called a dozen disciples by the Sea of Galilee - and it grew to be the global church. This is truly a miracle!



We are doing our part at St. Mark's. In 2019, the Mission Assessment led by Pr. Dick Wehrs identified twelve goals for us during the three years of 2020-2022. Despite the start of the pandemic and Pastor Bates' retirement in 2020, Team Jesus at St. Mark's has made progress on eleven of those goals! At this halfway point, here is a progress report on some of your accomplishments during this last year and a half:

- We have studied Growing Young, revised the confirmation curriculum, and hired a new Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry.
- The call process has begun for a new senior pastor.
- We have stayed in touch with our members during the pandemic by improving communications and livestreaming worship services.
- The constitution, bylaws, continuing resolutions, policies, job descriptions and membership records are all being updated.
- We are financially strong due to generous giving by our members and support from the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).
- Plans are underway to renovate the Burton Street House to use for youth and community outreach, and to renovate our basement to create an added layer of fire protection for our preschool children and the building itself.
- The new nominating committee is seeking future leaders for St. Mark's.
- The new personnel committee is exploring ways to support our staff.
- The new audit committee is reviewing our financial records and procedures so that we may continue to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to St. Mark's.
- The phone system has been replaced and other repairs have been made to our facilities.

(continued)

(continued)

- We are making plans to restore ministries after the pandemic. The choir, Sunday School, and confirmation will resume this month, along with communion at the altar.

The Holy Spirit continues to inspire and empower us to accomplish Christ's mission. Despite the challenges of these days, it is truly remarkable to see all that has been accomplished. More is surely yet to come. There is a place for everyone to get involved in Team Jesus. While some roles are visible, some are behind-the-scenes – yet all are important to support our current ministries and future growth. **Thank you for being part of Team Jesus!**

~ Pastor Lanny Westphal

WHY WORSHIP?

Did you fall out of the habit of regular worship during the pandemic?

It is our duty - and our joy - to worship God together. *“Be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:18-20)*



HELP WANTED

Ushers

Need confirmation hours? How about hours for National Honor Society or Leadership Club? Anyone confirmation age or older can be an usher. Training is available and easy!

Communion Servers

Come train to be a Deacon! Deacons are needed to help serve communion on Sundays during worship. The Pastor distributes the host and then the assistants (deacons) bring follow with the communion tray with individual cups (filled with wine or grape juice) for the congregant to take. Diana Lindahl will be available for instruction.

Fellowship Hour Servers

Yes! you get to eat on the job! Come help serve coffee and donuts between worship services. Training is available and sampling is a must!

For any of these opportunities, please contact the church office. Our phone number is 309-444-4618 or email us at office@stmarkswashington.org

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:10)

CHILDREN & FAMILY

Rally Day

We'll celebrate the start of Sunday School with Rally Day, September 12th! All Sunday School students (ages 3 years thru 6th grade) and their parents will meet in the Sanctuary at 9:45 for a brief welcome and informational meeting. Join us in the John Bates Family Life Center for donuts and an opportunity to meet your children's Sunday School teachers. Be sure to stop by Dizzy's Photo Booth and get your child's picture taken with Dizzy!

Sunday School

(ages 3 thru 6th grade)

St. Mark's is planning to resume in person Sunday School classes this fall, beginning on Sunday, September 19th from 9:45-10:45. Please note the following precautions we are taking to ensure the well-being of our students and teachers:

- Students and teachers (regardless of vaccination status) will be required to wear masks during Sunday School.
- Students and teachers will be reminded to sanitize or wash their hands when they enter the classrooms.
- Seating for students will be spaced out



in the classrooms as much as possible.

Register now!

Contact Nancy with questions

(nvogel@stmarkswashington.org).

Cross Trainers

Cross Trainers will begin on Wednesday, September 15 for 5th and 6th grade students from 7:00-8:00 pm in Beckwith Hall.

Students may arrive as early as 6:30 for board games and ping pong with their friends. All 5th and 6th grade students registered for Sunday School are welcome to join us! No other registration is necessary.

Nancy Vogel will lead this year's Cross Trainers group along with adults who are excited to build relationships with our youth! Time will be spent engaging in devotions, conversation, games, service projects, and other fun activities.

**Please note that Wednesday night meals are on hold until further notice.

First Communion

TWO First Communion Milestone Events will be offered during the 2021-2022 school year. The first will be offered the weekend of September 18/19, 2021 and the second will be offered the weekend of March 5/6, 2022. Both dates will be open to 5th and 6th grade students and their parents. Older students who have never received communion



instruction are also welcome.

Families will be able to choose from either of the two weekends.

Register your student today!

Contact Nancy with questions

(nvogel@stmarkswashington.org).

Trunk or Treat

Hey everybody! Get ready! Trunk or Treat is making a comeback in 2021! Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 24th from 3:00-5:00pm in the south parking lot of St. Mark's. Who will claim this year's title for Best Trunk? It could be YOU! Start planning your costumes and trunk today!

Operation Christmas Child

St. Mark's will launch our Operation Christmas Child kick-off on **Sunday, October 17th**, but it's never too early to start packing shoeboxes! This is a great time of the year to pick up summer clearance items and school supplies! Last year, St. Mark's members, friends, and child care families packed over 500 shoebox gifts to go to children around the world! Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. Together we can spread the gospel to the ends of the earth!

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

High School Bible Study

Officially starts on September 12. Come join us on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 as we attempt to answer life's hard questions through a lens of faith. All questions are welcome - no matter how difficult they may be. We will meet in the High School Youth Lounge located in the basement of church.

High School Youth Group

Sunday evening, September 26 from 5:00pm-7:00pm in the John Bates Family Life Center and Gathering Space. Food and fellowship 5:00pm-6:00pm Study, relationship building, and growing together in our faith from 6:00-7:00pm

Confirmation News

Kick-Off is September 8 (7:00pm-8:00pm). All confirmation students, 7th and 8th grade, and their parents are required to attend.

Weekly meetings begin on September 15 (6:30pm-8:00pm). We will meet at 6:30 for a time of fellowship (and maybe some pizza) and then class will begin at 7:00. We look forward to journeying along with you as you further explore your faith!

Jr. High Sunday School begins September 12 (9:45am-10:45am). Come and join us as we explore what it means to be a Christian and what it means to maintain our faith as we return to our busy school lives.

~ *Jeremy Lafary,*
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Email jlafary@stmarkswashington.org
Phone 309-444-4618 ext. 112

CHILDCARE & PRE-SCHOOL

Preschool is starting back up this month! After a fun summer break, we are back at almost full capacity in the childcare and preschool program. We look forward to having a year with as much normalcy as possible.

There are still some restrictions in place, but at this point, we just feel grateful for life feeling familiar again. Fall is one of our favorite times of the year, and we cannot wait to enjoy the beautiful weather together.

~ *Ellie Gramm and Amanda Stuart,*
Co-Directors



MUSIC

Come join the St. Mark's Choir!

We're looking for people who love to sing and want to become involved in the St. Mark's community. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings, and the choir will perform at the 8:30 AM services on Sundays. No experience is necessary! The first rehearsal will take place Wednesday, September 1st at 6:30pm in the sanctuary.

~ *Peter Jackson,*
Traditional Music
Director



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

WELCA encourages growth in Christ with others who share the Christian faith. Women of all ages are encouraged to gather. Meet with other ladies to start a book club. Do you have a desire to meet with mothers of young children? Teenagers, do you yearn to study the Bible with other teens and to enjoy fellowship with each other? A group that exchanges recipes or makes frozen meals to share with the rest of the group might help you with your busy life to supply your family's meals. Women's group possibilities are endless! Come up with your own ideas and enjoy fellowship with other St. Mark's women or join an existing circle. As you meet you are sharing the fellowship and love of Jesus Christ, growing in Christian faith. Linda Wetzel would be happy to discuss with you – her phone number is 309-444-3937.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

St. Mark's WELCA is sponsoring the American Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, September 13th at Five Points Washington, from 12:30pm-6:30pm. For an appointment, please visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767). Walk-in's are also welcome.

Contributions to LSSI

Thank you to the congregation for your contributions to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois following Thank Offering Sunday on August 22nd. Molly Arnoldt of LSSI was guest speaker.

WHIP Collections

The September collection for WHIP is canned fruit and applesauce. For the month of July, St. Mark's donated 129 cans of tuna, 83 cans of chicken, 4 jars of jelly and 11 misc. items. WHIP served 128 families on July 7 and 126 families on

July 21. WHIP is so thankful for our continued support which help keep their shelves stocked.

Misc. Collections

Collection boxes are located in the cabinets in Beckwith Hall for quilting supplies, toiletries of all sizes, cancelled stamps, prescription medicine bottles and eyeglasses.

Quilters Group

Piece and Comfort quilters group is back to meeting in person at church on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 9:30 am in Room LL-29.

Annual Meeting and Craft Sale

Gloria Dei/Friendship Mission and Powell Memorial circles are hosting the WELCA Annual Meeting on Sat., November 13. All women are invited to attend. A craft sale open to the congregation will be held on Sunday, November 14.



~ Linda Wetzel and Pam Ripley

CARING

If you or a family member is ill or hospitalized, please contact the church to let us know. Leave a message with the church office or the pastor. St. Mark's wants to walk alongside you to celebrate your joys and your sorrows.



We are currently seeking someone to fill the parish nurse position. If you or anyone you know are interested, please send an email to office@stmarkswashington.org

Thank you!

NEW MEMBERS

St. Mark's will be receiving new members during worship services on Sunday, October 3, 2021. Please contact the church office if you are interested in joining or if you know someone who is.

Welcome

UPCOMING DATES

Kindred Spirit Sisters

Sunday, September 12
12:30 pm
Kathleen Peter's house

For reservations and address information, please call Kathleen 309-444-2360 or Sue Madden 309-444-3096

Kindred Spirit Sisters meet on the second Sunday of the month. Widowed and single women welcome.

Special Congregation Meeting

Sunday, September 19
12:15 pm
John Bates FLC

Voting members of St. Mark's are encouraged to attend this special meeting as a follow up to the Sunday, August 15, informational meeting. More information will be available prior to the meeting on September 19.

GROWING

GriefShare 13-Week Course

Beginning September 14
Tuesdays, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Conference Room 102

If you're struggling with grief, Kevin and Lori invite you to come to these GriefShare gatherings. *A video will be part of each meeting and a workbook will be provided free of charge.*



~ Kevin Eack and Lori Reed

In early 2014, Lori and Kevin both lost their first spouses of 30 years. They walked together in their grief journey - and then married each other! While members of St. John's Lutheran in Bloomington, they were trained in the BeFriender Ministry — a listening ministry of lay pastoral care. For more information or to register, please contact the church office.

Fall Small Group Study

Beginning September 19
Sundays at 9:45 am

Join Jeff and Ashley Cole for a 7-week study of *The Sermon on the Mount*. The group will meet on Sundays at 9:45 am during the educational hour. The first session will begin on September 19. The book used during the study can be found [here](#).

Please register for this study by contacting the church office at 309-444-4618 or office@stmarkswashington.org.

SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays (80+ Years)

9/3	Buck Strode
9/8	Marilyn Armstrong
9/9	Don Hofford
9/13	Charles Thomas
9/13	Jeanette Burroughs
9/16	Edith Wenger
9/17	Donna Heller
9/21	Marvine Engel
9/25	Bert Klings

Anniversaries (50+ Years)

09/13/1968	Duane & Margie Ary
09/01/1962	Dick & Joan Benson
09/01/1957	Paul & Shirley Gerken
09/06/1959	Frederick & Shirla Joos Jr.
09/04/1965	Bill & Sharon Porterfield
09/29/1957	Lyle & Marge Shaw
09/03/1966	Gary & Kay Uftring

In Sympathy

Cheryl Peoples passed away on August 25, 2021. Funeral arrangements are pending at the day of this publication.

Margaret Rosenberg passed away on August 1, 2021. Funeral services were on August 5 at Mason-White Funeral Home in Washington.

A Memorial Service was held for Robert Poehlman on Saturday, August 7

Weddings

08/07/2021 Emily Wiesenhofer & Dakota Park

08/21/2021 Kara Seckler & Anthony Webber

Baptisms

08/22/2021 Rory Parker Armstrong

LIBRARY

I went into the library to add some new books to our collection and was excited to see so many books checked out! It makes me happy that you are using our library.



New books recently added:

Children's Collection

The World is Awake by Linsey Davis

Anxious for Nothing by Max Lucado (He has adapted the very popular adult book for younger readers. If you have a Jr. High or High School student, this would be a great read for them.)

Adult Collection

Courage to Soar by Simone Biles;

Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire by Jim Cymbala;

Rhythms of Renewal: Trading Stress and

Anxiety for a Life of Peace and Purpose by Rebekah Lyons;

So Long, Normal by Laura Story;

and a wonderful classic

Hinds' Feet on High Places by Hannah Hurnard.

~ Linda Fitzgerald



COUNCIL

The church council is having a special meeting on September 7 at 6:30pm in order to prepare for the Special Congregational meeting being held on September 19. The council will also be making plans for the Pledge Appeal starting in October.

SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH

Financial Reports

YTD Ending 7-31-21

General Fund

Income	\$414,212.46
Expenses	\$377,175.23
Net income	\$37,037.23

Special Appeal

Dream Center Peoria (DCP)

Pledged	\$62,237.00
Received	\$43,087.62

DCP originally requested \$45,000 for a food truck and roof repairs. Any additional gifts from us will be used for other priority needs.

Stewardship Thought for September

We give because everything belongs to God. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." Psalm 24:1 (ESV).

PLANNED GIVING

Planned Giving through a Charitable Gift Annuity

Do you want to make a lasting gift to the church, but you still need income from your

money today? A charitable gift annuity may be right for you. Here is how it works.

You transfer an asset to fund a Gift Annuity to a certain level. Then based on your age, you will receive a guaranteed payout for life. A portion of this payout each year will be eligible for a tax deduction and the original gift to fund the gift annuity is partially deductible.

Charitable Gift Annuities are great for people looking to guarantee income and often to increase the income stream off of an asset. It is important to note that once you place an asset into the Gift Annuity that you cannot get it back, but you do get the income each year for life and the income is guaranteed.

Gift annuities can help avoid or significantly reduce capital gains taxes. Charitable Gift Annuity Rates can be found at <http://acga-web.org/gift-annuity-rates>



To discuss this and other ways to make a planned gift to support the ministries you love, contact Tim Urness, regional gift planner, ELCA Foundation, (331) 444-3120 or tim.urness@elca.org.