



MARKSMAN

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 am Combined Service
both on-site and online on
our YouTube channel
StMarksLutheranChurch
WashingtonIllinois.

Nursery provided.

10:30 am Fellowship Hour
with coffee and donuts.

10:45 am Sunday School
Pre-school through 12th

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

CONTACT US

Office hours
M-Th 8:30-4:30, F 8:30-3:00

Phone 309.444.4618
office@stmarkswashington.org

ChildCare & Preschool
309.444.4686

200 S. Main Street
Washington IL 61571

Facebook:
stmarkswashington
Website:
stmarkswashington.org

FROM THE PASTORS:

To the St. Mark's Faith Community,

Thank you so much for your generous hearts and hands this Christmas season. Jeff and I are so grateful for your cards, gifts, prayers, and expressions of support; we were overwhelmed by your congregational gift.

May you know the joy and peace of Christ in this coming year.

~ *Pastor Kendra and Jeff (Willie and Iris, too!)*

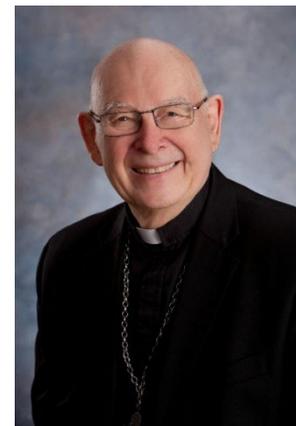


Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you so much for all the gifts, cards and finances. I am so appreciative of all your love and kindness throughout the years.

May God bless and keep you,

~ *Pastor Dick Hanson*



Dear Council and Members of St. Mark's,

We would like to thank the Council for their generosity. We as a staff try to do our best and work together as a team to help and support our Pastors, council and all the members of St. Mark's. Knowing each of us is valued means so much to us.

We would also like to thank everyone who dropped off goodies for us to share. The holiday season is busy for everyone so we really appreciate the time and effort that went into making and dropping off fudge, cookies and other treats. They were very much appreciated!

Thank you again for thinking of us,

~ Cindy, Mary, Yvonne, Melissa, Shannon and Jeremy, David, Joe & Lyn
The staff at St. Mark's

Welcome to Epiphany!

The feast of Epiphany on January 6th marks the visit of the wise ones to the infant Jesus and concludes the Christmas season. Epiphany means “manifestation” and throughout the Sundays after Epiphany, we see God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

One of the themes of Epiphany is the global church—that Christ came and comes for all nations and peoples. During the Epiphany season we will highlight this theme in worship by using songs and hymns from around the world.

Something to do as a family

Twelfth Night (January 5), Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6), or another day during the time after Epiphany offers an occasion for a blessing for the home. Following an eastern European tradition, use white chalk to inscribe a blessing above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 23. The numbers change with each new year. The letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means “Christ, bless this house,” or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

Write the appropriate character (left) while speaking the text (right).

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar

followed the star of God’s Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand

23 and twenty-three years ago.

⊕ Christ, bless this house,

⊕ and remain with us throughout the new year.

Dates to remember:

Saturday, January 7 – 9:00 am, take the Church’s Christmas Decorations down. Donuts and coffee provided.

Sunday, January 22 - 10:45 am, meet and greet with Pastor Scott Bacon and his family. Pastor Bacon is recommended for call as the new Senior Pastor at St. Mark’s.

Sunday, January 29 – 10:45 am, Congregation Meeting to vote on extending a call to Pastor Scott Bacon

Sunday, February 5 - Annual Congregational Meeting to vote on 2023 Budget, Council and other positions.

What’s Up with a Contemporary Service?

To date, we have not been able to find a Contemporary Service Director. We are renewing our advertising for the position in January in multiple locations. In the meantime, we are hoping to have a Praise Band led service in January & February and incorporate upbeat songs from the global church to renew our sense of oneness with Christians from around the world. Also, do you or someone you know play an instrument – drums or other percussion, flute, clarinet, violin....please reach out and share your gifts by contacting David Blasco at blascoeaton@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Eucharistic Ministers

One way you can help with our mission and ministry is to take Holy Communion to our shut-ins and homebound.

This would normally be done once a month. Kits and instruction sheets are provided.

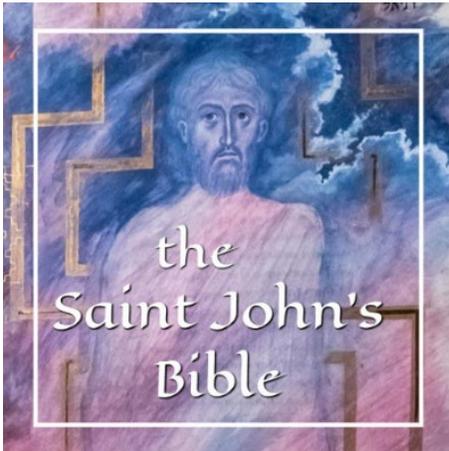
Please contact Pastor Hanson 309-265-5031 or the church office 309-444-4618 office@stmarkswashington.org if you can help.

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday Morning Adult Study

The Saint John's Bible, January 8 & 15, 11:00am

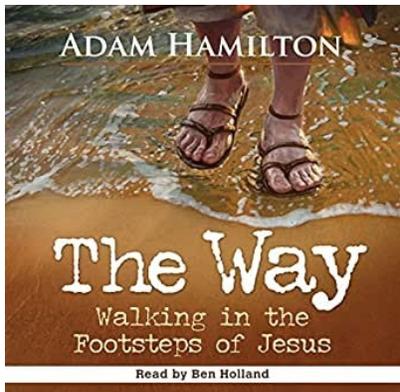
The Saint John's Bible is the first completely handwritten and illuminated Bible to be commissioned since the invention of the printing press. Saint John's Abbey states that the purpose of the Bible is the following: "At the onset of a new millennium, Saint John's University and the monks of Saint John's Abbey sought to ignite the spiritual imagination of people throughout the world by commissioning a work of art that illuminates the world today." We'll not only learn about the Bible, but also do Bible Study using a couple of the illuminations.



Thursday Morning Bible Study

"The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus"
January 5, 2023, 10:00 am

This study, featuring videos by Pastor Adam Hamilton, retraces the footsteps of Jesus from his baptism to the temptations, to the heart of his ministry of teaching and healing. *No experience necessary!* Note the change in the day of the week!



LIBRARY

Looking for something to do this winter? Why not curl up with a good book! Stop in and visit our church library and check out our selection of great reads. We also have audio CD's and DVD movies for all ages.

What would you like to see added to our collection? Let us know what you are interested in.

Send your ideas for how we can improve our library experience to the new librarian Marlene Meegan at marmeegan@comcast.net.

Thanks for supporting our church library!
~ Mar Meegan



PLEASE WELCOME

Our Executive Director of Operations

Brian Franklin is from the Champaign-Urbana area and recently moved to Peoria. His experience includes extensive admin and project management experience and he is completing his master's in social work at the University of Illinois. In his past of several years, Brian worked in a similar role as Director of Business Administration for a congregation in central Illinois.



Brian's first day at SMLC is on January 9, and he looks forward to meeting the members of our congregation!

Welcome Berkley Grace!

Joe Gleason, our Audio-Visual Director, would like to introduce his brand-new daughter Berkley Grace Gleason! Weighing in at 5 lb. 11 oz, she was born at 4:30am Dec 8th under a full moon at its fullest. Birth was normal, with no issues. Both Mom and baby check out perfectly healthy!

Thank you for all the prayers and support! We are so happy and excited, she is perfect!

~ Joe Gleason



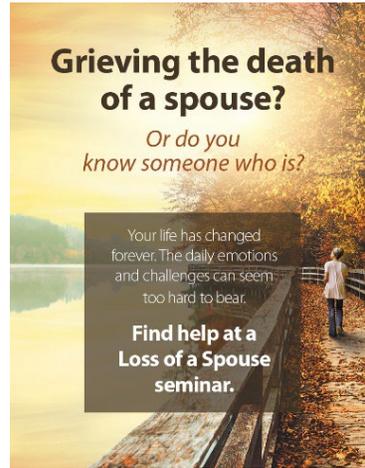
NURSES CORNER

HEARTS FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Working together with the Children's Director, Shannon Boynton, the children of Sunday School and Cross Trainers we will create, decorate, and make Valentine's Day cards/treat bags for the homebound members of the congregation.



This is a great service project for the younger youth of St. Mark's to help the older youth feel connected to the church!



GRIEF SHARE LOSS OF A SPOUSE

Join us for this encouraging seminar.

**Tuesday, February 7th
6:00-8:00 pm**

Mary Hills & Lori Reed will co-lead this seminar

Register online at griefshare.org
under the "Find a Group" tab
or call the Parish Nurse at 309-444-4618

Lori Reed and I will co-lead this seminar Register online at Griefshare.org under the "Find a Group" tab or call the office at 309-444-4618.

~ Mary Hills
Parish Nurse

CHILDREN & FAMILY

"The 5th and 6th grade children of Cross Trainers and I had a wonderful Christmas party which included a hot chocolate bar with toppings, Christmas cookies, and painting ceramic figures!"



“The Sunday School Christmas Program was a hit! Thank you to everyone that attended and all the hard work from Pam Marcoline Griffith that made this happen. Without her, the program wouldn’t be possible! We can’t wait for next year.”



February: Second Grade Bible Blessing

The Second Grade Bible Blessing is a milestone event for second grade students and is taking place on February 19, 2022. Students and parents are invited forward during worship for children to receive their first bible!

Looking forward to April: God’s Global Barnyard

Children of St. Mark’s and the Children’s Director, Shannon Boynton, will work on an opportunity of gifting certain barnyard animals to people in less fortunate circumstances. They will spend time finding out about how these barnyard animals help families in need by voting on animals they want to purchase. A grant was given by the Mission Endowment Fund for this educational opportunity.

~ Shannon Boynton
Director of Children and Family Ministries

CHILDCARE & PRESCHOOL

Following is a letter from a former Childcare student’s aunt (his sister is a current student)

She has established a GoFundMe page to help her sister and family with expenses.



Hello friends and family,

Kane, our little buddy, is currently in the ICU at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago, IL. On December 14, Kane began suffering from seizures of an unknown cause. After several days at OSF Children's Hospital in Peoria, including an intubation stent and several days of EEG monitoring, the team decided it was best to transfer him. Kane was sent to Chicago via helicopter (which I know he will think is really cool one day!)

The team in Chicago is running a battery of tests to find the cause. He will be placed in a medically induced coma for approximately ten days. This will allow his brain and body to relax and recover while also controlling the seizures. Kane will be undergoing plasmapheresis during this time as well. We are truly not sure what is to come in the next ten days or what the future holds for our buddy. We are hopeful this team will work their hardest on our Kane!



Kane and his little sister

We all know insurance can cover some things, but not all, as medical events are often very expensive. Not only that, Amy and Brian, are

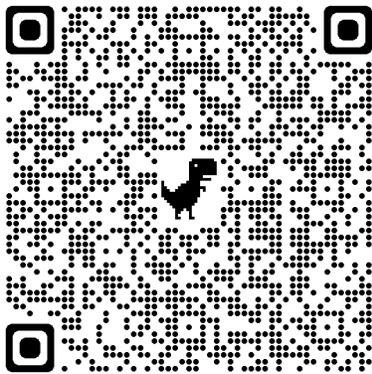
away from their home and staying in Chicago during this time.

Many of you have asked how you can support Amy and Brian and our family during this time and putting together this fundraiser made the most sense. Prayers are extremely helpful and we know how many of you are thinking of Kane, and his family.

We are eternally grateful for the support and love we've received thus far.

Alyssa Broom (Amy's sister)

Please consider helping Kane and his family during this time of need. Included is a link <https://gofund.me/aa65eace> and a QR code to make giving easier.



Please keep Kane and his family in your prayers.

~ Ellie Gramm and Amanda Stuart
Childcare and Preschool Directors

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

Happy New Year! This past fall was an amazing kick off to our year! We had a video game truck at the church, game nights, movie nights, a trip to a corn maze, a Halloween party, a bowling night, and a Christmas Party with Salem Lutheran Church. We also served our community by volunteering at the Dream Center and cleaning up the yard of a congregation member! In short, we had some fantastic times together.



In the next few months, we have some really amazing opportunities planned as well. We are going to continue to meet twice every month with one of those meetings being a youth group meeting with an activity and a devotion. We also have several mission opportunities planned such as helping at the Dream Center's Hope Store, and a parent's night out. You will be getting more information about many of these events later but here are a few of the events coming up in the next couple of months:

January 15 – Youth Group w/Wacky Winter Olympics 2.0 @ St. Mark's – 5:30pm-7:00pm

January 21 – Volunteering at Dream Center Hope Store Shopping Day – 8:30am-12pm (Leave St. Mark's at 7:45am)

January 22 – Pizza & Painting @ First English Lutheran in Peoria – 5pm-7:30pm (Leave St. Mark's at 4:15pm)

February 10-12 Quake Event*

February 19 – Youth Group @ St. Mark's – 5:30pm-7:00pm

February 26 – Ice Skating at Owen's Center in Peoria – 1:30pm-3:00pm

*Quake 2023

On February 10-12, St. Mark's Youth grades 7-12 will be going to a Quake Weekend! If you've never heard of Quake, it is a weekend gathering exploring faith, Christian living, and a life of ministry and leadership through speakers, music, breakout sessions, and so much more! We will also receive passes to use the indoor water park at the resort!



Location:

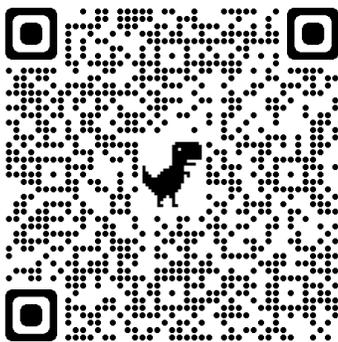
Wilderness Territory Resort
45 Hillman Road
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

To Register: Your deposit and Offsite Permission Form is your registration. You can pay in two ways

- Make checks out to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, write "Quake" and the participants name in the memo.
- Scholarships are available. Please email or call Jeremy if you would like to request a scholarship.

Offsite Permission Form and sign up is required
Deposit: \$100 per student

Please use the QR code to sign up and fill out the permission form



Deadline: January 15, 2023

~ Jeremy Lafary
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

January–February 2023 Report

LSSI Christmas Gifts

Fifty area children were sponsored through the LSSI Christmas Gift Giving ministry.

Thank you for bringing holiday cheer to children in need!

Thank you to Susan Osborn for her dedication to this ministry!

The Mitten Tree

Many thanks to those who so generously donated warm mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and socks for area children in need. All items will go to Threads, Hope & Love this year.



WHIP Collections

St. Marks donated for the month of December:

- 49 jars of peanut butter
- 39 jars of jelly
- 20 miscellaneous items

WHIP served 300 families and registered 20 new families for the month of December.

Thank you for your continued support which allows us to serve our 61571 neighbors and friends.

For January, we are collecting canned chicken and tuna.

The February collection is canned soup.

Please note: WHIP cannot accept expired food.

Change for Charity

South Side Mission will be the January 22nd recipient for Change for Charity.

Financial support serves residents of the 61605-zip code in Peoria, one of 100 poorest zip codes in the country. Their mission is to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ to the poor and love, feed, house and teach those in need.

The February 26th recipient for Change for Charity will be Washington Helps Its People food pantry. WHIP serves residents of the 61571-zip code through donations from churches, businesses, individuals and civic organizations.

Peace and Comfort Quilters Group

Quilters group can always use donations of fabrics to make the quilts, and clean, gently used sheets for the backing. If you can help with donations, please contact Linda Keys at 309-472-2483 or drop off in the Beckwith Hall donation center in the cabinets to the left of the counter area. Peace and Comfort quilters group meets at Church on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Room LL-29, and you are welcome to join in. No sewing experience is necessary. Also needed are ladies to work at home sewing tops. Linda can meet with you and show you how to make the tops. Bundles are made up, so all that's needed is to sew them into a top.

~ Linda Wetzel and Pam Ripley

KINDRED SPIRIT SISTERS

Kindred Spirit Sisters is a group for widowed or single women that meet at different restaurants the second Sunday of the month for friendship and fellowship. They usually meet at 12:00 pm.

Please be sure to call either Kathleen Peters at 309-444-2360 or Sue Madden at 309-444-3096 prior to each luncheon for an accurate reservation count.

New attendees are always welcome at the luncheons!

SPECIAL DATES

BIRTHDAY'S 80 PLUS YEARS

JANUARY

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Carol Spring | 01/02 |
| Rosemarie Reilly | 01/04 |
| Shirley Wilson | 01/06 |
| Linda Anglin | 01/07 |
| Ed Anglin | 01/13 |
| Sara Roth | 01/20 |
| Barb Hanson | 01/27 |

FEBRUARY

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Walt Heller | 02/11 |
| Alicia Call | 02/17 |
| Shirla Joos | 02/22 |
| Nancy Sorce | 02/26 |
| Marilyn Gee | 02/26 |
| Linda Vreeland | 02/26 |

ANNIVERSARIES 50 PLUS YEARS

JANUARY

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Bill & Cheryl Shelander | 01/12 |
| Lester & Sara Roth | 01/18 |
| Ronald & Charlotte Jasper | 01/25 |

FEBRUARY

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Bill & Joan Flowers | 02/04 |
| Keith & Ellen Brown | 02/05 |

SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH

2022 Financial Report

YTD Ending November 30, 2022

General Fund

Total income: \$645,405.20 (includes
\$95,000 in pre-paid pledges)
Expenses: \$609,067.19
Net income: \$36,338.01

Special Appeal

Pledged: \$95,467.00
Received to date: \$89,526.80

Special Appeal funds have been used first for the Childcare Renovation project. Combined with the additional \$46,800 contributed by the Childcare, we have received enough to fully fund this project! Thank you for your support. The funding for the Burton Street House Appeal has been reached (\$25,000), additional funds will now be split 50/50 between the Burton Street House Appeal and a Dedicated Childcare Capital Projects Fund.

THANK YOU

Dear Pastors and the People of St. Mark's,

We at Lutheran World Relief would like to thank you for the generosity of the MEF Grant. You are bringing hope in the form of food, clothing, shelter, and medical supplies to our vulnerable neighbors around the world.

Grace and Peace,
Tim Krick

Thank
you



Dear Pastors and Friends,

We are thankful for your gift to the Center for Prevention of Abuse. We are constantly amazed at the generosity or Center receives.

We not only provide safety, counseling and therapy for women, men and children who have been affected by violence and abuse, but we also work to prevent abuse form happening.

Our programs and services help build a save and peaceful community. Thank you for your support.

Carol Merna
Chief Executive Officer

THANK
YOU



Dear St. Mark's Friends,

Thank you for the card, shawl and good wishes during my surgery. I am now four weeks from surgery and doing much better.

Sincere thanks and may St. Mark's have a wonderful 2023!

~ Sue Freeberg



JANUARY 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 <i>New Year's Day</i> 9:30 am Sunday Worship | 2 6:30 pm Executive Meeting | 3 | 4 |
| 8 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 am Adult Bible Study | 9 6:30 pm Council Meeting | 10 9:30 am Peace & Comfort Quilts 29-LL | 11 WHIP Open 8:30-11:00 am & 4:30-6:00 pm 6:30 pm Confirmation & Cross-Trainers |
| 15 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Adult Bible Study 12:30 pm Kindred Spirit Sisters 5:30 pm YYAM Event Wacky Winter Olympics | 16 MLK Holiday | 17 | 18 Hannah 1:30 p.m. FLC 6:30 pm Confirmation & Cross-Trainers |
| 22 9:30 am Sunday Worship <i>Change for Charity</i> 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 am Meet and Greet Pastor Scott Bacon and family 4:15 pm Pizza & Painting @ First English Lutheran in Peoria – 5pm-7:30pm (Leave St. Mark's at 4:15pm) | 23 | 24 | 25 WHIP Open 8:30-11:00 am & 4:30-6:00 pm 6:30 pm Confirmation & Cross-Trainers |
| 29 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 am Congregational Meeting Bags for Homebound | 30 | 31 | |

| Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>10:00 am The Way Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 pm Gloria Dei – Friendship Lunch offsite</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">6</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>9:00 am Take down Christmas Decorations. <i>Donuts provided</i></p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>10:00 am The Way Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 pm WELCA Board Meeting Conference Room 102-UL</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">13</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">14</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>10:00 am The Way Bible Study</p> <p>1:30 pm Powell Memorial in the FLC</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">20</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>7:45 am YYAM Event Volunteering at Dream Center Hope Store Shopping Day – 8:30am-12pm (Leave St. Mark's at 7:45am)</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>10:00 am The Way Bible Study 7:00 pm Lydia</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">27</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">28</p> |
| | | |

FEBRUARY 2023

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--------|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 10:00 am The Way Bible Study 1:00 pm Gloria Dei Friendship Lunch offsite | 3 | 4 |
| 5 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 am Congregational Annual Meeting Bags for Homebound | 6 | 7 9:30 am Peace & Comfort Quilts 29-LL | 8 WHIP Open 8:30 - 11:00 am 4:30 – 6:00 pm 6:30 pm Confirmation & Cross-Trainers | 9 10:00 am The Way Bible Study 1:00 pm WELCA Board Meeting Conference Room 102-UL | 10 YYAM-Quake Event in Wiscons in Dells | 11 YYAM-Quake Event in Wisconsin Dells |
| 12 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Adult Bible Study 12:30 pm Kindred Spirit Sisters 5:30 pm YYAM Event Bags for Homebound | 13 | 14  | 15 6:30 pm Confirmation & Cross-Trainers | 16 10:00 am The Way Bible Study 1:30 pm Powell Memorial in the FLC | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:30 am Sunday Worship <i>Change for Charity Second Grade Bible Blessing</i> 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:30 pm YYAM Event | 20 | 21 | 22 ASH WEDNESDAY WHIP Open 8:30 - 11:00 am 4:30 – 6:00 pm 7:00 pm Service | 23 10:00 am The Way Bible Study 7:00 pm Lydia | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 am Adult Bible Study 1:30 YYAM Event- Ice Skating at Owen's Center | 27 | 28 | | | | |