



MARKSMAN

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Communion offered
at the altar and in the pews.

8:30 am traditional on-site.
Nursery provided.

11:00 am contemporary
both on-site and online on
our YouTube channel
StMarksLutheranChurch
WashingtonIllinois.
Nursery provided.

9:30 am fellowship with
refreshments.

9:45 am Sunday School

*Masks required indoors per
the Governor's mandate.*

CONTACT US

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

Office 309.444.4618
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From Your Senior Pastor

On Epiphany, January 6, we remember the Wise Men's visit to bring gifts for the baby Jesus. This day marks the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas and the beginning of the Epiphany season, which lasts until Ash Wednesday on March 2.



Pastor Westphal

Epiphany is a major celebration in some cultures. In Puerto Rico, Three Kings Day is celebrated with parties and parades. In New Orleans, people eat King Cake, a pastry in which a figure of the baby Jesus is hidden for someone to find as they are eating.

Here at St. Mark's, **we will hold a special Epiphany worship experience at both services on Sunday, January 9, based on the religious symbolism found in the song "Twelve Days of Christmas".** I think you will find it very interesting and meaningful. You will never sing that song again the same way!

There is a deeper meaning to the season of Epiphany. It is the time when **we celebrate Christ being made known to all people** in every culture and nation. It started with the Wise Men and won't end until everyone has the opportunity to hear the gospel and to know Christ for themselves. It's a time in the church when we remember our calling to do evangelism, mission, and outreach, to share the love of Christ through our words and deeds.

In the Sunday gospel lessons during this season, we will see Christ grow from a child to a man, and then begin his ministry, gather disciples, and teach those disciples to share the good news. **We continue Christ's work through our mission at St. Mark's: to grow in faith and discipleship.**

Is there someone you know who needs to hear or experience the love of Christ? Is there someone you could invite to St. Mark's during this Epiphany season? Half the residents in our country are not members of any congregation. Make it your New Year's resolution to share Christ's love with them. **Let's be Epiphany people, making Christ known to all!**

WHY WORSHIP?

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

To worship our gracious Creator is both our duty and our joy!

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100:1-5)



The Christmas Cantata on December 12 with inspiring music by both the choir and praise band.

HELP WANTED

St. Mark's needs **two more lay representatives to the 2022 Synod Assembly**. Two lay representatives have already agreed to serve, and the pastors will attend as well. This year the Assembly will be held in two stages. The first will be a short Zoom meeting on **Saturday, March 26, 9:00-10:30 A.M.** to nominate people for leadership roles in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod. Then it will reconvene **Thursday, June 2, meeting through Saturday, June 4 in person** at the I Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign.

Prayerfully consider serving as one of St. Mark's two remaining representatives. It is a wonderful way to learn more about the work of our synod and the ELCA. Your registration and hotel will be paid for by St. Mark's. For more information or to submit your name or another qualified individual's name for consideration, please contact the chair of the Nominating Committee, Margaret Swanson (309-694-1562 or margaretannswanson@gmail.com) or the Council President, Case Pudik (309-648-4607 or cpudik@yahoo.com). Thank you.

CHILDREN & FAMILY

God's Global Barnyard

Put your chore boots on and grab your pitchfork. We're going to build a farm (a *virtual* farm, that is)! During the month of January St. Mark's Sunday School students will have an opportunity to take part in choosing which farm animals to purchase for families who are living in impoverished countries.

Every Sunday in January (beginning on January 9th) students will learn about different farm animals and how they can be used to help break the cycle of poverty. Students in attendance will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite farm



animal each week. We'll tally the results of the votes and purchase the most popular farm animals with the money granted to our Sunday School program by the Mission Endowment Fund.

Second Grade Bible Presentation and Blessing

Sunday, February 20, 2022

Second grade students and their parents are invited to join us for the Second Grade Bible Presentation and Blessing during worship on **Sunday, February 20** at both services. Please join us as we celebrate this milestone. Contact Nancy Vogel (nvogel@stmarkswashington.org) with questions.



Children celebrate Jesus' birthday during the annual Sunday School Christmas Program.

Families enjoyed time together at the annual Gingerbread House Party.



~ Nancy Vogel, Director of Children and Family Ministries

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

High School Youth Group

Summer 2022 Mission Trip – June 12-18, 2022

For our Summer 2022 mission trip, St. Mark's High School Youth will be traveling to Detroit, Michigan to work with Cass Community Social Services, which is a Detroit-based agency with a person centered philosophy, dedicated to providing food, housing, health services, and job programs to the homeless population of Detroit.

- CCSS prepares and serves 700,000 meals annually.
- 300 homeless men, women and children currently stay in one of CCSS' shelters or permanent supportive housing programs.
- CCSS operates two weekly free medical clinics and a day program for 125 adults with developmental disabilities.
- 80 adults are currently employed in the agency's Green Industries which marry jobs with sustainability.

If you're interested in going or want more information, please let Jeremy know. We will be having an informational meeting in the near future so be on the look out for that information!

High School Sunday School

Starting on January 9th, we will begin a new study called "Can I Ask That?" It's a study that's focused on talking about the hard questions that we might be afraid to ask. Here's the schedule for the first few weeks!

January 9 – Can I Trust the Bible?

January 16 – Does the Bible contradict itself?

January 23 – Can I be a Christian and believe in evolution?

January 30 – Does God discriminate against women?

Jr. High/Confirmation

Confirmation News

We will restart confirmation class on January 5th and here's our upcoming schedule!

January 5 – Revelations (Pizza night)

January 12 – Martin Luther

January 19 – The Reformers

January 26 – Lutheran Confessions

Confirmation Retreat

We have tentatively scheduled a confirmation retreat for April 8-9 at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center in Oregon, IL. This is not required but it's highly encouraged for all of our students to attend this wonderful experience and there is no cost to attend. During our time there, we will be doing team building activities, a prayer labyrinth walk, and a praying in color session. We will also spend some time worshipping together. Please be on the lookout for more information about this trip in the next few weeks.

~ *Jeremy Lafary*, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

CHILDCARE & PRESCHOOL

We made it through the holiday madness! This year, we were able to have two separate Christmas programs for the preschool classes in the morning. It was very nice having a little bit of normalcy. We hadn't had a Christmas program since 2019. Unfortunately, child care did need to shut down for Covid over the holidays, but we had already planned on low numbers so it ended up working out.

Preschoolers were still able to have their Christmas parties before a two week Christmas break. We look forward to the renewal a new year brings. Happy 2022!

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



MUSIC

I'm sad to inform you that Kathy Bell is leaving her position at St. Mark's playing organ and piano for our traditional worship service and accompanying our choir and special music. Please join me in wishing her the best in her next congregation and thanking her for sharing her God-given musical talents during the last sixteen years at St. Mark's. She will be missed.

The search for a replacement and for substitute organists has already begun. In the meanwhile, I'm pleased to say that Peter Jackson, our traditional worship director and accomplished pianist, will accompany congregational singing at the 8:30 am Sunday services on the piano. Thank you, Peter.

~ *Pastor Westphal*

CARING

As most of you know we now have a Parish Nurse! I am so happy to be here, I started working here November 15, 2021. My office hours are Monday 10am-1pm. Wednesday 9-2, Fridays 9-4, You may reach me by calling the Church 309-444-4618 or Email parishnurse@stmarkswashington.org

I have met some of you during my time here and am looking forward to meeting more of you as time marches on. Keep an eye out for the blood pressure screening which will be happening once a month on Sunday between services, The first Blood pressure screening took place December 12, the next Blood pressure screening will take place January 16, 2022.

As the parish nurse, I am here to promote whole-person care across the life span using the skills of a professional nurse and provider of spiritual care. The parish nurse does not provide care that requires a physician's order, dispense medications, give injections, do blood tests or other invasive procedures.

The ministry of a parish nurse does not replace home health, hospice, or other community health services. The parish nurse offers support for those needing prayer, emotional support, direction or an explanation and enhances and helps coordinate health care needs.

If at anytime you feel you need help but do not know where to turn you are welcome to call or email me and together, we will figure out what you need and Who you need to contact.



Thank You all for welcoming me into your Congregation, I look forward to this new chapter in my life.

~ Mary Hills LPN

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.



If you would like someone added to the prayer list please contact the church office at 309-444-4618 or email office@stmarkswashington.org. Prayer requests are left on the prayer list for three weeks unless requested for longer

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

WHIP Collections

In January, we are collecting **canned chicken and tuna**. The collection for February is **canned soup**.

St. Marks donated 99 jars of peanut butter, 16 jars of jelly and 12 misc. items in November. A total of 276 families were served by WHIP. The generosity of St. Marks allowed WHIP to purchase turkey breasts for Thanksgiving. WHIP also gave out extra canned vegetables, stuffing mix, boxed mashed potatoes, gravy, pumpkin pie

filling and cranberries along with the regular monthly food.

Piece and Comfort Quilters Group

Quilters group is in need of donations of fabrics to make the quilts and clean, gently used full, queen and king sized sheets for the backing. If you can help with any donations, please contact Linda Keys at 309-472-2483. Piece 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!

LSSI Christmas Gifts

Each Christmas season for several years, our congregation has been involved with LSSI to share our blessings with Peoria area children. This year was a bit different as we did not buy gifts but sponsored children with a monetary gift. Thank you to all who so generously sponsored a child for the "Room at the Inn" project. We had names of 50 children and raised over \$2500.

Mitten Tree

Thank you to all who donated mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and socks. The items were divided between Heart House in Eureka and Loaves and Fish Ministry in Peoria.

~ Linda Wetzel and Pam Ripley

UPCOMING DATES

Kindred Spirit Sisters

Sunday, January 9, 12:30 pm
Blue Margarita's in Washington

For reservations or more information, please call Kathleen Peter's 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.*

Twelve Days of Christmas 8:30 and 11 am, January 9, 2022

Our worship services on this Sunday are based on the popular song "The Twelve Days of Christmas". Although there's been a story going around since the 1980s that this song was

composed as a way for persecuted Christians to hold on to the tenets of the faith, it's not actually a religious song - yet each of the twelve days has a religious symbolism that is rich and meaningful. This Sunday we will sing, pray, hear Scripture, and hear reflections based on these twelve days and how they can encourage and empower us to live into our calling as Christians.

SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays (80+ Years)

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

Anniversaries (50+ Years)

Bill & Cheryl Shelander	01/12
Lester & Sara Roth	01/18
Ronald & Charlotte Jasper	01/25
Bill & Joan Flowers	02/04
Keith & Ellen Brown	02/05

Births

Josephine Calvert	09/08
Henley Wetherell	11/18

In Sympathy

Kay Heavrin	12/06/2021
LaVerne Patterson	12/11/2021

COUNCIL

Highlights from the December 14th council meeting

Annual Congregation Meeting — Council discussed several items in preparation for the

Annual Congregation Meeting which will be held on Sunday, February 6th and offered with both in-person and Zoom attendance options.

They approved presenting both the Finance Team's 2022 draft budget and some changes to our church Bylaws for congregational approval at the meeting. Details will be published to the congregation in advance.

MEF Grants — Council approved the Mission Endowment Fund Committee's recommendations for funds to be distributed in response to grant requests from various St. Mark's, Local, Synod/ELCA and National and International organizations to further their ministries.

Safety and Security — The Safety and Security Team has put together a report with recommendations to enhance the overall safety and security of St. Mark's facilities and persons using them. This should be going to Council soon for review.

~ Roger French, Recorder

CONGREGATION MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 6, 12:20 pm

Voting members are encouraged to attend this congregational meeting to stay informed, elect leaders, adopt a budget, and vote on proposed changes to our bylaws. A copy of the proposed changes will be linked to the weekly Buzz, or you may pick up a copy in the church office.

The meeting will be held on-site following a lunch in the John Bates FLC. It can also be attended online via Zoom.

INQUIRY CLASS

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS
Sunday, January 30

St. Mark's will welcome new members during both worship services on Sunday, January 30. If you are interested in joining, or you know anyone else who is, please contact Pastor Westphal or the church office. You may also want to attend the Inquiry Class (see below) to learn more about St. Mark's.

INQUIRY CLASS

Sundays, January 9 and 23, 9:45-10:45 am

Grab a coffee and donut, and come to the Conference Room by the offices!

This class is for people who:

- Have considered joining St. Mark's, either on Jan. 30 or some other date in the future. This class is encouraged but not a prerequisite for membership.
- Have joined St. Mark's in the last two years during the pandemic, when we were unable to hold this class.
- Want to know more about St. Mark's and the Lutheran church (whether you are long-term or a newbie), who wonders what we're all about!

Pastor Westphal and ministry leaders on the staff and council will share about our history, beliefs and current activities. The information presented will be different each week so you can attend either or hopefully both sessions. This is an excellent way to meet people, become informed and get involved!

Contact the church office to register – or just show up!

SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH

Financial Reports

YTD ending November 30, 2021

General Income:	\$576,958.79
PPP Loan (forgiven)	\$70,634.64
Total Income:	\$647,593.43
Expenses:	\$596,623.21
Net income	\$50,970.22

Special Appeal
Dream Center Peoria

Pledged:	\$62,237.00
Received:	\$61,066.26

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

We give as a result of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives. "We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness." Rom. 12:6-8 (NRSV)

Multiple Ways to Give
Thank you for your support of St. Mark's.

Weekly Offering Checks can be brought to the collection boxes in the sanctuary or mailed to St. Mark's, 200 S. Main Street, Washington, IL 61571. You can set up an online automatic gift from your bank as well.

Website - Give through the link.

Mobile App - Download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play, and search for St. Mark's by zip code. Follow the instructions to donate.

Text - Send a text to 833-948-2192, enter the amount you would like to give, and follow the instructions.

PLANNED GIVING

Planned Giving through a Charitable Trust
For some people, establishing a Charitable Trust can provide great opportunities for themselves, their heirs, and for their church. Charitable Trusts work two ways.

Remainder Trusts: With a remainder trust, the donor gifts an asset to the trust (often to avoid capital gains taxes), then the donor receives an income for life, or a period of years from the trust. It is also possible to grant your children or grandchildren a period of time to receive that trust income. Following the prescribed time period, the trust assets are then transferred to the church.

People who don't want their children to inherit a lump sum of money will appreciate this option so that the income is provided to heirs over a period of time.

Lead Trusts: These work opposite of remainder trusts. In a lead trust, the charity receives an income stream from the donated assets for a period of years. Following the term of the agreement the asset transfers back to the original donor or to whoever the donor designates. Both Remainder trusts and Lead trusts require professionals to set them up.

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.



Mark your calendar to attend a presentation on planned giving by Tim Urness on Sunday, April 24, 9:45-10:45 am during the Sunday School hour.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank you all for the services on November 7th – All Saints Day- and the remembrance carnations for loved ones. Elizabeth Holtzman would have been remembered that day as one of the oldest member of the church. Lorraine and I were out of state and found out about the services after the 7th.

~ Keith Holtzman and family

Barb and I would like to thank all of you for your cards, gifts, treats and loving concern for us. Christmas has been special because of you/
~ Pastor Dick and Barb Hanson

I am so grateful for the many Christmas cards, treats and gifts from people at St. Mark's. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated during these pandemic times when our personal contact is limited. I am excited to be with you as we live into the future God is creating in 2021!
~ Pastor Lanny Westphal

STAY IN TOUCH

Are You "in touch" with St. Mark's?

The Marksman is just one way to stay connected to all that's going on at St. Mark's!

The Buzz: Join our email list to receive this weekly e-newsletter. Send an email to tsephens@stmarkswashington.org to be added to the list.

The Link: Our monthly e-newsletter for children and families of St. Mark's. Send an email to nvogel@stmarkswashington.org to be added to the list.

Facebook: Like our page at "St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Washington, IL"

Instagram and Remind: St. Mark's Young Adult Ministry has an Instagram page for our students and a remind app for parents and students. For more information email jlafary@stmarkswashington.org

**Deadline for the next Marksman
is February 10, 2022**