



St. Mark Lutheran Church

CrossBeams

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

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Volume 60, Issue 1

January, 2021

Serving Others



December with the Webbs





Star Words

On the day that we remember the star that led the magi to Jesus, Epiphany, we pass out star shapes with a printed word. What direction will this word take you this year? In this world of Covid-19, this looks a little different this year.

In the worship service on January 3rd, Pastor Carl invites you to obtain a Star Word by contacting the church office either by email at stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org or by phone at 847-253-0631.



Thoughts from the Loft

As we mark the New Year, it may come with a celebration. Though we give thanks to God for the New Year, we are reminded that last year was not the easiest! What a blessing that our song brings us together every Sunday, even online. One of the amazing gifts of music is that it relies on "time". The song may be slow or fast, but if it is off-tempo it generally doesn't work. God is the great time-keeper of our song on earth, and in heaven. May we be reminded of that as the New Year dawns!

Peace,
Tim



Reflections on COVID and Christmas from Pastor Carl Anderson

I would guess that all of us have had the feeling during the winter holiday season that this will be a Christmas and New Year to remember, and not in a good way for the most part. We've hoped and prayed for a vaccine, and that has been answered—two and three-fold. But as we've been warned, it's not a quick fix and we need to be patient. Maybe our lives will be more "normal" by summer? Let's hope and pray that we will be more optimistic by then.

But what will be the "new normal?" Much as we long for a return to restaurants and group parties, and maybe no masks, it's possible that the new normal will be significantly different from what we remember. For us Christians who have so deeply missed the routine of weekly worship, eating and drinking the meal of Holy Communion, enjoying the beauty of our sanctuary and the joy of singing and hearing piano, horns, guitars and organ—the lifting of restrictions can't come soon enough.

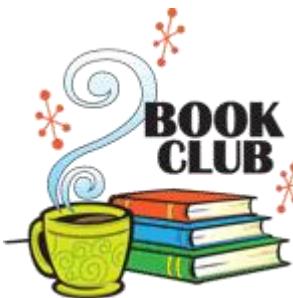
Which raises the issue of when we can worship in person together again, what do we do about online worship and communion? We have learned some good things about online services. They allow shut-ins and persons with limited mobility to participate easily. For persons with work schedules that do not accommodate church worship times and for those times when we can't join in person, the online option is helpful. And for those who are thinking that it would be nice to sample what's going on at the church down the road, but who wouldn't even consider getting dressed up and driving to a strange building and going inside where they might feel scrutinized or pressured to do something uncomfortable, online gives them a taste of what goes on there. There also are people searching for a church home and participating online gives them an opportunity to do so discreetly.

For all these reasons, church worship experts are advising us to become "hybrid" churches. These are congregations that resume in person worship, but maintain an attractive online presence through social media. Live in person worship will always be the preferred and dominant expression of the Christian community and faith, but online can be a valuable supplement that enhances the outreach to our community.



We have discovered that some things work even better through virtual technology. Sometimes certain meetings can be briefer and more productive online through Zoom than trying to get people together in person. They will never be a desirable substitute for real person to person meetings, but can be a helpful supplement. Group bible study and prayer on Zoom is not the greatest, but it's better than none at all.

I think we will continue to learn what works best for what functions and we'll be a stronger more flexible church, able to communicate better with more people than before. So maybe this awful pandemic of Covid-19 has taught us some good things after all!



The Book Club has put together a new partial reading list for 2021. We will add October and November later. It includes a variety of reading all of which have been read and recommended by at least one member of the group. It is full of interesting selections. The group meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 1:00 in the Great Room, as soon as COVID-19 restrictions permit and the Church Council reopens the building for gatherings. Currently we are meeting on Zoom. We'd love to have you join us! Contact Nancy Snell at 847-431-9116 if you have any questions or to get the link to connect on Zoom.

St. Mark Book Club 2021 Reading List

JANUARY 25 - **Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine** by Gail Honeyman

FEBRUARY 22 - **The Lions of Fifth Avenue** by Fiona Davis

MARCH 22 - **The Night of Miracles** by Elizabeth Berg

APRIL 26 - **Writers and Lovers** by Lily King

MAY 24 - **The Dutch House** by Ann Patchett

JUNE 28 - **A Time for Mercy** by John Grisham

JULY 26 - **The Island of Sea Women** by Lisa See

AUGUST 23 - **The Thursday Murder Club** by Richard Osman

SEPTEMBER 27 - **Summer of '69** by Elin Hilderbrand



ANNUAL REPORTS

St. Mark Council members, committee chairs, ministry leaders and staff should send their annual reports to the church office at stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org on or before **Friday, January 29**. The Annual Report will be made available to all members prior to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 28.



PADS UPDATE

Here is the latest news:

The PADS guests will continue to be housed in hotels through at least the end of March.

Since the pandemic's beginning in March through the end of December, St Mark and our partner churches have provided 5,381 meals to support the PADS clients.

In addition to the donations of time and food that are received each week for the Meal Boxes and dinners, many generous donations were received which provided Christmas gifts/stockings for 54 people, including 12 children—a true demonstration of the spirit of Christmas!

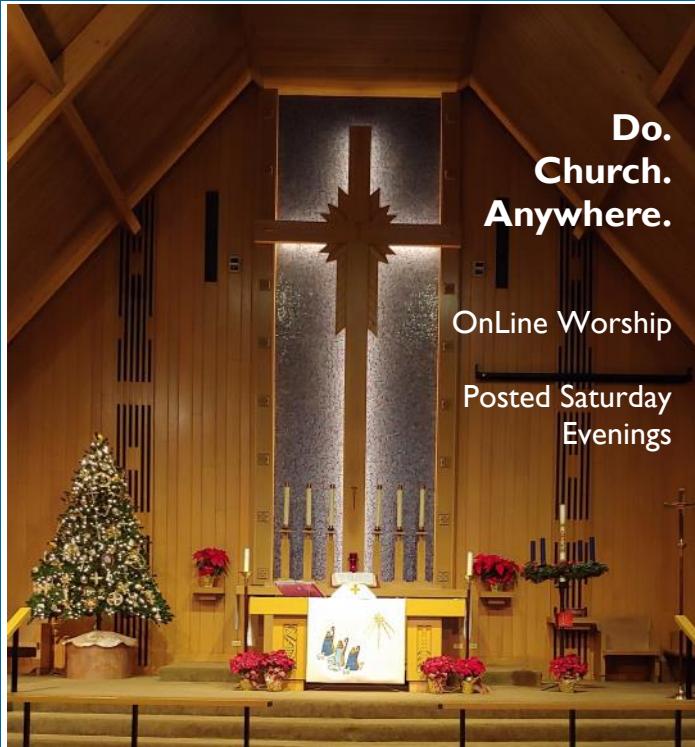
Some community donors for the Christmas gifts/stockings include:
Journeys| The Road Home, AAEC Credit Union, Fannie May Candy, Chase Bank, Dr Mitch Maczko DDS, Dr Peter Lund DDS, Walmart, Dollar Tree, Mariano Food Store, Walgreens, Jewel Food Store, StayFit Mt. Prospect, and Hampton Inn.

If you would like to help, you can donate food for Meal Boxes that are prepared for the PADS clients. This is the link to the Sign Up Genius for the Meal Boxes:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040844ABAC22A4F58-stmark>

Or monetary donations made to St Mark Lutheran Church are also appreciated. Designate PADS on the memo line of your check.



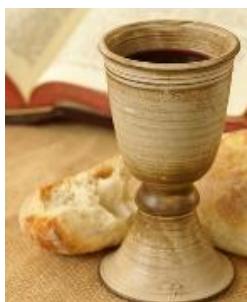


Worship online with us.

Visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StMarkLutheranIL/> as well as our YouTube Channel <https://tinyurl.com/stmarkmpyoutube>.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be celebrated at the January 31st online service. Individual Communion cups, for your use at home, with wine or juice and wafer, are available for pickup or local delivery. Please contact the Church Office by email at stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org or by phone at 847-253-0631 to order yours.



“Thursdays in Black”

This is a global ecumenical campaign of the World Council of Churches which promotes a no tolerance culture against gender-based violence.

A joint statement has been made by the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA and The National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. To hear them and learn more, go to www.elca.org/thursdaysinblack.



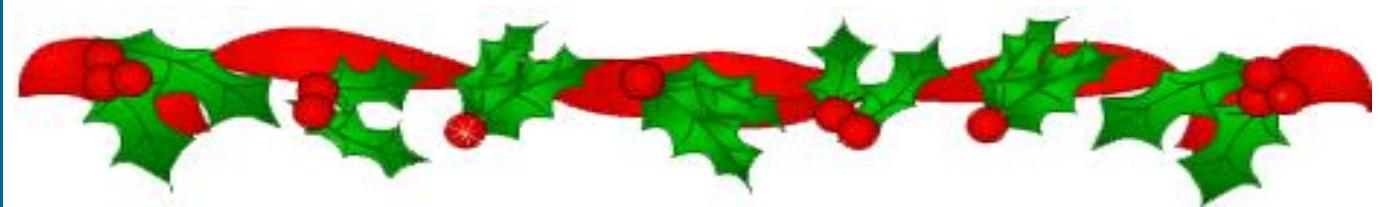
WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
AUGUST 5-8, 2021 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

Triennial Rescheduled

The 2020 Triennial Gathering, “**Just Love**” will be held August 5-8, 2021, in Phoenix, AZ. For more information, check out www.welcatg.org.

“Tuesdays at 12” Continues

All are invited to join ELCA women across the country in a time for prayer for our families, friends, communities, country, and our world. Anyone can participate no matter where you are at 12 noon on Tuesdays.





Submitted by: Dave Okon, Secretary

The COVID pandemic continues to be of great concern during this Advent season. The council was forced to suspend in person worship in the sanctuary due to increasing cases of the virus in the region and the State of Illinois reverting back to phase three status. The board understands that most church members really miss in person worship, but the health and safety of all congregants is the board's foremost concern. The board will continue to act in accordance with state and Synod recommendations and guidelines. The board covers this topic at every meeting and we endeavor to make worship as meaningful as possible in this challenging time and we will offer in person worship as soon as restrictions allow. Even after we are all able to worship together again, the intention is to continue with an on line component to reinforce the St. Mark worship experience.

The church is still behind in revenue due to the pandemic. The Paycheck Protection Program will help balance the budget somewhat for this year. The 2021 budget passed with approximately 60 members casting their vote.

The lighting upgrade in the sanctuary has been completed. This upgrade should eliminate future costly maintenance issues which were experienced with the original lighting.

The Lions Club Farmers Market will continue through the winter months, though it may be moving indoors. This will be dependent upon the weather and state and village restrictions. More to come on this.

The board wishes all our St. Mark members a healthy and happy new year. During these trying times, this sentiment is especially important. May 2021 bring God's blessings, hope and inspiration to all.





2021

All In-Person Activities are cancelled or have moved online until further notice.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED</i>	2
3 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord OnLine Worship on Facebook or YouTube</i>	4	5 7pm Special Church Council	6	7	8	9 9am Winter Farmers Market
10 <i>Baptism of Our Lord OnLine Worship on Facebook or YouTube</i>	11	12 7pm Worship & Music	13 7:45pm 75th Anniversary Committee	14	15	16
17 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany OnLine Worship on Facebook or YouTube Vicar Christina's last day at St Mark</i>	18	19 7pm Church Council	20 5:15pm WOW	21 4:00pm FaithWalk	22	23 9am Winter Farmers Market
24 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany OnLine Worship on Facebook or YouTube</i>	25 1pm Book Club	26	27 5:15pm WOW 7:45pm 75th Anniversary Committee	28 4:00pm FaithWalk	29 Annual Reports Due	30
31 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany OnLine Worship with Communion on Facebook or YouTube</i>						

St. Mark Lutheran Church
200 South Wille Street
Mount Prospect, Illinois
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January 2021

God's
work.
Our
hands.



2020-21 Church Council

Jill Permanian, President
Kevin Lang, Vice President
Dave Okon, Secretary
Doug Trezise, Treasurer

Janet Adams
Bob Allgaier
Judy Fell
Diane Luper
Paul Post
Susan Supergan
Julie Wenzel



St. Mark Lutheran Church

847/253-0631

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Email: stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org

Website: stmarkmp.org

Staff

Pastor	Rev. Christie Webb	cwebb@stmarkmp.org
Music Director	Timothy Spelbring	tspelbring@stmarkmp.org
Parish Administrator	Nancy Hundley	nhundley@stmarkmp.org
Office Administrator	Jill Galyon	jgalyon@stmarkmp.org
Vicar	Christina Johnson	cjohnson@stmarkmp.org
Youth & Family Ministry	Deacon David Webb	dwebb@stmarkmp.org

Sunday Worship

Online: Check our Facebook page or our YouTube Channel

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMarkLutheranIL/>

YouTube Channel: <https://tinyurl.com/stmarkmpyoutube>.

Youth Christian Education

WOW: Wednesdays 5:15-5:45pm on Zoom

FaithWalk: Thursdays 4:00-5:30pm on Zoom

Adult Christian Education

Dessert Church on Winter Break. Contact the church office to connect.

Church Office Hours

By Appointment only

St. Mark Preschool & Enrichment Center

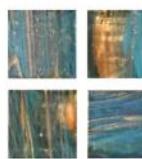
847/873-1110

Web: stmarkpreschoolcares.org

Preschool Director

Barb Zediker

bzediker@stmarkmp.org



St. Mark
Lutheran Church

Nourishing God's People ~ Body, Mind, & Spirit

Inspiring Worship • Meaningful Ministry • Deepening Faith • Caring Community