



St. Mark Lutheran Church

# CrossBeams

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

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Volume 62, Issue 8

August, 2023

### Chair Painting



### 1st Communion



### Summer BBQ



### Chicago Dogs Game



### Willard Pingel honored at Cubs game



### Sundaes at the Center



### Sundays @ the Center



### Sundays @ the Center

## JULY EVENTS

### Children's Church



### Farewell & Godspeed to the Webb Family





## COUNCIL CORNER

We are two days past a wonderful “Farewell and Godspeed” worship service and Celebration of Ministry for Pastor Christie, Deacon Dave, Thomas and Sam. As we look back on the eight years of Pastor Christie and Deacon Dave leading us, we recall some major events: the addition of Thomas and Sam to our St. Mark family, a year long pandemic with all its challenges, and many highlights in ministry together.

In her sermon Pastor Christie assured the congregation she would be praying for God to be with us as we move forward into a transition period before forming a Call Committee for our next pastor. We are thankful that God has always been with us in our ministry at St. Mark, and we heed Pastor Christie’s reminder to be alert to those times when God will surprise us, encourage us, comfort us, lift us up, bring us new leadership, reveal new ways to be in ministry, and lead us forward. Pastor Kathy Nolte, Assistant to the Bishop of our Metropolitan Chicago Synod, joined us for the worship service and led us in the End of Call liturgy, releasing Pastor Christie and Deacon Dave from their Calls with us.

Thanks to Barb Bloomquist and Marilyn Gosell for organizing and executing another superb luncheon with the help of many faithful cooks, bakers, servers and clean up volunteers. Thanks to Carol Floros who, in top notch Floros fashion, was emcee for a “Farewell and Godspeed” time when many came forward to tell stories and recount memories of the Webb family and ministry with us. Disciple Rick showed up. Because the elevator was out of service, he respectfully left his chariot and donkey outside, and he hinted that he would try to stop by in the future as his traveling ministry brings him to our area.

The Executive Committee and Council will be hard at work to navigate through this transition time. Please come to the Congregational Information Meeting on Sunday, August 6, following the worship service. Our goal is to always be transparent about what is happening, where we are in the process from interim pastor to call committee to calling our next pastor.

### The St. Mark Council

Nancy Snell-President & Stewardship, Eve Smith-Vice President & Congregational Care/In-reach, Barb Bloomquist-Secretary & Youth and Family, Marilyn Gosell-Treasurer, Andy Goodrich-Marketing/Communication & PADS, Mike Haase-Foundation, Kim Perlich-Fellowship, Paul Post-Property, Dianne Quast-Adult Education, Kai Saito-Youth Representative, Dolores Uddenberg-Worship/Music







## “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



September 10  
2023

Please join us at the Center after the September 10 worship service to enjoy food & fellowship at our last BBQ for 2023. Following the BBQ, we will put Our Hands to work and assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief and tie Linus blankets. There will also be the opportunity to work with St. Mark's Social Justice Group as they sponsor an "Offering of Letters" to U.S. Congresspersons and Senators to support the five-year re-authorization of the U.S. Farm Bill so that it builds a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system that helps people who are "food insecure" (i.e., hungry) in the U.S. and globally. See page 8 for more on "Offering of Letters".

### **Congratulations** **2023 Educational Gifts Recipients**



**Erik Kremer**

University of Missouri

**Ethan Harold**

Iowa State University

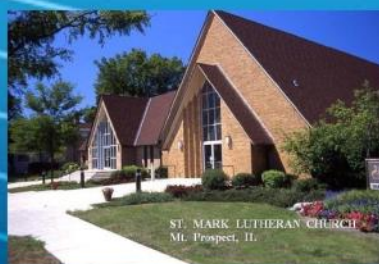
**Evan Sarasin**

Harper College

Join us at St. Mark Lutheran Church for a free concert featuring organist Timothy Spelbring. All are welcome!

Saturday, August 19th 4:00 PM

*Praise the Lord, all you peoples!*



200 S. Wille Street, Mount Prospect

847-253-0631

Join us for an amazing organ concert featuring  
our very own Timothy Spelbring.

Bach! Handel! Mendelssohn! ...and many more  
including a special performance by flutist Letitia Spelbring.  
There is no cost for the concert but we will gladly accept  
free will offerings! All are welcome, please bring a friend!





**Do.  
Church.  
Anywhere.**

**Worship with us in person  
Sundays at 10am**

**Or Worship online with us  
on Facebook Live at 10am**

[https://www.facebook.com/  
StMarkLutheranIL/](https://www.facebook.com/StMarkLutheranIL/)

then posted later to our YouTube Channel  
[https://tinyurl.com/stmarkmpyoutube.](https://tinyurl.com/stmarkmpyoutube)

We look forward to worshipping with you.



### **CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION MEETING**

**Sunday, August 6  
following worship**

This information meeting for  
the congregation is for

information sharing and discussion about two  
important and timely topics: 1) St. Mark's current  
financial situation, and 2) the transition period we  
are beginning, moving into an interim phase of  
pastoral leadership. Please plan on attending this  
important meeting.



### **Caregiver Support Group**

Are you doing the important and  
challenging work of providing care for a  
loved one? Are you looking for mutual  
support in the midst of that? Join our  
Caregiver Support Group meeting  
**Tuesday, September 5** at noon in the  
Great Room. Bring your own lunch.  
Questions? Contact the church office.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

### **Social Justice Group Meeting on August 27 at 3-4:15pm**

The Social Justice Group will meet on Sunday,  
August 27, from 3 to 4:15 p.m. in the Great  
Room. We will take up the threefold program of  
education, moral deliberation and advocacy. All  
are welcome. If you have questions, please direct  
them to Les Weber, [l-jweber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:l-jweber@sbcglobal.net)



**Adult  
Education**

Adult Education will take  
a break for August and  
will resume on Sunday,  
September 17.



# Women of the ELCA



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### JUST LOVE

Join ELCA women from all around the country for the 2023 Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in Phoenix, AZ, from September 21-24.

Information and registration is all online at [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org).



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING  
SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023 | PHOENIX  
WELCATG.ORG

### Women's Bible Study

Deacon Pat Gerber will lead us through this 7-session video study of Priscilla Shirer's *The Armor of God*. We will meet on the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm in the Great Room, starting Monday, September 25. There will be no session in December. Join us as we reap the benefits of this bible study:

- equip us to get serious, specific and strategic in our discipline of prayer
- turn challenges and discouragement into opportunities for prayer
- grow spiritually as we dig deeper into Scripture and expand our understanding of prayer
- develop and implement practical, purposeful prayer strategies.



### PADS UPDATE

Are you looking for an opportunity to give back to the community. An opportunity to have a tangible impact on the lives of other humans right here in Mt Prospect. We have such an opportunity, helping the leaders of our PADS ministry.



We are currently looking to utilize the following two skill sets:

1. An outgoing, empathetic personality who understands how to work in the parameters of an organization.
2. A well-organized people-person who is adept at scheduling and stocking. This would be to support our PADS food service operation.

We hope to fill two positions that will assist our current St Mark PADS program managers. If you feel blessed to be part of the wonderful St Mark community, this is a great way to show your thanks. Please contact Andy Goodrich ([amcvgood@hotmail.com](mailto:amcvgood@hotmail.com) or phone 847-222-0833).

## Thoughts from the Loft

For the month of August this year we will use the liturgy from Setting Seven (pg. 175). This particular setting has a Hispanic flair to it. It is interesting that in addition to this setting there are many hymns in ELW with Hispanic origins. These include the more modern "Take My Life, That I May Be" (ELW 583) and "Oh, Sing to the Lord" (ELW 822). Let us celebrate this month all that World Music has to offer, especially in our liturgy. It is my hope that a new "flavor" of songs blesses our worship throughout this month.

Thanks be to God!  
Tim



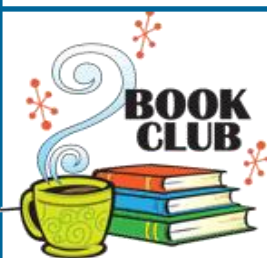
**Fair Trade items  
will be on sale Sunday, August 27  
Coffee, chocolate, olive oil, and more**



Quilters (knotters) will meet at 9:00am on these upcoming dates in the Quilting room (second floor of the Education wing):

### **No Quilting in August.**

For more information, please contact Lynn Istwan at 847-253-1715 and leave a message.



### **BOOK CLUB**

The St. Mark Book Club meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 1pm in the Great Room. We read a variety of books and all are welcome to join us! Here is the 2023 reading list.

Questions??? Contact Nancy Snell at 847-431-9116.

### **2023 Book Selections**

**August 28 - *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus**

September 25 - *Foster* by Claire Keegan

October 23 - *An Elephant in My Kitchen* by Francoise Malby-Anthony

November - To be announced



## Offering of Letters to address Hunger on September 10

On Sunday, September 10, as part of God's Work. Our Hands Sunday, St. Mark members will have an opportunity to sign letters and address envelopes to Representatives and Senators as part of an Offering of Letters advocating that the federal government address hunger both in the U.S. and around the world.

The Offering of Letters is sponsored each year by Bread for the World ("Bread"), an ecumenical, bi-partisan Christian advocacy organization that urges U.S. decision makers to pursue a world without hunger. Bread was started in the early 1970s by a Lutheran pastor and has achieved many victories since then thus helping to strengthen national nutrition programs and to reduce hunger in the U.S. and abroad. Bread is supported by the ELCA's World Hunger program.

This year's Offering of Letters will be particularly important because it will support the re-authorization of the U.S. Farm Bill that occurs every five years. The Farm Bill contains provisions that address people who are "food insecure," such as SNAP—the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly called Food Stamps).

The letter that members will be invited to sign is as follows:

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_, / Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

*The farm bill is our nation's most important national food system legislation. It is critical to the work of ending hunger at home and abroad. Indeed, the farm bill impacts each one of us.*

*As Congress works to renew our food and farm programs through the farm bill, I urge you to support legislation that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.*

*Specifically, I ask you to:*

*Protect SNAP from further restrictions.*

*Increase funding for fresh produce through SNAP benefits through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)*

*Reduce food waste by cosponsoring the Food Date Labeling Act, H.R. 3159/S.1484.*

*Reauthorize the Food for Peace global nutrition program at no less than its current level of \$2.5 billion annually and allow additional flexibility to provide the most effective form of assistance in each local context.*

*As a person of faith, I am moved to help and advocate for people experiencing hunger and poverty—no matter where they live. This is why I urge you to support a farm bill that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.*

This Offering of Letters is being sponsored by the Social Justice Group at St. Mark.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE  
ST. MARK CELEBRATION EVENT  
WE HAVE A LOT TO CELEBRATE!

77 YEARS OF WORSHIP AND SERVICE  
65 YEARS OF PRE-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT  
35 YEARS HOSTING THE PADS PROGRAM

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 21, 2023

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JOIN US AT THE  
ST. MARK CENTER

CATERED BUFFET DINNER BEGINS AT 6:00 PM

SIDEMEN LITTLE BIG BAND

SILENT AUCTION

RAFFLES

\$50.00 PER PERSON.

# THANK YOU!

Dear St. Mark,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We are so thankful for the wonderful send off on our last Sunday. It was such a delight to worship together, talk with one another, laugh together, cry some together and remember these last 8 years. It was also such a gift to get to give so many of you a blessing. Thank you for receiving those blessings, and blessing our family back in so many ways. We appreciated all the cards, notes, gifts and especially the generous gift from the congregation which many of you contributed to. Your generosity was breathtaking. It will go a long way to helping us across the country and settling into our new home. And last but not least, thank you for these last 8 years. It has been a joy to be your pastor. I have loved it, I love you, and I hope you know how deeply God loves you. God bless you and keep. God's face shine on you. God look upon you with favor and give you peace. You are beloved children of God!

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Christie Webb



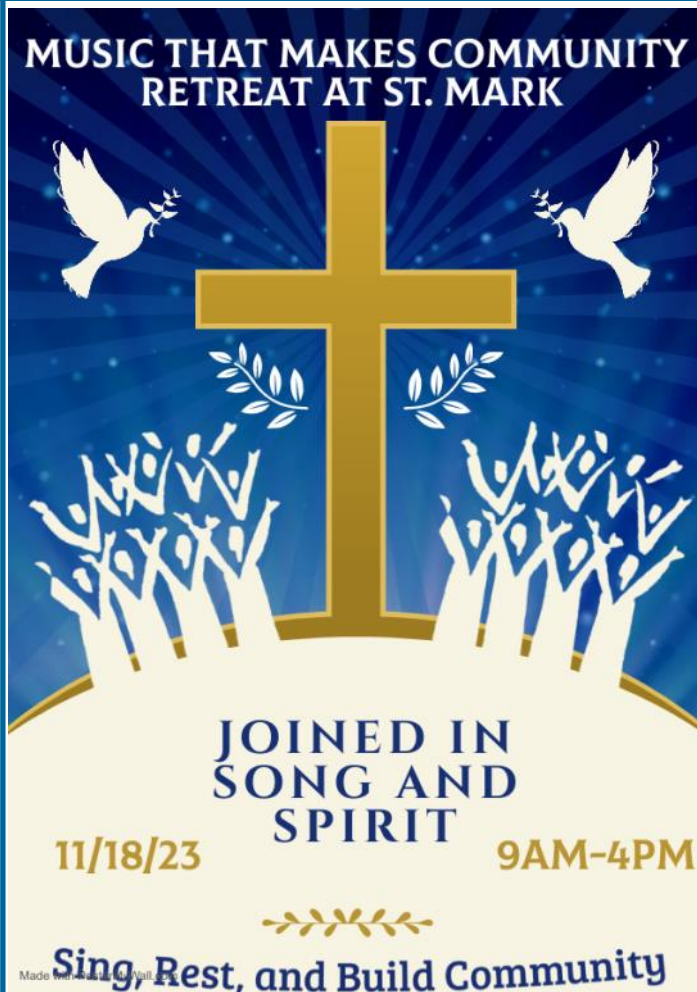
Thank you for the lovely altar flowers upon my coming home from a brief hospital stay.

Sincerely,  
Gloria Bazan

To: Our Friends at St. Mark

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers we received for our anniversary.

Tom and Dolores Uddenberg




LOOK FOR  
MORE  
INFORMATION  
TO  
COME

SAVE  
THESE  
DATES  
11/18 & 19

November 19th 3PM

# St. Mark Community Sing

Sing with your neighbors and  
friends to your heart's content



St. Mark invites you  
to sing and make  
community to make  
this world a better  
place.

We will sing religious and secular  
music that can be easily learned  
and shared to build community.

MORE INFO:  
847-253-0631  
stmarkmp.org

Made with PosterMyWall.com





### Summer BBQ!

Join us on **Sunday, August 13** to as we continue enjoying the summer. A free will offering will be collected to help cover expenses. Come by for food, fun and fellowship! Anyone interested in assisting with the BBQs or providing a salad or dessert , please contact Kim Perlich (847) 867-3932.



### August Nibblers

**Saturday, August 5 at 6:30 pm**  
**Javier's Sabor Mexicano & Agave Bar**  
**8 W. Miner St., Arlington Heights**  
**RSVP to Kim Perlich by Tuesday,**  
**August 1**

### September Nibblers

**Saturday, September 2**  
**Watch for details to come**



### ST. MARK WOMEN OF THE ELCA LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SERVICE PROGRAM

Disasters often make it impossible for families to gather belongings before fleeing danger. In many cases, poverty or disaster make it impossible for families to provide supplies needed for children's educations.

As stores begin their "Going Back to School" sales, the Women of St. Mark are asking for the help of our entire congregation in the collection of items needed to prepare SCHOOL KITS for Lutheran World Relief. WE CAN ONLY USE THE EXACT ITEMS THAT ARE REQUESTED BY LWR. All items must be in by September 3.

**The congregation is invited to assist in assembling the kits at the annual "God's Work, Our Hands" day of service.**

**ALL DONATIONS CAN BE PLACED IN THE COLLECTION BOX LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.**

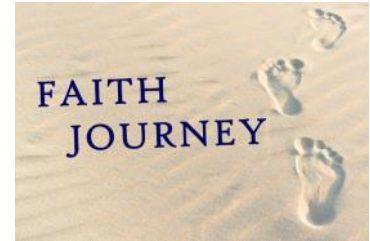
### SCHOOL KIT ITEMS

70 sheet spiral notebooks of ruled paper  
 Blunt scissors  
 12-inch ruler with centimeters on the other edge  
 Pencil sharpeners  
 Boxes of 16 or 24 crayons  
 Unsharpened Pencils #2  
 Ballpoint pens (no gel ink)  
 Pink Erasers

**We are able to purchase some of these items in bulk at a more reasonable cost. If you prefer to contribute funds toward the purchase of these items, please place your gift in a pew envelope and indicate it is for WELCA Kits.**

## Recapping My Ministry at St. Mark By: Deacon David

In the last eight years it has been a tremendous blessing to journey with everyone, but especially in the four specific areas of ministry that I was called to at St. Mark: Youth and Family ministry, the Adult Education Team, the Preschool, and the Church Council.



I will never be famous in the societally understood definition of the word, thankfully. But for the last eight years I have not been able to walk down Evergreen Avenue, past the Preschool Block Room without someone yelling my name, banging on the window, and waving. Once a week I run into someone in the grocery store or at a restaurant who has been in or currently is in one of our faith formation programs. It is the joy of my heart to be famous among the under 18 crowd and especially with the 3-5 yr. old demographic.

All of the faith formation classes and eras of the last eight years will hold a special place in my heart. As will the eight-week Star Wars Bible study that we did my first year here.

In the last three years, the memorial garden, outdoor WOW!, and the vegetable gardens have been an abundant source of life. Talking with the Sarasin's while they tended the vegetable garden (especially during the pandemic), seeing Evan's Eagle Scout project culminate all of our hard work, showing the WOW! Kids how to pray in the labyrinth, chasing bubbles on the steps, and getting a feverish text and phone call from Annette Woods to "hurry up and go outside because the sunset is beautiful and probably looks even more beautiful at the church."

As many of you know, the Saito's arrival at St. Mark, baptism, return, confirmation, and sending again have been a huge part of my ministry at St. Mark as it has been for you all. Other big moments like traveling to Holden Village, receiving a grant to do Community Meal, Sundays at the Center, and the Music that Makes Community retreat and all the fun that have been part of those ministries has provided joy, insight, and energy for the new ministry.

I've loved working with each council at St. Mark, getting to know the organizational and leadership personality of this place. So many people in their service and care for this community have been a witness for faithful leadership that will guide me for all of my ministry.

Remembering my work with older adults, I am deeply grateful for the beautiful and tender relationships I've had with you all. So many people have been so kind and generous, especially with their presence over the last eight years I feel as if I've been given true wealth. I'm at a loss for words at how each person has shared their unique and special friendship and care with me. The value and richness of it all is so deep because so many of those folks have claimed their baptismal promises and joined the communion of saints. I repeatedly think fondly of the Wednesday morning Bible study crew and our deep conversation and work together that eventually became the Sunday after worship small groups and Adult Education group. I know that in the years to come I will continue to cherish the work that the Adult Education team has done in the last year and I will continue to grow from their wisdom.

And of course, one of our beginnings will always be a central part of my heart of ministry. My ordination day, my extended family visited for worship at St. Mark (including my 95-year-old grandmother), they helped me fry donuts during children's church, and many of us caravanned to First Lutheran Church in Blue Island where I looked out over a sea of 700 people and made my promises to serve God faithfully in Word and Service. In response to that promise, two children from St. Mark draped a stole over my head, affirmed my call, and reminded me that that service and faithfulness will be with them in their journey and faith.

Thank you for the richness and depth of these last eight years! I pray that God continues to bless us all abundantly in our paths, wherever they may lead.

## Good News Garage Follow-Up

From donations given by St. Markers to Good News Garage following their Temple Talk on Sunday, June 4 , here is what has transpired:

Gino is a 76-year-old widower who still works 6 days a week year-round. He says he must work because he did not save enough for retirement. When the transmission failed on his old truck, he said he would just walk to work rather than borrow money to replace another transmission. Gino lives one mile from the tire shop he works at where he repairs flat tires for a living.

When I told him about the Cadillac being available to him, his eyes lit up and he said this may be the nicest vehicle he ever had, so now he rides to work in style and comfort.

Gino asked us to say thank you to everyone who made this possible, then he made a small donation back to Good News Garage for the next person we help.

Good News Garage is a ministry through Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Plaines that receives donated cars, fixes them up and gives them away to people in need. If you want to know more, visit [www.trinitydesplaines.org/outreach/good-news-garage](http://www.trinitydesplaines.org/outreach/good-news-garage).







# 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 12pm Caregiver Support	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 1pm PHS Boys Feeder BB	<b>4</b> 6:30pm Fragias BB	<b>5</b> 9am Layman BB 11am Fragias BB 4pm Fragias BB
<b>6</b> <i>10th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook Later posted on YouTube	<b>7</b> 11am Fragias BB	<b>8</b> 7pm Worship & Music	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 1pm Holy Family Teacher & Staff Appreciation Lunch @ Greek Islands	<b>12</b> 7:30am Forrest BB 9am Layman BB
<b>13</b> <i>11th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook Later posted on YouTube 11am Summer BBQ	<b>14</b> 5:30pm Fragias BB	<b>15</b> 7pm Church Council	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:30am Forrest BB 9am Layman BB 4pm Summer Organ Concert
<b>20</b> <i>12th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook Later posted on YouTube	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:30am Forrest BB 9am Layman BB
<b>27</b> <i>13th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook Later posted on YouTube Fair Trade Items on Sale 3pm Social Justice Group	<b>28</b> 1pm Book Club	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

**St. Mark Lutheran Church**  
200 South Wille Street  
Mount Prospect, Illinois  
60056-3121

**August 2023**

God's  
work.  
  
Our  
hands.



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

**2023-24**

**Church Council**

Nancy Snell, President  
Eve Smith, VP  
Marilyn Gosell, Treasurer  
Barb Bloomquist, Secretary

Andy Goodrich  
Mike Haase  
Kim Perlich  
Paul Post  
Dianne Quast  
Kai Saito  
Dolores Uddenberg

**St. Mark Lutheran Church**

847/253-0631

Fax: 847/253-5387

Email: [stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org](mailto:stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org)

Website: [stmarkmp.org](http://stmarkmp.org)

**Staff**

Music Director  
Parish Administrator  
Office Administrator

Timothy Spelbring  
Nancy Hundley  
Jill Galyon

[tspelbring@stmarkmp.org](mailto:tspelbring@stmarkmp.org)  
[nhundley@stmarkmp.org](mailto:nhundley@stmarkmp.org)  
[jgalyon@stmarkmp.org](mailto:jgalyon@stmarkmp.org)

**Sunday Worship: 10am In person and on Facebook Live  
then posted later to YouTube**

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 - Programming under Construction**

**Adult Christian Education**

On a break—resumes on September 17, 2023

**Church Office Hours**

M-Th 8:30am-4:30pm, F 8:30am-12noon

Call ahead to be sure someone will be available to greet you.

**St. Mark Preschool & Enrichment Center**

847/873-1110

Website: [stmarkpreschoolcares.org](http://stmarkpreschoolcares.org)

Preschool Director

Allison Finnegan

[afinnegan@stmarkpreschoolmp.org](mailto:afinnegan@stmarkpreschoolmp.org)



**St. Mark**  
**Lutheran Church**

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

*Inspiring Worship • Meaningful Ministry • Deepening Faith • Caring Community*