



St. Mark Lutheran Church

CrossBeams

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

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Corner 2

Patriotic Music,
4th of July Parade,
& More 3

Council Notes 4

Worship info,
Caregiver
Support, Social
Justice & more 5

WELCA & PADS
Update 6

Thoughts from
the Loft , Book
Club & More 7

Fellowship &
WELCA School
Kits 8

Reflecting on
Ministry at St.
Mark 9

Community Meals
& Sundays @ the
Center 10

Calendar of
Events 11

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July, 2023



Synod Assembly



New Members—Dee & Peter



Michael Blazek
Baptism



Community Meal



Wedding of
Keegan & Kelsey



Wedding of
Dee & Peter



Hymns, Hops & Pops



Godspeed to the
Saito Family



Sundays @ the
Center



Dear St. Mark,

It is a profound thing to sit in my office at this desk I have worked at for 8 years, looking out my window at this neighborhood I have loved for 11 years (since I first started internship with you), and write you my final Crossbeams article. I have been called to serve as the Pastor of

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Santa Monica, CA. Deacon David and our family will begin the drive out to our new home at the end of July. As I write this to you, there are so many emotions that swirl around. Sorrow at having to say goodbye. Excitement and expectation for what is to come for both our family and for St. Mark. But the biggest feeling of all is gratitude. I am so very grateful for all of you and all we have done in the name of Christ Jesus these past years.

I am so grateful that this is the place I learned to be a pastor. You all raised me up in leadership. I came to you as an intern in 2012, embarking on my first year of ministry trying out the pastor role. I learned to lead worship, to preach, to visit people in the hospital and in their homes, to plan worship, to plan programs, to lead Bible Studies, figure out my role in meetings, to try new things, have difficult conversations, learn and grow and learn some more. I loved then your willingness to work with me as I grew. I appreciated all the ways you would try new things. You welcomed me then as your pastor, some of you attending our ordination. We grew and learned together how to be church in this time and place. Thank you for that.

I am so grateful for the many ways you have used your gifts in service to this congregation. It has been my delight for many of you to share what you dream of and work to make that happen. For example- Paul Brask dreamed of a way of highlighting the humor of the Bible and Disciple Rick was born. Linda Olson shared her dream of the center bustling with senior activities, and Bolder U is blossoming. There are leaders who never thought of themselves as leaders who stepped up and shared gifts in exactly the ways we needed them. I'm so grateful for your partnership in ministry.

As I look back, I find a deep sense of gratitude for the dear saints we have sent into life with God, honoring them and their lives as they go. I'm grateful and honored to have walked with so many of you as you lost a loved one. We have had more funerals than I would hope for, and yet it has been such a meaningful part of my ministry to celebrate our people well and hear the promises of God.

I'm grateful for the saints we've added to our community. New members. New babies. Baptized children. Specifically, I'm grateful for the ways you supported David and I as we moved into the calling of parenthood, the way you have loved our kids and made church a place they love to go.

We celebrated St. Mark's history with the 75th Anniversary. We have clarified our values together: Welcoming, Growing, Connecting and Caring. We have defined our key practices: Inspiring Worship, Meaningful Ministry, Deepening Faith, Caring Community. We have set our vision: To connect faith with our daily lives. To be The Community Church. Along the way we created a new logo, a new website, rejuvenated our Facebook presence, learned how to livestream worship, all in service to being known to the community. We have survived a pandemic.

It has been a rich and full 8 years. I have learned so much. I have felt God at work. I have seen God at work in you. I take with me all these memories, the things I have learned from our mutual work, and entrust them to you as well. It is my sincere prayer that God will use all of these things and make them into good soil for what is to come for St. Mark, as well as what is to come for me and my family.

Pastor's Corner (continued)

You all are in my heart, always. Though we will be distant from one another physically, we will be connected always by the love of Christ.

I hope to connect with you all to say farewell. Be on the lookout for information about a celebration on our last Sunday here- July 23. You are also welcome to connect with us at the July 9 BBQ or July 16 Sundays at the Center. Know that you all and this community and its future remain in our prayers.

Peace,
Pastor Christie Webb

**Patriotic Music**

Join us before worship on **Sunday, July 2** for Patriotic Music, starting at 9:45am.



The church office will be closed on Monday, July 3 and Tuesday, July 4 for the Independence Day Holiday.

**Mount Prospect 4th of July Parade**

St. Mark and our interfaith partners are again participating in the July 4th parade. Meet in the church parking lot at 11:30am if you want to join in the fun! Or if you prefer to watch the parade, bring non-perishable food items to place in the shopping carts as they go by. All food & donations will be given to the Mt. Prospect Food Pantry.



Greetings from the St. Mark Council! Here are some major items the Council has been addressing since the Congregation came together in late February for the Annual Meeting.

Leadership Transition

With sadness, the Council received Pastor Christie and Deacon Dave's resignation letter, notifying us of Pastor Christie's call to a church in California and Deacon Dave's new opportunities there. We share their joy as they embark upon this new ministry that lies ahead for the Webb family. The Webb's last Sunday with us will be July 23.

Pr. Nolte, Assistant to the Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, will be with us that day as we bid farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Christie, Deacon Dave, Thomas and Sam. A luncheon to celebrate the Webb's ministry and presence among us will follow the service.

The Executive Committee had an initial meeting with Pr. Nolte to begin a process of transition. She informed us that we will have an interim pastor beginning September 1. Be assured that as we begin this phase of our ministry together, we do so being open to God's guidance and to input from the congregation. Please reach out to a council member with your questions and concerns. An informational meeting of the congregation regarding our transitional process is scheduled for Sunday, August 6, following the worship service. Please make every effort to attend.

Task Force

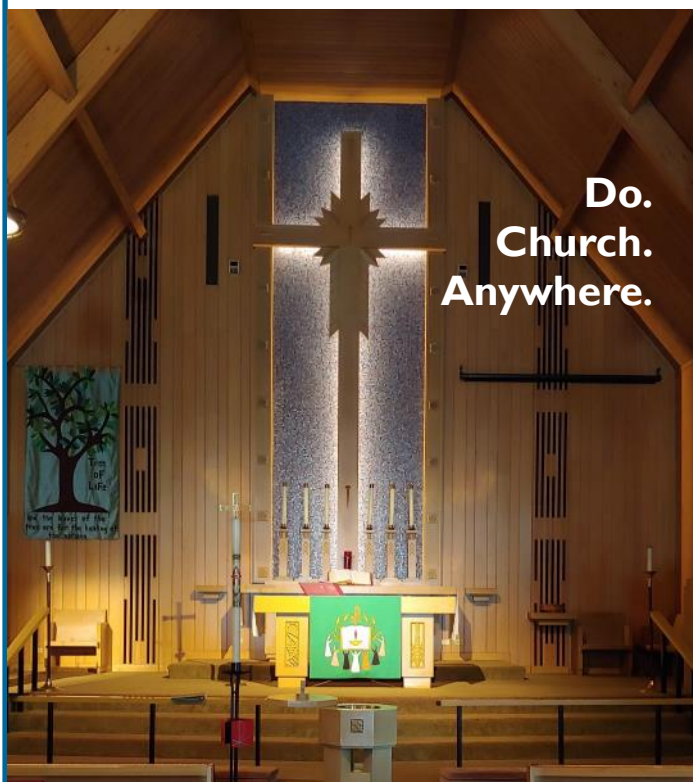
The Council has been working with the Task Force which came together as an ad hoc group to present a plan for dealing with our deficit budgeting. The group dug deeply by way of several interviews with St. Markers. The Task Force presented the Council with two reports. Some of the suggestions have already been implemented or are in the planning process. Some of the ideas have been embraced by the Stewardship Committee and Foundation, some by the Property Committee, and some have been calendared as fellowship and fund-raising events. The Task Force is blending well into the St. Mark committee structure as we work together as one body with the same goal of reenergizing our ministry and regaining financial stability.

Committee Structure

Our ministry at St. Mark is organized in a committee structure with each committee having a specific focus. However, that does not imply that we work in silos. Rather, many of our programs and much of our work overlaps, committee with committee, to accomplish ministry. One of the Council's goals this year is strengthening our committees. As we work together to reenergize our ministry, we are always mindful of how the various committees work together with a goal of Making Christ Known through Body, Mind, and Spirit.

St. Mark Council and Advisors

Barb Bloomquist-Secretary, Youth & Family; Andy Goodrich-Marketing & Communication, PADS; Marilyn Gosell-Treasurer; Mike Haase-Foundation; Kim Perlich- Fellowship, Women of the ELCA; Paul Post-Property; Dianne Quast-Adult Education; Kai Saito-Youth Representative; Eve Smith-Vice President, Congregational Care; Nancy Snell-President, Stewardship; Dolores Uddenberg-Worship & Music; Pastor Christie Webb-Advisor; Deacon David Webb-Advisor



**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.



ORGAN CONCERT

Save the Date

**August 19
4:00pm**

**Organ Concert
by Timothy
Spelbring**

You don't want to
miss it!!



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, July 11** (instead of July 4) at noon in the Great Room. Bring your own lunch.

Questions? Contact Pastor Christie.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice Group Meeting on July 30 at 3-4:15pm

In Sunday worship this Lent we have been learning to sing a new song whose chorus goes: "Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly, with You, God." These words from Micah 6:8 are easy to sing but less easy to practice. The cries for justice are abundant in the world today yet issues such as racism, poverty, homelessness, and homophobia, stubbornly resist a solution. God calls God's people to play a role in addressing social justice but they need to work together to do so. On Sunday, July 30, from 3 to 4:15 p.m. in the Great Room, we will meet to learn more about God's social justice work. All are welcome. If you have questions, you may direct them to Les Weber, l-jweber@sbcglobal.net

Women of the ELCA



UPCOMING EVENTS:



Women's Bible Study

"Listening For The Voice of God"

Led by Deacon Pat Gerber

Subject: "The Holy Spirit"

This Bible Study will meet **Monday, July 24 at 6pm** for potluck dinner and final session of this series. Bring a dish to share.

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.



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



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 or phone 847-222-0833).

Thoughts from the Loft

What is good summer church music? I am reminded of some favorite hymns: "Morning Has Broken" and "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling". Often, I find the hymns that speak of the dawning of the morning or coming home to Christ most appropriate. The beauty of creation is certainly paramount in the summer months. So, perhaps "For the Fruit of All Creation" is an appropriate hymn. Even old standards like "Amazing Grace" can give us comfort. In these summer months, I invite you to enter the stillness of God's grace as we journey in song. May that song give us rest and comfort.

Peace,
Tim

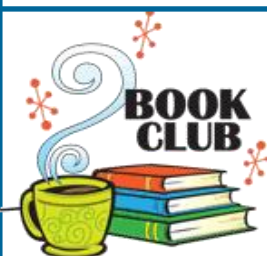


**Fair Trade items
will be on sale Sunday, July 23
Coffee, chocolate, olive oil, and more**



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

No Quilting in July or 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

July 24 - *The Stationery Shop* by Kamali Marjan

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

PLUG

INTO FELLOWSHIP EVENTS



Summer BBQ's are back!

Lunch will be served once a month following worship. Join us on **Sunday, July 9** 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 for any of these BBQs, please contact Kim Perlich (847) 867-3932.

Future BBQ date: August 13



August Nibblers

Saturday, August 5, 2023
6:30 pm

Watch for restaurant 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.

Reflecting on Ministry at St. Mark

By: Deacon David Webb

It seems like both just yesterday and quite awhile ago that I started at St. Mark. I remember Christie and I's first days in the office so vividly and also it feels as if the whole world has changed twice since we all started doing ministry together.

The pandemic, ministry interns at St. Mark, the birth of Thomas and Sam, several youth mission trips, a cross country trip to Holden Village, eight years of WOW!, Confirmation, and Shine, 350 sessions of Children's Church, and so many more wonderful moments of ministry. It is all so vivid and immediate and yet I feel the fullness of our time together.

Christie and I had hoped to be with you longer through this season of fiscal instability, but our prayers and discernment have led us to believe that we are being called elsewhere and that God is raising up new leaders for St. Mark. Our prayers and belief are that you all are being called to come of age again as the leaders of this community in this day and welcome a new configuration of rostered leaders to support you in the directions you are being called.

It has been a tremendous blessing to get to know you all and share in the life of community we cared for together as we've done ministry in Mount Prospect together. We hold both sadness and joy for what God has in store for us in the coming days. The sadness comes from our deep love for you all and the life we've built together and shared. Our relationships and community have been the very best context to share the gospel and live these last eight years. The joy comes from knowing that God's hand is deeply at work in all that's happening and supporting us all as we make changes that will mirror the dramatic changes that have happened in the world around us.

One of the great joys of serving at St. Mark has been in finding out how large the dispersed St. Mark community is. In all these last eight years of traveling and vacation we have constantly been bumping into people who know St. Mark or who were members here. Even though we are leaving, it feels as if we are still connected and bound to you all and part of that larger group dispersed into the world sharing the gospel joy we have come to know in the rhythm of love and community on Wille St.

Our hearts and prayers are full for you as you enter into new and unexpected days and parts of your journey of faith as a congregation, but we know that God guides you and supports us all as we move into the next season of God's faithfulness and love in our lives.

Together we pray: *"O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord."*



July Community Meal and Sundays at the Center



Community Meal at the Chicago Dogs Game

Friday, July 14th

Game Time: 6:30PM

For those who reserved tickets, we will meet in the church parking lot at 5:30pm to carpool over to the game. If you didn't reserve a seat and want to come, let Deacon David know and you can buy a ticket at the ticket booth when we arrive. You don't want to miss a night out at the ballgame!!

Sundays at the Center, July 16th 4-6PM National Ice Cream Day



**Sundays @
The Center**

Family, Faith, Friends, and Community



Theme: Working Together

Dinner: We'll fire up the grills, you're invited to bring anything you want to grill (we'll have extra hot dogs). Salad and dessert will be provided. And in this case dessert will be a giant sundae as long as a table that we work together to make.

Service Project: You can bring any of the items listed below for donation to Journeys. After worship you'll have the chance to put together a kit of items you can handout to those who are experiencing homelessness or financial hardship (personal hygiene items, candy, snacks, gift cards, and other gifts that will share your love with your neighbors).

Open Gym for High Schoolers



2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:30am Forrest BB
2 <i>5th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook Later posted on YouTube 11am Adult Ed Forum	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 <i>INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY</i> OFFICE CLOSED 11:30am Meet at Church parking lot for Parade	5	6	7	8 7:30am Forrest BB
9 <i>6th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook Later posted on YouTube 11am Summer BBQ	10	11 12pm Caregiver Support 7pm Worship & Music	12 7pm Youth & Family	13	14 6:30pm Community Meal at Chicago Dogs Game	15 7:30am Forrest BB
16 <i>7th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook Later posted on YouTube 11am Adult Ed Forum 4pm Sundays @ the Center	17 7pm Stewardship	18 7pm Church Council	19	20	21	22 7:30am Forrest BB
23 <i>8th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook Later posted on YouTube 11am Celebration of the Webbs? Fair Trade Items on Sale	24 1pm Book Club 6pm Women's Bible Study & Potluck	25	26	27	28	29 7:30am Forrest BB
30 <i>9th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook Later posted on YouTube 11am Adult Ed Forum 3pm Social Justice	31					

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

July 2023

God's
work.
Our
hands.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
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

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
Youth & Family Ministry	Deacon David Webb	dwebb@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 August—May

WOW (3yrs through 5th grade): Wednesdays 4:30-6pm

FaithWalk: Mondays 4:30-6pm

2 classes: 3rd thorough 5th grade &

6th through 8th grade (Confirmation)

High School Leadership Development: Tuesdays 3:30-5pm

Contact Deacon David for all Youth Program details

Adult Christian Education

Sundays following worship

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

Preschool Director Allison Finnegan afinnegan@stmarkpreschoolmp.org



St. Mark
Lutheran Church

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

Inspiring Worship • Meaningful Ministry • Deepening Faith • Caring Community