



St. Mark Lutheran Church

CrossBeams

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

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February, 2020



St. Mark's PADS program received a \$4,000 grant from Walmart thanks to Dianne and Dick Quast, who applied for the grant on behalf of St. Mark. The Quasts also secured donations for the holidays from other businesses on behalf of the St. Mark PADS program. These businesses include: Oberweis Dairy, Fannie May, Mariano's, Outback Steakhouse, Mrs. P & Me, Parker House Hair Care, Submarine Express, Honey Biscuit, Dave's Specialty Foods, Bellissimo Nails, Costco, Binny's, Stayfit, and Le Peep. Thank you to all these businesses for their generous support of our PADS program and a BIG THANK YOU to Dianne and Dick Quast for taking the time to secure all these donations! Pictured: Dianne Quast and Evaldas Bajoras, Des Plaines Walmart manager.



Sometimes I get curious about the words we use in the church. I think I know what they mean, but then when I try to define them I come up a little short. There is so much vocabulary, insider lingo we use in the church. I wonder if that is a good thing. Take this theme of discipleship that I've seen in our readings since after Christmas continuing until Lent. Our readings tell of Jesus calling the disciples, of people giving testimony to who Jesus is, of the challenging things we are called to, how we are to be salt and light. "Oh, these are discipleship," I thought to myself. Then, as I prepared to write this article, I wondered, does discipleship really mean what I think it means?

So I did some research. I googled "Discipleship Definition." I'm sure my seminary professors would cringe, but I found some really helpful information on Wikipedia. "In Christianity, disciple primarily refers to a dedicated follower of Jesus... It is not the same as being a student in the modern sense. A disciple in the ancient biblical world actively imitated both the life and teaching of the master." [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disciple_\(Christianity\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disciple_(Christianity)) This highlighted something for me. Discipleship is not just learning the stories of Jesus but working to emulate and embody the ways of Jesus.

I thought about what that really looks like. I know there are complex theories and processes out there, but I don't find the need for them. Instead, I'm seeing discipleship play out in our congregation, with our people, in everyday life circumstances.

I recognized it last week when I heard that my son Thomas now knows how to hold his hands out in front of him to receive the communion wafer, instead of the grab he has been using. Open hands, waiting to receive what we need from God. That sounds like Jesus to me - remember when he prayed over the 5 loaves and 2 fish and asked God to give them what they needed, and everyone was fed?!

I recognized discipleship at work in one of you considering the word you'd received when we gave out star gifts in early January, and feeling God's call to say yes to a different ministry you hadn't been willing to take on previously. That sounds like Jesus, the living Word, calling people to things they didn't dream possible (fisherpeople to become fishers of people).

I recognized discipleship at work in people's willingness to ask questions and have conversations that are sometimes hard. One such example? Last year Linda Olson said to me, "Disciple Rick should come for Transfiguration Sunday. I just don't get it." And low and behold, Disciple Rick will be here for Transfiguration Sunday on February 23. Paul Brask and I have been wrestling with the significance of the Transfiguration. Did you know that Jesus answered most questions posed to him with questions? And he always was open to conversations with people (like the woman at the well, or Nicodemus, or the disciples who just didn't understand). Questions. Seeking answers. Learning and growing. That sounds like Jesus to me.

I recognize discipleship at work in people learning to manage and support themselves and others in the midst of health concerns. People turn to prayer with their worries and their fears. Jesus prayed in the garden before his crucifixion. People learn to be patient with one another and bear one another's burdens. "Love one another as I have loved you." Jesus washed the disciples feet. People learn to ask for help when the caretaking is too much. Simon of Cyrene carried Jesus cross. These all sound like Jesus to me.

Maybe that's just it. Discipleship isn't complicated. It really is about life, and learning to live it in a more Christlike way, leaning on God, serving, questioning, and growing.

God work in us ever more to become more and more Christlike. Amen.

In Peace,
Pr. Christie

Thoughts from the Loft

If you look in the back of the hymnal, there are resources that convey the many possibilities our hymnal has. You will find a listing of the tune names of each hymn. Every hymn has a “tune name” associated with it. That tune name is found in the bottom right corner of each hymn. Also, each hymn has a metrical index. Some tunes can be paired with texts we don’t usually encounter. This month, you will find us singing some new texts to well-known tunes. In short, there are a plethora of possibilities in our hymnal. As we continue in the season of Epiphany and into Lent, let us give thanks we can sing the Church’s song in varied ways!

Peace,
Tim



Senior Lunch Bunch

(Or anyone who would like to join us)

Thursday, February 20, 2020

1:00 pm

Honey-Jam Cafe

(2944 W. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL)

RSVP to Marilyn Gosell by Monday, February 17

What initial thoughts, impressions, and prayers do you have for your star word? What struggles, challenges, and/or uncomfortable growing areas have you encountered through your star word? *



*In January we received star words as part of our Epiphany Celebration. Each month a new prompt will be included in the newsletter.

Need a star word? Have a reflection you want to share? Contact Pastor Christie.



WELCOME TO A PALESTINIAN DAY in ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Palestinian Fair

Saturday, February 29, 2020

10:00am to 3:00pm

Featuring

Speakers: Imam Nazir Chahin & Dr. John Kahler

Chicago Ramallah Club Debke (Dance) Group

Food and Artifacts for sale

Films and Advocacy Opportunities

Held at

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1234 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights

Sponsored by ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Working Group on the Middle East





Transformation

a: to change in composition or structure

b: to change the outward form or appearance of

c: to change in character or condition

How has your life been transformed by Christ?
Get ready for a Lent full of stories of transformation!

Devotionals available February 16.

Midweek Lent Meals & Meaningful Conversation:
Wednesdays 11am & 6pm starting March 4

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

**St. Mark Lutheran Church
is now on Amazon Smile!**

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. So go to smile.amazon.com and follow the prompts to sign-in (your amazon log in) and select a charity (searching for St. Mark Lutheran Church Mt Prospect IL) and then shop as you would normally do on Amazon.com, but now Amazon will donate to St. Mark as well. If you already shop on Amazon.com, switch to Amazon Smile and St. Mark will profit!



What's Happening in Youth & Family Ministry?



Baptism, Sunday Stories, Playgroup, Nursery, Children's Church, Pre-school, (Children 0-9)

Baptisms continue at church with still more coming.

Pastor Christie's Playgroup is back in the swing!

Pastor Christie and I continue to meet preschool families and welcome them to our community.

Preschool Chapel is a full part of the preschoolers life with them talking about it and asking when it will happen.

Pastor Christie and I are reflecting on how we might create a Sunday experience for young families.



WOW! (Ministry with Children 3-10 years old) WOW! is back in business after winter. Two students have moved on to other activities with a potential for 5 more joining.

This year's offering project is supporting ELCA American Indian and Alaskan Native Ministries.

Community meal hosted 70 people for breakfast for dinner.



Faithwalk/Confirmation (Ministry with 6th, 7th, and 8th graders Thursdays 4:30-6PM)

Students are back in class and preparing for Peace Camp.



Shine, Leadership Development, Basketball, and King's Players (Ministry with students between 13-18)

Leadership development projects have slowed down a bit with students getting jobs in the community. Students who have participated have had very good initial success in the work force and in applying to colleges.

Students began planning this coming summer trips.

New communication strategies are being developed to connect high school students with the congregation and high school students and parents with Youth Ministry at St. Mark.

New partnerships and collaborations are being explored with the Lutheran Roundtable Ministry for the coming year.

The Season of Transformation

By: Deacon David Webb



Ya'll know I love to make up "seasons" to celebrate, to go with the seasons happening in the natural world and the seasons of the church year. I made up a new one: "The Season of Transformation." Thanks to some questions Mark Sarasin was asking me back in "The Getting Ready Season" (Advent) and the theme we are using in Lent, I have a new season in my calendar! I'll spend more time writing about "The Season of Transformation" and my slightly absurd, definitely awesome calendar in the next few months as we celebrate but I don't want to get too distracted now.

So it all started when Mark asked me if I had had an "aha moment" that lead me to seminary and to becoming a deacon. It had been awhile since anyone had asked me the question so I laughed and told him I hadn't mostly because it's really hard to tell my story without making other people laugh at the simplicity and everydayness of it. To be honest I kind of lied, because there have been huge moments of transformation and transcendence in my young life. I've been so very blessed to have had moments of my life intersect with God's grace in poignant and deep and painful and joyful ways. They just don't look much like a movie and the moments don't sound all that earth shattering to anyone but me.

Pastor Christie and I have been working on this theme of transformation where we will ask people to reflect on specific Bible stories of transformation that we read in Lent: Nicodemus, The Woman at the Well, Jesus raising Lazarus, and others, then see if people have any similar moments of transformation. The cool thing that will happen is, just like me, you'll realize there have been significant moments of transformation in your life where God was working and they will be just as ordinary and lovely and life changing as any story in the Bible. The next cool thing will be you may not have realized them at the time, they may have been slow and steady, gentle and dramatic, or maybe they were the big aha, blow your hair back moments. The third cool thing that you will find is that when you share your stories of transformation you will find out they were not just private moments of personal significance, but they were moments meant to help transform your community.

So as we come out of this season of Epiphany where we celebrate the big aha moments of the world coming to know, we will slowly begin to meditate and reflect on the transformation that happens in the wake of these big moments (whether we realize they were or not).

I wonder what moments of transformation you remember and hold on to in your life...

If you don't think of anything you might ask God for help by praying. You might let go of the notion that it has to be an overtly dramatic or "religious" moment. It definitely did not have to happen in church and it definitely doesn't have to be a scene from a movie. Were there moments in your life where something unexpected happened? Were there moments in your life where you accomplished something you didn't think you'd ever do? Have there been hard and painful moments of your life? They might be moments of transformation not because God sent them to test you, but because life can be hard and painful and God loves us intensely in the midst of those things.

Anyway, I wonder what comes to mind when you think of moments of transformation in your life...

**SAVE
THE
DATE** 02.16.20 and
02.17.20

Middle-schoolers are invited to join the Children of Abraham Coalition for the third annual Peace Camp! Two afternoons of interfaith dialogue, creating friendships, and visits to a synagogue, mosque, and church!



Contact Deacon David for more information



**Come share a Meal
and Fellowship!**
Wednesday, February 19
6pm
All are welcome!

tastefullysimple®

**Tastefully Simple
Fundraiser**

Thank you to all who support our youth through this fundraiser.



**kids at
work**



The St. Mark Youth will be collecting canned food items and cash donations on Sunday, February 2 as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring. All food donations will be taken to the Village of Mt.

Prospect Food Pantry and all cash will be given to

St. Mark Backpack Ministry.

Please Help Us Tackle Hunger!



Please join us
to read to Holy Family School students as we celebrate

Read across America

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
Celebrating A Nation Of Diverse Readers

Monday, March 2nd, 2020

Session I: Registration and coffee at 9:00 a.m. / session begins at 9:30

Session II: Registration and refreshments at 12:00 p.m. / session begins at 12:30

Enjoy refreshments, tours and reading with our students!

Holy Family Ministries Center

3415 W. Arthington Street
Chicago, IL 60624

*Please RSVP by email to events@hfm.org with
all guest names and preferred reading session (1 or 2)
On-site parking available with RSVP*



Gratefulness Gatherings: February 17 from 6:30-8PM

St. Mark is hosting Gratefulness Gatherings for the local community. It is a time for sacred space, belonging, and wholeheartedness. Each evening consists of dessert, warm conversation, and chances to listen and be heard as we explore the deep of living gratefully. Learn more at: <https://gratefulness.org/> and <https://gratefulness.org/connect/gratefulness-gatherings/>

RSVP to Deacon David at
dwebb@stmarkmp.org

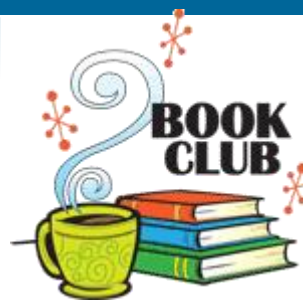


Friday, February 21
7pm in the Great Room
Bring your own craft or work on one of ours.



Sunday, February 23
Immediately following
10 am worship

Copies of the 2019 Annual Report will be available starting Sunday, February 9.



ST. MARK BOOK CLUB

The Book Club has put together a reading list for 2020 which includes lots of variety, interesting, and entertaining books. All are welcome to join on a regular basis or come during the months when particular books grab your attention. The group meets in the Great Room at 1:00 on the fourth Monday each month, except for December.

2020 READING LIST - ST. MARK BOOK CLUB

February 24 - **The Last Days of Night** by Graham Moore
March 23 - **Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens
April 27 - **The Lilac Girls** - Martha Hall Kelly
May 25 - **Educated** by Tara Westover
June 22 - **The Only Woman in the Room** by Marie Benedict
July 27 - **Cilka's Journeys** by Heather Morris
August 24 - **The Story of Arthur Truluv** by Elizabeth Berg
September 28 - **Olive Again** by Elizabeth Strout
October 26 - **The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell** by Robert Dugoni
November 23 - (open)

Contact Nancy Snell at 847-431-9116 for more information.





February 26, 2020
Worship at 11am, 7pm
6pm Family Worship

Join us as we remember that we are
dust, and to dust we shall
return. Gather for worship, the
giving of ashes, and communion as we
begin our
Lenten journey.



Join us each Wednesday in
February at 11am in the Great
Room. (Ash Wednesday
worship on Feb. 26 instead of
Bible Study.)



Declan Drew baptized on January 26



Disciple Rick Returns!!! February 23

Disciple Rick will be here to wonder with us
about Transfiguration and shiny Jesus.
Have questions you want answered?
Let Pastor Christie know! Have ideas for future
Disciple Rick sessions? Contact Pastor Christie!



CALENDAR

Wed. & Tues., Feb. 19 & 25 **9:00 am**
Quilting
2nd floor Education wing

Tuesday, February 25 **5:45 pm**
Mardi Gras Potluck
Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 6 **9:30 am**
Church Women United
World Day of Prayer Breakfast
Location TBD

Friday, April 17 **7:00 pm**
Ladies Night Out at the Movies
Great Room



Thanks to all those who helped to take down and pack away the chrismon, trees and holiday decorations!

The **Lenten Soup Meals**
will begin on
Wednesday March 4.



Watch for details to come in the Sunday bulletin and announcements. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Kim Perlich or Judy Fell.



MARDI GRAS POTLUCK DINNER

Tuesday, February 25

5:45 pm in Fellowship Hall

Start thinking about what favorite dish you will bring to pass. Last names beginning with

A-M: Bring a salad or dessert

N-Z: Bring a pasta or meat dish

Pop, coffee & lemonade provided.
Palm burning service to end the night.



**Mark Your
Calendars NOW!**
Ladies Night Out at the Movies
Friday, April 17



St Mark Preschool's 7th Annual Pasta Dinner Night



Friday, February 28, 2020

5.30 – 7.30 pm

Fellowship Hall



**Silent
Auction**

**Children Singing
Performance**

**Raffles
Prizes**

Prizes Include:

Sporting Game Tickets, Ride to School in a Fire Truck or Police Car, Various Raffle Baskets, Gift Cards, 50/50 Raffle and much much more!

Advanced Meal Tickets

Adults: \$10 Seniors: \$8 Children (ages 3-12): \$5 Children 2 & under: Free

Adult & Senior meal tickets are \$2 more each at the door.

Dinner includes: Pasta, Salad, Bread, Dessert

Lemonade & Wine

50/50 Tickets

\$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00

Tickets for the raffle will be sold at the door for \$2 each

Questions? Contact



Emily Georgalas: emilygeorgalas@gmail.com or Maggie Parniak: maggieparniak@gmail.com

2020 Pasta Dinner Ticket Form

Please fill out the form and return to St. Mark Preschool with payment.

Checks payable to *St. Mark Preschool and Enrichment Center*

Return by February 14th

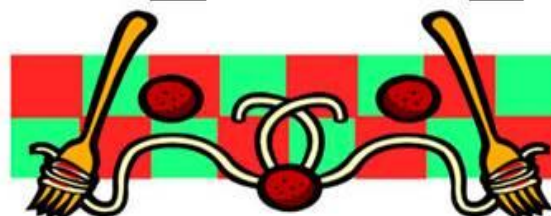
Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Number of Dinner Tickets: Adults ☐ Seniors ☐ Children (3-12) ☐

Number of 50/50 Tickets: ☐

Total Amount Included: _____





Guest Column

Submit an article for a future issue!
[we may have to edit for space and/or content]

In Perspective

By: Sharon Stobe

I seem to find myself frequently complaining to myself about a ton of small, about 1 inch or so, pinecones that are scattered all over my driveway and patio. I made the mistake of complaining about them out loud to my daughter one day when she came over. I said, "I don't remember so many pinecones and having to sweep them up every time I turn around."

She had no sympathy for me. She said, "Of course not, because Dad always picked them up." I don't remember him complaining about pinecones. Leaves, yes.

One day my son and I went to mow the lawn at the house that he recently purchased to rehab. When we arrived there, we saw a man in a motorized wheelchair in the middle of the lawn. With his very limited hand mobility and grabber, he was picking up sticks and twigs and putting them in a canvas bag that he had attached to his wheelchair.

When he saw us he said, "I figured you'd be up here one of these days and there's no way you could mow the lawn with all these sticks and twigs around unless they got picked up first."

We thanked him for his effort. That was a pleasant surprise and a big help.

I thought, "Here he is with his very limited mobility, and with great effort, picking up sticks in a yard that doesn't even belong to him just because he wants to help others."

I told myself I won't complain about the pinecones on my driveway. I should be thankful I have the ability to pick them up. After all, there was a time when I was flat on my back in a hospital bed, told to be still, and commanded not to get up or out of bed for any reason. "If you slip, or fall, or jar your neck, you are going to be paralyzed from the neck down."

How quickly one forgets to give thanks and be grateful for what one is able to do.

Psalm 103: 1-2 Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.



2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 12 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Nibblers
2 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	3 11:30 am Private Event 12 pm Bridge Club 6:30 pm PADS	4 11 am Private Event 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Mary Circle 7 pm Book Study	5 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	6 4 pm Basketball 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6 pm Basketball 6 pm Band Rehearsal 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	7 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	8 12 pm Basketball 3 pm Private Event
9 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	10 6:30 pm PADS	11 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Worship & Music	12 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	13 4 pm Basketball 4:30 pm FaithWalk 5:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Band Rehearsal 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	14 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	15 12 pm Basketball
16 8 am Worship 10 am Worship FaithWalk Peace Camp	17 FaithWalk Peace Camp 6:30 pm PADS	18 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council	19 9 am Quilting 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Community Meal 6 pm Basketball	20 1 pm Senior Lunch Bunch 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	21 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 7 pm Craft Connection	22 12 pm Basketball
23 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 8:30-11:30 am Fair Trade on Sale	24 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm PADS	25 9 am Quilting 5:30 pm Basketball 5:45 pm Mardi Gras Potluck	26 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Worship 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6 pm Worship 7 pm Worship	27 5:30 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	28 4:30 pm Basketball 5 pm Preschool Pasta Dinner 6 pm Basketball	29

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

February 2020

God's
work.
Our
hands.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
www.elca.org

2019-20 Church Council

Gina Dahlgren, President
Jill Permanian, VP
Dave Okon, Secretary
Doug Trezise, Treasurer

Janet Adams
Bob Allgaier
Kathie Hetland
Kevin Lang
Emily Mockenhaupt
Paul Post
Julie Wenzel

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

Chapel Service: 8 am

Worship Service: 10 am

Youth Christian Education (Sept. – May)

Wednesday	Thursday
WOW (3 yrs through 5 th grade)	FaithWalk (Confirmation 6-8 th grade)
4:30-6:00 pm	4:30-6:00 pm

Adult Christian Education

Bible Study Wednesday 11:00 am (During Lent at Noon)

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Friday 8:30 am – 12 pm noon

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