



St. Mark Lutheran Church

# CrossBeams

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

## Inside this issue:

Pastor's Corner 2

Thoughts from 3  
the Loft, Senior  
Lunch & Star  
Word Reflection

Women's 4  
Interfaith  
Collective

Lent 2020 5

What's 6  
Happening in  
Youth & Family

A Transformation 7  
Story & More

Time Change, 8  
Read Across  
America, &  
Souper Bowl

Stewardship & 9  
Amazon Smile

Playgroup, Book 10  
Club & More

Holy Week 11  
Schedule & Bible  
Study

WELCA 12

St. Mark 13  
Foundation

Winter Farmers 14  
Market

Calendar of 15  
Events

Volume 59, Issue 3

March, 2020

## Peace Camp



February 16-17

## Community Meal & Tamale Making—February 18 & 19



## St. Mark High School Boys Basketball League Championship February 25: St. Paul Clappers vs. St. Raymond Slimeballs Winner: St. Paul Clappers



## Mardi Gras Potluck & Palm Burning—February 25





"Where can we meet God?" This profound question came from one of our middle schoolers during Peace Camp. Deacon David hosted a group of 60 middle schoolers and high schoolers for two days of interfaith sharing. I got to meet with them to introduce them to the sanctuary and answer questions. There were so many good questions, but this was my favorite. Where indeed do we meet God?

This Lenten season we are focusing our attention on transformation, on how people's lives are transformed when they meet God. How has your life been transformed? How have the people we will meet in our gospel stories each Sunday been transformed? But where also have you and they met God to be transformed? Some of the people we will hear from in the Bible meet God in the wilderness, others in the dark of night, others in broad daylight at a well, some meet God on the road, others when death touches their life. And then there are your stories of transformation. Where have you met God? In the dark night of a difficult time? In the bright light of revelation dawning on you? In the still quiet moments? In the times when there was so much chaos you didn't even know which way was up? In the death of a loved one? In your own or a loved one's illness? And how did that meeting transform your life?

The thing that fascinates me is that God can be met in everyday life, in everyday things, in all people and places. One of my favorite places to meet God is in the bread and wine, body and blood of the communion meal we share each Sunday. We meet God in that meal. But could we meet God in other meals? Could we learn more and more who God is over a meal and be transformed by it?

This will be the question we will experiment with in our Lenten Worships this year. Each Wednesday you are invited to Lunch Church at 11am or Dinner Church at 6pm. We will gather around tables in the Fellowship Hall. We will start with song and prayer to Gather, then move to Word and Meal, with a bible reading and guiding questions, concluding with a song, blessing and Sending. Can you meet God and explore who God is in your life and in the life of your neighbor over a simple meal of soup and bread? Can God be met at the lunch or dinner table? This will be our experiment.

We also encourage you to take that experiment into your own lives. Resources will be provided each Sunday for you to take our meal church with you on the road- to your Nibbler's events, to your Sunday morning brunch table, to Senior Lunch, to your Coffee Hour table, to your women's ministry table, to your regular old kitchen table. Can God be met even there? Can we talk about our faith, about how we have been transformed, and in the talking be transformed again even in ordinary places over ordinary meals?

We think yes. We are excited to experiment in this way with you this Lent, to hear and share stories of transformation, and to experience them together as we meet God at the table.

This Lent, may we meet God and be transformed.

In Peace,  
Pr. Christie



## Thoughts from the Loft

One of my favorite Lenten hymns is “Christ, the Life of All the Living” (ELW #339). A text that is repeated in this hymn is “Thousand, thousand, thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.” During this season, we often think our music should be of a sad, gloomy nature. However, it can be an expression of thanksgiving and praise as well. Christ’s selfless offering on the cross gives us so much to be thankful for, in word and song. We can join in wonder with the hymn writer, “for that last triumphant cry, praise you evermore on high.”

Peace,  
Tim



### Senior Lunch Bunch (Or anyone who would like to join us)

**Thursday, March 19  
1:00 pm  
Club Casa Cafe**

(353 N. River Rd., Des Plaines, IL)

**For Barbeque Ribs (includes 1/2 slab ribs, potato, salad beverage)  
Cash Bar available  
\$21 per person**

**RSVP to Marilyn Gosell with cash/check (payable to St. Mark)  
by Monday, March 16**

★ In this season of Lent, what repentance or self-examination has come from your star word so far?\*

\*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.





You are invited to an afternoon of interfaith learning with the Women's Interfaith Collective and its members.



## EAT. PRAY. LOVE. One Table

March 15, 2020  
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.



St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church  
1424 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610

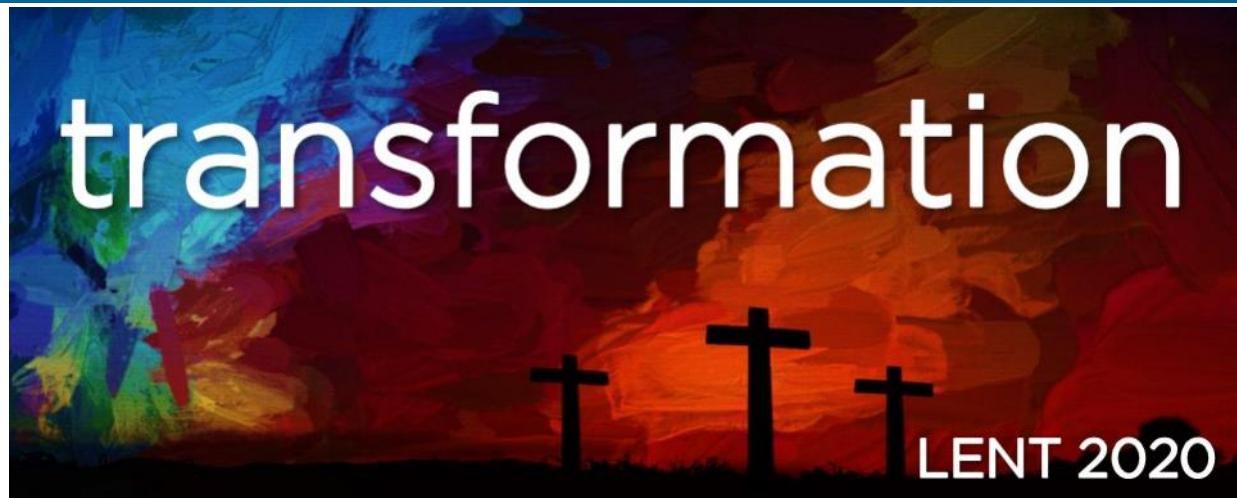
**GATHER:** for sacred time with women of faith for your physical and spiritual sustenance

**GLEAN:** beauty and wisdom for marking your life with shared faith prayers

**GROUND:** your traditions inspired by our common values

Our guest speakers from the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths will share how Food, Prayer, and Love are reflected through their faith traditions. Guided group table discussions will follow.

Contact Vivian Becker if interested in attending.



## 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? Join us for a Lent full of transformation!

**Sunday Worship:** Hear powerful stories of transformation from the Bible and from your fellow St. Markers.

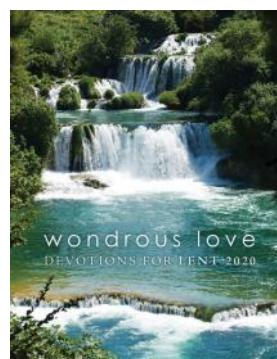
**Midweek Worship:** Wednesdays, Lunch Church at 11am, Dinner Church at 6pm  
This year the meal is worship! Join us in the Fellowship Hall as the table is transformed into worship space as we sing, hear scripture, and share our own stories. A simple meal of soup, bread and salad meals will accompany these great conversations! Meeting over another table? Pick up the devotional and take it with you to Nibblers or Senior Lunch, Sunday brunch, or another meal shared with others!

## Devotionals: God's Love is Transformative!

This year we have two devotionals for you to choose from. Available on the coffee table.



A weekly devotional about building our faith muscles. Great for families of all shapes and sizes. Written for conversation with others, you could adapt it for personal reflection and journaling.



A daily devotional that explores Jesus' journey from baptism to the cross and the empty tomb as depicted in the Gospel of Matthew. Each day has a Bible reading, a picture, a reflection and a prayer.



## What's Happening in Youth & Family Ministry?



### Baptism, Sunday Stories, Playgroup, Nursery, Children's Church, Preschool, (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 have dates set for a Sunday brunch and faith formation event set quarterly for people of all ages.



### 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 served 50 this month. Nancy Hundley our guest chef helped us cook and eat 150 tamales!



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

Peace Camp was a tremendous event for everyone who participated... St. Mark youth were joined at the event by

young people from Christ Lutheran Church in Palatine, Grace Lutheran in Mount Prospect, students from Hadi School of Excellence, Temple Chai, Beth Judea, and the Midwest Islamic Center.



## A Transformation Story

By: Deacon David Webb

After college there wasn't a whole lot going on in my life. My application had been rejected at one grad school and I was struggling to finish the application to another. I was substitute teaching and working construction. I was living with my parents who were in the midst of some hardships. I didn't know what I was going to do with my life. Then one day I was kind of dozing off while I was listening to a sermon. The person preaching was telling the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. The preacher comes to the part of the story where Jesus says: "you give them something to eat!" and the disciples look at each other and shrug and say: all we have are these small things, these little bits... 5 loaves of bread and two fish. The person preaching stops and says to us: "You know how this story ends, but what about you and your story... what are the small things, the little bits that you are afraid to give to God that God will bless and use to feed the whole world?" Then the person preaching just sat down and I was left just sitting there with this question: "What are you going to give to God to feed the world?" I had no idea how to respond, but God had my attention. I had no idea what I was going to do, but I stopped thinking I had nothing to offer apart from substitute teaching and living with my parents.

My life wasn't transformed overnight, but that was the leaven that accelerated my life of faith into attending seminary; into mentoring, teaching, feeding, and nurturing children (of all ages); into serving at a congregation whose mission is to: "nourish God's people..."

I wonder if you have thought of any transformation stories in the last month? Call or email me or Pastor Christie if you are interested in sharing it. We'd love to hear it.



## What's Happening in Youth & Family Ministry? (continued)



### 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.



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



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](mailto:events@hfm.org) with  
all guest names and preferred reading session (1 or 2)  
On-site parking available with RSVP



**Daylight Savings Time  
Begins  
Sunday, March 8**

Remember to set your clocks ahead  
one hour before you go to bed on  
Saturday, March 7th.

# THANK YOU!

St. Mark Lutheran Church

raised:

**\$225 and 135 food items**

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



February 2, 2020

A Big Thank You to all who participated in this year's Souper Bowl of Caring!!! 135 food items were delivered to the Mt. Prospect Food Pantry and \$225 was given to the St. Mark Backpack Ministry. Thanks for helping tackle hunger here in our local community of Mt. Prospect!



## Stewardship Notes

Our Lenten theme of the Christian life as one transformation ties in nicely to our ongoing emphasis on recognizing God's presence and activity in our daily (Mon – Sat) lives. We have heard during the Epiphany season that God is light, that God helps us see things that we miss unless we have the eyes of faith. Martin Luther encouraged us to think of our daily routines and responsibilities as our vocation. All vocations (roles) were equally valuable in God's eyes. The custom had been to elevate the roles of clergy, monks, nuns as "religious" compared to the lesser roles that were secular. Luther said all vocations (parenting, teaching, building, barbering, etc.) were highly valued in God's eyes because that's how we serve our neighbor.

It's common to think of God as being real or present when we've had a close call with disaster, or when something totally out of the ordinary happens. And that may be so at times. But more importantly it is when we sense God's presence in our parenting and grandparenting, our employment, our interaction with friends and neighbors, our shopping, our recreation, our driving and commuting—all the things that take up our time. That is when our lives become transformed into partnership with God.

We've heard frequently that all discipleship is stewardship. We can also consider discipleship as transformation, the changing of our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to be partners and coworkers with God in finding freedom from the bondage of "sin." Sin is everything that draws our attention away from stewardship, the recognition that God is the creator of all things good.

A new blue pew card is being prepared to be a reminder of this wider concept of stewardship. It will be a card you can take home as a reminder of how you serve God and neighbor in your vocation. You can share it in the offering, or use it as a reminder to reflect on God's gracious activity in your life. Enjoy your stewardship journey of transformation!

*Pr. Carl Anderson from the Stewardship Team*



You shop. Amazon gives.

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

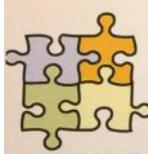
AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the 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](https://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!





## Sunday, April 5

Experience Holy Week with age appropriate learning for children 0-3 and their caregivers. Contact Pastor Christie for more information.



## Craft Connection

"Come, all of you who are gifted craftsmen, construct everything that the Lord has commanded." Exodus 35:10 (NLT)

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do; but encourage one another..." Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

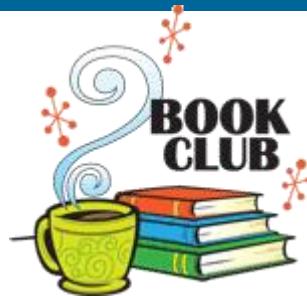
**Friday, March 20**  
**7pm in the Great Room**  
 Bring your own craft or work on  
 one of ours.



## Tastefully Simple Fundraiser

### Sunday, March 29

Come by and check out the products available. Pick up a few items and help out the St. Mark Youth program. Samples will be available for tasting!



## ST. MARK BOOK CLUB

All are welcome to take part in the St. Mark Book Club! We meet in the Great Room at 1:00pm on the 4th Monday of the month for discussion. Join us!

**March 23 - *Where the Crawdads Sing***  
**by Delia Owens**

April 27 - *The Lilac Girls* - Martha Hall Kelly



**Enjoy food? Come and join the Nibblers as they experience places to eat around our community each month. All are welcome!**

March Nibblers will meet at Fellini Restaurant & Pizzeria, 1729 W. Golf Rd. in Mt. Prospect (in the strip mall on the SW corner of Golf Rd. and Busse Rd.) on **Saturday, March 7** at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 4 to Tim Spelbring at [tspelbring@stmarkmp.org](mailto:tspelbring@stmarkmp.org).

# HE IS RISEN!

*Please Join Us  
for Worship  
& Celebration!*

**Maundy Thursday**  
April 9th - 7 p.m.

**Good Friday**  
April 10th - 7 p.m.

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
April 11th - 6 p.m.

**Easter Vigil**  
April 11th - 7 p.m.

**Donut Party**  
April 11th - Follows Vigil

**Easter Sunday**  
April 12th - 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

**Easter Breakfast**  
April 12th - 8:45 a.m.

# COME JOIN OUR BIBLE Study



Wednesday Bible Study will meet during Lent following Midweek Lenten Lunch Church and Conversation, which begins at 11am in Fellowship Hall. Come share a meal and some meaningful conversation. Join us on Wednesday, March 4 as we study John 3: 1-17.



# Palm Sunday

**Sunday, April 5**  
**One worship service**  
**at 10am**





The St. Mark Foundation was established to provide for religious, charitable, benevolent, and educational special needs to the glory of God and to bring people to eternal life through Christ. The Foundation is made up of the congregation of St. Mark -- the *entire* congregation. **We** are the Foundation.

Each year, the St. Mark Foundation distributes funds from earned interest of its assets to St. Mark Benevolence and award grants to non-profit organizations expressing financial need in terms of their ministry missions. The objective is to support parallel ministries which mesh with the mission of the St. Mark Foundation and forge potential partnerships. This year, there were eighteen (18) grantees both from the local area as well as nationally.

The selection process is competitive and detailed application forms are completed by prospective grantees and submitted to the St. Mark Foundation members. Based on the available budget for the fiscal year and common mission as St. Mark, grantees are selected and informed of their grants. To learn more about the organizations and their primary missions, the grantees are invited to present briefly in the form of a 5-minute Temple Talk to the St. Mark congregation during one of the Sunday services throughout the calendar year. Through that effort, organizations detail how their grant funding is allocated and how their mission benefits from the generosity of the St. Mark Foundation.

St. Mark Foundation Grantees for 2020 include:

Children's Advocacy Center

Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry

Concordia Place

Lutheran Social Service of Illinois (LSSI)

ELCA Missionary (Global Mission Funding)

Lutheran Volunteer Corps

ELCA World Hunger

Mt. Prospect Emergency Food Pantry

Feed my Starving Children

Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault (CASA)

Holden Village

Northwest Compass, Inc. (CEDA)

Holy Family Ministries

Refugee One

Journeys/The Road Home

South Loop Campus Ministry

Lemons of Love

Wings Program, Inc.

In March, upcoming grantee presentations in the form of a Temple Talk who are scheduled include the following:

*Sunday, March 8: Terri Gens, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI);*

*Sunday, March 15: Rev. Ben Adams, South Loop Campus Ministry;*

*Sunday, March 22: Sarah Swiston, WINGS Program, Inc.*

Dates for future presentations and their respective organizations will be included in upcoming editions of the CrossBeams. Please take time to welcome our grantees when they visit St. Mark in the future.

# winter farmers' market

our saviour's lutheran church



## sunday, march 15

8:30am – 1:00pm

---

Produce • Frozen Cuts of Meat • Honey • Salsa • Jam  
Granola • Bread • Soap • Mushrooms • Handspun Yarn

---

Fairly Traded Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate

---

Cooking Demonstration by  
Dave Esau of Dave's Specialty Foods  
from 10:10 to 11:00am

---

**Held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**

1234 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, [www.oursaviours.org](http://www.oursaviours.org)

Illinois Link Cards/SNAP Benefits will be accepted at this Winter Farmers' Market.

All Link/SNAP customers can double their Link purchases up to \$25 with the purchase of fruits & vegetables,  
sponsored by generous funding from LINK Up Illinois, a program of Experimental Station.





# 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	2 12 pm Bridge Club 6:30 pm PADS	3 11 am Private Event 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Mary Circle	4 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Lenten Lunch Church 12 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6pm Lenten Dinner Church	5 4:30 pm FaithWalk 5:30 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	6 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	7 Annette Woods Memorial Service 9:30 am Visitation 11 am Memorial Service 6:30 pm Nibblers
8 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	9 6:30 pm PADS 7 pm Foundation	10 7 pm Worship & Music	11 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Lenten Lunch Church 12 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6pm Lenten Dinner Church	12 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	13 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	14
15 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	16 6:30 pm PADS	17 7 pm Church Council	18 9 am Quilting 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Lenten Lunch Church 12 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 4:30 pm Basketball 6pm Lenten Dinner Church	19 1 pm Senior Lunch Bunch 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	20 7 pm Craft Connection	21
22 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 8:30-11:30 am Fair Trade on Sale	23 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm PADS	24 9 am Quilting	25 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Lenten Lunch Church 12 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 4:30 pm Basketball 6pm Lenten Dinner Church	26 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	27	28 8:30 am Lutheran Roundtable
29 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 8:30-11:30 am Tastefully Simple Tasting	30 6:30 pm PADS 7 pm Visioning	31				

