



St. Mark Lutheran Church

CrossBeams

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

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Preschool PJ Pageant



FaithWalk Students make Gingerbread Houses



Cookie Bake



We all have questions. We all wonder.

It is my deep intention that St. Mark be a safe place for anyone to ask any questions, anytime. Questions fuel our faith. They stir us to learn, to grow, to connect with one another and with God's word, to grow deeper, grow stronger, to GROW (a core value here at St. Mark).

Beginning January 13 we will join churches all over the Chicagoland area in a series called Explore God. Using the resources on www.exploreGod.com we will engage the deep questions we all have, believers and nonbelievers alike:

- Does life have a purpose?
- Is there a God?
- Why does God allow pain and suffering?
- Is Christianity too narrow?
- Is Jesus really God?
- Is the Bible reliable?
- Can I know God personally?

As of now 804 churches in Chicago are delving into these topics together, through sermon series as well as through small groups. Advertising is up. Perhaps you saw it on TV. Perhaps you saw the billboards like I have, or the Facebook advertising. The word is out, Chicago is Exploring God, and we are a part of that exploration. My sincere hope is that you will engage in this exploration with us. My even bigger hope is that you will invite someone else to engage the big questions with you.

That's right. I'm hoping you ask another person to join you on the journey. I'm hoping you will invite someone to church in the new year to consider these deep questions. In fact, we have invitations available for you to take with you, to pass on to a friend. Perhaps is the friend who has hinted at wondering about these questions too. Perhaps it is the person you want to get to know better, with whom you would like to have these kinds of conversations. Perhaps it is the person who you've been praying would know God more and more. Call them up, tell them about this sermon series. Invite them to meet you before worship on January 13th in the parking lot and walk into church together. Offer to pick them up and drive them here with you. Invite them to come, see and go out to coffee or breakfast after. Invite them to Explore God with you.

Better yet, consider hosting a discussion group with a group of people you know who might be asking these kind of questions. The video and discussion series is designed to be intuitive and easy to lead, not that there are easy answers, not that you have to have the answers, but that you want to engage the questions and provide a safe place for others do so too. Check out www.exploreGod.com to see the material, the videos, the questions. Talk to me. Let me help you help others explore God and engage the discussion!

Most of all, pray. Pray that God works in our congregation, in our deep questions, in our conversations. Pray that we may connect with others for deep exploration, learning and growing together as we Explore God.

Peace,
Pr. Christie



**Gratefulness Gatherings:
Monday, January 14th from 6:30-8PM and
February 11th from 6:30-8PM**

In 2019, St. Mark is hosting Gratefulness Gatherings for the local community. It is a time for sacred space, belonging, and wholeheartedness. Each evening will consist of a simple meal, 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



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

By: Deacon David Webb

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 18-19: Ski & Snowboard Retreat (for Middle School & High School Youth) **Friday 6-9PM at St. Mark** for dinner, paperwork and games. **Saturday 7AM-10PM** for Skiing and Snowboarding at Wilmot Resort. Contact Deacon David for details and to sign-up.



January 21: Summer Trip Planning Session (for Middle School & High School Youth & Parents) **7PM in the Great Room** Join us to discuss summer trip options and your hopes for your young person's faith development this summer.

January 23: Playgroup & Community Meal

Playgroup at 5-6PM. For children 0-3 yrs and their parents. Gather for songs, stories and free time in the nursery. Contact Pastor Christie for more information.



Community Meal at 6PM. All are Welcome! Come share a meal and Fellowship.

February 3: Superbowl of Caring (for All) The St. Mark Youth will be collecting canned food items and cash donations. All food donations will be taken to the Mount Prospect Food Pantry and all cash donations will be sent to ELCA World Hunger. Please help us Tackle Hunger.



February 15-16: 30-Hour Famine Retreat (High School) Spend Friday night and Saturday at the church learning about hunger and justice related issues. We will pack backpacks and visit Feed My Starving Children. Contact Deacon David for details and to sign-up.



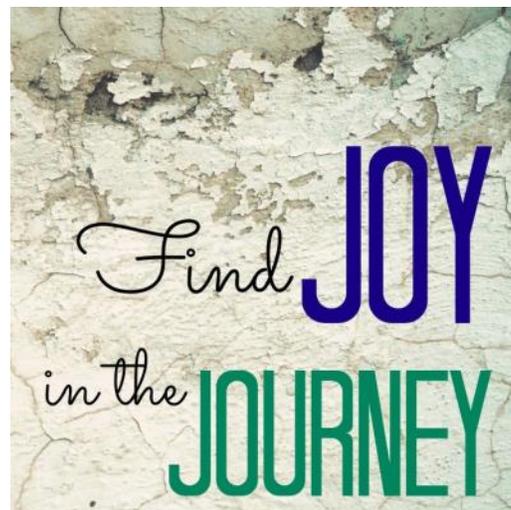
February 17-18: Peace Camp (for Middle School) A gathering that stretches over 2 days. Participants will get the chance to meet other middle schoolers from the suburbs that are part of other faith traditions—forming friendships, visiting Jewish, Muslim & Christian faith communities, learning about the richness of traditions. Contact Deacon David for details and to sign-up.



Journeys and Sojourns

By: Deacon David Webb

The journeys and sojourns that are a part of the Christmas stories have been especially front and center this year as we have been reading them to Thomas and preparing for all of the events at St. Mark. The travels of the Magi, the wise ones, have been especially exciting for me. The wise ones travelled here, there, and everywhere as part of their lives! They brought gifts and they received gifts that we can only guess at. They had the chance to share the gifts they received in untold ways. They were a gift to their community and to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. They are a gift to us, as we consider every year what it means to visit Jesus like they did.



One of our young people has started a journey we hope to continue making in this coming year. Erin Schultz visited Holden Village as a leadership development project and discernment trip at the end of November. She recounts the gifts of that trip in her Crossbeams article this month (see pg. 10). I hope you will keep the eyes of your heart on the look-out for the gifts she brought back for us. Because travelers not only travel for themselves, but for the communities from which they are connected. Erin will begin an extended volunteer stay at Holden Village in January and we will hear from her in the coming months as she reports on life in the mountains! It is our hope to send young people, adults, and families to Holden this summer as an extended group journey that will grow our connections as a community and as a church.

Many of you also know, you don't have to leave home to begin a journey. We have continued our journey of friendship with the Turkish American Society of Chicago, Congregation Beth Judea in Long Grove, and the Children of Abraham Coalition, which began at St. Viator High School. I have been working very hard to deepen our friendships with the leadership of those faith communities and cultural groups and we have many upcoming experiences in the works for all you who like to travel and who like to travel without leaving home. We have opportunities for the young and the young of heart of any age.

At the end of 2018 and at the cusp of 2019 I give thanks for all the ways we have journeyed together in the past years and I look forward to all the places we will go and all the terrain of the heart we will traverse in the future. I hope whatever part of the Bible you are chewing on these days reminds you we are but aliens and migrants here; the beginning is God and the end is God and I pray all those we encounter along the way teach us more about who God is.



Thoughts from the Loft



The star that guided the Three Kings helps one realize the importance of light in this world. I recently played trombone at a band concert and realized a stand light would have been useful for the performance. The room was rather dark! I believe we need light to make music. The musician needs it to see his or her music, and the organ tuner needs it to make sure the right pipe is tuned! I admit I am a creature of habit when I turn on a piano lamp or the console lights on the organ. I don't always think about their importance. However, I need them to read the music on the page. We can carry the candles we light on Christmas Eve into the Epiphany season. Even when the light of our lives seems dim, the light that led the Wise Men can inspire our music making. We can be thankful for the light that guides us all, and helps us see the music we read on the page and in our hearts. How blest we are!

Peace!
Tim

exploreGodTM | 7 WEEKS CHICAGO | 2019 JAN-FEB

**JOIN US FOR A
7-WEEK SERIES
WHERE WE WILL
EXPLORE THE
BIG QUESTIONS**

- ① Does Life Have a Purpose?
- ② Is There a God?
- ③ Why Does God Allow Pain & Suffering?
- ④ Is Christianity Too Narrow?
- ⑤ Is Jesus Really God?
- ⑥ Is The Bible Reliable?
- ⑦ Can I Know God Personally?

Sermon Series and Discussion Groups starting January 13



Sunday, January 6 **11:15 am**
Take Down the Decorations

**Wednesday, January 16 &
Tuesday, January 22** **9:00 am**
Quilting in the Ed. Wing

Friday, January 25 **9:30 am**
Church Women United Annual Meeting
Location to be announced. Contact Gail Radtke
for more information.

Saturday, February 23
St. Mark Women's Retreat

Take Down the Decorations

Help take down the Christmas
Trees and put away the
decorations following
10am worship on
Sunday, January 6th.



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, February 23

Plans are in the works for a women's retreat.
Mark your calendar now and watch for
details to come!

Treasurer's Notes from Jeanne Kueter

Thank you for your continued cheerful giving to support St. Mark ministries, staff compensation, benevolence, and building maintenance.

As discussed during the recent 2019 budget meeting, the budget for offering income was increased by a modest 3% to cover a salary increase for our clergy and non-clergy staff, and for increases in operating, ministry, and maintenance costs. Covering the increased budget to provide medical insurance coverage for all non-clergy staff members, and to include a 65% employer contribution to their medical premiums, we added a "Challenge Giving" budget line item of \$43,258. This is an additional offering of 11% above the offering budget of \$383,000. Achieving this Challenge Giving budget goal negates the need for us to use principal from our ELCA Endowment Fund A account. We discussed ways to contribute to this Challenge Giving through periodic additional offerings weekly or annually, or by adding an extra "13th month" offering equaling your monthly pledge amount.

Please mark on your offering envelope or check "Challenge Giving" for these offerings, so we can accurately track our progress on achieving this budget goal. If you use an automatic giving option through your bank or ELCA, please contact the church office to notify us of additional automatic gifts that should be credited to the Challenge Giving budget line item.

Thank you in advance for your generous support of medical insurance premium contributions for our non-clergy staff members, giving them the security of affordable medical coverage. Since 66% of our annual budget is compensation and benefits for those who direct our ministries and facilities, supporting our clergy and staff is critically important for the health of our church and the spread of the Kingdom of God through St. Mark ministries.





Dear St. Mark,
Many thanks for the altar flowers and thinking of me! They lasted thru my birthday, Thanksgiving & our anniversary.

Sincerely,
Marlene Damer

Dear St. Mark Congregation,
Thank you for thinking of me this Christmas season. I appreciated all the snacks—and so did my roommates! May the holiday season be full of happiness and love for you all. Thank you again—it truly made my day and holiday season! These small acts of kindness make my heart so happy!

Best -Sophie Miller
(Granddaughter of Mel & Vera Miller)

Thank you St. Mark for the delicious care packages you sent to us.

Rylie and Hannah Quast
(Grandchildren of Dick & Dianne Quast)



Gordy Lund (center right) along with others accepting the Seven in Seven Award from the Taft High School Foundation during its recent Hall of Fame luncheon.



Prospect Senior Emily Fleming signing her letter of intent to play Division I golf at Oakland University, located in Rochester, Michigan, on Dec. 3. They are one of the top girl's golf programs in the Horizon League .



Riley Podgorny, a kindergarten-enrichment student at St. Mark Preschool and Enrichment Center, learns about motors and design as he tests out his self-propelled drawing machine.

Annual Reports

St. Mark Lutheran Church Council members, committee chairs, ministry leaders and staff should send their annual reports to the church office at stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org on or before January 25. The Annual Report will be made available to all members prior to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 10.



Friday, January 18
7pm in the Great Room
Craft of the Night:
Mats for the Homeless

Come learn the process of making mats for the Homeless. The Mats are crocheted but there is some prep to make the plastic grocery bags ready.

Come and join the Fun & Fellowship!

(Recommended for 6th grade through adult)



SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH
 (or anyone who would like to join us)

Save the Date
THURSDAY, JANUARY 17
 1:00 PM

Details to come



Plastic grocery bags needed
 for Backpack Ministry &
 Craft Connection



Are you good with numbers or just like to count money? We need YOU!
 Sunday mornings after 10am worship. No experience necessary. Contact Jack Adams at janjake@comcast.net



St. Mark Preschool's Annual Pasta Dinner

Friday, February 8, 2019
5:00-8:00 PM
Fellowship Hall
 Details to come



A Journey to Holden Village

by:
Erin Schultz



“I’m not sure.” That has seemed to be my default answer for the past few months. After dropping out of college (before even getting there — that’s how obligatory the whole thing felt) and scrapping the plan I made for myself in high school, I felt lost. I wasn’t sure how it happened, but somehow I’d gotten tangled in the wires of expectation and forgotten how to listen to myself. I didn’t know what I wanted or needed, but it wasn’t this: my friends were in college and I was here, not sure what I was searching for, but definitely searching.

So Deacon David and Pastor Christie — people I owe a lot to — gave me books, asked how I was, and helped me travel to Holden Village, a remote community in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington. Again, I’m not sure why this was the place I felt so called to. But I knew I couldn’t not go. The trip entailed a plane, shuttle, night in a hotel, bus, boat, and school bus, which took two days. Upon arrival to the Village, I walked off the bus and up the stairs to the dining hall. Snow was coming down hard as I looked up at about 50 villagers smiling and applauding, jubilantly welcoming me. “Erin, we’re so happy you’re here!” So was I.

From then on, everything felt like a lightbulb under my fingertips: warm and buzzing with electricity. Every meal, hike, conversation, and prayer had a heat beneath it which assured me that there was nothing to be afraid of. Most of the doors at Holden don’t have locks and the library is on the honor system. I was asked many times if I needed help, needed a hiking buddy, needed someone to sit with. The most intrusive question I was asked was what my star sign was. But for the most part, you can sit on a porch swing and maybe that’s enough for the day and no one will tell you to do more. Days are yours, so mine were spent snowshoeing, in the library, and chatting with whoever else was near the bread in the dining hall. I went to a poetry reading, hair dyeing party, and yoga classes. It felt good and right and like I was where I was supposed to be. I felt an unbelievable sense of community and belonging; I could tell people were praying for me and I am endlessly grateful. All of this is to say I am a little more sure now.

I’ll be returning to Holden in January and staying for a longer amount of time. If you are reading this, you are always welcome to visit. It’s a journey to get there, but it’s untouched by the harshness of real life and there are plenty of constellations visible. Plus there is homemade bread available 24 hours a day.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>NEW YEAR'S DAY</i> OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:30 am Volleyball 11:30 am Basketball 2 pm Basketball	3 2 pm Basketball 4:30 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	4 2 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	5 Marilyn Hertel Memorial Service 9:30 am Visitation 11 am Memorial Service 2 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Nibblers
6 <i>Epiphany</i> 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 11:15 am Take Down Christmas Decorations 6 pm Basketball	7 12:30 pm Bridge Club 6:30 pm PADS	8 11 am Private Event 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Worship/Music	9 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Basketball	10 4:30 pm FaithWalk Guide Meeting 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	11 9 am Preschool Gym 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	12
13 <i>Explore God Series Begins</i> <i>Does Life Have a Purpose?</i> 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	14 6:30 pm PADS 6:30 pm Gratefulness Gathering	15 9 am Preschool Gym 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council	16 9 am Quilting 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Basketball	17 1 pm Senior Lunch Bunch 4:30 pm FaithWalk 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	18 9 am Preschool Gym 4:30 pm Basketball 5 pm Youth Retreat 6 pm Basketball 7 pm Craft Connection	19 7 am Youth Ski Trip
20 <i>Explore God Series</i> <i>Is There a God?</i> 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	21 6:30 pm PADS	22 9 am Preschool Gym 9 am Quilting 5:30 pm Basketball	23 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Playgroup 6 pm Community Meal 6 pm Basketball	24 4:30 pm FaithWalk 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	25 9 am Preschool Gym 4:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball	26
27 <i>Explore God Series</i> <i>Why Does God Allow Pain & Suffering?</i> 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	28 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm PADS	29 9 am Preschool Gym 5:30 pm Basketball	30 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Basketball	31 4:30 pm FaithWalk 4:30 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir		

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

January 2019



2018-19 Church Council

Sharon Blazek, President
Barb Bloomquist, VP
Gina Dahlgren, Secretary
Jeanne Kueter, Treasurer

Janet Adams
Paul Brask
Emily Fleming
Kathie Hetland
Mike LoRusso
Jill Permanian
Paul Post
Jan Scott

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 5th grade) 4:30-6:00 pm

FaithWalk (Confirmation 6-8th grade)

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