



St. Mark Lutheran Church

CrossBeams

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

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April, 2019





“How do I know my faith is growing?”

This was one of your responses to the survey we gave in October about what you want to learn about your faith. I love this question. Here at St. Mark, GROWING is one of our core values. This question reminds me that we often use metaphors and insider church language for things, and then fail to explain what we mean. So here it is, in the season where we are all longing for Spring to come, for new growth to happen out in creation after this looooooooooong winter, we are also looking for new growth in our lives of faith.



So what does that mean? How do we know our faith is growing? Let's start by thinking about how we know things in the world are growing, are alive, are thriving. They send up shoots, produce green leaves or flowers, get larger, produce fruit, spread out and take up more space. We also know they are growing, or have the ability to grow, by looking deep inside them, sometimes cutting a branch to see the green inside. We can know that our faith is growing by looking for these same signs. Consider deep down in your soul, is there green there, is there some sense of God and God's presence, of a trust of God and a desire to nurture that trust? Are there new shoots springing up in your life? Maybe there are new questions or wonderings about God and faith that are unfurling, sprouting up from the deep parts inside you. Maybe it is a new interest or idea that you want to pursue. Maybe you recognize the leaves that are sprouting or the fruit that is being produced. Maybe the growth is coming in a desire to serve, or to work for justice. Maybe you want to spread faith out into your life, let it take up more space, connect it to your everyday life, not just your Sunday life. Maybe it is even a desire to share what you know, the love you experience from God, scattering new seeds in other lives to grow into deep faith.

I don't know if that makes any sense, but perhaps an example from my life will help. Recently, I gave a sermon about Jen Hatmaker's book *Seven: An Experimental Mutiny Against Excess*. (If you missed that one, let me know and I can get you a copy). I talked about how that book and God are growing in me a new interest and appreciation for fasting and the gifts it can bring to my life. God planted and is germinating seeds in my life of faith to invite me to experience fasting, making less of me to make more room for God. As I write this I'm in the middle of my first week of trying it out, of practicing a clothing fast, where I've only been wearing 7 items of clothing all week (don't worry, I've been doing laundry along the way). I think of this fast as turning over the soil in my life and seeing what is growing/ can grow. So far, I'm loving this fast. I like the simplicity of knowing what I'm going to wear all week. I like the creativity: how can I connect things in different ways, how can I wear the one scarf I selected for the week in different styles? I sense that God may be growing in me a letting go of a lot from my closet, and a wondering when I go to purchase something new: Where can this money be better spent in more just ways? This is just one of the ways God is growing faith in my life.

What about in your life? As we turn the soil this Lent with the practices of Pray. Fast. Give., what growth are you noticing? As we look to the nurturing days of Holy Week, what are you tending? As we wait for the resurrection and new life of Easter, what new growth is springing forth in your life of faith? As spring comes to our earth outside, may it come to your faith life as well!

Peace In Christ,
Pr. Christie

pray. fast. give. *the practices of lent*

Join us this Lent as we examine the practices of returning to God: praying, fasting, and giving.

Sundays 8am, 10am

We will examine these practices through scripture, as well as engage in praying, breaking the communion fast, and giving.

Midweek Wednesday Worships

We will gather for a simple meal and meditative prayer modeled on Holden's Prayer Around the Cross.

Morning: 11am Worship, 11:30am Soup Lunch, Noon Bible Study

Evening: 6pm Soup Supper, 7pm Worship

EASTER HOLIDAY HOURS

The Church Office will be closed
on Good Friday,
April 19 and
Easter Monday, April 22

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday **April 14**
Worship 8 & 10 am

Maundy Thursday **April 18**
Worship 7 pm

Good Friday **April 19**
Worship 7 pm

Easter Vigil **April 20**
Easter Egg Hunt 6 pm
Worship 7 pm
Donuts & S'mores follows
Worship

Easter Sunday **April 21**
Worship 8 & 10 am
Easter Breakfast 8:30-9:45





What's Happening in Youth & Family Ministry?

By: Deacon David Webb



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

Pastor Christie's Playgroup continues to be a hit.

Preschool Chapel continues to be a great venue for nurturing relationships with Preschool students, parents, and teachers.



WOW! (Ministry with Children 3-10 years old on Wednesdays from 4:30-6PM)

WOW! students continue to enjoy singing, spending time together, prayer stations, and stories this year.

This year's offering project is going toward God's Global Barnyard.

Students are excited about Lenten Soup Suppers and Worship.

Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday, and Sunday Morning Children's Church have been good opportunities to try out new activities and worship with young people.



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

Students are studying the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) this year and asking the question: "Who is God?"

Volunteer recruitment for this program continues to be necessary.

A new curriculum is being solidified by Deacon David and should prove to have longevity, flexibility, and connection points with other ministry at St. Mark.

Students will take on service projects at St. Mark in Back Pack ministry and PADs this year.

Students' participation as acolytes, lectors, children's church assistants, and assisting ministers this year has made a significant difference at worship.



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

Leadership development projects continue with students. Two students have joined the program this year putting our total students at 5.

Students' help with worship has been invaluable.

Students are planning Leadership development projects and summer trips

Students are very excited to be visiting Holden Village this Summer!



St Mark Foundation Educational Gift Applications

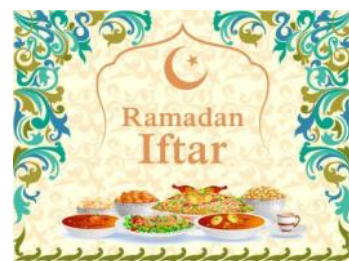
Are you a graduating high school senior? Are you pursuing further education such as college? If you have not previously received a scholarship or gift from the Foundation, we invite you to apply for a St Mark Foundation Educational Gift. We will award a one-time gift to each student who has graduated high school and is pursuing further education. The application is available on our website—stmarkmp.org. Applications are due Tuesday, April 30, 2019 by 4:00 PM, so get

your application in now! Completed applications can be emailed to stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org.

Celebrating Holy Week with Friends & The Beginning of This Holy Season

By: Deacon David Webb

We are coming up on the last days of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week. We are excited to welcome friends and family members to worship with us. This year we are especially blessed to have members of Congregation Beth Judea and the Turkish American Society/Islamic Society of the Midwest join us for Palm Sunday and Holy Week services. It will be a great reminder that we celebrate Easter in a multi-faith community in which the good news of the Resurrection is not a message of triumph and tribalism meant to empower us to correct, ridicule, denigrate, or demonize people of different faiths, but the good news of Easter is a call to us to remember what Rabbi Abraham Heschel is famous for saying "God is greater than religion, and faith is greater than dogma." As we celebrate the miracle of the resurrection and the good news of Easter, it is a reminder to us that God is always doing something new and giving us the courage to see and love our neighbors with greater depth.



This year, Holy Week and Easter run alongside the beginning of Passover which is celebrated April 19th-27th this year. We are entering into a holy season for our multi-faith communities. Just as Passover ends and we are continuing to celebrate Easter, Ramadan will begin for our Muslim siblings. There will be several opportunities for us to celebrate this holy season together. Here are some dinners we have been invited to during Ramadan:

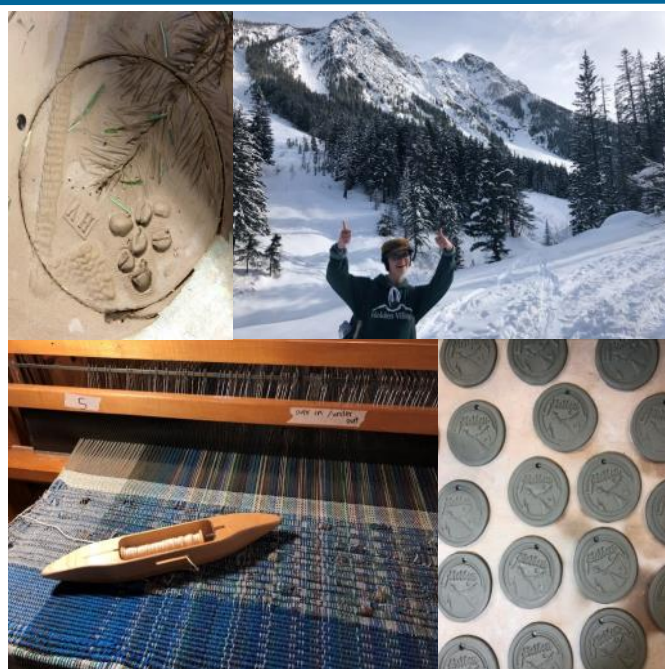
- Children of Abraham Coalition Day of Service/Iftar May 7th: Young people will spend an afternoon at Feed My Starving Children before breaking the Ramadan fast at a nearby mosque.
- Turkish American Society Youth Iftar May 11th 7:30PM Young people will share their call and convictions about interfaith dialogue as we break the fast together.
- Turkish American Society Interfaith Iftar May 25th 7:40PM. Speakers from Congregation Beth Judea and the local area working in interfaith dialogue will center the conversation on the joys of our local friendships.

Contact Deacon David if you are interested in participating!

Dispatches from Holden

By Erin Schultz and Deacon David

Life in the village is gearing up for spring! They celebrated Sun Over Buckskin Day, which is the first day that the sun rises over the mountain. Up until this point, the mountain has been blocking the sun. Every day the sun is out, villagers are out soaking up as much sun as they can. Erin has had some really fun jobs helping the village potter cut out Christmas ornaments, staffing the library, and prepping weaving samples for the summer Craft Cave. Erin also got good news that she'll be the Vice Gardener in the village over the summer. Erin continues to learn new skills-acting, weaving, whittling, water-coloring, and helping with worship. Easter and Earth Day are the next big village celebrations.



Thoughts from the Loft

For the Postlude on Easter Sunday I traditionally play what is known as the “Widor Toccata.” It is a French work by a composer and organist who served a large church in Paris in the early twentieth century. Interestingly, the “Widor Toccata” is the last movement of an organ symphony that is in a minor, or sad, key. I envision this symphony as a journey through Holy Week, which ends with a jubilant exclamation point. Music can often times tell us a story, and this organ symphony most certainly tells us the story of salvation. The “Widor Toccata” is a joy to play every year. May we discover joy as we journey this month through Lent and into Easter.

Peace!
Tim



Senior Lunch Bunch

(or anyone who would like to join us)

Thursday, April 18

1:00 pm

at Outback Steakhouse

(At Randhurst—909 N. Elmhurst Rd, Mt. Prospect)

RSVP to Marilyn at 847-508-5512 before Monday, April 15.

SAVE MAY 16th—Destination TBA



There will be NO Craft Connection in April.



Enjoy food? Come and join the Nibblers as they experience places to eat around our community each

month. All are welcome!

April Nibblers will meet at Mykonos Restaurant, 8660 W Golf Rd., Niles on **Saturday, April 6** at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 3 to Gina & Ken Dahlgren at kgadah1@aol.com.



Gratefulness Gatherings:

Monday, April 8th 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



Calendar

Friday, April 12 **7:00 pm**

Ladies' Night Out...at the Movies
in the Great Room

**Wednesday, April 17 &
Tuesday, April 23** **9:00 am**
LWR Quilting in the Ed. Wing

Sunday, May 5 **11:15 am**
Rachel's Day Barbeque/Bake Sale
at the Center



Quilters

Join the quilters on **Wednesday, April 17, and/or Tuesday, April 23** as they make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They meet at 9 am on the second floor of the education wing. No sewing experience needed.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!



**Rachel's Day
Barbeque & Bake Sale Fundraiser
Sunday, May 5**



Ladies Night Out ... at the Movies

Friday, April 12

All women are invited for fellowship, fun and laughter while we relax and enjoy the 2 movie selections. Sit back, eat some popcorn and laugh or cry with friends.

7:00 pm

1st Showing: Green Book (2018)

Academy Award winner

Starring: Viggo Mortensen & Mahershala Ali

9:00 pm

2nd Showing: Driving Miss Daisy (1989)

Academy Award winner

Starring: Jessica Tandy & Morgan Freeman

Come & share the evening.

Bring a friend.

Doors open at 6:30pm

Soda, coffee and popcorn provided.

Contact: Kim Perlich at
847-253-4073
for more information



Spring into Style

Everything is Coming Up Spring Fashion at Lucille Resale



Lucille
resale reinvented

*Fashion Show • Free Raffle
Complimentary Wine & Refreshments*

Spring into Style

Thursday, April 11th

Lucille Resale

Join us for an evening of fashion and fun at Lucille Resale! Come and see how it's possible to use Lucille fashions in styling a great look! We'll highlight fashions for every day, work, and special events.

6pm: Registration for Free Raffle
Shopping, Hors d'Oeuvres & Refreshments

7pm: Fashion Show

Lucille Resale – 1101 E. Rand Road, Arlington Heights

Lucille is a charity thrift store that carries furniture, adult clothing, jewelry, accessories, housewares, and home décor. Profits support Holy Family's school and youth programs serving children from low-income communities on Chicago's West Side.

Founded in 1985, Holy Family School is a high-performing K-8 elementary school. Other programs include the Little Learners Academy Preschool and Adventures in Learning after school and summer programs. All programs take place at the Holy Family Ministries Center, 3415 W Arthington St, Chicago.

WINGS Presents Purple Rain at the 80's Prom Night

Date: Saturday, June 15, 2019

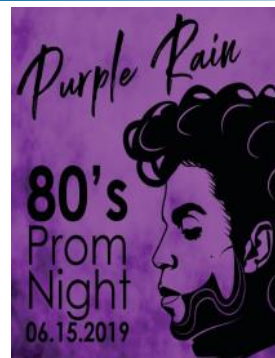
Time: 6:00pm to 10:00pm

Location: Aquascape

901 Aqualand Way, St. Charles, IL 60174

This high energy 80's prom themed evening will feature a well-known Prince tribute band, delicious tasting stations, complimentary wine and beer, wine pull, prom pictures, and many meaningful ways to contribute to WINGS. 80's prom theme dress is encouraged.

Contact Nikki Katrodia for ticket information 847-519-7820 ext. 233



Dear St Mark members and friends,
Thank you so much for all of the prayers, well wishes, phone calls, visits, flowers and meals over the last couple months. Words don't seem adequate enough but know that my family and we are very appreciative of everything you've done.

In Christian love,
Dolores & Tom Uddenberg

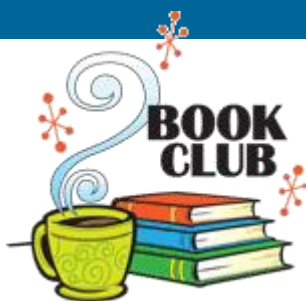
Easter Vigil Help Needed!

We need your help with Easter Vigil preparations! Send us pictures of Spring emerging and new growth coming up. You can post pictures to our Facebook page, send them to cwebb@stmarkmp.org, or text them to 847.792.1983.



BOOK CLUB

All are welcome to take part in the St. Mark Book Club!



We have our list for 2019 readings and want to share it with you. We meet in the Great Room at 1:00 the 4th Monday of the month for discussion. Take a look at the list and join us if this interests you!

April 22 - Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver
 May 27 - Chilbury Ladies Choir by Jennifer Ryan
 June 24, The Hillbilly Eligy by J. D. Vance
 July 22 - Beartown by Fredrik Bachman
 August 26 - Ruthless Tide by Al Roker
 September 23 - America for Beginners by Leah Franqui
 October 28 - The Rent Collector by Cameron Wright
 November 25 - To be determined
 December 23 - To be determined



Grief Support Group at St. Raymond

Emmaus Walk, a support group for adults grieving the loss of a loved one, will begin meeting on Monday, April 1st at 7:00 pm in the St. Raymond Parish Ministry Center and continue weekly until

Monday, May 20th (except for Easter Monday April 22nd). Anyone grieving the loss of a family member of other significant person in their life is welcome to join us. During our time together various elements of the grief journey will be explored through education, discussion and prayer in a safe and confidential setting. Please contact Sr. Valerie Kulbacki, Director of Care Ministries and group facilitator at 847-253-8600 x 143 or Sr.Val@St-Raymond.org to register or with any questions or concerns.

St. Mark PADS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



Monday, May 6th, 6:00 pm
 St. Mark Center

Come and let us say "Thank You" for your help and support this past year. Hopefully a representative from Journeys will be with us to share information about Journeys and the PADS Program.

RSVP by May 1st if you **WILL** attend.

Marilyn 847-508-5512
gosell94@wowway.com

Beth 847-577-7862
rffreem@comcast.net

Maura 847-253-0271
mreshke2732@wowway.com



Organ Recital April 29

Music Director, Timothy Spelbring, will play a recital at Presbyterian Homes in Evanston on Monday, April 29, at 1:30pm. The recital will be in Elliott Chapel on the Presbyterian Homes campus. The address is 3200 Grant St., Evanston, IL 60201. The works of Mendelssohn, Bach, and others will be performed.



St. Mark Foundation Grants

Each year, the St. Mark Foundation distributes funds from earned interest of its assets as well as through benevolence dollars from St. Mark offerings to award grants to non-profit organizations expressing financial need in terms of their ministry missions. To learn more about the organizations and their primary missions, the grantees are invited to present briefly to the St. Mark congregation during one of the Sunday services. This month, upcoming grantee presentations will include the following:

- Mark Parr from Children's Advocacy Center, on Sunday, April 7 at 10am worship
- Sonia Ivanov from Northwest Compass, Inc., on Sunday, April 28 at 10am worship

Lutheran Day in Springfield-May 9

Lutherans from across Illinois and denominational lines trek to Springfield each spring to speak to their legislators in support of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois, and other Lutheran social ministry agencies. On Thursday, May 9, they will do the same once again—and you can be one of them.

Here are ten good reasons to help you decide whether you should be part of the group going to Springfield this year from Lutheran congregations in the northwest suburbs:

1. Legislators want to hear from you. They really do.
2. You will receive training how to approach legislators. You won't be alone.
3. Rather than complain about state government, you will help bring change.
4. The most vulnerable citizens of our state, served by LSSI, are depending on you.
5. It's fun going as part of a group!
6. You will get to see the capitol and rotunda from the inside. They are impressive!
7. You will meet concerned Lutherans from across Illinois.
8. It will energize you to continue working for the common good.
9. You will gain a sense of accomplishment and personal satisfaction.
- 10. You will keep your baptismal promise to "let your light shine before others."**

Lutheran Day on May 9 begins at 10 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Springfield, and ends by 4 p.m. The afternoon is spent at the capitol. In order to arrive in time, transportation will depart at 6 a.m. from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, and will return by 8:30 p.m.

To register for Lutheran Day, go to the Web site of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois: www.lssi.org and click on "Lutheran Day 2019." A \$10 registration fee includes lunch.

If you would like to go and need transportation, you may sign up by going to the website of Our Saviour's, Arlington Heights: www.oursaviours.org At the top of the homepage, click on "Get Involved." On the drop-down menu, click on "Sign-Ups" and then scroll to "Upcoming Event Sign-Ups."





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:30 pm Bridge Club 4:30 pm Basketball	2 11 am Private Event 7 pm Mary Circle 7 pm Basketball	3 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Lenten Worship 11:30 am Soup Lunch 12 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Lenten Worship	4 4:30 pm FaithWalk 5 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Basketball 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	5 9 am Preschool Gym	6 8 am Basketball 6:30 pm Nibblers
7 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	8 6:30 pm PADS 6:30 pm Gratefulness Gathering	9 9 am Preschool Gym 7 pm Basketball 7 pm Worship/Music	10 9 am Quilting 9:30 am Volleyball 11 am Lenten Worship 11:30 am Soup Lunch 12 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 5 pm Basketball 6 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Lenten Worship	11 4:30 pm FaithWalk 5 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Basketball 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	12 9 am Preschool Gym 7 pm Ladies Night Out... At the Movies	13 8 am Basketball
14 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	15 6:30 pm PADS	16 9 am Preschool Gym 7 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council	17 9 am Quilting 9:30 am Volleyball 5 pm Basketball	18 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 1 pm Senior Lunch Bunch 5 pm Basketball 7 pm Worship 7 pm Basketball	19 <i>Good Friday</i> OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm Worship	20 8 am Basketball 9 am Easter Breakfast Prep and Set-up 6 pm Easter Egg Hunt 7 pm Easter Vigil Donut Party to follow
21 <i>EASTER</i> 8 am Worship 8:30 am Easter Breakfast 10 am Worship	22 OFFICE CLOSED 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm PADS	23 9 am Preschool Gym 9 am Quilting 7 pm Basketball	24 9:30 am Volleyball 5 pm Basketball	25 5 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Basketball 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	26 9 am Preschool Gym	27 8 am Basketball
28 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	29 6:30 pm PADS	30 9 am Preschool Gym 7 pm Basketball				

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

April 2019

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

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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