



St. Mark Lutheran Church

CrossBeams

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

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Corner	2
Worship & Communion	3
Wellness, Polka Concert, Good Neighbors, & Community Meal	4
American Indian Alaskan Native Ministry	5
Plug into Fellowship Events	6
Thoughts from the Loft & More	7
Pictures	8
Update from the Treasurer & More	9
Senior Lunch Bunch & More	10
WELCA	11
Thank You	12
Research Study	13
Preschool Fall Fest	14
Calendar of Events	15

Volume 61, Issue 9

October, 2022



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



**Sept. 11
2022**



"We do not know where you are going! How can we know the way?"

So says the disciple Thomas to Jesus in the 14th Chapter of John. What a great statement. It is a statement that resounds in my heart so often, especially these days.

"God, I don't know where you are going! How can I know the way?" Things are changing. The world is

changing. Church is changing. What the future looks like is particularly unclear. This is true for St. Mark, but also true for so many neighbor congregations and communities. We are not alone in this. In some moments knowing we are not alone is comforting. And in others, it still doesn't stop the sometimes exasperated, sometimes confused, sometimes sorrowful, sometimes fearful, sometimes frustrated words coming from my heart in prayer: "God we don't know where you are going! How can we know the way."

And Jesus' words to Thomas then are Jesus' words to us now: "I am the way, the truth, the life."

When we don't know the way, Jesus is our way, our truth, our life. Always.

Recently we welcomed Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Kathy Nolte to St. Mark for a presentation on "Realigning Building with Mission." We invited her as we work on the Council priority to consider our buildings and how we can better utilize them. Pastor Kathy shared with us great wisdom. She normalized all the questions we are asking as a congregation, the struggles we are having with budget deficits, aging buildings and the challenges of emerging from the Pandemic. She helped us feel not alone. And she also reminded us of what we are here for. She reminded us that buildings are here to help us share the gospel. She reminded us that our goal, our mission, is always to spread the gospel. She reminded us that everything we do, every decision we make, is to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. In a sense, she reminded us that Jesus is our way, our truth, our life. Jesus is the way, the truth, the life of St. Mark, and our way into whatever it is God has in store for us. We should not do this without Jesus. We cannot do this without Jesus.



St. Mark's stated mission is "Nourishing God's People: Body, Mind and Spirit." But that is simply another way to say that we are serving up Jesus in all sorts of ways to nourish the hunger of the world. We serve up Jesus when we serve a meal in our PADS ministry, nourishing the body. We serve up Jesus when we share the stories of the faith in our Children and Youth Ministries, nourishing the mind. We serve up Jesus when we worship, in song, in Scripture, in community, in the meal of Eucharist, nourishing the spirit. We serve up Jesus and Christian community when we reach out and welcome in, nourishing the body, mind and spirit all. Jesus is our way, our truth, our life.

There are times, like now, when we do not know the way forward. It isn't a clear path out to the horizon. We do not know where we are going, how can we know the way? When Deacon David and I were in the midst of the challenging time of waiting for our first call to ministry, we often didn't know the next 10 steps, the path to the horizon was not clear. But we were asked by a Spiritual Director to prayerfully consider what the next right step was, and then to do that, and then to pray and discern the next right step, and step by Jesus-led step we found our way. We may not know the whole way forward, but we do know something. Jesus is the way, the truth, the life. Continuing to hold Jesus and our mission in Christ before us is the way forward, step by step.

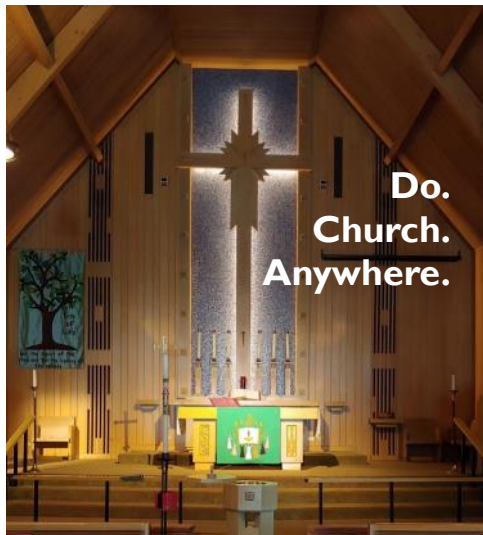
Here are a few steps that have felt like the next right steps:

- Forming a Future Planning team to look at finances and building needs
- Inviting Rev. Kathy Nolte to visit- which was a great step to remind us of our mission
- Exploring all our assets, digging into possibilities, trying to get the big picture of St. Mark and all that we have to share and utilize before us, not to make decisions right now, but to prepare us to make informed decisions
- Reconnecting with our members
- Connecting with our community
- Emphasizing God's Abundance and our call to Share God's Abundance through our Stewardship focus

As we take these next steps, we continue to work to live our mission to spread the gospel.

I conclude with one of my favorite prayers, as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Evening Prayer: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Peace, Pastor Christie



**Worship with us in person
Sundays at 10am**

**Or Worship online with us
on Facebook Live at 10am**

[https://www.facebook.com/
StMarkLutheranIL/](https://www.facebook.com/StMarkLutheranIL/)

then posted later to our YouTube Channel
[https://tinyurl.com/stmarkmpyoutube.](https://tinyurl.com/stmarkmpyoutube)



Holy Communion

Holy Communion is celebrated each week at worship, with Communion at the Rail on the 1st Sunday of the month. Individual Communion cups, for your use at home, with wine or juice and bread, are available for pickup or local delivery. Gluten free options are also available. Please contact the Church Office by email at stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org or by phone at 847-253-0631 to order yours.



Health & Wellness Group!

**Thursdays from 10-11am
Starting September 29**

6-week class led by
Occupational Therapy Students
from Rush University.
Free!

We will gather in the Assembly Room
at the St. Mark Center,
200 S Wille Street, Mount Prospect, IL.

Bring your water! Invite your friends!
Come ready for fitness and community.



**WILLKOMMEN!
CONCERT POLKA**
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9
4 PM

TIMOTHY SPELBRING, PIANO
ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
200 SOUTH WILLE STREET, MOUNT PROSPECT
847.253.0631 • WWW.STMARKMP.ORG

To cap off the Village of Mt. Prospect's 2022 Oktoberfest celebration weekend, St. Mark is hosting this festive, free music event for our community.

Enjoy Polka favorites as St. Mark's multitalented Music Director brings the familiar oompah Polka rhythm to the piano in a program of Polka melodies, plus a couple of classical selections by Johann Sebastian Bach and Ludwig van Beethoven.

All ages welcome, invite your friends and neighbors too!



All of St. Mark is invited to join the WOW kids and families in sharing a meal on **Wednesday, October 19 at 6:15pm.** We will cook hot dogs on a fire and enjoy s'mores. Contact Deacon David if you would like to bring anything else to add to the meal.



GOOD NEIGHBORS

OCTOBER 9TH @ 11AM
St. Mark Lutheran
Church Great Room

NORM KURTZ
member of Synagogue
Congregation Beth
Judea

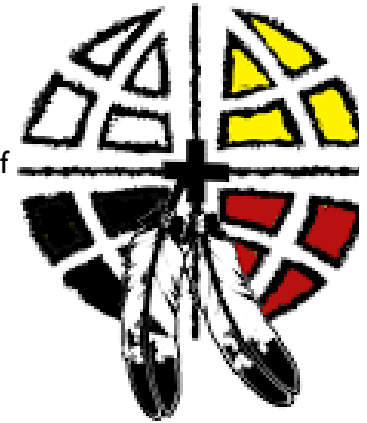
St. Mark welcomes Norm to share his story
and how his faith has impacted his daily life.

CONNECT SHARE
GROW GIVE

American Indian and Alaska Native Ministry in the ELCA

By: Deacon David Webb

At this year's Metro Chicago Synod Assembly and Church Wide Assembly of the ELCA our church took important steps in renewing relationships with tribal communities. The church's work offers the St. Mark community some rich learning opportunities for ministry in the coming years.



At the Church Wide Assembly leaders from the tribal communities of the ELCA led the assembly in worship, learning, and setting priorities for justice work in the coming years. Presiding Bishop Eaton recommitted the church to working with native communities, churches, and non-profits throughout the country to work for justice and center the experience of native people in our conversations as a church.

At the Metro-Chicago Synod Assembly, Vance Blackfox, Director of Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations led the synod in an immersive experience that conveys the history of indigenous people in North America after contact with settler colonists. The interactive experience is a prayerful and eye opening look at the extent of the genocide that indigenous people have endured at the hands of the U.S. government. After the experience, the synod committed to take important steps in renewing their relationships with tribal communities. Bishop Curry and synod staff have identified some early goals for congregations. One is for congregations to read and reflect on the ELCA's "Declaration to American Indian and Alaska Native People." You can find a copy of the document at this link: https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Declaration_to_American_Indian_Alaska_Native.pdf

The Synod have also convened a Native American Ministry Team in Metro-Chicago. They have asked me to help organize the team because of my experience doing ministry with Indigenous communities.

As a local faith community, St. Mark has some great opportunities for learning and connecting with the wider community. We have been trained not to see the Indigenous folks who live in our midst. It is a more convenient story that Native Americans live somewhere else or "they've all died out." Mount Prospect is situated between Chicago, which has one of the largest urban American Indian communities in the country as a result of the U.S. government's Indian Relocation Act of 1956, and southern Wisconsin, where there are still tribes connected to reservations and their ancestral homelands. In September, we commemorated Orange Shirt Day on September 30th and learned about American Indian Boarding Schools and the Lutheran church's role in this part of the genocide of native people. In October, we will have the chance to reflect on Christopher Columbus Day and our call to share the gospel throughout the world. In November, we will examine the songs in our hymnal that come from American Indian and Alaska Native sources and artists.

We will continue to be in dialogue about learning and additional efforts to connect with the American Indian and Alaska Native community in our area. If you have questions or interests you'd like to pursue, I look forward to being in conversation.



Saturday, October 1, 2022: Nibblers
6:30 pm Moretti's Restaurant- Mt Prospect



Saturday, October 29: OCTOBERFEST
6:30 pm @ Schnell's Brauhaus – Palatine

ONLY 20 seats available RSVP to Kim Perlich before space runs out or by October 22, whichever comes first!



Saturday, November 19: An Evening of Wine Tasting
7 pm in St. Mark Great Room

Led by Peter Lund, a Wine Connoisseur

Taste various wines and learn about the perfect wine to compliment your upcoming Holiday gatherings, in a relaxed atmosphere. Not a wine-drinker? Come and enjoy a beer, soft drink or water and appetizers/desserts with friends.



December 4, 2022

BEARS vs PACKERS Game & Chili Cook-off

11:30 am at the St. Mark Center.

Vote on your favorite chili while you relax & cheer on your favorite team. Stay tuned for more info.

Many thanks to everyone for your support of the Summer Barbecues by joining us for fellowship, delicious food, and time spent together. The many people that helped with set up, clean up and providing the delicious food, is really appreciated. Looking forward to gathering again.



Thoughts from the Loft

On October 30 we celebrate the Reformation. Martin Luther was quite fond of music. In fact, he stated that music should stand next to theology as the greatest gift. Perhaps Luther's greatest hymn is "A Mighty Fortress". We will sing it on October 30. It is based on Psalm 46. The first verse of this Psalm states: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble". A Mighty Fortress speaks of God's ever-present might in times of difficulty. As such the text of the hymn ends with an affirmation: "The kingdom's ours forever!" We can rejoice that God has won the day and we are redeemed by Christ.

Peace,
Tim



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



Quilters (knotters) will meet at 9:00am on these upcoming dates in the Quilting room (second floor of the Education wing):
Wednesday, October 19 and Tuesday, October 25 For more information, please contact Lynn Istwan or the Church Office at 847-253-0631.



BOOK CLUB
We meet to discuss the selected book on the 4th Monday of each month at 1:00 PM in the Great

Room.
All are welcome!
Contact Nancy Snell for more information.

2022 BOOK SELECTIONS
October 24 - *The Personal Librarian*
by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher
November 28 - *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed



Caregiver Support Group
Are you doing the important and challenging work of providing care for a loved one? Are you looking for mutual support in the midst of that? Join our Caregiver Support Group meeting **Tuesday, October 4 and Tuesday, November 7** at noon in the Great Room. Bring your own lunch. Questions? Contact Pastor Christie.

God's Work. Our Hands.—Sept. 11



Thankoffering Sunday—Sept. 25

113 Quilts and 160 School Kits to send to Lutheran World Relief





Sunday Adult Education is using Living Lutheran as a resource for conversation. If you are not currently receiving this magazine and would like to, please contact the church office. This subscription is generously provided to all church members by the St. Mark Foundation.



There is a NEED for ushers for Sunday Services. It involves greeting and handing out bulletins and information cards, collecting the offerings and assisting in communion on the 1st Sunday of the month. If interested please contact Jack Adams or the Church Office at 847-253-0631.



BUNCO FOR BREAST CANCER

Sunday, October 2, 2022
at the St. Mark Center
Doors open at noon
Bunco 1pm-4pm



Update from the Treasurer

Period: Eight months ended August 31, 2022

	Actual	Budget	Difference Favorable (Unfavorable)
General Fund Income	\$292,827	\$336,537	(\$43,710)
General Fund Expense	\$351,895	\$336,537	(\$15,358)
Net Income (Deficit)	(\$59,068)	0	(\$59,068)



SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH

(or anyone else who would like to join us)

Thursday, October 20 at 1:00pm

House of Szechwan
22 E. Northwest Hwy., Des Plaines

Order off the Menu

RSVP to Marilyn Gosell by Monday, October 17th

Mark Your Calendar for Future Lunches

November 17, 2022

Thanksgiving Pot Luck

St. Mark

December 15, 2022

Trezeros

Mt. Prospect



REFORMATION SUNDAY October 30

Wear Red!

Come and hear Chaplain
Leslie Hunter preach
with Pastor Carl

Anderson presiding. Join

us after worship for a sermon conversation
with Chaplain Leslie.



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, November 6

Remember to set your clocks back one
hour before going to bed on Saturday.

Women of the ELCA



THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Our St Mark congregation has been very generous with financial contributions, school supply items and assisting with the assembly of the Lutheran World Relief school kits. We appreciate your time and contributions. This year we assembled 160 school kits. The total is the most we have contributed in one year. We can be very proud of our service. A special acknowledgment to THRIVENT, who generously provided \$500 to be used for the school kit supplies. Without their assistance, we would of not been able to provide the 160 school kits for children in need. THANK YOU to all!



All women in Metro Chicago Synod congregations are invited to take part at this year's Synod Women's Organization annual convention/gathering on **Saturday, October 15, 2022**, from 8:30 a.m. until

3:30 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Road, Evanston. This is an opportunity to meet women from other Lutheran churches and share ideas. The event theme is We Are One: Putting Pieces Together. There will be a keynote speaker, a Bible study, a breakout/discussion group, and a closing worship. Representatives of several ELCA/Synod partners will be present with information on their ministries. Lunch is included in the registration fee. Pre-registration is requested. You can find the registration form and more information can be found at: <https://mcseelca.org/swo-convention-2022/>

UPCOMING EVENTS:



November 23, 2022 "TRIM THE CHURCH"

9:00 am in the Church Sanctuary

Preparing Our Church for the Advent Season. Come join us for the morning. Coffee cake, juice & coffee provided.



December 11, 2022 "A Holiday Outing" "ELF The Musical"

2 pm at The Drury Lane Theater

reserved seating, and limited tickets

Please join us for a wonderful, and entertaining musical.



January, 2023 WELCA: Women's Bible Study is back "Listening For The Voice Of God"

Led by Deacon Pat Gerber Subject: "The Holy Spirit"

Mondays at 7 pm or Tuesdays at 1 pm

Please respond with your time choice to Judy Fell by November 27



Cheryl Collins

Chief Executive Officer

Holy Family Ministries

St. Mark's,

*Thank you for
another year of hospitality as
you welcomed our teachers, faculty and
staff members back to school.*

We appreciate your support! Cheryl Collins CEO

Thank you for the cards,
flowers, calls and visits
following Dick's surgery.
Your kindness is so
appreciated.

Dick & Dianne Quast

Thank you for the Altar
flowers on my Birthday.
They were lovely and
brightened the day.

Gloria Bazan

Dear St. Mark,
Thank you so much for the
Altar flowers. They were
lovely and I thoroughly
enjoyed them!

Nancy Clauser

Hey St. Mark Friends,
Thank you (once again!) for
the beautiful bouquet of
flowers. They certainly
brightened up our house.
The driver who brought
them was delightful. Many,
many thanks!

Beth and Ron Freeman

*Thanks
St. Mark's
for all you do
little learners
Mrs. Spencer*

*Thank you
for your generosity
and support!
Jean Lamb*

*Always, Thank you
for the great lunch
and all that you do
for HFS! Glenn Woods*

*Thanks for all
you do for HFS!
Audrey Holton*

*Thank you for
thinking of our
family! We
appreciate you!
Mark*

*Thanks
for all you
do Mrs. Danna*

*Many Thanks
Mr. Cole*

*We really
appreciate you taking
the time to take
care of the staff.
It was such a
treat. Thank you!
Mr. King*

*Thank you
for all you do!
Mrs. Narda*

*Thank you
so much for
all that you
do!
Ms. Tike*

*Thank you
Mrs. Connor*



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO
In collaboration with AgeOptions



PAID Research Study About The Needs of Adults Age 50 And Older And Family Caregivers Who Live in Suburban Cook County!

Are you 50 years of age or older and live in suburban Cook County? Are you willing to answer few questions about services for older adults in your area?

Or, Are you a caregiver and provide at least 4 hours per week of unpaid help (such as cooking, cleaning, dressing, medication management, etc.) to:

- a person age 60 or older and you are 18 years of age or older, or
- a child age 17 or younger but you are not the biological parent of the child and you are 55 years or older, or
- a person with disability who is between 18-59 years old and you are 55 years or older?

Research Description and Purpose: Researchers at the University of Illinois Chicago want to identify the needs of older adults and family caregivers. Specifically, to better understand the needs of the population 50+ and family caregivers, determine any gaps in accessing services, and identify what impacts services for the population living in suburban Cook County.

What would happen if you took part in this study?

You will complete a SURVEY or participate in a small group interview called FOCUS GROUP. The survey and the focus group will help us explore the needs of older adults and to better understand the barriers to access services.

Where will the research take place?

You can complete the survey Online, over the phone, or on paper. You will receive a \$20 gift card after completing the survey. Focus Groups will take place Online on Zoom or at a location near you. You will receive a \$35 gift card after completing a Focus Group.

For more information about participating in this research study please

Call 312-355-5905 or Email aoana@uic.edu

Randa Abdelrahim, Project Coordinator

The principal researcher for this study is Kelly Hsieh, Ph.D
at the University of Illinois Chicago at 1640 Roosevelt Rd, Chicago, IL 60608



FALL Fest

OCTOBER 16
3-5 P.M. | ST. MARK'S PARKING LOT

BOUNCE HOUSE

FACEPAINTING, MUSIC, HUBBY'S HOTDOGS,
BAGS, CHALK, PUMPKINS AND MORE

DRINKS (INCLUDING ADULT BEVERAGES)
WILL BE AVAILABLE BY CASH DONATIONS

Admission fee is \$5 per child (\$20 max per family). Money raised will be used by the PAC to support St. Mark's Preschool. Please RSVP by Friday, Oct. 7. **Click here to register or scan the QR code.**



St. Mark's and St. Mark's Preschool will not be liable for any injury in the bounce house or at the fest.



2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 11am Wedding of Carl Anderson & Pat Gerber 6:30pm Nibblers
2 <i>17th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook Later posted on YouTube 11am Meet the Council 1pm Bunco for Breast Cancer	3 4:30pm FaithWalk 5:00pm PADS	4 12pm Caregiver Support 3:30pm High School Leadership Development (HSLD)	5 4:30pm WOW	6 10am Exercise Group 10am Walk the Gym 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Vocal Choir	7	8
9 <i>18th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook Later posted on YouTube 11am Adult Education 4pm Polka Concert	10 5:00pm PADS	11 3:30pm HSLD 7pm Worship & Music	12 4:30pm WOW	13 10am Exercise Group 10am Walk the Gym 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Vocal Choir	14	15
16 <i>19th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook Later posted on YouTube 11am Adult Education 3pm Preschool Fall Fest	17 4:30pm FaithWalk 5:00pm PADS	18 3:30pm HSLD 7pm Church Council	19 4:30pm WOW 6:00pm Community Meal	20 10am Exercise Group 10am Walk the Gym 1pm Sr. Lunch Bunch 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Vocal Choir	21	22 12:00pm Private Party
23 <i>20th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook Later posted on YouTube 11am Fair Trade on Sale 11am Adult Education	24 1pm Book Club 4:30pm FaithWalk 5:00pm PADS	25 3:30pm HSLD	26	27 10am Exercise Group 10am Walk the Gym 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Vocal Choir	28	29 6:30pm Oktoberfest
30 Reformation Sunday <i>21st Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & Live on Facebook Later posted on YouTube 11am Adult Education	31 5:00pm PADS					

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

October 2022

God's
work.
Our
hands.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
www.elca.org

2022-23 Church Council

Jon Kahney, President
Diane Luper, VP
Marilyn Gosell, Treasurer
Judy Fell, Secretary

Andy Goodrich
Laura Jakubowski
Kim Perlich
Paul Post
Dianne Quast
Steve Rusk
Susan Supergan
Dolores Uddenberg
Claire Wynkoop

St. Mark Lutheran Church

847/253-0631

Fax: 847/253-5387

Email: stmarkmp@stmarkmp.org

Website: stmarkmp.org

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Christie Webb

Music Director

Timothy Spelbring

Parish Administrator

Nancy Hundley

Office Administrator

Jill Galyon

Youth & Family Ministry

Deacon David Webb

**Sunday Worship: 10am In person and on Facebook Live
then posted later to YouTube**

Online: Check our Facebook page or our YouTube Channel

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMarkLutheranIL/>

YouTube Channel: <https://tinyurl.com/stmarkmpyoutube>.

Youth Christian Education - Programming begins the week of August 22

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

FaithWalk: Mondays 4:30-6pm

2 classes: 3rd thorough 5th grade &

6th through 8th grade (Confirmation)

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

Contact Deacon David for all Youth Program details

Adult Christian Education

Bible Study: On Summer Break

Church Office Hours

M-Th 8:30am-4:30pm, F 8:30am-12noon

Call ahead to be sure someone will be available to greet you.

St. Mark Preschool & Enrichment Center

847/873-1110

Web: stmarkpreschoolcares.org

Preschool Director

Allison Finnegan



St. Mark
Lutheran Church

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

Inspiring Worship • Meaningful Ministry • Deepening Faith • Caring Community