



St. Mark Lutheran Church

CrossBeams

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

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January, 2018

wonderful Advent Activities



ADVENT WREATHS on December 3rd



COOKIE BAKE on December 10th



GINGERBREAD HOUSES on December 17th



What are we here for? What will we make of our lives? What will we do with our energies? What kind of world will we create? So asks Rob Bell in his book *How to Be Here*, a book about finding purpose, joy and meaning in your life. In this season after Epiphany (now until Ash Wednesday on February 14) we will ponder these profound and captivating questions, as we explore “Called!”, how we are claimed and called in our baptismal waters and sent out into the world to create a life of purpose, joy and meaning.

Our baptismal waters are a rich starting place from which we enter the world. They swirl around us and over us and claim us as children of God. In them we are showered with God’s grace and given gifts to use in the world for good. Earlier in 2017 we explored how we are living our ministry in daily life. This season focuses on that same thing, but invites us to think even deeper how we are living as the person God created us to be and together with the Holy Spirit creating the life God calls us to lead. As we begin a new year, we think together about the waters from which our life in Christ began and how we can create the life God so longs for us to live each day.

Over the course of these next Sundays we will immerse ourselves in the waters of baptism, with the baptismal font front and center. The gospel and the preached word will come from that place. You are also invited to come and splash in the waters as you come to the communion table. On January 7 we begin this celebration with the Baptism of Our Lord, the place where Jesus is claimed as God’s Son, beloved. From this place of named and claimed, Jesus sets out on his public ministry. Then we will hear the stories of Jesus calling his first disciples and their response to that call, hear about Jesus healing work and how we are called to health and wholeness, how we are called to spend time with God in quiet places, and finally, to consider how we are transformed in Christ.

One thing I’m particularly excited to celebrate is Godparent Sunday on January 21. Each of us has Godparents, people who sponsored us and pledged to help us grow in the faith, and perhaps some of us have done the same for loved ones in our lives. So often though, we don’t talk about what it means to be a godparent after that day of baptism. On this day we will remember and honor our godparents and godchildren and consider how we might continue the lifelong work of raising people up in the faith. You are encouraged to invite your godparents and godchildren to come worship with you. We will have name tags for everyone to fill out saying “Hello, my name is _____, godchild of _____, godparent of _____ (as applicable).” We will have a special affirmation of baptism, as well as witness as some of our young ones take a new step in their faith with first communion. We will have postcards available for you to send a note to your godparents and godchildren.



You are also invited to read Rob Bell’s book *How To Be Here* and join me in a discussion in early February. Contact me if you are interested.

In Christ,
Pastor Christie



St. Mark Lutheran Church:

Concordia Place appreciates your generosity in giving to the children participating in our programs. Thanks for the many gifts you provided. Classrooms are making thank you cards and we will be mailing them to you as soon as possible. Your partnership is vital to our mission of putting faith into action for the larger community. Thank you again. Happy 2018!

Kathleen West

Outreach and Engagement Coordinator

This poster, which is by the bulletin boards outside of the Great Room, is a Thank You from the children participating in the Holy Family After School program. These are the children who we bought Christmas gifts for from the Star Tree.



A special thank you to our friends at the Mount Prospect Lions Club for their very generous donation to St. Mark's Backpack Ministry. Donations from our congregation, the Lions Club and others allow the Ministry to provide a weekly backpack of food for ten children in our neighborhood who are at risk for hunger.

You can support this important ministry by making a monetary or food donation. See the list of what food is needed for the backpacks in the narthex or on our website. Also you can volunteer to help pack the food by signing up on the sheet on the bulletin board outside the Great Room. Thank you.

Pam Fehling and Laura Erbe

Dear Friends,

Though we'd just celebrated my father's 90th birthday, his death was unexpected and a real shock to my family. I'm grateful to the many of you who wrote notes, sent cards, and attended his memorial service. Each of you, in your own way, was balm for my troubled heart. Your prayers and kind words helped ease my grieving way.

Blessings in the new year,
Pastor Linnea

Thank you so much for the "Goodie" you sent. Our roommates loved it too!

Sincerely,

Hannah Quast, Rylie Quast and Josh Arshonsky
(college grandchildren of Dick & Dianne Quast)

Thank you so much to the youth of St. Mark Preschool, Pastor Christie, Deacon Dave (and Thomas) for caroling at my home. It was really enjoyable and appreciated. Your cookies were very good too!

Sincerely,
Eunice Melsby



What's Happening in Youth & Family Ministry?

Children's Christmas Program and Choir Cantata December 17th



Refugee Ministry Update

By Deacon Dave

Friends, I bring greetings from the Eghale family this season. They arrived right at the end of November from a refugee camp in Ethiopia. The cold and snow were quite a shock for them and they are quickly getting over their first bugs! Soon the kids will start school and Khadija will begin English and job training classes at

Refugee One. At St. Mark we have had three new volunteers helping

gather items and visiting the family. Those individuals join fifteen other volunteers from Grace Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary, and The Turkish American Society of Chicago in visiting the family once a week and providing an important friendship connection for them. Stay tuned for more updates, pictures, committee meetings, and chances to visit the family!



Gratuitous Gifts

By Deacon Dave

I'm not talking about your relatives who went overboard this holiday season and totally blew past the \$20 suggested limit for your annual gift exchange. I'm talking about God's RIDICULOUS gratuity. It pervaded Advent as it usually does and it was in all the places you didn't expect it. It was quiet and came with tears and joy and it gently changed your life for the good. You may not even remember it. You may not have even noticed it. God came into our lives again this Christmas and miracles blossomed before our very eyes.

One of my favorite stories of this season is the story of the foreigners who show up to greet Jesus. We have lots of names for them. We sneak them in to Christmas, but the truth is, that the aliens (not those kinds of aliens), showed up late. They followed the star and arrived weeks to a month after Jesus was born. The magi brought gifts and they worshiped Jesus. They did not ask "Who is this baby?" They did not say: "You all are poor." They worshiped Jesus. And they gave HUGE gifts. The value of the gifts far exceeded the net worth of Mary and Joseph many times over.

In this season after Christmas, we have the magi to guide us in the abundance and gratuitousness of our ministry at St. Mark. We have so many riches and treasures and resources here at St. Mark (I'm not even talking about our bank accounts). We can share Mary and Joseph's wonder at the magi's gifts and as we look ahead into 2018, we can let the magi's gratuitousness and graciousness inspire us and our imaginations for ministry in 2018. Unlike congress who is always asking: "How will we ever pay for this or that?;" we know that the Kingdom of God is already here, a royal rule that is abundantly more than we can ever imagine. A golden age that arrives, not when we are ready or when things are perfect, but the coming of God happens in the fullness of time. This Kingdom living is not an invitation to fiscal recklessness but is an assurance that there will always be ministry that needs to be doing and the creativity of the Holy Spirit will be there to shower us with the abundance of the Kingdom of God. Unlike congress we never have to say, well if one group gets this money then another group doesn't. The Kingdom of God is not pieces of a pie. The Kingdom of God is abundantly for all. We may have many more guests than we are used to at PADs, we may be resettling a refugee family, the food pantry at the Village of Mount Prospect may be empty, and in the coming year a whole host of new "needs" will arise, but it isn't an invitation to burn out or a larger budget or another fundraising drive. It is a reminder for 2018 that our God is great (greater than we imagine) and the abundance of the Kingdom of God is more gratuitous than we can imagine and before the end of the year, with the right kind of eyes, we will see all that God has in store for us.



Thoughts from the Loft

For me, the season of Epiphany brings up the issue of light. We all need light to read or see music. Also, when someone performs in public, it is often good to see them. So, better lighting makes for better music, in a sense. The star of Bethlehem was a light that lead the Three Kings to the manger. It can also lead us to greater transcendence in music. May our Epiphany music be filled with joy!

Peace,
Tim



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

**Thursday, January 18
1:00 pm**

Outback Steakhouse

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

RSVP to Marilyn at 847-508-5512



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, January 19
7pm in the Great Room**

Bring a personal craft
to work on for the night.

Looking for crafters to share their craft
with the group. Contact Jill in the church
office or at jgalyon@stmarkmp.org



Preschool PJ Pageant—December 3



Women of the ELCA

Wednesday, January 3 9:30 am

Put away holiday decorations

Wed. & Tues. Jan. 17 & 23 9:00 am

Quilting
2nd floor, Education wing

Friday, January 19 9:30 am

Church Women United Annual Meeting
Great Room



Thanks to all who came to help decorate our church for the holidays!

Unfortunately, what goes up must come down. So **we will be un-decorating and packing things away on January 3 at 9:30am. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated!**

Quilters

The quilters are back to their regular schedule in January. Join them on **Wednesday, January 17, and/or Tuesday, January 23.** They meet at 9 am on the second floor of the education wing.



Church Women United Annual Meeting

Friday, January 19, 9:30am

St. Mark will be hosting the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Northwest Cook County unit of CWU. It will begin with a deluxe continental breakfast at 9:30am on Friday, January 19, in the Great Room. The speaker will be Lynn Rymarz, an historical storyteller sharing the life of Eleanor Roosevelt. The program will be followed by a brief business meeting. No reservations are necessary and there is no ticket charge. An offering will be taken to benefit the unit, as well as a collection of "Nickels for National" to go to the national CWU movement.

Questions? Contact Gail Radtke, 847-255-2977.

Come and bring a friend!



MARDI GRAS POTLUCK DINNER

Tuesday, February 13

5:45 pm in Fellowship Hall

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

A-M: Bring a salad or dessert

N-Z: Bring a pasta or meat dish

Pop, coffee & lemonade provided.

Palm burning service to end the night.

St. Mark members and friends support the work of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) in many ways. The quilting group works regularly to prepare their quilts for the annual LWR quilting drive. These quilts, and the school and health kits prepared are used by LWR worldwide for those in need due to emergencies cause by floods, earthquakes, and other disasters. Our benevolence offerings to the synod as well as other contributions through ELCA world hunger and disaster relief provide cooperative support for LWR. Some of you have participated in LWR or ELCA "Good Gifts" in which animals and development project money is sent to areas of the world that need support and improvement in their food and water supply.



One of LWR's ongoing development projects is its fair-trade coffee program. We have promoted the sale and use of this coffee for some time through our monthly sales. You may have noticed recently that the bright red and yellow bags from Equal Exchange (EE is a coop that LWR had partnered with) have been phased out and replaced by a different light brown bag. This is called LWR Farmers Market Coffee and is a new line of coffee sourced directly from farmers participating in LWR projects. As the farmers contract directly with LWR, they are partners in the business and are able to get a better price than with the former arrangement with Equal Exchange. We still get our cashews, almonds and fruit and nut bars from EE, but our coffee and chocolate now have the LWR label. I encourage you to try this new coffee if you haven't had the chance. LWR fair trade coffee is served to our PADs guests, as well as our Sunday morning coffee hour. The new coffee is simpler in that there are only two roasts: Medium and Dark in both bean and ground version. The bags are also easier to open and close!

We don't participate in the coffee program as a fundraiser as its primary purpose is to support the fair-trade program of LWR and provide a decent return for the small farmers who participate. We sell the coffee for a small mark-up, e.g., if it costs us \$7.12 per bag, we round it up to \$8.00. Over a year's time we do have a small "profit" of about \$500, and this is donated to LWR. It's an added blessing to know that when you enjoy your cup of coffee in the morning that you're being generous by drinking LWR coffee. Thanks for your support of small farmers through this excellent program of LWR.

Pr. Carl Anderson for the Stewardship Team

Godparents Sunday

January 21

Bring your Godparents or Godchild to church

Enjoy fun activities for Godparents and Godchildren near and far

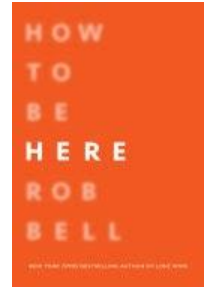


Our music director, Tim Spelbring, will be playing an organ recital on Monday, January 22 at 1:30pm, at Presbyterian Homes in Evanston (3200 Grant St.). The recital will take place in Elliott Chapel on the Presbyterian Homes campus. Works of Bach, Mendelssohn, Widor and others will be performed. All are invited to attend.

BOOK STUDY WITH PASTOR CHRISTIE

Read Rob Bell's book *How To Be Here*. Engage in conversation over Facebook Gather after worship on Sunday, Feb. 4 at 11:30am or the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 6pm for in person conversation.

Contact Pastor Christie if interested.



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 February 2. The Annual Report will be made available to all members prior to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 25.

A Visit to Congregation Beth Judea

By: Deacon Dave

This holiday season I went with five members of St. Mark to visit Congregation Beth Judea in Long Grove for a Shabbat and Chanukah service. What a blessing! Rabbi Klatzker and members of the community showed us the scrolls of the Torah, gave us a tour of their sanctuary, gave us a brief introduction to chanting the Psalms and hymns (in Hebrew!), sat with us during service, and shared doughnuts with us after the service!

Rabbi Klatzker's hospitality was wonderful. He included some thoughts on Jesus and included us in the reflection that happened in the middle of the service. You may know that Chanukah is the celebration of the Maccabees victory over the Syrian-Greeks and the rededication of the temple. For eight nights the candles burned without going out! Rabbi Klatzker pointed out that the story of the Maccabees is not found in Hebrew scriptures, but it is in the Bible! (The books of the Maccabees are included in Apocrypha, the books that are found in between in the Old Testament and New Testament in Roman Catholic and Orthodox Bibles). Rabbi Klatzker also pointed out that Jesus celebrated Chanukah. In the Gospel of John (10:22-23) Jesus travels to the Temple to celebrate the Feast of the Dedication: "Chanukah!" Rabbi Klatzker invited us to think about how this ritual of light and family might have formed Jesus in his Jewishness and human identity.

We look forward to our next trip to worship with our neighbors when we visit the Bahai Temple in Wilmette, Sunday, January 28th after 10am worship at St. Mark. Contact Deacon Dave to participate in this next trip.



St. Mark Preschool's Annual Pasta Dinner Night



Friday, February 23, 2018
5.00 – 8.00 pm
Fellowship Hall



**Silent
Auction**

**Children Singing
Performance**

**Raffle
Prizes**

Prizes Include:

Bears Tickets, Wolves Tickets, Ride to School in a Fire Truck or Police Car, Class Gifts, Restaurant Gift Cards, Massage Gift Cards, 50/50 Raffle and much much more!

Advanced Meal Tickets

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

Raffle Tickets

\$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00

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

Dinner includes: Pasta, Salad, Bread, Dessert

Lemonade & Wine

Questions? Contact Maggie Parniak: maggieparaniak@gmail.com or Kerry Weaver kewaco@gmail.com



2018 Pasta Dinner Ticket Form

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

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

Return by February 9th

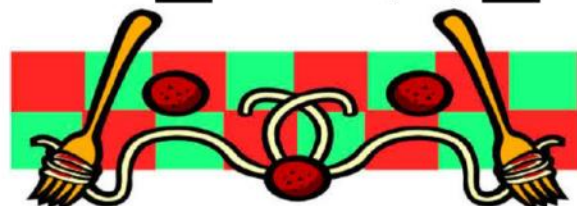
Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

Number of Raffle Tickets: ☐

Total Amount Included: _____





2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 4:30 pm Basketball	3 9:30 am Take Down Christmas Decorations 6 pm Basketball	4 3:30 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	5 4:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Basketball	6 Marilyn Pagliai Memorial Service 9:30 am Visitation 11 am Service 12 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Nibblers
7 8 am Worship 10 am Worship Ron Carlson Memorial Service 1 pm Visitation 2 pm Service	8 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm PADS 7 pm Mary Circle	9 12:30 pm Deborah Circle 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Worship & Music	10 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm FaithWalk	11 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	12 4:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Basketball	13 7 am Basketball 12 pm Basketball
14 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	15 6:30 pm PADS	16 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Church Council	17 9 am Volleyball 9 am Quilting 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm FaithWalk	18 1 pm Senior Lunch Bunch 3:30 pm Basketball 4:30 pm FaithWalk 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	19 9 am Church Women United Annual Meeting 4:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Craft Connection 7 pm Basketball	20 7 am Basketball 10 am Holy Communion Workshop 11 am Basketball 12 pm Basketball 1 pm Basketball
21 <i>Godparents' Day</i> 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	22 6:30 pm PADS	23 9 am Quilting 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball	24 9 am Volleyball 9 am Quilting 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 5:40 pm WOW Worship 6 pm Basketball 6:05 pm Community Meal 6:30 pm FaithWalk	25 3:30 pm Basketball 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Vocal Choir	26 4:30 pm Basketball 7 pm Basketball	27 7 am Basketball 10 am Basketball 12 pm Basketball 1 pm Basketball
28 8 am Worship 10 am Worship 11:15 am Worship Field Trip to Bahai Temple	29 6:30 pm PADS	30 4 pm Basketball 5:30 pm Basketball	31 9 am Volleyball 11 am Bible Study 4:30 pm WOW 6 pm Basketball 6:30 pm FaithWalk			

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

January 2018

God's
work.

Our
hands.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
www.elca.org

2017-18 Church Council

Carol Floros, President
Mike LoRusso, VP
Sharon Blazek, Secretary
Jeanne Kueter, Treasurer

Barb Bloomquist
Paul Brask
Gina Dahlgren
Tom Ernst
Bob Fehling
Kathie Hetland
Jan Scott
Peter Velic

St. Mark Lutheran Church

847/253-0631

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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

Wednesday Youth Christian Education (Sept. – May)

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

Wednesday Adult Christian Education

Bible Study 11:00 am

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Friday 8:30 am – 12 pm noon

St. Mark Preschool & Enrichment Center

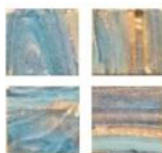
847/873-1110

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