

The Messenger

3350 North Delany Rd
Waukegan, IL 60087



Christmas is such a tender time of year. It has memories and emotions all mixed up in cinnamon and pine. Most of us have Christmas idealized in some way; it should feel a certain way, certain foods should be eaten, or certain people should be there to celebrate. If those things don't happen, it doesn't feel like Christmas. And Christmas can become painful when it doesn't meet those expectations.



We've talked a lot this year about loss. Kids have lost going to school, trick or treating, graduation, prom, their first forays off to college in a pre-COVID world. We have lost things like family gatherings, weddings, family reunions, and vacations. Even if we've pushed through and had them, it's been divided or shrouded with a sense of not feeling quite right. As we look towards the holidays, we feel a sense of dread. It's yet another thing we could lose. It won't be the same.

But, have you ever had a Christmas expand? Have you ever watched a movie so good that it gets added into the Christmas rotation "from that year on?" Or a new grandbaby arrives and brings a new brightness to the holiday that's been feeling a bit worn? Or maybe someone in our family and brings along a new family and more traditions to be a part of? (Our niece Rachel got married to her wife Marlania two years ago, and they have added nerf gun fights to Thanksgiving and confetti egg fights at Easter, and you would be surprised at how well my mom can aim those eggs at her grandkids!). Sometimes new things can be beautiful. Sometimes we need to expand our traditions and forge something new.

And sometimes we need a mission! St. Mark's is a place that, even only being here a few months, is easily identifiable as a type of church that does really well with a mission. You all send cards and call and donate and build and craft and cook whenever you hear about a need. Well, church, we have a barn to raise. Looking ahead, our Christmas is likely going to be outside. And there will be many churches that will be holding indoor services despite the Covid case numbers, and many will be left out in the cold with nowhere to attend that feels safe when the world needs church more than ever.



So we are going to love our neighbors by providing a safe and engaging Christmas for them.

OUR STAFF

Minister Colin Cranmer
Interining Minister

Victoriya Berezhna
Organist

Eric Aho
Director of Musical Ensembles

Jill Shepherd
Stephen Ministry
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On Facebook:

"Friends of St. Marks"

"St. Marks Youth & Family"

"St. Marks Lutheran Church"

"St. Marks Yarns of Compassion"

"God's Work. St. Mark's Hands"

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

*Come celebrate the gift of
Jesus Christ. Grow together in
faith and love.
Share the Good !*



November Birthdays

| | | |
|-------|----------|------------|
| 11/02 | Lucy | Schwall |
| 11/03 | Gail | Plinke |
| 11/03 | Mae | Smith |
| 11/05 | John | Meyer |
| 11/05 | Ted | Sittig |
| 11/06 | Georgia | Benson |
| 11/09 | Kiley | Barnes |
| 11/09 | Jensea | Chromy |
| 11/10 | Cynthia | Kasper |
| 11/10 | Kurt | Schild,III |
| 11/12 | Marcio | Diaz |
| 11/12 | Kirsten | Sheppard |
| 11/14 | Rudolph | Ahonen |
| 11/15 | Ken | Swanson |
| 11/16 | Saula | Chromy |
| 11/16 | Rebecca | Falkinham |
| 11/17 | Alex | Barrett |
| 11/22 | Timothy | Ammons |
| 11/22 | Dennis | Closs |
| | | Perez- |
| 11/22 | Aiden | Stevenson |
| 11/23 | Robert | Ostman |
| 11/23 | Keith | Sheppard |
| 11/24 | Bennett | Kalisik |
| 11/25 | Sandy | Morrison |
| 11/26 | Matti | Luhtala |
| 11/26 | Jeffrey | Wonderland |
| 11/27 | Diane | Hernandez |
| 11/27 | Rowan | Naus |
| 11/28 | Donald | Sheppard |
| 11/28 | Patricia | Sparesus |
| 11/28 | Rich | Yocius |
| 11/29 | Lochlan | Puccini |
| 11/30 | Karl | Nicholas |



November Anniversaries

11/04 Pelkonen, Helena & Paavo
 11/12 Koth, Kristine & Jeffrey



We thank the people who have memorialized these friends and loved ones for their generosity.

The following gifts were given in Memory of:

- ◆ Aira Puistulahti: Anne & Jukka Kohtala Family
Aulikki Clark Family
- ◆ Leonard E. Tolonen: Lucile Tolonen



If your name/s have not appeared in recognition of your birthday, wedding anniversary or a memorial gift, please contact the church office. We want to include all celebrations and memorials. 847-623-5135

Come as You Are, Whoever You Are

Everyone is welcome at St. Mark's, no matter what you have done, what has been done to you, what darkness or struggles you have faced, and regardless of whether you have been marginalized by society or denied involvement by other churches. All are worthy of God's love and grace. We celebrate diversity, and seek to be inclusive of every race, ethnicity, faith background, age, economic status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental ability, or anything else that divides us. Christ's church is not ours to control, nor is it our job to sort, divide, categorize or exclude. But it is our place to love all our neighbors, aid the less fortunate, and to be a voice on their behalf. Welcome!

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7

Notice, Upcoming key date reminders!

- ◆ Sunday 11/01— **10 AM** Parking Lot
Worship Service (social distancing required)
- ◆ Mon. 11/02 & Tue. 11/03—**church closed**,
Election set up and voting—Go VOTE !!
- ◆ Sunday 11/08—**10 AM** On Line Worship
- ◆ Wednesday 11/11—Veterans Day.
Say "Thanks" to a Veteran!
- ◆ Sunday 11/15—**10 AM** Parking Lot
Worship Service (social distancing required)
- ◆ Thursday 11/19 — **7 PM** Taize On Line
Worship Service
- ◆ Sunday 11/22 — **10 AM** On Line Worship
- ◆ Thursday 11/26—Happy Thanksgiving!
- ◆ Sunday 11/29—**10 AM** On Line Worship
- ◆ Sunday 11/29—**Noon to ??** Decorate the church
exterior.

Going forward, as long as the weather remains good, the intention is to conduct the 10 AM Parking Lot worship service's on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of the month. For questions, please call or email the church office or Minister Cranmer.

COOL FOOD PANTRY

FOOD OF THE MONTH:

TUNA



Life Line Screening –upcoming event

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at St Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church on **12/8/2020**. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129.

Please call toll-free 1-888-653-6441 or visit:
<http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle>
or text the word circle to 797979



Stephen Ministry

Happy Thanksgiving

Pray, Participate, and Provide

*After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. **Revelation 7:9***

May you be blessed this coming Thanksgiving season. Celebrating this Thanksgiving will certainly be different because of the corona virus. However, it's crucial that we take steps to keep one another safe. This is a time to reflect on all the gifts God has given us.

"Every moment is a new gift, over and over again, and if you miss the opportunity of this moment, another moment is given to us, and another moment. We can avail ourselves of this opportunity, or we can miss it, and if we avail ourselves of the opportunity, it is the key to happiness. Behold the master key to our happiness in our own hands. Moment by moment, we can be grateful for this gift...

When I was in Africa some years ago and then came back, I noticed water. In Africa where I was, I didn't have drinkable water. Every time I turned on the faucet, I was overwhelmed. Every time I clicked on the light, I was so grateful. It made me so happy. But after a while, this wears off. So I put little stickers on the light switch and on the water faucet, and every time I turned it on, water. So leave it up to your own imagination. You can find whatever works best for you, but you need stop signs in your life. And when you stop, then the next thing is to look. You look. You open your eyes. You open your ears. You open your nose. You open all your senses for this wonderful richness that is given to us. There is no end to it, and that is what life is all about, to enjoy, to enjoy what is given to us.

And then we can also open our hearts, our hearts for the opportunities, for the opportunities also to help others, to make others happy, because nothing makes us more happy than when all of us are happy...Stop, look, and then go, and really do something. And what we can do is whatever life offers to you in that present moment. Mostly it's the opportunity to enjoy, but sometimes it's something

more difficult. But whatever it is if we take this opportunity, we go with it, we are creative, those are the creative people. And that little stop, look, go, is such a potent seed that it can revolutionize our world."
--Brother David Steini-Rast



God's grace and peace be with you. May we, as Brother David suggests, enjoy what is given to us.

In Christ's love,



Jill Shepherd
Stephen Leader



Some upcoming events from our friends at Willow House

- **November 13th @ 10 am** –Isolation in 2020 - Willow House will be presenting on the impact of social isolation and how it is affecting people.
- **December 3rd @ 10 am** – Coping with the Holidays - Willow House will be presenting on how this holiday season may look different than other years, including our holiday traditions.

For further information, contact:

Kari M Pohar

Senior Care Coordinator II - Senior Services
kpohar@catholiccharities.net

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago
116 North Lincoln Avenue
Round Lake, IL 60073
Office: (847) 740-6708



October 6, 2020

Feeding the Hungry ~ Housing the Homeless

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
3350 N Delany Rd
Waukegan, IL 60087

800 West Glen Flora Avenue | Waukegan, Illinois 60085 | 847-662-1340

*"They asked only one thing, that we remember the poor."
- Galatians 2:10*

Dear Friends,

It is with sincere appreciation that we acknowledge your generous donation of \$90.00 for July/August 2020 contributions.

COOL is continuing to serve our visitors during this challenging time through our adapted client services. This effort has truly required us all to work together in new and innovative ways. The procedures we have established have allowed us to continue to serve the community without interruption. Your support is helping COOL fulfill its mission.

Thank you for your partnership in our ministry and helping COOL to Feed the Hungry and House the Homeless.

Warmest Regards,

Mindy Lindholm
Executive Director



During a cold and wet Parking lot worship service on Sunday 10-18-2020, St. Mark's was proud to recognize Pastor Dennis Kelly with the distinguished ParaClete award for his service and dedication to the ministry of St. Mark's. Pastor Kelly was the pivotal factor in assisting St. Mark's in transition from September 2018 until July 2020, and we are forever grateful for his assistance and guidance to this ministry. THANK YOU Pastor Dennis Kelly!

Paraclete Award

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

1 Corinthians 12:7



In recognition of his contributions as Transitional Minister of Word and Sacrament, this award is presented to Rev. Dennis H. Kelly for his service and contributions to St. Mark's as advocate, counselor, guide and Pastor inspiring our faith and leading us in trust.

October 18, 2020



Christmas Decorating—Outdoors !!

As most of you know, St. Mark's has had a glorious history of decorating our sanctuary in preparation for the Christmas holidays. Unfortunately, 2020



has been the year of Covid, and subsequent gathering restrictions, specifically indoor gatherings. As a result, St. Mark's is proposing to decorate "the outside" of the church building, to offer a unique Christmas Eve (Parking Lot) service option to our members, and the surrounding community.

While plans are still in the development stage at the time of this writing, and will be forthcoming via email and our Facebook / web page, the initial thought is to have a decorating gathering event on **Sunday November 29th**—beginning around noon. We

will be sending out information (photos) so that people can "adopt" a tree or bush to decorate, as a family. Stay tuned to further announcement as these plans evolve into a once in a lifetime opportunity for St. Mark's.



November — Mission of the Month

Pads of Lake County



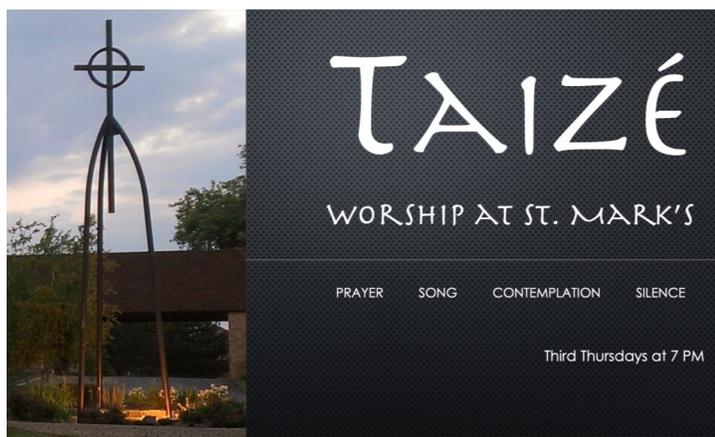
PADS Lake County is a community-based organization that provides trauma-informed support, resources, and shelter to individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis. We envision a community in which homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring; one in which anyone who may experience a housing crisis has timely access to the proper resources and services based on their individual needs.

We help individuals and families reach their full potential by providing a comprehensive approach to reducing homelessness. Our holistic services seek to help our neighbors create sturdy foundations in stable homes so that they can build brighter futures for themselves and contribute to our community.



Please join us on **November 1st** and **November 15th** for our "next" social distancing, outdoor, parking lot worship service(s), here at St. Mark's. You may bring lawn chairs to sit in the parking lot, or remain in your car and listen to the broadcast on 87.9 FM. If you would like to partake in communion, please bring bread, and drink to be blessed by Minister Colin. (No access to the building permitted.)

Join us on the "Third" Thursday of each month for our Taizé worship service, at 7 pm



Taizé is a style of quiet and contemplative prayer service. The service contains prayers both spoken and sung, scripture, and periods of silence. During the periods of silence, you may choose to pray, contemplate scripture, or simply clear your head of the distracting details of your busy life. The Taizé service is designed to help you draw nearer to the Holy Spirit - opening yourself to how the Spirit may be working in your life.

Luther and Lutheranism

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Martin Luther was eight years old when Christopher Columbus set sail from Europe and landed in the Western Hemisphere. Luther was a young monk and priest when Michaelangelo was painting the Sistine Chapel in Rome. A few years later, he was a junior faculty member at a new university in small-town Germany, intently studying the Scriptures, “captivated with an extraordinary ardor for understanding Paul in the Epistle to the Romans.”



In these days Luther was tormented by the demand for righteousness before God. “I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God.” Then, in the midst of that struggle with God, the message of the Scriptures became clear, like a long-shut door opening wide. When he realized that a “merciful God justifies us by faith ... I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates.”

What Luther discovered is the freedom of Christians trusting God’s mercy in Christ. As he later wrote, “Faith is God’s work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. This faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that believers would stake their lives on it a thousand times.”

This discovery set Luther’s life on a new course —both his own life and his public service as a preacher and teacher. When a church-endorsed sales team came to the Wittenberg area in October, 1517, Luther was concerned that the promotion and sale of indulgences undermined the promise of God’s unreserved mercy in Jesus and the faith that trusts that promise. His *95 Theses* or *Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences* became the first of a life-long stream of books, sermons, letters, essays, even hymns in which he expressed his confidence in this life-giving promise from God, the Gospel, and its liberating implications for all of life in church and society. [Reprinted from: <https://www.elca.org/Faith/ELCA-Teaching/Luther-and-Lutheranism>]



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.





Thank you Paul Durand for your years of service to the Church Council !

At the end of 2020, Paul Durand will have completed two consecutive — 3 year terms on the St. Mark's Church Council, most recent of which as Vice Chair. We at St. Mark's offer our sincere "Thanks" to Paul for his dedication to this ministry, and the past six years as a council member. Combined with "ALL" the other things Paul does for St. Mark's we are extremely grateful for his service... (So when you see him, please offer your "thanks"!)

Please welcome our new Council members starting in 2021



Loren Lundtveit

Wendy Dumont



Evelyn Fontana

Kathy Schild



Continued from Page 1—Minister Cranmer

We would love to see every tree and bush sparkling with lights, Christmas carols floating through the air, candlelight and luminaries, and frosty air. Who knows, maybe if we pray hard enough we can get a light dusting of snow. But I am so excited to make a beautiful Christmas experience together that we invite our friends and neighbors too, so they can experience an expansion of Christmas, not a lessening.

As Matthew 20:28 says "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." So we can use this as an opportunity to serve our community with hope, light, and peace for all mankind.

Editors Note—Reference page 6 for further decoration information.....

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---|--|---|-----|---|
| Nov 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Line & Parking Lot Daylight Saving Time ends 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 11am Sunday school 1pm Youth Ministry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church closed Election Set up | Election Day (General Election) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Line 7pm Sermon Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Line 6pm Worship & Arts | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Prayer Team |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Line (Only) 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 11am Sunday school 1pm Youth Ministry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Council - 7 pm Online | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Veterans Day 7pm Sermon Discussion | | | | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Line & Parking Lot 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 11am Sunday school 1pm Youth Ministry | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Line 7pm Sermon Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Line 7pm Taize Worship | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Line (Only) 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 11am Sunday school 1pm Youth Ministry | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Line 7pm Sermon Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Line Thanksgiving Day | | |
| 29 | 30 | Dec 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Line (Only) 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 11am Sunday school 1pm Youth Ministry | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Line 7pm Sermon Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Line 6pm Worship & Arts | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Prayer Team |



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St. Mark's Lutheran Church
3350 North Delany Rd.
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Phone 847-623-5135
Fax 847-623-5135 (Call First)
E-mail stmarkslutheran@gmail.com

Sunday's
Sunday School—Online
@ 11 AM

Confirmation—Online
@1:00 pm

Serving Us This Month

Lectors Sundays

Nov. 1st Ken Swanson
Nov. 8th Emily Waight
Nov. 15th Eric Aho
Nov. 22nd Genie Durand
Nov. 29th Paul Durand

During this time of Covid 19 suspended in person activities, please contact Minister Cranmer, or the church office for scheduling questions, or updates.

10 AM Sunday worship
Online, every Sunday



Special Parking Lot
Worship services on:
11/01 & 11/15

THE MESSENGER
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
3350 North Delany Rd.
Waukegan, IL. 60087-1343



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