

The Messenger

From The Desk Of Pastor Cranmer:

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue to navigate these uncertain times, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed and anxious about the future. But in the midst of all this uncertainty, I want to remind you that God is with us, and that we can trust in God's plan for our lives.



One of the things that I love about being a pastor is the opportunity to see God at work in the lives of the people of St. Mark's and those lives who are brought into our sphere for care. Time and time again, I have witnessed God's unexpected blessings in the midst of difficult circumstances. It is in these moments that I am reminded that God is not limited by our limited understanding of what is possible.

One of the passages of scripture that has always spoken to me on this topic is Psalm 46:10, which says, "Be still, and know that I am God." This verse reminds us that in the midst of our struggles and uncertainties, we can find peace and rest in God. It is a reminder to trust in God's plan and to wait for the blessings that God has in store for us, even when we cannot see them yet.

As we wait for God's blessings, it is important to remember that the journey is just as important as the destination. God is with us every step of the way, guiding us and shaping us into the people that God has called us to be.

So, if you are feeling overwhelmed or uncertain about the future, I encourage you to take a moment to be still and to trust in God's plan. Remember that God is with you, and that you are loved and valued by a God who is bigger than anything you could ever imagine.

Blessings,
Pastor Colin

3350 North Delany Rd
Waukegan, IL 60087



Our Staff

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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 !*

**JANUARY
FEBRUARY**



Happy January & February Birthdays!

“May God bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”
- 2 Corinthians 9:8



Happy January & February Anniversaries!

“So they are no longer two, but one flesh: Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”
- Matthew 19:6



COOL FOOD PANTRY - FOOD OF THE MONTH:

**January:
Peanut Butter**



**February:
Breakfast Items
(Cereal-Hot & Cold,
Muffin Mix
and Pancake Mix)**



2023 Offering Envelopes

The 2023 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex. If you would like your envelopes mailed, please call or email the church office. However, please note that there is a sizeable cost to do so.

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

January Calendar Reminders

Sunday, Jan. 1st	10 AM Worship Service
Monday, Jan. 2nd	7 PM Women of St. Mark's
Tuesday, Jan. 3rd	7 PM Reflections in the Spirit
Saturday, Jan. 8th	10 AM Worship Service
Monday, Jan. 9th	7 PM Church Council
Tuesday, Jan. 10th	12 PM Reflections of the Season
Friday, Jan. 13th	6 PM Gather Bible Study
Sunday, Jan. 15th	10 AM Worship Service
Monday, Jan. 15th	Yarns of Compassion
Sunday, Jan. 22nd	10 AM Worship Service Sunday Funday - White Elephant Bingo & Sandwich Potluck!!
Sunday, Jan. 29th	10 AM Worship Service

****Schedule Subject to Change****



February Calendar Reminders

Saturday, Feb. 4th	9 AM Prayer Ministry
Sunday, Feb. 5th	10 AM Worship Service
Monday, Feb. 6th	7 PM Women of St. Mark's
Tuesday, Feb. 7th	7 PM Reflections in the Spirit
Friday, Feb. 10th	6 PM Gather Bible Study
Saturday, Feb. 11th	5:30 PM Contemporary Worship
Sunday, Feb. 12th	10 AM Worship Service
Monday, Feb. 13th	7 PM Church Council
Tuesday, Feb. 14th	12 PM Reflections of the Season
Sunday, Feb. 19th	10 AM Worship Service
Monday, Feb. 20th	Yarns of Compassion
Saturday, Feb. 25th	9:30 AM Creation Walk
Sunday, Feb. 26th	10AM Worship Service

****Schedule Subject to Change****



If you have a 'Thank You Note' that you would like the congregation to be aware of please email to the church office prior the 15th of each month, in order to make the "next month's" publication.

memorials & gifts

St. Mark's would like to offer our sincerest thanks to the following members for their gifts in memory of family/friends:

Ken & Sandy Falkinham
in memory of Lisa Strange

Carol Bonnes
In memory of Gary Congdon



PLEASE NOTE

As a reminder, St. Mark's will be installing a smart lock (timed lock) on the East fellowship (basement) entry door most likely in 2023.

For safety reasons, the door will automatically lock at 10:15 am on Sunday's.

Therefore, if you are not upstairs - or, are late to church, please proceed to the main entrance upstairs. Thank you in advance for helping keep us all safe!



**Stephen Ministry
God's Grace for the New Year**

The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me. One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land. II Samuel 23: 3-4

Christmastide, commonly known as the Twelve Days of Christmas lasts 12 days, from December 24th to January 5th.

Following is a Christmas blessing and a poem for Lent by Sr Joyce Rupp OSM.

Christmas Blessing

May you give and receive love generously.
May this love echo in your heart like
the joy of church bells on a clear December day.

May each person who comes into your life
be greeted as another Christ.
May the honor given the Babe of Bethlehem
be that which you extend to every guest who enters
your presence.

May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul.
May it be a foundation of courage for you
when times of distress occupy your inner land.

May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children
be awakened within you.
May it lead you to renewed awareness and
appreciation of whatever you too easily take for
granted.

May the bonds of love for one another be
strengthened as you gather around the table of
festivity and nourishment.

May you keep your eye on the Star within you and
trust this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct
you each day

May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart
and visit the One who offers you peace.

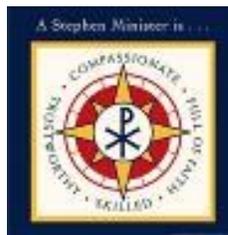
May you bring this peace into our world.

A Poem for Lent

The cosmos dreams in me
while I wait in stillness,
ready to lean a little further
into the heart of the Holy.
I, a little blip of life,
a wisp of unassuming love,
a quickly passing breeze,
come once more into Lent.
No need to sign me
with the black bleeding ash
of palms, fried and baked.
I know my humus place.
This Lent I will sail
on the graced wings of
desire,
yearning to go deeper
to the place where
I am one in the One.
Oh, may I go there soon,
in the same breath
that takes me to the stars
when the cosmos dreams in me.



An Epiphany Prayer: Keep us in that wisdom which you
revealed to the Wise Men. Grant us your Holy Spirit, that
we may always seek you and your kingdom. Enable us to
follow your holy Word, as those from the East followed the
leading of a star. Give us grace at all times and in all
places to confess your holy name. Amen.



God's love and
peace,
Jill Shepherd
Stephen Leader



December Mission of the Month: Debt Reduction / Stewardship



2023+



Happy New Year everyone.... I hope and pray this update finds all of you well and rested after a wonderful holiday season at St. Marks. While the lights are now off, and mostly taken down, the celebration is just beginning....

As you know we have "kicked off" our Stewardship drive for 2023 - and beyond. Thanks to some "VERY" kind end of the year "large" donations, we are off to an excellent start heading into 2023. I want to take this opportunity to "thank" those people who heard our message, understood and have faith in our mission, and are generous beyond words. Because of these kind people we are actually beginning 2023 at the "exact same" financial point we were at, at this time last year—and that's a huge victory (See below balance sheet comparison)..... From the bottom of my heart,,,, THANK YOU! You singlehandedly put us in the black for 2022.

We have also received a number of new / updated entry's for our Simply Giving program and I want to also thank those people for taking the time in being proactive on helping our cause as we roll into the new year.

That said, our work has only just begun.... In the near future a member of the Stewardship team will be reaching out to each of you. Our goal is to balance the annual budget without needing future large contributions at the end of the year, while allowing us to continue expanding the ministry of St. Marks. We are off to a very good start!

Should you have any questions relating to the Stewardship campaign, , please contact the church office, or any member of the Stewardship Team: Wayne Voss, Don Fontana, Al Dudleston, or Ken Falkinham, and we will gladly be willing to discuss this extremely important topic. Blessings to each of you on a safe and Happy New Year.... Wayne Voss (Council Chair)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church			
Balance Sheet			
As of December 31, 2022			
	Dec 31, 22	Dec 31, 21	
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
10000 · General fund - Gurnee Comm Bank	68,189.67	55,915.94	
10500 · Vision Fund- Gurnee Comm Bank	44,297.76	53,619.67	
10750 · Youth & Family - Gurnee Com Bnk	111.81	111.81	
11300 · WSM Checking Account	6,477.13	6,477.13	
Total Checking/Savings	119,076.37	116,124.55	
Other Current Assets	105,430.71	105,430.71	
Total Current Assets	224,507.08	221,555.26	
Fixed Assets	1,273,250.23	1,273,250.23	
TOTAL ASSETS	1,497,757.31	1,494,805.49	
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
	419,151.06	438,128.04	
Equity			
	1,078,606.25	1,056,677.45	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,497,757.31	1,494,805.49	



**Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the inside & outside of St. Mark's for our Christmas Season.
The sanctuary looked absolutely beautiful for our Christmas Worship Services.
The following individuals purchased poinsettias in memory - or, in honor of loved ones.**

- * Rosemary Beilke: In memory of Fred Beilke & In Honor of: Anna Paulson
 - * Jean Bogdala: In Memory of Richard Bogdala
 - * Carol Bonnes: In Honor of The Birth of our Lord
- * Linda Churchey: In Memory of Harry Churchey & Keith Dumont
- * Loren & Margaret Congdon: In Memory of Caleb Congdon, Rev. George & Shirley Jacobsen and Everett & Evangeline Congdon
 - * Alan & Ida Dudleston: In Honor of St. Mark's Members
 - * Wendy Dumont: In Memory of Keith Dumont
- * Jason & Rebecca Falkinham: In Memory of Brent K. Falkinham and Fred & Frida Reyes
- * Ken & Sandy Falkinham: In Loving Memory of our grandson Brent Kenneth. And, our Parents
 - * Kathy Haapanen: In Memory of loving husband Jerry. And, other family members
 - * Nancy Inskeep: In Memory of N. Dean Inskeep, Nathan Inskeep, Barb Green, and Jim Sparkman and Rob Sparkman
 - * Ardell and Kirsten Koch: In Memory of David and J. Steward Koch. And, parents
 - * Vicki Mattson: In Memory of my husband Bill Mattson
- * Bob & Helen Ostman: In Memory of parents & grandparents. And, In Honor of children & grandchildren
 - * Paavo & Helena Pelkonen: In Honor of All - Merry Christmas!!
 - * Joanie Ryan: In Memory of my dad, Richard Bogdala
 - * Ed & Arlene Spiegel: In Memory of Pat & Harry, deceased spouse's
- * Sandy & Shawn Stephenson: In Loving Memory of the Stephenson - Warner Families. And, Irene & Rolf Holzle of Switzerland
 - * The Striepling Family: In Memory of sister Mary Jane
 - * Lucille Tolonen: In Memory of Walter & Ruth Maki
- * Lucille Tolonen: In Memory of my husband, Leonard Tolonen, parents Gunard & Sophie Sjöholm. And, Edward & Eva Tolonen
 - * Wayne & Kim Voss: In Memory of Heinz & Erika Voss & In Honor of: Family & Friends

thank you



thank you

**Please join us on Wednesday nights from 7pm to 8pm for our Zoom discussion group.
Come be encouraged by hearing about God's work in each other's lives!**

January Mission of the Month - COOL Ministries

<http://coolministries.org/>

The mission of COOL Ministries is to give comprehensive assistance to families in need, by reducing hunger and homelessness while encouraging personal growth and self-sufficiency. COOL Food Pantry assists veterans each month not only with food but also each veteran family receives a large box loaded with soaps, paper goods, toiletries and more!
Toiletry items for Veterans in need are accepted daily whenever the pantries are open!

**Feed the
Hungry....**



**...Shelter the
Homeless**

February Mission of the Month - Souper Bowl of Caring

<https://tacklehunger.org/>

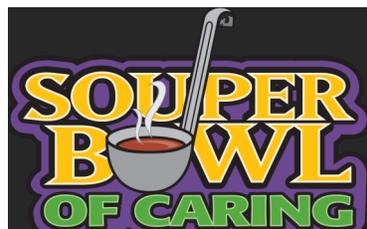
The Soup-er Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group.
"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

For over 30 years, the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has been inspiring people across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities.

Why not harness the energy and enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football, food and fun, to unite the nation for a higher good?

We believe:

- The idea for "Souper" Bowl of Caring is a gift from God
- Young people have the ability to serve and should be given opportunities to lead their communities in helping others
- Every dollar collected through Souper Bowl of Caring should be donated directly to a charity selected by each participating group
- People of all backgrounds and beliefs can work together
- Hunger and poverty have a negative impact on individuals and the communities in which they live, yet there is joy in serving and giving to those in need
- The excitement and energy surrounding the Super Bowl can be used to engage young people in service while producing lasting hope for all people.





Does God want me to be happy?

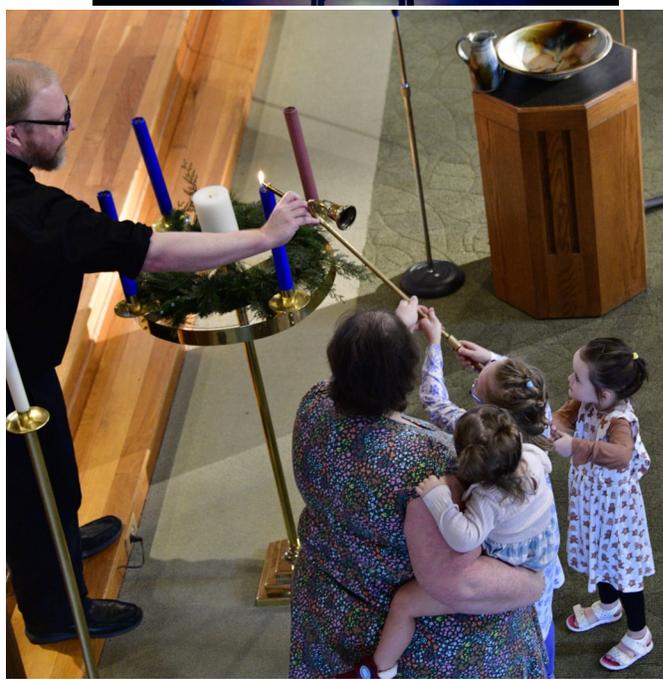
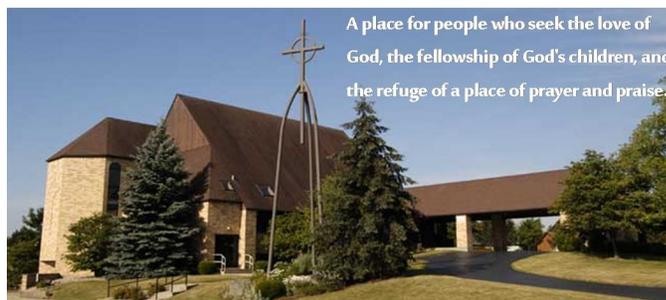
We invite you to join us for a sermon series on Biblical Happiness. This series will explore the joys and blessings that come from living a life of faith and connection to God. We will look at the teachings of Jesus, the Psalms, and other passages of Scripture to discover how God desires us to experience true and lasting happiness. We hope you will join us for this inspiring and uplifting series.

Sunday mornings 10am St. Mark's Lutheran Church 3350 N. Delany Rd. - Waukegan, IL
<https://www.stmarkslutheran.us/>



Because church is like a family reunion.

"The Bible says that we are brothers and sisters in Christ and part of the family of God (Ephesians 2:19; 3:14-15).



Congratulations on your First Communion

Elijah Davis Chand
Adessa Wren Cranmer



DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

And having taken bread, he gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is being given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In like manner he took also the cup after the supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which shall be shed for you." (Luke 22:19-20)

Sunday Funday - January 22nd, 2023

Join us after worship for our White Elephant Bingo * Sandwich Potluck!

Bring whatever weird stuff you spot at the thrift store – or have on your shelves.

Wrap it up and bring it to the White Elephant Bingo.

Sign up sheets are available on our website & in the narthex.

Please let us know what you are bringing.

(sandwich bread, deli meat, cheese, lettuce, condiments, chips, etc.)

Feel free to bring an additional dish to pass.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 AM Carols Worship In Sanctuary Online also 11am - Youth Ministry	2 7pm - WSM	3 7pm - Reflections/Spirit	4 On Line 7pm - Sermon Disc.	5 On Line 7pm - Worsh. & Arts	6	7 9 am Prayer Team
<h1>JANUARY</h1>						
8 10 AM Worship In Sanctuary Online also 11am - Youth Ministry	9 7pm - Church Council	10 12pm - Reflections/Seasons	11 On Line 7pm - Sermon Disc.	12	13 6pm - Gather Bible Study	14 5:30pm - No Contemporary
15 10 AM Worship In Sanctuary Online also 11am - Youth Ministry	16 7pm - Yarns for Compassion	17	18 On Line 7pm - Sermon Disc.	19	20	21
22 10 AM Worship In Sanctuary Online also 11am - Youth Ministry	23	24	25 On Line 7pm - Sermon Disc.	26	27	28
29 10 AM Worship In Sanctuary Online also 11am - Youth Ministry	30	31	1 On Line 7pm - Sermon Disc.	2 On Line 7pm - Worsh. & Arts	3	4 9 am Prayer Team

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10 AM Worship In Sanctuary Online also 11am - Youth Ministry	30	31	1 On Line 7pm - Sermon Disc.	2 On Line 7pm - Worsh. & Arts	3	4 9 am Prayer Team
<h1>FEBRUARY</h1>						
5 10 AM Worship In Sanctuary Online also 11am - Youth Ministry	6 7pm - WSM	7 7pm - Reflections/Spirit	8 On Line 7pm - Sermon Disc.	9	10 6pm - Gather Bible Study	11 5:30pm - Contemporary Worship
12 10 AM Worship In Sanctuary Online also 11am - Youth Ministry	13 7pm - Church Council	14 12pm - Reflections/Seasons	15 On Line 7pm - Sermon Disc.	16	17	18
19 10 AM Worship In Sanctuary Online also 11am - Youth Ministry	20 7pm - Yarns for Compassion	21	22 On Line 7pm - Sermon Disc.	23	24	25 9:30am - Creation Walk
26 10 AM Worship In Sanctuary Online also 11am - Youth Ministry	27 Dan's birthday	28	1	2	3	4

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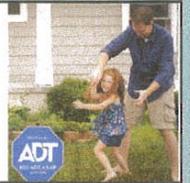
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Serving Us This Month

January & February Readers

Jan. 1 Paul Durand
Jan. 8 Jill Shepherd
Jan. 15 Rosemary Beilke
Jan. 22 Al & Ida Dudleston
Jan. 29 Genie Durand

Feb. 5 Bridgette Otterbacher
Feb. 12 Mike Ryan
Feb. 19 Dean & Shannon Stelter
Feb. 26 Grace Brikha



THE M ESSENGER
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
3350 North Delany Rd.
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