# The Messenger

#### From The Desk of Pastor Cranmer:

Dear wonderful congregation of St. Mark's,

I hope this message finds you well, and that you're excited to embark on the journey of Lent with me. As we prepare for this season, I wanted to take a moment to share some thoughts on how we can make the most of this time of contemplation and growth. The liturgical calendar is a lovely tool that helps us make sure we are



taking time for all the emotions and experiences we feel in a lifetime, things like joy and anticipation at Christmas and Advent, but also the realities of life, existence, even sadness, loss, and self-consideration. The Lenten season and much of Holy Week is focused on these things, before Easter flips the switch back to another high point of celebration.

Lent is a time to intentionally focus on our relationship with God and our relationship with others. It's a time to look inward and identify areas in our lives where we need to grow and improve. We can think about it like spring cleaning to ready ourselves for the return of joy at Easter. It's also a time to look outward and to consider how we can be a blessing to those around us.

One way to do this is by engaging in acts of service and kindness. Whether it's volunteering at a local food bank, visiting someone who is sick, or simply taking the time to listen to a friend who is going through a tough time, there are countless ways to show love and kindness to others. By doing so, we not only bless those around us, but we also draw closer to God and become more like the person He has called us to be. We engage in the lifelong work of sanctification, where we grow our holiness over time and on purpose.

Another way to make the most of Lent is by practicing spiritual disciplines like prayer, (safe) fasting, and meditation. By setting aside time each day to connect with God, we create space for Him to speak to us and guide us on our journey. Whether it's through reading the Bible, spending time in silence, or engaging in other spiritual practices, there are many ways to deepen our relationship with God and grow in our faith. Many people choose to abstain from something at Lenten time. In recent years, people have taken up different interpretations of this like abstaining from overscheduling, complaining, or even social media.

Finally, I would encourage all of us to take time to reflect on the ways in which we can become more Christlike. None of us are perfect, and we all have areas in our lives where we need to grow and improve, myself included! But with God's help, we can become the people He has called us to be. I would invite you to try something new in your spiritual journey this Lent--a new devotional, a new small group (Wednesdays at 7 on Zoom is great if you haven't tried it), or a new spiritual practice. As Ash Wednesday reminds us, our time here is limited; we might as well explore the myriad of ways to connect with God while we can.

As we embark on this journey of Lent together, let's commit to supporting one another, praying for one another, and holding each other accountable as we seek to grow in our faith and in our love for others.

Peace and blessings to you all,

Pastor Colin

#### 3350 North Delany Rd Waukegan, II. 60087





#### Our Staff

Pastor Colin Cranmer

Victoriya Berezhna Organist

Eric Aho
Director of Musical Ensembles

Jill Shepherd Stephen Ministry 847-989-1919

Joanie Ryan Office Manager

Ken Swanson Facebook Page

Cody Ammons *Webpage Master* 

Wayne Voss Council Chair

#### **Contacts:**

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stmarkslutheran@gmail.com **Website:** stmarkslutheran.us

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!





**Happy March & April Birthdays!** 

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"



#### **Happy March & April Anniversaries!**

"Let all that you do be done in love."

1 Corinthians 16:14



#### **COOL FOOD PANTRY - FOOD OF THE MONTH:**

March: Canned Tuna



April:
Juice or Powdered Milk





#### **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

#### **March Calendar Reminders**



Wednesday, Mar. 1st 6 PM Lenten Soup Supper

7 PM Holden Prayers Service

Saturday, Mar. 4th 9 AM Prayer Ministry Sunday, Mar. 5th 10 AM Worship Service

**Spring Congregational Meeting** 

Monday, Mar. 6th 7 PM Women of St. Mark's Tuesday, Mar. 7th 7 PM Reflections in the Spirit Friday, Mar. 10th 6 PM Gather Bible Study Sunday, Mar. 12th 10 AM Worship Service

**Daylight Saving Time Starts -**

Spring Ahead

7 PM Church Council Monday, Mar. 13th

Tuesday, Mar. 14th 12 PM Reflections of the Season Saturday, Mar. 18th

1 PM Easter Egg Packing Sunday, Mar. 19th 10 AM Worship Service

**Guest Speaker - Pastor Kyle** Monday, Mar. 20th 7 PM Yarns of Compassion

Saturday, Mar. 25th 9:30 AM Creation Walk Sunday, Mar. 26th 10 AM Worship Service

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

#### **April Calendar Reminders**



Saturday, Apr. 1st Sunday, Apr. 2nd

Monday, Apr. 3rd Tuesday, Apr. 4th

Thursday, Apr. 6th Friday, Apr. 7th Sunday, Apr. 9th Monday, Apr. 10th

Tuesday, Apr. 11th Friday, Apr. 14th Sunday, Apr. 16th Monday, Apr. 17th Saturday, Apr. 22nd

Sunday, Apr. 23rd Sunday, Apr. 30th 9 AM Prayer Ministry

10 AM Palm Sunday Service 11:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt

7 PM Women of St. Mark's

7 PM Reflections in the Spirit

**Election Day Maundy Thursday Good Friday** 

10 AM Easter Sunday Worship

7 PM Church Council

12 PM Reflections of the Season

6 PM Gather Bible Study 10 AM Worship Service Yarns of Compassion

Earth Day!!

10 AM Worship Service **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.

#### **Lenten Soup Supper & Holden Evening Prayers** Wednesday, March 1st

Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 pm Holden Evening Prayers 7:00 pm

Join us for homemade soup and fellowship anytime after 6:00 pm with a short Holden Evening Prayer service at 7:00 pm to follow in our sanctuary.





#### **Spring Congregational Meeting** Sunday, March 5th

If you have not done so in the past year, please fill out a communion Registration card, next time you are at church. This card, along with a contribution of record, will allow you to vote at our upcoming congregational meeting on Sunday, March 5th. Completed cards can be left in the offering plate, or in the donation box located outside the sanctuary wall in the Narthex.



God has welcomed me into the body of Christ. I trust in Jesus Christ as my Savior. I confess my sin and my need for God's grace; I desire to live a new life in Christ; I believe that Christ is truly present in this Sacrament with gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. I declare my desire to come to the Lord's Table

#### COMMUNION REGISTRATION

Name		
Address		
Date		
(If you are a member of	of another congregation	on, you may write or

the back of this card your church's name and location.)

Augsburg Fortress, Made in U.S.A. ISBN 0-8066-1444-7, Code 23-1580

#### Stephen Ministry Seeing Hope through a Different Lens

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
And in his word I hope;
my soul waits for Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
Psalm 130:5-6

Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way.
--Native American proverb

Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations from the ELCA Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries

"The Lutheran witness of the gospel with American Indian and Alaska Native people has a history of more than 350 years. The Lutheran witness was seen among the Cherokee as they walked the infamous trail of tears and continues all the way to the Northern shores of Alaska's Inupiat Eskimo people. The ELCA's American Indian and Alaska Native membership is around 4,850. The American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries works closely with 30 native congregations around the country and is working to open new faith communities as well.

Relationships with American Indians and Alaska Natives in the ELCA are firmly grounded in reconciliation and the mutual building up of the saints people of all backgrounds, tribes, regions, communities, congregations and unique needs. Together, we work with

a common vision to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, share in the ministry of word and sacrament, participate in God's work of reconciliation in the world and creation,



seek justice for all people and celebrate diversity within Christ's unifying love. In our shared work, we strive to nurture and uphold the dignity of American Indian and Alaska Native people, their congregations and communities, and the church."

We are blessed with opportunities to learn from other cultures, particularly the Native American. The Native Americans live in harmony with the human and the natural world. Their traditions and experiences teach us how to find strength, peace and emotional wellness.

I have been reading a wonderful book, Ladder to the Light, An Indigenous Elder's Meditations on Hope and

Courage. The author, Steven Charleston, a Choctaw elder and Episcopal priest "offers words of hard-won hope, rooted in daily conversations with the Spirit and steeped in Indigenous wisdom."

Following is an inspiring excerpt from Ladder to the Light.

Chapter 3 The Rung of Hope

...In 1831, the world came to an end for my family-and for all the families that were part of the Choctaw Nation. That year we were forced off our ancestral homeland and made to walk on a death march we called the Trail of Tears.

Thousands of our people died. We lost our homes, our way of life, even our graveyards. We lost everything.

Everything, that is, except the one thing they could not take from us: hope. Hope kept us climbing toward the light, even though the world seemed to be filled with nothing but darkness.

Third on the ladder is the rung of hope, because hope is

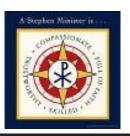
what emerges when you mix faith with blessing. I am not talking about wishful thinking. I am not talking about miracles. I am talking about hope as a tool to create light, a spark that can suddenly illuminate the gloom that creeps into our lives. The reason we have faith as the tinder and blessing as the spark is so we can



have hope—the first flame of light in darkness.

#### Sanctuary

In these troubled times, I know a place where fear and uncertainty cannot come, where confidence and hope still shine brightly, where there is room for every person of every condition to gather in safety and strength. That place is in my heart. The princes of power who strut their moment upon the stage may rail against the others—the many others—they seek to shun from the embrace of freedom. But in my heart is sanctuary for each forgotten soul. No truth will be swept away, no justice lost, no mercy gone ungiven, for I keep them all here in my heart. There they secure until once more they are released to join what I know in your heart as well: an outpouring of love, a fulfillment of the prophecy you already read in these few simple words.



God's peace be with you, Jill Shepherd Stephen Leader



#### St. Mark's Easter Egg Hunt 2023 Sunday, April 2nd at 11:30 AM

You and your kiddos are invited to our 2nd annual Easter Egg Hunt!!

There will be over 4,000 Easter eggs
all over our church grounds!
They'll be filled with candy, toys and even some golden
eggs good for even bigger prizes.

There will be multiple Easter egg hunts based on age so everyone can have some fun.

(0-5 years old; 6-9 years old; 10-12 years old)

We will also have an egg toss & pictures with the Easter Bunny himself.

#### This is a free event, but please bring your own basket!

If you would like to help out, please stop by on Saturday, March 18th @ 1 PM for Egg Packing. Or, Sunday, April 2nd @ 9 AM for Setup.



## You Are Invited To World Day of Prayer 2023

"I Have Heard About Your Faith"

Prepared by the WDP Committee of Taiwan and the World Day of Prayer USA Committee Church Women United In Illinois 2023 World Day of Prayer Hands On Mission Projects

March 3, 2023 10AM CST

- \* Make No-Sew Blankets to donate to a nursing home
- \* Pack Period Packs: Menstrual Hygiene Kits to donate to Church World Service

In many parts of the world, women and girls live in period poverty lacking access to necessary feminine care supplies

In-Person and on Zoom - Zoom Meeting ID: 914-793-0165; Dial-in Number: 312-626-6799 Woodlawn African Methodist Episcopal Church 6456 South Evans Avenue Chicago, IL 60637



#### In anticipation of Easter:

Easter is associated with the rebirth of nature as well. Living things like plants sprout and grow. They flourish and bloom. Each year St. Mark's attempts to give the feeling of new life and hope with the "Easter Garden" that is created at the altar with live potted spring plants. Take a moment to order a plant to be used in the display and which can be taken home after the worship service on Easter Sunday.

## Order forms will be available in the Narthex or online and are due by Thursday, Mar. 23rd.

Please include your name, the type of flower, the quantity, in memory or in honor of a loved one, and place the completed order forms in the offering.

Please make checks payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church.



St. Mark's would like to offer our sincerest thanks to Nancy Inskeep and Paavo & Helena Pelkonen for their gifts in honor of:

Helen Binning's Birthday





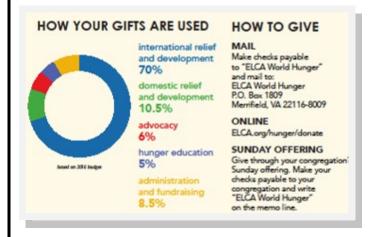
Sunday, March 12th Daylight Saving Time Begins.
Spring ahead...

#### March Mission of the Month — ELCA World Hunger

ELCA World Hunger has been working to address hunger and poverty through education, advocacy, relief and development for 42 years. From microloans to health clinics, water wells to animal husbandry, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that get at the root causes of hunger. And they don't stop there. We engage Lutherans in advocacy and hunger education to act and speak in ways that can make a difference. Through this comprehensive approach, we address hunger from all angles, locally and around the world.

We rely on your gifts. ELCA World Hunger is funded solely by gifts from ELCA members and congregations like yours. More than 90 cents of each dollar you give to ELCA World Hunger goes to directly support programmatic work, with less than 10 cents of every dollar used for program administration and fundraising.

Thank you for making this work possible through learning, action, prayer and giving.





#### **April Mission of the Month - Debt Reduction / Simply Giving**

For those of us who call St. Mark's home or for anyone who would like to support the work and care that we do here, we would love for you to be able to tithe as a way of giving back a portion of what God gives us in worship.

One of the ways of giving is a regular withdrawal set up through Simply Giving. This is easiest if you are a long time member who would like a tax statement at the end of the year.

#### What is Simply Giving<sup>®</sup>?

It's an easier, simpler way to make your regular contributions to St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church through automated giving.

#### An Easy, Generous Choice

The Simply Giving® program is designed to help you conveniently, consistently and joyfully give financial gifts to our congregation's ministry.

By participating in the program, you can use electronic funds transfer to give your weekly, semi-monthly or monthly offering.

#### You Can Make a Difference

Let the Simply Giving® program help you build better stewardship by turning a simple choice into an easy, generous response.

Thank you for the support you provide to St. Mark's.





#### **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!

## 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







1800 Grand Avenue Waukegan, IL 60085

847.689.4357 info@padslakecounty.org

February 10, 2023



Dear St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

**Thank you** so much for your recent gift to PADS Lake County. During this time of great uncertainty, we have been comforted, encouraged, and humbled by the outpouring of generosity and support from community members like you. **Today, I'm writing to thank you for the gift of \$75.00 on 02/08/2023 to help ensure that all of our neighbors have the sturdy foundations and stable homes so that they can have a brighter futures for themselves and their families.** 

Here at PADS, our services have had to adjust to meet the ever-changing needs brought on by COVID-19, but our purpose remains the same: to make sure that no individual or family in our community ever goes without a warm place to sleep, food to eat, or the resources and programs they need to get back on their feet when facing a housing crisis.

Your generous donation of \$75.00 will go a long way in helping this mission continue. Thank you for helping us meet the challenges of this moment, so we can continue to provide the highest level of care and support for the clients we serve.

If you want to know more about our work, find new ways to get involved, or just keep up with events within the PADS Community, please visit our website at padslakecounty.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

Please accept my warmest and most sincere thank you for making our work possible. We truly could not do it without you.

That you, St. Marks!

With deep gratitude,

Eric Foote

Interim Executive Director

Dear Friends.

January 24, 2023

It is with sincere gratitude that we acknowledge your generous donation of \$345.00 to COOL for September Mission of the Month. Your kindness is appreciated by all our staff and volunteers, and more importantly by our neighbors in need who receive services from COOL Ministries.

The current economic climate is impacting the many people who come to us for assistance. As the cost of food and housing has risen, COOL has seen a steadily rising increase in the number of pantry visitors each month and in applications for our family housing program. The rising costs also affect our budget, and it is through the generosity of our donors that we can continue our mission to give comprehensive assistance to families in need.

COOL is committed to identifying and adapting to the ever-changing needs of our community, and our staff works very hard to continue providing the highest level of services to those who come to us seeking assistance.

On behalf of all of us at COOL and those we serve, we are grateful for your help and support in carrying out you mission of service to the community. Your willingness to answer our call for help is truly a blessing to this ministry,



Feeding the Hungry — Housing the Homeless
800 West Glen Flora Avenue
Waukegan, Illinois 60085

847-662-1340

Warmest Regards

Mindy Lundhelm, E.D.

Mindy Lindholm

Dear Pastor Cranmer and Congregation Members,

February 1, 2023

On behalf of the staff, directors on our board and the thousands of individuals who receive assistance every month at COOL, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for helping COOL Ministries during the calendar year ending December 2022. Your contributions truly make a difference and are appreciated.

With your help in 2022 we were able to provide food for 58,581 individuals and 17,724 families for a total of over 700,000 meals. The food pantry also collected and distributed boxes of toiletries and extras to an average of 85 veterans each month through our Veterans Program. Additionally, the COOL Family Housing Program provided shelter and services to 16 families (19 adults and 30 children) who had been homeless.

COOL Ministries has been blessed with generous and hardworking supporters for all our almost forty years as an organization. The invaluable work of our volunteers and support of our donors is crucial to the services we provide to the community, especially during times of such uncertainty. Many of our neighbors are facing increasing difficulties with making ends meet in today's inflated economy. With the cost of just about every commodity and service rising substantially those on a fixed income are affected the most and that is exactly who COOL serves; people on a fixed budget such as the elderly, the disabled, the homeless and anyone struggling to get by.

In the calendar year 2022, your contribution to COOL was \$1,854.00 and 367 pounds of food and with it you have our heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support of COOL Ministries through your contributions. Because of your support we can offer encouragement and hope to those who turn to us in their time of need.

Thank you for helping the hungry and homeless men, women, and children of Lake County. Your support for our mission is a true blessing to this ministry.

thank you!

Chicagoland Prison Outreach

Thank you for your contribution to Chicagoland Prison Outreach. Your tax-deductible gift enables us to touch the lives of forgotten inmates and their families with the transforming power of God's word and spirit.

"... I was in prison and you visited me." 01/24/2023 \$ 25.00

St. Marks Lutheran Church 3350 N Delany Rd Waukegan, IL 60087-1343

No goods or services have been received in exchange for this donation.

Corey Buchanan Executive Director



1001 E. Touhy Avenue, Suite 50 Des Plaines, Illinois 60018 LSSI.org PHONE 847.635.4600 FAX 847.635.6764

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller

Dear Partner in Ministry:

February 2023

Thanks to your collective generosity, you helped LSSI provide services—and hope—to over 42,000 children, adults, and seniors in Illinois last year. That's one in every 297 people in our state!

Through the efforts of employees, clients, donors, and volunteers, we accomplish our mission and goals—together! Each gift to LSSI truly represents your congregation's commitment to helping our neighbors across Illinois. We were able to serve so many people through the combined generosity of nearly 5,000 gifts from 1,911 individual donors and support from 138 congregations of varying denominations.

Together we've done so much to provide critical services to help people, whether it's providing housing for 1,589 seniors and adults with developmental disabilities or loving foster homes for 2,747 children. Through your heartfelt generosity, LSSI was there for those who needed us, like the 13,907 people who received critical mental health services or the 2,574 people we treated for substance use disorders.

The enclosed 2022 Impact Statement provides a brief summary of our work. I invite you to learn more about the people whose lives have been changed by your congregation's generosity at our recently redesigned website, LSSI.org, and our Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn accounts. Additionally, I appreciate hearing your feedback about our ministry and invite you to reach out to me by phone at 847.635.4671 or email at David.Novak@LSSI.org.

Simply put, together we help others. I like the words of our client Greg, a resident of LSSI's Healthy Start Recovery Home West, who is paying your generosity forward. He said, "People helped me. I am very grateful that I can help others."

Together your congregation helps LSSI achieve its goal of caring for the whole person by promoting dignity, enhancing health and well-being, and helping people reach their full potential. Thank you for your continued prayers and ongoing support of LSSI's work.

Peace and prayers,

David P. Novak, JD Vice President for Advancement







## \_\_\_thankyou\_\_

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

#### In Memory of Gary Congdon:

Bob & Helen Ostman Bridgette Otterbacher (Foundations For The Future) Paavo & Helena Pelkonen Ann Roberts (Foundations For The Future)

#### In Memory of Bob Harmon:

Arnold Aho
Carol Bonnes
Al & Ida Dudleston
Ken & Sandy Falkinham
Lise Myllymaki
Bob & Helen Ostman
Bridgette Otterbacher
Paavo & Helena Pelkonen
Ann Roberts
Kurt & Kathy Schild
Jill Shepherd
Sandra Stephenson
Lucille Tolonen

#### In Memory of Ritva Illi:

Arnold Aho
Al & Ida Dudleston
Bob & Helen Ostman
Paavo & Helena Pelkonen

#### In Memory of Betty Tentes:

Arnold Aho Helen Binning Carol Bonnes Al & Ida Dudleston Diane Florio Sara Griffin Kirsten Koch Lise Myllymaki Bob & Helen Ostman Bridgette Otterbacher (Foundations For The Future) Paavo & Helena Pelkonen Ann Roberts Kurt & Kathy Schild Jill Shepherd Sandra Stephenson Lucille Tolonen

#### In Memory of Bertha Saari:

Arnold Aho
Carol Bonnes
Al & Ida Dudleston
Hintsa Cousins; Lynn, Beth, Sheila
Nancy Inskeep
Bob & Helen Ostman
Bridgette Otterbacher
Jill Shepherd
Lucille Tolonen
Kathleen Vogelsang
(forwarded a contribution received in memory of her sister, Bertha)







God has blessed me with many St. Mark's friends. I want to say...

Thanks for singing Happy Birthday to me after church service, and the table down in Fellowship Hall was set with lots of goodies to eat and a beautiful birthday cake that was so delicious, and the many cards and gifts.

My daughter Karen and her husband Karl were also there from Aurora, Illinois to help me celebrate.

I could not have been made happier than all that was done for me by all of you on my

94th birthday. Thanks again!

God's Blessings to you, Helen Binning





"People You Know and Trust"

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Phone 847-623-5135 Fax 847-623-5135 (Call First) E-mail: stmarkslutheran@gmail.com

#### Serving Us This Month March & April Readers

Mar. 5	Rosemary Bielke
Mar. 12	Jill Shepherd
Mar. 19	Paul Durand
Mar. 26	Dave Striepling

Apr. 2	Mike Ryan

Apr. 9	Dean & Shannon Stelter
Anr 16	Ken Swanson

Apr. 16	Ken Swansor
Apr. 23	Ann Roberts
Apr. 30	Jill Shepherd



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

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