

The Messenger

From The Desk of Pastor Cranmer:

As the world outside paints itself in hues of amber, gold, and crimson, I am reminded of the beauty in transitions, the promise in every season, and the unchanging love of our Lord that sees us through every change. The shift from the vibrant summer to the contemplative fall is not just a change in weather; it's a spiritual invitation.



The Bible beautifully illustrates life's seasons. Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us, "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." Just as nature embraces change, so must we open our hearts to the lessons and opportunities each season brings. This fall, I encourage every member of our St. Mark's family to lean into this new season with renewed energy and commitment to church engagement.

Over the summer, many of us took well-deserved breaks, ventured out on vacations, or simply relaxed in the sunny embrace of our gardens. Now, as the days become shorter and the air crisper, it's the perfect moment to rekindle our bond with the church community.

We have planned a plethora of engaging events, community outreach programs, and bible study sessions to kick off this fall season. It's not just about attending; it's about immersing ourselves in the teachings, the community, and the divine love that binds us all together.

Let this fall be a reminder to us all:

To offer a listening ear or a comforting word, just as the trees silently bear witness to the world's transitions.

To share the warmth of our hearts, akin to the snug blankets and hot cocoa that become staples in this weather.

And to embrace change with grace, knowing that our faith remains steadfast, just like our Lord's love for us.

In this season of reflection and gratitude, I urge you all to participate more actively, be it through Sunday sermons, bible studies, or community services. Let's unite in faith, hope, and love.

Lastly, always remember that you are cherished, valued, and a significant part of this beautiful community we've built together at St. Mark's.

With warm wishes for a blessed autumn,

Pastor Colin.



**3350 North Delany Rd
Waukegan, IL 60087**



Our Staff

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Organist**

**Eric Aho
Director of Musical Ensembles**

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**Joanie Ryan
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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 !*





Happy September & October Birthdays!
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15



Happy September & October Anniversaries!
Therefore what God has joined together, let no one
separate. Mark 10:9

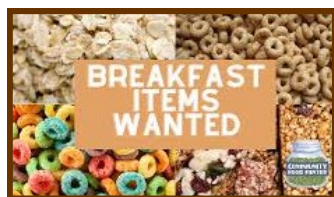


COOL FOOD PANTRY - FOOD OF THE MONTH:

**September:
Canned Fruit**



**October:
Breakfast Items**



Thank you

6/28/23

Dearest Church family,
On behalf of Warren Cemetery
and our staff we'd like to thank you
for the flowers you shared with us.
We were able to bless a family with
them, because of you!

Sincerely, Cheri Atkins
(funeral director)

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!

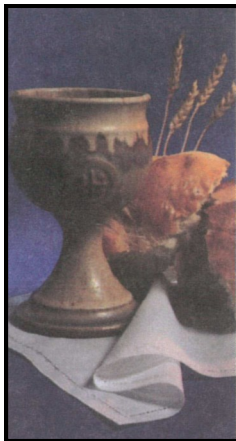
"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7

September Calendar Reminders

Saturday, Sept 2nd 9 AM Prayer Ministry
 Sunday, Sept. 3rd 10 AM Worship Service
 Monday, Sept. 4th Labor Day
 WSM TBA
 Tuesday, Sept. 5th 7 PM Reflections in the Spirit
 Saturday, Sept. 9th Tentative Litter Pick Up
 Sunday, Sept. 10th 10 AM Worship Service
 Stepping Stone Sunday!!
 Monday, Sept. 11th 7 PM Church Council
 Tuesday, Sept. 12th 12 PM Reflections of the Season
 Friday, Sept. 15th 7 PM Gather Bible Study
 Please note date & time change
 Saturday, Sept. 16th WSM Parking Lot Yard Sale 9 AM - 4 PM
 In the event of rain, the event will be held in the Fellowship Hall
 Sunday, Sept. 17th 10 AM Worship Service
 Monday, Sept. 18th 7 PM Yarns of Compassion
 Sunday, Sept. 24th 10 AM Worship Service
 Saturday, Sept. 30th Tentative Creation Walk

****Schedule Subject to Change******October Calendar Reminders**

Sunday, Oct. 1st Blessing of the Animals
 10 AM Worship Service
 Monday, Oct. 2nd 7 PM Women of St. Mark's
 Tuesday, Oct. 3rd 7 PM Reflections in the Spirit
 Saturday, Oct. 7th 9 AM Prayer Ministry
 Sunday, Oct. 8th 10 AM Worship Service
 Monday, Oct. 9th 7 PM Church Council
 Tuesday, Oct. 10th 12 PM Reflections of the Season
 Friday, Oct. 13th 7 PM Gather Bible Study
 Sunday, Oct. 15th 10 AM Worship Service
 Blessing of the Finnish Bible
 Monday, Oct. 16th 7 PM Yarns of Compassion
 Sunday, Oct. 22nd 10 AM Worship Service
 11 AM Trunk or Treat!!
 Saturday, Oct. 28th Tentative Creation Walk
 Sunday, Oct. 29th 10 AM Worship Service
 Tuesday, Oct. 31st Happy Halloween!

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

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 another congregation, you may write on the back of this card your church's name and location.)

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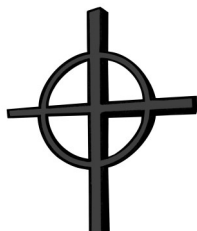
If you have not done so in the past year, please fill out a communion registration card, next time you are at church. This card, along with a contribution of record, will allow you to vote at our upcoming congregational meeting, on Sunday, November 5th.

Completed cards can be left in the offering plate, or in the donation box located outside the sanctuary wall in the Narthex.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Because church is like a family reunion.

"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

Romans 15:7

Stephen Ministry Wonder

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them? Psalm 8:2-4*

A Finger Pointing to the Moon

The Sufi tell of disciples who, when the death of their master was clearly imminent, became totally bereft. "If you leave us, Master," they pleaded, "how will we know what to do?" And the master relied, "I am nothing but a finger pointing at the moon. Perhaps when I am gone you will see the moon." The meaning is clear: It is God that religion must be about, not itself. When religion makes itself God, it ceases to be religion.



But when religion becomes the bridge that leads to God, it stretches us to live to the limits of human possibility. It requires us to be everything we can possibly be: kind, generous, honest, loving, compassionate, just. It defines the standards of the human condition. It sets the parameters within which we direct our institutions. It provides the basis for the ethics that guide our human relationships. It sets out to enable us to be fully human, human beings. Clearly, religion is much more than dogmatism. And thank God for that, because dogmatism would not take religion very far at all.

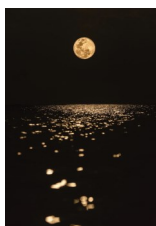
- Sr Joan Chittister, *Called to Question*

God's creation fills our hearts with wonder...

Reflections on the question, "What moments fill me with wonder?"

I'm always filled with wonder when I look up at the moon and realize that the same moon is seen by all human beings no matter where they live on this planet and the same sun that creates its reflective light rises and warms us all. Such a strong reminder that what Carl Sagan called the Pale Blue Dot is our home and we should be nourishing not destroying it or each other. The song, 'Let There Be Peace On Earth' comes to mind

- Carol



It is impossible for me to see the moon and not rejoice in its beauty. I am so grateful that we have a moon that sails through the dark night skies, never the same, always changing, but always an ethereal beauty that makes me pause to inhale joy. What a treasure it is, and what a gift to the life of the planet, as the seas roll in and out from the shore with its irresistible pull, like lungs

breathing for the planet. Would life have emerged from the birthing seas without the oceanic dance with the moon?

This time of year in the north is the time of harvest, a time of gathering the fruits of the season's labors and celebrating by sharing food and warmth and community. In the US and Canada, we have Thanksgiving—a traditional time set aside to gather together and share a feast. In other countries' traditions, there are Harvest Festivals of various kinds with similar intent. Having a special time set aside to honor and to give thanks for the abundance in our lives and for gifts given is important. In my family, it was a treasured time for the scattered uncles, aunts, and cousins to come together in the joy of just being together, sharing food, playing soccer, and laughing a lot. It was a celebration of joy and love and was always looked forward to. I can't say enough about how important it was to us all.



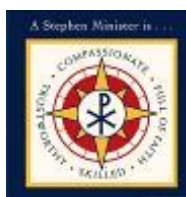
But gratefulness is an everyday state of being, an attitude of heart intentionally and mindfully open to the beauty of the world and the gifts of the sacred. Gratefulness, for life, for a body that breathes and feels, for the joy of being in a world that is so rich with beauty and vitality, is a whole-body experience. Even during pain, we can be surprised by joy and a flood of gratefulness that fills the heart to overflowing. And it is that overflowing that offers the blessing that Brother David speaks of, casting its light all around the world, joining with other lights in their blessings, for no other reason than simply because that is what we are made for as human beings. In this overflow, the whole is gifted.

I watch the moon shrink back to disappearance and rejoice again in its thin sliver of beauty, giving the stars more stage for their light to shine. This also is part of the breath of my heart's joy — the distant twinkling beauty of the stars! And the dance goes on, the fullness of that bright full moon night light will again illuminate the dark skies... and again...and again... *from Julia Spangler*

In 1903 when John Muir was sixty-five, he was asked by President Theodore Roosevelt, to guide T.R. personally through Yosemite. Muir made him a bed of criss-crossed evergreen boughs.

"It was clear weather, and we lay in the open." Roosevelt noted, "the enormous cinnamon-colored trunks rising above us like columns of a vaster and more beautiful cathedral that was ever conceived by a human architect."

In 1906 Theodore Roosevelt signed into law Yosemite National Park.



May you see the love of God
all around you,

Jill Shepherd
Stephen Leader



To the beautiful souls behind Yarns of Compassion,

My words can't begin to describe how your loving gift touched my heart.

As I held the absolutely beautiful shawl close to me, I was overwhelmed with the love & compassion I felt as I read your card.

Although my mother is no longer here to wrap her arms around me, wrapping up in my warm shawl I can feel her arms around me just as I feel surrounded by God's love through people like you at St. Mark's.

Thank you with all my heart.

So grateful,

Jodi Adams



Thank You
Yarns of Compassion
"Kindness with Every Stitch
Created for you
with love and prayers."



Feeding the Hungry ~ Housing the Homeless

800 West Glen Flora Avenue

Waukegan, Illinois 60085

847-662-1340

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

July 20, 2023

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

Dear COOL Supporter,

It is with sincere appreciation that we thank you for your support of the 19th Annual COOL Golf Outing by your donation of \$125.00 for a tee sponsorship.

We are pleased to report that this event raised over \$17,000 to benefit the COOL Food Pantry and Transitional Housing programs. Fundraisers and donations are integral to our mission of Feeding the Hungry and Housing the Homeless and it is through the generosity of our supporters that we can achieve this.

Last year the COOL Food Pantry provided food to 58,500 individuals and 17,724 families for a total of over 702,000 meals. The food pantry also collected and distributed boxes of toiletries to over 110 veterans each month. Additionally, the COOL Family Housing Program provided shelter and services to 15 families (16 adults and 22 children) who had been homeless.

On behalf of all those who will benefit from the proceeds of this event, we are grateful for your support of COOL and those that we serve. We look forward to the opportunity of partnering with you again next year.

Sincerely,

Mindy Lindholm, E.D.

Mindy Lindholm
Executive Director



September Mission of the Month:

COOL Ministries

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.

We are serving the community Monday-Friday 10-2.

Appointments are no longer needed, walk ups will be served.

COOL Ministries Veterans Assistance program has continually grown over the last couple of years and is now serving over 130 active duty military & Veteran families each and every month!



COOL Central Offices

800 W. Glen Flora Ave.
Waukegan IL 60085
Phone: 847.662.1340
Fax: 847-662-1255

Family Housing Program

800 W. Glen Flora Avenue
Waukegan IL 60085
call 847.662-1340

Pantry East Waukegan

800 W. Glen Flora Avenue
Waukegan IL 60085
847.662.1230

October Mission of the Month:

Social Justice - Prison Ministry

"I was in prison and you came to visit me." - Matthew 25:36

Sharing the Love of Christ

Chicagoland Prison Outreach exists to bring the love of Christ to currently or previously incarcerated men and women and their families throughout the Chicagoland region. We work with individuals in Cook County Jail, Cook County Sheriff's Boot Camp, and various Illinois state prisons, and our own Career Center in Roseland – through in-prison, post-prison and outreach programs. To provide support and guidance to these hurting people, we provide a range of Christian worship services, discipleship classes, individual counseling, vocational training and job preparation services.

Our in-prison programs include a discipleship program, where CPO staff and volunteers connect in a meaningful way with inmates in Jail to facilitate developing a Christ-like character through the practical application of God's Word. Once inmates have been released, we follow up through our Post Prison Ministry. We provide mentoring, assistance in connecting with the body of Christ, vocational training, and character building. We offer outreach programs: Outreach Christian School,

Angels of Hope ministry and Women of Hope.



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!



PLEASE NOTE

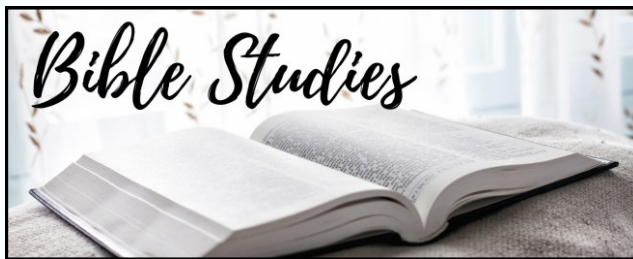
St. Mark's has installed a smart lock (timed lock) on the East fellowship (basement) entry door.

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!

Celebrating Pastor Colin's June Birthday



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.

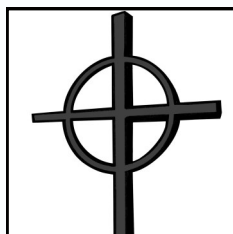


Bible Studies

Welcome back everyone!!

**The following groups
all resume in September!**

**Reflections in the Spirit,
Reflections in the Season,
& Gather Bible Study Study**



*St. Mark's would like to offer
our sincerest thanks to the following individuals
for their gifts in memory of family & friends.*

In Memory of Bill Klass

Judy Solomon

In Memory of Carolyn Poole

Ann Roberts

*"There are special people in our lives who never
leave us, even after they are gone."*

thank you

Yarns of Compassion

Join us the 3rd Monday of each month (Jan. thru Nov.) from 7 - 8 PM at St. Mark's.

Feel free to join them as they continue to do God's work with their hands.

New members (of all skill levels & age groups) are always welcome!

If you don't know how to knit or crochet, they will be glad to teach you.

Thanks so much Yarns of Compassion for everything and specially those words on the card. You have no idea how much they help me in this very moment. They came to me exactly in the moment when I more needed and change my way of feeling at this moment. May God Bless you and continue using your kind heart to comfort and show the love of God to who need it. Like me in this moment in of my life. I live it, and will remember those marvelous words. Patricia Sparesus



*Thank you for
thinking of our babies
here at Vista. The
families appreciate the
blanket.
Vista New Family
Center*

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl. It is very kind of you & the Yarns group to think of me. I love the colors & pattern. Please extend my thanks to the group. Hopefully I'll be back to where I can rejoin the Creation Walks in September or October.

Thanks!

Ken

The Prayer Shawl that was given to me is simply beautiful. I have admired them but it was never in my thoughts that I would, some day, have one. Thank you ever so much.

I really liked the explanation of the yarn colors...very cleverly written.

Again Thank you!

In love and friendship,

Helen Benning



6-17-23
*Yarns of Compassion,
Thank you so very much for
the beautiful car seat blanket &
hat.
We appreciate your thoughtfulness.
Amelia loves its warmth.
Sincerely,
David, Jessica & Amelia*

Yarns of Compassion Thank You Notes



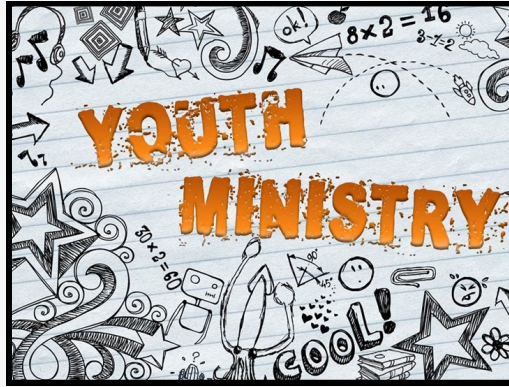
*"Kindness with Every Stitch
Created for you
with love and prayers."*



Student Ministry and Children's Ministry Update:

Please head over to our St. Mark's website to register for Student Ministry or Children's Ministry. The web page link will take you to a registration form that helps us plan for the year. By signing up you will get updates for the ministry year.

Stepping Stones Sunday - September 10th @ 10 AM.



Youth Ministry - Sunday September 10th @ 11 AM.

Each week we will play games, have a short lesson, do small groups, and in general, be goofballs together. There will also be other in-person events like bonfires, corn mazes, and sledding.

Please register for this if your student is in 6th grade - high school.

<https://www.stmarkslutheran.us/childrens-ministry-sign-up.html>

Sunday School - Sunday, September 10th



Each week, your child will receive optional activities like coloring pages or easy crafts that can help forward their exploration of faith and bible stories. These will all align with the main message of "the big church" to facilitate easy family discussions.

There will also be times for your child to meet with friends, play games, talk about the week's bible story, and be silly together.

Please register for Sunday school if your child is between 0 - fifth grade.

<https://www.stmarkslutheran.us/childrens-ministry-sign-up.html>

Please contact Pastor Cranmer at the church office 847-623-5135.

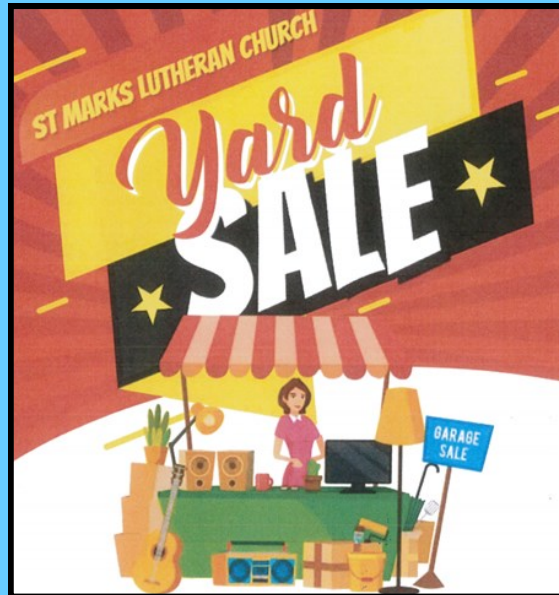
Or, Jenny Theis at 224-538-8499 - jrdoxie2@gmail.com

Women of St. Mark's Parking Lot Yard Sale

Saturday, September 16th 2023 - 9AM – 4PM

In the event of rain, the yard sale will be held in the Fellowship Hall

**Household Items
Tableware
Electronics
Jewelry
Games & Books**



**Tools
Purses
Children's Clothes - Toys
Homemade Jams
Collectibles**

**Please support the WSM by signing up!
All proceeds to benefit St. Mark's Stewardship, Foundations for the Future
& Women of St. Mark's Missions.
Contact Bridgette Otterbacher to sign up**

Please Join Us for St. Mark's 2nd Annual Parking Lot Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 22nd 2023 - 11 AM - 1 PM

A sign up sheet to decorate cars and hand out candy will be available soon!!






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"**Church** is not something you go to,
it's a **family** you belong to."



September / October 2023

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

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

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church
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