

The Messenger

From The Desk Of Pastor Cranmer:

Title: Embracing Renewal and Fresh Starts:
A Journey Toward Lent



Dear Members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

As we wave goodbye to the old year and usher in the new, we find ourselves in a season of profound renewal and fresh starts. This January-February, as the frosty windows slowly give way to the first whispers of spring, our spiritual journey mirrors this natural transition, reminding us of the rejuvenating power of faith.

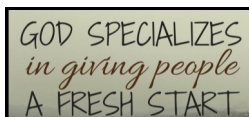
****The Rhythm of Renewal****

In nature, winter is a time of rest and preparation. Trees shed their leaves, animals hibernate, and the earth quietly readies itself for the burst of life that spring brings. Similarly, in our spiritual lives, this time can be an opportunity for introspection and renewal. As we witness the days gradually lengthening, we are reminded of the light of Christ, ever-present, bringing warmth and hope even in the coldest times.



****Fresh Starts and Forgiveness****

The New Year is traditionally a time for setting resolutions, a symbol of our desire for growth and improvement. In our spiritual walk, this translates to a renewed commitment to our faith, our community, and to the teachings of Christ. It is a time for letting go of past mistakes, embracing forgiveness, and looking forward with hope. As we prepare for the Lenten season, this sense of starting anew becomes even more poignant.



****Lent: A Season of Reflection****

As the days inch closer to Lent, we are invited to engage in deeper reflection and contemplation. Lent, a period marked by prayer, penance, and fasting, is an opportunity to realign our lives with our spiritual goals. It's a journey that echoes the transition from winter to spring, a passage from introspection and preparation to the blossoming of faith and renewal.



****Our Community's Role****

In this season of renewal, let's remember the strength we draw from our community at St. Mark's. Our shared worship, our fellowship, and our collective service are the bedrocks upon which we build our spiritual growth. As we move together toward Lent, let us support and uplift each other, sharing in the joys



Continued on Page 2



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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

Our Staff

Pastor Colin Cranmer

Victoriya Berezchna
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:

Phone: 847-623-5135

Fax: 847-623-5135 (Call First)

E-mail:

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 !*

***Welcome
January & February***

and challenges of our faith journey.

****In Closing****

As we embrace this season of renewal, let us carry with us the words of Isaiah 43:19, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." May this promise of new beginnings and God's unfailing presence guide us as we journey through these months and into the heart of Lent.



With blessings and hope for a rejuvenating season,

Colin Cranmer
Pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Continued from page 1

Pastor Colin Cranmer

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



2024 Offering Envelopes

The 2024 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.

COOL FOOD PANTRY FOOD OF THE MONTH:

**January:
Peanut Butter**



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



January Calendar Reminders

Tuesday, Jan. 2nd	7 PM Reflections in the Spirit
Saturday, Jan. 6th	9 AM Prayer Ministry
Sunday, Jan. 7th	10 AM Worship Service
Monday, Jan. 8th	7 PM Church Council
Friday, Jan. 12th	7 PM Gather Bible Study
Sunday, Jan. 14th	10 AM Worship Service
Monday, Jan. 15th	Yarns of Compassion
Sunday, Jan. 21st	10 AM Worship Service
Sunday, Jan. 28th	10 AM Worship Service

February Calendar Reminders

Saturday, Feb. 3rd	9 AM Prayer Ministry
Sunday, Feb. 4th	10 AM Worship Service 11 AM St. Brigid's Day Sunday Funday Breakfast & Candle-making event. Souper Bowl of Caring
Monday, Feb. 5th	7 PM Women of St. Mark's
Tuesday, Feb. 6th	7 PM Reflections in the Spirit
Wednesday, Feb 7th	5:30 PM Youth & Family Bowling Event @ Bertrand Lane
Friday, Feb. 9th	7 PM Gather Bible Study
Sunday, Feb. 11th	10 AM Worship Service Souper Bowl of Caring Girl Scout Troop 413 Cookie Sale
Monday, Feb. 12th	7 PM Church Council
Tuesday, Feb. 13th	12 PM Reflections of the Season
Wednesday, Feb 14th	6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Holden Evening Prayer Service
Sunday, Feb. 18th	10 AM Worship Service Girl Scout Troop 45505 Cookie Sale
Monday, Feb. 19th	Yarns of Compassion
Sunday, Feb. 25th	10AM Worship Service 11:30 AM New Member Class

Weekly

Zoom Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Colin
Wednesday Nights @ 7 PM (email for link)
Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting
Friday Nights @ 7 PM in the fellowship hall.

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

St. Mark's Pasty Sale!!

Shipped directly from The Pasty Corner
located in the U.P.

Regular Pasty, Rutabaga Pasty, Pizza Pasty
Each Pasty is \$9

Orders can be placed through Sunday, Feb. 11th.

Please use the link below to place your order
no later than Feb. 11th -
Or, refer to the order forms located in the narthex.

www.stmarkslutheran.us/pasty-sign-up.html

Pasty orders are available for pick up
from St. Mark's on Sunday, Mar. 3rd

Please make checks payable to St. Mark's.
If paying with cash, the exact amount is appreciated
as we won't have change.



PASTY (PASS-tee)

While the history of the pasty dates back to the 17th and 18th century, the legacy of Northern Michigan-style pasties leads directly to Cornwall, England. In the face of economic downturns and the collapse of the tin mining industry in the 1800s, immigrants from Cornwall found refuge in the mining towns of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. With plenty of jobs for those that had a strong work ethic, the new Americans brought their families and cherished pasty tradition to a brand new world. The pasty was a hearty, hand held complete meal for the miners and truly a slice of "home away from home" for many. Long after many of the mines in the Upper Peninsula were closed down, the recipe of the pasty has been handed down from generation to generation. The traditional pasty still calls for a hand-crimped, folded over dough featuring a mixture of meat, potatoes, rutabaga and/or carrots, and seasoning wrapped in a crust and baked.

Stephen Ministry

From dust to dust you have come,
and to dust you will return.

*By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken;
you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

Genesis 3:19

"Lent is from the Anglo-Saxon word meaning 'springtime' and so is understood as the holy springtime of the soul, a time for preparation, planting and growth." *Manual of the Liturgy—Lutheran Book of Worship*, Philip H. Pfatteicher, Carlos R. Messerli

Ash Wednesday, on February 14, a holy day that is a reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God. It is the beginning of the Lenten season, a preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Lent is the focus of our church year; 40 days of reflection, repentance and spiritual growth.

On Ash Wednesday ashes are placed on the forehead of the worshiper in the shape of the cross. The ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.



Following is a brief history of the ritual of the "Blessing of Ashes" from *Manual on the Liturgy*, *Lutheran Book of Worship*.

Lent is derived from the preparation of candidates for Baptism. By the middle of the fourth century at Jerusalem, candidates fasted forty days. The length of the fast was suggested from several references in the Bible: Jesus' fast at the beginning of his ministry; Moses' stay on Sinai; the 40 years of wandering in the desert; Elijah's fast on his way to the mountain of God.

After Christianity became legalized in 313, the period of preparation for Baptism became a general period of all Christians for Easter. The length of the fast was 36 days. In sixth-century Rome four days were added to

bring it to the Biblical number of 40 days, and by the end of the seventh or the beginning of the eighth century, the 40-day Lent had become general in the West.

Ash Wednesday was originally a day for expulsion of penitents from the church, the beginning of a time of temporary excommunication. In the fourth century those undergoing church discipline had to endure several stages of excommunication and reinstatement: *weepers*, who stood outside the church door asking the prayers of those who went in; *hearers*, who were allowed in the narthex, *kneelers*, who were required to kneel with the standing congregation; *standers*, who stood with the congregation but had to leave before the Communion. *Several years might be spent in each of the stages.*

As early as the third century Tertullian mentions ashes as an external sign of penitence. (Tertullian was a prolific Christian writer and possibly the first writer in Latin known to use the term "trinity.") In the ninth century the imposition of ashes together with the seven penitential psalms were added to the rite of expulsion of penitents from church during Lent, and the day became known as **Ash Wednesday**. By the eleventh century, the discipline of public penitence had largely disappeared and Lent was accepted by the *entire church* as a time to receive ashes and undergo penitence.

The spirit of Ash Wednesday is most solemn, close to that of the Jewish Day of Atonement—**Yom Kippur**, the holiest day of the Jewish New Year—offering a chance for people to change their fate through prayer, repentance, and charity.

Tradition has it that Yom Kippur originated with the prophet Moses, when the Israelites began worshipping the golden calf.



The suggested color of Ash Wednesday is black, the color of ashes and desolation. The service, while somber, is not intended to be maudlin. Lent is a time related to spiritual restoration and moral growth. "Lent is from the Anglo-Saxon word meaning 'springtime' and so is understood as the holy springtime of the soul,

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a time for preparation, planting and growth." *Manual of the Liturgy—Lutheran Book of Worship*, Philip H. Pfatteicher, Carlos R. Messerli

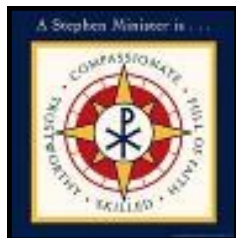
Ashes are an extraordinarily rich symbol rooted in ancient customs and practices. Ashes, in a Jewish and Christian context suggest judgment and God's condemnation of sin, our total dependence on God for life, humiliation, and repentance.



Additionally, ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. February, it should be noted is named for Februarius, a feast of purification and cleansing among the Romans. Ashes were once used as a cleansing agent in the absence of soap, and on Ash Wednesday the ashes have sometimes been understood as a penitential substitute for water as a sign of Baptism. Water both stifles and refreshes, drowns and makes alive; so the ashes also tell of death and renewal. A further example of death and renewal by ashes is the ancient custom of burning the fields in the spring to destroy the old and prepare the new.

Join us on February 14th to begin the Lenten season, to prepare for the celebration of Christ's Cross and Resurrection!

Happy Easter and Love
Jill Shepherd
Stephen Leader



Continued from page 4
Jill Shepherd

St. Mark's would like to offer our sincerest thanks to Carol Bonnes for her gift in honor of Jean Norkus' birthday.

Happy Birthday Jean!



** Also, artwork on this card is by a Greenwood Elementary School student.*



Hi Pastor Colin,
I wanted you to be aware of a donation from Joyce Meyer, principal at Greenwood School where my daughter teaches in Waukegan. Ms. Meyer made the donation in honor of my husband Glenn who helped with fund raising by playing Santa at the school's pancake breakfast. She also acknowledged the Yarns of Compassion donating hats & scarves to the students at the school. I know you want to increase the outreach of St. Mark's in the community. This is a good example. Happy New Yr. Mar Smith
Dec. 31, 2023

St. Mark's would like to offer our sincerest thanks to Joyce Meyer for her donation.

Thanks to the Yarns of Compassion for donating hats & scarves to the students at Greenwood Elementary!



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



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."

12/19/2023

\$ 30.00

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


Corey Buchanan
Executive Director

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

REMINDER

As a reminder, St. Mark's 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!



Who will you invite?

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).



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 Eve Worship Service.

The following individuals purchased poinsettias in memory - or, in honor of loved ones.

Rosemary Beilke - In memory of Fred Beilke & Anna Paulson.

Jean Bogdala - In loving memory of Richard Bogdala.

Carol Bonnes - In honor of The Birth of our Lord & Savior.

*Loren & Margaret Congdon - In memory of Rev. George & Shirley Jacobsen,
Everett & Evangeline Congdon, Caleb Congdon, & Gary Congdon.*

Linda Dietz - In memory of Ed Dietz and Tim Dietz.

Paul & Genie Durand - In memory of our departed loved ones.

*Jason & Rebecca Falkinham - In memory of Brent K. Falkinham.
And, Fred & Frida Reyes.*

Amy Fontana - In honor of our church family.

*Kathy Haapanen - In loving Memory of my husband Jerry.
And, other departed loved ones.*

Ardell Koch - In memory of J. Steward and Dave Koch.

Sister Charlotte & nieces Helen and Paula Marqui - In loving memory of Betty Tentes.

*Bob & Helen Ostman - In memory of Gib & Sharon Ostman.
And, In honor Addison Greenwood.*

Paavo & Helena Pelkonen - In honor of our St. Mark's Family - Merry Christmas!!

Steve Riedl - In memory of sister, Heidi Wallace.

*Joanie Ryan - In loving memory of my dad, Richard Bogdala.
Happy Heavenly Christmas PaPa.*

Dean & Shannon Stelter - In memory of Dale Stelter. And, in honor of the Stelter Family.

Sandra, Shawn & the Stephenson Family - In loving memory of our dear family & friends.

Karen Thorstenson - In loving memory of my parents.

*Lucille Tolonen - In memory of Walter & Ruth Maki, my husband Leonard.
And, our parents Gunard & Sophie Sjöholm and Edward & Eva Tolonen.*

Milton Urbates & Family - In memory of our loved ones.

Wayne & Kim Voss - In memory of Heinz & Erika Voss. And, John Michels.

*Muzi Kitandu Waight - In honor of my parents John and Mary Kitandu,
my Sister Pendo Kitandu. And, my Grandmother Elizabeth Msua. Love you! From your Children*

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.





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

Ruth Wuorenma

In memory of Hilikka Ahola

Lise' Myllymaki

In memory of Vesa Ahola

*Paul & Genie Durand, Lise' Myllymaki,
Bridgette Otterbacher, Ann Roberts,
Kurt & Kathy Schild, Jill Shepherd,
and Mae Smith*

In memory of Beth Brennan

Ruth Wuorenma

In memory of Helen Hart

Ruth Wuorenma

In memory of Dorothy Helin

Ruth Wuorenma

In memory of Sulo and Helvi Wuoren

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.



ORPHANS OF THE STORM[®]

animal shelter

January 6, 2024

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

Dear St Marks Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Orphans of the Storm, I would like to thank you for your recent donation of \$125.00 on January 2, 2024.

This generous gift will help us provide the best medical and physical care possible for all the animals who come through our doors, nurture them back to health, and place them into loving homes.

Every year there are thousands of dogs and cats who continue to need us, so your continued support is truly appreciated.

Please visit our website to further learn about our mission or visit us at the shelter to see your donation at work!

Sincerely,

Sandy De Lisle

Sandy De Lisle

December 21 2023

St. Marks Evangelical Lutheran
3350 N. Delany Rd.
Waukegan IL 60087-



Dear Mr. Colin Cranmer

Merry "season of preparation" as we celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus! Thank you for your financial gifts, funding the ministries of our partner churches. This essential support provides opportunities for our churches to relieve the physical needs of our neighbors, while sharing the love of Christ.

And our neighbors feel the love! Recently, one young mother sent a thank you card: "Thank you so much for all that you do! I am truly grateful for all of the hard work you and your team put in to help furnish my home for my son and I!" This card had hearts drawn all over it - her own personal touch shared with us!

Thank you. We can never tell you that too much!! By working together, we are transforming lives and communities, In the Name of Christ (INC, get it?!).

In His Name,

Gary Garland
Gary Garland
Executive Director

*Happy New Year Colin +
Thank you to the St. Mark's
family for your prayer
& generosity!*

P.S. How can we pray for you? Our staff and volunteers gather for prayer each morning and would count it a blessing to lift up your petitions and praises too. Let us know at www.loveinlakecounty.org/prayer

January 11, 2024

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



Feeding the Hungry ~ Housing the Homeless

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

"Whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all."
- Galatians 6:10

Dear Friends,

It is with sincere appreciation that we thank St. Mark's Church for supporting the COOL Ministries Food Pantry 2023 Annual Sundries for Vets drive with a donation of 80 pounds of vet items.

We are honored to be able to serve the veterans who visit our pantry and to provide Veterans with boxes of toiletries and necessity items that they need. We assist over 100 veterans with toiletries each month.

These donations help us to continue our mission to give assistance to these veterans. We are proud of their service and sacrifice and in these difficult economic times, we are especially grateful to our donors who make it possible for us to provide these veteran boxes.

Warmest Regards,

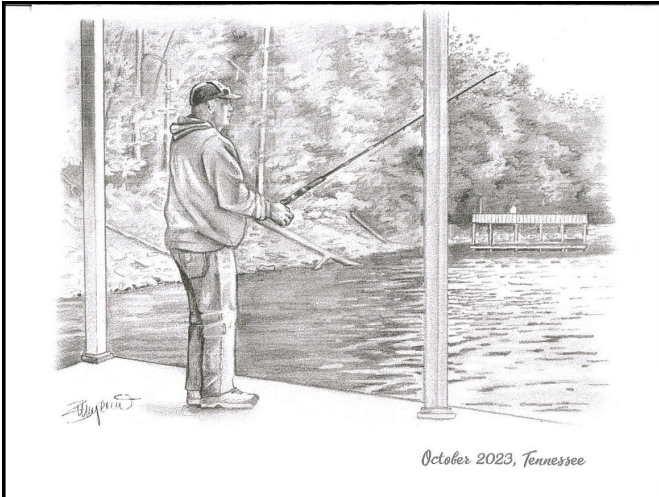
Mindy Lindholm, E.D.

Mindy Lindholm
Executive Director

Thank You!!!!

...whoever
is kind to
the needy
honors
God.

Proverbs 14:31



Yarns of Compassion -

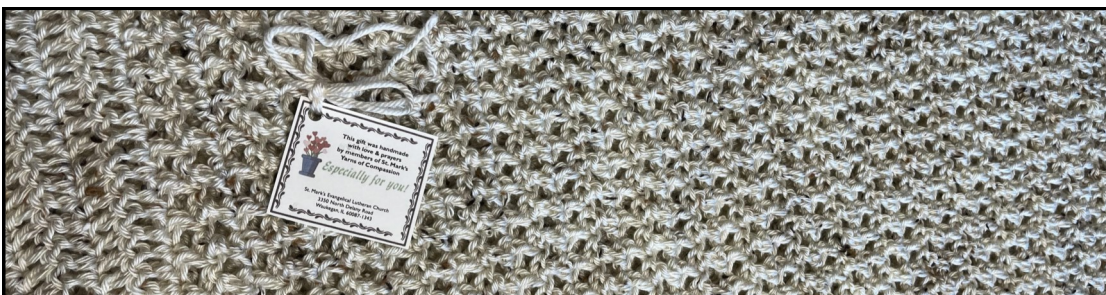
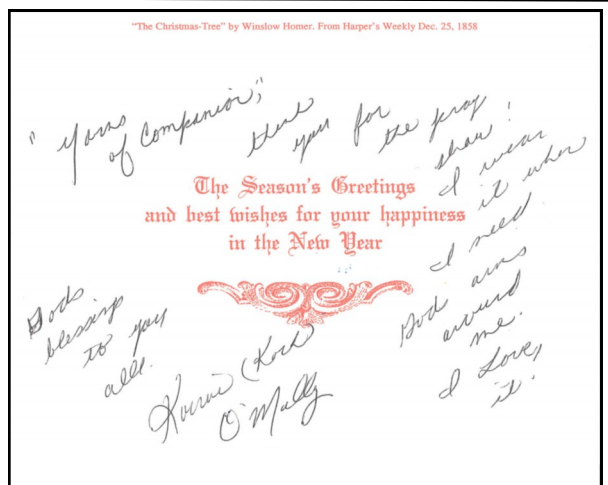
Thank you so much for the beautiful Prayer Shawl.
It was and still is a comfort to wrap myself in it.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.
Donna Serzynski

Thank you for your prayers, kind words, hugs,
sharing your memories of Pat, making us laugh
and holding us when we cried.
Your thoughtfulness will not be forgotten.



YARNS OF C O M P A S S I O N





**St. Mark's Cookie Decorating Party
Sprinkling joy and laughter together!!**



Financials

January thru December 2023

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

	Dec 31, 23	Dec 31, 22
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
10000 · General fund - Gurnee Comm Bank	11,502.55	64,995.99
10500 · Vision Fund- Gurnee Comm Bank	34,998.27	44,297.76
10750 · Youth & Family - Gurnee Com Bnk	111.81	111.81
11300 · WSM Checking Account	6,228.30	6,477.13
Total Checking/Savings	52,840.93	115,882.69
Other Current Assets		
14000 · Investments		
14400 · Investments		
14401 · Unrealized Income (Losses)	14,850.62	14,850.62
14400 · Investments - Other	95,490.26	95,490.26
Total 14400 · Investments	110,340.88	110,340.88
14000 · Investments - Other	5,898.03	0.00
Total 14000 · Investments	116,238.91	110,340.88
Total Other Current Assets	116,238.91	110,340.88
Total Current Assets	169,079.84	226,223.57
Fixed Assets		
15000 · Building, Furniture, Equipment	1,273,250.23	1,273,250.23
Total Fixed Assets	1,273,250.23	1,273,250.23
TOTAL ASSETS	1,442,330.07	1,499,473.80
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
24000 · Payroll Liabilities		
24100 · Federal Payroll Tax	-216.77	1,397.24
24200 · State Payroll Taxes - IL	1,670.53	420.55
24000 · Payroll Liabilities - Other	787.08	0.00
Total 24000 · Payroll Liabilities	2,240.84	1,817.79
Total Other Current Liabilities	2,240.84	1,817.79
Total Current Liabilities	2,240.84	1,817.79
Long Term Liabilities		
22000 · Lib B&T Promissory Note	416,678.80	427,917.41
Total Long Term Liabilities	416,678.80	427,917.41
Total Liabilities	418,919.64	429,735.20
Equity		
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	1,069,738.60	1,055,477.18
Net Income	-46,328.17	14,261.42
Total Equity	1,023,410.43	1,069,738.60
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,442,330.07	1,499,473.80



If you are presently not using Simply Giving, but are a consistent contributor to St. Mark's you may want to consider the Simply Giving option.

Simply Giving allows you to donate via credit card or direct withdrawal from checking or savings which allows for better financial management of the church budget.

For further information please contact the church office or Wayne Voss.

For those of you already using Simply Giving, thank you sincerely for your repeated contributions and your support of St. Mark's in this manner.

2:38 PM
01/06/24
Cash Basis

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Profit & Loss

January 1 through December 29, 2023

	Jan 1 - Dec 29, 23	Jan 1 - Dec 29, 22	\$ Change
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
41000 · GENERAL FUND			
41100 · Weekly Giving	241,875.43	262,356.60	-20,481.17
41300 · Reimbursements & Miscellaneous	137.50	20.00	117.50
41000 · GENERAL FUND - Other	0.00	11,810.36	-11,810.36
Total 41000 · GENERAL FUND	242,012.93	274,186.96	-32,174.03
42000 · VISION FUND INCOME			
42100 · Weekly Giving	27,708.76	25,659.08	2,049.68
42910 · Interest Income - Vision Fund	9.03	0.00	9.03
42000 · VISION FUND INCOME - Other	0.00	2,373.74	-2,373.74
Total 42000 · VISION FUND INCOME	27,717.79	28,032.82	-315.03
43000 · DESIGNATED INCOME			
43200 · Other	0.00	-1,375.00	1,375.00
43250 · Foundations for the Future	0.00	3,568.00	-3,568.00
Total 43000 · DESIGNATED INCOME	0.00	2,193.00	-2,193.00
Total Income	269,730.72	304,412.78	-34,682.06
Expense			
51000 · COMPENSATION	203,094.94	160,691.03	42,403.91
51180 · OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES	92,471.59	74,395.25	18,076.34
58000 · VISION FUND EXPENSES	29,485.71	43,953.36	-14,467.65
66000 · Payroll Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	325,052.24	279,039.64	46,012.60
Net Ordinary Income	-55,321.52	25,373.14	-80,694.66
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
99700 · Investment Income	64.57	20.76	43.81
41910 · Interest Income	832.50	0.00	832.50
41920 · Dividend Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 99700 · Investment Income	897.07	20.76	876.31
Total Other Income	897.07	20.76	876.31
Net Other Income	897.07	20.76	876.31
Net Income	-54,424.45	25,393.90	-79,818.35

Hi! I hope you are staying warm during this winter weather.

Upcoming FASM Events:

January 31 and February 1: Second Voting for Finnish President

National Sauna Week, February 18-24

Sunday, February 18: Celebrating National Sauna Week and/or Pasty Making Demonstration at Chicago Estonian House, Riverwoods, IL. One Hour Sauna Reservations from 1pm-6pm, \$50 donation. Pasty demonstration by Sharon Mustonen Johnson at 2:30pm, \$10 donation; free if reserving the sauna. See flyer on the website for more information.

Sunday, March 24, 1pm: FASM Pea Soup Lunch and Celebrating St. Urho's Day, at Chicago Estonian House, Riverwoods, IL. Donation \$12.

Sunday, April 28: Celebrating Vappu/Spring at the Chicago Estonian House, Riverwoods. More information soon.

April 30: Application Deadline for Finlandia Foundation scholarships for Salolampi. FASM offers scholarships to FASM member families. For additional information go to: www.finlandiafoundation.org

Mary



November 17, 2023

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

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your donation of \$100.00 to Keeping Families Covered! The funds will be allocated to the general operation of our family-focused programs, with the most significant one being our diaper program. We gave away over 1.23M diapers to our community in 2022, and we have already exceeded our 2023 goal of 1.3M diapers! In fact, we are on track to end the year by reaching a new distribution record of **2 MILLION DIAPERS** provided to our neighbors in need. Thank you for your willingness to help us in our efforts to provide basic needs and support to families across Lake County.

One in two families in our community goes without the basic supplies they need to live healthy lives. We are on a mission to change that and provide diapers to our neighbors in need. Studies show that babies who are left in wet diapers or are in reused diapers are at higher risk for infections, long-term illness and even child abuse. We also work to help seniors get the supplies they need. With your generosity and partnership, we can advocate for families and help them live better lives.

Keeping Families Covered is driven to address the silent crisis of diaper need because no assistance programs cover diapers for babies and seniors. We do this by raising funds to purchase diapers at highly discounted prices, hosting diaper drives with community partners and advocating for individuals/families who need our help.

I am so grateful for your ongoing support and partnership in the fight to #EndDiaperNeed in our community. We know that diapers change lives and with your help, we are changing the lives of families for the better. Diapers are a basic need for children—as essential to their health and well-being as food, shelter, and a parent's love. Access to incontinence supplies is a real struggle for seniors too. So many people struggle to afford diapers and limited resources exist to help them. Our diaper distribution program is critical to meeting the current and future needs of the most vulnerable residents in the communities we serve. **The support that we receive from you enables us to impact the lives of families in an immediate and positive way by providing them with the diapers they need to keep their children, and other loved ones, clean, dry, and healthy.**

I look forward to sharing our continued success with you! Please accept my deepest gratitude for your continued support of our mission! If you would like to schedule a visit to our office to see the difference your gift is making, please call me at 224-637-1644. Thanks to your commitment to Keeping Families Covered, we can continue our important work to transform our community by providing individuals and families with the basics they need to thrive.

Warmest regards,

Ann Marie Mathis

Ann Marie Mathis
Founder & CEO



Thank You!!

Thank you for your generous support of our students' dreams as they prepare for college and future careers. It's a long journey, especially for those who join our program in the 5th grade. But we are there to encourage and guide them all the way!



Lorenzo, a Cristo Rey St. Martin senior from Waukegan, joined our program in the 6th grade. He has worked hard to follow his dream and just learned he received early acceptance to Northwestern University, where he plans to study engineering.

Our assistance is not just academic. Once students reach high school, they are paired with a mentor. The support that they receive from their mentors ranges from monthly meet-ups to some mentors who even accompany their mentees on college visits. They encourage them as they explore what career they want to pursue and challenge them to put in the work needed to get to there. As we grow, we are always in need of adults who are willing to invest in the life of a first-generation student as a mentor. You can find out more information at www.waukegancollege.org/volunteer. **Please consider being a mentor!**

On behalf of Lorenzo and the 230+ scholars and their families in our program, **thank you!** Your generous contribution of **\$225** makes our mission possible and transforms lives, one student at a time. Your gift is helping to provide college readiness, college access, and college persistence programming, challenging our students and their families on their journey to achieve their dreams.

Sincerely,

Aaron Arnold
Aaron Arnold
Executive Director

Thanks to your generosity for your faithful support of our extraordinary students!

P.S. Please retain this letter as documentation of your tax-deductible gift to Waukegan to College in 2023. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation. Waukegan to College is a 501c3 charitable organization, Employer ID Number 45-4860376.

410 Grand Avenue, Waukegan, IL 60085
office (224) 572-9221 | fax (847) 662-7173 | www.waukegancollege.org



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH



St. Mark's Lutheran Church
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Phone 847-623-5135
Fax 847-623-5135 (Call First)
E-mail:
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January / February 2024

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



RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

stamp

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