

The Messenger

From The Desk Of Pastor Cranmer:

Title: Spring Forward Together: A Season of Growth at St. Mark's



Dear St. Mark's Family,

As March and April usher in the spring, so too does a fresh chapter begin for our beloved St. Mark's community. This season, as nature around us transforms and renews, our church is experiencing its own beautiful period of growth and connection.

We've been blessed with an increase in attendance, a sign that our local community is finding a home among us. It's a joy to see new faces and to know that our family is expanding, bound by shared values and the desire to support one another.

This growth brings with it excitement for the future. We're looking forward to the ways we'll continue to evolve and serve together, embracing the opportunities that lie ahead for our congregation. It's a time for new beginnings, for planting seeds of hope and kindness that will flourish in the warmth of our community.

In this spirit of renewal, let's draw inspiration from the Gospel of John: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). This passage reminds us of the foundational love that Christ has for us and calls us to extend that love to others. It's a fitting message for this season, as we open our doors wider and commit to being a beacon of support and fellowship in our community.

As we embrace the changes and growth of this season, let us remember the power of coming together, of weaving new threads into the fabric of our church family. Every new member, every act of kindness, contributes to the vibrant tapestry that is St. Mark's.

Let's move into these months with open hearts, ready to welcome, to grow, and to love. Let's be excited about the ways we can make a difference, both within our walls and beyond them. With each step we take, we're not just growing as a church; we're enriching the lives of those around us, spreading light and love in a world that so dearly needs it.

Thank you for being a vital part of our journey. Your presence, your faith, and your commitment to our community are what make St. Mark's a truly special place. Here's to a season of growth, hope, and shared love, as we continue to walk this path together.

In Christ's Name

Colin Cranmer
Pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church



3350 North Delany Rd
Waukegan, IL 60087

Our Staff

Pastor Colin Cranmer

Eric Aho

Director of Musical Ensembles

Cody Ammons

Webpage Master

Victoriya Berezna

Organist

Shay Cranmer

Contemporary Worship

Arts Director

Joanie Ryan

Office Manager

Jill Shepherd

Stephen Ministry

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Ken Swanson

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Jenny Theis

Children's Ministry Director

Lynn Schroetter

Council Chair

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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"

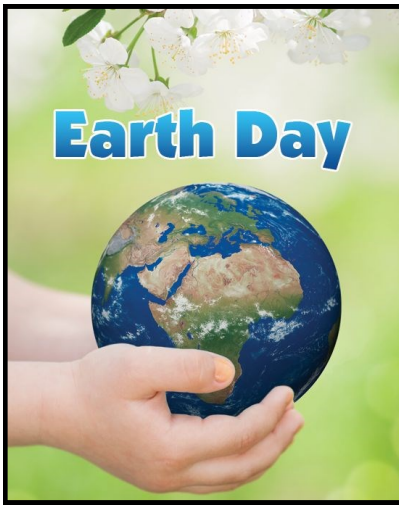
Our Mission Statement:

*Come celebrate the gift
of Jesus Christ.*

Grow together in faith and love.

Share the Good !

**MARCH
APRIL**



Monday, April 22, 2024

Planet vs. Plastics

For Earth Day 2024 on April 22nd, EARTHDAY.ORG is unwavering in our commitment to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of **ALL** plastics by 2040.

“We thank God for His beautiful creation.”

St. Mark’s uses biodegradable communion cups, compostable paper dinner and dessert plates, coffee cups and cold cups.

Psalm 104:14:

He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth.



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:**

**March:
Canned Tuna**



April: Juice or Powdered Milk



March

Saturday, Mar. 2nd	9 AM Prayer Ministry
Sunday, Mar. 3rd	10 AM Worship Service 11 AM Pasty Pick Up
Monday, Mar. 4th	7 PM Women of St. Mark's
Tuesday, Mar. 5th	7 PM Reflections in the Spirit
Wednesday, Mar. 6th	6 PM Soup Supper 7 PM Holden Evening Prayers
Thursday, Mar. 7th	Easter Flower Orders Forms Due
Friday, Mar. 8th	7 PM Gather Bible Study
Sunday, Mar. 10th	Spring Ahead @ 2 AM 10 AM Worship Service
Monday, Mar. 11th	7 PM Church Council
Tuesday, Mar. 12th	12 PM Reflection of the Season
Sunday, Mar. 17th	10 AM Worship Service 11 AM New Member Class
Monday, Mar. 18th	7 PM Yarns of Compassion
Sunday, Mar. 24th	10 AM Palm Sunday Service
Thursday, Mar. 28th	6:00 PM Seder Dinner \$10 per person - RSVP Please (No Service)
Friday, Mar. 29th	7 PM Good Friday Service
Sunday, Mar. 31st	10 AM Easter Sunday Service

April

Monday, Apr. 1st	7 PM Women of St. Mark's
Tuesday, Apr. 2nd	7 PM Reflections in the Spirit
Saturday, Apr. 6th	9 AM Prayer Ministry
Sunday, Apr. 7th	10 AM Worship Service Welcome New Members! 11 AM First Communion Class
Monday, Apr. 8th	7 PM Church Council
Tuesday, Apr. 9th	12 PM Reflection of the Season
Friday, Apr. 12th	5:30 PM Gather Bible Study
Sunday, Apr. 14th	10 AM Worship Service First Communion
Monday, Apr. 15th	7 PM Yarns of Compassion
Sunday, Apr. 21st	10 AM Worship Service 11 AM Congregational Meeting
Saturday, Apr. 27th	11:30 AM Lucille's Birthday Celebration
Sunday, Apr. 28th	10AM Worship Service

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****



Wednesday, March 6th

Join us for homemade soup and fellowship at 6 PM followed by our Holden Evening Prayer service at 7 PM.



Daylight saving time starts soon!

Clocks will "spring forward" one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 10th

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Spring Congregational Meeting
After worship on Sunday, April 21, 2024**

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 in April. 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 another congregation, you may write on 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 ELCA WORLD HUNGER

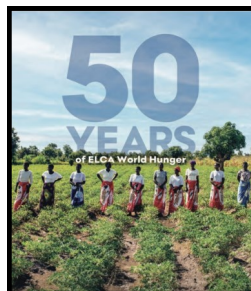
Love in Action

Let us not grow weary in doing what is right.

Galatians 6:9a

The last three years during Lent we have raised money to give to ELCA World Hunger. St. Mark's has been very generous in their support for this very important mission to help the needy world wide.

In case you weren't aware—donations to ELCA World Hunger are welcome any time, not just during Lent! Your gifts, whenever they are given, make it possible for ELCA World Hunger to be present throughout the United States and throughout the world.



“Sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all conveys ELCA teaching that economic activity is a means through which God's will is served for the well-being of humankind and the care of the earth.”

Poverty is a chronic and debilitating condition that affects a person's whole self.

ELCA World Hunger programs help to bring dignity and respect, community, and hope to those who are victims of poverty, disease, conflict, disaster and more.



Following are two heart-warming and inspiring stories of those who have been helped by ELCA World Hunger through your support. Information is from ELCA World Hunger Video Series and ELCA World Hunger Reproducible Stories 2019.



Robyn is a veteran who suffers mental illness which led to his homelessness. He is one of the many

veterans whose lives have been changed by homelessness.

Robyn found Cathedral of the Night, an outdoor ministry that provides a meal and worship every Sunday night in Northampton, Mass.

It took Robyn awhile to feel comfortable and participate in the group. Today, for many years now he has been a leader of the Cathedral of the Night and has found a supportive community that has helped him regain self-confidence and faith, and a community he could thrive in.

Gustin was born and brought up in Beni, a village in Malawi in southeastern Africa. He was 65 when he got sick. When he was overcome with muscle pain, he was helped by a fellow community volunteer, who hired a bicycle to bring them to the nearest clinic, 12 miles each way. It was there Gustin learned he was HIV positive.

He went home, fearing the worst, but he would not give up. Thanks to the Malawi Evangelical Church, he knew where he could turn to for support. He met with a community health counselor whose training was provided by the ELCM and your gifts to ELCA World Hunger. Gustin received access to treatment, health education, a listening ear and companion to the health clinic or hospital. His counselor walked with him to every clinic visit 12 miles each way. St. Mark's generosity helped him get the medical care he needed.

Now, 69, Gustin is healthy and strong. He may work a little less in the field, but he has not reduced his commitment to helping others. He is focused on health care, actively counseling others with HIV/AIDS.

“If it wasn't for the church, I wouldn't be alive,” Gustin said, “But now I know my life is not over, and I have a future.”



Peace to you,
Jill Shepherd
Stephen Leader



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."



St. Mark's ELCA World Hunger Display

Many thanks to Jill Shepherd for her hard work with the World Hunger mission and the beautiful display in the Narthex.



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).

February 19, 2024

From Helen Binning...



A Thank You Note below for the Messenger:

Thank you for the great birthday party and luncheon on Sunday, the 18th of February. The birthday cake with pink flowers, was beautiful and delicious.

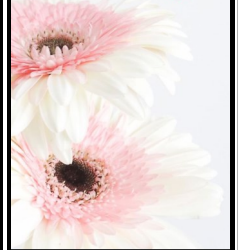
My heart glowed with happiness seeing all of you. Thanks to everyone who gave me or sent me a card and for those who got me a gift...I can't say enough for your thoughtfulness. And I will always remember the loving hugs from so many of you.

From 1960, when I first attended St. Mark's I just knew it was a family church. Still today...it is a loving family church.

In love and friendship,
Helen Binning



*Happy
Birthday*



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 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. 7th.**

Please include your name, the type of flower & color, 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.

This years Easter Garden at St. Mark's was in memory and or honor of the following individuals:

Rosemary Beilke in memory of Emily Mongeau, Fred Beilke and Anna Paulsen.

Jean Bogdala in loving memory of Richard Bogdala.

Carol Bonnes in honor or our Risen Lord.

Lynn Deram in memory of her husband, Tom Deram.

Linda Dietz in memory of Ed Dietz and Tim Dietz.

Genie Durand in memory of dear departed family.

Karen Case in memory of Charles Heberer.

*Jason & Rebecca Falkinham in memory of Brent Kenneth Falkinham
and Fred & Frida Reyes.*

Kathy Haapanen in memory of Jerry & family loved ones.

Nancy Inskeep in memory of my sons.

Ardell Koch in memory of J. Stewart, David Koch and Ray O'Malley

*Bob & Helen Ostman in memory of Lynda LeFave
and in honor of St. Mark's family.*

Bridgette Otterbacher in honor of all my family, both near and far.

The Puccini Family in memory of Marilyn Knuth, Robbie Kole and Lola Puccini.

Joanie Ryan in loving memory of her dad, Richard Bogdala

Jenny Theis in honor of her parents, Bill & Nancy Reif.

Lucille Tolonen in memory of my husband Leonard and our parents;

Gunard & Sophie Sjöholm and Edward & Eva Tolonen.

Lucille Tolonen in memory of Walter & Ruth Maki.

Wayne & Kim Voss in memory of our family.

Al Wienke in memory of Eleanore Wienke.



March Mission of the Month - ELCA World Hunger

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me. – Matthew 25:35*

More than 820 million people - that's about 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry.

As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond.

We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Ways to Give

Make an online donation

Give a monthly gift

Mail your donation

Give by phone

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger/Ways-to-Give>



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®?

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.





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

Bridgette Otterbacher & Carol Bonnes
In honor of Helen Binning's Birthday

Lisa Constabileo
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Constabileo

Bridgette Otterbacher, Ann Roberts & Jill Shepherd
In memory of Anna Sparkman

Ruth Wuorenma
In memory of Sulo & Helvi Wuorenma

thank you

Yarns of Compassion

“Kindness with every stitch created for you with love and prayers”

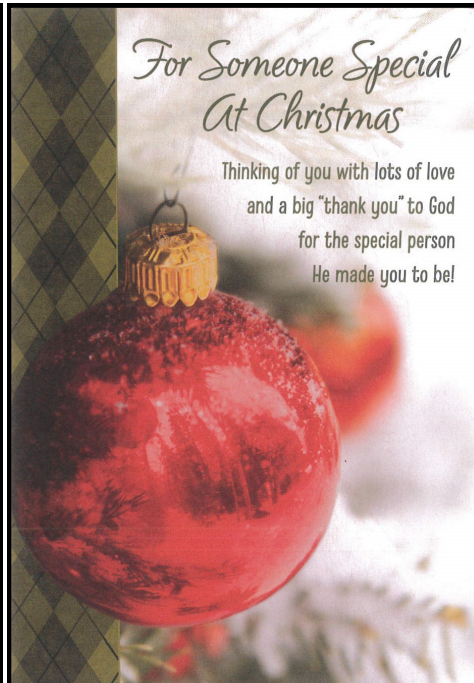
A huge hug to all the ladies for the prayer shawls you sent during John's Recovery (they worked!) Please use this to help buy yarn to help others. Thank you for the fellowship that you are so blessed to share with each one you meet. True Angel in our midst... you are!

Hope your Christmas is filled with blessings—the kind you're so good at giving!

*Have A Joy-Filled Christmas
Can't wait to see you in a few weeks.
Much Love
Ardene & John*

*For Someone Special
At Christmas*

Thinking of you with lots of love and a big “thank you” to God for the special person He made you to be!



May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord show you His kindness...
May the Lord watch over you and give you peace.
NUMBERS 6:24-26 NCV

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.

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



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous support over the past year. It is because of donors like you that we are able to help those in need. Below is a list of your 2023 contributions to our organization.

Date	Gift Amount	GL Code	Type of Gift	Check/Reference#
1/24/2023	\$25.00	Unrestricted	Check	15282
12/19/2023	\$30.00	Unrestricted	Check	15478
12/29/2023	\$125.00	Unrestricted	Check	15484

Total: \$180.00

We look forward to your continued support next year and your continued partnership with Chicagoland Prison Outreach in the future.



**St. Mark's Family
hard at work making a difference!**

**“If you are generous with what I give you,
I will meet all of your needs—financial,
physical, and spiritual.”**

Dear St Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$200.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

“[Jesus said,] ‘Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ [The lawyer] said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”
(Luke 10:36-37)

As a church, we are freed by the transformative life of Christ, and this freedom emboldens us to love and serve our neighbors just as Christ has shown us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power of God's love.

Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,

Amanda White

Amanda White
Director, Congregational Generosity



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

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.”
12/29/2023
\$ 125.00

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

Corey Buchanan
Executive Director

Dear St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your unwavering support of and commitment to PADS Lake County's mission and work. We continue to be encouraged, comforted, and humbled by the outpouring of generosity and support from community members like YOU!

Your generous gift of \$100 on December 14, 2023 helps ensure that our neighbors struggling with homelessness have sturdy foundations and stable homes so that they can have brighter futures for themselves and their families.

We remain steadfast in our mission - to provide a lifesaving intervention to those facing housing instability. Your generous contribution allows us to provide marginalized individuals, families, and children with access to a warm place to sleep, nourishing meals, essential resources, and supportive programs they need when faced with a housing crisis.

If you would like to learn more about our work, explore new ways to get involved or stay updated on PADS latest events, please visit our website at padslakecounty.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn. Your ongoing engagement is appreciated.

We are incredibly grateful to YOU for helping make our work possible by providing our clients the best possible care and support they need and deserve. We truly could not do this without you! Together, we are able to restore dignity, bring hope, and rebuild lives for our vulnerable neighbors in Lake County. Thank you for caring enough to make this possible!

With gratitude,
Allen Swilley
Allen Swilley
Executive Director



March 21, 2024

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



Dear Friends,

It is with deep appreciation that we acknowledge your check in the amount of \$1,082.25 for Spring 2024 fundraising to COOL Ministries. Your kindness is a blessing to COOL and those that we serve, and it will be multiplied through the efforts of a devoted staff and caring volunteers.

COOL continues to see a steadily rising increase in the number of pantry visitors each month and in applications for our family housing program. The rising costs in the current economy are affecting 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 by reducing hunger and homelessness.

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

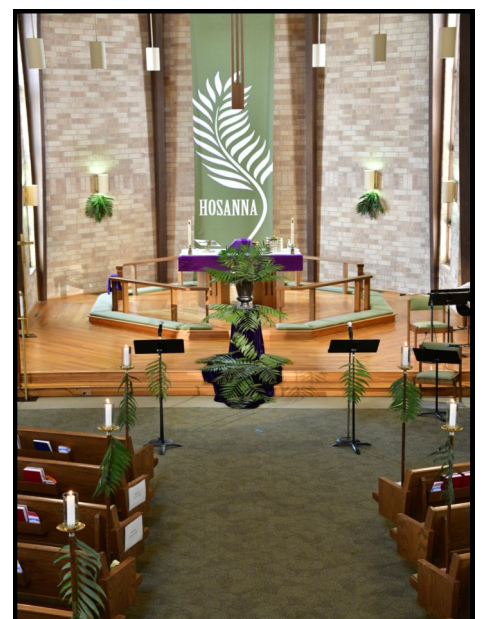
On behalf of all of us at COOL and those that we serve, we are grateful for your faithful support in carrying out our mission of service to the community. Your willingness to answer our call for help is truly a blessing to this ministry.

Warmest regards,

Mindy Lindholm, E.O.
Mindy Lindholm
Executive Director

“Photography helps us to slow down, take time, be patient, be present in the moment, look at life from a new perspective, and can make lasting changes to our outlook.”

A special thank you to Bob Ostman for always capturing such beautiful photos.





“Bind us together
and keep us mindful of those in need:
in need of shelter and food; healing and hope;
community and care.”



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

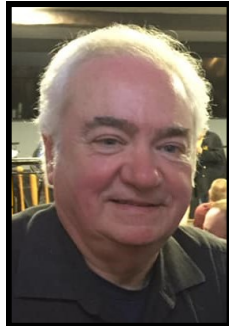
St. Mark's 2024 Church Council

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Lynn Schroetter

Vice President



Paul Durand

Secretary



Wayne Voss

Treasurer



Don Fontana



Wendy Dumont



Jason Falkinham



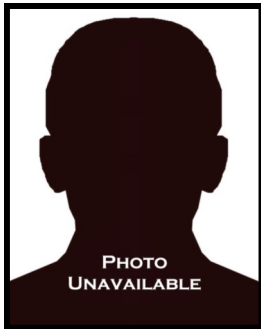
Loren Lundtveit



Jean Norkus



Kathy Schild



Dominic Stelter



Dave Striepling



Julie Wendorf

Financials

January thru February 2024

Profit & Loss			
January through February 2024			
03/07/24 Cash Basis	Jan - Feb 24	Jan - Feb 23	\$ Change
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
41000 · GENERAL FUND			
41100 · Weekly Giving	35,002.87	34,171.93	830.94
Total 41000 · GENERAL FUND	35,002.87	34,171.93	830.94
42000 · VISION FUND INCOME			
42100 · Weekly Giving	3,486.54	3,896.54	-410.00
42910 · Interest Income - Vision Fund	2.61	0.00	2.61
Total 42000 · VISION FUND INCOME	3,489.15	3,896.54	-407.39
Total Income	38,492.02	38,068.47	423.55
Expense			
51000 · COMPENSATION	33,549.61	29,897.06	3,652.55
51160 · OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES	16,155.05	14,139.80	2,015.25
58000 · VISION FUND EXPENSES			
58100 · Outreach Expenses			
58160 · Mission of the Month	0.00	445.00	-445.00
58165 · Other Directed Donations - VF	1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00
58811 · Pasty Purchases	1,293.75	0.00	1,293.75
Total 58100 · Outreach Expenses	2,593.75	445.00	2,148.75
58888 · Interest Expense - VF	1,789.72	3,676.64	-1,886.92
Total 58000 · VISION FUND EXPENSES	4,383.47	4,121.64	261.83
66000 · Payroll Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	54,088.13	48,158.50	5,929.63
Net Ordinary Income	-15,596.11	-10,090.03	-5,506.08
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
99700 · Investment Income	0.00	871.85	-871.85
Total Other Income	0.00	871.85	-871.85
Net Other Income	0.00	871.85	-871.85
Net Income	-15,596.11	-9,218.18	-6,377.93

Balance Sheet

As of February 29, 2024

03/07/24 Cash Basis	Feb 29, 24	Feb 28, 23
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
10000 · General fund - Gurnee Comm Bank	23,653.35	60,096.81
10500 · Vision Fund- Gurnee Comm Bank	18,345.83	42,756.75
10750 · Youth & Family - Gurnee Com Bnk	111.81	111.81
11300 · WSM Checking Account	6,228.30	6,477.13
Total Checking/Savings	48,339.29	109,442.50
Other Current Assets	112,799.15	111,205.56
Total Current Assets	161,138.44	220,648.06
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	1,434,388.67	1,493,898.29
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities	417,897.12	430,975.77
Equity		
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	1,032,087.66	1,072,140.70
Net Income	-15,596.11	-9,218.18
Total Equity	1,016,491.55	1,062,922.52
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,434,388.67	1,493,898.29

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