

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

SUNDAY, April 15

9:00a **Worship**
9:00a Sunday School
Coffee sales

10:30a **Worship**

MONDAY, April 16

9:30a Ruth Circle
7:00p Fox Valley Festival Chorus

TUESDAY, April 17

10:00a **Adult Study**
1:00p Staff meeting
7:00p Glory Ringers rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, April 18

9:00a The Bread Wrappers
1:00p Office volunteers
5:00p Roaring Ringers
5:30p FDL
5:30p Joyous Praise Bells
6:00p Confirmation classes
6:00p **"Preparing for your future"**

THURSDAY, April 19

7:00p AA meeting
7:00p Lion's Voice Choir
7:00p Youth Ministry Board meeting

FRIDAY, April 20

CONFIRMATION RETREAT @ LOMC
9:30a WVMTA meeting
6:30p Al-Anon

SATURDAY, April 21

CONFIRMATION RETREAT @ LOMC
5:00p **Worship**

SUNDAY, April 22

CONFIRMATION RETREAT @ LOMC
9:00a **Worship**
9:00a Sunday School
10:30a **Worship & Baptism**



To read—and share!—each week's sermon, go to stmarksaurora.net and click on SERMONS on the left menu.



CONFIRMATION RETREAT
Fri, April 20-Sun April 22
24 kids and 4 adults are going!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Discipleship



"Heaven, Hell and Life after Death"

Adult Study
Tuesday, April 17, 10:00 a.m.

During this second session of our six-week study, we will consider what the Bible has to say about heaven and hell. There are countless theories out there, but we will peel back the layers to differentiate human thought from God's Word. All are welcome to attend this study led by Pastor Patrick.



Barn Banks gift!

Collectively, the kids from FDL, Sunday School, and CDC brought in over \$400! So, now, the big decision ... what ELCA "Good Gift" to choose? Chicks, it is.

Each \$10 raised will buy 10 chicks. Not only will the eggs provide protein-rich meals, but the income from egg sales will bring in a steady income for families.



New member orientation
Sunday, April 29, 11:45 a.m.
Sunday, May 6, 11:45 a.m.

If you are interested in learning more about St. Mark's ministry and mission, and getting more connected here, please join us for lunch, introductions, presentations, and conversation in a two-part orientation. Lunch will be served and childcare will be available. **Sign up at the Welcome Center. Reception of new members is Sunday, May 20 at 9:00 a.m.**



VBS registration now open
July 16-20, 9:00-12:00 each day
Sign up online

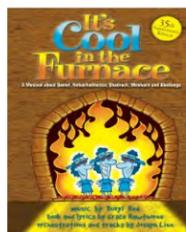
"Shipwrecked" is the theme for five great days of kid fun. The activities, games, crafts, and stories will take kids to an uncharted island and anchor them in the truth that Jesus carries us through life's storms. Sign up your kids age 3 to 5th grade at stmarksauroraVBS.com. (We have now a secure option so you can pay for registration online!) There are also MANY volunteer opportunities to help with games, songs, treats, and stories. Check the VBS bulletin board. Contact Kari Reiseck (kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net) if you can help.

Announcements



"Preparing for Your Future"
Wednesday, April 18, 6:00 p.m.,
Sanctuary Hall

Do you know the difference between a will and trust? Have you discussed who would take care of your children if you died? Who would make healthcare decisions for you if you're not able to? These critical questions are easy to put off, but it is important to consider them. Attorney Katie Lenert will share some answers and insights on these key issues. All are welcome! **Sign up at the Welcome Center.**



It's Cool in the Furnace"
Wednesday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.

Love to hear kids sing? Our first- through fifth-graders have been rehearsing for weeks, and on April 25th, they want to share with you one very COOL musical! This lively production tells the story of Daniel and his three side-kicks, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, as you've never heard it before. **All are welcome to attend this spirited half-hour performance.**



Adult Fellowship
Thursday, April 26, 9:00 a.m.
Nicholas Conservatory, Rockford
Sign up by April 22

If you're ready for some warmth and green, join the Adult Fellowship for a trip to Nicholas Conservatory in Rockford. The day includes a butterfly garden, a tour of the greenhouse, and lunch at an 1849 historic brewery on the Rock River. **Sign up at the Welcome Center.**



Inspiration, 75-cents a month!
Living Lutheran magazine discount
Subscribe by April 30

We've made it possible for people to get a subscription to *Living Lutheran* magazine for only \$9/year, if we can get 25 subscribers. The magazine offers a wealth of stories about people who care and strive for a better world: a church that started making large batches of frozen meals for people who needed sustenance and comfort; two churches who started a job-training program; women of color who pursued their call to ministry against multiple obstacles. The magazine is a great antidote to the onslaught of negativity in our daily news. **We need only 10 more people to reach our goal of 25 subscribers! Sign up at the Welcome Center.**



We've been waiting for you!

Our mission at St. Mark's Lutheran Church is to share Christ's abundant love with each other and the world. We are called to reach out to persons of all ages and life situations with Christ's own hospitality and acceptance, to invite you to be our companion on the spiritual journey as we discover together the ways that Christ is offering hope, healing, and a renewed sense of meaning for our lives. If you are not a member, we would love to talk with you about our ministry. We invite you to talk to one of our pastors or stop at the Welcome Center near the church entrance. May your worship experience here at St. Mark's draw you closer to Christ and his abundant love!

For your reflection . . .
today's Worship focus



The Road to Emmaus, recorded only by Luke, is one of the loveliest stories in scripture. Again, it is Easter evening. Cleopas and a companion, maybe his wife, are trudging sadly home from Jerusalem. The risen Jesus walks with them, but they don't recognize him. He shares the promises

of Scripture as they walk. The sad couple invites the "stranger" in for supper. It is late and the day is almost over ... and, there at the table, the Risen One takes, blesses, breaks and shares bread. Ah! Their eyes are opened! They recognize it is Jesus.

This ancient and wonderful parable tells the church again and again that the Risen one walks with us whether we recognize him or not! He comes to us on the road, in Word and Meal, in companionship and hospitality. Expect him.

For your consideration . . .



next week's Worship focus

For some time, the fourth Sunday of Easter has been observed as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The biblical image of shepherd—used to describe both God and Jesus—is one of steadfast love and

faithfulness. The focus text and Psalm for Easter 4 invite us to imagine God's ultimate care for humankind through the qualities needed in a good shepherd: caring, rescuing, feeding, protecting, and guiding.

This love embraces us as we journey as disciples of the Risen One.

God's Work, Our Hands



"I am the vine, you are the branches." John 15:5



Support the high-school mission trip Visit the "Giving Tree" in the narthex by April 15

We invite you to support our high-school kids' summer mission trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains by participating in the Giving Tree Fundraiser. The tree in the narthex has different dollar amounts on each small leaf. Select the leaf with the amount you would like to give and remove the leaves from the tree. Write your check for the amount on the small leaf and use one of the envelopes provided to drop it in the box. Write your name(s) on the larger leaf and return it to the tree to show your support. Please give as you are able. Our youth look forward to the mission trip each year, and it would not be possible without your love and support.



Rebuilding Together Aurora

Saturday, April 28, any time from 8:00 to 4:00

This is St. Mark's first involvement with RTA, and we are hoping to get 12 people, young and old, to come out and help for any portion of the day on Saturday, April 28th. We will be helping to service and repair a home on the northeast side of Aurora. The

homeowners are wonderful people, active in the community and their local church. There are many tasks we hope to finish, including painting, landscaping, and wall and floor repairs. No special skills are needed! **Sign up at the Welcome Center**, and our team leader, Matt Greising, will contact you about the location, what job(s) you'd like to do, and what to bring.



Farewell and Godspeed!

**Sunday, April 29, after the 9:00 service
Farewell reception for Jean Clementz**

At the end of this month, we sadly say goodbye to our Faith Community Nurse, Jean Clementz. Yet we celebrate with her as she and her husband, Chris, move north to Minnesota to be closer to their grandson, Oliver, and his parents, Matthew and Mandy.

For almost eight years, Jean has faithfully tended our physical and emotional needs, with blood pressure checks, encouragements to keep moving and eat right, and articles to remind us to pay attention to the things that stress us and the things that make us happy. We will surely miss her caring presence and her health ministry. Please plan to join us for a farewell reception following the 9:00 o'clock service on April 29th.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
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www.stmarksaurora.net
Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Staff Contact Information

Please call or email the appropriate staff member if you have questions about the following areas of ministry. Please visit our website stmarksaurora.net for more information about St. Mark's.

Pastoral Staff

Pastor Patricia Geiseman Ext. 15 pgeiseman@stmarksaurora.net
Pastor Patrick Fish Ext. 13 pfish@stmarksaurora.net

Ministry Staff

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Director of Worship & the Arts
Sue Hilderbrand Ext. 24 shilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net
Director of Bell Choirs
Kari Reiseck Ext. 22 kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net
Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Support Staff

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Nursery Coordinator
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Communications Coordinator

Faith Community Nurse

Jean Clementz, R.N. Ext. 23 jean.clementz@presencehealth.org

Financial Secretary

Jim Erickson 630-235-6510 jerickson@stmarksaurora.net

St. Mark's Child Development Center

Colette Patterson-Moon 630-897-6063 stmarksdir@att.net
Director

Council Members

Don Friend (President), David Albers (Property), Austin Bredow, Charlie Brummet (Treasurer), Jeanne Flynn (Youth and Family), Chad Gooch, Ginny Pavesich, Heather Rehg (New Members), Carol Reiseck (Stewardship), Pastor Patrick Fish, Pastor Patricia Geiseman

Prayers

5:00 p.m. Dorothy Clarkson, Brett Deiter, Sarah DeRubis, Jennifer Gaeta, Mary Kenner, Bob Korst, Carol Lippert, Emery Norman, Vigil Osteng, Kathy Pippig, Charlotte Regis, Julia Taylor

9:00 a.m. Caroline Bell, Doris Clark, Gavin Duffy, Ray Dunn, Danielle Easton, Russell Feltz, Debbie Manson, Kay McKeen, Bruce Nicholson, Brad Powell, Linda Schau, Lois Swan, Dennis Zielinski

10:30 a.m. Jeff Dzubala, Richard Eisenbarth, Victoria Halsted, Dennis Johnson, Leslie Jordan, David Lippold, Terry Mueller, Helen Rachford, Harold Rehg

Continuing Care: Bill Beattie, Johanna Brinkman, Richard Brinkman, Laurie Dunn, Tad Dyer, Joanne Jackman, Tom Jones, John Lange, Bruce Lindgren, Mason McNamara, Terry Minor, Terry Mueller, Lauren Muscat, Grant Oestreich, Wendy Overstreet, Joe Rangel, Sharon Ross, Bessie Scavos, Lorand Szekely

The Courier

April 14-15, 2018

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sharing Christ's Abundant Love
with Each Other and the World



*Amazing Creator,
send your Spirit
to create us
anew this day.*

Mother's Day Outreach



This year the Outreach Team has again chose the ELCA Good Gifts ministry for our Mother's Day outreach.

Webster defines "mother" as someone who nourishes and protects, and it was this definition that inspired the Outreach Team to choose this year's focus on vaccinations for kids.

Did you know that nearly 5,000 children die *each day* from diseases such as measles, polio, tetanus, and tuberculosis—all diseases that could be prevented with a vaccine! Through the ELCA Good Gifts program, vaccinations for these diseases are provided at a cost of \$30 per child. What a great way for us to protect kids!

Every gift, of any amount, will help. Each time the gifts add up to \$30, we'll add another "child" to the Outreach bulletin board. Starting the weekend of April 14-15, stop by the Outreach table. Use the donation envelopes provided and either place your envelope in the offering plate or give it to the host at the Welcome Center. You may also dedicate your gift "In honor of" or "In memory of" your mother or someone who has been like a mother to you. Please add your dedication information to the sheet on the table. There are also gift cards available if you would like to take one to give to the person you are honoring.

Keep your eyes on bulletin board as we count the children receiving vaccinations. We can make an impact!

