



# The Vineyard Press

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ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Sharing Christ's Abundant Love

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

## New website launch

### Weekend of August 4th and 5th

**D**uring the first weekend of August, we'll be unveiling our new website, and council members will be in the narthex offering demos of the new site. We hope you like what you see! Most of all, we hope you will be inspired to share it with friends and neighbors.

We've designed the site so the language is welcoming and "non-churchy." We want people who are church shopping to look and say, "Oh, that's a place I might be interested in." We also want YOU to be able to find what you need, to register for events, and make gifts online.



Look what you can do starting August 4th!

### 5 Gifts for the first 50 Givers

For the first 50 people who try out our online giving, we have some gifts for you! On Rally Day, we'll have a drawing, and 50 "pioneers" will receive one of these 5 gifts:

- Pizza with the Pastors (10, gift from Council)
- Wine & Hymn Sing (20, gift from Music Ministry)
- Reserved Seats for your family at a St. Mark's Christmas program of your choice (5, gift from FDL)
- Pie from Harner's Bakery (5, gift from staff)
- Free Book (multiple options) (10, gift from pastors)

Giving online is easy . . . and secure. Go to the GIVE tab on the new site. Scroll down to see your options:

- "GIVE NOW" button = General Fund
- DESIGNATED GIFTS = 3 to choose from
- MEMORIAL GIFTS = your tribute to a loved one

**HELPFUL HINT:** If you like the ease of giving to the General Fund online, you can register your name, address, and offering envelope number once, so you can log in the next time and not need to re-enter your info.

### 6 things to try on the new website

Same address: **StMarksAurora.net**  
Completely new site!

- 1 Check out our staff member bios. You might be surprised by a thing or two!  
**Go to the VISIT tab.**  
**Click on OUR STAFF.**
- 2 Register your child for FDL or Sunday School. New online forms make it easy.  
**Go to the CONNECT tab.**  
**Click on KIDS.**  
**Click on the registration form you want.**
- 3 Invite a friend to take a look at the website. It's a great tool to introduce people to St. Mark's!  
**Open the HOME page**  
**(or click on the St. Mark's logo).**  
**Look for the FIRST VISIT box.**  
**Click on MORE INFO.**
- 4 Take a look at the wide array of ministry opportunities at St. Mark's. See if something sparks your interest.  
**Go to the SERVE tab.**  
**Click on Food, Housing, Education, or Global needs. (Or check out all four!)**
- 5 Review ALL the ways you can connect at St. Mark's. What have you been missing?  
**Go to the CONNECT tab.**  
**Click on the age you're interested in.**
- 6 Try out our new online giving option. It's simple to use and as secure a platform as we could find.  
**Click on the GIVE tab.**  
**Click GIVE NOW for General Fund or scroll down to select:**  
**DESIGNATED GIFTS**  
**MEMORIAL GIFT**

**StMarksAurora.net**

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# NOW is the time to register



**Sunday School starts Sunday, Sept 9**  
**FDL starts Wednesday, Sept 12.**

It's that time! September is just around the corner. **We need you to register your kids ASAP** so we can better prepare for classes. For the first time, you have a choice of two ways to register.

1. **ONLINE** (w/credit card for FDL): You can register for FDL and Sunday School online at our website, **StMarksAurora.net**. Starting 7/28, our site will look very different! Go to the **CONNECT** tab of the new site and click on **KIDS**.
2. **PRINTED FORMS** (w/check for FDL): If you would prefer to register via paper and check, registration forms are available at the Welcome Center.

## CDC invites you . . .



### Open house & ice cream social

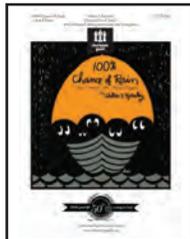
CDC invites everyone to their annual open house. Come, meet the staff and see the classrooms . . . and enjoy a sweet treat with your family.

**Pre-School**

Wednesday, August 8, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
 27 S. Edgelawn, Aurora

**Child Development Center**

Thursday, August 9, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
 1995 W. Downer Place, Aurora



### Children's musical "100 Percent Chance of Rain!"

**Friday, August 10, 6:00 p.m.**

The school-age children from St. Mark's CDC will present a delightful children's musical by Walter Horsley at St. Mark's on August 10th at 6:00 p.m.. Kristin Young will direct the children as they share this great Bible story about faithful Noah, a big ship, a great flood, and God's promise. All are welcome for this fun, toe-tapping event.



### Come grow with us

St. Mark's Child Development Center is now enrolling ages 6 weeks to 12 years. We offer full-day child development programs, each designed to provide a rich, nurturing environment for academic and social growth. Our school-age program offers bus service to Hall, McCleery, and Freeman. We also offer extended care on days off and during the summer. The Preschool and Pre-K program, located in the education wing of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, offers a full-day program focusing on meeting the developmental, social and emotional milestones that will prepare each child for kindergarten.

We are open Monday-Friday, and our hours of operation are 6:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Please contact us at 630-897-6063 for more information or to schedule a tour.

# “Jesus rescues” — the message of “Shipwrecked” VBS



You should have heard them! 100 kids, plus 55 leaders, all shouting “Jesus rescues” at the closing ceremony of this year’s “Shipwrecked” VBS. Each day had a theme, which applies to ALL of us, no matter our age:

- DAY 1: When you are lonely, *Jesus rescues.*
- DAY 2: When you are worried, *Jesus rescues.*
- DAY 3: When you struggle, *Jesus rescues.*
- DAY 4: When you do wrong, *Jesus rescues.*
- DAY 5: When you feel powerless, *Jesus rescues.*



## Stewardship Spotlight

As disciples of Jesus, we are all stewards of God’s story. We are called to learn and share God’s story, especially with children. This past month, we lived out our calling to be stewards of God’s story through VBS. “Shipwrecked” was held from July 16-20, with over 100 attendees and over 55 volunteers!

Here at St. Mark’s we are blessed to have so many people with the gift of sharing God’s story with young people. Additionally, the sharing of God’s story during VBS would not have been possible with the prep work and donations made by many members of the congregation in the months and weeks leading up to the big week. To everyone who made VBS happen, THANK YOU for living out and sharing God’s story!

Let the excitement of VBS be an encouragement to you to remember that we are called as stewards to care for and share the word of God through the story.

—Stewardship Team

Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, food, and let us borrow items during the week of VBS. We really appreciate your generosity, and it helped us have a fantastic week with the kids. Thanks to my many, many volunteers who were both behind the scenes and hands-on with the kids. We had volunteers from 11 years old all the way to...well, retired. Thank you so much for giving up your whole week to teaching kids how “Jesus rescues.” I truly appreciate it, and we

could not have done it without each and every one of you. Two great things to know about this year’s VBS: (1) 44% of our attendees were either from the Child Development Center or the community! This is a wonderful outreach to our community, and we received a ton of positive feedback about the program. And (2), we raised over \$300 for the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry (which equates to \$2100, with their 7x buying power). Thanks again to all!—Kari Reiseck

# DIALOGUES

— ON —  
THE REFUGEE  
CRISIS

## NEW Adult Study

**Dialogues On:  
The Refugee Crisis**  
**6-week study starting  
Tuesday, August 7,  
10:00 a.m.**

At St. Mark's, we strive to be the Church for the sake of the world. We are always discerning what God is up to and discussing what the Bible has to say about current happenings. This makes us relevant.

A new 6-week curriculum has just come out that addresses the current refugee crisis. We will be using **"Dialogues On: The Refugee Crisis"** in our new Adult Study starting August 7th. The purpose of the "Dialogues" curriculum is to provide resources to help faith communities engage relevant topics facing our world.

The studies are both educational and conversational. Each week is packed with well-researched information, but brought to life with the lived experience and stories of people at the center of the topic.

The hope of each study is to create a space for people to have dialogue around difficult topics. Each week, participants will read the study material, discuss key learnings, watch a video, and share ideas with the larger group.

### DATES:

Tuesday, August 7  
Tuesday, August 14  
Tuesday, August 21  
Tuesday, August 28  
Tuesday, September 4  
Tuesday, September 11

Participant books are \$10 each. **Please sign up at the Welcome Center** if you are interested in participating in this 6-week Adult Study.

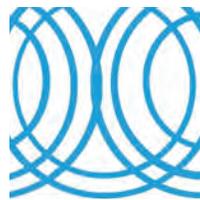


## 21 & Over

**Wednesday, August 8, 7:30 p.m.**

This is our 21-40 year old ministry at St. Mark's. We believe it's important to intentionally bring our younger adults and young families together.

This summer, we have been gathering twice a month at different people's homes on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:00 p.m. The purpose of these gatherings is to build authentic relationships and engage in meaningful conversations. 20s, 30s, and 40s are difficult years to navigate. There is a lot of change and transition. We want people in that stage of life to have supportive, uplifting community who can journey alongside together in navigating those times of life. Our next 21 & Over gathering will be on Wednesday, August 8, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at Pastor and Kate Fish's home. If you are interested in attending or being a part of this ministry, **contact Pr. Patrick** (pfish@stmarksaurora.net).



## New women's circle

**Tuesday, August 21, 5:30 p.m.**

A new women's circle (yet to be named) is becoming a reality. Creative ideas were offered at the first meeting, and the group has decided to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the St. Mark's room (BYO supper or snack). If you are interested in participating, you're very welcome to come on August 21st to be a part of shaping the circle's development. **Contact Marcia Broucek** (news@stmarksaurora.net).



## Adult Fellowship Elwood House (DeKalb)

**Thursday, August 23, 9:30 a.m.**

Barbed wire entrepreneur Issac Elwood resided in this beautiful mansion in 1879. We will have a 90-minute tour of the mansion and Elwood-Neuring (1899) house. We plan to leave St. Mark's at 9:30 a.m. and tour the beautiful gardens prior to our guided Elwood House tour, which begins at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be at O'Leary's Pub in DeKalb. **Please sign up at the Welcome Desk by August 19.** (Coming up next month: "Scams & Frauds" and tour of police station, Friday, September 21.)



## Coffee Project sales

**Sat-Sun, August 4-5 and Sun, August 19**

Check out the Equal Exchange coffees offered by our Coffee Project team. The Fair Trade organic beans come from small farmer co-ops. When you purchase Equal Exchange coffee you are supporting an equitable trade system for small-scale farmers and environmental preservation through crop diversity.



## Blood pressure screening

**Sunday, August 12, between services**

Nurses from the Health Ministry board will be back in August, offering free blood pressure screenings between services on Sunday, August 12.



## Music Ministry annual BBQ fundraiser

**Wednesday, August 29, 4:30-6:30 pm**

The Music Ministry is hosting their scrumptious annual “5 B’s” BBQ fundraiser on Wednesday, August 29th. Pork chops and chicken are BBQ’d on site, and meals include coleslaw, baked beans, apple sauce, rolls and butter.

You can purchase two-piece meat meals with pork chops, chicken, or a combination for \$13. One-piece meat meals are \$11, and kids hot dog meals are \$6.

Tickets may be purchased the month of August between Sunday morning worship services from any adult choir member, or through the church office. You can drive thru and pick up your meals, or dine in and get free dessert, coffee, tea, or lemonade, and lots of fellowship! See you on August 29th!!



## Music Ministry ensembles starting

This fall St. Mark’s Music Ministry invites you to join in leading the church’s song. Below are the start-up dates and times for vocal and handbell choirs.

Lion’s Voice Choir: Adults  
Rehearsals: Thursdays from 7:00-8:30 pm  
Start Date: Thursday, August 23

Glory Ringers: Adults  
Rehearsals: Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm  
Start Date: Tuesday, August 21



High School Praise Team  
Rehearsals: Sunday’s from 11:30 to noon  
Ongoing

Joyous Praise Bells: Grades 6-8  
Rehearsals: Wednesday’s 5:30-6:00 pm  
Start Date: Wednesday, September 12

**Worship band instrumentalists needed!** If you are a great drummer or guitarist and are interested in playing in the St. Mark’s worship band, please contact Kristin Young at [kyoung@stmarksaurora.net](mailto:kyoung@stmarksaurora.net)

Roaring Ringers: Grades 3-5  
Rehearsals: Wednesday’s 5:00-5:30 pm  
Start Date: Wednesday, September 12



### God’s Work, Our Hands **Saturday, Sept 8**

Every year, the ELCA has a weekend dedicated for community service. ELCA

Churchwide asks all ELCA congregations to participate in a “God’s Work, Our Hands” weekend. This year, that weekend is September 8 and 9. St. Mark’s will join thousands of other ELCA congregations across the nation and participate in the “God’s Work, Our Hands” initiative. On Saturday, September 8, we will have several service projects in the community in which you can participate. We invite young and old to join us in being God’s hands and feet that day!



### Rally Day **Sunday, Sept 9**

Our annual Rally Day is coming! Mark your calendar for **Sunday, September 9th**. The

schedule for day will include:

- 10:00 a.m.** - Worship service & Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m.** - Butterfly release
- 11:30 a.m.** - Open house of the newly remodeled youth area of the basement. There will be a service project in which all can participate, plus (of course!) food.

We hope you can join us. It will be a great day and way to begin the Fall and the Season of Creation.



## Illinois funding for homeless individuals

St. Mark's members have been serving homeless people at Hesus House for many years. However, we also know that it takes continued advocacy

to change the system and increase funding for the homeless. Building relationships with legislators and the governor is time-consuming. Loving our neighbors can take years.

But the results can be amazing. Several St. Mark's members have been participating in letter-writing campaigns, working in partnership with the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH), to advocate for services for homeless individuals. St. Mark's is represented with the local Faith and Justice Alliance, which includes guests and former guests of Hesus House, Hesus House staff, and local faith leaders.

This year, CCH organizers brought 220 leaders and students to Springfield for ten lobby days. By the time the Illinois General Assembly concluded its 2018 legislative session, the budget bill included increases in funding that will help prevent individuals from homelessness during fiscal year 2019, which started July 1st.

Despite \$44 million in cuts to other human service line items, the **homeless youth programs received a \$500,000 increase**, to \$6 million. Funds for **emergency and transitional housing gained an additional \$1 million**, to \$10.3 million. Funding for homelessness prevention grants and supportive housing line items remained the same from last year's budget package.

CCH also advocated with Heartland Alliance and the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law for an increase to the Temporary Assistance to Needy Family (TANF) cash grant. The Illinois TANF program has increased monthly benefits only twice in the 20 years. Now for the first time in a decade, TANF will be able to increase monthly families living in extreme poverty. When asked how this increase would help them, one family said it would mean being able to purchase winter boots for their children.

With many thanks to all who worked on this bill, additional Illinois funding will now provide services to people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.—*Report from Mike Flynn*



## Habitat FaithBuild 2018

**Saturday, September 29, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

St. Mark's is one of 20 church partners for this year's 2018 Habitat FaithBuild Home. What a wonderful witness it is to work shoulder to shoulder in collaboration with other local churches, working together to ensure this

family has a safe place they can call home. The home we are building is located on Solfisburg Avenue in Aurora. Mark your calendars. If you are interested in helping build and be a part of this effort, **contact Pastor Patrick** (pfish@stmarksaurora.net).

## Thank you from ELCA Good Gifts

Thank you for your recent gift of \$2,578 in support of the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) through ELCA Good Gifts. With generosity and imagination, you have made a gift that will change lives. Through the vaccination program supported by your generous "Good Gifts," you are reaching out with a tangible symbol of Christ's love. Thank you for your generous gift to support health for children.

—*In God's grace,*

*Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement*

## Thank you from Hines Fisher House

I wish to extend my personal thanks to you on behalf of the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital's patients and staff for your recent donation. It will supplement the excellent care and services provided to our inpatient and outpatient Veterans. We appreciate your generosity and support of our nation's Veterans. It is the compassion, generosity and thoughtfulness of our community partners that allows us to continually improve the Veterans' experience. The caring support that your donation signifies lets our Veterans know that they are not forgotten.

—*Sincerely,*

*Renee A. Rouse, Chief, Voluntary Service*

## Thank you from LIRS

Thank you for your generous gift of \$5,000 to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. During these uncertain times for refugees and migrant children and their families, your support is helping to save lives. Your donation will ensure LIRS has the resources needed to provide children fleeing unimaginable circumstances with safe shelter, counseling, and trauma-informed foster care. You're also helping us advocate with firm resolve for ending shameful policies that tear families apart and incarcerate children.

To welcome the stranger is priceless and powerful—and that's exactly what you're doing. The vital support and sustaining relationships you provide truly make a life-changing difference. I am endlessly grateful for your care, and I know the families you impact echo my thanks!

—*In faith,*

*J. Michael Coburn, Director for Development*

# St. Mark's Calendar August 2018

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
|  |   |   | <p>9:00a The Bread Wrappers<br/>1:00p Office volunteers<br/>6:00p Stewardship Team</p>   | <p>7:00p AA meeting</p>  | 6:30p Al-Anon  | <p>11 PENTECOST</p> <p><b>WEBSITE LAUNCH</b></p> <p>5:00p <b>WORSHIP</b><br/>Coffee Project sales</p> |
| <p>11 PENTECOST</p> <p><b>WEBSITE LAUNCH</b></p> <p>9:00a <b>WORSHIP</b><br/>10:00a <b>Coffee &amp; Fellowship</b><br/>Coffee Project sales<br/>10:30a <b>WORSHIP &amp; Hahn baptism</b><br/>11:30a HS Praise Team rehearsal</p> | <p>6 <b>Naomi Circle</b></p>                            | <p>7 <b>Adult Study "Dialogues On Refugees"</b><br/>1:00p Staff meeting<br/>2:00p CDC musical rehearsal</p>   | <p>8 <b>The Bread Wrappers</b><br/>1:00p Office volunteers<br/>2:00p CDC musical rehearsal<br/>6:00p <b>CDC Pre-School Open House</b><br/>7:30p <b>21&amp;Over</b></p> | <p>9 <b>CDC musical rehearsal</b><br/>6:00p <b>CDC Open House (Downer Pl)</b><br/>7:00p AA meeting</p>           | <p>10 <b>CDC musical rehearsal</b><br/>6:00p <b>CDC musical "100% Chance of Rain"</b><br/>6:30p Al-Anon</p>  | <p>12 PENTECOST</p> <p>5:00p <b>WORSHIP</b></p>   |
| <p>12 PENTECOST</p> <p>9:00a <b>WORSHIP</b><br/>10:00a <b>Coffee &amp; Fellowship</b><br/>Blood pressure screenings<br/>10:30a <b>WORSHIP</b><br/>11:30a HS Praise Team rehearsal<br/>11:45a <b>Council meeting</b></p>          | <p>13 <b>Faith Circle</b></p>                           | <p>14 <b>Adult Study "Dialogues On Refugees"</b><br/>1:00p Staff meeting</p>  | <p>15 <b>The Bread Wrappers</b><br/>1:00p Office volunteers</p>  | <p>16 <b>AA meeting</b></p>  | <p>17 <b>Al-Anon</b></p>   | <p>13 PENTECOST</p> <p>5:00p <b>WORSHIP</b></p>   |
| <p>13 PENTECOST</p> <p>9:00a <b>WORSHIP</b><br/>10:00a <b>Coffee &amp; Fellowship</b><br/>Coffee Project sales<br/>10:30a <b>WORSHIP</b><br/>11:30a HS Praise Team rehearsal</p>   | <p>20 <b>Ruth Circle</b></p>                            | <p>21 <b>Adult Study "Dialogues On Refugees"</b><br/>1:00p Staff meeting<br/>5:30p <b>New Women's Circle</b><br/>7:00p <b>Glory Ringers start</b></p> | <p>22 <b>The Bread Wrappers</b><br/>1:00p Office volunteers</p>  | <p>23 <b>Adult Fellowship - Elwood House</b><br/>7:00p <b>Lion's Voice Choir starts</b><br/>7:00p AA meeting</p> | <p>24 <b>Al-Anon</b></p>   | <p>14 PENTECOST</p> <p>5:00p <b>WORSHIP</b></p>   |
| <p>14 PENTECOST</p> <p>9:00a <b>WORSHIP</b><br/>10:00a <b>Coffee &amp; Fellowship</b><br/>10:30a <b>WORSHIP</b><br/>11:30a HS Praise Team rehearsal</p>  | <p>27 <b>Lydia's Piecemakers &amp; Knit Pickers</b></p> | <p>28 <b>Adult Study "Dialogues On Refugees"</b><br/>1:00p Staff meeting<br/>7:00p <b>Glory Ringers rehearsal</b></p>                                 | <p>29 <b>The Bread Wrappers</b><br/>1:00p Office volunteers<br/>4:30p <b>5B's BBQ</b></p>  | <p>30 <b>AA meeting</b><br/>7:00p <b>Lion's Voice Choir rehearsal</b></p>  | <p>31 <b>Al-Anon</b></p>   |   |

# Wondering what you can do about the separation of refugee children from their families?

## Meet LIRS, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service



*"When I was a stranger, you welcomed me."*

Rooted in faith, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) believes that we are called to welcome those fleeing persecution and seeking refuge in the United States. As part of the United States refugee resettlement program, LIRS works to reunite families, pairing vulnerable refugees with LIRS service partners who are uniquely equipped to support their needs.

Here are some key things to know about LIRS:

- **Was founded in 1939** by Lutheran churches in the United States to serve uprooted people during World War II.
- **Has welcomed more than ½ million migrants and refugees** through the initiative of Lutheran congregations.
- **Provides initial, essential services for refugees** during their first days in the U.S. through a robust network of service partners, volunteers and churches.
- **Provides support for individuals in immigration detention** through a visitation and writing ministry to provide friendship, compassion, and a listening ear.
- **Advocates for asylum-seeking migrants.**
- **Works to help refugees become employed** through the Matching Grant program.
- **Helps immigrants integrate into communities.** Successful protection, stabilization, and integration processes are core elements of LIRS's mission.
- **Provides long-term case management services** to especially vulnerable refugees to help address physical and mental health needs.
- **Provides a full continuum of services for vulnerable children.** LIRS is the only organization in the country that walks alongside unaccompanied children throughout their entire journey, from foster care to family reunification.
- **Provides short-term and long-term foster care for refugee children** and other unaccompanied migrant children.
- **Has a program for family reunification** which ensures that appropriate documentation is collected and provides families with a connection to services.
- **Is a national leader in advocating for the reform of immigration detention.**
- **Offers legal representation and services to torture survivors.**



### How is LIRS helping children at our border?

In recent months, thousands of children have been separated from their parents, and still more are at risk of being jailed in detention centers along with their families.

Once children are separated, they are detained as an "unaccompanied child." Within 72 hours, they are supposed to be referred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), which then refers the children to licensed care providers, of which LIRS is one.

These children urgently need safe shelter, clothes, beds, and counseling. In addition, LIRS also goes to work to find the parent who has been detained. If they are able to locate the parent, they help the parent understand the process for their child and ask about possible family or community sponsors that could take the child into their care while the parent awaits federal processing. If no sponsor is identified, LIRS seeks to place the child in long-term, trauma-informed foster care where the child can be safe while the parent awaits federal processing.

### Ways you can help

- ❑ **Make a gift:** St. Mark's has given \$5000 from the Capital Campaign Outreach tithe. Thank you for making this possible. After the launch of our new website on August 4, if you'd like to make a personal gift online, go **StMarksAurora.net**. Click on the GIVE tab, and scroll down to "Designated Gifts."
- ❑ **Call your elected officials:** Congress is slated to take up a number of immigration bills that would have devastating impacts on the welfare of children. Tell your Members of Congress that you expect them to find a solution that doesn't involve separating children from their parents.
- ❑ **Consider becoming a foster parent:** Visit **lirs.org/fostercare** or email [fosterparentinfo@lirs.org](mailto:fosterparentinfo@lirs.org) to see if LIRS has a foster care program near you.
- ❑ **Get involved with detention visitation:** Plug in to a local visitation/writing ministry to make a difference for those locked up in immigration detention. For more information, see **lirs.org/detention-visitation**

*For more information, visit [lirs.org](http://lirs.org)*

## Financial Peace University

**Tuesday, Sept 18–Nov 13**  
**9-week course led by**  
**Ken & Susan Koepke**

Maybe you are juggling debt and stress. Or maybe you would like to get on a better track for saving and giving. Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* course could be transforming. This much-hailed 9-week course will be offered at St. Mark's again this Fall, led by Ken and Susan Koepke.

Twenty-five years ago, Dave Ramsey battled his way out of bankruptcy and millions of dollars in debt. Out of his experience, he developed "The 7 Baby Steps" as the foundation of his commonsense advice on money. The steps are different from other money-management plans because they go beyond simply treating the symptoms of money problems, such as debt and lack of savings, and focus on changing behavior—the real cause of those issues. Many, many people have found Ramsey's financial principles literally life-saving.

If you would like to participate in this course, it will be important to attend as many of the nine sessions as possible. Pre-registration is required, and the group-discounted cost is \$109 per family. Look for more information at the Welcome Center and online in August.

## St. Mark's Endowment Fund

### "10 Reasons to Support the Endowment Fund"

Christian stewardship involves the faithful management of all gifts God has given, including accumulated, inherited, and appreciated resources. Our Endowment Fund Team offers some suggestions about why you might want to consider a legacy gift to the Endowment Fund:

1. Support the future of the church.
2. Support the mission of the church today and the future.
3. Support special needs of the church.
4. Make a gift that keeps on giving.
5. Honor a loved one.
6. Honor the meaning and faith of loved one's life.
7. Be a witness to the next generation.
8. Provide long-term stability for the church.
9. Make it a permanent part of your tithe to the Lord's work.
10. Help maintain the church building to ensure continuation of the Columbarium.

## A giving upgrade

- Are the days of writing checks or paying cash a distant memory for you?
- Do you use a card for your everyday purchases?
- Do you pay your bills electronically?

If this describes you, we think you're going to like the new credit card option on the St. Mark's website for making pledge gifts and special donations, registering for events, and purchasing tickets ONLINE.

Give it a try and let us know what you think! After the launch of our new website on August 4th, go to **StMarksAurora.net** and click on the **GIVE** tab. Scroll down to see the options.

\* SEE the front page of the newsletter for "5 Gifts for the first 50 Givers"!

## St. Mark's monthly financial recap for June 2018

### Monthly information

|  |    |                |
|--|----|----------------|
| <b>Monthly Budget Goal</b>             |    | \$ 71,753.33   |
| Monthly Offering information           |    |                |
| Envelopes – General Fund               | \$ | 55,867.00      |
| CDC Rent/Administration                | \$ | 4,387.50       |
| Miscellaneous                          | \$ | 500.00         |
| Other (loose, Sunday School, interest) | \$ | 430.30         |
| Total General Fund Income              |    | \$ 61,184.80   |
| Monthly Surplus (Shortfall)            |    | \$ (10,568.53) |

### Summary General Fund information as of 6/30/2018

|  |    |             |
|--|----|-------------|
| Annual Budget  | \$ | 861,040.00  |
| Percent of Year Completed  |    | 50%         |
| Offerings/Commitments/Other Income received year to date         | \$ | 461,540.57* |
| * Note: \$25,445 of this income was 2018 pledges prepaid in 2017 |    |             |
| Actual Expenses year to date                                     | \$ | 398,617.40  |
| Actual Expense Surplus (Shortfall) year to date                  | \$ | 62,923.17   |
| Budget Surplus (Shortfall) year to date                          | \$ | 31,020.57   |

### Summary "Share and Secure" Capital Campaign information as of 6/30/2018

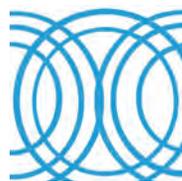
|                                      |    |            |
|--------------------------------------|----|------------|
| Giving to "Share and Secure" to date | \$ | 457,459.77 |
| Transferred to Outreach              | \$ | 47,482.75  |
| Principal Payments to Mortgage       | \$ | 410,115.36 |

### Debt Balances as of 6/30/2018

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Principal Remaining on Church Building                          | \$1,819,013.51 |
| Principal Remaining on CDC (payments from CDC operating income) | \$ 517,740.45  |
| General Fund owes Special Fund from 2017 (repaid in July)       | \$ 43,347.86   |

## Council highlights July 2018

- The council approved the first four steps of a proposal written by Summer Facility Manager, Gregg Kobliska, to correct the flooding problem in the basement. The cost of project will come from Capital Campaign money and the maintenance budget.
- The Executive Team recommended that St. Mark's contribute \$5,000 to Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service (LIRS) and implement an education process for the congregation to learn about the agency. Council approved this donation to LIRS from Capital Campaign Outreach funds.
- The council approved funding for paying for the 10:30 a.m. worship summer drummer from Capital Campaign Outreach title.
- Council approved paying back from the General Fund the \$43,347.86 that we borrowed from special funds in the summer of 2017, and will continue to look at reinstating our benevolence.
- Council approved the Endowment Team's College Scholarship Program proposal.



## “Radical Hospitality”

Metro-Chicago Synodical  
Women's Convention

**Saturday, October 27, 2018**

Hosted at St. Mark's

Women at St. Mark's have a wonderful opportunity to attend the one-day Metro-Chicago Synodical Women's Organization 2018 Convention, which St. Mark's is hosting this year. The day's focus is on immigrants and refugees, and includes keynote speaker, breakout sessions, and lunch. For information on the speaker and presentations, please pick up a flyer at the Welcome Desk.

SPACE IS LIMITED TO 150. If you would like to be a part of this important day, please register NOW. The registration form (available at the Welcome Center) needs to be mailed in! Cost before August 1, \$25; after August 1, \$30; at the door (if there is space), \$35.

## Council members

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Don Friend</b><br>Council President  | 630-892-6616<br>donaldfmd@yahoo.com                   |
| <b>Charlie Brummet</b><br>Treasurer     | 630-466-7087<br>cbrummet@aol.com                      |
| <b>David Albers</b><br>Property         | 219-477-7250<br>albersdavid089@gmail.com              |
| <b>Austin Bredow</b><br>Outreach        | 773-988-1231<br>a_bredow@yahoo.com                    |
| <b>Jeanne Flynn</b><br>Youth and Family | 630-896-6312<br>flynn64sq@sbcglobal.net               |
| <b>Chad Gooch</b><br>Technology         | 630-466-0742<br>cgooch@cleo.com                       |
| <b>Ginny Pavesich</b><br>Stewardship    | 630-337-7004<br>alinenow@reagan.com                   |
| <b>Heather Rehg</b><br>New Members      | 630-801-4121<br>rehg@comcast.net                      |
| <b>Carol Reiseck</b><br>Stewardship     | 630-554-4255<br>carol.reiseck@cuchicago.edu           |
| <b>Pastor Patrick Fish</b>              | 630-897-6891, ext. 102<br>pfish@stmarksaurora.net     |
| <b>Pastor Pat Geiseman</b>              | 630-897-6891, ext. 101<br>pgeiseman@stmarksaurora.net |

## St. Mark's staff

(phone is 630-897-6891, unless indicated otherwise)

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Pastor Patricia Geiseman</b><br>Pastor                           | Ext 101<br>pgeiseman@stmarksaurora.net     |
| <b>Pastor Patrick Fish</b><br>Associate Pastor                      | Ext. 102<br>pfish@stmarksaurora.net        |
| <b>Kristin Young</b><br>Director of Worship & the Arts              | Ext 103<br>kyoung@stmarksaurora.net        |
| <b>Kari Reiseck</b><br>Director of Youth & Family Ministry          | Ext. 104<br>kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net     |
| <b>Sue Hilderbrand</b><br>Director of Handbell Choirs               | Ext. 108<br>shilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net |
| <b>Marcia Broucek</b><br>Communications Coordinator                 | Ext. 107<br>news@stmarksaurora.net         |
| <b>Deb Arcilla</b><br>Office Manager                                | Ext. 100<br>darcilla@stmarksaurora.net     |
| <b>John Themanson</b><br>Finance Administrator                      | Ext. 105<br>jthemanson@stmarksaurora.net   |
| <b>Al Lettow</b><br>Facility Manager                                | Ext 106<br>facilitymgr@stmarksaurora.net   |
| <b>Jim Erickson</b><br>Financial Secretary                          | 630-235-6510<br>giving@stmarksaurora.net   |
| <b>Colette Patterson-Moon</b><br>Director, Child Development Center | 630-897-6063<br>stmarksdir@att.net         |
| <b>Terese Ruppel</b><br>Nursery Coordinator                         | 630-466-1036<br>ter60554@gmail.com         |

## PASTORAL ACTS

Baptism

July 22 – Nora Grace Prieboy

Have information to share? Cutoff time for the weekly *Courier* is **noon each Monday**, and for the monthly *Vineyard*, the **15th of the month**. Email your article to [news@stmarksaurora.net](mailto:news@stmarksaurora.net), or drop it in Marcia Broucek's mailbox.

# Servers for worship

| <b>August 4 &amp; 5</b>   | <b>Saturday, 5:00pm</b>            | <b>Sunday, 9:00am</b>         | <b>Sunday, 10:30am</b>       |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Acolytes                  | Darragh & Clodagh Creaney          | Delaney Hopkins, Ben Miller   | Delaney Hopkins              |
| Adult Worship Assistants  | Bob Johnson                        | Sheryl Campen                 | -                            |
| A/V Desk                  | TBA                                | Fred Krueger                  | Jill Fox                     |
| Altar Care                | Al Lettow                          | Team A                        | Team A                       |
| Bread Baker               | Susan Manning                      | Susan Manning                 | Susan Manning                |
| Hospitality Team          | Al Lettow, Jim & Clare Toynton     | Team A - Mark Perry           | Team A - Deb Steinheimer     |
| Reader                    | Clare Toynton                      | Team A                        | Team A                       |
| Welcome Center Hosts      | TBA                                | Team A                        | Team A                       |
| <b>August 11 &amp; 12</b> |                                    |                               |                              |
| Acolytes                  | TBA                                | Shaelin Dunn, Ben Miller      | Delaney Hopkins, Elena Gooch |
| Adult Worship Assistants  | Bob Johnson                        | Anna Themanson                | -                            |
| A/V Desk                  | Nancy Clark                        | Scott Thompson                | Mark Hipp                    |
| Altar Care                | Sheila Johnson                     | Team B                        | Team B                       |
| Bread Baker               | Jens Jensen                        | Jens Jensen                   | Jens Jensen                  |
| Hospitality Team          | K. Walz, S. Kuhn, S. & L. Tomlin   | Team B—Bruce Wood             | Team B - Youth Group         |
| Reader                    | Kathy Walz                         | Team B                        | Team B                       |
| Welcome Center Hosts      | TBA                                | Team B                        | Team B                       |
| <b>August 18 &amp; 19</b> |                                    |                               |                              |
| Acolytes                  | TBA                                | Ben Miller                    | Shelby Garrett               |
| Adult Worship Assistants  | Bob Johnson                        | Sue Hilderbrand               | -                            |
| A/V Desk                  | Beth Benson Ulrich                 | Dan Hawks                     | Melvin Smith                 |
| Altar Care                | Debra Haddad                       | Team C                        | Team C                       |
| Bread Baker               | Susan Manning                      | Susan Manning                 | Susan Manning                |
| Hospitality Team          | Dave & Nancy Clark, Matt Hicks     | Team C - John & Terry Thorsen | Team C - Mike Flynn          |
| Reader                    | Miriam Hicks                       | Team C                        | Team C                       |
| Welcome Center Hosts      | TBA                                | Team C                        | Team C                       |
| <b>August 25 &amp; 26</b> |                                    |                               |                              |
| Acolytes                  | TBA                                | Shaelin Dunn                  | TBA                          |
| Adult Worship Assistants  | Bob Johnson                        | Don Friend                    | -                            |
| A/V Desk                  | Nancy Clark                        | Matt Greising                 | Melvin Smith                 |
| Altar Care                | Don Bryant                         | Team D                        | Team D                       |
| Bread Baker               | Matt Greising                      | Matt Greising                 | Matt Greising                |
| Hospitality Team          | T. O'Connell, V. Ostreng, D. Clark | Team D - John & Terry Thorsen | Team D                       |
| Reader                    | Erik Egeland                       | Team D                        | Team D                       |
| Welcome Center Hosts      | TBA                                | Team D                        | Team D                       |



St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
 27 South Edgelawn Drive  
 Aurora, IL 60506

Phone: 630-897-6891  
 Web: stmarksaurora.net  
 Facebook: facebook.com/stmarksaurora

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**“Christmas in September”  
 Lydia’s Piecemakers Fall Luncheon  
 Saturday, September 22, 11:45 a.m.**

Mark your calendars for the annual St. Mark’s Fall Luncheon. On Saturday, September 22nd, Lydia’s Piecemakers are hosting a celebration of giving with a holiday theme of “Christmas in September.” The special program will include Twyla Strum and the Family Tradition Quartet. A hand-quilted original quilt designed by Virginia Biltgen, with an array of Christmas images in a colorful background of pieced fabrics, will be available for the raffle. Come one, come all!

- Saturday, Sept 8: “God’s Work, Our Hands” Day  
The Neighbor Project  
PADS dinner
- Sunday, Sept 9: Rally Day
- Tuesday, Sept 11: Lifeline Screening
- Wednesday, Sept 12: FDL starts
- Tuesday, Sept 18: Financial Peace University starts
- Friday, Sept 21: Adult Fellowship, “Scams & Frauds”
- Saturday, Sept 22: Habitat for Humanity FaithBuild
- Saturday, Sept 22: “Christmas in September” luncheon