

God's Work, Our Hands



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



Last week of "Millennials & Church" study
Tuesday, Feb 13, 10:00 a.m.

The question for consideration this week focuses on how we want to engage and connect with Millennials at St. Mark's. We welcome your input!



Next week, **Tuesday, Feb 20, we begin a 5-week Lenten Adult Study on "Faces of Christ."** We start with Jesus' own question: "Who do you say that I am?" Join this Adult Study at any time; you do not need to attend all sessions.

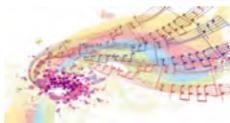


High School Lock-In

Friday, Feb 16, 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Saturday

Calling all high-schoolers! Looking for something fun? Why not come to the annual High School Lock-In?

Things will get started at 7:00 p.m. and continue through the night, playing games, jumping in the bounce house, designing mission trip T-shirts, and much more. Cost is \$15, and sign-up is at the Welcome Center. (Permission slips are there as well.) Bring a friend and join the Midnight Madness!



There's still time . . .

Here's a chance to share your musical gifts without a long-term commitment. **Lion's Voice Choir begins rehearsing for Holy Week on Thursday, February 22,**

from 7:45-8:30 p.m. (Contact Kristin Young at kyoung@stmarksaurora.net) **Glory Ringers** rehearse on **Tuesday evenings** at 7:00 p.m. (Contact Sue Hilderbrand at shilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net.)



Souper Bowl News!

We raised **\$820.58** for our ministry to Hesus House:

\$505.00 for the Eagles
\$315.58 for the Patriots

Thanks to all for your ongoing support.



Want to become a better listener?

Improve your listening skills and enhance your personal relationships by attending BeFriender trainings in April. You can also use this time to discern if you are being called to become BeFriender Minister. Please speak to a BeFriender Leader, Dave Gibson, Becky Mueller, or Jean Clementz and visit the Welcome Center for more information.

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



Phone: 630-897-6891
Fax: 630-897-4842
www.stmarksaurora.net
Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Staff Contact Information

Pastoral Staff

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

Ministry Staff

Kristin Young <i>Director of Worship & the Arts</i>	Ext. 16	kyoung@stmarksaurora.net
Sue Hilderbrand <i>Director of Bell Choirs</i>	Ext. 24	shilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net
Kari Reiseck <i>Director of Youth & Family Ministries</i>	Ext. 22	kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net

Support Staff

Deb Arcilla <i>Office Manager</i>	Ext. 10	darcella@stmarksaurora.net
John Themanson <i>Finance Administrator</i>	Ext. 19	jthemanson@stmarksaurora.net
Al Lettow <i>Facility Manager</i>	Ext. 12	facilitymgr@stmarksaurora.net
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Faith Community Nurse

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

Jim Erickson	630-235-6510	jerickson@stmarksaurora.net
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St. Mark's Child Development Center

Colette Patterson-Moon <i>Director</i>	630-897-6063	stmarksdir@att.net
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Council Members

Don Friend (President), 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, Sarah DeRubis, Jennifer Gaeta, Mary Kenner, Bob Korst, Carol Lippert, Kathy Pippig, Julia Taylor

9:00 a.m. Merry Carey, Doris Clark, Gavin Duffy, Danielle Easton, Debbie Manson, Kay McKeen, Bruce Nicholson, Brad Powell, Lois Swan, Dennis Zielinski

10:30 a.m. Paul Bergh, Victoria Halsted, Harold and Martha Thielman, Jack Treadman

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

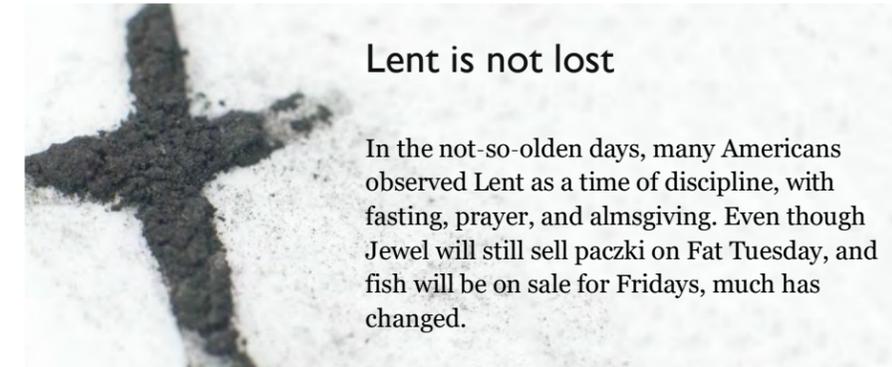
We pray for comfort and peace for Ken and Susan Koepke who mourn the death of Susan's mother, Dolores Miklosik.



February 10-11, 2018

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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



Lent is not lost

In the not-so-older days, many Americans observed Lent as a time of discipline, with fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Even though Jewel will still sell paczki on Fat Tuesday, and fish will be on sale for Fridays, much has changed.

Over the years at St. Mark's, we have worshiped mid-week with Holden Evening Prayer, Taize, and Holden Prayer around the Cross. These worship services were/are compelling and connecting. Lovely and meaningful. I like them and miss them. But, year by year, attendance dwindled. Toward the end of the season, only a few people gathered around the cross. Why, we wonder? It's late, dark, cold, people are busy, tired, over-booked . . . ???

But, busy or not, it is still Lent. And, like it or not, we are all dust and to dust we shall return. But we can cheer up. Lent is more than a time to consider our mortality. The Season invites us to be refreshed, to be people who reflect Steadfast Love.

Even though there will not be any Lenten evening worship time this season, we will gather for Lenten worship on the weekends. And young people will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings. Second graders will hear again the story of God's liberating power as they prepare for their first communion early in the Easter Season.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, every year: *"Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."*

We know this. As we gaze through the glass in the entrance of the nave, we remember those who have gone before us whose ashes rest in the columbarium. We remember them, and we remember that we, too, are dust. In the meantime, we are invited to open our hearts, again, to the Word that realigns, breathes new life into us, and challenges us to really live—to be fully alive and human.

As Joan Chittister writes, *"Lent is our salvation from the depths of nothingness. It is our guide to the more of life."*

I hope you will join us in the season,
Pastor Patricia Geiseman

Ash Wednesday Worship, Feb 14

11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Begin Lent with worship & renewal.

Each service includes the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.
There will be a children's message at the 7:00 o'clock service.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

SUNDAY, February 11

9:00a Sunday School
ONLY ONE WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00a **Worship and Installation of Pastor Patrick Fish**
11:45a Mardi Gras celebration brunch
3:00p Fox Valley Orchestra Chorus concert

MONDAY, February 12

9:00a Faith Circle
7:00p Fox Valley Festival Chorus

TUESDAY, February 13

10:00a **Adult Study w/Pr. Patrick**
1:00p Staff meeting
7:00p Glory Ringers—HS & adults rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, February 14

ASH WEDNESDAY
9:30a The Bread Wrappers
9:30a WVMTA meeting
10:00a Master Class, Waubensee Valley Illinois State Music Teacher's Association
11:00a **Imposition of Ashes**
11:00a **Adult Fellowship/lunch**
1:00p Office volunteers
NO FDL OR CONFIRMATION CLASSES
7:00p **Imposition of Ashes**

THURSDAY, February 15

7:00p AA meeting
7:00p Lion's Voice Choir
7:00p Youth & Family Ministry Team mtg

FRIDAY, February 16

10:00a Outreach Team meeting
6:30p Al-Anon
7:00p High School Lock-In starts (overnight)

SATURDAY, February 17

7:00a High School Lock-In ends
5:00p **Worship**

SUNDAY, February 18

9:00a First Communion class
9:00a Sunday School
9:00a **Worship**
Coffee sales
Blood pressure screening between services
10:30a **Worship**
11:45a Council meeting
4:00p "Feed the Need" (North Central College)

LOOKING AHEAD

Tues, Feb 20: Lenten Adult Study begins
Wed, Feb 21: Youth Mission trip meeting



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Discipleship



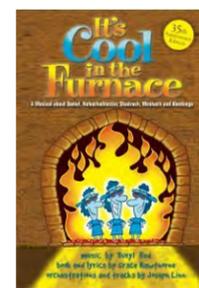
A spiritual practice for Lent

Lent offers us an opportunity to create positive change over a 40-day period. One way to transform our lives is to take the "40 bags in 40 days" challenge to declutter.

Simply put, clutter is the accumulation of more than can fit into an available space. Clutter can be more than just "stuff." Think beyond your physical dwelling to the broad picture of what it takes to navigate through your life. Clutter could be an overflowing email inbox, a stack of "to do" lists, or chaotic computer files. (A list of areas to declutter is available at the Welcome Center.)

Not sure where to start?

- ▶ **Begin with pen and paper;** list some things you would like to clear out or up.
- ▶ **Prioritize** and start with an area that is important to you.
- ▶ **Break it down** by tackling one drawer or cupboard, one pile or folder at a time.
- ▶ Clear out something each day during Lent and put it in a bag.
What counts as a "bag"? Anything you have worked on and completed (e.g., clearing the top of the refrigerator, cleaning out the toy chest, purging the medicine cabinet, tidying up your computer files, etc.)
- ▶ **Decide what to keep, throw out, or donate.**
- ▶ **Note your accomplishments** on a calendar so you can see your progress.



One COOL musical! Wednesday rehearsals, 6:00*

It's Cool in the Furnace is a terrific musical for 1st-5th graders. The story, from the Book of Daniel, is about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, their faith in God, and God's deliverance. This great music has been

the number one Christian children's musical for 30 years! We invite all 1st-5th grade students to join us for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-6:40. First-communion students will join us at 6:00 for 30 minutes. Questions? Please contact Kristin Young.

**SAVE THE PERFORMANCE DATE:
Wednesday, April 25th at 7:30 pm.**

* It is extremely important that students make a commitment to being there on Wednesdays. (No rehearsal Feb 14th or during Holy Week.)

Announcements



Adult Fellowship Ash Wednesday, Feb 14

The Adult Fellowship will attend the **11:00 a.m. Ash**

Wednesday service and then go to the Riverview Diner (1420 S River Rd, Montgomery) for a buffet luncheon. Cost: \$19, plus tax and tip. Please sign up at the Welcome Center by Feb 11th. Or call Lloyd or Joann Feltz at 630-466-4180.

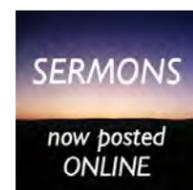


Ready for a riveting read?

Books available for checkout at the Welcome Center:
Sat/Sun Feb 17/18
Sat/Sun Feb 24/25

If you'd like to read and discuss the dramatic true story of how the keeper of the Warsaw Zoo saved hundreds of people from Nazi hands, join the next Book Club meeting on **Friday, March 9** at 10:00 a.m. for a discussion of ***The Zookeeper's Wife***.

Arrangements have been made for 20 books from West Branch Aurora Public Library for books to be available at St. Mark's Welcome Center for checkout after services the last two weekends in February. If you have questions, contact Marge Gugerty at marge.gugerty@gmail.com or 331-262-2784.



Have you tried out sermons online?

Go to our website StMarksAurora.net and click on SERMONS on the left-hand menu to read Pastor Patrick's sermon from Feb 3-4: "Movement from Darkness to Light."



Going somewhere?

Mission trip July 21-28
Planning meeting
Wednesday, Feb 21, 7:30 p.m.

This summer, our high school youth will be traveling to North Carolina for a mission trip through Youth Works. We'll be volunteering at the Kid's Club, painting, and helping with the community. There is room for one more student, and we're looking for one more adult leader. Parents and students, come on the 21st to get more details about the trip!



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!

Worship Times: Saturday 5:00 pm & Sunday 9:00 am and 10:30 am



For your reflection . . . today's Worship focus

This will be a BIG weekend for St. Mark's, a mountain-top experience, as we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord and the installation of Pastor Patrick J. Fish.

The story of the transfiguration is an unusual text. Through it we see the promises of the past in the patriarchs, Moses and Elijah, and the presence of these divine promises in Jesus, who shines. We see a glimpse of the Resurrection here in the earthly ministry! The disciples don't understand what's going on, so they want to stay and preserve this holy time.

But, no, they were not to stay on the mountain and bask in the light. For them, and for us, it's time to leave the mountain and walk to Jerusalem, with Jesus, to the cross, the place where heaven and earth meet again, as God's love for the world is clearly seen.



For your consideration . . . next week's Worship focus

The Scripture for the first weekend of Lent, in all three years of the lectionary, tells the story of Jesus' testing in the desert.

We are reminded not to be surprised at our own struggle with the will to have power, the desire for things, and the tendency we have as mortals to be destructive.

We, too, are threatened with forces that defy God.

We, too, like Jesus, are baptized and empowered to give ourselves to the things that count in life.