



# The Vineyard Press

FEBRUARY 2018  
VOL 19, ISSUE 2

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

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

## A word of welcome



After many months of preparation and waiting, Pastor Patrick Fish and his family have arrived! We welcome Pastor Patrick, Kate, Ellie, and Maddie into our faith community.

It seems appropriate that the Gospel reading for his first weekend was the call of the disciples, "fishermen." Jesus invited brothers to follow him and to "fish" for people. And the lesson from Hebrew Scriptures was the parable of Jonah, who was called to Nineveh and agreed to go, after a time out in the belly of a great fish. There are other "fish" stories in the Bible. We are pleased to begin another chapter in our life together with the whole Fish family!

## A word of greeting

*Beloved Saints of St. Mark's,*

I want to start out by saying thank you. Thank you, St. Mark's, for your patience. Thank you to the call committee, council, and staff for your diligence in making this happen. Thank you all for extending the call to serve as your Pastor. From day one, you have welcomed and embraced my family and me with such love. For that, I am forever grateful. Kate, Noelle, Madelyn, and I feel so blessed to join this wonderful, faithful, and vibrant community. My family and I are deeply humbled and honored to join you in sharing Christ's abundant love with each other and the world.

We are excited to connect and build strong relationships with you all over the next weeks, months and years! I am excited to listen and learn what God is up to at St. Mark's and in the surrounding Aurora community. Please know, I am an open book and have an open door policy. Feel free to stop by throughout the week or call to set up a time for us to get together. My hope is to meet as many of you as I can during this first year.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Patrick*

## Festive February 11th

Sunday, February 11 is a big day here at St. Mark's. It's a feast of celebrations!

The day begins with the **Installation Service for Pastor Patrick Fish at 10:00 a.m.** This will be the **only worship service of the day** (no 9:00 a.m. worship), but what a service it will be!

As is our custom on Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, we will burn the palms from last Palm Sunday for use on Ash Wednesday. The service will also be brimming with celebratory Mardi Gras music,

featuring a **Dixieland band**. You'll want to arrive 10 minutes early to enjoy even more of their toe-tapping, hand-clapping music pre-service.

The music of the Lion's Voice Choir and Glory Ringers Bell Choir will also ignite your spirit. Pastor Sarah Stumme from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod will be our guest.

And what's a feast of celebration without food! Everyone is welcome to **Mardi Gras brunch** to wrap up the festivities.

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**Adult Study**  
**Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.**  
*See details on page 3.*



**Feed the Need**  
**Sunday, Feb 18**  
*See details on page 4.*



## First Communion kick-off luncheon

**Sunday, Feb 4th**  
**11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

The kick-off luncheon for First Communion families is the first and very important part of our First Communion process, so if you have second graders in your family, please plan to attend. Students visit different stations to help make communion bread and create their First Communion banners. Lunch is provided for the whole family, and there will be childcare for siblings age 4 and under. Kindergarten and 1st-grade siblings can attend an Interactive Sanctuary tour while parents and 2nd graders are doing their stations.

If your child is not baptized, please let us know right away as we will need to do this prior to their taking their First Communion in April. Please contact Kari Reiseck or Pastor Pat Geiseman to make arrangements.



## Souper Bowl

**Saturday, Feb 3, after 5:00 worship**  
**Sunday, Feb 4, after both worship services**

Plan your Super Bowl day to include these special soup kettles! We'll have kettles set up in the narthex with opposing team names, and you can choose your team. All of the monies donated will support PADS and our ministry at Hesus House. Come and join this tangible form of sharing that's part of a nationwide youth movement started in 1990 to fight hunger.



## Ash Wednesday services

**Wednesday, Feb 14**  
**11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

The imposition of ashes on the first day of Lent is an ancient act signaling a time of repentance and reflection. Two services will be offered on Wednesday, February 14, each including the imposition of ashes and communion.



## High School Lock-In

**Friday, Feb 16, 7:00 p.m.**  
**through Saturday, Feb 17, 7:00 a.m.**

The Annual High School (grades 9-12) Lock-in will be Friday, February 16, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. on Saturday, February 17. During the lock-in, we will play games, jump in the bounce house, design mission trip T-shirts, and much more. Bring snacks and games you want to share. Bring a friend! The cost is \$15 to attend. Permission slips are available. See you there for some Moonlight Madness!

# You are invited to the new Adult Study led by Pastor Patrick



**Adult Study**  
**Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.**

**Jan 23**  
**Jan 30**  
**Feb 6**  
**Feb 13**

## Millennials & Church

The most written about and researched generation are the Millennials. Countless scholars have been trying to figure out and understand this generation of people. The Church finds itself in a similar position. I believe we have a great opportunity to learn from the Millennials and see great potential for us, as a church, to engage Millennials.

Being a Millennial myself, I'm interested in how the Church better connects to people in my generation. Often people have approached me and wondered why their children and grandchildren aren't interested in church anyone. The common assumption is don't people my age don't care about Jesus, faith and the life of the church. I don't see this to be true at all and actually think people in my generation are greatly interested in making a positive impact on the world. I hope that through

conversations and discussion we will get to the heart of these concerns, be challenged, see potential, and better understand the people God has called beloved and we, as society, categorize as Millennials.

Through this 4-week Adult study, we will examine together trends of Millennials and discuss what this means of the Church going forward. No matter what you call yourself and what generation you fall into, I invite you to join us for this invigorating discussion!

- *WEEK 1:* Who are the Millennials?
- *WEEK 2:* What are the trends of Millennials in Church?
- *WEEK 3:* Where are Millennials going and what are they seeking?
- *WEEK 4:* How do we engage and connect with Millennials at St. Mark's?



**Lenten Adult Study**  
**Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.**

**Feb 20**  
**Feb 27**  
**Mar 6**  
**Mar 13**  
**Mar 20**

## Faces of Christ

During Lent, we will continue our Adult Study on Tuesday mornings with a 5-week ELCA Lenten study on the "Faces of Christ." This is a study that ELCA congregations across the world will be participating in during the season of Lent. By participating in this study, we, at St. Mark's, remember that we are never a church alone; instead, we believe we are stronger together and know that we are always a part of the larger Church and larger ministry that God is doing.

Through this Lenten study on justice, hunger, and hope, we will . . .

- (1) deepen our sense of who Jesus is;
- (2) discuss what it means to be God's hands, feet, and voice in the world;
- (3) discern where God resides within our daily lives;

- (4) develop an understanding of God's activity and presence not just here at St. Mark's but also in our neighborhoods;
- (5) draw upon what it means for us to see Christ in us, our church, and in our community.

Lent is a time to remember and recommit our faith in Christ. We hope you do so by joining us for our Lenten Adult Study!

- *WEEK 1:* Who do you say that I am?
- *WEEK 2:* What does it mean to be partners in God's mission?
- *Week 3:* Where is God?
- *Week 4:* God lives in the neighborhood.
- *Week 5:* Christ, Hunger, Lent and Hope.

# Your two hours can make a world of difference! Join Feed the Need MobilePack



*“It’s amazing what can be done in a few days. The food packed feeds nearly three thousand children for a WHOLE YEAR! Being a part of this event makes you feel like you are part of something bigger, something that will make the world a better place. You leave knowing you have made an impact in the lives of children around the world.”*

—Kristin Young, 2017 MobilePack participant

To watch the “Hope Starts with Food” video, go to [fmsc.org](http://fmsc.org) and then to the “About Us” tab. Click on Media Resources and scroll down to the video.

## FEED THE NEED MOBILEPACK EVENT

**February 18, 2018  
4:00-6:00 p.m.**

**North Central  
College  
Rec/Res Hall  
Naperville, IL**

The annual **Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Event** is happening on the third weekend of February at Naperville College. Last year, volunteers packed over one million meals, which provided 2,748 children, in more than 70 countries, one nutritious meal each day for an entire year! This year’s goal is 1.2 million meals!

St. Mark’s has committed to sending 40 people to this year’s event. Will you be one of them? Your donation of two hours time and \$50 (which covers the cost of the

food you pack) directly feeds kids who desperately need nutrition.

We are scheduled to participate on **February 18th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** at North Central College in Naperville. In addition to packing food boxes, there will be sit-down jobs available (checking people in, making boxes, and providing support).

Sign up at the Welcome Center and use the designated **“Feed the Need” Event envelopes** for your donation.



### There’s more!

At the end of the event, there will be a raffle drawing for a brand new car! Raffle tickets are \$25 each, or 5 tickets for \$100. All of the raffle sales go toward the food. One \$25 raffle ticket purchase supports enough food for 114 meals.

Raffle tickets can be purchased in advance at [feedtheneedillinois.org](http://feedtheneedillinois.org), or on the day of packing.



Enter to win a brand new  
Kia Niro LX.

# Opportunities ahead . . .



## Ring the bells this Easter!

*'I might like to try that . . .'*

If the thought of ringing with the handbell choir has crossed your mind, the season leading up to Easter is a perfect time to try it out. *No long-term commitment required!* Director Sue Hilderbrand is inviting people to join the Glory Ringers for a season or a month. This offer extends to Roaring Ringers (grades 3-5) and Joyous Praise Bells (grades 6-8) as well. Contact [shilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net](mailto:shilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net), or leave a phone message at 630-897-6891, ext 24.



## Extra voices needed for Holy Week

The beauty and passion of Holy Week is portrayed through word, music, and art. We need extra vocalists to

share in the ministry of music for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Morning. We will begin rehearsing for this wonderful week on **Thursday February 22, from 7:45-8:30**. If you can share your musical gift of singing and can make 3 of the Thursday rehearsals between February 22 and Holy Week, please contact Kristin Young at [kyoung@stmarksaurora.net](mailto:kyoung@stmarksaurora.net).



## Need your coffee?

**Sat/Sun, Feb 3 & 4**  
**Sunday, Feb 18**

NOTE: Beginning in March, we will no longer be selling coffee and chocolate after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. If you normally attend that service, you can arrive a few minutes early (on the first or third Sundays of the month) to make your purchase from our 9:00 a.m. team. Thank you.



## Make time to stay healthy

**Saturday, Feb 10, 4:15 p.m.**  
**Sunday, Feb 18, between services**

During this American Heart Month, give your heart a little extra attention with a free blood pressure screening by our Faith Community Nurse, Jean Clementz.



## Like to read?

**Friday, March 9, 10:00 a.m.**  
**St. Mark's Book Club meeting**

For its March book selection, the St. Mark's Book Club will discuss *The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story* by Diane Ackerman. This true story tells the account of how the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo saved hundreds of people from Nazi hands, and is recommended by the Illinois Holocaust Museum.

Arrangement has been made for 20 books from West Branch Aurora Public Library. The books will be available to be checked out at St. Mark's after services on February 17-18 and 24-25. You may return the books at the Welcome Center at St. Mark's or the book drop at West Branch Aurora Public Library (233 S. Constitution Dr, attached to Washington Middle School) by March 10-11. If you have any questions or comments, call Marge Gugerty at 331-262-2784 or email [marge.gugerty@gmail.com](mailto:marge.gugerty@gmail.com).



## Become a BeFriender

St. Mark's BeFriender Ministry is a ministry of listening presence. A

BeFriender is someone who listens with compassion, accepts people as they are, respects another's spiritual journey, and embodies the caring presence of God. St. Mark's BeFriender Ministry is directed by four guiding principles.

- God is present
- Caring not curing
- Nonjudgmental presence
- Active listening

The four-session training course will be offered at St. Mark's in April. If you are interested in becoming a "BeFriender," save these dates.\*

Saturday, April 14 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monday, April 16 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Monday, April 23 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Monday, April 30 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a BeFriender Minister, please speak to one of our Befriender Ministry leaders: Jean Clementz, Dave Gibson, or Becky Mueller, and sign up at the Welcome Center.

\* Please note: You must be able to attend all trainings.

# There's a lot going on here!

## Did you know ...

... that 22 confirmation students, plus six parents and one grandparent, packed meals on a freezing cold day in January for Feed My Starving Children? Their shift was able to pack 142 boxes, which will feed 84 kids for a year. Great job!



## Did you know ...

... that our wonderful Facility Manager, Al Lettow, took on the job of repairing 60 wobbly chairs. It required taking out and replacing 22 screws per chair for a grand total of 3,564 screws! Way to go, Al!

St. Mark's members rang the bell for 76 hours for the Salvation Army in November and December at four locations. Donations were \$4,194.18 on the ten days we rang. I'm impressed and proud of our people and families who rang. The Salvation Army provides rent assistance, a food pantry, utility assistance, disaster relief, clothes, worship and Bible study. Thank you for your commitment.

*Mike Flynn,  
Salvation Army Bell-Ringing Coordinator*

Dear St. Mark's Family,

Thank you sooooo much for your generosity during the holiday season! You made my residents' holiday amazing! We cannot thank you enough!

Sincerely,  
*Taylor and the Constitution House Staff*

## Did you know ...

... that Hope Circle donated 12 sets of resonator bells? The kids at CDC and FDL are loving them! Thank you for this beautiful gift!



Dear St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$6,517.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Thank you for joining with the whole church in this season of unprecedented generosity as, together, we support communities hard-hit by hurricanes, earthquakes and wildfires. Your gifts help provide supplies needed immediately, such as water and generators, as well as support for long-term recovery. Through your generosity, you are sharing with neighbors near and far, revealing God's holy promises of peace and hope, shelter and safety, restoration and abundance.

In the light and life of Christ,  
*The Rev. Daniel Rift*  
Director, ELCA Disaster Appeal

# St. Mark's Calendar February 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				7:00p AA meeting 7:00p Lion's Voice Choir	6:30p Al-Anon	<b>5 EPIPHANY</b> 5:00p Worship Coffee sales
<b>5 EPIPHANY</b> 9:00a Worship Sunday School Coffee sales <b>10:30a Worship</b> 11:45a First Communion kick-off luncheon	<b>5</b> 7:00p Fox Valley Festival Chorus Naomi Circle	<b>6</b> 10:00a Adult Study 1:00p Staff meeting 7:00p Glory Ringers - HS & adults rehearsal	<b>7</b> 9:30a The Bread Wrappers 9:30a WVMITA meeting 1:00p Office volunteers 5:00p Roaring Ringers gr 3-5 5:30p FDL gr 1-5, HS 5:30p Joyous Praise Bells gr 6-8 6:00p Confirmation classes gr 6-8	<b>8</b> 7:00p AA meeting 7:00p Lion's Voice Choir	<b>9</b> 6:30p Al-Anon	<b>TRANSFIGURATION</b> <b>10</b> <b>OF OUR LORD</b> 4:15p Blood pressure screening 5:00p Worship
<b>4</b> 9:00a Worship Sunday School Coffee sales <b>10:30a Worship</b> 11:45a First Communion kick-off luncheon	<b>5</b> 7:00p Fox Valley Festival Chorus Naomi Circle	<b>6</b> 10:00a Adult Study 1:00p Staff meeting 7:00p Glory Ringers - HS & adults rehearsal	<b>7</b> 9:30a The Bread Wrappers 9:30a WVMITA meeting 1:00p Office volunteers 5:00p Roaring Ringers gr 3-5 5:30p FDL gr 1-5, HS 5:30p Joyous Praise Bells gr 6-8 6:00p Confirmation classes gr 6-8	<b>8</b> 7:00p AA meeting 7:00p Lion's Voice Choir	<b>9</b> 6:30p Al-Anon	<b>TRANSFIGURATION</b> <b>10</b> <b>OF OUR LORD</b> 4:15p Blood pressure screening 5:00p Worship
<b>TRANSFIGURATION</b> <b>11</b> <b>OF OUR LORD</b> 9:00a Sunday School <b>10:00a Worship &amp; Installation of Pastor Patrick J. Fish</b> 11:45a Mardi Gras lunch 3:00p Fox Valley Orchestra Chorus concert	<b>12</b> 9:30a Faith Circle 7:00p Fox Valley Festival Chorus	<b>13</b> 10:00a Adult Study 1:00p Staff meeting 7:00p Glory Ringers - HS & adults rehearsal	<b>14</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 9:30a The Bread Wrappers 9:30a WVMITA meeting 11:00a Imposition of Ashes, Holy Communion 1:00p Office Volunteers 7:00p Imposition of Ashes, Holy Communion	<b>15</b> 7:00p AA meeting 7:00p Lion's Voice Choir	<b>16</b> 10:00a Outreach Team meeting 6:30p Al-Anon 7:00p High School Lock-In	<b>1</b> 5:00p Worship
<b>1</b> 9:00a Worship Sunday School First Communion class Coffee sales Blood pressure screening <b>10:30a Worship</b> 11:45a Council meeting 4:00p "Feed the Need"	<b>19</b> 9:30a Ruth Circle 7:00p Fox Valley Festival Chorus	<b>20</b> 10:00a Adult Study 1:00p Staff meeting 7:00p Glory Ringers - HS & adults rehearsal	<b>21</b> 9:30a The Bread Wrappers 1:00p Office volunteers 5:00p Roaring Ringers gr 3-5 5:30p FDL gr 1-5, HS 5:30p Joyous Praise Bells gr 6-8 6:00p Confirmation classes gr 6-8	<b>22</b> 7:00p AA meeting 7:00p Lion's Voice Choir	<b>23</b> 6:30p Al-Anon	<b>2</b> 5:00p Worship
<b>2</b> 9:00a Worship Sunday School <b>10:30a Worship</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00a Lydia's Piecemakers & Knit Pickers 7:00p Fox Valley Festival Chorus	<b>27</b> 10:00a Adult Study 1:00p Staff meeting 7:00p Glory Ringers - HS & adults rehearsal	<b>28</b> 9:30a The Bread Wrappers 1:00p Office volunteers 5:00p Roaring Ringers gr 3-5 5:30p FDL gr 1-5, HS 5:30p Joyous Praise Bells gr 6-8 6:00p Confirmation classes gr 6-8 7:00p Hope Circle			
<b>25</b> 9:00a Worship Sunday School <b>10:30a Worship</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00a Lydia's Piecemakers & Knit Pickers 7:00p Fox Valley Festival Chorus	<b>27</b> 10:00a Adult Study 1:00p Staff meeting 7:00p Glory Ringers - HS & adults rehearsal	<b>28</b> 9:30a The Bread Wrappers 1:00p Office volunteers 5:00p Roaring Ringers gr 3-5 5:30p FDL gr 1-5, HS 5:30p Joyous Praise Bells gr 6-8 6:00p Confirmation classes gr 6-8 7:00p Hope Circle			

# 7 steps to a healthier heart



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*"Keep your heart with all vigilance,  
for from it flow the springs of life."*

Proverbs 4:23

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When you see a red heart in February, your first thought is probably something connected with Valentine's Day. But February is also American Heart Month, which makes this a good time to focus on your *physical* heart. It's an amazing organ that usually keeps pumping away, day after day, year after year, but it's not an organ we should take for granted.



Ready to show your heart some love? Give it a little extra attention? Here are seven key steps to a healthier heart!

**1 Live smoke free.** If you smoke, find the support you need to quit. To learn more, visit the American Heart Association website, [heart.org](http://heart.org). Click on the "Healthy Living" menu at the top, and then the "Quit Smoking" tab.

**2 Monitor your blood pressure.** Your blood pressure should be below 120/80. Speak with your health care professional if you have an elevated blood pressure. Take advantage of our monthly BP screenings at church this month, **Saturday, Feb. 10** and **Sunday, Feb. 18**.

**3 Maintain a healthy weight.** Speak with your health care professional about what a healthy weight is for you. Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables and drink plenty of water. Limit sugar and processed foods.

**4 Watch your cholesterol.** Normal total cholesterol is 150-199. To learn more about cholesterol and why it is important to monitor, speak with your health care professional and visit [heart.org](http://heart.org). Click on the "Conditions" menu at the top, and then the "Cholesterol" tab.

**5 Control your blood sugar.** Normal fasting blood sugar is below 100. Limit sugar intake by cutting back on soft drinks and desserts. Read nutrition labels. Every four grams equals one teaspoon of sugar! If you are concerned about your blood sugar, speak with your health care professional.

**6 Be more active.** Walk more, take the stairs, march in place. For more ideas on increasing your activity, visit [heart.org](http://heart.org). Click on the "Healthy Living" menu at the top, and then the "Physical Activity" tab. The "Getting Active" section is a great place to start if you've been sedentary for a while.

**7 Eat a heart healthy diet.** To get all of your vitamins, minerals, and nutrients, eat a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables. Limit red meat, sodium, and added sugar. Read labels. For heart healthy recipes, visit [recipes.heart.org](http://recipes.heart.org).



**National Wear Red Day  
Friday, Feb 2**

You might also want to take part in National Wear Red Day on Friday, February 2. Check out the details on [goredforwomen.com](http://goredforwomen.com) and wear red to show your support for women with heart disease and stroke.

—Jean Clementz, RN  
Presence Mercy Hospital Medical Center  
Faith Community Nurse at St. Mark's Lutheran Church



*If I can be of assistance to you or someone you know, please contact me,  
630-897-6891, ext 23, or [jean.clementz@presencehealth.org](mailto:jean.clementz@presencehealth.org)*

Source: American Heart Association

## Tithes and Offerings - there is a difference!

We are blessed to have so many faithful givers who make ministry at St. Mark's happen. I know that each person and family considers their gifts carefully, and I am grateful.

But I want to talk about two different kinds of giving. First is a **TITHE**, literally meaning "a tenth." When we tithe, whether it is more or less than a tenth, we are giving from our resources to support the ministry of the whole congregation. At St. Mark's, this is our commitment to the General Fund, which supports the building, program, and salaries needed to keep St. Mark's going.

The second kind of giving is an **OFFERING**. Offerings are gifts above our tithes, including special gifts to ministries such as PADS, ELCA Disaster Response, ELCA Good Gifts, Souper Bowl . . .

I like to think of the difference between the two as something like a home mortgage vs. household discretionary funds. The mortgage needs to be paid no matter what. If we decided to buy a whole lot of Girl Scout cookies with money set aside the

mortgage, the Girls Scouts would be happy and the cookies would be tasty, but, oops we are short for the mortgage payment. The "mortgage"/tithe is budgeted, part of our monthly expenses. The "cookies"/offerings happen when we have the margin to do so.

Or, to put it another way: If we decided to give all of our St. Mark's "tithe" to the ELCA Disaster fund, we would have a disaster of our own!

So, as outreach opportunities present themselves, please consider which ministries you can contribute to without diminishing your support of the whole congregation. Be mindful that giving less to the General Fund in order to support another ministry effort limits the congregation, and this, frankly, hurts us all.

Both TITHES and OFFERINGS work together to build our trust in God as our ultimate Provider, but they work in different ways and serve different purposes.

*-Pastor Patricia Geiseman*



THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL

### Thrivent Choice

Eligible Thrivent Financial members can use the Thrivent Choice grant program to direct their "Choice Dollars" to St. Mark's or to another participating nonprofit organization or congregation.

Last month, Thrivent deposited \$201.00 in our account, thanks to Jean Clementz, Sheila Johnson, and Sheryl Murphy. These gifts help St. Mark's in its ministries. Thank you for directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars here!

## Monthly budget recap for December 2017

### Monthly Information

<b>Monthly Budget Goal</b>		\$ 71,480.67
<b>Monthly Offering Information</b>		
Envelopes – General Fund	\$	80,683.00
CDC Rent	\$	2,500.00
Miscellaneous (Primarily Child Care Center)	\$	146.00
Other (loose, Sunday School, interest)	\$	2,085.83
Total General Fund Income		\$ 85,414.83
Monthly Shortfall/Surplus		\$ 13,934.16

### Summary Information as of 11/30/2017

Annual Budget	\$	857,768.00
Percent of Year Completed		100%
Offerings/Commitments received Year to Date	\$	798,207.90
Actual Expenses Year to Date	\$	838,027.48
Actual Expense Shortfall/Surplus Year to Date	\$	(39,819.58)
Budget Shortfall/Surplus Year to Date	\$	(59,560.10)

### Share and Secure Capital Campaign

Additional principal payments to Mortgage from 2016 Gifts	\$	90,000.00
Additional principal payments to Mortgage from 2017 Year to Date	\$	194,725.57

### Mortgage Balance as of 11/30/2017

Balance Due on Church (not including CDC)	\$	1,978,319.44
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## Welcome to the Kiesling family!

We welcome newly baptized Beatrice Bess Kiesling; her parents, Drew and Kasie; and big brother, Gus, as new members in our faith community. Drew works as a process engineer for Mars Wrigley Confectionery in Yorkville. He also plays the trumpet, likes baseball and cooking, especially smoking meat. Kasie studied theology and criminal justice, has worked in many different capacities, and is now busy at home with Gus and Bea. Gus is three years old and loves anything that moves, spaceships, cars, trucks, airplanes . . . and Mickey Mouse. (Who doesn't?) He attends pre-school at Cross Lutheran. Welcome, Kieslings, to St. Mark's!

## Pastoral Acts

### Baptisms

Noah Michael Joseph Ankrom, Dec 31, 2017

Beatrice Bess Kiesling, Jan 20, 2018

## Council highlights

- Total income for 2017, including capital campaign money, was \$1,063,062.
- Expenses for the year were \$838,027. So we had a shortage of \$39,819 at the end of 2017.
- Old Second Bank offered us two loans for refinancing:
  - Loan 1 - \$1,489,521 10 year @ 5% -15 year amortization
  - Loan 2 - \$500,000 5 year @ 5% -15 year amortization

The reason for splitting the loan is because the 5-year-loan allows pre-payment without a pre-payment penalty charge. So we could continue paying off principal with capital campaign donations.

The 5-year-loan would almost be paid off at the end of five years with projected capital campaign pledges from the remaining two years of the campaign.
- We will add to benevolence if funds become available.
- Difficult decisions had to be made for the 2018 budget and it will be a struggle for the council and congregation.
- Pastor Pat Geiseman thanked Julie Simpson for five years of service on council and Lindsay Meyer for three years of service on council.
- Fire Marshall inspector noted that we needed to add more smoke detectors in the childcare wing, paid for by the St. Mark's Child Development Center.
- Council approved the Pillowcase Dress fundraiser to host a Pancake Breakfast on Palm Sunday.

## St. Mark's staff

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

<b>Pastor Patricia Geiseman</b> Pastor	Ext 15 pgeiseman@stmarksaurora.net
<b>Pastor Patrick Fish</b> Associate Pastor	Ext. 13 pfish@stmarksaurora.net
<b>Kristin Young</b> Director of Worship & the Arts	Ext 16 kyoung@stmarksaurora.net
<b>Kari Reiseck</b> Director of Youth & Family Ministry	Ext. 22 kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net
<b>Sue Hilderbrand</b> Director of Bell Choir	Ext. 24 shilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net
<b>Marcia Broucek</b> Communications Coordinator	Ext. 27 communicationcoord@stmarksaurora.net
<b>Deb Arcilla</b> Office Manager	Ext. 10 darcilla@stmarksaurora.net
<b>John Themanson</b> Finance Administrator	Ext. 19 jthemanson@stmarksaurora.net
<b>Al Lettow</b> Facility Manager	Ext 12 facilitymgr@stmarksaurora.net
<b>Jean Clementz</b> Faith Community Nurse	Ext. 23 jean.clementz@presencehealth.org
<b>Jim Erickson</b> Financial Secretary	630-235-6510 jerickson@stmarksaurora.net
<b>Colette Patterson-Moon</b> Director, Child Development Center	630-897-6063 stmarksdir@att.net
<b>Terese Ruppel</b> Nursery Coordinator	630-466-1036 ter60554@gmail.com

## Council members

<b>Don Friend</b> Council President	630-892-6616 donaldfmd@yahoo.com
<b>Charlie Brummet</b> Interim Treasurer	cbrummet@aol.com 630-466-7087
<b>Rick Jansen</b> Property	630-253-3800 sigmolding@yahoo.com
<b>Jeanne Flynn</b> Member	630-896-6312 flynn64sq@sbcglobal.net
<b>Heather Rehg</b> Member	630-801-4121 rehg@comcast.net
<b>Carol Reiseck</b> Member	630-554-4255 carol.reiseck@cuchicago.edu
<b>Pastor Patrick Fish</b>	Ext. 13 pfish@stmarksaurora.net
<b>Pastor Pat Geiseman</b>	Ext. 15 pgeiseman@stmarksaurora.net

Have something you'd like to share in St. Mark's weekly or monthly newsletter? Information for the weekly *Courier* is due by noon each Monday. Information for the monthly *Vineyard* is due by the 15th of the month. Email your article to Marcia Broucek, communicationcoord@stmarksaurora.net, or drop it in Marcia's mailbox.

# Servers for worship

<b>February 3 &amp; 4</b>	<b>Saturday, 5:00pm</b>	<b>Sunday, 9:00am</b>	<b>Sunday, 10:30am</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	Katie Ulrich	S. Dunn, C. Winslow, L. Blickem	TBA
<b>Adult Worship Assistants</b>	Bob Johnson	TBA	-
<b>A/V Desk</b>	Kasey Minard	TBA	TBA
<b>Altar Care</b>	Don Bryant	Team A	Team A
<b>Bread Baker</b>	Jens Jensen	Jens Jensen	Jens Jensen
<b>Hospitality Team</b>	Shell & Lynida Tomlin, Don Bryant	Team A - Mark Perry	Team A - Deb Steinheimer
<b>Reader</b>	Bob Johnson	Team A	Team A
<b>Welcome Center Hosts</b>	TBA	Team A	Team A
<b>February 10 &amp; 11</b>		<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>No 10:30 a.m. Worship</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	Grace O'Reilly	S. Dunn, C. Winslow, S. Shadle	-
<b>Adult Worship Assistants</b>	Bob Johnson	TBA	-
<b>A/V Desk</b>	Kathy Walz	TBA	<b>Transfiguration and</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Erik Egeland	Team B	<b>Installation of Pastor Patrick Fish</b>
<b>Bread Baker</b>	Pam Krasinski	Pam Krasinski	-
<b>Hospitality Team</b>	Dave & Nancy Clark, Steve Kuhn	Team B—Bruce Wood & Youth	-
<b>Reader</b>	Erik Egeland	Team B	-
<b>Welcome Center Hosts</b>	TBA	Team B	-
<b>February 17 &amp; 18</b>			
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBA	A, & M. Hobson, L. Blickem	TBA
<b>Adult Worship Assistants</b>	Bob Johnson	TBA	TBA
<b>A/V Desk</b>	Nancy Clark	TBA	TBA
<b>Altar Care</b>	Al Lettow	Team C	Team C
<b>Bread Baker</b>	Susan Manning	Susan Manning	Susan Manning
<b>Hospitality Team</b>	Jim & Clare Toynton, Al Lettow	Team C - John & Terry Thorsen	Team C - Gordon Olp
<b>Reader</b>	Clare Toynton	Team C	Team C
<b>Welcome Center Hosts</b>	TBA	Team C	
<b>February 24 &amp; 25</b>			
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBA	Cooper Winslow	TBA
<b>Adult Worship Assistants</b>	Bob Johnson	TBA	-
<b>A/V Desk</b>	Sheila Johnson	TBA	TBA
<b>Altar Care</b>	Debra Haddad	Team D	Team D
<b>Bread Baker</b>	Matt Greising	Matt Greising	Matt Greising
<b>Hospitality Team</b>	Jens Jensen, Matt Hicks, Don Bryant	Team D - John & Terry Thorsen	Team D
<b>Reader</b>	Miriam Hicks	Team D	Team D
<b>Welcome Center Hosts</b>	TBA	Team D	Team D



St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
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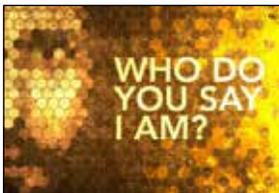
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## February highlights



**Wednesdays in Feb**  
 Adult Study  
 (see pg 3)



**Weekend of FEB 3-4**  
 Souper Bowl  
 (see pg 2)



**Sunday, FEB 4**  
 First Communion kick-off  
 (see pg 2)



**Sunday, FEB 11**  
 Installation service &  
 Mardi Gras lunch  
 (see pg 1)



**Wednesday, FEB 14**  
 Ash Wednesday  
 (see pg 2)



**Sunday, FEB 18**  
 "Feed the Need"  
 (see pg 4)