

God's Work, Our Hands



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



Youth Mission Trip only 2 weeks away!

As we ask God's blessing on all those participating in this year's mission trip to North Carolina, we also want to thank you for your support thus far. Please keep all those participating in this mission trip in your prayers. Pray for their safety and that they may grow deeper in their relationship with one another and with Christ.

Hope Allen	Ana Kay
Caleb Aquino	Saira Monson
Christian Aquino	Alex Nowak
Sophie Bartell	Eva Peterson
Aidan Berleman	Bradley Rehg
Tiana Cannivino	Payton Runyan
Declan Creaney	Gio Sally
Madi Hubble	Nina Sally
Hailey Jansen	Zac Uhm

Adult leaders:

Alisa Creaney, Pr. Patrick Fish, Anna Themanson



PADS dinner Saturday, July 14, 6:00—11:00 p.m.

In these days when we see so many people suffering, St. Mark's work at Hesed House is more important than ever. We have made a commitment to prepare and serve dinner 6 times a year at PADS (Hesed House's overnight shelter program). Yes, it's summer.

Yes, it takes a few hours. But, yes, we will be there because we are people with hope and compassion.

Will you join us on July 14th? We need a crew of 8 adults to make this work well. Since people are traveling during the summer, it is especially important that we make sure we have enough people to keep our commitment to prepare and serve our bi-monthly dinner at PADS.

If you've never done this before, you're in for a surprise at how much your work will be appreciated and how good you will feel! We may be the "servers," but in many ways we are served by the people whose lives and stories touch us. *Sign up at the Welcome Center* to join us for a heart-warming evening.

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



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

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.

Staff Contact Information

Pastoral Staff

Pastor Patricia Geiseman Ext. 101 pgeiseman@stmarksaurora.net
Pastor Patrick Fish Ext. 102 pfish@stmarksaurora.net

Ministry Staff

Kristin Young Ext. 103 kyoung@stmarksaurora.net
Director of Worship & the Arts
Sue Hilderbrand Ext. 108 shilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net
Director of Bell Choirs
Kari Reiseck Ext. 104 kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net
Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Support Staff

Deb Arcilla Ext. 100 darcilla@stmarksaurora.net
Office Manager
John Themanson Ext. 105 jthemanson@stmarksaurora.net
Finance Administrator
Gregg Kobliska Ext. 106 facilitymgr@stmarksaurora.net
Facility Manager
Terese Ruppel 630-466-1036 ter60554@gmail.com
Nursery Coordinator
Marcia Broucek Ext. 107 news@stmarksaurora.net
Communications Coordinator

Financial Secretary

Jim Erickson 630-235-6510 giving@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 (Outreach), Charlie Brummet (Treasurer), Jeanne Flynn (Youth and Family), Chad Gooch (Technology), Ginny Pavesich (Stewardship), Heather Rehg (New Members), Carol Reiseck (Stewardship), Pastor Patrick Fish, Pastor Patricia Geiseman

Prayers

5:00 p.m. Brett Deiter, Alexandria Downing, Joe Jaras, Mary Kenner, Carol Lippert, Kathy Pippig, Charlotte Regis, Julia Taylor

9:00 a.m. Gavin Duffy, John Harazin, Sara Johansen, Debbie Manson, Kay McKeen, Bruce Nicholson, Lois Swan, Linda Weigand, Rob Williams

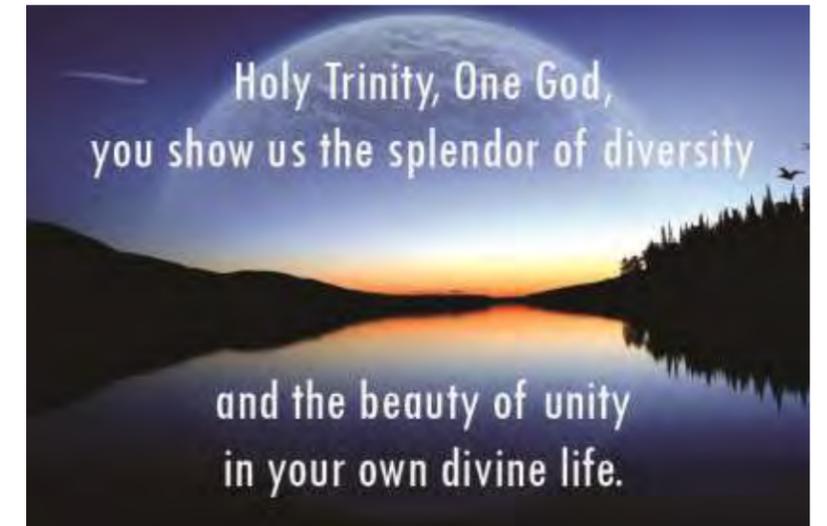
10:30 a.m. Katie DeSotell, Victoria Halsted, Berdelle Hoth, Dennis Johnson, David Lippold, Terry Mueller, Helen Rachford, Sylvia Rzeminski, Greg Williamson

Continuing Care: Jim Anderson, 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 Oestrich, Wendy Overstreet, Joe Rangel, Fran Robinson, Sharon Ross, Bessie Sclavos, Lorand Szekely



July 7-8, 2018

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Sharing Christ's Abundant Love
with Each Other and the World



VBS launches next week!

Things kick off on **Monday morning, July 16 at 9:00 a.m.** The good news is that we are filled to capacity with 100 kids signed up! Many people have been working behind the scenes to get things ready. Here are some things you can do:

- **Bring cardboard boxes** to the back of Sanctuary Hall. A team will be building a mountain/waterfall, and they need boxes.
- **Check the "sea creatures"** on the window behind the sanctuary to see what's still needed. Take a creature tag home with you, and when bring your item to put in the bin, please return the tag as well.
- **It's not too late to volunteer!** We still have need of a few more happy souls (of any age—you're never too old to enjoy kids!) who are willing to help out. It's great fun to see and hear kids learn about God's love in action. Check the VBS bulletin board for openings and contact Kari Reiseck ASAP (kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net).
- **Sunday, July 15:** Help with set up, right after last service on Sunday. *Sign up at the Welcome Center.*
- **Monday-Friday, July 16-20: Pray!** Please hold in your prayers the VBS team, the volunteers, and the many kids that come for this week of action, connection, and spiritual nurture.
- **Friday, July 20, noon:** Immediately following the close of VBS, we'll start taking things down and restoring order. Any parent who can stay, or anyone who is available, can help. *Sign up at the Welcome Center.*

If you have questions about VBS, contact Kari Reiseck, kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

SUNDAY, July 8

9:00a Worship

Coffee & Fellowship
hosted by the Youth Group

10:30a Worship with
Mission Trip Blessing & Sending
11:30a HS Praise Team rehearsal
11:45a **Council meeting**
12:00p **Mission Trip Team Building**

MONDAY, July 9

9:30a Faith Circle

TUESDAY, July 10

1:00p Staff meeting

WEDNESDAY, July 11

9:00a The Bread Wrappers
1:00p Office volunteers
7:00p **New women's circle
information meeting**
7:30p **21&Over gathering**

THURSDAY, July 12

7:00p AA meeting

FRIDAY, July 13

6:30p Al-Anon

SATURDAY, July 14

5:00p Worship
6:00p PADS

SUNDAY, July 15

9:00a Worship
Coffee Project sales

Coffee & Fellowship
hosted by Adult Fellowship

10:30a Worship
11:30a HS Praise Team rehearsal



SAVE THE DATE:

October 27, 2018

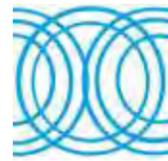
"Radical Hospitality"

The Metro-Chicago Synodical Women's Organization 2018 Convention will be at St. Mark's this Fall. This one-day event will focus on the timely topics of immigrants and refugees. Stay tuned for registration details.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

Discipleship



New women's circle forming Wednesday, July 11, 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in exploring the possibility of being in a women's circle, you are invited to meet with a core group of women who are initiating the formation of a new circle. We're gathering to discuss what circles do, how they interact with the whole church, and what a new circle might look like. Many women have already expressed interest. Will you join us? *Sign up at the Welcome Center.*



"21&Over" gathering Wednesday, July 11, 7:30 p.m.

"21&Over" is a new ministry at St. Mark's with a focus on bringing 20-40 year olds together to have meaningful conversation and build authentic relationships. We are meeting TWICE A MONTH on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:00 p.m. We take turns hosting at different people's homes. Our next gathering is Wednesday, July 11 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, contact Pr. Patrick (pfish@stmarksaurora.net)



The Neighbor Project workday Saturday, July 28

Our workday for The Neighbor Project (formerly Emmanuel House) on July 28th will include replacing back cellar doors, repairing the back stairs, yard clean-up, and painting. Following our work, we will have a BBQ lunch to develop a deeper relationship with Florent and Carin, our family partner. Contact Austin Bredow if you are interested in being a part of this workday (a_bredow@yahoo.com).



New website tip

When someone visits our website for the first time, we want to answer their questions right away. Our "Visit" section includes:

- Who we are
- What we believe
- What we offer
- Our staff (bios AND photos!)
- FAQ

FIRST VISIT?
Experience our open door.
MORE INFO

Website launch: Sat, August 4 and Sun, August 5

Announcements



Adult Fellowship Thursday, July 26, 10:00 a.m.

"Legacy Workshop & lunch"

Representatives from Thrivent Financial will present a workshop on "YOUR LEGACY: Family, Church, Charity" at St. Mark's on Thursday, July 26 at 10:00 a.m. in Sanctuary Hall. Learn how you can develop a strategy to help you leave a legacy for the people and causes you care about. We'll also have information about St. Mark's Endowment and funeral planning programs. After the presentation, we'll head over to Mother's Restaurant for lunch provided by Thrivent. *Sign up at the Welcome Center* or contact Al Bergh for more information (630-585-8422).



Cereal Bowl Challenge

July 21-22, after all services
NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!

Our third annual Cereal Bowl Challenge is coming! Cheerios has won the title of "favorite cereal" two years in a row. This year, it is being challenged by Multi Grain Cheerios and Honey Nut Cheerios. Start comparing the three and choose your favorite. On the weekend of July 21-22, look for volunteers in the narthex holding boxes of the three challengers. Find your favorite and add your donation to the box. Each dollar donated is one vote. The cereal champ and the total raised will be announced the following weekend. **All donations will benefit the Interfaith Food Pantry.** We raise funds instead of doing a food drive because the Pantry can purchase \$7 worth of food for each dollar donated! That means that a \$10 donation puts \$70 worth of food on the shelf!



TopGolf Habitat for Humanity outing

Sunday, July 22, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity is hosting a fundraiser at TopGolf on Sunday, July 22 from 1-4 p.m. All proceeds from this outing will go to the 2018 FaithBuild home, for which St. Mark's is one of twenty partner churches. There will be a golf competition, games, buffet, and raffles. It will be fun for the whole family. If you are interested in attending, contact Pr. Patrick (pfish@stmarksaurora.net).



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!

This week's worship focus



At this point in the story, David is in the city of Hebron, contemplating the truth that he is now the king. No longer is it a *possibility*. No longer is it some *potential* reality. It's *now*. He must carry on the responsibility of that title and offer leadership to mend the kingdom.

That's when the people of Israel arrive. They come seeking one thing: *unity*. All the elders and leaders of the tribes converge and seek to have one unified kingdom under the reign of David. They no longer want to be a divided kingdom. They want to be one people with one king. What a moment for David. More importantly, what a moment for God's people!

While David will have that unity for only seven years, it's an important reminder about God's intention for God's people to be unified. God doesn't want us divided. God doesn't want walls between us. God desires unity.

At St. Mark's, we are a unified people gathered into God's love. Freed by God's grace. Sent out to share God's abundant love with each other and the world.

Reflection:

- Where are you experiencing disunity?
In your own life? In the world?
- What does unity with God's justice and love look like?