

# God's Work, Our Hands



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



**"God lives in the neighborhood"**  
**WEEK 4 of Lenten Adult Study**  
**Tuesday, Mar 13, 10:00 a.m.**

In this session, we will discern together how God is working through us—and even in spite of us at times—to bring Shalom to our surrounding community. All are welcome to join this ELCA Lenten study, led by Pastor Patrick.



## Barn Banks

### A Lenten offering project for kids

The kids are really on board with this project, enthusiastically bringing in their coins each week. We're talking about ways that various farm animals

can help families. The big decision will be which animal they will choose to give: Baby chicks? A pig? A goat? Keep helping them find ways to earn some money, so they can see how God can do big things through small offerings!



## Giving Tree

### Support our high schoolers' mission trip

During March and April, we will be hosting a "Giving Tree" to raise money for this summer's high school mission trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina. Over the next few weeks, look for the "Giving Tree" in the narthex. The kids look forward to the mission trip each year, and it could not be possible without the love and support of the congregation.



## Children's Bibles for sale

### Sundays, March 18 and 25

Would you like to add a Bible to your child's Easter Basket? The Spark Bibles that we use in Sunday School and FDL will be available for purchase (\$5 each) on Sundays, March 18th and 25th.

**Spark Story Bible** (ages 2-8; beautiful pictures, understandable words)  
**Spark Student Bible** (ages 9-teens; callouts for prayers and devotions)

The Youth and Family Ministry team will be using the proceeds from this sale to buy more Whirl Bibles to use with our current curriculum. These Bibles are \$20 each, and currently we have only one per classroom.

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



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

## Staff Contact Information

### Pastoral Staff

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*Director*

### Council Members

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

## Prayers

**5:00 p.m.** Crystal Carambrot, Dorothy Clarkson, Sarah DeRubis, Jennifer Gaeta, Micaela Guthrie, Mary Kenner, Bob Korst, Carol Lippert, Kathy Pippig, Charlotte Regis, Julia Taylor

**9:00 a.m.** Caroline Bell, John Carlson, Merry Carey, Doris Clark, Gavin Duffy, Danielle Easton, Debbie Manson, Sandy Matile, Kay McKeen, Bruce Nicholson, Brad Powell, Linda Schau, Greg Smith, Lois Swan, Dennis Zielinski

**10:30 a.m.** Paul Bergh, Richard Eisenbarth, Victoria Halsted, David Lippold, Terry Mueller, Helen Rachford, Harold Thielman

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

We pray for comfort and peace for Kalynn Carlson and family who mourn the death of Kalynn's husband, John Carlson.

We pray for comfort and peace for Michelle Leedham and family who mourn the death of Michelle's mother, Martha Thielman.

We pray for comfort and peace for the family of Lucille Marquardt who mourn her death.



March 10-11, 2018

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

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



## Acts of Kindness

Lenten Outreach 2018

Last year St. Mark's reached out to our local community by becoming a church partner of Emmanuel House. They put their motto, "Breaking the Cycle—One Life at a Time," into action by helping people get on a path toward home ownership.



Simon and Rosine, with their kids

As a church partner, we "provide monthly financial sponsorship, but also serve as a consistent source of volunteers who help with property upkeep, family mentorship, and ongoing spiritual and relation support."

About that "source of volunteers" . . .  
 we're the volunteers!

St. Mark's has assisted in renovating a unit, pitching in on "moving in" day, and helping provide home ownership training sessions.



The Kim family

There are always projects waiting to be done. Here are some opportunities for your acts of kindness:

- Help prepare a housing unit for a family
- Perform some home maintenance repairs
- Help with aesthetic upkeep
- Provide financial training
- Mentor a family

These are tangible ways we partner with Emmanuel House. These are real ways we are living out our faith. Your act of kindness leads to good neighbors, home ownership for them, and increased education for their children.

For more inspiration, read the stories of some of these amazing neighbors at [emmanuelhouse.org/stories](http://emmanuelhouse.org/stories). See how Simon and Rosine, and the Kim family, found their homes!

**Go! To [emmanuelhouse.org/volunteer](http://emmanuelhouse.org/volunteer)**  
**Do! Sign up to volunteer.**  
**Be the church!**

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

### SUNDAY, March 11

9:00a **Worship**  
9:00a Sunday School  
10:30a **Worship & Baptism**  
11:45a Council meeting  
3:00p WVMTA AIMS Honor Recital

### MONDAY, March 12

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

### TUESDAY, March 13

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

### WEDNESDAY, March 14

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 "It's Cool in the Furnace" rehearsal  
6:00p Confirmation classes (gr 6-8)

### THURSDAY, March 15

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

### FRIDAY, March 16

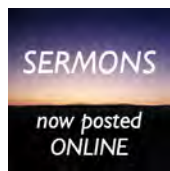
6:30p Al-Anon

### SATURDAY, March 17

4:15p Blood pressure screening  
5:00p **Worship**

### SUNDAY, March 18

9:00a **Worship**  
9:00a Sunday School  
Coffee sales  
Blood pressure screening  
10:30a **Worship**



St. Mark's sermons are now available online. Go to [StMarksAurora.net](http://StMarksAurora.net) and click on SERMONS on the left-hand menu.



Are your confirmation students registered for the spring retreat, April 20-22? Contact Kari Reiseck ASAP if your kid(s) want to come.



SAVE THE DATES  
VBS, July 16-20  
"Shipwrecked—Rescued by Jesus" is the theme for five great days of kid fun.



# Discipleship



## Clearing more clutter

A spiritual practice for Lent: WEEK 4

This week, our focus for decluttering is the bedroom. This could be a larger task and may take a little longer. Start with a closet. If this seems overwhelming, then start with a drawer. Remove all items from the drawer. Then go one-by-one and decide what needs to be donated, discarded, or kept. Don't forget under the bed, bookshelves, etc.

Keep a garbage bag and donation box nearby for easier sorting. Keep in mind all who might use the things you are going to donate.

*"For if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?"*  
1 Timothy 3:5

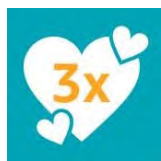
Progress report: This week only 4 people logged in, but they disposed of a whopping 21 bags of clutter!



## Deepen your Lenten walk

This is a good week to visit the Stations of the Cross artwork hanging on the walls of the sanctuary. They are the work and inspiration of artist Michele Hubbartt.

## Ways to donate at no extra cost to you!



If you plan on using Amazon this month, here's a chance to make your purchase count for St. Mark's. From **March 21-31**, AmazonSmile is tripling their donation amount to 1.5% when people make their first eligible [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) purchase. (Amazon Smile has exactly the same stuff as Amazon!) If you haven't already tried this free-to-you donation method, go to [smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2809480](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2809480) and sign up. Designate "St. Marks Lutheran Church" (no apostrophe) in Aurora as your charitable organization.



Did you know that when you eat at Mother's Pancake House (Aurora), you can inform the cashier that you're from St. Mark's, and they will make a donation from your bill to St. Mark's?!!!

# Announcements



## Seder Feast for kids

**Wednesday, March 21, 6:00 p.m.**

This year we're doing things a little differently. Our Seder Feast will be held the Wednesday before Holy Week for FDL kids only, but we still need adults to cook, serve, and clean up. Sign up at the Welcome Center if you can help.



## Explore Aurora

**Adult Fellowship, March 22, 10:00 a.m.**

Join us for a tour of the Santori Library, lunch at Ballydoyle, and a visit to Pierce Art and History Center. Sign up at the Welcome Center.



## Easter flowers

Would you like to sponsor an azalea or lily in memory of or in honor of a loved one? Plants are \$15 each, and you can take yours home after the last Easter service. Sign up at the Welcome Center.



## Like to make breakfast?

On Easter Sunday, April 1, our high school kids will be serving breakfast to anyone attending one of the services. There will be a free-will offering to raise money for their summer mission trip. They are asking people to help by cooking up some breakfast casseroles. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

## Thank you!

We would like to thank all our friends for the many cards we have received over the past weeks. Your thoughtfulness and kind words were greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.  
—Elmer and Pat Ritke

## Other good things to know

- **Blood pressure screening**  
Saturday, March 17 and Sunday, March 18
- **Coffee & chocolate sales**  
Sunday, March 18 (last chance before Easter!)
- **BeFriender training rescheduled**  
The April BeFriender Ministry training will be rescheduled. Stay tuned for updated information and new training dates. Please speak to a BeFriender leader for more information or with any questions.  
Jean Clementz, Dave Gibson, and Becky Mueller.



We've been waiting for you!

Our mission at St. Mark's Lutheran Church is to share Christ's abundant love with each other and the world. We are called to reach out to persons of all ages and life situations with Christ's own hospitality and acceptance, to invite you to be our companion on the spiritual journey as we discover together the ways that Christ is offering hope, healing, and a renewed sense of meaning for our lives.

If you are not a member, we would love to talk with you about our ministry. We invite you to talk to one of our pastors or stop at the Welcome Center near the church entrance. May your worship experience here at St. Mark's draw you closer to Christ and his abundant love!

## For your reflection . . . today's Worship focus



The readings for this fourth weekend in the Season of Lent deal with real love and real pain.

War is real. Cancer is real. Violence is real. Abuse is real. And God's love is real.

The Gospel reading includes some of the most well-known words of the New Testament: *"For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son..."*

No matter how devastating and broken our lives and world become, God works for healing, wholeness, and redemption.

We are invited to join God in this work as we seek to bring hope and wholeness to a hurting world.

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



In the first lesson, the prophet Jeremiah tells of God and the making of a new covenant, not written on stone but on hearts: *"I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people ... they shall all know me ... for I will forgive their iniquity."*

Jeremiah's words were reassuring to people who lived in turmoil. The prophet warned that the people didn't have a chance against the Babylonians. The Temple could not and would not save them. And he was right!

In 587 Judah fell, and the people were hauled off into exile. In the midst of this upending, God's promise was renewed. New life and hope for home was restored. The past brokenness would be mended.

There are times we, too, feel far away from home. The covenant, the promise of healing presence, is written on our hearts ... a gift of restoring love for us today.