

God's Work, Our Hands



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



"Where is God?"
WEEK 3 of Lenten Adult Study
Tuesday, Mar 6, 10:00 a.m.

This week, the focus of our "Faces of Christ" Lenten study turns to a reflection on how our understanding of God's presence changes our lives. The question "Where is God?" will help us explore and discern where God resides within our daily lives. All are welcome to join this ELCA Lenten study, led by Pastor Patrick.



Barn Banks

The banks are assembled. The kids are primed. Now it's your turn. Take a look at the handouts your kids bring home and help reinforce the concepts. Help them look for extra tasks they might do around the house to earn some money. Perhaps a neighbor would

be willing to pay them for some help, too. Remember: Our goal is to help our kids see that *everyone* can make a difference, that God can do BIG things through our small offerings.



Giving Tree

Support our high schoolers' mission trip

Throughout the month of March, 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 (for ages 2-8)

Spark Student Bible (for ages 9-teens)

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 we currently have only 1 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

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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. Dorothy Clarkson, Sarah DeRubis, Jennifer Gaeta, Mary Kenner, Bob Korst, Carol Lippert, Kathy Pippig, Julia Taylor

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

10:30 a.m. Paul Bergh, Victoria Halsted, David Lippold, Helen Rachford, Harold and Martha 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 Oestriech, Wendy Overstreet, Joe Rangel, Sharon Ross, Bessie Sclavos, Lorand Szekely

We pray for comfort and peace for the family of Michael Josupait who mourn his death.



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

March 3-4, 2018



Acts of Kindness
 Lenten Outreach 2018

The spiritual practice of decluttering during Lent can be refreshing. But there is another part of the practice that can be equally rewarding. Take it one step further and consider who may need some of your excess.

Take Hesed House, for instance. This Aurora organization serves 400+ guests each day, one newly homeless individual every 8.5 hours, and operates 365 days a year! They surely deserve our support of time, talent, and/or treasure. The Lenten season is a good time to make your concern intentional.

DONATE:

Current needs*

- men's/women's T-shirts (any size)
- sweatpants (XL-XXL)
- men's underwear (S/M)
- liquid laundry detergent
- deodorant, cold/cough medicine, sleep aids (unopened, capsules)
- pots and pans
- silverware and dishes
- small kitchen appliances (toaster, coffee pot, toaster oven)
- plastic storage bins/organizers



New or gently used, please. Drop off at 659 S. River St, Door B (M-F, 9am to 5pm or after hours at the entrance on the upper south side of the building).

* For a complete list of needs, visit hesedhouse.org/needs-list/

VOLUNTEER:



Current need: People who can come in for several hours to sort donated clothing. Email volunteer@hesedhouse.org if you can help.

On **Saturday, March 10**, a team from St. Mark's, including some of our high schoolers, will be preparing and serving dinner for the men, women, and children staying at the PADS Overnight Emergency Shelter. If you'd like to

join the St. Mark's team in March, sign up at the Welcome Center.

For other opportunities, go to hesedhouse.org and click on the "Volunteer" menu tab. See where your acts of kindness are needed.

Go! Do! Be the church!

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

SUNDAY, March 4

9:00a **Worship**
9:00a Sunday School
Coffee sales

10:30a **Worship**

MONDAY, March 5

7:00p Naomi Circle
7:00p Fox Valley Festival Chorus

TUESDAY, March 6

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

WEDNESDAY, March 7

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 8

5:30p Cub Scouts meeting
7:00p AA meeting
7:00p Lion's Voice Choir

FRIDAY, March 9

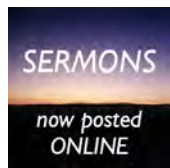
10:00a St. Mark's Book Club
6:30p Al-Anon

SATURDAY, March 10

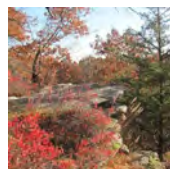
5:00p **Worship**
6:00p PADS dinner at Hesed House

SUNDAY, March 11

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



St. Mark's sermons are now available online. Go to 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 mental clutter

A spiritual practice for Lent: WEEK 3

What are the things that weigh heavy on your mind and heart? This week's focus is on clearing the mental and emotional baggage that can keep us down.

Here are some suggestions to help lift your spirits:

- † **Learn to let go.** Do you have a tendency to want to control everything and everybody in your life? Free yourself by allowing others to live their lives. You can only control what *you* say and do.
- † **Forgive.** Forgiveness is not about forgetting or excusing your feelings of hurt or pain. Forgiveness takes time, like peeling away the layers of an onion, but it is an important gift you can give yourself.
- † **Employ positive thinking.** Interrupting and clearing out negative thoughts as soon as they enter your mind can have an enormous impact on your life!
- † **Keep a gratitude journal.** Every day, write down three things you are grateful for.
- † **Center yourself.** Consider developing a regular practice of breathing, yoga, meditation, or prayer.
- † **Seek help from a professional.** We all have experiences of being broken and wounded. Sometimes we need the wisdom of a professional to help us sort through our mental and emotional clutter.

Lent is not about becoming lost in feelings of brokenness, but about cleansing the palate so that we can taste life more fully.*

Don't forget to log your bags at the Welcome Center. Consider any of these steps as 1 bag. This past week 13 members disposed of 61 bags of clutter!

*From *God for Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Lent and Easter*



Enrich your Lenten journey

During the weeks of Lent, take time to visit the display of the rough-hewn cross in the narthex. This week, you might want to take a piece of material or card from the basket to the right of the cross and write a word or thought that expresses your Lenten journey. Tie your material or card on the cross as a symbol of your Lenten prayer.

Announcements



Share your thoughts

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

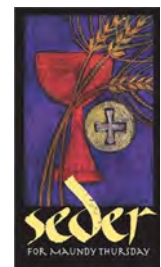
All are welcome on Friday, March 9, to discuss the inspiring story of *The Zookeeper's Wife*.



Serving supper at PADS

Saturday, March 10, 6:00 p.m.

A team from St. Mark's, including high school kids, will be preparing and serving dinner for the people staying at Hesed House. Want to join us? Sign up at the Welcome Center.



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.



Thank you!

Dear St. Mark's Lutheran Church,
Thank you for donating \$1,200 to Feed My Staving Children at the Naperville Feed the Need event! Your gift has provided 5,454

nutritious meals to those who are desperate for food. The food funded through your donation provides a critical foundation for a child. It is the first step toward a hope-filled life. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for hearing their cries and being a beacon of hope to God's kids.

Until all are fed,
Mark Crea, Executive Director/CEO, Feed My Starving Children



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



For the remainder of Lent, we transition from Mark's Gospel to reflecting upon Jesus' journey to the cross from the perspective of John's Gospel. What a scene to start out!

Upon seeing animals and money changers in the Temple, Jesus starts flipping tables and whipping the animals. Many of us find comfort in imagining Jesus holding children or quietly praying. Few, if any, of us like to picture Jesus being angry. Yet, that's the Jesus we have in

front of us, and it's the Jesus we cannot avoid.

Through this interaction, Jesus reveals something about God: God doesn't sit idly in the face of injustice. God cares. In fact, God cares deeply. Yes, Jesus is a healer. Yes, Jesus is our redeemer. But, Jesus is also an agitator. Injustice agitates Jesus so much that he must take action to make things right.

This Lent, we remember Jesus didn't die for being a nice guy. Jesus died because he agitated the system and flipped our whole world upside down.

For your consideration . . . next week'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.

(adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*)