

# God's Work, Our Hands



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

**OUR GOAL:**  
**65 ST. MARK'S**  
**PEOPLE**  
making  
a difference  
in our community!

## God's Work, Our Hands September 8-9, 2018

St. Mark's will join thousands of ELCA congregations across the nation to participate in "God's Work, Our Hands" weekend on Sept 8-9. We want this weekend to be intergenerational, and we hope young and old will join together to serve our neighbors here in Aurora.

Sign up at the Welcome Center for the project of your choice.



### **SATURDAY, September 8** **Rebuilding Together Aurora,** 8:30 a.m. - noon

**Need 15-20 volunteers**

Projects: paint garage, repair fence, do yardwork, fix door (includes projects for younger people - bring your kids!)  
St. Mark's Lead: Matt Greising



### **The Neighbor Project** 9:00 a.m. - noon

**Need: 20 volunteers**

Projects: landscaping and home repairs (includes projects for younger people - bring your kids!)  
St. Mark's Lead: Austin Bredow



### **LUNCH FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS** 12:30 p.m. - St. Mark's Provided by Adult Study group



### **PADS meal at Hesed House** 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**Need: 5-10 volunteers**

Project: prep and serve dinner  
St. Mark's lead: Janet Guinnane



### **SUNDAY, September 9** **McCleery Elementary School** Rally Day, 11:30 a.m. - noon

**Need 10-15 volunteers**

Project: assemble "wish list" items for McCleery  
St. Mark's lead: Sarah Anderson  
**Pick an "apple" off the Teacher Wish List display in the narthex and bring your item to help the awesome McCleery teachers.**

**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.

## 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*  
Al Lettow 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 Reh (New Members), Carol Reiseck (Stewardship), Pastor Patrick Fish, Pastor Patricia Geiseman

## Prayers

**5:00 p.m.** Alexandria Downing, Mary Kenner, Carol Lippert, Emery Norman, Kathy Pippig, Charlotte Regis, Brenda Szekely, Julia Taylor, Lynida Tomlin

**9:00 a.m.** Howard Burns, Merry Carey, Gavin Duffy, John Harazin, Georgia Holderfield, Margaret Hutton, Sara Johansen, David Jung, Gus Kiesling, Brent Lawrence, Carol Lobash, Debbie Manson, Kay McKeen, Bruce Nicholson, Lois Swan, Linda Weigand, Rob Williams

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

**Continuing Care:** Jim Anderson, 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 Oestreich, Wendy Overstreet, Joe Rangel, Fran Robinson, Sharon Ross, Bessie Scavos, Lorand Szekely

Altar flowers are given in celebration of Emery and Melba Norman's 62nd wedding anniversary.

*The Courier*

September 1-2, 2018

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

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



## Rally Day & start of "Season of Creation" Sunday, September 9 10:00 a.m.

We're kicking off the Fall season with an incredible Rally Day, with activities for people of all ages. We invite you to join us!

### **10:00 a.m. - Sunday School & Worship**

### **11:00 a.m. - Annual Butterfly Release**

### **11:30 a.m. - Basement Blessing & Tour**

- Hands-on blessing and celebration of the beautiful new space
- Self-guided tour of remodeled FDL and youth ministry areas
- McCleery Elementary School "wish list" project  
Pick an "apple" off the Teacher Wish List display in the narthex and bring your donated item to help a McCleery teacher.

### **12:00 p.m. - Food, Fellowship & Fun**

- Bounce house and 9 Square
- Lunch in Sanctuary Hall
- "Gifts for Givers" drawing (you can enter by making a gift of any amount at [StMarksAurora.net/give](http://StMarksAurora.net/give))

Saturday and Sunday are also the launch of our 4-week "Season of Creation" series, where we will focus on God as our Creator and reclaim our role and purpose as stewards to care for God's creation.

Each week features a different theme, with a Mission Moment related to caring for the Earth:

#### Sept 8/9—**Earth**

"and God saw that it was good" (Gen 1:10b)

#### Sept 15/16—**Humanity**

"God created humanity in God's own image" (Gen 1:27a)

#### Sept 22/23—**Sky**

"heaven is declaring God's glory" (Ps 19:1a)

#### Sept 29/30—**Mountain**

"Look! I'm creating a new heaven and a new earth" (Is 65:17a)

*Rally Day will be a great day and a great way to begin the Fall and the Season of Creation. Hope to see you there!*

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

### SUNDAY, Sept 2

9:00a Worship  
10:30a Worship  
11:30a HS Praise Team rehearsal

### MONDAY, Sept 3

**LABOR DAY—OFFICE CLOSED**

### TUESDAY, Sept 4

10:00a **Adult Study**  
1:00p Staff meeting  
7:00p Glory Ringers rehearsal

### WEDNESDAY, Sept 5

9:00a The Bread Wrappers  
1:00p Office volunteers  
6:00p **High School Kick-Off**  
7:30p **21&Over**

### THURSDAY, Sept 6

7:00p Lion's Voice Choir rehearsal

### FRIDAY, Sept 7

6:30p Al-Anon

### SATURDAY, Sept 8

**God's Work Our Hands projects**  
12:30p **lunch for volunteers**  
5:00p **Worship**  
6:00p **PADS**

### SUNDAY, Sept 9—RALLY DAY

10:00a **Worship & Sunday School**  
11:00a **Butterfly Release**  
11:30a **Basement Blessing and Tour**  
12:00p **Fun, Food & Fellowship**



**High school  
kick-off  
Wednesday  
September 5  
6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Join us for a get together to reunite and to welcome incoming HS students to HS Youth Group. We will have food, fun and fellowship. Hope you can make it!



**21&Over  
Wednesday  
September 5  
7:30 p.m.**

Our next 21&Over Gathering is at Jim and Laura Chen's home. This is our 21-40 y.o. ministry intended to build lifelong relationships and have space for meaningful conversation. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Pr. Patrick (pfish@stmarksaurora.net)



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

# Discipleship



**Tuesdays at 7:00  
p.m.**

**Sept 18 - Nov 13**

If you'd like to have more control of your finances, if you could use some help in making smart financial decisions, if you'd like to be able

to give more generously ... Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University offers an approach that has proven helpful, even life-saving, for many people.

*"My wife, Deb, and I took the very first Financial University Peace class offered at St. Mark's. Being that we were ten-plus years away from retirement at the time, we wanted to make sure that we were doing things that could ensure a successful retirement. Many lessons re-enforced ideas or strategies that we already were aware of, but two items stuck with us the most: how a little bit a savings early on reaps benefits later; and "the snowball effect" of paying off debt. Wish we would have attended the class ten years earlier."—Don Friend*

- To watch an 8-minute class preview, go to [StMarksAurora.net/new/financial-peace](http://StMarksAurora.net/new/financial-peace)
- For more course information, visit [financialpeace.com](http://financialpeace.com).
- To register (and get the group-discounted rate), go to [FPU.com/1069238](http://FPU.com/1069238) by **Tuesday, Sept 11th**.

If you want to check out the class out before you register, you can sit in on the first session at no charge. Call the office to register for a trial class. Scholarships are also available.



## NEW Adult Study of the Enneagram

**Starts Tuesday, Sept 25, 10:00 a.m.  
AND Sunday, Sept 30, 11:30 a.m.**

What is your type? The Enneagram is an ancient personality-type system that has long helped people understand how personality differences shape our thoughts and behavior. You may have heard Pr. Pat or Pr. Patrick talk about how life-changing the Enneagram has been in their lives. Discovering your type can not only help you understand yourself better, but can also help you understand what makes others around you think, feel, and act like they do. It can open up new ways of relating and new places of spiritual discovery. Books and sign up sheets will be available after Labor Day.

# Announcements



**Are your kids registered?  
Sunday School starts 9/9  
FDL starts 9/12**

REGISTER ONLINE: Go to [StMarksAurora.net/connect/kids](http://StMarksAurora.net/connect/kids).

REGISTER WITH A FORM: Pick up a form at the Welcome Center and return it with your check to the church office or Kari Reiseck.

**We're also looking for more Sunday School teachers.  
Please contact Kari Reiseck if this calls to you.**



**Line Line Screening  
Tuesday, September 11**

Life Line Screening offers 5 non-invasive screenings that scan for potential health problems: blocked arteries; abdominal aortic aneurysms; hardening of the arteries in the legs; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat; and a bone density screening to assess the risk of osteoporosis. The process takes 60-90 minutes and costs \$149 (\$124 with the member discount). To register and receive a \$25 discount, visit [lifelinescreening.com/](http://lifelinescreening.com/) communitycircle or call 877-380-1743.



**Adult Fellowship  
"Scam Awareness"  
FRIDAY (note the day change!)  
September 21, 10:00 a.m.  
Aurora Police Station**

Officer Doug Rashkow will lead a program on Scam Awareness, followed by a tour of the police station (1200 E Indian Trail Rd, Aurora). Enter in the Main Entrance and proceed to the Community Room). Noon meal will be at Harner's Restaurant (10 W State St, North Aurora). Contact Al Bergh 630-585-8422 for information. *Sign up at the Welcome Center.*



**"Christmas in September"  
Annual Quilt Luncheon  
Saturday, September 22, 11:30 a.m.**

The Christmas theme of Lydia's Piecemakers' Fall luncheon this year celebrates the giving that is a year-round tradition at St. Mark's.

The Family Traditions Quartet will be presenting a program that brings the holiday spirit of giving into September. There will also be a raffle of a hand-quilted Christmas quilt. Reservations may be made by sending a check for \$15.00 per person to Peggy Shields at 1548 Waterford Road, North Aurora, IL 60542 or by purchasing tickets in the narthex the weekends of September 8-9 and 15-16. Christmas quilt raffle tickets are \$1 or 6 for \$5.



**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

**SONG OF SOLOMON**

Our first lesson for this weekend from Song of Solomon is the final reading in our summertime semi-continuous lessons from Hebrew Scripture. I have really enjoyed this time. It has been fun to have the opportunity to study and reflect on the old stories, to look for themes of presence and promise and to see the golden threads of connection ... in the stories of Samuel, the worried judge; Saul, the sorry king; David, the shepherd, slinger, warrior and monarch; and, finally, David's son Solomon, the wise, builder king who prayed for a listening heart but didn't always pay attention to what he heard.

The theme of our summer has been HESED: God's steadfast and faithful love. Holy Hessed held the stories of these ancient people together and grounded them in hope.

Our lesson for this weekend is much different from the others. The Song of Solomon, also known as the Song of Songs, is a collection of poetry. The name of God is not even mentioned.

These are poems of infatuated love! They almost did not make it in to the canon. I am glad they did. We need a song that sings boldly of true and mutual love.

This is a good ending for the summertime series on Steadfast Love! Steadfast love calls us to have courage, compassion, and connection.

### REFLECTION:

- How are you willing to be vulnerable?
- Where in your life would it help to speak up for yourself?
- Speak out for others? And speak the truth in love?