

God's Work. Our Hands



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



BeFriender Training

Starts Tuesday, May 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
It's not too late to consider attending!

The free BeFriender Training is available to anyone who is interested in being a caring presence at St. Mark's for people experiencing difficult situations. The training in "active listening" is a valuable resource for both the person being helped and the BeFriender! Please contact Pr. Patrick if you are interested (pfish@stmarksaurora.net).



Mental Health Awareness Month

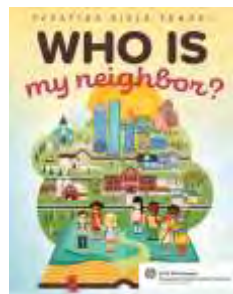
May is Mental Health Awareness Month. As a congregation, we want to be a part of ending the silence. We want to communicate that *all of us* are broken and *all of us* are restored by God's grace. One way we can be better advocates and allies is to educate ourselves. Each week during May, there will be new **information available at the Welcome Center**. Please pick up literature to share, plus a **green ribbon to wear**.



ELA summer classes start May 28th

Please help get the word out!

We are excited to be offering a new round of summer ELA (English Language Acquisition) classes to the community starting on Tuesday, May 28. The classes are free and open to adults 16 years and older whose native language is not English. Classes will be held in the Lower Level on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. **Please pick up Spanish or English flyers at the Welcome Center to help spread the word.**



"Who Is My Neighbor?"

REGISTER NOW FOR VBS
Monday-Friday, July 22-26 (9 to noon each day)

This year's theme is "Love God, Love Your Neighbor," and we'll be using an ELCA curriculum which teaches kids that neighbors live not only next door but also across the world. Each day will focus on a story of God's love in a different country. And, of course, there'll be lots of games, crafts, snacks, and interactive experiences. Don't let your child miss out! Register now.

We also need LOTS of adults and teens to make VBS happen. There are jobs for everyone! And we always have such fun together. Will you join us?

Go to StMarksAurora.net/VBS to register or sign up to volunteer!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

27 South Edgelawn Drive
Aurora, Illinois 60506

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



☎ 630-897-6891

🌐 StMarksAurora.net

@ office@StMarksAurora.net

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

Support Staff

Deb Arcilla, *Office Manager* Ext. 100 darcilla@stmarksaurora.net
Marcia Broucek, *Communications Coordinator* Ext. 107 news@stmarksaurora.net
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Financial Secretary

Beth Benson Ulrich 630-234-6529 giving@stmarksaurora.net

St. Mark's Child Development Center

Colette Patterson-Moon, *Director* 630-897-6063 stmarksdir@att.net

Council Members

Don Friend (President), Austin Bredow (Outreach), Charlie Brummet (Treasurer), Chad Gooch (Technology), Michelle Leedham (Congregational Care), Pamela Miller (Youth & Family Ministry), Ginny Pavesich (Stewardship), Carol Reiseck (Stewardship), Pastor Patrick Fish, Pastor Patricia Geiseman

Prayers

5:00 p.m. Kathy Pippig

9:00 a.m. Jim and Nicole Anderson, Carolene Bell, Howard Burns, Kim Christensen, Ken Fulks, Charlie Graves, Sara Gross, Rosemary Hauser, Beverly Jacobsen, Drew Kiesling, Gerry Lanigan, Minerva Perez and family, Runge family, Martha Swanson, Gordon Pike, Patti Rundle, Ron Speechley, Sophia Zizzo

10:30 a.m. Angel Althoff, Allan Broer, Dennis Johnson, Marion Mente, Greg Williamson, Alex Winterer

Continuing Care: Johanna Brinkman, Richard Brinkman, Laurie Dunn, Tad Dyer, Jim Hutton, Joanne Jackman, Tom Jones, John Lange, Mason McNamara, Terry Minor, Grant Oestreich, Wendy Overstreet, Joe Rangel, Fran Robinson, Sharon Ross, Bessie Sclavos, Lois Swan, Lorand Szekely

We pray for comfort and peace for Gary and Michelle Geihm and family, who mourn the death of Michelle's mother, lone Bennet.

The Courier

May 11-12, 2019

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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

Happy Mother's Day!

*We honor our mothers and
all who care for children,
all who have been
mother gures. and
all who have mentored us
to be our best selves.*



Sunday is the last day to give a Mother's Day offering

"Send a girl to school"

You have an opportunity to change the future for one girl. Our Mother's Day offering this year is going to ELCA's GOOD GIFTS program to help send girls to school. More than half of the world's out-of-school children are girls. Many stay home to help their families, caring for siblings and gathering water. Others simply cannot afford even modest school fees and uniforms. When we educate a girl, we not only increase her future earning potential, we help her become a powerful agent for change.

Every \$40 we receive in donations will pay for school fees and uniforms for one girl for a year. **Pick up a donation envelope at the Outreach Table in the narthex or go to our GIVE page online** (StMarksAurora.net/GIVE) to donate to this good cause.



This Week at St. Mark's

SATURDAY, May 11

5:00p Worship
6:00p PADS dinner service

SUNDAY, May 12 MOTHER'S DAY

9:00a Worship; Farewell and Godspeed to Lindsey & Clint Meyer; Thanks to Nursery Coordinator, Terese Ruppel
10:30a Worship
(sorry, blood pressure screenings originally scheduled for the 12th have been cancelled)
11:30a HS Praise Team rehearsal

MONDAY, May 13

9:30a Faith Circle
6:00p Sanctuary Art & Banners Team
6:30p Fox Valley Festival Chorus rehearsal

TUESDAY, May 14

9:30a CDC Pre-K Music
10:00a Adult Study
1:00p Staff meeting
6:00p ELA class
6:30p BeFriender training
6:30p Council meeting
7:00p Glory Ringers rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, May 15

9:00a The Bread Wrappers
9:15a WVMTA meeting
1:00p Office volunteers
3:30p SACC Music
6:30p Travel Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY, May 16

6:00p ELA class
7:00p Lion's Voice Choir rehearsal

FRIDAY, May 17

6:30p Al -Anon

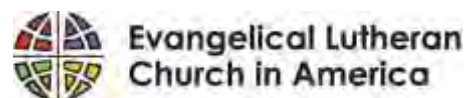
SATURDAY, May 18

1:00p Nielsen piano recital
5:00p Worship

SUNDAY, May 19

9:00a Worship & Music Celebration Sunday
Coffee Project sales
10:30a Worship & Music Celebration Sunday
11:30a HS Praise Team rehearsal
11:30a Pre-film lunch
12:00p For the Bible Tells Me So
3:30p Music Academy Spring Recital

To see St. Mark's complete, interactive calendar, go to the RESOURCES tab on our website (StMarksAurora.net). You can see details for the current and future months—even send yourself an email reminder of an upcoming event.



Discipleship

Award-winning documentary showing

For the Bible Tells Me So

Sunday, May 19, noon to 2:00 p.m.*

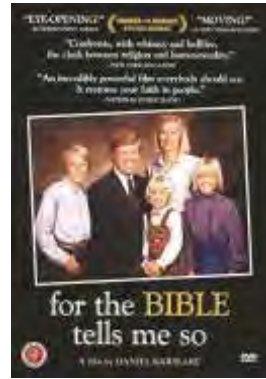
Light lunch & child care will be available

On Sunday, May 19th, we'll be showing the award-winning documentary *For the Bible Tells Me So*. It is a powerful portrayal of five ordinary Christian families who process the reality of having a gay child. Viewpoints from biblical scholars provide a foundation for considering our own views on gender/sexuality issues.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you'd like to attend so we can plan for lunch and child care.

* If you are not able to attend the documentary showing on May 19th, it's available for rent for \$2.99 on iTunes.

** You can attend the class even if you have not seen the film.



Announcements

Adult Study: "Sexuality & Christianity"

MORNING CLASS: 10:00-11:30 a.m.

starting Tuesday, May 21

EVENING CLASS: 6:00-7:30 p.m.

starting Wednesday, May 22

We believe the next Adult Study topic is so important that we are offering both a morning and an evening class. The topic is "Sexuality & Christianity," and we'll be using "This I Know," the companion book to *For the Bible Tells Me So*,** along with scripture and the ELCA Social Statement on Human Sexuality. **Sign up at the Welcome Center.**

Summer job at St. Mark's



FACILITY MANAGER, SUMMER, PART-TIME

Summer is not that far away, and we're *still* looking for a part-time Facility Manager to work from June 1 to September 1 managing our buildings and grounds. We need a responsible, self-starter with knowledge of maintenance tasks, such as mechanical, electrical and plumbing.

Do you know a teacher or retired person who might be free this summer for this job? Salary and hours are negotiable. For questions, call the church office (630-897-6891). Send resume to facilitymanager@stmarksaurora.net



Coordinator. We appreciate her dedication to St. Mark's families and children. Please let her know!

We appreciate you!

Sunday, May 12, 9:00 a.m.

On Mother's Day Sunday we will be honoring Terese Ruppel, as she steps down from her position as Nursery

FOR YOUR SAFETY

We want to ensure that evening groups feel safe wherever they meet in the church. To do this, we have decided to lock our front doors most evenings (except for FDL night). Staff will unlock and relock doors as needed for meetings and classes.



Music Celebration Sunday

Sunday, May 19, both services

Our Sunday morning worship on May 19th will be a music-filled celebration, with The Lion's Voice Choir and the

Glory Ringers Handbell Choir offering special anthems. We will also be thanking our music ministry staff and all the musicians who dedicate their time and talents. Come, enjoy the glorious music and thank our amazing musicians for all they give.



Adult Fellowship

May 23, 10:15 a.m.*

SciTech Hands On Museum

The Adult Fellowship group will be visiting the SciTech Hands On

Museum in downtown Aurora (18 W. Benton St.) on May 23rd at 10:15 a.m. The visit includes a talk on the history and future plans for the museum, a tour, and plenty of interactive time with the exhibits. Admission is a free-will offering. Lunch will be at Two Brothers Roundhouse (205 N. Broadway, Aurora). All are welcome! **Sign up at the Welcome Center.**

* If you'd like to share a ride, meet at the church at 10:00 a.m.



Have you RSVP'd for Pr. Pat's Farewell Brunch?

Deadline, Sunday, May 19

All are invited for **Pr. Pat's Farewell Brunch on June 2**,* including children of all ages. There is no charge, but we need your reservation by Sunday, May 19th at the latest. **Pick up a form at the Welcome Center or RSVP online at StMarksAurora.net/BRUNCH by May 19.**

* There will be only one service, at 10:00 a.m., on Sunday, June 2.



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

She was "devoted to good works and acts of charity."



Today's First Reading from Acts has the story of a little known disciple named Tabitha—aka Dorcas. Not only is she raised from the dead, but she also embodies in word and deed what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Little is known about Tabitha or, if you prefer, Dorcas. But her legacy has lasted for centuries and the Church from the first century has emulated her being "full of good works and compassionate acts."

Soon St. Mark's will experience what the people of Joppa felt in their loss. But what seemed to be loss turned out to be gain. As a new time comes for St. Mark's in Pastor Geiseman's retirement, it can be a time of renewed life and for this community to continue to be known for being "full of good works and compassionate acts."

Reflection Questions

- Who do you know as being someone "full of good works and compassionate acts"?
- How would you be defined as someone who is "full of good works and compassionate acts"?
- In what ways can you contribute to St. Mark's to continue to be known as a community of faith that is "full of good works and compassionate acts"?