

This Week at St. Mark's

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

7:30a EASTER WORSHIP
8:00a Easter Breakfast
9:00a EASTER WORSHIP
10:30a EASTER WORSHIP

MONDAY, APRIL 21

OFFICE CLOSED
9:00a Ruth Circle
10:30a Spiritual Journaling
7:30p Fox Valley Festival Chorus

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

1:00p Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

10:00a Bread Wrappers
5:00p Roaring Ringers
5:30p Joyous Praise Bells
5:30p FDL, Conformation, and High School Classes
5:30p First Communion Make Up Class
7:30p Academy Youth Singers

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

8:45a Adult Fellowship - Lizzadro Museum
7:30p Lion's Voice Choir

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION
7:30a Dreyer Meeting
6:30p Al-Anon

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

5:00p WORSHIP

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

9:00a WORSHIP
9:00a Sunday School
10:30a WORSHIP
10:30a First Communion
3:00p Bridenbaugh Piano Recital

Oklahoma Mission Trip - July 2014



Our Goal is to raise \$10,000 in pledges by May 18th during our Non-Walkathon.

Your gifts and pledges to our youth group help our teens to have life changing experiences during their mission trips. Thank you for all of the support that you have given to our Youth Group!

Pledge cards will be available starting Easter Sunday at the Easter Breakfast. If you have any questions or are interested in making a pledge to the Youth Group, please speak with Pastor Brian.

First Communion Sunday

April 27th at 10:30am



The day of First Communion is very exciting and one we look forward to with much joy and celebration! On the day of, we would ask families to **arrive a little early** and head to the **check-in table** with your student. There you will pick up **their binder** filled with all their work and **their corsage/boutonniere** to be worn during the service so we all know who our special boys and girls are that day.

Feel free to take pictures in the Sanctuary **after** the service, or pictures before and after in the Narthex. **Please have your child dressed in their Sunday best.** Any questions don't hesitate to contact Tina Goodacre at: (630) 897-6891 or tgoodacre@stmarksaurora.net.

Proclaiming Christ's Abundant Love



- Lydia's Piecemakers
- C.A.S.A. Mother's Day Dedication
- Adult Bible Study - Living the Jesus Creed

Lydia's Piecemakers have expanded their ministry to include making some much needed protective wear for **residents of Jennings Terrace** who need help during meal times. **To make the necessary bibs we are in need of some bath towels.** These need not be new towels, but used towels in good condition are fine, even if they are faded and not as thick as when they were purchased. If you have any towels you are able to contribute, **please leave them in the basket to the right inside the door of the Narthex.** We will be collecting them during May. As always, we are so very appreciative of the wonderful giving hands at St. Mark's who make our ministries possible, thank you! **If you have any questions, please call Betty Lankers at 630-553-5068.**

C.A.S.A. Mother's Day Dedication

Is there a special woman in your life that you would like to honor for Mother's Day? Would you like to remember a family member no longer with us? Please consider supporting C.A.S.A., our local Kane County Court Appointed Special Advocates.



We would like to offer you the opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child. **Envelopes are available at the table by the Outreach Bulletin Board along with a dedication card.** Please be sure to add **"Mother's Day"** on the memo line of your check and **sign the sheet on the table** so that your name and dedication will be acknowledged on Mother's Day. **Donations accepted through May 4th.** Envelopes may be dropped off at the Welcome

Adult Bible Study

Living the Jesus Creed continues on Tuesday mornings at 10 am. We will be following the following topics which can be found on **pages 181- 234 in The Jesus Creed by Scot McKnight:**

- **April 29** – Believing in Jesus and Abiding in Jesus
- **May 6** – Surrendering in Jesus and Restoring in Jesus
- **May 13** – Forgiving in Jesus and Reaching Out in Jesus



- Women of St. Mark's Brunch
- Doughnut & Coffee Connection Update
- Adult Fellowship Meeting
- Annual Pork Chop BBQ Fundraiser
- Good Shepherd Sunday

Women of St. Marks

Did you know that you are a part of the WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)? **Please join us for a delicious brunch on Saturday, May 17th at 10:00am to learn more about WELCA and to celebrate our women's ministries.** A truly inspirational program will follow, featuring Beth Plachetka, Ed. D., a school and clinical social worker. **Tickets are \$5 and will be available for sale starting April 26th.**

Doughnut & Coffee Connection Update



Coffee and doughnuts after services is coming back! We'd love your participation and there are a variety of ways you or your group can get involved. **We are looking for individuals and groups to sign up for either the first or third Sunday of the month to bring baked goods or make the coffee before the 9:00am service.** We would also love **a few more hands for set-up and we will be collecting paper goods and cups.**

Groups who participate can "advertise" their ministry on their week too. **There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center where you can let us know how/when you'd like to be a part of this ministry.** Please call Linda Schau at (630) 859-2720 for more information.

Adult Fellowship Meeting

If you are interested in doing something new, please consider attending an adult fellowship event. We meet once a month and do something new and different each month. Any adult is welcome to attend.

On **Thursday, April 24**, we will meet at the **St. Mark's parking lot at 8:45 am.** We will leave no later than 9:00am for the tour of the **Lizzadro Museum in Elmhurst.** Joseph Lizzadro collected many interesting gemstones, which are on display at the museum. We will be watching a short video and taking a tour. Later, we will have lunch at Café Amano in Elmhurst. The cost for the museum is **\$4 person.** Lunch is the responsibility of each individual. Mark your calendar **and sign up.** For questions call Laurel Haase or Phyllis Jessick.

Annual Pork Chop BBQ Fundraiser



The Music ministry will be holding their annual 5 B's Pork Chop BBQ Fundraiser on **Thursday, May 8th from 4 - 7 pm.** Once again dinners will be graciously served up for our dine-in and drive-thru customers. Dinners will be a **choice of grilled fresh pork chops or chicken or a combination of the two along with baked beans, coleslaw, apple sauce, roll and butter.** You can also have the option of a **one-piece meat dinner, and a hot dog meal is also available for our younger customers.** Country DJ Krista Smith will be there to spin tunes and offer Karaoke and country line dancing. Tickets can be purchased after services at the Welcome Center desk, during the week from the Church office, and anytime from any of our adult bell and vocal choir members. **Ticket prices are: 2 piece dinner - \$12, 1 piece dinner - \$10, hot dog meal - \$6.** Please contact Kristin Young or Sue Hilderbrand for more information.

Good Shepherd Sunday - May 11th

Every year during the Easter season, we celebrate "Good Shepherd Sunday." One way churches can celebrate is to focus on how they carry out their shepherding ministry and to think about the question, **"How does our church care for people in need in our community?"**

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is St. Mark's statewide social ministry organization, working on behalf of all three ELCA synods in Illinois. By working together through LSSI, Lutheran congregations are able to help more people in need than they can independently. When we join together in this common effort, we help create part of the abundant life that Jesus wants for all people. **Last year, LSSI served more than 96,000 people at 85 locations through out the state.**

Here are some ways to help support their mission:


- Give generously to LSSI, so they can continue to serve people in need. For more information call: (847) 635-4617.
- Volunteer at LSSI, individually or as a group, by calling Joy Medrano at: (847) 635-4653.
- Consider making a legacy gift to The Cornerstone Foundation to support LSSI's work. For information call: (847) 390-1418.
- Pray daily for the people served by LSSI and for its staff.
- Contact Governor Quinn and other IL legislators, urging them to provide adequate state funding for social services.



- The Wizard of Oz
- Lutheran Day 2014
- Books Needed at CDC
- Nursing the Spirit
- Thrivent Financial
- Fox Valley Orchestra

The Wizard of Oz - West Aurora High School

Actors literally will be flying high during the performances of **"The Wizard of Oz"** at **7p.m. on May 1, 2, & 3 in the auditorium, 1201 W. New York St., Aurora.** Tickets for the musical are **\$10** and can be purchased online at **sd129tickets.org.** The rehearsals for the 11 student performers includes **"flying"** lessons. Look for them to soar above amazed audiences during the performances.



Submissions for the **weekly Courier** are **due each Wednesday by noon** for that weekend's publication. Submissions for the **June Vineyard** are due by **noon on Wednesday, May 21st**. **Submissions will be added in the order in which they are received. Early entry of your submissions is welcomed!**

Please email articles for the Vineyard and Courier to Nicole Ferrier at: **nferrier@stmarksaurora.net** or place handwritten articles in her mailbox. If you have any questions please email or call Nicole at: **(630) 897-6891 ext. 27**.

Please send all 2014 photos from any St. Mark's ministry or event to: **smyearinreview@gmail.com**.

Lutheran Day 2014

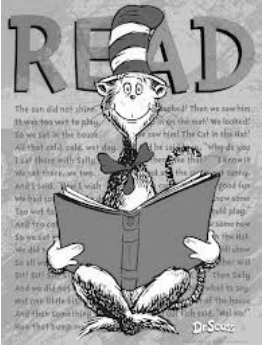
Save the date, **May 13, 2014**. Join Lutherans from across the state in study, prayer, and action for greater justice and compassion in Illinois. Please join us to build relationships with public officials, showcase the active engagement of Lutherans in pursuing the common good, and build camaraderie among Lutheran advocates in Illinois. For more details as they develop visit: **www.LutheranDay.org**.

Books Needed at the Child Development Center

The CDC is looking for **donations of factual books**; books about **different races/cultures**; books depicting **people of other abilities**: eyeglasses, wheelchairs, sign language, hearing disability, and blindness; books with **animals**: real, not cartoon; and books with **familiar objects or routines**: brushing teeth, going to bed, etc. **Please avoid books depicting violence or fighting**. This would include: Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, Captain Underpants, super hero books, or Pokemon.

Books from the following authors would be greatly appreciated: Mo Williams, Laura Numeroff, Joanna Cole, Julia Donaldson, Dr. Seuss, Mark Teague, Eric Carle, Cynthia Rylant, Lois Ehlert, and Bill Martin Jr.

If you have any questions please contact the CDC director, Merrilee Parkhurst, at (630) 897-6063.



Nursing the Spirit: National Autism Awareness Month

Celebrate! April is National Autism Awareness Month

A Better World for Autism


AUTISM SOCIETY

Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. There is no known single cause of autism. Autism is treatable. Children do not "outgrow" autism, but studies show that early diagnosis and intervention lead to significantly improved outcomes. For more information on autism visit: <http://www.autism-society.org/about-autism/>

Thrivent Financial

Direct Choice Dollars **between April 1 and May 31, 2014** to participate in the Thrivent Choice "Direct Now...Add \$20" campaign.

Login at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call a Member Care representative at 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Choice."




Thrivent Financial for Lutherans™

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Fox Valley Orchestra presents "Operatic Treasures"


The Fox Valley Orchestra, joined by the FVO Chorus and the Aurora University Chorus, presents "Operatic Treasures" featuring favorite opera choruses, on **Sunday, April 27, at 3:00 pm at Crimi Auditorium at Aurora University, 407 S. Calumet**. Music director Dr. Colin Holman is joined by Dr. Lisa Fredenburgh of AU, and featured soloist is internationally known mezzo-soprano Sarah Holman. Also presented at this concert is the winner of the FVO Youth Concerto Competition, cellist Michael Zyzak, performing a movement from Dvorak's Cello Concerto. **Tickets may be purchased at the door on April 27, or in advance, by April 25, at www.foxvalleyorchestra.org or by calling (630) 891-2526.**



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Check us out online!

Be sure to head to **www.stmarksaurora.net** and "Like" St. Mark's on Facebook to get the latest updates!





St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Phone: (630) 897-6891
Fax: (630) 897-4842
Web: www.stmarksaurora.net

Proclaiming Christ's Abundant Love

For More Information...

Call the St. Mark's office or email if you have questions about the following areas of ministry. You also may visit our web site for more information about St. Mark's.

Pastoral Staff

Pastor Patricia Geiseman	Ext. 15	pgeiseman@stmarksaurora.net
Pastor Brian Wise	Ext. 13	bwise@stmarksaurora.net

Ministry Staff

Kristin Young	Ext. 16	kyoung@stmarksaurora.net
<i>Director of Worship & the Arts</i>		
Sue Hilderbrand	Ext. 24	shilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net
<i>Bell Choir Director</i>		
Tina Goodacre	Ext. 22	tgoodacre@stmarksaurora.net
<i>Director of Children's Ministries</i>		

Support Staff

Deb Arcilla	Ext. 10	darcilla@stmarksaurora.net
<i>Office Manager</i>		
John Themanson	Ext. 19	jthemanson@stmarksaurora.net
<i>Finance Administrator</i>		
Gregg Kobliska	Ext. 12	gkobliska@stmarksaurora.net
<i>Facility Manager</i>		
Nicole Ferrier	Ext. 27	nferrier@stmarksaurora.net
<i>Communications Coordinator</i>		
Tracy McClure	Ext. 11	tmccclure@stmarksaurora.net
<i>Intern</i>		
Terese Ruppel	630-466-1036	ter60554@att.net
<i>Nursery Coordinator</i>		

Faith Community Nurse

Jean Clementz	Ext. 23	jean.clementz@presencehealth.org
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Financial Secretary

Jim Erickson	630-897-0291	jerickson@stmarksaurora.net
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St. Mark's Child Development Center

Merrilee Parkhurst	630-897-6063	stmarksdir@att.net
<i>Director</i>		

Council Members

Rebecca Mueller (President), Preston Runyan (Treasurer), Roger Shields (Property), Jeanne Flynn (Care & Nurture), Melvin Smith (Worship), Julie Simpson (Stewardship), Nicole Ferrier (Welcoming), Alan Jacobs (Small Group), Don Friend (Worship)

Prayers

5:00 p.m. Grant Allen, Vivian Chase, Mike & Pam Daly, Rita Gannon, Barb Nielsen, Izzy Rosa, Sharon Ross, Andrea Waddell & Family


9:00 a.m. Pam Beallis, Bill Beattie, Madi Beetham, Barbara Brown, Danny Frank, Ron Ganske, the friends and family of Dana Kapadia, Kay Leonard, Louise Soukup, Charles Swords, Ed Wagner

10:30 a.m. Matt Adorjan, Wade Barrett, Michael Bradley, August Ann Bryant, Rosalie Hanks, Jeffery Henderson, Jim Kalish, Phil Kassinger, Terry Mueller, Merks Smith

Continuing Care Dave & Valerie Dykstra & Family, Nick Fahrlander, Jim Ferrier, Gerd Gunnarsson, John Lange, Pr. Gerald Rygh, Charlie Walters, Lorene Wood

Paul's Ministry We give thanks to God for the ministry at Iglesia Luterana De La Trinidad in Chicago, IL and Norwood Park Lutheran Church in Chicago, IL.

We pray for comfort and peace for Marge Gugerty who mourns the death of her father, Hays Jensen.





St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Proclaiming Christ's Abundant Love

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



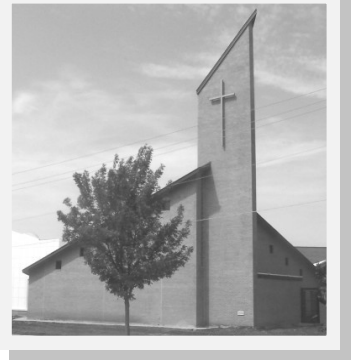
April 19th & 20th, 2014

Welcome!

We've been waiting for you! Our mission at St. Mark's Lutheran Church is to proclaim Christ's Abundant Love. 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 to 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!



Today's WORSHIP FOCUS

Easter Day – The Festival of the Resurrection

The last steps of our Lenten formation bring us from death to life. The liturgical season is a progression through wilderness to blossoming garden –

from hunger to table, from deception to truth, from fear to transformation, from fraction to forgiveness, from separation to participation.

Where are we today on the grief-to-joy spectrum? How can the Easter Story of the risen Christ heard today and long-awaited through Lent, renew our lives and bring hope and joy to the world?

Join us for the celebration of life.

Next Week's WORSHIP FOCUS

Thomas joins the ranks of those who recognize divinity in Jesus: Simon Peter (Matt 16:13), Martha (John 11:27), and the Roman centurion (Matt 27:54); yet he is the most frequently remembered for his doubts. Maybe that is because we sympathize with him: at times we too have more questions than answers, more doubts than certainty. There is something refreshing in the courage of Thomas to give his doubts voice.

Many people struggle with the stories of the Resurrections. They may seem to stretch our understandings of how things work in the "real world." But does it matter? In the variety of resurrection stories the gospels give us - both on Easter morning and beyond- we are

given a range of ways in which people encountered the risen Christ. As Jesus indicates to Thomas, there are many ways to experience the risen Christ, and we must never let ourselves be limited. What are some ways you have experienced the risen Christ in your life?

