

## This Week at St. Mark's

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Christ the King & Thanksgiving  
9:00a Worship  
9:00a Sunday School  
10:00a Academy Singers  
10:30a Worship  
4:00p Fall Music Academy Recital

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

9:00a Lydia's Piecemakers & Knit Pickers  
6:00p Sanctuary Art & Banners  
7:30p Fox Valley Festival Chorus

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

10:00a Adult Bible Study  
1:00p Staff Meeting  
1:00p Office Volunteers  
7:00p Glory Ringers

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

No FDL, Confirmation, or HS Youth Group  
No Thanksgiving Eve Service  
9:30a Bread Wrappers

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Happy Thanksgiving!  
Office Closed

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27


Office Closed  
6:30p Al-Anon

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Advent 1  
5:00p Worship


### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Advent 1  
No Sunday School  
9:00a Worship  
10:00a Academy Singers  
10:30a Worship



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



### Christmas Challenge to St. Mark's

You are invited to consider a special year end gift to St. Mark's. In October the council approved the development of a **Christmas Challenge for the purpose of making an additional payment towards the principle of the mortgage in this present year.**

**The present monthly mortgage of \$20,000 is sizable and limits what other ministries can be accomplished.** Reducing the \$2.6 M debt is an ongoing concern and will be addressed in 2016.

Council members, staff, and some other members of St. Mark's have already contributed \$11,870 toward this challenge. **You are invited to join them by matching this gift.** Together we can raise \$23,740 towards reducing the principle of the mortgage this year.


**Please use the designated envelopes, in the pew racks and mark "Christmas Challenge" on the memo line.** Gifts will be received through the last weekend in December. Thank you for sharing and strengthening the ministry of St. Mark's. Together there is much that we can accomplish.


### Upcoming in Our Worship at St. Mark's

During this weekend we rejoice with two very important worship focus points.

**This weekend is Christ the King Sunday**, the last Sunday in the Church Liturgical Year which reminds us that Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.


As part of our weekend worship we will also **share in a Thanksgiving focus** as we give thanks to God for all the blessings received. **There will be no Thanksgiving Eve worship service** at St. Mark's but our weekend worship will help us all to give thanks and praise to God who has first blessed us all.






### Discipleship

- Communion Bread - Beginnings
- Building Bridges - Christmas Family Event
- Adult Fellowship - Christmas Party



### Communion Bread - Beginnings


This weekend our communion bread is made from wheat harvested and flour shared at the Foods Resource Bank Harvest Fest this Fall. Other congregations and many other people are sharing bread from the same origin. We give thanks together and



### Building Bridges - Christmas Family Event

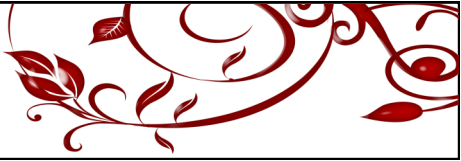
Building Bridges, a small group for families with young children, invites you to a Christmas Family Event! **Join us for an afternoon at St. Mark's to build a gingerbread house and watch some short holiday movies on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 - 3:30pm in Fellowship Hall.** Graham crackers and frosting will be provided, all **we ask is that each family bring a bag of candy to share.** There will be a **sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.** If you plan to attend, please sign-up so that we have an idea of how many families to plan for; however families are welcome to attend without signing up. Please contact Lindsay Meyer at: (630) 207-2668 or [lindsay.meyer84@gmail.com](mailto:lindsay.meyer84@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Proclaiming Christ's Abundant Love



God's work.  
Our hands.

- Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry Holiday Food Drive
- Starting this weekend - Naomi Circle Angel Tree Tags



### Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Food Drive


Whether you are a student in need of community service hours, a member of an organization, or an individual looking for a way to participate in a worthwhile project in our community, **the 8th Annual Holiday Food Drive will welcome your help.** Last year, the Drive collected 2 semi-truckloads of food for distribution to those who might otherwise have to go hungry. **Your volunteer effort can help make sure the Pantry has enough food this year for all those who come for assistance.**


**Ways to Volunteer:**

- Pass out flyers to shoppers at one of the three participating grocery stores starting November 1st. Days and times available to fit all schedules: **Prisco's Family Market**, 1108 Prairie St., Aurora, **Cermak Fresh Market**, 1250 N. Lake St., Aurora, or **Mariano's**, 3025 E. New York St., Aurora
- Purchase pre-packed bags of groceries for \$5, \$10 or \$15 to be donated to Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry

To sign-up to volunteer, go to Sign Up Genius at: <http://bit.ly/1jynxWU> or contact Claire Perez at: (630) 263-8209 or [perezcm44@yahoo.com](mailto:perezcm44@yahoo.com).


Donations can be brought to the Pantry Office (1110 Jericho Road, Aurora) **Monday - Friday from 8am - 3pm.** Contact the Pantry at: (630) 897-2127 to arrange delivery at other times. **Monetary donations are also welcome and can be made online at: [www.aurorafoodpantry.org](http://www.aurorafoodpantry.org) or mailed to: PO Box 2602, Aurora, IL 60507.**





### Starting this weekend - Naomi Circle Angel Tree Tags

Each year St. Mark's Lutheran Church provides gifts for three different organizations in the Aurora Area. This year we will give gifts to 150 children from Visiting Nurse Association, 20 children from Lutheran Social Services Foster Program, and 40 adults from Lutheran Social Services. We will continue the tradition we started last year giving a \$25 gift card for our adults at LSSI, placing them in a Christmas card. **The tags will be available the weekend of November 21-22. Gifts will be due back on the weekend of December 12-13 for VNA and LSSI Seniors** as they are delivered to each organization that week. **Gifts for LSSI Foster Program need to be returned by December 6.** Thank you for your generous support every year.





### Announcements

- Parents Day Out
- Christmas Program
- Thank You
- Nursing the Spirit
- St. Mark's Funeral Planning
- Smart Money Tour
- Lessons & Carols Services

### Christmas Shopping Day Out for Parents

St. Mark's Senior High Youth Group would like to offer a Christmas Shopping Day Out for parents on **Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm.** Drop off your **3-10 year olds** at church for an afternoon of crafts, games, singing Christmas songs, and watching a Christmas movie! Parents can leave and enjoy a few hours to themselves to get some Christmas shopping and errands done. Price of **admission is one unwrapped toy** that the Youth Group will donate to families in need!






### St. Mark's Christmas Program


This year the children and youth of St. Mark's will be performing "The Inn Crowd" as our annual Christmas program **on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the 5pm worship service.** We will have our annual Christmas potluck following the program. We still need volunteers to coordinate the potluck as well as set up and clean up crews! **Please let Kari Reiseck know if you are able to help with this fun event.**

### Thank You

The Child Development Center would like to thank Roger Shields and the volunteer crew that put up the fence at the CDC on Saturday. They appreciate the time everyone spent so that the children can go outside once again. Thank you so very much for giving your free time to help us!







Submissions for the **weekly Courier** are **due each Monday by noon** for that weekend's publication. Submissions for the **January Vineyard** are due by **noon on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**. **Submissions will be added in the order in which they are received. Early submissions are always 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 2015 photos** from any St. Mark's ministry or event to: **smyearinreview@gmail.com**.


### Nursing the Spirit: Lung Cancer Awareness Month

Lung cancer is the second leading cause of death in the U.S. Your risk for lung cancer is unique to you.


Here are some factors that might put you at risk for lung cancer:

- A history of smoking
- Exposure to radon or asbestos
- A history of lung cancer in your immediate family
- Exposure to Agent Orange or other cancer causing materials
- A diagnosis of other respiratory disease such as COPD, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, or pneumonia
- Contact with secondhand smoke

For more information about lung cancer, speak to your health care provider and visit: [www.lungcanceralliance.org/for-other-audiences/education-materials/](http://www.lungcanceralliance.org/for-other-audiences/education-materials/)



### St. Mark's Funeral Planning Guide



*Preplanning provides peace of mind*

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven a time to be born and a time to die." Ecclesiastes 3:2: A reality of our humanity is that we will all someday, die.

How can we make our dying more meaningful, spiritual, and even peaceful? **Part of the answer is advanced planning.** Not only by filling out paperwork and forms, such as advanced directives and a will, but also by having important conversations with our loved ones so they have an understanding of our end of life desires and expectations.

**We are pleased to present the congregation with St. Mark's Funeral Planning Guide.** This document can be used as a tool for you to think about how you would like to celebrate your life when you die and to discuss this with your loved ones ahead of time. Think of this as giving them a gift that will allow your loved ones to know and understand what you want and enable them honor your end of life wishes. **You may obtain your copy of St. Mark's Funeral Guide through the office.**

### St. Mark's is Smart about Money

We have a group planning to attend Dave Ramsey's **Smart Money Tour on Tuesday evening, January 12, 2016, at Willow Creek Church in Barrington, IL.** Our rate for this event is locked in at **\$19**. If you have been curious about learning more about Dave Ramsey's program this is a rare opportunity to see Dave in person! Chris Hogan will also be presenting; he is Dave's right hand man with a focus on saving for retirement. To register: call Teresa Duke, 1-800-844-6934 x119, and reference St. Mark's Aurora for the reduced rate. Contact Julie Simpson, Stewardship Committee Chair, at: [djsimp480@hotmail.com](mailto:djsimp480@hotmail.com) or (630) 212-6413 with any questions.

### Lessons And Carols Worship Services

Please join us for the Music Ministry's presentation of **Lessons & Carols on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at the 5pm service and again on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at a special 10am only service.** You won't want to miss hearing the biblical accounts of the coming of the Messiah and the story of his birth, interwoven with beautiful and moving anthems and carols. Friends and family are encouraged to attend as well. See you soon.





Head to **www.stmarksaurora.net** to find online versions of both the Courier and Vineyard, and "Like" St. Mark's on Facebook to get the latest updates about our events and programming!





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

Phone: (630) 897-6891  
Fax: (630) 897-4842  
Web: [www.stmarksaurora.net](http://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 may also visit our web site for more information about St. Mark's.

<b><u>Pastoral Staff</u></b>		
Pastor Patricia Geiseman	Ext. 15	<a href="mailto:pgeiseman@stmarksaurora.net">pgeiseman@stmarksaurora.net</a>
Pastor Paul Olson	Ext. 13	<a href="mailto:polson@stmarksaurora.net">polson@stmarksaurora.net</a>
<b><u>Ministry Staff</u></b>		
Kristin Young	Ext. 16	<a href="mailto:kyoung@stmarksaurora.net">kyoung@stmarksaurora.net</a>
<i>Director of Worship &amp; the Arts</i>		
Sue Hilderbrand	Ext. 24	<a href="mailto:shilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net">shilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net</a>
<i>Bell Choir Director</i>		
Kari Reiseck	Ext. 22	<a href="mailto:kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net">kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net</a>
<i>Director of Children's Ministries</i>		
<b><u>Support Staff</u></b>		
Deb Arcilla	Ext. 10	<a href="mailto:darcilla@stmarksaurora.net">darcilla@stmarksaurora.net</a>
<i>Office Manager</i>		
John Themanson	Ext. 19	<a href="mailto:jthemanson@stmarksaurora.net">jthemanson@stmarksaurora.net</a>
<i>Finance Administrator</i>		
Ed Malert	Ext. 12	<a href="mailto:emalert@stmarksaurora.net">emalert@stmarksaurora.net</a>
Gregg Kobliska (Summer Substitute)	Ext. 12	(Gregg is using Ed's email)
<i>Facility Manager</i>		
Nicole Ferrier	Ext. 27	<a href="mailto:nferrier@stmarksaurora.net">nferrier@stmarksaurora.net</a>
<i>Director of Communications</i>		
Tracy McClure	Ext. 11	<a href="mailto:tmcclore@stmarksaurora.net">tmcclore@stmarksaurora.net</a>
<i>Senior High Youth Ministry Coordinator</i>		
Terese Ruppel	630-466-1036	<a href="mailto:ter60554@gmail.com">ter60554@gmail.com</a>
<i>Nursery Coordinator</i>		
<b><u>Faith Community Nurse</u></b>		
Jean Clementz	Ext. 23	<a href="mailto:jean.clementz@presencehealth.org">jean.clementz@presencehealth.org</a>
<b><u>Financial Secretary</u></b>		
Jim Erickson	630-897-0291	<a href="mailto:jerickson@stmarksaurora.net">jerickson@stmarksaurora.net</a>
<b><u>St. Mark's Child Development Center</u></b>		
Merrilee Parkhurst	630-897-6063	<a href="mailto:stmarksdir@att.net">stmarksdir@att.net</a>
<i>Director</i>		
<b><u>Council Members</u></b>		
Rebecca Mueller (President), Preston Runyan (Treasurer), Roger Shields (Property), Jeanne Flynn (Care & Nurture), Melvin Smith (Worship), Julie Simpson (Stewardship), Nicole Ferrier (Welcoming), Don Friend (Worship), Lindsay Meyer (Small Groups)		

### Prayers

**5:00 p.m.** Grant Allen, Beth Edwards, Gary Francis, Rita Gannon, Romayne Isom, Ryan Johnson, Mary Kenner, Christopher Knight, Stephanie Lee, Sharon Ross, Rose Wagner, Janet Lee Wilson


**9:00 a.m.** Barb Barrett, Karen Bausch, Barbara Bleke, Barb Brown, Craig Cooper, Ty Dyer, Homer Easley, Jeff Fernandez, Ed Fleming, Arlene Flynn, Katherine Forrester, Lyle Goodman, Kirk Harding, Greg Jackman, Ryan Jackman, Ben Martin, Carol Martinez, Sadie Miller, Kirsten Noland, Bob Overstreet

**10:30 a.m.** Brooke Bess, Jennifer Franke, Sharon Hudson, Joanne Jaycox, Michael Josupait, Lucinda Mosley & family, Blake Rottick

**Continuing Care** Chuck Best, Jim Kalish, John Lange, Bruce Lindgren, Julie Michaels, Grant Oestrich, Charlie Walters

**Paul's Ministry** We give thanks to God for the staff, congregation, and ministries at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Elgin, IL and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Evanston, IL.


We rejoice with Paul and Brianna Flinkow who celebrate the birth of a daughter, Aria Lynn.



## St. Mark's Lutheran Church

*Proclaiming Christ's Abundant Love*

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



**November 21<sup>st</sup> & November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015**

## 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


#### The Reign of Christ / Christ the King

The end of the church year is upon us with the Festival of Christ the King. On this day we celebrate the ministry, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, who revealed for us the Realm of God. This is a new way of being in the world, one that follows the path of Jesus. He is indeed God's appointed one, in the present-and-coming kingdom. His way and truth are not based on the world's assumptions of power and truth and his methods are in doing the truth.

Pilate asks Jesus "What is truth?"

Today it seems that many feel the only truth is there is no truth. In this postmodern world, this leaves us empty and adrift.

What do you think are truths that people find hard to handle? What is the truth that motivates Jesus? What do we learn from Jesus about being a faithful witness to God's truth?



### Next Week's WORSHIP FOCUS

Next weekend, November 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, we begin a new Church Year with the Season of Advent. Advent means "coming" as we anticipate the Birth of the Christ Child. The First Lesson for Advent I is from the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah. Our world in some ways is not so different from the world of Jeremiah. For they and we, all long for a sense of hopefulness in our lives.

So the prophet makes an effort to give hope to a people who long for a sign of that hope in their life and by so doing we are given that sign as well. Advent is an invitation to trust that God. Advent is an invitation to give your heart to that God, to trust your future to that God who promises to be with you and to come into your life with that great gift of Advent hope.

May the weeks of Advent be for you a serious discipline to worship and pray, and by so doing bringing that Advent hope to others.

