**Children & Youth Ministry Programs Start This Week!**

**Rally Day is today, September 13th; which marks the start of our Children and Youth Ministry programs. Sunday School** began today at 9am and our Wednesday Night Programming begins on Wednesday, September 16th. Faith in Daily Life (1st - 5th grade, 5:30-7:30pm), Confirmation (6th - 8th grade, 6-7:30pm), and Senior High Youth Group (9th - 12th grade, 5:30-7:30pm). Our Youth Music Ministry also begins this week on Wednesday, September 16th. Bells for Grade School (Roaring Ringers) is at 5pm and Junior High (Joyous Praise Bells) is at 5:30pm. Youth Choir (Academy Singers) will meet after FDL on 7:30pm.

We are still in need of a few volunteers, including a few teacher's assistants! If you can donate your time a couple Sundays or Wednesdays per month, we would greatly appreciate it. These are both fun and rewarding ministries in which to get involved. Please see Kari Reiseck for more details on specific volunteers needed.

**DOUGHNUT & COFFEE CONNECTION**

**COFFEE SALES**

10:30a Worship
9:30a Blood Pressure Screening
9:00a CDC Teacher Blessing
9:00a Sunday School
9:00a Worship

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**Proclaiming Christ’s Abundant Love**

**God’s work:**

- 11th Annual Hike for Hesed
- Feed My Starving Children
- Financial Peace University

**11th Annual Hike for Hesed on Saturday, October 3rd**

Teams and individuals are welcome to come out and be a part of our Hesed family on Hike morning, where this year we will walk a route to downtown Aurora. The hike ends up being about a 5k, and you can run it, walk it, hike it, or even walk your dog. When we return there is a free breakfast, live music, and some activities for kids and adults. You can register yourself or a team at: www.hesedhouse.org.

**Financial Peace University - Coming This Fall**

Join us for Financial Peace University on Tuesdays, starting September 22nd at 7pm. This 9-week DVD/interactive class will be facilitated by St. Mark’s member Tracy Anderson. Within the first 90-days of the class, the average family pays off $5,300 in debt and saves $2,700! This course will provide valuable tools for managing all facets of your money life. For more information, please call the church office at: (630) 897-6991 and provide your name, email, and phone number to be contacted for the class.

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**Children & Youth**

**This Week at St. Mark’s**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

9:00a Worship
9:30a Blood Pressure Screening
10:30a Worship
11:45a Council Meeting
2:00p Felt Birthday Party
4:00p Building Bridges Cookout

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

9:00a Spiritual Journaling
9:30a Faith Circle
6:00p Sanctuary Arts & Banner Team
7:00p Hannah Circle
7:00p Naomi Circle - Priscilla Olthaus
7:30p Fox Valley Festival Chorus

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

1:00p Staff Meeting
6:30p Ivy Glen Meeting
7:00p Glory Ringers

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

9:30a Bread Wrappers
1:00p Office Volunteers
5:00p Roaring Rangers
5:30p Joyous Praise Bells
6:00p FDL & High School
6:00p Confirmation
7:00p Academy Singers

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

7:00p Lores Voice Choir

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

9:30p A/V/4:00

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

5:00p Worship

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

COFFEE SALES
DOUGHNUT & COFFEE CONNECTION
9:00a Worship
9:00a Sunday School
9:00a CCD Teacher Blessing
10:30a Worship
12:00p CCD Teacher Lunch

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**Adult Fellowship Outing - Fox River Trolley**

Want to return to the days of America’s “Third Rail,” when electricity propelled trolleys from one city to the next? Here’s your chance! Adult Fellowship has slated a visit to the Fox River Trolley in South Elgin. We will enjoy a round-trip on a trolley car, plus we will visit the Trolley Museum, where many cars from various old-time railroads now rest, they include the Chicago, Aurora and Elgin line.

On Sunday, September 27th a caravan will leave St. Mark’s parking lot at 1:00pm. We’ll drive first to the Jon Duerr Forest Preserve near South Elgin, and then from there we’ll board the trolley for a 15 minute ride to the Museum. We’ll spend time at the outdoor museum itself, then return on the trolley to the Duerr Forest Preserve. There, we can spend a short time viewing the scenic sights of this Fox River park. We’ll then drive to the Gas Station restaurant in St. Charles for fellowship and lunch. Cost of the trolley ride is $3 for adults 65 and older and $4 for those under 65. Please sign up at the Welcome Center. Unfortunately, because of the nature of the rail equipment, those using wheelchairs or walkers cannot be accommodated. For information, call Roald Haase at: (630) 892-9525.

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**Hannah Circle: A Faith-Sharing Circle for Mothers of Young Children**

Our first meeting is this Monday, September 14th at 7pm. Our mission is to proclaim Christ’s Abundant Love as we grow in faith, fellowship, and family life. Our meetings are on the second Monday of each month from 7-9pm in the Community Room from Sept. to May. Childcare will be provided if needed. We will be using: We Make the Road By Walking by Brian McLaren ($11). Please sign up at the Welcome Center. You may also contact Jean with any questions at (630) 897-6881, ext. 23 or jean.clementz@presencehealth.org.

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**Adult Fellowship Outing - Hegler Carus Mansion**

We will visit the Hegler Carus Mansion, a National Historic Landmark, located at 1307 St. Hwy. IL on Thursday, October 22nd. We will leave St. Mark’s parking lot at 9:30am, it is a 65 minute drive to LaSalle. The tour is $10 minutes and costs $7.00 per person. The building has an elevator so there are few stairs, and parking and the entrance is in the back of the building. Afterwards we will adjourn to the Uptown Grill, 601 First St. If you would be willing to drive please contact Bob Mulford at: (630) 553-3688 or Sharon Bertoglio at: (630)299-3587.

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**Thank You**

Thank you to the members of St. Mark’s for your kind and welcoming spirit as I have begun this part-time internship ministry with you. I have appreciated your kindness and look forward to making connections and relationships with the congregation. As you are aware from previous articles I will be sharing in weekend worship and available normally two days a week – primarily Tuesday and Wednesday. Together I look forward with you to the directions God will give for the mission and ministry of St. Mark’s. God bless – Pastor Olson

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**Building Bridges - New Small Group for Families with Younger Children**

Are you a parent of younger children who is looking to connect with other parents from St. Mark’s? We have started a small group for parents to talk about the ways we build bridges between home life, work life, and church life. Please join us on Sunday, September 13th at 4:00pm to meet other families interested in this group. We will meet at the Jones’ home - 15 North Royal Oaks Dr., Bristol, IL. The entire family is welcome! Please sign up at the Welcome Center with a dish to pass and number of people you plan to bring. Contact Lindsay Meyer at (630) 207-2688 or lindsay.meyer84@gmail.com for more information.

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God’s work. Our hands.
Nursing the Spirit: Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month
Traumatic brain injury usually results from a violent blow or jolt to the head or body or when an object penetrates the skull, such as a bullet or shattered piece glass. Mild traumatic brain injury may cause temporary dysfunction of brain cells. More serious traumatic brain injury can result in bruising, torn tissues, bleeding, and other physical damage to the brain that can result in long-term complications or death. The people most at risk of traumatic brain injury include:

- Children, especially newborns to 4-year-olds
- Young adults, especially those between ages 15 and 24
- Adults age 75 and old

Follow these tips to reduce the risk of brain injury:

- Always wear a seat belt in a motor vehicle. A small child should always sit in the back seat of a car and be secured in child safety seats or booster seats that are appropriate for his or her size and weight.
- Don’t drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including prescription medications that can impair the ability to drive.
- Wear a helmet while riding a bicycle, skateboard, motorcycle, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle. Also wear appropriate head protection when playing baseball or contact sports, skiing, skating, snowboarding, or riding a horse.

Equal Exchange New Coffee Blends Coming
We are pleased to announce availability of two new blends of coffee starting September 20th.

- Organic African Roots Drip: a medium blend to replace Cafe Salvador Drip and

- Organic Midnight Sun Drip; a French roast blend to replace Organic French Roast Drip. In order to make room for these blends we will be closing out existing stocks of Cafe Salvador for $3.00 per bag and French Roast Drip for $4.00 per bag. We will feature both new blends in a tasting after each worship service on Sunday, September 20th. Come, try and compare.

Tuesday Adult Bible Study
Bring your Bibles on Tuesday, September 22nd as we begin our Tuesday Adult Bible Study series at 10am. Pastor Olson will be leading the class. Members and friends are all welcome. “Taste Hold of Life That Really is Life” is our overall theme for the four weeks from September 29th – October 20th. Please sign-up at the Welcome Center.

Lydia’s Piecemakers Fall Luncheon
The Luncheon will be on Saturday, September 26th at 11:45am in Sanctuary Hall, and will feature favorite addys of Lydia’s Piecemakers and their friends. The speaker will be Marianne Cooper Richards, a quilter from Tennessee. She will be sharing some of her favorite quilts, their stories, and the Bible verses which have inspired her quilting. Her presentations are always creative, lively, and full of joy as she shares her love of quilt making. Please fill out a form, which can be found at the Welcome Center and at the Lydia’s table, which will also have raffle items on display for the next couple of weeks.

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.

Pastoral Staff
Pastor Patricia Geiseman Ext. 15 pgeiseman@stmarksaurora.net
Pastor Paul Olson Ext. 13 polson@stmarksaurora.net

Ministry Staff
Kristin Young Ext. 16 kyoung@stmarksaurora.net
Director of Worship & the Arts
Sue Hilderbrand Ext. 24 schilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net
Bell Choir Director
Kari Reiseck Ext. 22 kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net
Director of Children’s Ministries

Support Staff
Deb Arcilla Office Manager Ext. 10 dacilla@stmarksaurora.net
John Thomerson Finance Administrator Ext. 19 jthomerson@stmarksaurora.net
Ed Maier Facility Manager Ext. 12 emaier@stmarksaurora.net
Gregg Kobliha (Summer Substitute) Ext. 12 (Gregg is using Ed’s email)
Nicole Ferrier Director of Communications Ext. 27 nferrier@stmarksaurora.net
Tracy McClure Senior Youth Ministry Coordinator Ext. 11 tmcclure@stmarksaurora.net
Teresa Ruppel Nursery Coordinator 630-867-1036 ter60554@gmail.com

Faith Community Nurse
Jean Clementz Ext. 23 jeanclementz@presencehealth.org

Financial Secretary
Jim Erickson 630-867-0291 jeemart@stmarksaurora.net

St. Mark’s Child Development Center
Melanie Parkhurst Director 630-867-6003 smarksdjr@att.net

Council Members
Rebecca Mueller (President), Preston Runyan (Treasurer), Roger Shields (Property), Jeannie Flynn (Care & Nurture), Melvin Smith (Worship), Julie Simpson (Stewardship), Nicole Ferrier (Welcoming), Don Friend (Worship), Lindsay Meyer (Small Groups)

Prayers
5:00 p.m. Beth Edwards, Gary Francis, Rita Gannon, Sonja Henning, Ryan Johnson, Mary Kenner, Christopher Knight, Teri Maxwell, Sharon Ross, Mary Wittry
9:00 a.m. Karen Bausch, Bill Beattie, Barb Brown, Craig Cooper, Homer Easley, Ed Fleming, Kirk Harding, Ryan Jackman, Ben Martin, Carol Martinez, Sadie Miller, Bob Overstreet, Blake Rottick
10:30 a.m. Brooke Bess, Jennifer Franke, Joanne Jaycox, Gene Johnson, Rebecca Perez

Next Week’s WORSHIP FOCUS
On September 19th & 20th our Worship Focus will be a celebration of the Sky – particularly as Psalm 19 helps us understand God’s creation. C.S. Lewis once called Psalm 19 “the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world.” So it’s no wonder lyricists have set a number of beautiful interpretations of it, including “The Heavens Declare Your Glory” and “God’s Glory Fills the Heavens,” to music by famous composers such as J.S. Bach and Franz Haydn.

When are the moments in your life when you have the deepest sense of “the heavens declaring the glory of God”? What comes to mind when you see a starlit night or a beautiful blue sky? How do you feel when you see the fluffy white clouds on a gorgeous day?