

Come, Grow, Share

December 2016

Vol. 19 No. 12

3350 North Delany Rd

Waukegan, IL 60087

The Messenger



The Name of Jesus

This year the Drama, Music and Worship Ministry Team is providing us a special opportunity for worship: Christmas Day! Our tradition is to have a service at 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Even though that later service always brings us into Christmas Day, it is at a very early hour!



But this year, because Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, we have another opportunity to celebrate the birth of our LORD. There will be a service on Christmas Day at our regular start time of 9:45 a.m. This special worship will be structured under the feast day assigned to December 25th: "The Name of Jesus". The themes of this holy festival will be highlighted in Scripture readings, the sermon and the music.

Begin your Christmas Day celebration with worship. You will be blessed by The Name of Jesus!



OUR STAFF

Rev. Jeffrey E. Koth
Pastor

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Youth & Family Ministry
224-619-7758

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Organist

Eric Aho
Director of Musical Ensembles

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"Friends of St. Marks"

"St. Marks Youth & Family"

"St. Marks Lutheran Church"

"St. Marks Yarns of Compassion"

"God's Work. St. Mark's Hands"

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*Come celebrate the gift
of Jesus Christ.
Grow together
in faith and love.*

Share the Good News with all.



12/02 Valerie Stenson
 12/03 Eleanor Senteney
 12/04 Giovanni Diaz
 12/04 Vicki Mattson
 12/06 Alexander Sittig
 12/07 Linda Dietz
 12/07 Luke Solita
 12/10 Ella Chand
 12/13 Shannon Stelter
 12/14 Kathryn Kottka
 12/15 Nancy Inskeep
 12/17 Zachary Ammons
 12/19 Sue Broemelkamp
 12/20 Rachel Sheppard
 12/22 Mark Taylor
 12/22 Janice Thorstenson
 12/23 Steven Myllymaki
 12/25 Sandra Falkinham
 12/25 Cynthia Keister
 12/26 Ashley Perez
 12/27 Susan Baehr
 12/27 Dinora Congdon
 12/27 Anita Wells
 12/31 Jane Oye
 12/31 Mark Yocius

We thank the people who have memorialized these friends and loved ones for their generosity.



The following gifts were given in loving Memory of:

- **Martha DeTogne** from Sara Griffin, William & Ruth Hervoy
- **Ralph Otto Warner**, Dad of Sandra Stephenson
- **Kerttu Tuokko** from George Tuokko
- My Mom, **Polly Mitten**, on her December 29th birthday from Sandy & Ken Falkinham



December Anniversaries

Rich & Karen Yocius	December 14th
James & Robbyn McFadden	December 20th
Jack & Sue Broemelkamp	December 27th
Wayne & Kim Voss	December 27th

If your name/s have not appeared in recognition of your birthday, wedding anniversary or a memorial gift, please contact the church office. We want to include all celebrations and memorials.

847-623-5135

Mission of the Month— Debt Reduction

You can help defray the cost of our mortgage in several ways.

1. Make a gift to the Vision Fund. The Vision Fund capital is used for non-budgetary expenditures, which would include debt reduction.
2. You can gift the interest on the "notes" that were issued to members to raise capital. Depending on the size of the note and the life of the note, different interest rates were established. If you can gift back the interest on your investment, this would greatly help!
3. You can gift your "note". Some of you may be able to release the congregation from its indebtedness to you by surrendering the note as an offering.

In each and all of these ways, you can help St. Mark's ministry through December's Mission of the Month!

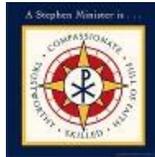


Kroll Pumpkin Farm



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Health and Well-being



MINDFULNESS is simply being aware of what is happening right now without wishing it were different.

Part 2 of ...

*Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.
Discipline yourselves, keep alert.
Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls
around, looking for someone
to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you
know that your brothers and sisters
in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of
suffering. 1 Peter 5:7-9*

“Those who are awake live in a constant state of amazement.” Jack Kornfield

If you feel sadder than usual, are losing interest in activities, or are noticing a change in your sleep, eating habits, levels of energy or concentration, you can be suffering from depression. These feelings can cause problems in our relationships and our work.

The practice of “mindfulness” that I spoke about last month can help these feelings. I wrote that mindfulness in my last article is not something new but is based on our ancient Buddhist *and* Christian fathers. Think of our saints who have been practicing meditation techniques similar to mindfulness for over two thousand years. Christian meditation, a form of prayer from our desert fathers, “takes us straight into the **present moment** but on a supernatural level, where all the natural sorrows of life are seen from a divine perspective.” (Francis Phillips, “Complete Mindfulness is Prayer”)



Ellen Langer, a professor of psychology at Harvard University, has researched mindfulness for nearly four decades. She defines it as follows:

Mindfulness is the process of actively noticing new things. When you do that, **it puts you in the present**. It makes you more sensitive to context and perspective... It’s energy-begetting, not energy-consuming. The mistake most people make is to assume it’s stressful and exhausting—all this

thinking. But what’s stressful is all the mindless negative evaluation we make and the worry that we’ll find problems and not be able to solve them.

Dr. Langer states further that we all seek stability; we try to hold things still, thinking that if we do, we can control them. But since everything is changing, that doesn’t work. It does the opposite! It caused us to **lose control!**

Dr. Langer tells us we can be mindless if two conditions are met: you found the very best ways of doing things, and nothing changes. Think about how this applies to church!!

She relates the following example:

I was working with a nursing home years ago, and a nurse walked in, complaining that one of the residents didn’t want to go to the dining room. She wanted to stay in her room and eat peanut butter. So, I butted in and said, “What’s wrong with that?” Her answer was, “What if everybody wants to do it?” And I said, “Well, if everybody did it, you’d save a lot of money on food. But, more seriously, it would tell you something about how the food is being prepared or served. If it’s only one person occasionally, what’s the big deal? If it happens all the time, there’s an opportunity here.

Being in the present moment has many advantages: better performance at work, it’s easier to pay attention, you remember more of what you’ve done, you’re more creative, you like people better, and people like you better because you’re less evaluative, and you’re more charismatic! (Langer)

“People who lack faith might lack the understanding that the future can hold promise. The present moment is only the present moment to them. The God who lives in the present also lives on in our future and faith, therefore, can be a bridge to a future and enhances the ability to cope.” (Reverend Kevin Massey, VP for Spiritual Care at Advocate Health Care, Chicago)

Next month I will talk about the many ways we can practice the process of mindfulness.

In God’s grace,
Jill Shepherd
Stephen Leader



2017 Pasty Sale

Over the years the Women of St. Mark's Pasty Sale project has provided great fellowship and service for all our members and friends. The pasty sale will continue to give us a vehicle to support the needs in the local community, as well as nationally.

WORKERS ARE NEEDED IN JANUARY 2017

To continue the project, we need you!

Men, women, confirmands, high school students and friends of St. Mark's... anyone who would be willing to help in service and fellowship.

SIGN UP BEGINNING SUNDAY,
January 1, 2017 in the Narthex

Volunteers are needed to:

- SERVE LUNCH to the workers
- PEEL & CHOP vegetables
- ROLL & FILL crusts
- CLEAN UP

We will find a job for you for whatever time you can share.

Work Schedule: Wednesday, January 25, 2017
 Thursday, January 26, 2017
 Friday, January 27, 2017
 Saturday, January 28, 2017

Please make a **COMMITMENT** to help us continue the great pasty tradition at St. Mark's Church. Without **WORKERS, PASTIES** cannot be baked, **ORDERS** cannot be filled, **FRIENDSHIPS** cannot begin and **MISSION GOALS** cannot be met.

ORDER INFORMATION

We will stop taking pasty orders when we reach 1200.
THERE WILL BE NO WAITING LIST.

Beginning January 1st order forms will be on the information table in the Narthex and downstairs on the tables in front of the mailboxes. They will be removed when order quota is met.

Paper Orders > starting **Sunday, January 1st**, place your completed order form in the designated "PASTY ORDERS" box in the Narthex."

PHONE ORDERS > Due to the Church Office being closed on Monday, January 2nd, please call Kathy Anderson, our office manager no earlier than 9am on Tuesday, January 3rd. In fairness to everyone, please do not call before that time.

PRICE INFORMATION

The price for pasties will remain at \$6.00 this year.

WHAT IS A PASTY??



It is a meat pie, a blend of beef & pork & potatoes & onions & carrots. The mixture is placed in a crust ... the crust is folded over, sealed and baked. DELICIOUS .. once you've tasted one, you can't wait until the next sale.

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



AROUND THE WORLD — ETHNIC LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017
11:30 AM.

Free Will Donation

A sign up sheet is posted on the counter in the narthex of the church to list your name, number of people attending and Ethnic dish to share.

What is an Ethnic Dish? A special food from your Heritage — maybe your Mother or Grandmother made it for a family gathering or special holiday meal which you remember as very special. Or maybe you have a good "all American" dish to share. We would like to know what you plan to bring and country of origin, so we can have labels ready to identify all dishes.

Please note: We will not be serving the regular coffee hour on this Sunday as everyone is invited to attend the "Around the World Luncheon".

Ministry of Hospitality Team
Lucille Tolonen, Team Leader

REFORMATION QUIZ QUESTION

As a part of the year-long celebration of Reformation 500 (October 31, 2017), I will "post" (no pun intended!) a question about the Reformation each month. Here goes the first one:

True or False: Luther got the melody for "A Mighty Fortress" (and other hymns) from a barroom.

Answer next month!



Jill Shepherd
 Stephen Leader

EIGHTH ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER — THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported the Chili Supper held on November 10, 2016 for the benefit of the COOL food pantry. Our records show we served 154 people in our fellowship hall and had 67 carry-out meals. 18 people enjoyed a second bowl of chili. Total profit from food sales and all donations to COOL will be around \$3700.00. Total amount of food collected on the truck was 717 pounds.

Thank you to everyone who worked to make this possible, which will help feed so many people in need at this time. A special thank you to all our Youth Group and the Boy Scouts who were kept very busy during the chili supper. To all our dedicated workers, thank you very much.

GODS'S WORK—OUR HANDS
Lucille Tolonen, Team Leader

*"In everything you do, put God first,
 And he will direct you and crown your efforts with
 success"*
Proverbs 3:6

WSM December Session: ADVENT

Advent is: a time for waiting and anticipation
 a time of preparation and making ready;
 a time of darkness;
 a time of possibility;
 a time to ponder;

This is a time for reflection. Perhaps you can add a new spiritual practice to enrich your Advent experience. Do you need to have more quiet time? Let this Advent be an adventure.

Read these various verses this season of Advent:
 Psalm 46: 10a "Be still, and know that I am God." (my favorite)

John 1:1-5 "In the beginning . . . God was

Luke 1:26-40 ..saying yes and waiting

Matthew 1:18-19...saying yes
 can be dangerous

Feel free to join me on Friday,
 December 9 at 10 a.m. or
 5:30 p.m.

God's peace be with you. Ida



Women's Bible Study

Congratulations Laura Raykiewicz

District #60 Staff were recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education. Awards are given in one of seven categories, and are broken up into three levels, with an award of "Excellence" being the highest acknowledgment, followed by an Award of "Merit" and an Award of "Recognition."

The highest honor was awarded to Ms. Laura Raykiewicz, a fifth grade teacher at Greenwood Elementary School. Ms. Raykiewicz was honored with an Award of Excellence in the Early Career Educator category. She has been a teacher at Greenwood since 2014. Ms. Raykiewicz is loved by her students and parents, and was recognized for her kind and fair attitude, and her ability to get great results from students.



BLESSING BAGS FOR PADS

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- * Tissue pack
- * Lip balm
- * Hand cream
- *Gloves
- * Pair of socks
- * Nuts
- * Granola bars
- * Gum
- * Candy
- * Spare Change
- *McDonald's gift card



****We would need to make 50**

This is a Joint Mission Project between Youth & Family Ministry & The Social Justice Team!

Distributing at December PADS Dinner

Christmas Pageant

The Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 11th during worship.



Spare Change

Sundays

Do you have spare change weighing down your pockets or purse? How about your couch cushions or the seat of your car? The St. Mark's Youth is looking for your loose change!!! We have declared the final Sunday of each month as "Spare Change Sunday!!" please bring your spare change in and deposit it in our bucket outside the Sanctuary. We will be using that spare change to make a donation to the Feed My Starving Children .THANKS!!



November —Supported Feed My Starving Children

Youth Sunday We had a wonderful Youth Sunday service on November 13th. Our Youth did a fantastic job leading us in worship. So very proud and grateful for each one!!





Women of St. Mark's

Thank you for your beautiful Maya Works basket for the auction. Most of all thank you for your continued support for W2C. We raised \$25,560 and will be sending 30 W2C students to Leadership Lab in 2017.

Thank you,
Karen Papp

Dear Women of St. Mark's,

On behalf of "Fundacion Angelitos" we would like to thank you for all your help and support you've given us. Our little "angels" are very grateful. We wish you the best and may (Dios Te Bendiga) God bless you!

Dear St. Mark's

Thank you so much for your continued financial support to Sagrado Corazon.

Autumn Blessings,
Elia Garcia



Help Wanted

After worship on December 4th, we will finish decorating the church for the holidays. Please give us your gift of help to set up the trees, decorate, and hang garlands to set the stage for the celebration of our Savior's birth. We need several strong men to help put up the trees.

Honduras New Baby Project

From those who have so much...

To those who have so little.

Women of St. Mark's latest mission is a plea for **slightly used** baby clothes in **sizes 0 to 6 months** (please **no new** baby clothes) for babies born in Honduras..

Many mothers in Honduras are unable to provide clothes to bring their new born babies home from the hospital in. Stop now and think how you would feel if you had to bring your new born baby home naked. That's right...*naked*. These mothers need our help and help from others like us.

Keep in mind the weather in Honduras is *hot continuously* throughout the year...so please look for clothes that are **light-weight** in sizes 0 to 6 months.

Please bring the donation of baby clothes to St. Mark's and put them into a donation box that is marked:

Honduras New Baby Project.

Women of St. Mark's Board thanks you for your support in this project *and the women of Honduras will be grateful.*

COOL FOOD

PANTRY—

FOOD OF THE MONTH:

Side Dishes



December 2016

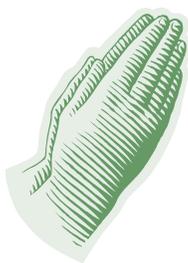
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Sunday School at 9:30am and Worship 9:45am Decorate the Church After Worship PADS 5pm	5 WSM 7pm Confirmation 7pm	6 A.A. 7pm Reflections in the Spirit 7pm	7 Reflections in the Word 7pm	1 Choir 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	2 WSM Bible Study at Ida Dudleston 10am & 5:30pm	3 Prayer Team 9am
11 Christmas Pageant 9:45 am 	12 Confirmation 7pm Illustrating Our Faith 7pm	13 AA 7pm Reflections in the Season NOON Council 7pm	14 Reflections in the Word 7pm	15 Choir 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	16 Scout Lock-In 5:30pm through	17 Scout Lock-In 9:30am
18 Sunday School at 9:30am Worship at 9:45am Birthday Party for Jesus 4-6 pm (19 NO CONFIRMATION Yarns of Compassion 7pm	20 AA 7pm	21 Reflections in the Word 7pm	22 Choir 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	23	24  Worship 4pm & 11pm
25 Christmas Worship 9:45am 	26 NO CONFIRMATION Church Office Closed	27 AA 7pm	28	29 Choir 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	30	31



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

3350 North Delany Rd.
Waukegan, IL. 60087

Phone 847-623-5135
Fax 847-623-5135 (Call First)
E-mail stmarkslutheran@gmail.com



Worship
Sundays
9:45 a.m.
Sunday School
9:30 a.m.
Sept.—May

Serving Us This Month

Lectors Sundays Christmas Eve

12/04 Lucille Tolonen
12/11 Magnus Swanson
12/18 Nancy Inskeep
12/24 4pm Jan Smith
12/24 11pm Ken Swanson
12/25 Laura Swanson

Assisting Minister

Paul Durand (1st and 3rd Sundays)

Communion Assistant

Laura Swanson (12/11 & 12/24 11pm)
Ken Swanson (12/24 4pm)
Magnus Swanson (12/25)

Altar Guild

Loren & Margaret Congdon, Nancy Inskeep

Ushers

To Be Determined

Sunday School Teachers

12/04 Laura Raykiewicz, Amy Fontana & Laura Swanson
12/11 No Sunday School
12/18 Jenny Theis, Sophia & Elise Diaz
12/25 No Sunday School

Acolyte s Sundays

12/04 Ethan & Dylan Schroetter
12/11 Evan Lundtveit & Logan Schroetter
12/18 Saula Chromy & David Sparesus
12/25 Annika Swanson

Projectionists Sundays

12/04 Abby Oye
12/11 Dana Lundtveit
12/18 Chantal Brikha
12/25 Volunteer Needed

Sound Technicians

12/04 Andrew Oye
12/11 Claire Lundtveit
12/18 Danyel Sparesus
12/25 Volunteer Needed

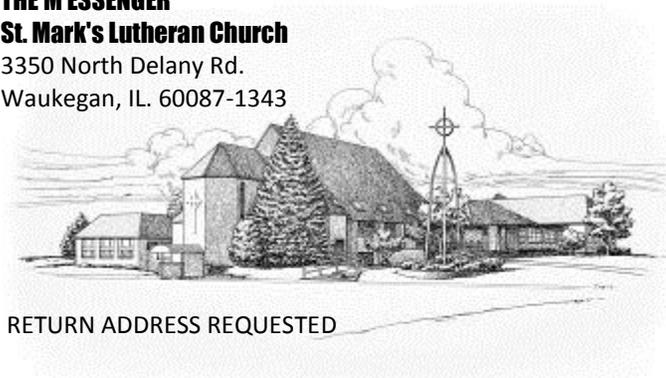
Christmas Eve 4 pm

Acolytes: Ethan & Morgan Schroetter
Projectionist: Annika Swanson
Sound: Volunteer Needed

Christmas Eve 11 pm

Acolytes: Evelyn Fontana & Annika Swanson
Projectionist: Magnus Swanson
Sound: Nick Fontana

THE MESSENGER
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
3350 North Delany Rd.
Waukegan, IL. 60087-1343



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