

January 6, 2010



101 S. Sixth Avenue, St. Charles, Illinois 60174

(630) 584-8638

## Congregational Meeting

### January 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

**A copy of the 2010 Budget is available in the Narthex.**

It has been brought to our attention recently that our facility has had a door or doors left unlocked into the night and into the following morning on more than one occasion in the past few weeks.

As well, quite a few lights have been left on into the night and into the following morning.

**Please, because the security of individuals is at stake here (as well as property), would you please take extreme care when you leave the premises at night? Would you make sure that the doors that you unlocked are locked again before you leave St. Mark's?**

**We thank you in advance for your help in this matter.**

St. Mark's is a congregation of volunteers. We are thankful for the two years of service the following have given to God and to St. Mark's, through their service on council:



Susan Meyer: Treasurer

Dave Jeziorski: Secretary

Bob Acton: Elders

Margaret Studer: Evangelism

Chris Chinn: Trustee

*"If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised"*  
1 Peter 4:11

*Staff office hours week of 1/11/10 – 1/15/10*

Name	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday Saturday
Pastor Silber	8:30am-12:15pm	3:00pm-5:00pm	9:00am-11:00am		3:30pm-5:30pm
Adriane Nemeth	8:00am-4:00am	8:00am-4:00pm	8:00am-4:00am	8:00am-4:00am	8:00am-4:00am
Sean McAdams	9:00am-3:00pm	9:00am-3:00pm	10:00am-4:30pm	9:00am-3:00pm	
Dick Sonntag	9:00am-12:00pm			10:00am-12:00pm	
Matt Boll	12:00pm-4:00pm				
Marilyn Cummins	12:00pm-2:00pm		10:00am-12:00pm		
Lorilyn Thomas		9:00am-4:30pm	9:00am-3:30pm	9:00am-4:30pm	
Preschool	9:00am-3:00pm	9:00am-3:00pm	9:00am-3:00pm	9:00am-3:00pm	9:00am-3:00pm

## 2010 Offering Envelopes are available in the Fellowship Hall.

Two changes with the mortgage fund offering. The envelope is now once a month and is white, trimmed in blue. The combined savings for the 2010 envelopes is \$678.00.

*Please be sure to discard all leftover 2009 envelopes!*

**Offering  
Envelopes**



**Electronic  
Fund Giving**

### E-GIVING IS AT ST. MARK'S

To access e-giving all you need to do is to go into St. Mark's website at [stmarksstc.org](http://stmarksstc.org) and click on the e-giving logo. It's very simple to sign up. Your contribution is between you and the Lord. Envelopes not used will be kept for new members or for you if you change your mind within three months.

May God Bless You  
The Discipleship Team

*Dear Church Family,*

*I want to thank you all for the warm hugs, smiles, sympathy, cards, notes, & phone calls during this holiday season, tainted for me, by the loss of my father. Recovery is swift when one feels the open arms of Jesus. I look forward to the new year with fond memories of my many years loving my father. He was a simple man and lived life as we all should; loving and caring for and about everyone.*

*Peace,*

*Gerry Stevens*



### Contributions &

#### Attendance December 19 & December 20

Saturday, December 19, 5:30 p.m. – 43

Sunday, December 20:

8:00 – 95 9:30 – 138 11:00 – 100

Weekend total: 376

General Fund: \$ 25,202.50

Specials: \$ 14,411.13

Debt Retirement: \$ 1,440.00

Grand Total: \$ 41,053.63

### Contributions &

#### Attendance December 24 & 25, December 26 & 27

Thursday, December 24:

4:00 p.m. - 325 7:00 p.m. – 167 10:00 p.m. – 152

Friday, December 25, 10:00 a.m. – 100

Christmas total: 744

Saturday, December 26, 5:30 p.m. – 14

Sunday, December 27, 9:30 – 97

Weekend total: 111

General Fund: \$ 20,365.71

Specials: \$ 3,435.37

Debt Retirement: \$ 1,340.00

Grand Total: \$ 25,141.08

### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP WILL NOT MEET IN JANUARY

In reading Dr. Walton's book on Genesis, it became clear that the material requires more training in Biblical studies than is enjoyed by the average lay discussion group.

A new book has been substituted: Lutheran Identity: A Classical Understanding by Frank Senn. It is available in the church office and costs \$14.25.

In order to have time for reading, the next meeting of the group will be February 1, 2010.

Ladies, don't miss the fun – quilting starts in January, every Monday. Start your week with joy in your heart. You don't have to know how to quilt. Any questions, call Muriel Fink, 630-844-0896.



*Next Women's Guild  
Meeting will be January  
11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 1:00pm.  
We will discuss how the  
Bazaar money will be distributed.*

**Pastor Baerwald's Sunday morning Bible class will resume their regular sessions in the Activities Room this Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Book of the Bible to be studied is the book of Acts. Everyone is welcome.**



## OWLS PLANNING MEETING

Refreshments will be served. OWLS Planning Meeting at 1:00 PM on Thursday, January 14th. Bring your ideas and suggestions for this year's activities.



### Why Pray? What Do I Pray For?

Prayer has always been used in this country for guidance, protection and strength-even before we were a nation or a handful of colonies. The Pilgrims at Plymouth relied on prayer during their first and darkest winter.

Our founding fathers also **called for prayer** during the Constitutional Congress. In their eyes, our recently created nation and freedoms were a **direct gift from God**. And being a gift from God, there was only one way to insure protection-through prayer.

Today the need for prayer is as great as ever. Our nation again faces battlefields, along with an epidemic of broken homes, violence, sexual immorality and social strife. As the heroes of our nation did in the past, **we must again bow our heads in prayer**. We must ask the Lord to bless our leaders with wisdom and protection, and that we will have the fortitude to overcome the challenges at hand. If Roosevelt, the Pilgrims and Lincoln **never underestimated the power of prayer**, neither should we.

So join us in **prayer and pray** with conviction that God would continue to shed His grace on thee.

**St. Mark's Intercessory Prayer Groups meet**

**Sundays at 6 pm and Tuesdays at 5 pm.** Come and join us!

Prayer is the **communication** tool **God** gave us!

## First Christmas for Wah Family Baby



A picture is worth a thousand words, they say. What a difference five months has made since a St. Mark's group traveled to an apartment on Main Street in Wheaton and delivered the *Exodus* "Welcome Pack" to our Karen refugee family from Burma. They look noticeably healthier and happier. On December 15, a small group from St. Mark's World Mission Committee made a Christmas visit to bless these new immigrants and to meet their new baby **Hene Wray Wah**, born 9/28/2009. We had a joyful time celebrating Jesus birth with singing favorite Christmas carols. They responded by singing Silent Night in Karen. They were all so welcoming and happy to see us.

The Wah family is well and adjusting to their new country. Other family members live near by. We learned that Pway Lor Wah (baby's father) got laid off from work some time ago. Please remember them in your prayers that he would find employment soon. They are struggling to pay their rent. (The U.S. government only helps refugees financially for the first three months.)

If they had remained in Burma, they faced the rebel government which has been persecuting the Christian Karen people by killing the adults and forcing the young boys to carry guns and be soldiers and by raping the girls and forcing them into prostitution.

**The Wah family wishes everyone at St. Mark's a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

*In Photo: Lan Say holding baby, Hene Wray; to her left #1 son, Ka Paw Say and to her right #2 son, Eh Moo. Far left is mother of Lan Say and far right sister Dahhsit and her children.*

## December 2009 – St. Mark's Dinner at Lazarus House

Shopping, decorating, entertaining guests, family coming to visit, baking, wrapping – it can all get overwhelming, can't it? However, our generous volunteers



Martha Baerwald, Carolyn Bann,  
Kim Chismark,  
April Claussner, Ann Fink, Mary Gohrke,  
Martha Kaufman, Crystal Kerwin,  
Deb Leingang,  
Jerry & Karen VanHoose, Lee Verzi,  
Pam Watson, and Gwen Zeiter



*Thank you*

found time to make a dish for the guests at Lazarus House on December 21, 2009, when some of us were still searching for the 'perfect' gift. Thank you very much for your support. A variety of food was in abundance and it was appreciated and *anticipated* as we were told by a Lazarus House staff member. 'I knew it was the third Monday' were his words and 'I am not surprised about the smorgasbord or should I say 'Thanksgiving spread'?! 'You are like a breath of fresh air' was another comment. — We **do** have the best volunteers!! One of them donated money because she couldn't cook on *that* evening. Thank **you** for your generous donation for which we bought **chicken** and **meat balls** from a local grocery store. The other cash donations were used to buy Lazarus House' *most needed*' items which were **13 gal. trash bags, air fresheners, detergent, and milk**. — It was a calm and quiet evening and we left with a joyful heart thanking God for our wonderful Christian community. The old year ended in the peaceful safety of our Savior. In Him, you'll have all that you need in this new year of 2010. May He continue to bless **you** as *you* have blessed others. The L.H. crew.



### FROM THE DESK OF THE PARISH NURSE

Some thoughts for the New Year, taken from the November 2004 *Wheat Ridge E-Newsletter*:

Today I will go the extra mile.

I will find ways to share the burden of another.

Today I will nurture my body.

I will eat less; I will eat only healthy foods. I will thank God for my body.

Today I will grow spiritually.

I will spend a little more time in prayer. I will find a quiet place and listen to God's voice.

Today I will do something nice for someone.

I will reach out and bless the life of another.

Today I will celebrate forgiveness in Christ

...even when I don't live up to the other hints from above!

Thank God for His faithfulness! His mercies are new every morning of this New Year.

January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> is blood pressure screening week-end, following the Saturday 5:30 P.M. and Sunday 8:00 and 9:30 A.M. services, in the church library. Start the New Year with a base-line B.P., documented on your own personal wallet card, have your questions answered by professional R.N.s, and review the available brochures.

Let us begin this New Year celebrating with the words from *Psalm 139:13-14*. *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

*Blessings,*

Marilyn Cummins, Parish Nurse

## NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL

Beginning in January, we will be accepting pre registration forms for church members. Priority is given to members of St. Marks. Forms are due by **Friday Jan 22**. You will be contacted with a class placement by the end of January. Registration for new families will begin on Feb 1. After this date, we cannot guarantee a spot for your child. Pre registration forms will be available at our Open House, on the Welcome Desk in the Narthex or you may print it out from the preschool tab on the church website. This year we are hosting an **Open House on Sun Jan 10 from 10-12:30 and 2-4**. Please join us between services in the morning or come back in the afternoon. You may also schedule a tour during the weekday in January by calling 584-4850. Come and see why we are so special!

Blessings in the New Year.

Linda Culley, Director



# Saint Mark's Youth Group

## Attention all High School Youth

**Starting Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, you will now be able to come to church to participate in study sessions. We will meet every Monday and Thursday from 3:00-5:00pm in the youth room. At that time, you will be able to come over and work on homework, projects, and other school related activities in a minimum distraction environment. Feel free to bring friends. If you have any questions, call Sean.**

## Super Bowl Sub Sandwiches

The Youth Group will be selling Sub Sandwiches again this year for the Super Bowl. The dates to Pre-Order are January 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. The pick up date will be February 7<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up in the narthex on the pre order dates.



## Upcoming Events:

Weekday High School Youth Study Sessions Mondays and Thursdays 3:00-5:00pm

Confirmation Classes Every Wednesday @ 4:30-5:45pm

High School Bible Study- Every Sunday @ 9:30 am in youth room

High School Youth Group – Every Sunday night @ 6:30pm in youth room

## Youth Group on the Web

The Youth group has a website where you can find up to the minute information on upcoming events, Confirmation and a bunch of other things as well!

[WWW.SAINTMARKSYOUTH.COM](http://WWW.SAINTMARKSYOUTH.COM) On the website, you will find links to follow the



youth group on Facebook and Twitter for even more instant information on what the youth of Saint Mark's are doing!



# Small Groups

## Spring 2010

Sign-up deadline: January 31, 2010

Sessions start: week of **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Weekdays	Study	Synopsis	Material Fee/ Location
<b><u>Mondays</u></b> 7 to 8:30 pm Pastor Silber	<b>Bible in 90 days</b> Meet the challenge by attentively reading every word of the Bible in 90 days	Here is another chance to read through the entire Bible in 90 days! Know more about Christ and His relationship with each of us.	<b>Library</b> <b>\$35</b>
<b><u>Tuesdays</u></b> <i>Noon</i> Margaret Studer	<b><u>Esther:</u></b> It's Tough Being a Woman Beth Moore – 10 sessions	Esther trusted God and landed a blow that saved her people. Her destiny can be yours as you know more deeply <u>the God who is in your corner.</u>	<b>Library</b> <b>\$17</b>
<b><u>Evening</u></b> 7 to 8:30 pm Jeff Studer	<b>The Purpose Driven Life</b> Rick Warren – 6 sessions	<b>Did you ever wonder: what on earth am I here for? Today the average life span is 25, 550 days. Take this study and the next 40 days will transform your life and you'll find your answer.</b>	<b>Activities Room</b> <b>\$21</b>
7 to 8:30 pm Linda Schroeder	<b><u>Esther:</u></b> It's Tough Being a Woman Beth Moore - 10 sessions	God can deliver his people even if he chooses to work behind the scenes. <b>God's means of deliverance are never exhausted. God's plans cannot be thwarted!</b>	<b>Library</b> <b>\$17</b>
<b>Wednesdays – Lenten Worship</b>			
<b><u>Thursdays</u></b> Morning – 9 to 10:30 am Maja Christensen	<b><u>Esther:</u></b> It's Tough Being a Woman Beth Moore - 10 sessions	The purpose of the book of Esther is to show that God can accomplish his purposes just as easily through “coincidences” as he can through grand miracles of deliverance.	<b>Library</b> <b>\$17</b>
<b>Evening –</b> 7 to 8:30 pm Mark Cannon	<b>Beloved Disciple</b> Study on John – 10 sessions Beth Moore	John gives a portrait of Jesus as the divine Son who came to earth to reveal the Father and to bring eternal life to all who believe in him. John 3:16	<b>Library</b> <b>\$17</b>
7 to 8:30 pm David Jeziorski	<b>The Purpose Driven Life –</b> Rick Warren – 6 sessions	Even before the universe was created, God had you in mind, and he planned you for His purposes. You were created to last forever!	<b>Activities Room</b> <b>\$21</b>

<b>Saturdays</b> <u>afternoon</u> <b>3:30 to 5 pm</b> Judy Bugh/M.Christensen	<b>Beloved Disciple -</b> Study on John - Beth Moore - 10 sessions	<b>John - The Gospel of the Eternal Son of God. Most of the events and teaching in John are unique to this gospel. Come and find out.</b>	<b>Library</b> <b>\$17</b>
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St. Mark's Church Council Approved Meeting Minutes  
November 11, 2009

Meeting opened by Church Council President Mark Cannon at 8:10PM

Present at meeting: Mark Cannon, Bob Acton, Judith Bugh, Bob Ford, David Jeziorski, Susan Meyer, Suzie Snyder, Margaret Studer, and Pastor Tim Silber

Opening devotion by David Jeziorski

Opening prayer by Pastor Tim Silber

Guests: Jim Guzzaldo, Jim Niedlinger. Software options for scheduling.

Jim Guzzaldo reviewed meeting, results and current status. Jim Niedlinger provided an update on his website activities. Copied calendar using input from Adriane. Jim now has implemented a Google calendar for St. Marks. He has a master calendar. Each group can merge into the church calendar. Actually a Google free calendar. No cost to the church or groups. No error checking or conflict resolution however. Needs to be manual for now. Will be dependent on character and accuracy of input. Groups can also merge church calendar into their own calendar. Margaret is concerned about room conflicts. Oversight will still be needed. Perhaps by Adriane. Next is to identify who needs access to change/input info on calendar. Everyone who is ministry leader, groups with activities that use church facilities. Suggested that council review the church website and calendar. Another meeting will be scheduled for review in Jan 2010.

**Approval of Minutes:** David Jeziorski distributed the meeting minutes for Oct 14 2009. Motion to accept as corrected and amended by Bob Acton. Second by Susan Meyer. Motion carried.

**Comments from the Chair:** Mark Cannon. Council will sponsor Feb 24 2010 Lenten suppers. Elders date is Jan 24 1020.

**Board of Evangelism:** Margaret Studer

Evangelism Report distributed via email. Lazarus house fund raiser on schedule. See report on file.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Silber

Pastor's Report distributed via email. Emphasis on remarks on appreciation for St. Mark's and outreach work. Reiterate item on change in summer schedule to two services. Pastor Silber discussed other items on report that needed emphasis.

**Board of Elders:** Bob Acton

Bob distributed the Elders report. Motion to accept the Elders Report by Susan Meyer. Second by David Jeziorski. Motion carried. Bob led a discussion on the summer schedule for 2010. Jeff Studer attended a recent staff meeting for input. Staff is generally supportive of options. Elders support 2-service format beginning 6/19/2010 through 8/15/2010. 9 weeks total. Saturday services will remain the same. Sunday 8:30 traditional service; praise service at 10:00am. Notice will be placed in Spirit. Pastor will inform the staff. Other groups & activities will be given time to make adjustments. Bob then discussed Jody Wendt's request for a special Thanksgiving offering to benefit the Salvation Army. This has been approved by the Elders. Elders have also identified church member[s] that have needs.

**Board of Discipleship:** Bob Ford

Discipleship report was distributed via email. Bob emphasized that Consecration Sunday as tremendous success.

**Member-at-Large:** Judith Bugh

Judith expressed concern over coat racks installed in the Sunday School area. Much of the wall murals are covered. Suzie Snyder explained that those walls are only ones without doors/windows. White was used for the coat racks to blend better. Unfortunate but no better solution.

**Treasurer's Report:** Susan Meyer

Treasurer's Report previously distributed. Motion to accept by Susan Meyer. Second by Bob Acton. Motion carried. Susan is still looking for volunteers for the audit committee. Asking council for recommendations. Pattie Macklin will look for outside volunteers. Committee will start in Jan 2010. Pastor recommended Krista Gronow. Susan distributed proposed budget for 2010. A discussion followed on specific budget items. Susan has still not heard on costs for roof repair. Council needs to pray over the budget and opportunities.

**Old Business:**

Mark Cannon: Disaster planning report

Mark distributed disaster planning report/status and discussed the planning meeting activities. He commented that a good crowd attended the planning session.

Margaret Studer: Social Network.

Sean McAdams is doing social networking w/youth. Margaret commented that there are pros and cons but more cons. LCMS has been successful with social networking but not sure it is right for us. See Justin Shimko's report for detailed discussion

**New Business:**

Pastor Silber: Pastor is wanting to write an end of year appeal letter. Discussed with the head Elder who agrees.

Bob Ford: New envelopes.

Bob provided examples of the new envelopes for 2010. Mortgage envelopes are wrong color – blue not goldenrod. Need decision on change color or not. Maybe some seniors may be inconvenienced. Only 12 mortgage offerings. Keep the color save the \$\$\$\$. The council agreed to keep the color provided and save the money that would be needed to re-print.

David Jeziorski:

1. Distribution of congregation meeting unapproved minutes: David discussed distributing congregation minutes some time prior to the meeting to allow members time to review them before the meeting. Council agreed with the suggestion. Minutes will then be distributed around the time the meeting announcement.
2. Request for congregation meeting agenda items and motions: David also will publish a request to the congregation for meeting agenda items and proposed motions. This will also allow the congregation to review prior to the meeting.
3. Procedure[s] for congregation meeting motions and other items of record: David led a discussion on procedures from Roberts Rules of Order regarding meeting motions and updates to meeting minutes post approval. The council agreed that Roberts Rules of Order should be followed in such matters.
4. David also discussed whether there was a need for new action items regarding appointment[s] to the Foundation Management Committee and appointment for Chairperson to the Nurturing Center Committee. It was noted that these activities are already covered.

Margaret Studer: A notice in Spirit was published for volunteer[s] to head greeters. Rick and Sally Willing have volunteered. Motion to accept the Willings as head of the greeters by Margaret. Second by David Jeziorski. Motion carried.

Margaret asked that the Elders provide year end total statistics at the Jan congregation meeting. The Elders will provide this information.

Margaret announced that there will possibly be a music event on Valentines day – patriotic music/dinner/ et al. May be a fundraiser or maybe not. Planning in progress.

Susan Meyer: Susan suggested introduce/installation of new council members at service. To be agenda item for Dec 2009 council meeting.

Special meeting for budget in Dec 2009. To be scheduled by Mark as needed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25pm.

Next Council Meeting: December 8, 2009 [NOTE: This is a TUESDAY]

Next Congregation Meeting: January 17, 2010

Respectfully submitted  
David Jeziorski  
St. Mark's Council Secretary