

May 7, 2008

The Spirit

Loved ones,

Our Father's richest blessings are yours in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

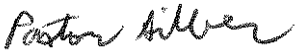
We celebrated a wonderful day yesterday as we witnessed the confirmation of 17 young persons. These people are:

Alexander Adams
Adam Chismark
Danielle Engel
Jordan Hayes
Kayleigh Kosatka
Mark Liberg
Allison Manley
Conner Melching
Heather Mende
Katherine Sanderson
Dalton Shimko
Andrew Slattery
Branden Slattery
Jacob Stout
Carolyn Thompson
Jacob Von Esh
Jacob Xagas

This is a special class of young people, and I really enjoyed my year with them. I wish to thank all the people who helped with getting the young people ready for this special day. We appreciate all the people who encouraged these youth over the years. I especially want to thank the Elders, the Board of Education, and all the other persons who helped with ministering to them. I also want to thank the families of the confirmands for the very thoughtful gifts they presented to me on Witness Night. That was so thoughtful of you.

May God bless you.

Love,



Pastor Silber

P.S. So many of you have sent us wonderful expressions of sympathy and encouragement over the past few weeks regarding the passing of my father. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness. These expressions mean so much to me.

APRIL 2008 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL PICTURE			
	Actual	Budgeted	Ahead (Behind)

Total General Offerings – April	\$36,071	\$ 47,542	(\$11,471)
Total Year-to-Date(YTD)Offerings –General	\$173,662	\$190,167	(\$16,504)
Total Debt Retirement Offerings – April	\$ 5,293	\$ 7,500	(\$2,207)
Total YTD Offerings – Debt Retirement	\$26,598	\$ 30,000	(\$3,402)
Total YTD Loose Plate	\$ 8,918	\$ 10,000	(\$1,081)
Total Offerings Year-to-Date	\$209,179	\$230,166	(\$20,987)

Cash in the bank - \$14,689.21.

First Quarter 2008 Contribution Statements are available

Contribution statements reflecting your financial offerings to St Mark's for the first quarter 2008 are available in the narthex. Please pick up your statement next time you are at church. If you have any questions, please call Pattie Macklin 630-377-1494.

"THE SPIRIT" ... Pony Express or E-mail Express

With continuous efforts to be conscientious of our expenses as well as our efforts to be a progressive church family, the weekly SPIRIT newsletter will soon be available by U.S. postal mail or by e-mail! Offering the SPIRIT by e-mail will decrease our paper and postage costs, and it will not require any additional costs for software or computer upgrades! Plus ... many individuals this day in age, prefer to utilize their computers and e-mail addresses as a primary means of communication.

If you wish to subscribe to the e-mailed SPIRIT, please send your e-mail address to Adriane at adriane@stmarksstc.org with the subject line "E-mail me the SPIRIT". Adriane will start to compile an e-mail group, and we hope to have the e-mailed SPIRIT up and running by the 1st of June.

Remember, if at any time your e-mail address should change, please notify Adriane so that she can edit your e-mail address and prevent any interruption in receiving your SPIRIT.

St. Mark's Youth Group Auction

On May 18th at 4:00 pm the youth of St. Mark's will be hosting a Dinner and Silent Auction to help support the mission trip to Minnesota this year, supported by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. A sign up sheet is on the welcome center. Please sign up so that we know how much food to prepare. Key items this year include 2 Airline Tickets, Exciting Baskets with goodies from local businesses, Youth Service opportunities, and a Nintendo Wii. Keep checking back for more information, and don't forget to sign up to attend!!!

One more thing...

Regarding the Auction... If there is anyone in the congregation that would like to donate an item or service, please contact Sean McAdams as soon as possible. We are also asking members of St. Mark's to see if any businesses that you frequent would be willing to donate an item. Examples of this may be a hair salon, a fitness center, an auto body shop...more or less anywhere you do business. Remember these donations are tax deductible and are going to support our youth!

NICK DAWSON CARD SHOWER

The Parish Nurse Card Care Ministry is having a card shower for Nick Dawson, and you are invited and encouraged to participate!! Nick is the son of Rebecca Dawson, who is a member of St. Mark's. He is a young man who has been struggling with finding direction and meaning in life, and is currently in the DuPage County

Everyone has a *World View*, which includes our view of things like war, economy, politics, salvation, stewardship, government; and religion. YES, just about every aspect of life. What determines your "World View"? That's what we are trying to determine for the next few weeks in the Berean Café. Will you commit 5 weeks to this challenging topic? You'll be glad you did. This is a video presentation, with the discussion lead by Maja Christensen.

Sunday Morning -- 9:30-10:30 A M In the Church Parlor.

St. Mark's Intercessory Prayer Team...Meets every Tuesday in the Sanctuary ...Come pray with us

What Are the Results of Prayer?

Joy and deep happiness (John 16:24)

Relief from worry, stress and tension (Philippians 4:6,7)

Insight, wisdom and mental clarity (James 1:5,6)

Protection and deliverance in times of temptation (Matthew 26:41)

Ability to advance the work of evangelism (Matthew 9:38)

Strength to persevere in the attacks from the devil (Ephesians 6:18)

Thankfulness to God, Who is worthy of Glory, Honor and Power (Revelation 4:11)

Staff office hours week of 5/12/08 – 5/16/08

Name	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pastor Silber	8:30am-10:30am	Pastor by appointment 630-670-8638			
Adriane Nemeth	8:00am-4:30pm	8:00am-4:30pm	8:00am-4:30pm	8:00am-4:30pm	8:00am-4:30pm
Sean McAdams	8:00am-3:00pm	8:00am-3:00pm	8:00am-3:00pm	8:00am-3:00pm	
Dick Sonntag	8:30am-12:00pm			10:00am-12:00pm	
Bob & Beckie Untiedt	8:45am-11:00am				
Marilyn Cummins		10:00am-12:00pm	10:00am-12:00pm		
Lorilyn Thomas		9:00am-4:30pm	9:00am-3:30pm	9:00am-4:30pm	
Preschool	8:00am-3:00pm	8:00am-3:00pm	8:00am-3:00pm	8:00am-3:00pm	8:00am-3:00pm

A Message From Hicham Chehab

Our POBLO and NID-LCMS Missionary to Muslims

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Salam Church*, our Arabic-speaking congregation in Chicagoland, is going into its third month with steady steps, full of trust in the Lord and His Grace. God has blessed us with good attendance and an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation.

More new relationships that started at the Iranian New Year celebration have flourished, and we have newcomers. The worshipers are a mixed group of converts, seekers, and Arab Christians. The number of attendees ranges between 25 and 45, with an average of 30. Non-Christians are still volunteering to cook the food for the Middle Eastern lunch that follows each worship service. This keeps everybody involved in one way or another.

We are having guest speakers, now and then, who preach in English with a translator, making it a trilingual service, English, Arabic, and Farsi (the language of Iran). This is echoing well among the people who speak some English, especially the young generation. The number of young people in our fellowship is increasing, and they are the ones with less cultural guards against Christ.

The Holy Spirit is working mightily in the hearts of our people. Today, the sermon theme was Jesus Christ, the Word of God. Later, when we got to the Lord's Prayer, a veiled Muslim woman spoke out, saying that "our daily bread" includes healing for the sick. This prompted me to stop and pray for her sick in the name of Jesus.

Will you pray with me and Salam Church:

- We need prayers for me, Hicham, for my spiritual strength and that God will send laborers who could reap the Harvest with us.
- We need more volunteers to share the love of Christ with people from the Middle East.
- We need prayers for Mahmoud, a convert and lay leader, who was laid off from his job and consequently, the end of the month, may lose his rented apartment.
- We need prayers for Shaker, an Iranian immigrant, who is on chemotherapy and needs a ride four times a week to Maywood from his apartment in Carol Stream.

In God's Peace,
Hicham - May 3, 2008

* "Salam" is Arabic for Peace.

Note: Did you see the new issue of **The Northern Light**? Salam Church is the feature article on the front page with photo. Pick up your copy of the May/June issue in the narthex. > **Sign up** for Hicham's email **Mission Report**. > **Free copies** of **Praying for Muslims 2008**, a weekly devotion guide, are available. > **Email your requests** to Poblochicago@aol.com. > **Call Sylvia Hemmann** of the World Missions Committee at 630-584-3359 for specific ways you could more personally become involved. St. Mark's is an active partner with other NID-LCMS congregations and individuals in this new mission outreach in Lombard. We include POBLO-Chicago in our Annual Mission Budget and with our individual mission envelope gifts.

Join Us for Vacation Bible School

at St. Mark's Lutheran Church!

Mon. - Fri., Aug. 4-8; 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Closing Program Friday, August 8, 7:00 p.m.

TO REGISTER:

Registration will begin Sunday May 18. Registration forms and sign up sheets will be located downstairs by the bulletin board in the Sunday School area.

AGE REQUIREMENTS:

Students who have turned 3 by **September 1, 2007** (and are fully toilet-trained) through those entering 5th grade in fall, 2008.

COST:

There is no charge to attend V.B.S. However, we ask that each family please volunteer to help out for at least one day, and we ask families to please help by donating items for snacks. Sign up for both will be on the bulletin board downstairs by the Sunday School area.

DEADLINE:

We ask families to please register by July 11. We need to make sure we have enough materials and snacks for each child. So early registration is very important.

Please invite friends, neighbors and relatives to
Vacation Bible School at St. Mark's! All are welcome!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN AUGUST!

Jr. and Senior High

St. Mark's Youth Group Auction

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Mission: Possible !

Any Students who still have forms for the Minnesota Trip, please turn them in with your 50.00 deposit as soon as possible. More information about the trip will be coming soon to those who have turned in their deposits.

Penny Wars!!!! UPDATE!!!!

THE PENNY WARS ARE IN FULL SWING!!! The women of St. Mark's are still holding a commanding lead with just over \$94.63 raised. The men are dragging behind a bit, with a total of \$46.30. Remember, these coins are going to be used to help support the youth here at St. Mark's so lets get out there and find that spare change! The game will end on Sunday May, 11th. So keep up the good work and check back for more updates!

Confirmation

Congratulations go out to this year's 8th Grade Confirmation Class:

**Alex Adams, Danielle Engel, Jordan Hayes,
Kayleigh Kosatka, Mark Liberg, Heather Mende
Kate Sanderson, Jacob Stout, Carolyn Thompson
Jacob Von Esh, Adam Chismark, Andrew Slattery
Branden Slattery, Jacob Xagas, Allison Manley,
Conner Melching, Dalton Shimko**

NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL

We are coming to the end of another year in the preschool and what a wonderful year it has been. Our year always ends on a high note with many special events. We celebrate God's gift of mothers by hosting wonderful Mother's Day programs. The children sing songs, draw pictures and write what which include: an outing at a local park and a treasure hunt, a ride on the paddlewheel boat at Pottawatomie Park and a trip to Blackberry Farm. We always pray for nice weather and safe travels there and back. We conclude our year with special closing programs. The children sing, do finger plays, sign language and even a play. How marvelous to see them glorifying God through their singing. As we say goodbye for the summer, we say a prayer of thanks for the year we have had with the children.

If you would like to support the Preschool, you can in 2 ways. One is to order through **Market Day**. Our next sale is Tues, May 20 with pick up time from 11-12:15. Order forms are in the Market Day box in the narthex. The last sale for the summer months will be June 17 with a pick up time of 6-7 pm (note the different time). As always, if you are unable to come and pick up your order at the designated time, we can always put it in the freezer and you can get it at your convenience. Just let us know.

Also, ongoing is our Meijer Rewards program. If you shop at Meijer, and are not already signed up, it is easy to do so. Just fill out an application, paper or online, and put our organization code on it - **489435**.

Looking ahead to the Fall, we have openings in our 2's through Pre K classes. As a mission of St. Mark's Church, we offer a caring and Christian setting for your child. We seek to have a developmentally appropriate environment that encourages and inspires not only a love of acquiring knowledge but also the joy of loving the Lord with all their heart. If you are looking for a preschool for your child or know of someone who is, please call the Preschool at 584-4850. We would be happy to talk with you.