

STANDING TOGETHER

Building Christ-Centered

HOMES



We are not the Detroit Lions! We are winners!

(We certainly hope the Lions start improving; but until they do, the comparison is apt!)



While we have had a number of vacancy pastors starting with Pastor Bassett in 2020 and now me, perhaps causing us to wonder if He really is in charge, please reflect that we have been continuously served by Pastor Chris! We are grateful for his Kingdom service! Concurrently, we have been spiritually served, with great power, by our Lord Christ! Christ is not some distant monarch, no! Christ is our active Lord gently directing us by His word and Sacraments to seek His will, to seek the lost and to boldly go where we are now heading! And that is, to a place of greater and greater dependency on Him as we work harder than ever before in all phases of our ministry from Preschool right on up to the oldest of us, who, if we can no longer work for the greater good, can devote ourselves to the powerful ministry of prayer for Saint Mark.

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Sunday Worship Services

8:30- Traditional Service

9:45- Bible Study

11:00- Contemporary Service

Holy Communion is celebrated on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month.

All services available to view at
saintmarkgr.org
[fb.com/saintmarkkentwood](https://www.facebook.com/saintmarkkentwood)
 YouTube: SMLC Sound & Video

Giving App Change:

Vanco, the eGiving provider behind Saint Mark's GivePlus Mobile app has discontinued the use of the GivePlus Mobile app as of September 30th. They are replacing it with the new Vanco Mobile app.



This means that the GivePlus Mobile app is no longer supported and you cannot make new donations using the GivePlus Mobile app.

Members should download the free Vanco Mobile app available in the Google Play or Apple App store.

- Members do not need to create a new user name or password, your GivePlus login credentials will be used in the Vanco app.
- If you have recurring gifts set up, they will continue to be made as scheduled.

Once logged into the new Vanco Mobile app search for Saint Mark Lutheran Church. You will see our church logo to the left of our name. You will have the option of making a one-time or recurring donation to the following funds: General Fund, Endowment Fund, Good Samaritan Fund, Chapel Hall Flooring Fund.

Thank you for your support!

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning - 9:45 a.m.

What is Lutheran? Pastor Verity, Leader Meets in the Sanctuary.

Study on Proverbs, Jim Stadler, Leader Meets in Room 223.

Disciples of Jesus, Renee Ambriz, Leader Meets in Room 225.

Monday Morning - 10:00 a.m.

Women's Bible Study, Room 205 Jessi Marsiglia, Leader.

Wednesday Morning - 6:45 a.m.

Men's Zoom Bible Study, Heaven & Earth Contact Jon Krueger for Zoom link or for more information.

Thursday Morning - 10:00 a.m.

Men's Bible Study, based on the book, *The Gospel According to Paul*, Room 211. You can join in-person or by Zoom. Pastor Chris Rubino, Leader



We Worship Him

The sound of joyful praise fills the hall and narthex where I sit acting as hostess for a wedding in our Congolese congregation. Glorious singing in a language I do not know, clapping, and cheering are part of the beautiful wedding ceremony. It is clear that praising God is a prominent and important aspect of this special celebration which lasts several hours. An amazing experience, though one that is unfamiliar to me. I am blessed! **We worship Him!**

Exodus 15:20-21 Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted. The horse and rider He hurled into the sea!"

Revelation 7:9-10 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

It was one of those phone calls you never want to get. The middle of the night ring that shatters peaceful sleep. The unimaginable. A friend; a relative; a child is gone. Death claimed them suddenly and unexpectedly. Our world now shaken, we cry out to God in our grief and confusion with words of anger and disbelief. "Where were You?! You could have, should have stopped this!" Grief too great for words asks "Why, Lord?"

He speaks to us through our bewilderment and pain with a comfort we do not understand. We weep and in our weeping,

We worship Him.

Psalm 34:18 "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Psalms 30:11-12 You turned my wailing into dancing; You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to You and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give You thanks forever!"

Sometimes, in the middle of the night, unable to sleep, a hymn will come to mind. "Jesus Jesus! How I Trust Thee." Or "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" all our sins and griefs to bear... (Are you starting to sing along with them? I am.) What about "Oh How I Love Jesus" or "When Peace Like a River - It is Well with My Soul," "Great is Thy Faithfulness"! The list goes on and on!

These great songs fill me with such joy that I sometimes find myself weeping for love of our amazing God.

He speaks to our hearts and souls not just on Sunday mornings but throughout all the days of the week. He speaks to us through songs, music, verses from His Word, or life events making His love and presence known in every moment of our lives. **We worship Him!**

Psalms 42:8 "By day the Lord directs His love, at night His song is with me - a prayer to the God of my life."

Psalms 146:1-2 "Praise the Lord. Praise The Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord all my life. I will sing praise to my God as long as I live."

Early September 12, 2001. The morning after the attacks. The sky is a clear September blue. The sun is warm. It is so still so quiet. I stand outside and just look up into the clear sky, still numb from the horror of yesterday. A song comes to mind. "Oh Lord My God when I in awesome wonder—How Great Thou Art! How Great Thou Art!" He speaks to us in times of shock and fear reminding us to trust Him and not be afraid. **We worship Him.**

September 2021. The world has taken quite a beating in the last 20 years. Forest fires raging out of control consume acres and acres of magnificent forests. Wars suddenly start and others abruptly end. Hurricanes devastate by pushing water past the boundaries of the sea onto land. COVID continues to plague us. People take up sides and hate grows. "God is in control?" we ask, "Where?" In Job 26:7-14 The Living Bible "God stretches out heaven over empty space and hangs the earth upon nothing.

A Word from the Board of Directors

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

The Lord Jesus is alive and well at St. Mark, and the deceiver doesn't like it. He is throwing illness and bitterness and pride and anger around with as much fervor as he can muster. This is all because we ARE seeking God's will and pushing forward. Satan would leave us alone if we weren't spreading the word. So be thankful for our persecution! May we continue to be found worthy.

We have once again reached that time of year where the activities of the church are in full swing. There is a lot going on, and your help is needed. As the studies begin, and the special events continue to happen, everyone needs to chip-in to be sure that we are reaching as many people as possible. Even if you can only spare an hour a month (that's not asking too much is it?) you can have a big impact on things going forward. God has given us all gifts and expects us to use them. So, here are a few opportunities- and if you don't see something you like or are gifted at, reach out to Staff, Elders or the Board of Directors:

- Sound Team
- Board of Directors (Elections in December for Treasurer and "at-large" members)
- Choir
- Praise Team
- Children's Church
- Nursery
- Altar Guild
- Counters
- Ushers
- Greeters
- Endowment Board

and there are many more. If you see a need you can fill, fill it!

We are thankful to all of those volunteers who have been working so hard to fill the gaps left by staff departures and health limitations, as well as the staff members who have expanded their responsibilities to make sure everything is getting done. Your dedication has allowed St. Mark to continue to reach the lost and grow spiritually.

God's blessings as we move forward.

Board of Directors



Switch to the ESV Bible Translation

Beginning Sunday, 9/26/21, Saint Mark Lutheran Church, in alignment with the LCMS, began utilizing the ESV Bible Translation, moving away from the NIV. The LCMS made this change back in 2009, but many congregations, including ours, still made use of the NIV bibles that are in our pews. Over the coming weeks, you may notice that the readings presented on the screens during the service do not match what you see in the pew bible. You can choose to continue to use the pew bible, understanding that not all the words match, or just following along on the screen. Within the next month or two, our current NIV pew bibles will be replaced with new ESV pew bibles, through some generous personal donations that have been offered.

He wraps the rain in the thick clouds and the clouds are not split by the weight. He shrouds His throne with His clouds. He sets a boundary for the day and for the night. The pillars of heaven tremble at His rebuke. And by His power the sea grows calm; and He is skilled at crushing its pride! The heavens are made beautiful by His Spirit and He pierces the swiftly gliding serpent. These are some of the minor things He does, merely a whisper of His power. Who then can withstand His thunder?!"

Through difficult, troubling, and evil times He remains in control!

We worship Him.

At sunset on the Lake Michigan shore north of Leland the sun drops her orange glow below the silhouette of the Manitou Islands. Once below them, the glow explodes in red, yellow, orange, and purple hues across the sky from horizon to horizon. Golden light touches each wave as it makes its way to shore illuminating a path across the water. The only sound is the quiet slap of waves on sand and the hushed murmurs of those lucky enough to be there. Sometimes it is very easy for us to **worship Him!**

Psalm 113:3 From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord will be praised!"

What causes us to stop normal life and refocus on worshipping God?

For me it can be any number of things from a song, to time with friends, or sharing in the Lord's Supper. It may even be an unexpected event whether happy or sad. It's not always easy to worship. Life gets in the way. Fear, failure, doubts, worries or just plain busyness may affect our ability and desire to seek God. Maybe it's not a priority. Maybe it's too difficult to try and connect with a God who doesn't seem to care.



Worship and praise comes easy when life is good. When children are happy and healthy, and the bills are paid. Life is good - like in a Hallmark movie! Of course, we worship and praise Him! He is a good God!

It's not so easy on the other side. The human side where death touches us; people get sick; kids stray; parents get old; and forests burn. It can all seem so overwhelming. We cry again, "Where are You?!" We accuse, "Don't You care?" We throw our hands up and say, "I'm done!"

We forget that even in our doubt; even in our anger; even in our pushing Him away, we are showing Him that we simply cannot exist without Him. We worship Him in the darkest of times with tears and shouts and fists uplifted to heaven.

We worship Him in the best of times with tears and shouts and hands uplifted in praise and love.

Sometimes from our brokenness and sometimes from our joy.

Sometimes we have to look for our worship.

After all, isn't worship the highest form of acknowledging our need for a power greater than ourselves? A God who not only created us but cares for us and provides us with a way to be with Him forever through His Son? Whether that worship comes in times of great joy and happiness or in heart-broken sorrow, we are still declaring our need for God.

In song, in praise, in tears and sorrow, in confusion and uncertainty, **we worship Him**

Wherever you are, in whatever circumstances - **find your worship.**

Micah 4:2 "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob..."

-Pam Plainte
Saint Mark Member

Children Want to be Like Their Parents

Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the Word and instruction of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 6:6).

But there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up, they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents. But there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, and how they do and say most everything. Then children try to copy it.

This can be quite humorous when caught in the act. They do this even when parents don't want them to. Everyone has been in the uncomfortable – and embarrassing situation – where a child does or says something one of their parents have done or said that is less than polite. Sitcoms thrive on these. It only works because of the truth that children emulate their parents, and they do it because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God – by grace through faith. In Holy

Baptism, God the Father declares of us what

He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins. In exchange, He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit – by which we cry out, "Abba, Father."

We are born again – born from above, born of water and the Spirit – to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ through Baptism. Since we are sons, we are heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace, mercy, and generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

This is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As *Luther's Small Catechism* teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this



petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

In other words, He gives us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds.

Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week and set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the church. This is not done because He has commanded us so to do but rather because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

-LCMS Stewardship Ministry

As Christ stated, His kingdom is not of this world. His people do not need to defend Him here on earth. Rather, his kingdom is one of faith; the gift of the Holy Spirit. We may not see where we are heading with our eyes, or our hearts, but we know without doubt that we are moving along with power and energy into the realm of faith where expectations soar, and the joy of salvation moves sadness aside; as we make friends for Jesus!

We are the people of God! We are Saint Mark Lutheran Church! Saint Mark isn't a collection of people who have branded ourselves, as "Saint Mark" members. Rather, we are people appointed by the waters of Holy Baptism into the strength of the Gospel! We are an outpost of God's truth and happiness, His easily declared victory over death, His call to repentance and beacon of hope for the peoples of the world who are waiting to meet Him! We will not be beat down! We will not give up! To do so is unthinkable and of no use since our God is the God of victory already won from His cross!

I shall cast my eyes up into the hills from whence cometh my help!

When I hunted with my father as a teen he would look back at me as we walked in the forest. Seeing me staring at the ground he stopped me. "You're never going to see any deer looking at the ground, Tim." "But dad," I answered smugly, "If I don't look down I might trip on a boulder or a tree root." "True enough. But, what are you here for, in these woods, rocks and roots, or deer?"

Such wisdom in so short a conversation. Life is full of things that might and do get in our way. Shall we concentrate on avoiding them and miss achieving our goals?

We, God's people of Saint Mark, say; "Bring them on! We might fall here and there but we will ever keep our eyes of faith focused, assiduously, purposefully, determinedly on our Mission in all of its ways as we Seek to Save the Lost!"

That's what winners do!

-Pastor Timothy Verity



Vacancy Pastor
Pastor Tim Verity

Specific Ministry Pastor
Pastor Chris Rubino
crubino50@gmail.com

Preschool Director &
Children's Ministry
Chris Stodola
cstodola@saintmarkgr.org

Music Director
Obe VanderTol

OUR VISION
Succeeding in our
mission, we believe...

That all of God's children, young and old, would be baptized into faith through **God's Grace alone, taught** the Word of God, and brought together in the Peace of Christ; and that we, as members of Saint Mark Lutheran Church, would live this Peace in our words and actions, giving our time, talents, and treasures, and taking an active role in our ministries, missions, education, and outreach, for service to His kingdom locally and throughout the world.



1934 52nd Street SE
Kentwood, MI 49508
616.455.5320
office@saintmarkgr.org
www.saintmarkgr.org

OUR MISSION: One Body. Seeking Christ. Teaching His Word. Sharing His Love.

Troop 331 Boys and Girls Update

Troop 331B (boys) and Troop 331G (girls) meet every Tuesday evening in the Chapel Hall of St Mark from 7-8:30 p.m.

Parents of scouts are invited to the Committee meeting held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month during the scout meeting. Usually at least once per month scouts hold Merit Badge meetings where they work together to earn merit badges and advance in their ranks. When a scout is ready to advance in rank, they meet with three adults to answer many questions about what they have learned, challenges they have faced and what they are looking forward to doing in their next rank. When scouts interview for a job someday, they will be well prepared!

So far this fall, Troop 331 participated in a special 9/11 salute in the Saint Mark parking lot. Troop 331 joined over 1,700 other scouts at Mackinaw for their annual Rendezvous event - a two-night campout that was very fun for all. Upcoming campouts include Sleeping Bear Dunes (mid October) which is a fun tradition. Upcoming service projects include the fall outdoor clean up at St Marks, of which Troop 331 is glad to participate in. Current fundraising for the troop includes popcorn sales, wreath sales, Scout parents working at VanAndel events to earn money for their scout and the Scrip card program, earning a percentage of sales through gift card purchases. Troop 331 B&G are looking forward to a great fall in scouting!



What's on the Horizon with Love INC?

Thank you Saint Mark for your continued support of Love INC! We have a couple of opportunities this fall where you can learn or serve:

- Join in on a neighborhood & yard clean-up day on Saturday, October 16, 9am to noon. We will be working with several other churches to do basic yard clean up and simple house projects for a couple of local families.
- Volunteer Training for the Connection Center and a spring mentoring program is coming soon.
- Redemptive Compassion book studies: come learn about the biblical values that guide Love INC's Connection Center.

Contact Love INC for more information or to sign up: 616-816-5683 or loveincskc@gmail.com

