St. Mark’s is proud to announce that on Sunday September 4th, artist and parishioner, Eric S. Dinse, debuts his exhibit “Twisting Roots” for our Fall Art Show.

The show will continue through November 20th. An Artist’s Reception will be held on Saturday September 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 in St. Mark’s Narthex and Sanctuary. Eric will give an Artist’s Talk about his work, welcoming questions from guests. He will also entertain by playing his guitar. Light refreshments will be served.

In his own words, Eric is both a musician and a visual artist. He has experience in painting but would absolutely rather draw. He enjoys the direct contact with paper that drawing provides. He uses a wide assortment of colored pencils, bright metallic markers, and all kinds of pens with all kinds of colored ink. He will draw on anything - paper, cardboard, notebooks, lunch bags, post it notes, as well as sketch pads.

There are many different influences in his art. The earliest were in comic books (mostly Marvel), and cover illustrations for fantasy and science fiction books. Music was also a source of inspiration, from album covers (as he grew up in the ’70’s) to the visual nature of performing live. As he continued to explore, he discovered an interest in abstract art and began to see the natural abstraction all around. While in the deserts of Utah, he was quite taken with the myriad shapes seen in trees, rock formations, and land. Eric studied at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL., earning a BFA in Fine Art. He learned a lot about art there - in terms of things that could be done visually and things he would rather not bother with.

Eric has exhibited at local galleries including Burning Bush. You can visit Eric on his Facebook page, [https://www.facebook.com/ArtByEricDinseAtThrillhammerStudio](https://www.facebook.com/ArtByEricDinseAtThrillhammerStudio). The art exhibited will be available for purchase.
DON'T ATTEMPT PROJECTS
AT HOME ALONE!
Starting September 7th, join the BUSY FRIENDLY FOLK Every Wednesday, 9:30 AM to 12 noon, in the church library. Any portable project will do: from knitting, quilting, beading, to e-mail reading/writing, and all projects in between. BFF company is fantastic! Finishing a project is frosting on the cake. For info contact Cheryl at 630-790-3741 or bobchero@gmail.com. Coffee is brewing!

Pastor Robin will be volunteering in Lima, Peru from Sept 10-30. She will be blogging the experience at rcpetu2016.blogspot.com.

This Fragile Earth, Our Island Home
What would you say is the most dramatic discovery or change the world has seen in the past 100 years? On that list might be the automobile or the airplane, the Internet, quantum mechanics, the Civil Rights Movement or perhaps Pop Tarts. But it was the U.S. Space Program that first brought us pictures of the Earth from orbiting rockets and then from space probes as they sped into the outer reaches of the solar system. In 1990, Voyager 1 space probe took a photograph of planet Earth from a distance of 3 billion miles from its launching pad at Cape Canaveral. The “Pale Blue Dot” as it became known is the Earth as a tiny pixel of light in the midst of folds of darkness. In the vast universe that we inhabit, the Earth is a grain of sand in a giant wind storm. Perhaps this is the greatest change of all in human history – that we no longer can maintain the belief that we are at the center of the universe, with Rome or Athens or New York as its hub and throne, or that the Earth’s resources are unlimited to exploit as we choose. What humanity must now come to realize, with urgency, is that the earth is really a very small spaceship traveling through a vast universe. Humans are the first class passengers on this ship who must see themselves as a team in cooperation and concern for each other and the vessel we live in and stand on. The Book of Common Prayer, 1976 brought this new reality to worship as seen in Eucharistic Prayer C. “God of all power, Ruler of the Universe...at your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.” (p. 370). Our Christian witness to the goodness of Creation and God’s love for the whole world has been intensified and validated by this new perspective granted us by the achievements of the space program. In our Eucharist prayers, we also acknowledge and give thank for the holistic revelation and sacrifice of Jesus, as the officiant prays, “He (Jesus) stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.” (BCP, p. 362). Jesus was and is a revelation of God not for a select group, but for all humanity, past, present and future. Through Christ, the whole world has been reconciled to God (2 Corinthians: 5) and this pale blue dot glows with renewed hope. This powerful partnership between faith and scientific exploration is still in its infancy. It has the potential to change the course of humankind as we see ourselves as one family, gifted with beauty and abundance on a tiny but blessed spec of the universe.

Yours in Christ, George+

St. Mark’s Financials at-a-glance.
(As of July 31st, 2016)

Total Pledge Contributions/Revenue Expected
Year to Date:  YTD Budget 450,368
Total Pledge Contributions/Revenue Received
Year to Date:  YTD Actual 414,644

Total Expenses Expected Year to Date:
YTD Budget 487,990
Total Expenses Year to Date:
YTD Actual 464,567

How can you help? Please consider accelerating any planned pledge payments earlier in the year. If you are a monthly giver please consider combining 3 months into a quarterly submission sent in at the beginning of the quarter. If you are a quarterly giver please consider going to a semi annual or an annual schedule. Any earlier contributions would be very helpful. Thank you very much for your prayerful consideration.

More detailed financial information at St. Mark’s website at http://www.stmarksglenellyn.org/. You can also send any question you may have to treasurer@stmarksglenellyn.org or by contacting a member of the Vestry.

As an alternative to a contribution made during the worship service, feel free to sign up for an online donation. Please visit the St. Mark’s website http://www.stmarksglenellyn.org/ under the" Give “section for directions on how to do this as well as providing your 2016 pledge.
Men’s Group Monthly Breakfast meetings - Tuesday, September 6th, 6:30 a.m. at Glen Oak Restaurant.

The Men’s Group also meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. The next meeting is September 12 in the St. Mark’s Library. Coffee at 7:30 a.m. and then a DVD series followed by discussion. For additional information, please contact Leo Lanzillo at Lanzillo@gmail.com.

Next PADS Service Opportunity

Our next service date is October 2-3. If you would like to find out more about our PADS ministry or to volunteer or make a food donation please contact either: David Dornblaser, 630.474.9706 H or Donald Sutherland, drrmps@sbcglobal.net 630.469.8384 H, 630.661.5792 C.

If you would like to be added to our PADS email list please contact David.

Fall Adult Formation – What is Judaism?

What is Judaism? What are some of its different forms? What are the primary Jewish Holidays? What is a service like at a Temple? Am I using the right words when I ask these questions? We will explore these questions and others this fall via video sources, visits from congregants and Rabbis of Etz Chaim, a congregation of over 500 Jewish families in Lombard, and, of course, a field trip! (Sorry, no school bus ride provided.) Most events will take place during the 9:15 service, however there are also opportunities at the 10:30-11:30 hour. Please keep an eye on your bulletin for any changes to our programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>9:15 - 10:15</th>
<th>10:30 - 11:30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>Introduction to St. Mark's</td>
<td>Introduction to St. Mark's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 11</td>
<td>Intro to Program</td>
<td>Intro to Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 18</td>
<td>Speaker-What is Judaism?</td>
<td>Speaker-What is Judaism?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 25</td>
<td>Video-Religions of the World</td>
<td>Speaker-Orthodox, reform, conservative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Oct 2  | Speaker-Orthodox, reform, conservative | Speaker-Orthodox, reform, conservative | Instructed Service
| Oct 16 | Instructed Service                |                                   |
| Oct 21 | Visit Etz Chaim for a service     |                                   |
| Oct 23 | Discussion of visit-those who went|                                   |
| Oct 30 | Children's voices                 |                                   |
| Nov 6  | Speaker- Life Cycle               | Speaker-Life Cycle                 |
| Nov 13 | Video - Rituals                   |                                   |
| Nov 20 | Holidays and Celebrations Congregant- |                                   |
| Nov 27 | What it is like to be Jewish      |                                   |
| Dec 4  | Speaker-What Jews wish Christians knew | Speaker-What Jews wish Christians knew |
| Dec 11 | Video                             |                                   |
| Dec 18 | Guests from congregation          |                                   |

We look forward to seeing you for any or all of this.

From the August Rector’s report to the Vestry:

St. Mark’s Cash Flow Crunch: The summer months are traditionally a challenging time for cash flow at many churches, including St. Mark’s. As people go on vacation, we find that giving drops. Another factor is that our expenses are linear and our giving is parabolic, with giving often delayed until the last quarter of the year. This year we have seen more of a cash flow pinch than usual, with bi-monthly payrolls nearly depleting our cash balances. I have made requests to a few members to pay their pledges in full or catch up on their payments. This has helped but not enough to build back a cash cushion. I am meeting with the wardens, treasurer, assistant treasurer and bookkeeper to review the issue and come up with ways to address the problem. I believe it is important to share information about this situation with our congregation and to ask for three things: 1) to pay as much of their pledge as they are able at this point in the year, and if possible all of it; Agenda & Bundle Page 5 of 16 Vestry Meeting Saint Mark's Episcopal Church August 23rd, 2016 2) to go online and set-up a quarterly or monthly pledge payment; and 3) to begin to consider and pray about their pledge for 2017 – increasing their giving for next year and also setting up regular payments or if possible, paying as early in the year as possible. The St. Mark’s story is one of generosity and abundance. I am confident that our congregation wants to and is capable of supporting the finances and cash flow needs of our ministries. We need to ask and be clear about why support is needed. The bright side about not having a large endowment or huge cash reserves is that every pledge, every gift matters at St. Mark’s. It means that we can ask people to give and tell them quite factually that “we can’t be the church we are without you.”
Programas y Horarios en San Marcos

En la parroquia de San Marcos puedes gozar de vida abundante de esta forma:

**Formación de Adultos**

Cuando miramos la realidad en la que nuestros hijos e hijas se encuentran viviendo, necesitamos estar preparados para afrontar estos retos, especialmente los retos que se relacionan con la vida de fe en comunidad. En San Marcos te brindamos oportunidades para que refresques tu vida de fe y la puedas vivir y compartir con otras personas. Los padres y padrinos de candidatos y candidatas a recibir sacramentos en San Marcos están invitados a participar de estos momentos de formación. Estas son algunas oportunidades para que continúes tu formación:

**Clases de Inglés** – Este es el horario: **domingo de 11:30 AM a 1:00 PM.** Todas las clases son en el salón 202 de la parroquia. Estas clases son gratuitas y se ofrecen para todas las personas interesadas en mejorar su inglés conversacional y escrito. Tenemos tres profesoras voluntarias que también se encuentran aprendiendo español. Es un espacio en donde te puedes encontrar con otros adultos que quieren seguir su preparación y continuar con su crecimiento intelectual en la comunidad. Nunca es tarde para aprender una nueva lengua.

**Clases para Adultos, domingos de 12:00 PM a 1:00 PM.** Estas clases se ofrecen para todos los adultos que quieran conocer más sobre la Iglesia Episcopal, la Diócesis Episcopal de Chicago y sobre San Marcos. También se ofrecen como clases de formación de padres/madres de familia, padrinos/madrañas de candidatos/as a recibir los sacramentos de Bautismo y Comunión, al igual que candidatos/as de confirmación y aquellos/as que quieran ser recibidos/as en la Iglesia Episcopal.

**Grupo de Oración y Estudio Bíblico** se encuentra el primer y tercer miércoles de 7:30 a 8:30 pm en casa de familias que invitan a sus familiares, amigos y amigas. Este es un espacio dedicado a la oración y para el estudio de la Palabra de Dios. Es un espacio en donde compartimos con personas que sienten el deseo de crecer en su vida espiritual y adquirir el conocimiento necesario para ayudar a otros a crecer al mismo tiempo.

La Virgen María de Guadalupe Peregrina visita los hogares de San Marcos todos los meses y nos encontramos en estos hogares para orar con el Santo Rosario o para celebrar la Santa Eucaristía el segundo y cuarto miércoles del mes a las 7:30 p.m. Es una buena oportunidad para juntarse con familiares, amigos y amigas. Todos los años después de la fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe se hace un sorteo y se eligen a las familias que recibirán la visita de la Virgen.

**Preparación de niños y niñas para la primera comunión**

Todos los domingos de 12:30 p.m. a 1:30 p.m. para niños y niñas de Kindergarten a Quinto Grado. Estas clases de doctrina son para niños y niñas de tercero a quinto grado. Este es un tiempo especial para los niños y niñas que desean conocer más su fe y profundizar en la tradición de la iglesia Episcopal. Los padres y padrinos juegan un papel muy importante en esta formación y deben participar de la educación para adultos que se ofrece simultáneamente.

**Formación para Jóvenes**

Preparación de jóvenes para la confirmación y/o primera comunión todos los domingos de 12:00 PM a 1:00 PM en el Lehman Parlor de la parroquia. Esta formación ayuda a definir la fe de un/a joven y a colocarla en un contexto real de vida. Los jóvenes de sexto grado en adelante son invitados e invitadas a ser parte de nuestra comunidad parroquial en proyección a la comunidad. Jóvenes en Middle y High School tienen oportunidades para encontrarse todos los miércoles del mes. Es importante sentirse parte de una comunidad de fe que apoya en todos los momentos importantes de la vida de
And the Good News...

During this summer, we were witnesses to how the Good News of welcoming, inclusion, acceptance, and second chances that we live and celebrate at St. Mark’s. We celebrated the baptisms of Brian Bello, Jasmine Delara, Giovanni Solórzano, Jonathan Olivos, Yesenia Gamboa, Bruno Lopez, Heydee Flores. We celebrated the quinceañera of Karen Jimenez, Jessica Favela, Jennifer De Casas. We have visited these: Angeles Perdomo and Julio Reyes, the Delara, Maribel Grande.

I was blessed to officiate, on August 6, the wedding of Susanna and Ian Chapman that took place at the Morton Arboretum.

All of these moments were lived in community and helped us be part of each of these families.

On a personal note, I was one of the trainers at the CCD training here in the diocese of Chicago, we had 24 participants from different parts of the country. This was a great opportunity to share more of what a healthy congregation, like St. Mark’s, looks like in concrete.

It is good to now of the great impact that St. Mark’s is having in our Diocese of Chicago and how this is making other congregations to consider trying out thing.

On July 7, I celebrated 15 years of priesthood seven of which have been in the Episcopal Church. I am blessed to have Lucia, David and Daniel with me and to remember that I am standing on the shoulders of many friends that have supported me a long this way. It was good to reconnect with them and share experiences of what we are now as a family in this new ministry.

My parents are in town! It has been a blessing for us as a family to be able to be with them for this time and for the chance to show them who we are now and what we are doing here at St. Mark’s. I am blessed by the opportunity of having them here. They are attending our Sunday 1pm service and enjoying meeting parishioners. Thank you for this opportunity.

Important Programs for Our Spanish-speaking parishioners

Our ESL classes continue on Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We had a good and motivated group of teachers and students. Most of these students are present during our adult formation and now they have felt the need to deepen in their ESL knowledge as part of this formation. What a blessing!

The experience of visiting our families and having a moment to pray together, has helped us see how much St. Mark’s is affecting many lives in many different places. Some of these families consider themselves as part of the St. Mark’s family. We are glad that this opportunity is given to them and to us. I want to thank deacon Miguel Briones for helping us organize these moments.

Important dates

**Fiesta Mexicana** – It will take place on Saturday, September 17 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There will be traditional dancers and food. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate that we are a bilingual and multiethnic parish community.

**Workshop on How to Help with Your Finances** – It will take place on Sunday, September 18 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the library. This workshop is organized by the Rev. Victor Conrado and Mrs. Rita Vasquez from State Farm. This workshop will be in Spanish.

**Grupo Puente (Bridge Group)** – Our first meeting will be on Sunday, September 25 from 2:30 p.m. in the library.

El 26 Evento de Jóvenes Hispanos de la Diócesis de Chicago

The 26th Annual Hispanic Youth Event in the Diocese of Chicago

Sabado/Saturday, 10 September 2016, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

en la Iglesia Sagrada Familia/Holy Family en Lake Villa

Te alabo porque estoy maravillado, porque es maravilloso lo que has hecho. Salmos 139:14 (DHH)

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 (NIV)
Youth@StMarks
Contact: Kim Reed, Youth Ministry Coordinator
630-660-3611 (call or text) or email at kimreed178@gmail.com

PARENTS AND YOUTH
Mark your calendars for the start of an exciting new school year at St. Mark's! Open House is Sunday, September 4, and Kick-off Sunday, with the first day of Sunday School, is September 11!

What’s Going on for Youth in September:

Wednesday, Sept. 7
High School Youth Group (1st & 3rd Wed@StMarks) 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the library. Join Myles and Jess for games, movies, and other fun activities and a chance to get to know other youth at St. Mark's! Bring a friend!

Saturday, Sept. 10
The Annual Hispanic Youth Event 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at La Sagrada Familia in Lake Villa. All youth are invited.

Sunday, Sept. 11
KICK OFF SUNDAY – Marks the beginning of a new year of Sunday School. Classes for youth (6th grade to 12th grade) are offered at 10:15 a.m. and Noon!

Wednesday, Sept. 21
Middle School Youth Group (3rd Wed@StMarks) 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the library. Join Teresa and Jocelyn for once a month fun evenings with other youth at St. Mark's! Friends are welcome!

High School Youth Group (1st & 3rd Wed@StMarks) 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the library. The high schoolers meet twice a month during the school year!

Sunday, Sept. 25
All-in Sunday! Youth and their families worship together. No Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. for youth. Youth are encouraged to participate as acolytes, readers, and ushers on these Sundays.

Help Wanted: Acolytes (3rd grade through adult), Ushers (4th grade through adult), and Readers (4th grade through adult)! Please let us know if you are interested. We would love your participation in worship!

And looking ahead to October:

Youth Bridge Group: Making PADS Lunches and Pizza! Kelly Gross is our special guest Sunday, October 2, at 11:45 a.m. in the library.

Youth Parent Meeting Tuesday evening, October 4, at 7:00 p.m. Location TBA. Learn about opportunities for youth at St. Mark’s.

Hispanic Liturgy and Confirmation Saturday, October 15 at St. James Cathedral in Chicago.

Wednesday Night Youth Groups (1st & 3rd Wed@StMarks for High Schoolers and 3rd Wed@StMarks for Middle Schoolers). High Schoolers will meet on October 5 and 19. Middle Schoolers will meet on October 19.

2017 Mission Trip Informational Meeting on Sunday, October 30, in Mahon Hall during coffee hour, starting at 11:45 a.m.

FOR ALL YOUTH Help make PADS lunches on the first Sunday of every month at the Youth Bridge Group, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the St. Mark’s library. This school year, in addition to making lunches, we will work with artists Kelly Gross, Cecilia Smith, and Beth Treleven. We’ll make warming and hygiene kits for the homeless, hear from Pastor Robin about her adventures in Peru, and more throughout the year! This is a great opportunity for youth from the morning and the 1:00 p.m. to get to know each other. And there’s always pizza!

End of summer fun for St. Mark’s Youth!

Thank you to St. Mark’s Summer Interns Caroline Arlasky, Erin Delany, Lauren Glavin, and Katja Thomalla! We were excited to work with these outstanding young people and have greatly appreciated their help! Cynthia Mote, our college intern who helps with youth, returns again this Fall. We say goodbye to Emily Sexauer who has been the youth representative for PADS and welcome Julio Reyes, who will be taking over for Emily. Youth Vestry representatives are Abraham Jimenez and Paige Hardy. Nathan Littlefield is applying for his third time to be a Diocesan Youth Delegate for the Diocesan Convention in November. Be sure to ask them what’s going on at the vestry meetings or in the Diocese.
Anima in the Pumpkin Patch  Hear Anima perform in St. Mark's Pumpkin Patch at 11:30 on October 29.

UNICEF Pumpkin Contest  Don’t miss the Pumpkin Decorating Contest during the 11:45 Coffee Hour and 2:30 Convivio on Sunday October 30.

JAM (Jesus and Me) at 9:15  Children ages four-eight are welcomed to this program which uses wooden figures to retell Bible stories, using the Godly Play Curriculum. No registration necessary.

Celebration of Communion for children in Grade 2 (and older) will be on May 21 at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Information on classes with Pastor Robin will be coming in October.

Pastor Robin on Children in Church
An article in the Huffington Post in 2014 noted a trait of successful leadership was a strong moral compass, an internal sense of confidence that was unmovned by outside opinions.

Jesus offers our children the most secure moral compass of all: the knowledge that each of them is a Child of God, valued for exactly who they are. This knowledge is the root of self-esteem in a world that will give many negative opinions on the worth of each person.

Sports and academics teach many important life lesson, but only Church forms the fullness of this moral compass. That is why we welcome children into St. Mark’s and encourage their participation.

We understand as parents that making time for Church can be hard in a world of many options and choices. We welcome your family as often as you can come, as valued and blessed Children of God. - sermon Sunday, August 28, 2016

Sunday School Resumes September 11  Children age three through fifth grade and youth sixth grade through Senior High are welcomed to Sunday School from 10:15-11:15 a.m. and 12:30 in Spanish. No registration necessary. The nursery is available for infants and toddlers 0-3 throughout the year.

Dave Herzog’s Marionettes coming to Group Sunday School for K-5th grade on October 9: Check out his website at http://

Book Launch!
Pastor Robin Currie has written a new book: Tuktuk: Tundra Tale, published in English and Spanish by Arbordale. It is the story of an arctic lemming who wants to make his winter home in a fuzzy boot, but has to outsmart all the larger animals to get it. There will be a celebration and book signing on October 8 at 1 PM at the Glen Ellyn Bookstore, 475 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn IL 60137. The book is also available on Amazon.com.
For more information, contact Pastor Robin at revdoc04@sbcglobal.net or www.robincurrie.net.

Need to register to vote before the November 8 General Election?
Those who are eligible to vote, have IL residency, and will be 18 years old by Nov. 8 can register online at https://ova.elections.il.gov/.

We also will have a voter registrar at St. Mark’s on Sunday, Sept. 18 from 9am to 1pm. Bring two forms of ID that show your address (not a P.O.). It can be a letter mailed to your home.

“Voting and participation in our government is a way of participating in our common life. And that is a Christian obligation. Indeed, we who follow in the Way of Jesus of Nazareth are summoned to participate actively as reflections of our faith in the civil process.” Presiding Bishop Curry. #EpiscopalianVote
St. Mark’s Chorister Choirs
Calling all K-5th grade singers!

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, Sept. 7
4:00 – 4:40 p.m. K-1st graders
4:45—5:30 p.m. 2nd – 5th graders

What do we do? Lots of things!
We sing, play games, learn musical fundamentals, lead worship monthly at 9:15 a.m. service, have parties, and maybe sing once or twice a year at local senior citizen centers!

Oh, yes, there’s one more thing!
Choristers earn cool PRIZES!!!

Music Notes
For more information, contact Marsha Webster, Interim Director of Music
musicassociate@stmarksglenellyn.org or 630/858-1020 ext. 225

Music and Movement for Babies and Preschoolers and a parent or caregiver
8 week class runs September 27 through November 15, 9:15 – 10:30 a.m. in Room 204, across from Mahon Hall. Bring your child(ren) to sing, dance and listen! Zoom! Zoom! Ridin’ in the Car! Here we go, Here we go, Here we go....

St. Mark’s Adult Choir returns to lead 10:30 a.m. worship on September 11
Rehearsals resume Thursday, September 8; 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. High School youth with choral experience are welcome to join us.

Ten Reasons to Join the Adult Choir
1. It’s FUN to meet new people and learn new music.
2. No auditions are required. Music reading is helpful, but not mandatory.
3. You’re out of clean clothes – you’ll look great in basic black and white.
4. We understand that singers miss choir sometimes.
5. We sing a wonderful variety of music.
6. Sitting in the Loft provides a great view.
7. Show your mother that the money she paid for music lessons did not go to waste.
8. Processing to the opening and closing hymns, plus communion will put you over your FitBit step goal.
9. Being in Choir is a great way to be part of a community.
10. Singing is praying twice. You’ll experience the sublime and transcendent when you make music for worship.

St. Mark’s Hymn Choir – for those who enjoy singing, but are unable to make a full-time choir commitment. We gather once a month at 8:45 on Sunday mornings to learn an offertory hymn or anthem to sing at the 9:15 service. Tentative Fall dates: September 11, October 9, November 13, December 4.

Do you play an instrument?
Piano, violin, flute, clarinet, trumpet or other...
Let me know so I can add you to our St. Mark’s musician list. We always welcome soloists and occasionally gather groups together to play as an ensemble. Simply send an e-mail to the musicassociate@stmarksglenellyn.org or leave a message on the organ or in the church office.

Save the Date! The Valparaiso University Handbell Choir will perform concert at St. Mark’s on Friday evening, October 21 at 7:00 p.m. as part of their fall tour. More details to come. We will also be looking for a few host homes to provide overnight housing that night.

The rector’s Bible study meets every Tuesday, 9:00 am, in the St. Mark’s library: What is your idea or experience of Bible study? At St. Mark’s, with Rector George Smith leading, the group reads and discusses the Bible. We select a book or books of the Bible, and then read it together. Each week we continue, reading and discussing the text and the thoughts and questions it brings up. Everyone joins the discussion, though no one is required to say anything. Sometimes the conversation ranges widely, but George as our leader calls us back to the text and its teaching. Contact George Smith, call (630) 858-1020.
Join us! by informal conversation and good things to eat and drink. Mark’s will briefly share from the stories of their lives followed and was the springboard for her new book, available. Review on religion, politics, and popular culture. Childcare available.

Engaging with Culture
Thursday, September 8 from 9:30-11 a.m. in the library at St. Mark’s
St. Mark’s parishioner Lindsey Paris Lopez will introduce us to Rene Girard’s mimetic theory and her work at The Raven Review on religion, politics, and popular culture. Childcare available.

Getting Real about Marriage
Thursday, October 6 from 9:30-11 a.m. in the library at St. Mark’s
Katherine Willis Pershey wrote an article on fidelity (and her brush with infidelity) that went viral a few years ago and was the springboard for her new book, Very Married. Come for a fascinating, honest look at marriage. Childcare available.

In-Town Women’s Retreat
Friday, October 14 7-10 p.m. at Blackberry Market.
Our theme is “What I Know for Sure” and four women of St. Mark’s will briefly share from the stories of their lives followed by informal conversation and good things to eat and drink. Join us!

WIT/MEC Steering Committee: Jennifer Grant, chair; Karen Evans, pastoral care; Susan Shorney, communications; Kristin Margaglione, childcare coordinator; Jen Chavez and Lucia Conrado, advisors.

Daughters of the King Anniversary Celebration
On Sunday October 16th the St. Anne’s Chapter of The Daughters of the King will be celebrating the 85th anniversary of its establishment here at St. Mark’s. There will be a reception in Mahon Hall following each service that day. There will be coffee and tea, food and a chance to learn more about who we are and the role we have played and continue to play in the life of our parish. Plan to stay at church a few minutes longer that day, stop by, grab a bite to eat and say “hi”. See you then!

2016 Appalachian Trip Reflections

Julio Reyes writes: Este viaje a Kentucky fue muy importante para mi. Yo espere como 3 años para poder venir porque tenía que estar llendo a Highschool para ir. Lo que me interesó fue que no íbamos de vacaciones, íbamos para ayudar a las personas que no pueden hacerlo solos. Cuando yo venía, estaba tan preocupado en ayudándolos solo con construcción que se me olvido lo que realmente importaba. El primer día de trabajo me acorde que lo que realmente importa es la alma porque en el Día de Juicio Dios no juzgará edificios o cuerpos, pero la alma si. Entonces entendí que es nuestra responsabilidad como Cristianos es aceptar el amor de Dios y dárselo a los demás para que también conozcan la misericordia de Dios.

Julio Reyes writes: Este viaje a Kentucky fue muy importante para mi. Yo espere como 3 años para poder venir porque tenía que estar llendo a Highschool para ir. Lo que me interesó fue que no íbamos de vacaciones, íbamos para ayudar a las personas que no pueden hacerlo solos. Cuando yo venía, estaba tan preocupado en ayudándolos solo con construcción que se me olvido lo que realmente importaba. El primer día de trabajo me acorde que lo que realmente importa es la alma porque en el Día de Juicio Dios no juzgará edificios o cuerpos, pero la alma si. Entonces entendí que es nuestra responsabilidad como Cristianos es aceptar el amor de Dios y dárselo a los demás para que también conozcan la misericordia de Dios.

Lauren Glavin writes: This was my fourth year going on Appalachia service project. Our church does things a little differently than most other churches that go on ASP in the sense that, in the past, we have gone back to the same county each year. We do this not because we are forced to or because it just ends up that way, but because of our connection to Martin county. When talking to volunteers from other churches about their previous experiences, they sometimes remember the states they were in, but rarely do they remember the counties whereas, for us, Martin county has become a second home. Whenever I think of Martin or ASP, the image of me being sweaty and covered in slivers of siding and silicon caulking flood my mind, but also the image our homeowner Sherri showed us of her house before ASP helped her while seeing the unbelievable transformation right in front of us, and her voice, overflowing with gratitude, as she explained her difficult life story and thanked us profusely for allowing her to have a clean slate. minute outdoor showers and the cafeteria food and I could see him wondering “what have I gotten myself into?” But if you think about it, yes all of those things are true, but what is also true is that, even with those condition, I still go back, so does Petra, Kendall, and Alex, and so did Caroline Aklasky and Matt McGovern who were unable to attend this year but went multiple times in the past. The relationships you form on ASP, with the people in your work crew, the other volunteers at the center, the staffers, your family, and even the cats and dogs down there, these are relationships I wouldn't trade for the world. As cliche as it sounds, ASP changes lives, and not just of those we are helping. It is because of ASP I am taking a gap year to volunteer internationally as ASP has helped me realize the power of the individual to change lives. I know it is awhile away, but I hope you will think about coming on ASP next year, I promise it would be a decision you would never regret. Thank you.

Sydney Aklasky writes: I went on the ASP trip this past week. This was my first year being apart of the service project, my sisters had been on the trip the last two years and they had nothing but good to say about it. I was not too excited to go once I had found out my friend couldn’t go with me. I was nervous to be be with people I had never interacted with except for my sister, Kendall, who was bringing a friend. As soon as we got on the bus I realized I had nothing to be
afraid everyone was very kind and friendly. Once we got to the elementary school we were staying at churches started to arrive. There were two groups from Maryland and a huge group from Michigan, the churches were a lot bigger then our group and mostly seemed to keep to themselves. The eight of us from Saint Marks all worked on the same house. The homeowner was a recently divorced women named Sherry who lived with a dog. She was such a warm hearted woman who was not ashamed of needing help but very thankful for the work we did.

It is now four years later and I am still in touch with the family I helped my first year and was blessed to be able to go and see Kevin and Myrtle, as well as their 6 year old granddaughter Maddy. I started to get emotional as they wrapped me in the type of hug you get when you haven't seen your best friend in a year and got tears in my eyes when Maddy handed me a picture she drew and explained it saying "this is me, this is you, and this is the house you fixed for my mawmaw and pawpaw." It is connections like these which stick with you long after your first actual shower at home finally washes away the grime which has been on you for the past week.

Before we all left, some of us returners were talking about the previous ASP trips and I remember how Rafael's eyes started getting wider and wider as we talked about the heat and the bugs and the two I remember her always yelling at us when we knocked asking to use her bathroom instead of just using it, she had told us that "her house was our house" so we were welcomed in with open arms right away. The workload was more difficult than I had imagined we worked in the hot Kentucky sun with no shade in the middle of the day. We worked on siding, J channeling, and drywall, things I had no idea how to do but learned them very quickly. It was amazing what we accomplished in a week, her house transformed little by little everyday. I shared many God moments that week but one specifically was when our homeowner was describing to us how she was going to plant flowers along the house and build a fence so her dog can run. It was such a beautiful thing to see how excited she got thinking about the future and then remembering we had made this possible for her and many groups before us. Another God moment was when she made us pasta with garlic bread and salad for lunch with brownies as dessert to thank us for the work we put into the house. Sherry had made my week at ASP unforgettable, she was so appreciative of us and she was always making sure we didn't forget that. I can't wait to go back next summer and I hope you all join me. You will not be able to fix her home the way we were able to, but she could at least offer us her cooking, and with that, her compassion. The happiness Sherry was able to share with us, despite her housing situation, helped motivate me throughout the weeks projects. With struggling through cutting siding, learning how to use power tools, applying mud to drywall, and, for me, getting over a fear of ladders, repairing the home was far from simple. With high temperatures and sometimes high tensions, it often felt like we would never be able to accomplish what we came to do. Despite the troubles we were faced with, I was still happy to find myself singing with my work crew and getting things done. I will never again underestimate the rush of joy that comes from snapping in the final piece of siding on a house.

Although the week was filled with work, my favorite moment from the trip happened while our work crew was taking a break. The homeowner was describing to us how she was going to plant flowers along the house and build a fence so her dog can run. It was such a beautiful thing to see how excited she got thinking about the future and then remembering we had made this possible for her and many groups before us. Another God moment was when she made us pasta with garlic bread and salad for lunch with brownies as dessert to thank us for the work we put into the house. Sherry had made my week at ASP unforgettable, she was so appreciative of us and she was always making sure we didn't forget that. I can't wait to go back next summer and I hope you all join me. You will not believe what you can accomplish in just a week and how much that will change someone's life.

Alex Koon writes: Since this year was my second year going on ASP, when the trip finally rolled around, I was beyond excited. I couldn't wait to return to Appalachia and experience what the week had in store. When we arrived at the center in Martin, Kentucky, I was greeted with the familiar feeling of peace that comes with the landscape and with the people who call this area their home. As we settled into the center, I began to wonder about what our home would be like. Despite my past experience, I knew that everyone house had its unique challenges and obstacles. Even with these worries nagging in the back of my head, I was still eager to meet the family we would be working with. When the morning came around, we packed up the van, homemade sandwiches and high spirits included, and headed off to our worksite. When we arrived on the beautiful plot of land, we were welcomed by the smiling face of our homeowner, Sherry, and the overwhelming joy of her dog, Duke. Sherry made it clear to us right away that her house was our house, and if there was anything she could do for us, to simply let her know. I am so grateful that we experienced this love and hospitality from Sherry for the whole week, from simply letting us sit in her air conditioned house, to offering to make us a pasta lunch. She told us that she could never be able to fix her home the way we were able to, but she could at least offer us her cooking, and with that, her compassion. The happiness Sherry was able to share with us, despite her housing situation, helped motivate me throughout the weeks projects. With struggling through cutting siding, learning how to use power tools, applying mud to drywall, and, for me, getting over a fear of ladders, repairing the home was far from simple. With high temperatures and sometimes high tensions, it often felt like we would never be able to accomplish what we came to do. Despite the troubles we were faced with, I was still happy to find myself singing with my work crew and getting things done. I will never again underestimate the rush of joy that comes from snapping in the final piece of siding on a house.

Although the week was filled with work, my favorite moment from the trip happened while our work crew was taking a break. The homeowner was describing to us how she was going to plant flowers along the house and build a fence so her dog can run. It was such a beautiful thing to see how excited she got thinking about the future and then remembering we had made this possible for her and many groups before us. Another God moment was when she made us pasta with garlic bread and salad for lunch with brownies as dessert to thank us for the work we put into the house. Sherry had made my week at ASP unforgettable, she was so appreciative of us and she was always making sure we didn't forget that. I can't wait to go back next summer and I hope you all join me. You will not believe what you can accomplish in just a week and how much that will change someone's life.

Alex Koon writes: Since this year was my second year going on ASP, when the trip finally rolled around, I was beyond excited. I couldn't wait to return to Appalachia and experience what the week had in store. When we arrived at the center in Martin, Kentucky, I was greeted with the familiar feeling of peace that comes with the landscape and with the people who call this area their home. As we settled into the center, I began to wonder about what our home would be like. Despite my past experience, I knew that everyone house had its unique challenges and obstacles. Even with these worries nagging in the back of my head, I was still eager to meet the family we would be working with. When the morning came around, we packed up the van, homemade sandwiches and high spirits included, and headed off to our worksite. When we arrived on the beautiful plot of land, we were welcomed by the smiling face of our homeowner, Sherry, and the overwhelming joy of her dog, Duke. Sherry made it clear to us right away that her house was our house, and if there was anything she could do for us, to simply let her know. I am so grateful that we experienced this love and hospitality from Sherry for the whole week, from simply letting us sit in her air conditioned house, to offering to make us a pasta lunch. She told us that she could never be able to fix her home the way we were able to, but she could at least offer us her cooking, and with that, her compassion. The happiness Sherry was able to share with us, despite her housing situation, helped motivate me throughout the weeks projects. With struggling through cutting siding, learning how to use power tools, applying mud to drywall, and, for me, getting over a fear of ladders, repairing the home was far from simple. With high temperatures and sometimes high tensions, it often felt like we would never be able to accomplish what we came to do. Despite the troubles we were faced with, I was still happy to find myself singing with my work crew and getting things done. I will never again underestimate the rush of joy that comes from snapping in the final piece of siding on a house.

Although the week was filled with work, my favorite moment from the trip happened while our work crew was taking a break. The homeowner was describing to us how she was going to plant flowers along the house and build a fence so her dog can run. It was such a beautiful thing to see how excited she got thinking about the future and then remembering we had made this possible for her and many groups before us. Another God moment was when she made us pasta with garlic bread and salad for lunch with brownies as dessert to thank us for the work we put into the house. Sherry had made my week at ASP unforgettable, she was so appreciative of us and she was always making sure we didn't forget that. I can't wait to go back next summer and I hope you all join me. You will not believe what you can accomplish in just a week and how much that will change someone's life.

Petra Peterson writes: This was my 3rd year volunteering in Appalachia. Even though we were able to go to the same location as in previous years, it is always a new experience. The ASP staff, the other church groups, our own group and even the weather are different and change the dynamic of the whole. This year the staff was exceptional, the groups from Maryland and Michigan were welcoming to us, half of our group were there for the first time and we battled extreme heat.

The one constant was the positive attitudes and exceptional work ethic of our youth. While I'm sure their parents can't figure out how a child that isn't able to pick their clothes up off the floor can be the same child that works tirelessly in blazing heat in order to make needed improvements to a stranger's home. I was so proud to be their "mom" for a week. Please read their reflections and you will see how truly amazing these youth are.

I would like to thank Cindy Glavin for all her hours of organizing and planning. Also, thanks to the St. Mark's community for their support...both financially and in prayer. We couldn't have done it without you!
Josh Koon writes: This year I went on my first service project to Kentucky. At first I was really nervous that I wasn’t going to be able to do anything to help and that I wouldn’t really know anyone, but on the way down I had already made new friendships. And on our first day of working on our home owners house I realized that I could help and everyone else had their own jobs as well. This has been a very great experience for me and I am looking forward to going on ASP again next year.

Kendall Arlasky writes: There are many constants that have always been a part of my ASP experience. We always visit the same place a small town called Martin, Kentucky. We go to the same center and we even sleep in the same spot. To me Martin is a second home my own hidden corner of the world. So ASP now has become a familiar routine. The drive up is awkward partly because we are all somewhat strangers and partly because 6 hour car rides in general aren’t all that great. Then you have the stay at the church and the mixing of people begins and we all realize that maybe we do get along. Finally we get to the school and there’s a mixture of awe and nostalgia as I recount my memories of last year and prepare for the new ones. Despite all these constants I somehow always manage to forget that it’s not the place or the routine that makes ASP my favorite week of the summer, it’s the fact that every year is still different. Every year teaches me something new and every year gives me the same amount of satisfaction and sadness as we pull away from the center. This year I learned that patience is truly a virtue as we put on so many layers of vinyl siding on a trailer in the blazing hot sun and fixed the mistakes of last year’s group (who of course managed to do the siding on the shaded and easier sides of the home). This year gave me a better perspective on how I handle daunting tasks and taught me to take a backseat in leadership roles especially because usually I’d rather lead than follow. I don’t think enough people realize that construction work takes more brain than brawn and although you may be tempted to abandon or leave a task that you may have not done right you have to remember the goal; safer drier and warmer homes. That message really rang true to me as we got to know our homeowner a woman named Sherry, she was not only one of the kindest human beings I’d ever encountered but also one of the most appreciative. She was quick to open her home to us, share her food, and provide us with a fan when the work got a little too hot. She had a vision and a plan for her home that was truly inspiring and I could see it all coming together even after we left. I am so grateful that I was able to help make that vision possible.

Next year we all made the group decision to serve another county. I’d rather lead than follow. I don’t think enough people realize that construction work takes more brain than brawn and although you may be tempted to abandoned or leave a task that you may have not done right you have to remember the goal; safer drier and warmer homes. That message really rang true to me as we got to know our homeowner a woman named Sherry, she was not only one of the kindest human beings I’d ever encountered but also one of the most appreciative. She was quick to open her home to us, share her food, and provide us with a fan when the work got a little too hot. She had a vision and a plan for her home that was truly inspiring and I could see it all coming together even after we left. I am so grateful that I was able to help make that vision possible.

November next year we all made the group decision to serve another county and this is heartbreaking but it’s going to be ok because this year helped me realize that it’s not the place that makes the trip it’s the people. Thank you.

Rafael Garcia writes: Nuestro primer destino en el Proyecto de Servicio Appalachia fue Trinidad Iglesia Episcopal. Tengo que admitir; No sabía cómo iba a sentir pasar la noche allí. En otras palabras, ¿dormir en una iglesia? Me sorprendió no sólo la belleza de la iglesia, pero al darme cuenta de que estábamos en una misión de Dios. Al menos esto es lo que sentía. Después de acomodarnos, nos reunimos en el sótano y jugamos unos juegos. Después de jugar por un par de horas, nos fuimos a dormir. Como estábamos durmiendo en una iglesia, no pude evitar sentir que Dios estaba protegiéndonos. Al día siguiente, nos dirigimos a una escuela primaria, que iba a ser nuestro hogar durante los próximos siete días. Lo que realmente me llamó la atención fue la gente maravillosa quien nos rodeaban. Estas personas estaban emocionadas de poder regresar una vez más a Appalachia y cumplir con la obra de Dios de ayudar unos a otros. Me sentía muy feliz de estar allí con nuestro grupo y toda la gente maravillosa en este viaje de misión. El personal dijo que nos pusiéramos las pilas porque ibamos ver la casa en que nuestro grupo iba reparar. Al llegar, vi que la casa necesitaba muchos arreglos. Me alejé y me voltee a mirar la casa desde la distancia. Entonces me di cuenta, que iba a ayudar a esta familia a tener un hogar más seguro.

La primera noche en la escuela era difícil porque no pude dormir mucho, por lo que es menos de un inicio ideal para la larga semana por delante. No hace falta decir, la combinación de sueño que llevaba junto con las condiciones de calor extremo no fue bien conmigo. ¡Me frustré porque no tenía las herramientas adecuadas y luego el Sr. Enojón salió! ¡Y en serio, preguntarle a Julio Reyes y a Petra! ¡Muchacho, tenía Julio que darme un buen regaño! Afortunadamente, él, así como el personal y algunos de los líderes me motivaron a ser más positivo durante este viaje. Me di cuenta que no se trata de mis necesidades, sí no, de las personas que están en necesidad. Otro tanto cada mañana y cada tarde me ayudó a aprender a lidiar con mi falta de paciencia que sigue siendo un gran reto para mí.

Los siguientes pares de días se trabajó en la instalación de revestimiento, construímos un poste de soporte para el aire acondicionado, trabajamos en el marco de la entrada exterior, montamos las luces exteriores, colocamos los paneles de yeso, y también cubrimos un boquete de 18 pulgadas en el dormitorio. La parte que más me gusto fue cuando el grupo, de broma, metimos nuestras cabezas uno por uno en el boquete dentro la habitación y tomamos unas fotos. Ese mismo día, Sherry, la propietaria preparó un delicioso almuerzo. Ella explicó, con una gran cantidad de emoción en sus ojos, que no sabía cómo iba repagarnos. Eso realmente me llegó al corazón. Lo que no se dio cuenta ella, era que su alegría en ese momento era nuestra compensación. Fue una experiencia increíble y recomendaría el Proyecto de Servicio Appalachia a quien quiera una experiencia difícil pero muy gratificante.

The DuPage PADS 12th Annual Run 4 Home, a 10K and 5K CARA certified course for casual joggers, walker, and families, is on Saturday September 17. Rain or shine, all are invited to stay for music, refreshments, and prizes. Proceeds from the FUNdraiser will support individuals and families who are homeless in DuPage County. For more information, please contact Kariann at (630) 682-3846 ext. 2290. We will also need more than 225 volunteers on race day! Please contact Dianna at (630) 682-3846 ext. 3500 or dmiller@dupagepads.org to volunteer.
12 Important Dates for 2016-2017 St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

Sunday, September
St. Mark’s Program Year Kick-off,
Sunday School resumes

Saturday, October 8
Pumpkin unloading at 9 a.m.

Sunday, November 6
All Saints’ Sunday and 2017 Pledge in-gathering

Sunday, December 4
St. Nicholas Celebration at 11:45 a.m.

Sunday, December 11
Virgin of Guadalupe Service
and Festival at 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve 3pm, 5 pm, 8 pm, 10 pm

Sunday, December 25
Christmas Day 10:30 am

Sunday January 22
Annual Meeting & Cake Auction &
Bake Sale Lunch

Wednesday March 1
Ash Wednesday – “Ashes-to-go” and services at 7
am, Noon and 7:30 pm

Sunday-Saturday, April 9-15
Sun-Sat  Holy Week services

Sunday, April 16
Easter Sunday at 9 am, 11:15 am and 1 pm

Sunday, April 30
Bishop Lee visit and Confirmation 10:30 am and 1 pm

Saturday, May 6
Cinco de Mayo 6 pm

Printed on recycled paper.