A Theme for St. Mark’s: Health, Healing and Holiness

The two things about Jesus that dominate the Gospel stories are his teaching and healing. From curing Peter’s mother-in-law’s fever to bringing Lazarus back to life, Jesus is God at work bringing healing to a human world of suffering, illness and death. From the beginning, churches have the imprint of healing in their DNA, continuing the Jewish teaching of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). The mission of the church is to bring healing and reconciliation. This year at St. Mark’s there will be many ways that we address the themes of health, healing and holiness. The timing seems right because the level of unhealth in our world has reached a critical threshold. There is unhealth in nature with glaciers melting and fires burning out of control in the Amazon rainforests. Locally, flooding in the Midwest has ruined crops from Ohio to Iowa. The unhealth in our politics is toxic and more divisive than anytime in recent memory. Bipartisan cooperation has become a naïve hope. An author and therapist that I’ve known for many years is researching the malaise of chronic anxiety which she sees affecting more and more people. The church, which centers itself on the healing love of God, is able to offer healing to its members and the world beyond itself. Understanding health as multi-faceted, there will be a variety of offerings, including:

**Guided meditation** – on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

**Yoga** – on Fridays at 9:00 am

**Healing prayer** – every third Sunday of the month at all services

**Adult formation** – Sundays at 9:15 am with different topics and presenters

**Sermons** – the Good News of God in Christ as a guide to healing in our lives and communities

**Green Team** – offering events and information about health of body and environment

**Glen Ellyn Interfaith Prayer Breakfast** – Wednesday, October 23 for Health and Healing in Glen Ellyn

**Seminarian Intern** – the presence of Jo Ann Lagman, a medical doctor who is discerning a call to ordination

These and other offerings and resources like them will help shape a theme of health and finding our bearings in the coming months. Holiness, the decidedly spiritual side of healing, is a never-ending process that begins before we are born. Both as individuals and as a community, we grow in holiness in the knowledge and love of God, not in a linear progression but in deepening rhythms that can at times feel like setbacks and relapse. But we remember that in baptism we are marked as Christ’s own forever, as we navigate the challenges, joys and surprises of this world, which at one time, God named “very good.”

George+
Mum Sale at St. Mark’s
September 21 thru October 4

Our second Mum Sale is coming soon! This year we will again have mums for sale with all proceeds to benefit the Glen Ellyn Walk-In-Ministry (WIM). The mums will be delivered the morning of September 21 and are available until October 4. The flowers come from Sunrise Greenhouse in Grant Park, IL. These 9” plants come in a variety of colors and will be set up in front of St. Mark’s to be sold for $10 each.

It is easy to purchase these fall plants! You can pay by check or cash anytime during the sale. Checks should be made out to St. Mark’s with a note on the memo line reading “mums” or “mum sale.” Place the payment in the black mailbox by the side door on the south side of the building. It’s that simple! You are invited to help to kick off this effort the weekend of September 21 and 22 and get your fall mums.

The Glen Ellyn Walk-In Ministry was initiated in 1984 by the Glen Ellyn Ministerial Association. It represents a coordinated effort by approximately 16 local churches to provide a source of compassionate assistance to individuals and families in need of emergency aid within our community. St. Mark's is a long-standing participant in this effort. Examples of aid being provided to the needy in our community include food certificates, gas vouchers, transportation vouchers, and other forms of emergency assistance. WIM may help with prescription refills, bicycle repair as well. It serves the homeless, PADS clients (with referrals), and Glen Ellyn residents in need of these kinds of assistance. It relies on donations from individuals and member churches to carry out its mission. Located in the library of the First United Methodist Church at 424 Forest Avenue, this program provides opportunities for individuals to volunteer in covering the hours of operation and to serve on its governing board. The general hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 10:00am - 12:00pm. Individuals interested in becoming involved in this ministry can contact Bob Meehan at (815) 228-4098 or rmeehan334@gmail.com. We can always use more volunteers!
True North, Hopes for Confirmation, and the Youth Program at St. Mark’s

It has been eight months since I started as the “Youth Minister” at St. Mark’s this past January. Looking back on those eight months I feel the most important thing I have done is simply getting to know people, mostly building these relationships by sharing vulnerability and just showing up. Whether it be through the pastoral care team, Monday evening Bible Contemplation, Choir, the CREO program, Stations of the Cross play, volunteering with PADS, my work building the youth program, or having coffee meetings — I keep showing up. With the help of these relationships, things keep working out despite my occasional efforts to sabotage myself!

There have been many moments where I have thought myself into a corner, to a place of wanting to quit it all and run away towards whatever the “next” thing in my life will be. I can easily fall into the habit of thinking that whatever I am doing now is not good enough and that I would be more “comfortable” somewhere else. It is in this State of Mind that I am cut off from the Holy Spirit and trying to discern from a place of emptiness which often leads to exhaustion and discontent. It was through a discussion I had with George that a light was shed on the gift of not running to the next thing, but instead making a commitment to staying in one place for a year and being present to that. It is a gift I give to myself to say, “hey I am gonna see a confirmation program through for an entire year from start to finish because I want that to be part of my story, that I did this thing and did not run away because of a fear that it may not work out!”

So I know that I am here for year (and hopefully more!), and in this year what is it that I really want to do? What would I have wanted to offer my own 8th grade self? George has often offered this idea of “True North”, which to me really is distilling down what our purpose is here with the time we are given on this planet: Which direction is your soul pointed? How do we know where to point it? What is the healthiest direction? I believe that the purpose of religion is to help us to answer these questions. And it is necessary to have other “seekers” around us to bounce these ideas off of and reflect back to us our God Selves. Maybe we could call this listening to God. This leads to more questions about what God’s voice sounds, looks, and feels like and again this brings us back to the group and building relationships. These are the questions that I look forward to chewing on this confirmation year!

Peace,

Justin Backstrom
**St. Mark’s Pastoral Care Ministry**

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ. -Galatians 6:2.*

At the heart of our faith community lies a commitment to care for one another, especially in times of crisis or difficulty. At St. Mark’s, we have a trained and experienced team of pastoral visitors eager to companion, listen, pray, anoint, and administer communion in home, hospital, coffee shop, or care facility. Some even engage in pastoral care in the course of their employment. Seven of our regular pastoral visitors are trained at our chaplaincy ministry at the Illinois Medical District, Bishop Anderson House. Others have a long history of pastoral care within the parish. Our team meets monthly to support each other, hear from expert speakers about important topics, and present case studies they have encountered in their ministry. We also coordinate our work with the St. Mark’s Wednesday prayer group, which helps develop the weekly prayer list and prays for individuals on the list by special request.

We have flower and meal ministries

If you need a single visit or regular check-ins, would like to become a member of the pastoral care team, or are interested in Bishop Anderson House training, let us know! Contact the Rev. Bob Wyatt at (708) 269-5473 or bob@stmarksglenellyn.org.

**Greetings from Irma Solorzano, Ministry Liaison**

As Ministry Liaison I welcome, inform, encourage, and help incorporate people and families whose principal connection to St. Mark’s is the 1:00 pm Sunday worship service. I help bring them into the vibrant life of our multicultural congregation so they can grow with us and become part of our branching out into the world.

I serve as a human welcome center connecting visitors, newcomers, and longtime parishioners to the information they need and providing encouragement to get more involved in our parish life.

On Sundays, as I greet and welcome people before, during and after the 1:00 pm service, I answer questions, direct people to locations in the church where they need to go, i.e., nursery, classes, and convivio, and I help newcomers fill out forms to request membership, confirmation, first communion, and other ministries.

Liaising and coordinating with clergy is an important part of my role. I receive personal prayer requests from people and pass them along to clergy for pastoral ministry.

As I talk with people I inform them about special St. Mark’s events and services that week, encourage them to attend, and also to get involved with specific project ministries such as: convivio hosting, Altar Guild, PADS, the annual Las Posadas and Las Novenas hosting, and Kermes planning. I talk with parents and encourage their children to consider serving as acolytes, attending youth group, going on mission trips, learning about CREO, and/or joining our Folkloric Dance class.

During the week I attend the St. Mark’s Tuesday staff coordinating meeting, provide additions and Spanish language translation for the weekly bulletin, make phone calls to people who’ve requested information about St. Mark’s, and assist with pastoral care situations through making follow-up calls and visits in coordination with St. Mark’s clergy.

Depending on the season, during the week I also coordinate parishioner help for specific celebrations and events. Please contact me if I can help you at Irma@stmarksglenellyn.org.
Hermanos y Hermanas sean todos y todas venidos al Programa de Formación en Español de la Iglesia San Marcos.

Comenzando el 8 de Septiembre del 2019 todos los niños y niñas interesados en recibir la formación para la Primera Comunión y Confirmación, junto a sus padres están invitados a participar en nuestro programa de formación, que se extenderá desde Septiembre 8 del 2019 hasta Mayo del 2020.

Todos los Domingos a las 12 pm. nos reuniremos en la Iglesia, para dar las instrucciones de las actividades del día.

Es sumamente importante la participación de todos y todas en las diferentes áreas del Programa que estaremos ofreciendo, para los niños, niñas y adultos.

**Saludos de Irma Solorzano, Enlace del Ministerio**

Como Enlace del Ministerio, doy la bienvenida, informo, aliento y ayudo a incorporar a las personas y familias, cuya conexión principal con San Marcos es el servicio de adoración dominical de la 1 pm, a la vida vibrante de nuestra congregación multicultural, para que Poden crecer con nosotros y ser parte de nuestra impacto en el mundo.

Sirvo como un centro de bienvenida humano que conecta a los feligreses nuevos con la información que necesitan y el aliento que necesitan para unirse a nuestra vida parroquial.

Los domingos saludo y dar la bienvenida a las personas (antes, durante y después del servicio de la 1:00 pm), responda preguntas, dirijo a las personas a lugares de la iglesia donde necesitan ir, es decir, guardería, clases y convivio, y ayudo a los recién llegados a llenar formularios para solicitar membresía, confirmación, primera comunion y otros ministerios.

El enlace y la coordinación con el clero es una parte importante de mi papel, presentando los visitantes al clero y proporcione información a los visitantes que el clero me trae. Recibo personal solicitudes de oración, de la gente, e información de contacto y el paso al clero para el ministerio pastoral. Mientras hablo con la gente, les informo sobre los eventos y servicios especiales de San Marcos esa semana, y como se pueden involucraron on los ministerios específicos del proyecto, such as: convivio hosting, Altar Guild, PADS, y Las Posadas y Las anuales. Novenas hosting y planificación de Kermes. Hablo con los padres y los aliento a alentar a sus hijos a considerar: servir como acólitos, asistir a grupos de jóvenes, ir a viajes misioneros, aprender sobre CREO y / o unirse a nuestra clase de Danza Folclórica.

Durante la semana asisto a la reunión de coordinación del personal del martes de San Marcos, proporciono adiciones y traducción al español para el boletín, hago llamadas telefónicas a las personas que han solicitado información sobre San Marcos y ayudo con las situaciones de cuidado pastoral haciendo seguimiento de llamadas y visitas en coordinación con el clero de San Marcos.

Por favor, pongase en contacto conmigo si puedo ayudarle en Irma@stmarksglenellyn.org.
On the Liturgy

Angels have long been a popular theme in movies and on television, and a variety of angel books and merchandise is available. A poll reveals that 78% of Americans believe in them. The Bible teaches the reality of angels and the liturgical year honors them with a feast day, September 29, the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, also known as Michaelmas.

Contrary to popular belief, angels are not the departed spirits of human beings. An angel is a messenger from God, and may be visible or invisible and appear in human or nonhuman forms. Angels appear throughout the Old and New Testaments, being mentioned over 170 times, and they seem to be more powerful and to have more knowledge than human beings. Yet Jesus says of them that they rejoice in the repentance of a single sinner (Luke 15:10). Angels play a large part in the life of Jesus, including the announcement of Gabriel to Mary that she would bear the Son of God, the reassurance to Joseph that Mary’s baby was from God, the announcement to the shepherds, the leading of the Holy Family into Egypt, the act of ministering to Jesus in the wilderness, and the appearance at the Resurrection.

Who is Michael, this messenger from God? His name means, "Who is like God?" He is a leader of the angels, and is mentioned in Scripture in Daniel 10:13 and 12:1, where he is called Prince of the People of Israel; Jude 1:9, and Revelation 12:7, where he leads the heavenly armies. He is one of the few angels whose names are mentioned in Scripture.

As the collect for their feast day tells us, God has created angels to worship him in heaven and to help and defend us on earth (Book of Common Prayer, p. 193, 244). Remember the next time we pray the Great Thanksgiving that we "join our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven who for ever sing...to proclaim the glory of [God's] Name."

—David Fletcher
Fletcherdavid29@gmail.com
Reggio Emilia-Inspired Learning at St. Mark’s Preschool

St. Mark’s Preschool is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach to Early Childhood Education. Our emergent curriculum honors children and their innate curiosities emphasizing learning through exploration. Building on child-led interest and the “hundred Languages” with which children explore their world, this approach creates a thoughtful, supportive, authentic preschool environment.

Reggio Emilia is a town in Italy whose early childhood education is driven by a cooperative, child-driven curriculum. Founded by teacher Loris Malaguzzi in the 1960’s, the Reggio Emilia education philosophy is a pioneering approach to early childhood education emphasizing the interests of children and valuing the child as thoughtful, resourceful and resilient; full of wonder and capable of deep understanding. The Reggio approach respects children’s thoughts and ideas and allows them, through self-directed activities, to use their natural curiosity on the path to discovery.

Teachers regard the classroom as the “third teacher” and put much care into the design and atmosphere of the classroom environment. Lighting is soft and indirect, colors are muted and supplies and storage are made of natural materials lending a homely feel to the classroom. Quality materials are used and children learn appropriate use and care of those materials.

The teachers set up provocations – intentional, open-ended explorations of specific materials - which feed into the wonders of the children promoting deeper thinking and prompting further questions. Often, the exploration evolves into a study, a long-term discovery of a certain idea or topic. Throughout the study, teachers observe the children’s interests, plan provocations, engage in thought provoking conversations and activities, document children’s thoughts and wonders, and display them on document panels for families to see.

Through this authentic process of learning, children are naturally engaged in developing skills in the areas of communication and language, physical development, personal, social and emotional development, literacy, mathematics, understanding the world, and expressive arts and design.

The Preschool is open to children ages 3 to 5 and offers Monday through Thursday or Tuesday through Thursday preschool classes both mornings and afternoons as well as morning and afternoon Kindergarten Enrichment on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The preschool also offers STEAM and Studio Arts enrichment programs on Friday mornings. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1 and bathroom-independent.

Parishioner priority registration for the 2020/21 school year begins in January 2020.

For more information please reach out to Kristine Osmond, preschool director, at (630) 858-1020 x. 234 or preschool@stmarksglenellyn.org
Music News

St. Mark’s is blessed with an outstanding lineup of music and musical events. You will soon see posters announcing the 2019 season of the **St. Mark’s Music Series**. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation and the St. Mark’s Friends of Music Society, these concerts and services continue to be possible. If you are interested in joining the Friends of Music Society and contributing to the stellar music program, please contact Daniel Segner at the email address listed above.

Upcoming Music Events

**Sunday, August 25 at 6:00 pm**
Choral Evensong

**Sunday, September 29 at 6:00 pm**
Choral Evensong

**Thursday, October 31 at 6:30 pm**
Halloween Organ Concert

**Sunday, November 3 at 6:00 pm**
All Saints Evensong

**Sunday, November 10 at 6:00 pm**
Choral Masterworks “Great Hymns of Faith”

**Sunday, December 22 at 7:00 pm**
Lessons and Carols

For more information contact Daniel Segner at musicdirector@stmarkscongregational.org
St. Mark’s Choir Is Traveling to England in 2020!

I am extremely excited to announce an incredible opportunity for the St. Mark’s Adult Choir. We have accepted an offer to be the resident choir for Bristol Cathedral in England in August of 2020. The choir will sing the daily Choral Evensong services, visit historic churches, and attend services and concerts, all part of our mission to fulfill St. Mark’s mission statement, “…branching out into the world.” This tour and residency is a unique opportunity for our choir to step out of our comfort zone and improve as an ensemble. The perspective and experience gained from these types of tours inspire musicians and develop deep bonds that greatly affect the ensemble and community that we serve. It is a distinct honor that we were offered this residency and I am so proud of the Adult Choir and the community that supports them.

Growing up, I was fortunate enough to complete these types of residencies essentially every summer. By the time I was in college, I had sung services in concerts in some of the most important cathedrals in Europe. From experience, I know how important and vital these tours are for the health of an ensemble and for their growth. These opportunities are rare, but extremely formative.

Over the next year the choir is going to work hard to raise funds for this trip. The biggest opportunity is on Sunday, November 10 at 6:00 pm, which is our Choral Masterworks performance titled “Great Hymns of Faith.” This hymn festival will be a celebration of hymns and anthems—including music the choir will sing while in residence. As a bonus, the majority of the hymns will be decided by you, the congregation. You will be able to vote for your favorite hymn, or sponsor a verse, or vote a hymn off! Additionally, the Friends of Music Society is a great resource by which to support the music program at St. Mark’s.

For more information about the Society, please email Daniel Segner at musicdirector@stmarksglenellyn.org.

And please consider a wider involvement in our music program this year! Finally, the primary service the choir will sing in England is Choral Evensong. In general, from August to April, we celebrate the service of Choral Evensong on the last Sunday of the month at 6:00 pm. There are three services this fall: August 25, September 29, and November 3. We hope you will join us!
UNDER THE ALTAR by Catharine Phillips

How do you pray?
The prayer group meets the first Wednesday of every month. One month we discussed how each one of us prayed.
The answers were as varied as the people in the room.
Some prayed with particular prayers.
Some prayed while they were at stoplights.
Some prayed when an ambulance went by, for the person in the ambulance, being taken to the hospital.
Some preferred silent contemplative prayer.
I went to a Quaker college and learned the beauty of sitting with a group in silence, in prayer.
We may use a prayer book or bulletin on Sundays. A number of us remember kneeling at our bedside as children saying our bedtime prayers.
I used to pray The Lord’s Prayer with my children, as well as the prayer we used to name the Keep Watch, Dear Lord prayer (found in the evening prayer service in the Book of Common Prayer). My daughter and I now have matching tattoos on the sides of our left feet which say Shield the Joyous from that very same prayer.
How do you pray?

Contact Rev Catharine Philips at (630) 858-1020 x. 231 or at catharine@stmarksglenellyn.org, or visit her office located on the first floor directly beneath the altar.
Children’s Ministries

Kick Off Sunday is September 8th! We are having a celebration after the 10:30 am service to kick off a new year of Sunday School Classes and Children’s Programs. There will be hotdogs, face painting, music and a bubble machine! See you then!

Sunday School

On September 8th, Sunday School classes begin with the following schedule:

9:10 am        Sunday School for children ages 4 and older in Room 123
10:25 am       Sunday School for ages 3-4 in Room 113
10:25 am       Gathering and Sunday School for grades K-5 in Room 123
12:00 pm       Sunday School en Español for children and adults in the Sanctuary

All Sunday School children are brought to their parents during the worship service after class.

All children are welcome in worship and are invited to the Eucharist!

No registration necessary. If you are new, please fill out a contact/allergy form available in each classroom.

This year we will start at the beginning with Creation. Then we will explore how God uses Ordinary People to do EXTRAordinary Things! We would love to have you and your children join us for these wonderful lessons enhanced with dramatic storytelling and creative craft activities. Parents are always welcome and are encouraged to teach or assist in our classes.

Please contact Diane Hessinger, Director of Children’s Ministries at childrensministry@stmarksglenellyn.org with questions and offers to help!
Upcoming Events at St. Mark’s

Pumpkin Patch at St. Mark’s Bring the family to help unload pumpkins at 9:30 am on Saturday, October 5. Even little hands can be a big help. This is a great opportunity for your family to work together to support DuPage PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter). You can also get first choice for your own Halloween decorating!

Trick or Treat for UNICEF Children will decorate pumpkins in each classroom the morning of Sunday, October 27 to display at coffee hour after the 10:30 worship service. Each child will get a UNICEF box to take home for Halloween collecting.

Pumpkin Carols in the Pumpkin Patch Come hear members of the Anima Children’s Chorus present Halloween songs on Saturday, October 26 at 11:30 am in St. Mark’s Pumpkin Patch.

Spooky Halloween Organ Concert On Thursday, October 31 at 6:30 pm our own organist Daniel Segner will feature your favorite Spooktacular Halloween songs in concert. Come join us for some ghostly fun!