

SHARING CHRIST'S



ABUNDANT LOVE

St. LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Mark's

www.stmarksaurora.net

27 S. Edgelawn • Aurora, IL 60506-4301 • 630-897-6891

2019 Guide Book & Directory

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

27 S. Edgelawn Dr., Aurora, Illinois 60506

Telephone: 630-897-6891

Website: www.stmarksaurora.net

Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Because of this we are a faith community centered in the revealed Word of God, Jesus Christ. We believe that Christ is revealed in the stories and teachings of the New and Old Testaments of the Bible. We also confidently confess that the truth revealed in scripture is rightly proclaimed in the teachings and traditions of the Lutheran Church.

St. Mark's is a congregation that strives to share our historical faith by preserving the best of our ancient heritage and, at the same time, by exploring new, imaginative, and exciting ways to speak the language of faith to the modern world. Because of this our worship is a blend of traditional hymns and modern song, traditional liturgy and understandable language, timeless truths and creative expression.

All people, regardless of race, religious background, or life circumstance are welcome to share in our worship. And all baptized Christians are welcome to be nourished at our communion table. Communion is served as a part of each of our weekend worship services.

Our Mission at St. Mark's is to Share Christ's Abundant Love. In order to fulfill this mission, our members, through their faithful stewardship of time, talent and financial resources, provide a wide range of ministry programs. Our five priorities for mission and ministry developed through our recent visioning process are the focus for our discipleship. Although funded and staffed primarily through the generous commitment of our members, our educational and personal growth programs, youth programs, service ministries, and fellowship opportunities are available to members and non-members alike.

It is our ardent belief that in a troubled, confusing, and uncertain world, the Gospel of Jesus Christ provides the one sure and certain hope for life... now and forever. We are dedicated to sharing that hope with all who are open to receive it, and we invite you to join us in the adventure.

Paul Olson
Interim Pastor

Patrick Fish
Pastor

Note:

When your proof copy is returned and final edits have been made, the Table of Contents and the Index of Advertisers will be placed into these pages prior to printing.

The Staff of St. Mark's

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Collette Patterson, Director of the Child Development Center	630-897-6063
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Church Office open weekdays 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Weekly Worship

Saturday Evenings: 5:00 pm

Sunday Mornings: 9:00 am & 10:30 am

(Nursery Care available during Sunday services)

Who we Are

We are welcoming and accepting.

The people who gather at St. Mark's are a community of real people who want to share the abundant love of Christ. We believe all people are created in God's image and that diversity is a part of God's design for creation. We don't just say "all are welcome." We actively celebrate diversity as a reflection of our inclusive God. We offer a warm welcome to all people, of all backgrounds and life circumstances.

We are an extended family.

One of our priorities is to strengthen relationships and build community so that every person feels cared for, supported, and nurtured. We offer many opportunities to get to know people and help them grow. We share food, meet for book and Bible discussions, attend outings, study together, and serve others together.

We are people of hope.

We are always intentionally discovering God's activity in our everyday lives. We want to be attentive to the real ways that Christ offers hope, healing, and renewal. We aren't a house of perfect people. We are a community of broken people who are uplifted by love.

We are people of compassion.

We are inspired by the life of Jesus to live our faith out loud. We are never absent or indifferent to the events happening in our community. We take seriously our responsibility to be leaders and to make a difference in issues facing our neighbors. We work together to alleviate short-term struggles and to build capacity for long-term change.

We welcome you!

We are a congregation of all ages, all ethnicities, all abilities. We are always looking for ways to strengthen relationships and support family life. We also recognize God's invitation includes everyone, whether divorced, single, widowed, or LGBTQ. We offer multiple ways to grow in your faith and connect with the life of our church.

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Connect

Kid's Activities

- Sunday School
- Children's Messages
- Faith in Daily Life (FDL)
- Confirmation Class
- Wednesday Worship
- Roaring Ringers & Joyous Praise Handbell Choir
- Musicals
- Vacation Bible School
- Christmas Play

Teen Happenings

- HS Youth Group
- HS Praise Team
- Mission Trip
- Monthly Service Projects

Adult Networks

- Adult Study
- Adult Fellowship
- Baby Care Kits
- BeFrienders
- Book Club
- Congregational Support Ministries
- FDL Cooks
- GraceRoad Ministry
- Knitpickers
- Lydia's Piecemakers
- Property Team
- Sanctuary Arts & Banners
- 21 & Over
- Women's Circles

Music for Everyone

- Lion's Voice Choir
- Glory Ringers
- Youth Bell Choirs
- Music Academy
- Musical Tours

Serve

- Education
- Child Development Center
- McCleery Elementary School
- English Language Acquisition (ELA)

Housing

- The Neighbor Project
- Rebuilding Together Aurora

Food

- Equal Exchange Coffee & Chocolate
- Hesed House/PADS
- Feed My Starving Children
- ELCA World Hunger
- Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry
- Growing Hope Globally
- Breadwrappers

Global Needs

- Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)
- ELCA World Hunger

What we Believe

We believe that faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

We are always growing and changing to live out God's grace. For us, this means paying attention to where Jesus leads and being open to the Spirit's action in the world. Our faith is a dynamic experience of God that gives us the freedom to wonder and discover, and challenges us to grow and take risks.

We believe that we are called to compassion and justice.

We seek to care for each other as God in Christ cares for us, both within our congregation and in our community. We work together to serve compassionately in response to our neighbors in need. We take action to alleviate short-term struggles and to build capacity for long-term change. We are constantly giving of ourselves to participate in God's work now for healing and justice.

We believe that all people are created in God's image.

We recognize, welcome, and accept all people. We actively seek to uphold the rights and dignity of all people. We challenge barriers that exclude participation and equity in this church and in society—for women, people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, people who are marginalized or living in poverty, and the LGBTQ community. We strive for equality of every person because we believe Christ is present in every person.

We believe in forgiveness and mercy.

We understand that God's grace and love is demonstrated in Christ and that this makes a difference for all people. Freed by this grace, we choose to live faithfully and serve joyfully. As people of God, we seek to embody forgiveness in our words, actions, and relationships.

We believe the Gospel of Jesus provides hope for life, now and forever.

We create a safe space for people of all ages to discover an authentic, genuine faith. We don't have an answer for all questions, but we do trust that God is working in the mess of the world and humanity. We embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities, and all—as we seek to explore how we live out our faith.

The 2019 Church Council

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For more detailed information about our ministries please check our website www.stmarksaurora.net