



Markham Lutheran Church



Church Officers

President: Nancy Griffin

Vice President: Faith Zaborac

Elders: Sharron Davis, Ida Dickerson, and Richard Kuyper

Recording Secretary: Dona Gage

Financial Secretary: Jan Nicholas

Treasurer: Ms. Presita May

Trustees: Ron Baker, Jason Hill and Matt Phillips

Head Usher: Tracy Blankenship



Fall 2023

September 15, 2023

A Word from Pastor Larry



Dear Members and Friends of MLC,

Have you filled out your [CADDS survey](#) yet? That stands for Congregational Assessment of Development/Decline Status. As you probably already know, we're asking people to do this because the congregation is exploring participation in the LCMS re:Vitality Lutheran revitalization program. **The survey deadline is September 18th. Rev. Derek Mathers, Mission Executive and Assistant to the Bishop, English District, will be joining us for worship and fellowship on Sunday, September 24th to go over the results of the survey and talk about "next steps."**

"Vital" is the key component of "revitalization." Wherever the Word is proclaimed in its purity and God's Sacraments are rightly administered, there is spiritual vitality. Re:Vitality builds upon this spiritual vitality and guides the church in positive action for sustainable, adaptable, focused, and healthy ministry for years to come. The first step in the re:Vitality process is to submit honest feedback about our congregation from everyone involved. I want to encourage every adult (18 years and older) to fill out this simple online questionnaire. Click on the link above, or scan the QR code below or in your Sunday service bulletin.



I'm so pleased that Sharron Davis volunteered to serve as church secretary. She is a huge asset in the office. Sharron also serves as one of MLC's three elders.

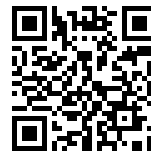
Inside this issue:

Preparing for the Future	2
Supporting Markham Lutheran Church	3
Important October Observances	3
Pastor Larry's 50th Anniversary Lunch	3
Kids' Corner	4
Fundraising Committee	4
Family Game Night and Ice Cream Social Pictures	5
Altar Flowers	5
The Year of Matthew, Year A	6
Double Good Popcorn Fund-raiser Update	6
Conservation Corner: Going Batty!	6
Confirmation	7
Weddings	7
Dolly Madison's Bars for Constitution Week	8
Pastor Larry and MLC Through the Years	8 & 9

At this time, we're looking for a new Sunday School Superintendent/head teacher and other teachers. Amanda Wiltjer, who has served faithfully and done an excellent job in that leadership position for several years, has resigned. Thank you for your ministry, Amanda. We'll begin kids' classes as soon as we have a volunteer. Class materials are available. Please speak to me if you are interested. You don't have to be an experienced teacher or a theologian, but you should like kids and be a confirmed Lutheran who knows the basic doctrines of the church. We'll talk about that! You won't be tossed into the job and left without guidance.

Yours in the love of Christ,

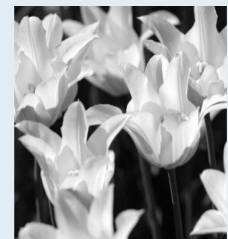
Pastor



Please scan to take the CADDS survey.

All Saints Flowers

You can purchase flowers in memory of loved ones who have completed their baptisms for the altar on November 5th. Envelopes will be available on the table in the narthex on October 1st, \$2 donation per stem due by October 29th.





MARKHAM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Fall 2023 Important Dates

**Adult Forum Meets from September—
May, 9 a.m.**

**Re: Vitality Discussion with Rev.
Mathers & Pastor's 50th Anniversary:
Sunday, September 24
Worship: 10:15 a.m.**

**Fall Congregation Meetings: Sunday,
October 1 & November 26**

**Reformation Sunday:
October 29, 10:15 a.m.**

**All Saints Sunday and Remembrance of
MLC Members who have died in 2023:
November 5, 10:15 a.m.**

**Daylight Saving Time Ends:
Sunday, November 5, 2023, 2 a.m.**



Remember the Past, Celebrate the Present, Expect the Future

Preparing for the Future

At June 4th's congregation meeting there were 31 in attendance and 24 voting members. By voice vote it was decided to make masks optional throughout the nave (the congregation had voted at a previous meeting to make them optional in most of the nave, including the balcony, and the rest of the building).

The chief topic of business was the future of Markham Lutheran Church. The options presented in the agenda prepared by the congregation president were

- Close permanently;
- Sell the building and
 - a) Rent space, or
 - b) Be an on-line congregation;
- Merge with another congregation;
- Continue as is.

17 members voted for option 4: Continue as is. The other 7 votes were distributed over the other three options, which you can read about in the minutes.

We can't and don't want to continue exactly 'as is.' There are several necessary and expensive practical things that need doing: **Must do soon** - Repair/update or replace our furnace and plumbing work/ceiling tile replacement; **Should do sooner rather than later** - Repairs to the building in general, especially the outside of the old church; **Would be very desirable/helpful** - A new sound system.

There are programs individuals would like to try, but it takes people power as well as money to make a go of them. There is music that Pastor would like to incorporate in our worship which requires instrumentalists. We miss our choir. They were small but mighty. When their last accompanist retired and moved away several years ago, the choir had to disband because there was no one to step into the role. We're blessed with both an excellent organist and keyboardist who volunteer their time, but playing for a choir requires a different skill set to that necessary for leading a liturgical worship service and accompanying congregational hymn singing.

We can spice things up, from worship to programs/activities, but each member has got to get in the "kitchen" and contribute a pinch or two of their particular spice to the mix. In fact, we're already seeing that, with Family Game Night, our successful Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser and our upcoming Community Yard Sale and Cookout. (Read more about these events further on in the newsletter.)

Please be thinking about your gifts and talents and what God might be calling you to contribute in Time, Talent, and Treasure. 17 or 24 or 31 dedicated people working full out can accomplish a lot, but the more laborers to share the work in the Lord's vineyard, the better.



October is . . .

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

[Breast Cancer Awareness](#)

[National Breast and Cervical Cancer Detection Program](#)

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

[Intimate Partner Violence](#)

[Prevent Domestic Violence in Your Community](#)

Health Literacy Month

[Health Literacy](#)

[COVID-19 Awareness](#)

10/1-10/7 is Mental Illness Awareness Week.

[Learn About Mental Health](#)

[10/1 is International Day of the Girl](#)

November is . . .

[American Diabetes Month](#)

[Lung Cancer Awareness Month](#)

11/16: Great American Smokeout

[National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month](#)

Sources: CDC, United Nations, and American Diabetes Association



Supporting Markham Lutheran

The MLC budget is tight, but offerings have been good in the past few months and we are paying our bills; however, before we do a happy dance, remember that our furnace still needs extensive work as we welcome fall 2023, with winter knocking at the door. The heating bills were ridiculously high last winter. We are also facing a potentially big plumbing job and ceiling repair downstairs. We need to get it taken care of before we can host another luncheon, spaghetti dinner, chili cook-off or rent out the social hall. There are “cosmetic” fixes that would be nice to do, too.

Members making regular offerings to the church, small or large, that we know we can count on is so important. A church, like any other organization, needs to know what they can expect to take in annually so that they can plan the yearly budget, including spending on “big ticket” items, such as salaries and benefits, insurance, replacement of worn out equipment and appliances, and general maintenance. It is the faithful generosity of the membership with both their money and time that makes it possible for a church to survive and thrive.

We appreciate your giving spirits and love for Markham Lutheran Church.

There are several ways to donate. You can:

- click on the PayPal link on the “Donate” page of the church website. It is not necessary to have a PayPal account to use the service;
- mail checks to the church, 3518 W. 160th St., Markham, IL 60428;
- put your offering envelope through the slot in the top of the "little church" bank in the narthex; remember that all loose dollar bills will go to missions, so please use an envelope to guarantee that your offering is applied to the church budget, especially if you want credit.
- **Thrivent members**, you can designate your "Choice Dollars" to Markham Lutheran Church. To do that, go to: <https://www.thrivent.com/>. Or call 1-800-847-4836 and say, "THRIVENT CHOICE." Direct your choice dollars to **Markham Lutheran Church**.

Thank you!

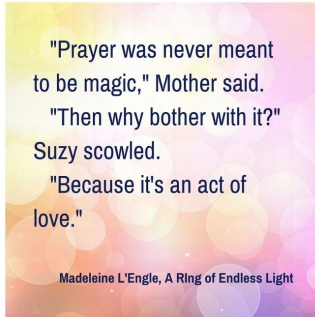
50th Anniversary Potluck for Pastor Larry

On Sunday, September 24th, after the 10:15 a.m. worship service and Rev. Mathers' presentation, we will enjoy a meal in honor of Pastor Larry where you can also make Rev. Mathers welcome and visit with him. The church will provide chicken, beverages and a cake. Members and friends are asked to bring salads and side dishes as you are able. Lunch will be served in the social hall and you can eat down there or in the room on the south side of the nave where the windows can be opened for good ventilation.

Please come and wish Pastor well.



Kids' Corner



What is the "Prayer of the Church"? The Prayer of the Church (or the "Prayers") is the time of the service when the pastor leads the congregation in a series of petitions, or prayers. Each prayer is introduced by a "bid," an invitation to the congregation to join in each of these prayers. The bid is not part of the prayer, but it gathers the congregation's thoughts together and directs them toward the specific petitions and thanksgivings that we are about to pray. Why is this so important? Do you know anyone who needs God's care? During the Prayers, we pray for all the people of our congregation, particularly those who are sick and shut-in. We also pray for our government, for all believers and many others. No wonder it is called the Prayer of the Church.

What does the word "Amen" mean? The word "amen" (pronounced AH-men) is Hebrew for "certainly" or "truly." Martin Luther said that it really means: "Yes, yes, it shall be so." You probably recognize this word from hearing it or seeing it used in prayer. Maybe you use it in your prayers every morning when you wake up and every night when you go to sleep. Why do we use it? God commands for us to pray. When we use the word "amen" at the end of our prayers, we are letting God know that we truly believe that God will hear and answer all of our prayers just as God has promised! What a great way to end a prayer. (Source: Copyright © 2017 LCMS Worship. Created by Christopher Thoma. LCMS congregations and schools have permission to reproduce "KIDS in the Divine Service" for their use.)

MLC's Community Yard Sale and Cookout

Date: October 14, 2023

Time: 11 a.m.—4 p.m.

Vendor Table and 2 chairs: \$25 (Additional tables available)

To inquire about purchasing a table for your rummage or crafts, please contact organizer

Denise Davis: denisegdavis@gmail.com.



The Fundraising Committee wants YOU! We need your good ideas and input. If you would be interested in serving, please email Denise Davis, chairperson, at denisegdavis@gmail.com. Most meetings are held on Zoom.

MLC's Family Game Night and Ice Cream Social

On Saturday, August 5, 2023 from 4 p.m.—8 p.m. MLC's social hall rang with laughter and good cheer as families and friends gathered to play an assortment of games and eat delicious food. About twenty-five people joined the fun and fellowship. Thank you Ms. Presita for leading out in this great event, Faith for planning the Ice Cream Social, and for all of you who participated.



Altar Flowers

Please let altar guild chairperson Rosemary Schneekloth know if you would like to furnish altar flowers. You can contact her at goleuddydd2011@gmail.com or give her a call at 708-596-5398. If you supply flowers, it is important that you bring them pre-arranged or get to church early enough to arrange them yourself in a church vase in the kitchen. Flowers need to be in place on the altar no later than 10 a.m. (8:45 a.m. from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.)





The Year of Matthew Year A

The Gospel According to St. Matthew

Matthew was written by an unknown Christian about 90 C.E. It was an accepted practice in ancient times to attribute authorship of a work to a respected authority. This gospel declares the advent of the Kingdom of God. (The writer says, "Kingdom of heaven," which may be because Jews did not use the name of God. God has drawn near to dwell with God's people, the church, breaking into the world in the person of Jesus, and in his authority to teach, to cast out demons, heal, and to forgive sins. (Matthew 1:23; 16:16; 28:20).

The author tells the story of the life, ministry, and suffering and death of Jesus. Matthew is structured in three parts and includes five important speeches of Jesus: The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-7:29); The missionary discourse (9:35-10:42); The discourse in parables (13:1-52); The ecclesiological (theological doctrine relating to the church) discourse (17:24-18:35); The eschatological (the part of theology concerned with death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind; i.e., the end of ordinary reality and reunion with the Divine) discourse (24:1-25:46). Matthew stresses forgiveness and the need to forgive. (Picture: St. Matthew, Book of Kells, c. 800 C.E.)



Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser Update

We were delighted that our Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser earned \$4,145.00! Markham Lutheran received half of that amount.

There were 10 pop-up stores with sales (Colosimo Crew; Tina Horlacher; Renee Moran; Bernie Postlewaite; Sharron Davis; Denise Davis; Rita Phillips; Tracy Family; Tracy Blankenship, and Pastor Larry.) We had 82 supporters from 12 different U. S. states. The top sellers were Renee Moran, \$882; Tina Horlacher, \$852; and Chelsea H (I believe that's the Colosimo Crew), \$839. Others had very good sales, too. Thank you, thank you to all who participated. **And a special thank you to Denise Davis for coming up with this great idea.**

The popcorn is delicious, but some folks who heard about the fundraiser chose to give donations to their friends who are members or directly to the church. That amounted to several hundred dollars.

Thank you to everyone who participated, whether as a vendor or by buying popcorn/donating.



Conservation Corner: Going Batty!

October is Bat Appreciation Month. Few of nature's animals are as misunderstood as bats. Though often feared and loathed as sinister creatures of the night, bats are vital to the health of our environment and our economy. They play an essential role in pest control, pollinating plants and dispersing seeds. Across all agricultural production, consumption of insect pests by bats results in a saving of more than \$3 billion per year. While many bats eat insects, others feed on nectar and provide critical pollination for a variety of plants such as peaches, cloves, bananas and agaves. In fact, bats are the sole pollinator for the agave plant. Many bats are needlessly killed because people do not understand the important role they play in a healthy ecosystem.

There are 12 different species of bats in Illinois. Interested in building a bat house? Visit the National Wildlife Federation website: <https://www.nwf.org/garden-for-wildlife/cover/build-a-bat-house>.

Reprinted from: Stallcop, L. (2022)



Illustration of the little brown bat, *Myotis lucifugus*, from *Four-footed Americans and their kin* by Mabel Osgood Wright; edited by Frank M. Chapman; illustrated by Ernest Seton Thompson, 1898

Coffee hour was reinstated when we returned to in-person worship, but it is only held when someone volunteers to host. If you would like to host coffee hour (supply goodies, prep, clean-up), please contact Sharron Davis, Church Secretary.

Confirmation



We have one confirmand already signed up and ready to start the confirmation program in fall 2023.

If you have or know of a “tween” who is or who will turn 11 years old this fall or any young person above that age who would like to be confirmed at Markham Lutheran, please contact Pastor Larry at Markhamlutheranchurch@gmail.com.

Please click on the link to learn important information about the [Confirmation Program](#).

Pictured left to right: Amanda and Elizabeth Wiltjer, Lizzie confirmed in 2021 (just back from lockdown); Joe Wiltjer and Joe and Isabella Earll, 2018; Olivia Earll and Abbey Rozema, 2016 (with Pastor, Bella and Jason); Alex Martin and Becky Maynard, 2012; Curt Meegan +, Kayla Horlacher, and Joey Ehrhart, 2011; and Kristen Horlacher, Tara Tracy, and Alex Knaack, 2009 (and Tara again)



Weddings

Our two most recent weddings at MLC were Kristin Horlacher and Jake Wiley and Kayla Horlacher and Chris Hise. Kristin and Jake committed their lives to one another in marriage on May 22, 2021 and Kayla and Chris were married on June 16, 2023. Kristin and Kayla are the daughters of Jason and Tina Horlacher and the granddaughters of Frank Zenek. Both young women (and their brother, Kyle) were baptized and confirmed at MLC by Pastor Larry. Jason and Tina were also married by Pastor.

Congratulations to Kristin and Jake are also in order: They’re expecting their first child in October!

We’re scheduling 2024 weddings now. Please note that weddings are not performed at Markham Lutheran during Lent and Pastor is not available to officiate a wedding at another venue during that time. If you’re interested in being married at Markham Lutheran, you can read more about it [here!](#)



Dolly Madison's Bars

This recipe is only named in honor of Dolly Madison, wife of the "Father" of the Constitution of the United States, James. Dolly was known as an accomplished, charming woman and wonderful hostess. This is an elegant, easy to make treat.

Ingredients:

- 1 stick butter
- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 1/2 cup crushed graham crackers
- 1 1/3 cup flaked coconut
- 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Place butter in a 9" x 13" pan and put in the oven until melted.
- Sprinkle the graham cracker crumbs evenly over the butter and press down with a fork to form a crust. Add chocolate chips over the crust and top with coconut completely.
- Pour condensed milk over the entire mixture to cover coconut.
- Bake for 25-30 minutes or until golden brown.
- Cool completely and cut into squares.



The First Amendment:
"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. . . ."

Pastor Larry and MLC through the years.



