
ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 4 • APRIL 2017

Transforming Experiences

I sat back and looked around the table in the meeting room in the basement of St. Mark's. I have had many meetings in that room in the almost 4 years that I have been here. As I looked around the table, I paused for a moment and thanked God for what has happened in the lives of the people sitting at that table. I thanked God for their transformation. I praised God for the humble honor to be a part of that transformation, to witness it. It got me thinking a lot about transformation and the experiences that transformed the individuals in the room, the experiences that have transformed me and the experiences that transform us all.

It was a gathering that included myself and Pastor Dan as well as the six individuals besides myself who have participated in the immersion learning experiences of the past 18 months. They have all been changed in deep ways by these experiences, personally and in their ministry in the church and community. Each one has gained something that transformed them. They were different people because of these experiences. Their relationship with Jesus had changed. Their understanding of ministry and church had been expanded. They were and are on fire for Jesus. What a gift. So often in the church we do things that most people do not even notice. Those that do notice might not be interested, might question, or might have a curiosity. If you have not had the opportunity to talk to any of these six individuals about their immersion experiences in Arkansas and England (made possible by grants and special gifts), please talk to them about it. It has transformed them and they are eager to share with you what God has done and is doing in their life. Sue Brown, Diann Hines, Rod Knox, Brian Moeller, Cindy Reese and Jeff Reese. All current or future council or ministry team leads. All people with diverse personalities and experiences. All transformed by these immersion experiences. I thank God for that. I thank God for their willingness to go. I thank God for all who helped make these experiences happen. In some ways, they cannot be described in words alone, as is the case with most God centered powerful experiences that transform our lives.

That got me thinking about the experiences that have been transformational in my life. There have been many, and I know that while they have had a tremendous impact on my faith as well as my ministry, experiences alone cannot build my faith. The five most impactful experiences on my personal faith have been: my conversion experience, receiving a call to ministry, the faith transformation that occurred during college, my first Holy Spirit retreat as a part of ALPHA and my trips to Israel. Some of these were one time experiences, others over a period of time. Some occurred in one moment, others over a period of days. In each case, I can remember specific moments as if they happened 2 minutes ago. I can see where I am sitting, what I am feeling, what I am thinking. I can remember how present God was in those moments and experiences. They have shaped me in tremendous ways and I do not know what I would do or who I would be without them. As I reflected further, I also began thinking about the experiences that have been most transformational for my ministry, for my role as a pastor and the ministry God calls me to in general. The five most impactful experiences (in order) for my ministry have been my doctoral work, the many incredible mentors God has given me, the immersion experiences of the past 18 months, all my ministry experience, and finally my seminary education. Five very diverse experiences, all powerful in unique ways. Each of them has changed me and had a significant impact on my ministry. I could not imagine doing ministry or being a pastor in any meaningful, consistent way without these experiences. Again, some were one time events, some were relationships, some occurred over a long period of time. Each of them involved learning. Each of them involved experiencing God.

What have been the experiences that God has given you that have transformed your faith? What are the experiences that God has given you that have shaped how God has and is using you to minister to others? Luther reminds us that as the Priesthood of all Believers we are all called to ministry. What experiences is God calling you to in the future that will continue to bring transformation to your life and ministry in the name of Jesus? Today I praise God for all the ways in which we have all grown and had our faith transformed; in the ordinary and mundane, over decades and in these powerful experiences that change us forever.

Blessings,

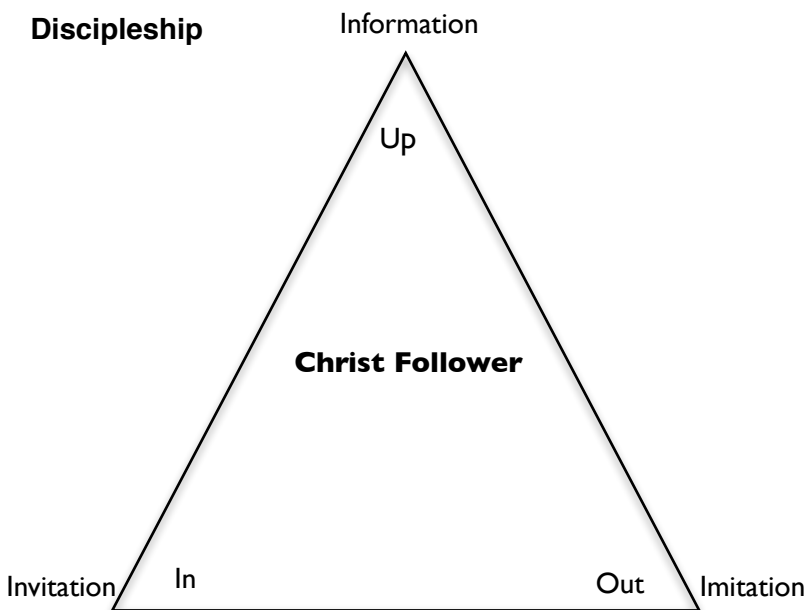
Pastor Marcus

St. Mark's Culture & DNA

This section of our newsletter is meant to be a source of education to help us better understand the culture, DNA, structure, vocabulary, and ministry of St. Mark's. We hope you find this encouraging, informative, challenging, and inspiring. It is critical as we develop a Kingdom Culture we have the same understanding, language and information, so we do encourage you to read this section each month.

Our DNA:

While we are all unique and have our own unique DNA, we also as a church have a shared and unique DNA. We utilize the shape of a triangle to explain much of our ministry, vision and structure. This is rooted in the first triangle that represents the three dimensions or focuses of Jesus' life and ministry. Jesus lived his intentional life on earth through three relationships: up, in and out.



Discipleship: The Triangle helps us to understand discipleship based on how Jesus lived his life, up-in-out with the Father, the disciples and the world. As Christ-followers we are called to become disciples. What does discipleship look like? First, it involves an *invitation in* to relationship with Jesus and to a journey of being a disciple, a follower of Jesus. Secondly it involves a journey *up gaining information* and knowledge about Jesus. We cannot follow Jesus if we do not learn about Jesus. That said, knowing about Jesus alone does not make a disciple. Finally a disciple takes the journey *out into imitation* of Jesus.

Our Vocabulary:

Most churches (along with other organizations) do not realize that the language and the vocabulary of the organization have great significance to the organization. One of the cornerstones of any culture is language or vocabulary. This month our vocabulary word is *Disciple*.

Missional Community: a group of people, about the size of an extended family, who are united, through Christian community around a common service and witness to a particular neighborhood or network of relationships. With a strong value on life together, the community has the intention of seeing those the group impacts choose to follow Jesus, through this more flexible expression of the church. The group ultimately makes disciples and multiplies into further communities. They gather formally and informally numerous times a month. Similar to a house church, church within a church. This is the primary church family for those connected to a missional community as they do life together. We will be adding missional communities in the years to come, though we may call them something slightly different here at St. Mark's.

Prayer of the Month:

Come Holy Spirit. Stir revival in my heart. Stir revival in my family. Stir revival in my church. Stir revival in the world. May it begin with me.

Culture Question of the Month:

What is God calling you to let go of as we approach Easter and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, that Jesus has made all things new. What needs to be made new in you?

Lent, Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Below is the full schedule for Lent, Holy Week & Easter. We hope that you are able to join us!

Wednesdays, 8-8:30am	Open prayer time in Prayer Chapel
Wednesdays, 8:30-9am	Prayer Service
Wednesdays March 8-April 5, 6-7pm	Lenten Soup Suppers
Wednesdays March 8-April 5, 7pm	Lenten Service
Sundays March 5-June 4, 11am-12pm	Spring ALPHA Course (does not meet 4/16)
Thursday April 13, 7pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday April 14, 7pm	Community Good Friday Service (St. Mark's hosts)
Saturday April 15, 9am-6pm	Prayer Vigil
Saturday April 15, 10am-2pm	Easter Fun Day
Sunday April 16, 8am	Easter Service (coffee & light snacks after)
Sunday April 16, 10am	Easter Service (coffee & light snacks before)
Sunday April 23, 5pm	Sunday Night Modern Worship Gathering begins

Notes

Dear Members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your continued support of RSVP and the Community Center of Caring Food Pantry. We appreciate your monthly collections.

Shirley Johnson, Program Coordinator

Save The Date

April 15	Easter Fun Day
April 16	Easter!
April 22-23	Youth Group Retreat
May 7	New Member Class
June TBD	Community Cookout
July 16-19 (evening)	Vacation Bible School
August 10 & 11	Willow Creek Leadership Summit
August 20	Church Picnic
September 9	Gratitude, Cornerstone of Generosity Seminar w/Mark VanderTuig, head of the LCMC
September 10	Mark VanderTuig, head of the LCMC preaching
September 17	Faith in Action Sunday
September 25-30	Fair Parking

Dates

April Birthdays

2 — Jerry Sigler
4 — Elle Aldrich, Sarah Hathaway
5 — John Daniel, Joyce Krumma
6 — Jessica Carlson
8 — Riann Myers
11 — Betty Saunders
12 — Rod Knox, Ashlyn Reese
14 — Lorrie Daniel

April Birthdays Cont.

18 — Whitney Brown
20 — Russ Hoff
21 — Trace
Meschberger
24 — LeAnn Hillabrand
27 — Jarrett Reese
29 — Brenda Myers
30 — Rex Bergdall

April Anniversaries

26 — Wayne & Sue Burdick
30 — Dave & Diann Hines

Prayer Requests

Church Members

Joyce Krumma and Family in memory of Arnold Krumma, Evelyn Jungk, Barry Trenary, Regina Smith, The Kaduk Family, Ruby Tuttle, Sue Brown, Joyce Springer, and Kathleen Lutz, our missionary in Kenya

Friends of St. Marks

Bonnie Danenburg (friend of the Foell's, recovering from heart surgery) ... Nancy Pearl (Mandy Kintz's mother) ... Levi Bracht (Laura Deckard's 6-year-old great nephew) ... Leona Bracht (Laura Deckard's mom) ... Jake Jacobsen (Mary Heyse's daughter-in-law's father) ... Olivia Gadabu (friend of Peggy Badenhop) ... Teri Fritch (friend of Jane Foell & Peggy Badenhop) ... Leonard Hines (Mary Heyse's brother-in-law) ... Diana Raney (Cindy Warstler's sister) ... Mungumio Vine (Kristen Konieczki's sponsored child) ... Bill Gulish (co-worker of Rex & Vicki Bergdall)... Judith Berry (Sue Brown's sister) ... Bob Friend (cousin of Marge Norris & Marilyn Myers) ... Rosie Reade (friend of Marilyn Myers)

Shut-ins and Homebound Members

Alden Swenson, Joanne Ruger, Mildred Kruse, Marilyn Imus, Dolores Souder, Thelma Myers, Richard Bowerman, Eleanor Thomas, Joyce Bidlack, Paul Lutz, Betty Saunders, Sandy Muckenfuss, Ella McClellan, Maxine Mason

**Prayer Requests will be kept on this list for two months, unless otherwise requested. If you would like to add a new request or update us on the status of a person currently on the list, please contact Kathy Fribley in the office.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lent Dinner & Worship

April 5th is the last Lent Supper at 6:00 p.m. and Lent Service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Worship Assistants

We need many volunteers to make our two Easter services happen. If you are able to help in any way (usher, greet, etc.), there is a sign-up sheet in Kraus Korner or please let the church office know.

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday

We will be looking for people to help with both services. There is a sign-up sheet in Kraus Korner or contact the church office if you can help in any way (usher, greeter, etc).

Easter Family Fun Day

On Saturday, April 15th, from 10am-2pm, St. Mark's is hosting an Easter Fun Day in the back parking lot! There will be inflatables, games, an egg hunt, face painting, and free food! It's going to be a fun day!!! In Kraus Korner we have postcards to pass out to friends, neighbors, and family. There is also a sign up sheet if you would like to volunteer!

Prayer Vigil

We will be having a prayer vigil on Easter Saturday, April 15 from 9am-6pm. We are asking members of the congregation to come and pray in the chapel in 30 minute slots. We will be praying for our church, our community, as well as other personal and communal needs. Suggestions will be provided. Please sign up for some slots!

Librarian Needed

We are looking for someone to oversee and manage our library. It is a fairly small commitment, but important to maintaining our library. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

Weekly Bible Studies

Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor's Bible Study continues every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Bring your Bible and join us!

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

The Adult Bible Study will be meeting on April 9 and 23 after worship in the council room. All are welcome to come! We are starting a study on prayer. This is a great time for our church family to learn more about prayer. Does it make any difference? Does prayer change us or God or both? We will have a DVD to watch, discussion, Bible exploration, sharing, and group prayer. Please join in!

Strategic Plan Update

Our 2017-2021 Strategic Plan is complete. To get a print or electronic copy of either the full strategic plan or the summary version, contact the church office. In case you have missed information on our Strategic Plan or did not make our Annual Meeting, we wanted to share our big, long-term specific vision for St. Mark's with you. Our specific vision is to be a church that revitalizes churches in Northeast Indiana. We want to work with and lead churches to vitality and health. The goal is to help churches be revitalized spiritually and in mission and vision. We want to equip, train, and educate current and future leaders of churches that are in need of and desire revitalization in Jesus Christ, helping all churches become New Testament churches in our society today.

Celebrate Recovery

St. Mark's has partnered with Celebrate Recovery--a place for people walking through hurts, hang-ups, and habits--at the Cupbearer Cafe. There is a community meal at 5:30 p.m. every Thursday with the Celebrate Recovery large group meeting at 6:30 p.m. If you would like more information about CR or are interested in attending, please see a pastor.

5pm Gathering

The 5pm Gathering begins on Sunday, April 23. This is our new Modern Worship Experience. All are welcome to attend. Our hope is to reach the unchurched, those who do not know Jesus and to better reach those under 50 that we are currently not reaching. Even though that is the case, people of all ages may enjoy the service, while others may find that our Sunday morning service is more fitting for them. Please pray for this new ministry, consider serving and invite those without a church home to join us on Sunday nights!

We certainly covet your prayers and welcome those at St. Mark's to consider serving for this service. It would be a great way to help reach people with little time. There are many needs like tech, prayer team, serving communion, nursery, children's church, music team and much more. If you are interested in serving, please contact Jon Hunter at the church office or Jon@stmarksauburn.org. If you have general questions about the service see Pastor Marcus, Pastor Dan or Jon.

Service Project

In April we will be collecting soups and crackers.

New Members

Interested in becoming a member at St. Mark's? We welcome anyone to worship with us anytime and we also welcome anyone who is interested to become a member at St. Mark's. To become a member at St. Mark's we ask you to attend our New Member Gathering. The next New Member Gathering is Sunday, May 7, after worship. Members will be received in worship the following Sunday. If you are interested in membership, please let the church office know whether or not you can attend the New Member Gathering on May 7.

Building Projects Update

We have been working on completing a variety of building projects. You will notice some changes and if you have questions do not hesitate to ask. Many of these projects are completed because of specific ministry needs. As we complete them we need to consider all the various past, present, and future uses of our

facilities and all the ministries of St. Mark's. We also have to weigh funding, most of which comes from grants and the building fund. We have encountered some challenges as we complete these projects as many projects of the past were done poorly, cheaply, or short cuts may have been taken. This along with outdated items can be a challenge. We continue to work on the video system upgrade, some items for the 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship Experience) and will be working on a new entry system for greater security for the church and preschool as well as some work on the classrooms this summer for the preschool.

Sermon Series

For Lent, we continue two great sermon series. On Wednesday nights we have been preaching through the Stations of the Cross. On Sunday morning we have preaching through the different streams of the spiritual life that have shaped Christianity and our various Christian faith tradition. After Easter, we will have a testimony Sunday then a short 4 week series on our Mission and Vision. If you have to miss a Sunday or Wednesday, you can always watch or listen online to the sermon or request a DVD of the service from the church office.

Mark VanderTuig

Mark VanderTuig, National Coordinator for the LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) of which we are a part of is coming to St. Mark's in September! Mark is the head of the LCMC and a great leader and pastor. Mark will be leading a seminar on September 9 called Gratitude, Cornerstone of Generosity and we hope you will all join us. He will also be preaching in service on September 10.

Faith in Action

We have set the date for Faith in Action 2017! Sunday, September 17 will be our Faith in Action Sunday. We will have an early, short service and then go out and serve. We will be partnering with the Methodist Church again as well as inviting other churches to join us. Stay tuned for more information. We will need lots of help, so please let Pastor Dan or Marge Norris know if you can help.

Have You Considered?

Have you considered setting up automatic giving. We now have the option and opportunity to engage in automatic giving through an arrangement by Thrivent. Individuals and families can now have one time or ongoing donations set up from their checking or savings account as well as credit card. Donations can be specified to a number of categories in addition to giving to the general fund. Individuals can now set up their giving for the year and it will happen automatically, no checks, envelopes, or having to remember when you miss church! We are encouraging members to sign up for this program as it will help us to have an accurate and consistent pattern of giving for our budget. We encourage you to use your checking or savings account as we do incur a charge on the credit card transactions, though there is an option for you to help cover that fee. *We do not incur regular charges on giving through your checking account.* You can make a one-time donation or set up your regular giving by clicking the link at the bottom of our website. If you prefer to do a paper form, please contact the church office. You will be able to change or modify your ongoing giving as needed either online or through the church office. This program has been very beneficial to Lutheran congregations across the country. We have many families participating in this program and it is very beneficial to St. Mark's as it allows for a more clear, consistent, and predictable income. We urge everyone to consider participating.

Chapel Use

The chapel is now open for private prayer, reflection, and time with God during church office hours. You may also use it anytime the church building is open. Anyone in the community is welcome to use this space as well. We have a time for drop in prayer and communion open for the community every Wednesday from 8-8:30am. We have a simple prayer service in the chapel every Wednesday from 8:30-9am as well. We hope you can join us and spread the word!

Upcoming Sermons

Below are the topics for our upcoming sermons. We encourage you to read the passage for each week the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday before worship and the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday after worship as a way to further prepare for, reflect on, and listen to God as we look to the Bible together.

Stations of the Cross [Lent]

- March 29 — Station 5: Jesus Falls 2nd Time
[Mark 15:16-22]
- April 5 — Station 6: Jesus Nailed to Cross
[Luke 23:33-43]
- April 13 — Maundy Thursday, Station 7:
Jesus Laid in Tomb
[Mark 15:46-47]

6 Streams of Faith [Sunday's in Lent]

- April 2 — Evangelical: Word Centered
[Luke 2:22-40]
- April 9 — Incarnational: Sacramental
[John 1:1-14]

Good Friday

- April 14 — Jesus in Suffering
[Various]

Easter

- April 16 — Perspective
[Colossians 3:1-4]

Testimonies

- April 23 — Stories of God's People
[Mark 10:35-45]

Mission Statement

- April 30 — Transformation
[Romans 12:1-8]

Vision Part 1

- May 7 — Be the Church
[Matthew 28:16-20]
-

VBS - Save the Date

Save the date for our summer VBS, July 16-19. Our theme this summer is Mountains! Look for volunteer sign up sheets in Kraus Korner!

The Financial Joys & Challenges

We continue to remain financially healthy as a church. As is always the case, our financial situation brings with it some joys and some challenges. Here are the current joys and challenges:

Joys

- God is faithful and we have a generous congregation.
- We have received over \$288,000 in grants in the past 4 years.
- We have been blessed by wonderful special giving.
- All of our new initiatives, building projects and programs have been funded by sources other than the budget, except part of Pastor Dan's position.
- We have continued to strengthen our already strong financial policies, systems and procedures.
- We have found more cost effective ways to do many things and have been through every line item of the budget to look at cost effectiveness.

Challenges

- We have had an extraordinary number of members pass away in the past four years.
 - We need more participation in making an annual pledge and automatic giving.
 - We need to grow our general giving, giving to the general fund/budget as we are not meeting that (salaries, utilities, maintenance of church, some programs).
-

Easter

We would like to have baked goods to share for between the services on Easter. Anyone who would like to bring something would be greatly appreciated.



Loft Dates

April 9th — Loft Gathering
April 23rd — Loft Retreat

Loft Schedule Update

With the launch of the 5pm Gathering, we're going to be switching up the times for the Loft. We will now be starting the Loft after the end of the 5pm Gathering (approx. 6:15pm). We will still be ending the Loft at the same time- 7:30pm.

April Challenge

We are starting another Gathering on April 23rd, at 5pm. Our challenge this month is to, first, spend time in prayer that God would put somebody on your heart to invite to come. Second, take a week or two to pray for their hearts to be open to coming. Invite them to come with you to the 5pm Gathering.

Summer Camp Info

If you are interested in your children going to the Lutheran Summer Camps, we have brochures in Kraus Korner. St. Mark's will pay half of the registration fee for the camps! See Dan if you have any questions!

St. Mark's Financial Update

Each month we will provide a budget snapshot and then at least once a quarter we will provide an overall picture of the finances of St. Mark's. Due to timing of bank statements, reconciliation and council meeting schedules, we will always be presenting information from the end of the month occurring two months before the date of the newsletter.

Budget Snapshot

General Fund/Budget

Through February 28, 2017

	Income	Expense	Net
Budget	\$40,833.34	\$43,464.42	\$-2,631.08
Actual	\$44,495.14	\$42,243.87	\$2,251.27
Difference	\$3,661.80	\$1,220.55	_____

Financial Picture

Through February 28, 2017

Assets

Total of all Accounts \$489,520.45

Restricted/Designated Accounts

Building Fund	\$1,370.90
Memorial Fund	\$9,988.87
Youth Group	\$8,487.14
Funding Our Future (\$85,000 earmarked)	\$87,370.77
Preschool	\$46,607.43
Grants	\$13,831.75
Endowment Fund (investment held at Lutheran Foundation)	\$166,066.55
Funding Our Future Reserve (investment held at Lutheran Foundation)	\$103,517.95
Other Restricted Designated Accounts	\$20,357.11
<i>Total Restricted/Designated Accounts</i>	<i>\$457,598.03</i>

General Fund (Budget & Undesignated Savings) \$29,175.66

Other

Bills to be Paid/Accounts Payable \$2,420.51

Total **\$0**

Questions? Contact a Council Member or Pastor.

NALC Update

Youth Ministry Training

The NALC will offer a youth ministry training event August 7-8 at the beginning of our annual Lutheran Week. Gary and Laurie Pecuch, the NALC's coaches for youth and family ministry, will lead the event for congregational youth ministry leaders at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville, TN.

Multiple studies have documented the overall ineffectiveness of youth ministry in the Christian churches of North America. Most youth stop participating in their congregations after confirmation and high school. The percentage of adults who return to participate in any congregation as adults is very small, even after they marry and have children.

By and large, the Christian church in North America is not passing on faith in Jesus Christ to the next generation. Little wonder then that the percentage of people active in a Christian congregation steadily decreases, and almost all denominations are steadily declining. Even those that appear not to be in decline are declining in proportion to the steady growth of the population.

Many parents and grandparents fault their pastors and congregations for failing to pass on the faith of the Church to their children and grandchildren. No doubt as pastors and as congregations, there is always room for improvement in our ministry to children, youth and families. However, passing on the faith begins within the family, in the parent-child and grandparent-grandchild relationships, not to mention aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. When parents begin discipling their children at home, the ability of their congregation to make disciples, both within the congregation and within the community, is greatly enhanced.

Gary and Laurie will train youth ministry leaders in an intergenerational and family-oriented approach that supports faith formation, building faith skills and developing spiritual disciplines in the lives of children and youth.

The other events in the NALC's 2017 Lutheran Week include the Braaten-Benne Theological Lectures on August 8-9 and the Women of the NALC meeting on August 8. The NALC's Annual Convocation and Mission Festival will be August 9-11. Look for more information and registration materials for Lutheran Week events on thenalc.org.

[Article by Mark Chavez, General Secretary of the NALC]

Worship Assistant Schedule: April 2, 2017-June 4, 2017

	April 2	April 5- Wed	April 9	April 13- Maundy Thur.	April 14- Good Friday	April 16 Easter 8am	April 16 Easter 10am
Preaching	Pastor Dan	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Dan	Jon Hunter	TBD	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus
Assist. Minister	David Hines	Jane Foell	Kristen K.		TBD	Pastor Dan	Pastor Dan
Children's Time	Jon Hunter	N/A	Pastor Marcus	N/A	N/A	Pastor Dan	Pastor Dan
Call to worship	Jon Hunter	N/A	Pastor Dan		TBD		
Acolyte	Riann Myers	Micah Carlson	Ashlyn R.		N/A		
Lector	Jayne M.	John Foell	Jerry Springer	Jane Foell	TBD	Marge Norris	
Communion Asst.	Rex & Vicki	Rod & Diann	Peggy & Janice	Diann H., Marge N.		Rex & Vicki B.	John & Jane Foell
Ushers	Jerry, Art, Stan, Mason	Russ & Janice	Jerry, Rex, Vicki, Mason		Tina M.	Janice T.,	
Greeters	Don & Connie Myers	Heyse	Hathaway		Len M. & Carolyn O.		
Nursery	Aldrich	N/A	Jessica & Kaitlyn	N/A	N/A		Jessica
Sunday School	Kathy G.	N/A		N/A	N/A		
Tech	Justin & Barry	Barry	Jeff & Connie			Barry	Barry
Coffee	Heyse	N/A	Cindy R. & Cindy W.	N/A	N/A		
Altar	Jayne M.	Peggy	Judy Bozarth	Judy B	N/A	Judy B.	
Other							



Montessori Moment

Have you ever wondered what are some of the qualities of a Montessori classroom? Here are a few of the important parts of our method.

Respect: In Montessori there is deep respect for the child, the child's choices, independence and the child's abilities. You can see this in how we speak to the child and how we lead the child.

Practical: There is a heavy emphasis in the classroom on practical activities. You will find cooking, cleaning, sewing, pouring and washing activities in the classroom.

Peace: Montessori fosters peace in our classrooms with thoughtful discussions and activities that help children express feelings and resolve conflicts.

Freedom: Montessori is about freedom WITHIN limits. A child is given freedom in their classroom environment. This includes the freedom to move about the classroom and choose their own work. The choice to work with a friend or work alone. The Teacher in the classroom still maintains order if the child's choices are not good choices.

Montessori is an amazing method to observe. I encourage you to stop in and just observe our classroom and see what exciting things we do.

Events

Registration for the 2017-2018 school year began on March 1st. If you know of any families that are looking for a preschool, please have them call the office at 260-925-3882 or contact Linda at linda@stmarksauburn.org to schedule a tour.

We also have a few yard signs available. If you would be interested in putting one in your yard to help promote the school, please let Kathy know and I will make sure to leave one in the church office for you.

A new Scholastics book wish list is hanging in Krause Korner.

Help Needed

Thank you to everyone that has donated household items, books, puzzles and made activities for us!

We can always use donations of books, wooden puzzles, blocks, baskets to hold our work, and scrap material for sewing. We truly appreciate all of your support!

APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice	27 Pastor Dan's Day Off	28 5:30 PM Finance Team Meeting	29 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 6:00 PM Lent Supper 7:00 PM Lent Service 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 9:00 AM Pastors Meeting 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM ALPHA	31 Pastor Marcus' Day Off	1 April Fool's Day
2 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA 11:00 AM Confirmation 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice	3 Pastor Dan's Day Off	4	5 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors & Kathy Meeting 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 6:00 PM Lent Supper 7:00 PM Lent Service 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting & Dinner; host Knox 7:00 PM ALPHA	7 Pastor Marcus' Day Off	8
9 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA 11:00 AM Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 6:00 PM The Loft Gathering	10 Pastor Dan's Day Off	11	12 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors Meeting 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 4:30 PM Preschool Board Meeting 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	14 Pastor Marcus' Day Off 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	15 9:00 AM Prayer Vigil 10:00 AM Easter Fun Day
16 Easter 8:00 AM Easter Service 10:00 AM Easter Service 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice	17 Pastor Dan's Day Off	18	19 7:30 AM All Staff Meeting 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors Meeting 10:30 AM Bible Study at Belz 12:00 PM Genealogy Group 12:00 PM Senior's Lunch 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 Germany Trip 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM ALPHA	21 Germany Trip Pastor Marcus' Day Off	22 Earth Day Germany Trip Youth Group Retreat
23 Germany Trip Youth Group Retreat 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA 11:00 AM Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)	24 Germany Trip Pastor Dan's Day Off	25 Germany Trip	26 Germany Trip 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors Meeting 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 Germany Trip 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM ALPHA	28 Germany Trip Pastor Marcus' Day Off	29 Germany Trip
30 Germany Trip 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA 11:00 AM Confirmation 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship) 6:00 PM The Loft Gathering	1 Germany Trip Pastor Dan's Day Off	2 Germany Trip	3 Germany Trip 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 Germany Trip 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM ALPHA 7:00 PM Executive Council Meeting	5 Pastor Marcus' Day Off	6

Worship Assistant Schedule: April 2, 2017-June 4, 2017

	April 23	April 30	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28	June 4
Preaching	Pastor Dan	Jon Hunter	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Dan	TBD	Pastor Marcus
Assist. Minister	Dave Hines	Diann Hines	Mason Reese	Pastor Dan	John Foell	Brian Moeller	Jane Foell
Children's Time	Jessica Carlson	Pastor Dan	Jon Hunter	Pastor Marcus	Kristen	Rod Knox	Jessica
Call to worship	N/A	Pastor Dan	Jon Hunter	N/A	Jon Hunter	N/A	Pastor Dan
Acolyte	Abby C.	Morgann L.	Camden K.	Tyler Wilhelm	John M.	Alex K.	Riann Myers
Lector	Peggy B.	Marilyn Myers	John Foell	Mary Heyse	Jane Foell	Lora K.	Kathy Garrison
Communion Asst.	Glenn & Rod	Foells	Peggy B. & Pastor Dan	Connie M. & Janice T.	Diann & Vicki B.	Foell	Peggy & Glenn
Ushers	Rex, Jerry, Dave & Jayne M.	Rex, Jerry, Tina M., Tony K.	Rex, Jerry, Art B., Stan B.	Rex, Jerry, Tina M., Rod K.	Rex, Jerry, Glenn M., Tony K.	Rex, Jerry, Russ H., Carolyn O.	Rex, Jerry, Dave & Jayne M.
Greeters	Heyse	Bozarth	McClellan	Cindy & John	Tilghman	Linda W. & Tina	Trenary
Nursery	Mandy Kintz	Jessica & Judy	Laker	Jessica & Kaitlyn	Carol & Linda	Mandy Kintz	Aldrich
Sunday School							
Tech	Barry & Jarrett	Connie & Justin	Jarrett & Micah	Barry & Alex	Jeff & Connie	Justin & Alex	Barry & Micah
Coffee							
Altar	Peggy B.		Jane Foell	Jane Foell	Jane Foell	Jane Foell	Diann Hines
Other							

Servant Spotlight: Mason Reese

Family Information

I am the oldest son of Jeff and Cindy Reese. I have one brother, Jarrett, who is currently a senior in high school and one sister, Ashlyn, who is currently a freshman in high school.

School and Work

I am currently a sophomore at IPFW with a major in Business Administration. This summer I will be working for Metal Technologies.

Hobbies and Interest

Some of the hobbies that I enjoy are water sports, playing basketball, golfing, going to Colts games and my interests include World War II, the Stock Market, and football.

Volunteer

I help out in the tech booth recording services and running the screen. I am also an usher and I help out with Sunday school when my mom teaches the lesson. I am also going to start volunteering as an assisting minister in May.

The Alpha Update- By Jonathan Hunter

What is Alpha? Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore the Christian faith and the meaning of life. Alpha is an effective tool that helps build relationships with all types of people and presents the Good News in a relaxed environment. Over 27 million people in the world have tried Alpha!

Alpha at St. Marks- Currently we are going through Alpha as a whole church. In the autumn we will launch a whole church Alpha. We have a vision of inviting anyone who is not connected to a church to come and experience Alpha. You could invite a friend, a family member, or someone you see frequently around town. Who are you thinking of bringing? It's good to write those names down and start praying for people in your social network.

Current Alphas and Alphas coming soon!

Sunday Alphas- On Sundays there is one group just finishing the Alpha course, while another group is just in the first few sessions. Also our Thursday evening Alpha is right in the middle of the course.

For more information about Alpha check out alpha.org.

Focus on Prayer

Perhaps our most consistent learning over the past couple years as we have hosted and gone to seminars, worked with other leaders and consultants and participated in immersion experiences is a need to have a great emphasis as individuals and as a church on prayer. This may seem simple or obvious, but it is in fact far more important and profound than we realized. We simply do not pray intentionally enough for our church and our community. Here are the ways for you to join us as we focus more on prayer:

1. Pray for our church at least 5 minutes a day for Lent (and beyond).
2. Sign up for a 30 minute time slot for the Prayer Vigil on April 15.
3. Attend the prayer service in the chapel every Wednesday from 8:30-9am.
4. Participate in the Sunday morning adult Bible study on Prayer.
5. Join drop in prayer and communion open for the community every Wednesday from 8-8:30am.
6. Read Prayer by Richard Foster.
7. Participate in our 40 days of prayer focus this fall (more information coming soon).

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

211 West Ninth Street

Auburn, IN 46706

Web Page: www.stmarksauburn.org

Pastor Marcus: pastormarcus@stmarksauburn.org

Pastor Dan: pastordan@stmarksauburn.org

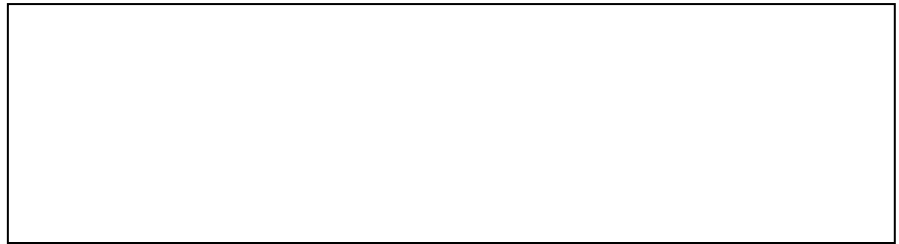
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Senior Pastor

Family & Outreach Pastor

Pastoral Intern

Director of Music

Church Secretary

Preschool Director