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# ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

## VOLUME 21 ISSUE 8 • AUGUST 2017

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### Reflections from my Wheelchair

July 1 marked four years since I started here at St. Mark's. As you may already know, I tend to be quite reflective, especially for an extrovert. As I look back at the past four years, a lot has changed. I have seen tremendous change in myself personally, my faith, my family and my identity and work as a pastor. Much has changed here at St. Mark's as well. Some of the change has been small and other change much more significant. Some of the change has been easy, and some of the change has been difficult. Some change has gone smoothly, and other change has been quite bumpy. I look back at the change and the results of that change with great joy, in the midst of the imperfection in my and our attempt to lead that change.

In the past four years, we have seen new members join, over 80% of whom were under 50. In the last four years, we have seen family members move on to a different church family, whether due to moving, disagreement with vision or change or not wanting to embrace a Biblical approach to conflict. We have also had an extraordinary number of members pass away in the last four years, even for our age and especially for our size. In that time, two dozen *active* members have passed away, a rate of one every other month. We have also seen around a dozen inactive members pass away. Our death rate is in fact the primary reason for some of our financial challenges. We also have grown as a church spiritually, with so many of our members and regular attenders deepening their faith. We have seen many changes to our mission, vision, focus and culture. We have become more oriented around outreach, service and reaching people for Jesus. We have successfully and unsuccessfully tried many new things and enlarged the scope of our ministry. It has been a whirlwind of a four years.

In the midst of the bumps, bruises, mistakes and challenges I am proud of what we have done and who we have become together. Even in the midst of the challenges we are facing and will face, I am excited and optimistic about our future as we continue to live into our identity, mission and vision. I am looking forward to what the Holy Spirit will do as we all deepen our faith and as we become more like the church that God instituted in the book of Acts. I am thrilled to think about what it will mean for us, our community and the Kingdom of God as we become more like the people and the church God has called us to be. I am reminded of the power of hope that comes from the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

While much has changed, there are many things that have remained the same the past four years. In fact, if I am honest, there are somethings that are true today that were true four years ago, six years ago, ten years ago and even twenty years ago. One of these things has remained on my heart and mind the last couple weeks as I have reflected on the past four years. Given that I spent my fourth anniversary at St. Mark's laid up due to knee surgery, it was quite easy to think deeply about the last four years and the next five, ten and hopefully forty years and beyond for St. Mark's.

At the core of this reflection is this one truth: there are three possible outcomes for the future of St. Mark's. This is true now, was true four years ago, six years ago, ten years ago and twenty years ago. These three outcomes are pretty plain and simple and not unique to St. Mark's. The first outcome is that we will focus on status quo and maintenance, dying quietly together when either the people or the money run out. This is the destination of many mainline churches in the US, with their estimated date of death hovering around 2039. The second outcome is that we will focus on being the church, being on mission and focused on reaching people. In doing so, we will achieve not only success for the Kingdom, but our church will continue to live and even strive in the future. We will do what it takes to reach people without compromising theology or identity and it will work. The third outcome is identical to the second, with the only difference being that our efforts do not work and will die as a church having tried, going out with a true fight.

Those in short were the three outcomes for St. Mark's six years ago when the death of the church was a very real outcome. Those were the three outcomes for St. Mark's when I arrived four years ago and though we have made progress, those are the three outcomes for St. Mark's today. Our yearly, monthly, weekly and daily choice remains the same. Are we going to be a church or a chapel? Are we going to seek to be the church, making disciples, living in and on mission and reaching people or will we chose to be a chapel. To choose to be a chapel means we focus on our own needs, wants and preferences, seeking to take care of each other until there is no more. We have much to be thankful about and excited for, yet in the midst of that, we still have a choice to make as individuals and as a church. As for me, I continue to to choose the way of Jesus and the way of the scriptures.

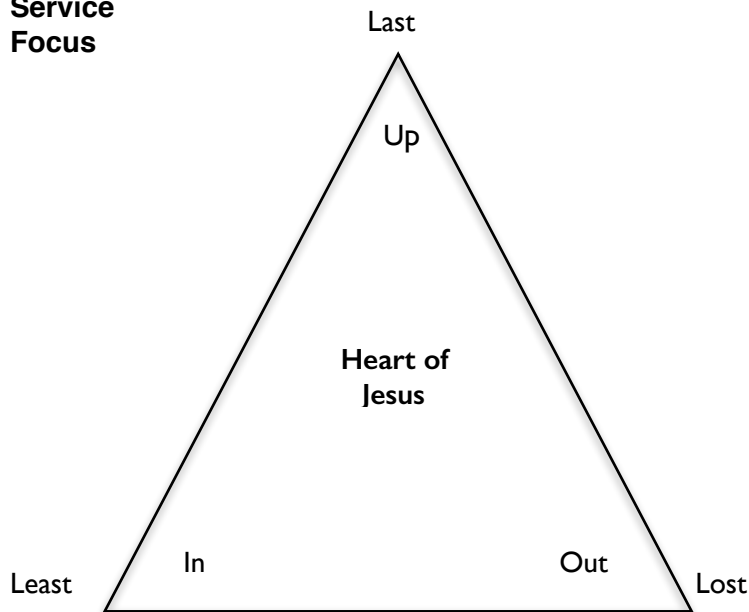
~Pastor Marcus

# St. Mark's Culture & DNA

## 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.

### Service Focus



**Service Focus:** The triangle helps us to understand the focus of the ministry of our church based on how Jesus lived his life, up-in-out with the Father, the disciples and the world. As a church, we have recognized our need to focus on service. For many years, like most other churches in our country, we have not done a good job at serving the community and world around us. Those days are over. As a church we have identified three areas of focus for our service, consistent with the life of Jesus and and the Scriptures. The first is reaching *in* to those who are seen as the 'least of these' in our church, community & world. The second is to reach *up* to those who are often seen as the last to be considered in our culture. Finally, we reach *out* to those who are lost and do not know 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 words are *apprentice and equip*.

**Apprentice:** one who is learning through training, modeling and practice in intentional relationship.

**Equip:** to train and prepare, a follower of Jesus for the ministry they have been called and gifted to do in the church, community and world. Ephesians 4:1-16 is our model for this understanding.

## Prayer of the Month:

Let nothing disturb me, Let nothing frighten me, All things pass away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things. He who has God finds he lacks nothing; God alone suffices. ~ Prayer of Teresa of Avila

## Culture Question of the Month:

Considering the article for the newsletter this month, how have you seen our focus on being the church, being in mission and seeking to reach people for Jesus bear fruit? Where do you think God wants to work through our church to better be the church, to be on mission and to reach others?

## Notes

Dear Members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church:

Please thank the members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church for their generous donation of canned goods to the RSVP-Community Center of Caring Food Pantry. Your continued monthly donations have been a blessing for our clients. Again, thank you and may God bless all of you.

Patti Sheppard, Director, RSVP

St. Mark's Lutheran Church:

On behalf of the entire Auburn Community Band, I would like to thank St. Mark's for allowing us to use the church for our rehearsals. It has greatly helped with our successful 35th anniversary year.

Tom Laverghetta, President

## Save The Date

August 10 & 11	Willow Creek Leadership Summit
August 20	Church Picnic
August 27	Faith Forum: Germany & Italy Tour
August 27	Confirmation Information Meeting
September 9	Gratitude, Cornerstone of Generosity Seminar w/ Mark VanderTuig, head of the LCMC
September 10	Mark VanderTuig, head of the LCMC preaching
September 10-October 20	40 Days of Prayer
September 17	Faith in Action Sunday
September 18-Dec 4	ALPHA
September 25-30	Fair Parking
October 1	Faith Forum: Immersion Experiences
October 21	Oktoberfest
October 28	Church Work Day
October 29	Confirmation Sunday
November 5	Faith Forum: Pastors mission to Nepal & Bangladesh
November 8	SpeakUp: A Conference on the Church & Mental Health
November 11	All Church/ALPHA Retreat
November 19	My First Bible class
December 3	Annual Congregational Meeting

## Dates

### August Birthdays

5 — Ron Dicke  
 6 — Emma McCollough  
 7 — Jess Myers  
 9 — Len McCollough  
 12 — Eleanor Thomas  
 13 — Barb Saunders, Jon Hillabrand  
 18 — Ryan Greathouse

### August Birthdays Cont.

21 — Justin Aldrich,  
 Judy Bozarth  
 23 — Rebecca Wisner  
 26 — Mary Heyse  
 29 — Jeff Reynolds

### August Anniversaries

3 — Rob & Kathy Garrison  
 7 — Jeff & Cindy Reese  
 13 — Rod & Barb Knox  
 19 — Don & Connie Myers  
 24 — Brian & Heidi Moeller  
 31 — Dave & Jayne McClellan

## Prayer Requests

### Church Members

Evelyn Jungk, The Kaduk Family, Ruby Tuttle, Sue Brown, Joyce Springer, and Kathleen Lutz, our missionary in Kenya

### Friends of St. Marks

Gladys Girado (Barry Trenary's cousin) ... Karen Ackelbargar (Bonnie Trenary's cousin) ... Betty Deiningner (Diann Hines friend's mother) ... Tim Holcomb (friend of Rod & Barb Knox) ... Bonnie Danenburg (friend of the Foell's, recovering from heart surgery) ... Nancy Pearl (Mandy Kintz's mother) ... Jake Jacobsen (Mary Heyse's daughter-in-law's father) ... 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) ... 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, 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

## Church Picnic

The Church Picnic will be August 20th at 12:00pm. It is at Rieke Park in at the Pavilion, Rieke South. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in Kraus Korner to bring in a side dish or dessert, and the number attending.

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## Faith Forums

This fall we will be hosting three different faith forums on Sunday mornings after church (from about 11am-noon). Faith Forums are special educational opportunities for the congregation to learn about specific topic or experience and they have been very meaningful in the past. This years schedule of Faith Forums is:

-Sunday August 27: Presentation from the people who went on the Reformation Tour in Germany & Italy

-Sunday October 1: Presentation from those who attended our immersion trips to Arkansas & England

-Sunday November 5: Presentation from Pastor Marcus on his Mission to Nepal & Bangladesh

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## Confirmation Fall 2017-Spring 2018

We're getting geared up for Confirmation to start back up again! Confirmation is a 2-year process, and all students, 7th grade and above are welcome to sign up. Classes are on Sundays from 11am until noon, every other week, starting on September 10th. There will be an information meeting about this year's classes, on Sunday August 27, right after our 9:30am worship service! If you are interested in your student signing up for confirmation, please talk with Pastor Dan.

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## Weekly Flowers

If you do not want to keep your weekly flowers, Linda, the Preschool Director, would be glad to take them.

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## Grief Share

The next 13-week Grief Share cycle will begin on Sunday, August 6th. The weekly sessions will be from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Auburn Methodist Church. Another resource that might be helpful is [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).

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## Mark VanderTuig

Mark VanderTuig, National Coordinator for the LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) of which we are a part 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. This will also be the start of our 40 days of prayer together as a congregation.

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## Service Project

In August we will be collecting for the Humane Society for our Faith In Action project. Items needed: Dog and cat food, litter, and cleaning supplies.

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## 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

We will be taking a break in July and August and will start a new class/topic in September.

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## 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.

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### **5pm Gathering**

The 5pm Gathering has had a great launch! Thank you to all who have prayed and helped get this modern experience started. We have had several people who have not been to church or any church in a long time worship with us! It is exciting to see new people connecting and worshipping God, as we all journey closer to Jesus together! Though summer has been slow because of vacations, we are still averaging between 15-20 people at the 5pm. However, we have had over 50 total people try out the 5pm gathering! Please let me know if you could serve in any way at [jon@stmarksauburn.org](mailto:jon@stmarksauburn.org). We always need more team, especially tech!

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### **5pm Gathering Sermon Series**

This summer at the 5pm Gathering we will be preaching through the Gospel of John. Join us and bring an unchurched or non-believing friend!

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### **Sunday Morning Sermon Series**

Our summer Sprint through the Bible series runs through Labor Day. If you have to miss a Sunday, you can always watch or listen online to the sermon or request a DVD of the service from the church office.

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### **Wednesday Morning Prayer**

We have a simple prayer service in the chapel every Wednesday from 8:30-9am. We hope you can join us and spread the word!

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### **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.

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### **Lawn Mowing**

The schedule for the mowing season is in Kraus Korner. Please sign-up for a time that works for you.

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### **Did You Know?**

As a part of their work and their meetings, the Council is always reading a book about ministry, the church or leadership. Each month the council discusses an assigned portion of the book they are reading and its application to our church. It is a wonderful practice and a significant commitment. If you ever want to see, borrow or have a copy of the book the council is reading, contact Pastor Marcus. If we do not have an extra copy free, we are sure a Council member will loan you their copy when they are done. The book the Council is reading for the rest of the year is *Growing Young* by Kara Powell.

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### **Choir Chimers**

Choir Chimers practice will begin on August 6 after the first service. They will play on August 20.

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### **Kenya Mission Trip**

Plans are underway for our mission trip to Kenya in 2018. The trip will be open to a limited number of people and will be roughly 10 days in length. *We have recently adjusted the dates to June 2018 instead of February/March 2018 to allow for more time to plan and prepare.* More information will be available this fall and information meetings will be held. We will be working with our missionary in Kenya, Kathleen Lutz and her various ministry connections in Kenya for this mission trip. We have received a grant from the Lutheran Foundation to assist in funding this trip! If you have questions, please email the church office.

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### **Building Projects Update**

With the exception of a few minor tweaks, all building projects have been completed for 2017. We have made this happen without using a penny of the operating fund, instead utilizing grants, preschool funds, special gifts, funding our future and the building fund to accomplish these goals.

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## **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.

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## **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 Ken & Mary Heyse know if you can help.

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## **Opportunities to Serve**

### *Prayer Team:*

We are looking for additional members to join our prayer team. Prayer team members are scheduled to staff our prayer stations during communion. Training is provided. Please let Pastor Marcus or the church office know if you are interested.

### *Property Team:*

We are looking for a couple more members of our property team. Our property team works to maintain our building and property, helps make recommendations for improvements and works with the staff and the council to continue to sustain and improve our building. If you are interested in the property team, let the church office know.

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## **Israel 2018**

Plans are underway for our next trip to the Holy Land. This is an amazing and powerful trip where we get to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and see the historical and Biblical sites. This is a powerful and meaningful trip, one every Christian should take in their lifetime. The trip is planned for October 16-25, 2018, with an optional extension to Jordan October 25-28, 2018. The flyers are now available in Kraus Corner. Please see Pastor Marcus with questions.

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## **Ever Wonder?**

Ever wonder or have questions about the various policies and procedures of St. Mark's? Over the past year we have been collecting all of the various policies and procedures of St. Mark's to ensure that can be found in one place both in print and electronically. If you ever want to see a printed or electronic (uneditable) copy of a policy or procedure, please contact the church office. We are also hoping to add staff job descriptions to this list pending Personnel Team and Council approval.

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## **New Initiative from the North American Lutheran Church (NALC):**

Holy Families! is an initiative of the North American Lutheran Church provided through a generous grant from the Thrivent Foundation, in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Produced by Sola Publishing, this special initiative will include a number of Lutheran discipleship resources for families and congregations. Pastor Marcus was honored to be asked to be a part of this initiative and he and Jessica even filmed the video study for parents. Visit [www.holyfamilytime.com](http://www.holyfamilytime.com) to learn more.

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## **Christmas 2017**

This year we have one of those rare occurrences where Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday! After surveying the staff, the worship and music team, the council and random ministry leaders and church members, we have decided the schedule for our worship gatherings for Christmas Eve 2017. Please note that this decision applies only to 2017, as we will revisit it

again for 2018. For Christmas Eve, we will have two evening services, one at 5pm which will be a Modern Worship Gathering and then a Traditional Worship Gathering with candles at 7pm. There will be no morning service or late night service this year.

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### **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 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. We encourage you to continue to pray for St. Mark's and have invited everyone to pray for our church at least 5 minutes a day. We also invite you to take advantage of our prayer stations each Sunday. Please feel free to use the chapel for prayer anytime the church building is open. 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. Finally, we will have a 40 days of prayer focus starting September 10.

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### **Grants**

We have been blessed to receive many grants the last four years, and it has been these grants that have allowed us to do most of what we have to move forward, in terms of staffing, building, ministries, the preschool, various programs and other projects. The Lutheran Foundation has been our greatest supporter, but we have also received support from The Community Foundation of DeKalb County, and Thrivent. From July 1, 2013-June 30, 2017 we have been awarded a total of \$301,813 in grants! Grants have been a great resource for new and one-time ministry initiatives, but it is near impossible for churches to find grants for Operating Funds. In many cases, grants also require matching funds, especially for building related items. We are thankful only one grant during this time has required any Operating

Fund monies and any commitment beyond the grant period, which is Pastor Dan's position. We are so thankful the way in which God has and will continue to provide for us in the form of grants as we move forward. If you have questions about grants, see Pastor Marcus.

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### **Have You Considered?**

We want to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. Credit & Debit Card Giving allows you to make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit or debit card (for a fee to the church, which you can elect to offset).

Online Giving allows you to go to [stmarksauburn.org](http://stmarksauburn.org) at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office.

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### **Fair Parking**

Our annual fundraiser for our children, youth and family ministry is coming September 25-30! We are looking for all church members to help us with this important fundraiser which is also an opportunity to meet and greet people in our community. Please consider signing up for more than one spot. The vast majority of activities for our children and youth are funded by this event and we need your help. Watch for the sign up and contact the church office or Pastor Dan with questions!

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## Upcoming Sunday Morning Sermon Series

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.

### Sprint Through the Bible

- July 30 — Epistles: 1 Peter: Soon  
[1 Peter 3:18-20]
- Aug. 6 — Epistles: 2 Peter: Rescue  
[2 Peter 1:16-21]
- Aug. 13 — Epistles: 1 John: Truth  
[1 John 1:1-2:2]
- Aug. 20 — Epistles: 2 John: Missed  
[2 John: 1:1-13]
- Aug. 27 — Epistles: 3 John: Release Love  
[3 John 1:1-13]
- Sept. 3 — Epistles: Jude  
[Jude 1:17-25]
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## Willow Creek Leadership Summit

Each year we send a number of people from St. Mark's to one of the best leadership events in all of the world and all we have to do is go to Fort Wayne to experience. The Willow Creek Leadership Summit is a 2 day faith based leadership seminar for leaders of church, business, government, military and non-profit and has speakers from those sectors as well. If you have been, you know how fantastic it is. This year, Bryan Stevenson is speaking and I can say that he is one that I would look forward to the most. This year it is August 10 & 11 at the Coliseum. The event is covered other than transportation/parking and meals, though we often offer carpool options and usually go out to lunch on us on Friday. If you cannot attend both days, you could split a spot with someone and attend one day. I think you will find it well worth the time and a day off and many employers consider it professional development. Parkview, Ambassador and others send a significant number of their employees to this event it is that good. We have some spots left

for this years summit that we are opening up to the congregation. We have 2 spots for Thursday and 3 for Friday. You can pick one day or both days. Please contact Pastor Marcus if you are interested in attending.

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## Mental Health

Mental Health challenges are not uncommon in our culture today and not uncommon amongst those who call St. Mark's home. They vary in name, nature and severity, but they often have a tremendous impact that goes unnoticed. If you remember our testimony series from the past, you know just some of the stories from those in our congregation. The Lutheran Foundation has placed an emphasis on this unmet need not only in Northeast Indiana, but in the churches of the region. A while back, they formed a Mental Health task force made up of pastors, lay people and professionals. Invited to be a part of this team was our own Jessica Carlson. The task force has been working on putting an event together for churches and will host this event on November 8, 2017 from 8:30am-4pm. We are encouraging as many staff, leaders and lay people in our congregation to attend this event as possible. It will be a great event and is an important ministry need. The cost for the event is \$25 and we would be glad to register you for the event and if needed, pay the cost of your registration (not from the Operating Fund). If you have questions or would like to register, please contact the church office. Lets have a strong representation from St. Mark's for this important event with one of our most significant partners in ministry, The Lutheran Foundation.

### *SpeakUp: A Conference on the Church & Mental Health*

Recognizing the growing need in our churches for assistance and guidance in mental and behavioral health, the SpeakUp Conference presented by The Lutheran Foundation, Brotherhood Mutual, and Parkview Health brings together nationally recognized experts and speakers to help equip and inspire pastors, priests and church & lay leaders of all denominations to better serve their congregations, parishes, and communities.

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## **Prayer for Teachers**

On Sunday August 20, during our 9:30am service we will have a special moment to pray for our teachers: our preschool staff, those who teach in public and private K-12 schools and those who teach at the college level and beyond. We hope all teachers join us this day for worship and our church picnic!

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## **40 Days of Prayer**

This year we will be joining together as a congregation for 40 days of prayer from September 10-October 20. During this time we are asking everyone in the congregation to take 5-10 minutes to pray each and every day for St. Mark's, its people and ministry as well as offering prayer for our community. Additionally, we are encouraging everyone to use these 40 days of prayer to expand their own prayer life and develop a deeper habit of prayer. Finally, we are encouraging everyone to take time to read a book on prayer during this time each day. The book is *Draw the Circle: the 40 day prayer challenge* by Mark Batterson. You can purchase the book on your own or order it from the office no later than September 6 for \$11. We believe that these 40 days can change your life, our church and the community and we hope that you participate.

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## **Loft Kickoff Party**

To Kickoff the Loft for this school year, we're going to have a Loft Kickoff Party on Sunday August 27, after the 5pm Gathering! We're excited to start the year off right!

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## **The Loft Returns**

Our Sunday night gathering for 6th-12th grade students, the Loft, will return to normal schedule starting September 10. This year, we will again be meeting every other week, starting directly after the 5pm Gathering. Students are encouraged to attend the 5pm before going upstairs for a meal. If you are a parent of a 6th-12th grader, there is a regular parent's email with Loft information. If you would like to receive the email, let Pastor Dan know and he'll get you on the list!

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## Worship Assistant Schedule August 6, 2017 - September 17, 2017

	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27	Sept. 3	Sept. 10	Sept. 17
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Dan	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Mark Vander Tuig	Faith In Action
<b>Assist. Minister</b>	Jane Foell	Diann Hines	Mason Reese	Brian Moeller	Kristen K.	Pastor Marcus	N/A
<b>Children's Time</b>	Jon Hunter	Pastor Dan	Jessica	Jon Hunter	Pastor Marcus	Jon Hunter	N/A
<b>Call to worship</b>	Jon Hunter	N/A	Pastor Dan	N/A	Jon Hunter	N/A	N/A
<b>Acolyte</b>	Morgann Leslie	Camden Kuntz	Ashlyn Reese	Tyler Wilhelm	John M.	Abby Carlson	N/A
<b>Lector</b>	John Foell	Bill Hathaway	Peggy B.	Lora K.	Mary Heyse	Kathy Garrison	N/A
<b>Communion Asst.</b>	Barry Trenary, Marge Norris	Connie M., Janice T.	Diann H., Rod K.	John & Jane Foell	Glenn M., Peggy B.	Rex & Vicki B.	John & Jane Foell
<b>Ushers</b>	Jerry, Carolyn O., Dave & Jayne M.	Jerry, Rex, Rod K., Art B.	Jerry, Rex, Jeff R., Carolyn O.	Jerry, Rex, Russ H., Tony K.	Jerry, Rex & Vicki B., Stan B.	Jerry, Tony K., Janice T., Tina M.	Jeff Reese, Mason Reese
<b>Greeters</b>	Hathaway	Linda W., Tina M.	Jeff & Cindy R.	Nila M. & Kathy Lowder	Marge N. & Marilyn M.	Cindy W. & John C.	N/A
<b>Nursery</b>	Alison Aldrich	Jessica & Kaitlyn	Carol R., Linda Wolf	Mandy Kintz	Cindy Warstler	Jessica & Kaitlyn	N/A
<b>Sunday School</b>		Vicki Marhenke	Cindy R. & Helper		N/A		N/A
<b>Tech</b>	Justin A., Connie M.	Barry, Micah	Barry, Jarrett R.	Justin A., Micah C.	Barry, Connie M.	Justin A., Alex K.	Jarrett R., Micah C.
<b>Coffee</b>							N/A
<b>Altar</b>	Judy Bozarth	Judy Bozarth	Judy Bozarth	Judy Bozarth	Barb Knox	Barb Knox	Barb Knox
<b>Prayer Team</b>	Jessica Carlson, Jon Hunter	Brian M., Jayne M.	Cindy R., Sue B.	Jessica, Jon	Sue B., Brian M.	Pastor Dan, Jon H.	N/A



### **Welcome Jill York!**

We are excited for the start of the new school year on August 7th as we welcome 15 students to our program! We would also like to welcome our new part-time teacher, Jill York. Jill is married and has three children, Carlee 10, Jaxon 8, and Rilynn 5. Jill has worked in the early childhood education field previously at daycares and for Garrett Keyser Butler school system. We are looking forward to Jill sharing her loving for learning with our students.

On Saturday August 19th the Auburn Art Commission will be hosting an event at the James Culture Plaza from 11am-3pm. St. Mark's Early Learners will be hosting a table at this event. There will be music on the stage and other area organizations will be hosting tables as well. Invite your friends and family to join us on the day and come and learn more about our school.

Thank you to everyone who has donated items to our class and who have made materials for us. We appreciate everyones kindness and support! We are looking forward to another great school year!

### **Events**

Registration for the 2017-2018 school year is now open.

If you know of any families that might be looking for a preschool please have them call the office at 260-925-3882 or contact Linda at [linda@stmarksauburn.org](mailto:linda@stmarksauburn.org) to schedule a tour.

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!

### **Help Needed**

If you would be interested in helping the preschool with sewing projects, homemade play dough, or donating supplies, there will be a list of items or projects that we could always use help with hanging on the bulletin board. Please feel free to email me if you would be interested in helping with anything. Contact Linda at [linda@stmarksauburn.org](mailto:linda@stmarksauburn.org)



## Holy Families!

***Holy Families!***, a new initiative that offers discipleship resources for families and congregations, is now available. The resources are made possible by a grant to the NALC from the Thrivent Foundation in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The NALC has partnered with Sola Publishing to provide families a variety of web and print resources.

Making disciples is the number one priority in the NALC as we help our congregations establish disciple-making cultures. First we disciple each other within our congregations, and then we move out into the world to disciple everyone else. While there is much we can do in our congregations to disciple each other, the first opportunity to disciple and be discipled is in our families. Parents who have their children baptized can begin to disciple their children in their daily family routines. *Holy Families!* is designed to provide resources for that very purpose.

Pastor Cathi Braasch crafted the grant proposal to the Thrivent Foundation, which highlights the discipling that happened in Katie and Martin Luther's family as a starting point for discipling in families today. Pastor Steve King and the Sola Publishing team used Cathi's proposal to develop the resources for use within families.

Review and download free resources at [holyfamilytime.com](http://holyfamilytime.com) Print and video *Holy Families!* resources are also available through Sola Publishing ([solapublishing.org](http://solapublishing.org)). A free resource is a Parents' Video/Discussion Series on *Faith Formation*, written and produced by Pastor Marcus Carlson. You may also purchase *Reformation Bible Study: In the Luther Household*, written and produced by Pastors Steven King and Amy Little.

Use the *Holy Families!* resources to assist families in your community as well. God established the family as the essential foundation for all life. However, the culture increasingly scorns the truth of God's Word about family, marriage and the sanctity of all life. Families are at risk and face difficult challenges. Offer a fair or workshop to the public that highlights these resources for the sake of supporting and strengthening families.

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

# St. Mark's Financial Update

*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.*

## Operating Fund Snapshot

### General Fund/Budget/Operating Fund

The Operating Fund is our yearly budget. This is also called the general fund. This is what Pastor Dan likes to describe as the 'regular' income and expenses of the church. The Operating Fund covers those things that occur on a regular basis such as compensation for Pastor Marcus, Pastor Dan, Kathy and Laura and things such as utilities, insurance and other regular expenses for our staff, building and ministries. This is different from the special (restricted/designated accounts) that cover new initiatives and one-time or special expenses.

*Through June 30, 2017*

*Operating Fund Reserve Remaining: \$12,419.08*

	Income	Expense	Net
Budget	\$122,500.00	\$130,393.23	-\$7,893.23
Actual	\$107,451.45	\$128,112.06	-\$20,651.61
Difference	-\$15,048.55	\$2,281.17	

## Financial Update

Recently, you received a letter about the status of our Operating Fund, along with an Operating Fund statement and a plan for helping us move forward and maintain the second Pastor position at St. Mark's. As an update, the Endowment Fund Trustees approved \$10,000 to be given to the Operating Fund to help make up our shortfall for this year. Additionally, they made a suggested adjustment to the Finance proposal to Council for the amount of funds to be used from the reserve for Dan's position. This will be considered at the August 3 Council meeting. The Endowment trustees also granted \$2,000 to Kathleen Lutz for her ministry. We thank the Endowment trustees for their support of St. Mark's as we move forward and try to meet this challenge together. Keep in mind, this action alone does not solve the challenge we face as noted in the letter that was sent out. If you did not get the letter and would like one, contact the church office.

## Finance Education for August

St. Mark's utilizes various funds to help categories, track and spend the funds we receive. This is due to a variety of factors, primarily focused on meeting the needs of the church and honoring designed giving from those who give to St. Mark's. We also have a variety of sources of income. Throughout the year, we want to educate you about these various funds and sources of income in our newsletter. This month we are focused on our preschool. A separate note about grants that did not fit on this page is also included in this newsletter.

*Preschool:* The preschool is tracked separately in our accounting system and if it is viable after 4 years, will have its own bank accounts and accounting system under the umbrella of St. Mark's. The preschool is meant to be a self-sustaining ministry of St. Mark's. To date, not a penny of funds from our Operating Fund have been spent on the preschool. The preschool has been funded primarily by grants and tuition income. The preschool will only exist if it continues to be self-sustaining. In the grant to start the preschool, St. Mark's was required to pitch in half the cost for building repairs and upgrades. This money came from special funds. This was a good investment as these were needed improvements that we were able to do at half price. The current work downstairs in the fireplace room and preschool came from special donations as well. The preschool currently pays St. Mark's for the increased costs in insurance and custodial and gives some money towards utilities. As it grows, the amount the preschool gives to the Operating Fund of St. Mark's will increase.

## AUGUST 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>30</b> 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM Immersion Team Gathering 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)</p>	<p><b>31</b> Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p><b>1</b> 4:30 PM 501 + Grant Meeting/Congregation &amp; Community Forum</p>	<p><b>2</b> 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice</p>	<p><b>3</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe) 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting &amp; Dinner, host Linda Wolf</p>	<p><b>4</b> Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>
<p><b>6</b> 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:30 AM Choir Chimers Practice 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship) 6:00 PM Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church)</p>	<p><b>7</b> Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p><b>8</b> NALC Convention</p>	<p><b>9</b> NALC Convention 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors Meeting 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice</p>	<p><b>10</b> NALC Convention Willow Creek Leadership Summit 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe)</p>	<p><b>11</b> NALC Convention Pastor Marcus' Day Off Willow Creek Leadership Summit</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>
<p><b>13</b> 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship) 6:00 PM Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church)</p>	<p><b>14</b> Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> 7:30 AM All Staff Meeting 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors Meeting 12:00 PM Genealogy Group 12:00 PM Senior's Lunch 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice</p>	<p><b>17</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe) 7:00 PM Executive Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>18</b> Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>19</b> 11:00 AM Preschool-Auburn Arts Commission</p>
<p><b>20</b> 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 12:00 PM Church Picnic 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship) 6:00 PM Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church)</p>	<p><b>21</b> Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors Meeting 12:00 PM Ministry Calling Group 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>24</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe)</p>	<p><b>25</b> Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27</b> 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM Confirmation Information Meeting 11:00 AM Faith Forum-Germany Trip 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship) 6:00 PM Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church) 6:00 PM Loft Kick-off</p>	<p><b>28</b> Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors Meeting 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>31</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe)</p>	<p><b>1</b> Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>

## SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>27</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion  <b>11:00 AM</b> Confirmation Information Meeting  <b>11:30 AM</b> Faith Forum-Germany Trip  <b>3:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>5:00 PM</b> 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Loft Kick-off</p>	<p><b>28</b>                      Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b>  <b>8:00 AM</b> Open Prayer &amp; Communion  <b>8:30 AM</b> Prayer Gathering  <b>9:30 AM</b> Pastors Meeting  <b>5:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>31</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Pastor's Bible Study  <b>5:30 PM</b> Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe)</p>	<p><b>1</b>                      Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>
<p><b>3</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion  <b>3:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>5:00 PM</b> 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church)</p>	<p><b>4</b>                      Labor Day                      Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p><b>5</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Hold: Alpha Leaders Training</p>	<p><b>6</b>  <b>8:00 AM</b> Open Prayer &amp; Communion  <b>8:30 AM</b> Prayer Gathering  <b>9:30 AM</b> Pastors &amp; Kathy Meeting  <b>5:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>7</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Pastor's Bible Study  <b>5:30 PM</b> Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe)</p>	<p><b>8</b>                      Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>9</b>                      Seminar w/Mark Vander Tug</p>
<p><b>10</b>  <b>4:00</b> Days of Prayer (Start)  <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion  <b>11:00 AM</b> Confirmation  <b>11:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study  <b>3:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>5:00 PM</b> 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church)  <b>6:00 PM</b> The Loft</p>	<p><b>11</b>                      Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b>  <b>8:00 AM</b> Open Prayer &amp; Communion  <b>8:30 AM</b> Prayer Gathering  <b>9:30 AM</b> Pastors Meeting  <b>4:30 PM</b> Preschool Board Meeting  <b>5:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>14</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Pastor's Bible Study  <b>5:30 PM</b> Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe)  <b>7:00 PM</b> Church Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>15</b>                      Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
<p><b>17</b>                      Faith in Action Sunday  <b>8:30 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion  <b>3:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>6:00 PM</b> Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church)</p>	<p><b>18</b>                      Pastor Dan's Day Off  <b>6:00 PM</b> Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>7:30 AM</b> All Staff Meeting  <b>8:00 AM</b> Open Prayer &amp; Communion  <b>8:30 AM</b> Prayer Gathering  <b>9:30 AM</b> Pastors Meeting  <b>12:00 PM</b> Genealogy Group  <b>12:00 PM</b> Senior's Lunch  <b>5:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Pastor's Bible Study  <b>5:30 PM</b> Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe)</p>	<p><b>22</b>                      Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>23</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> Council Retreat</p>
<p><b>24</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion  <b>11:00 AM</b> Confirmation  <b>11:00 AM</b> Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study  <b>3:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>5:00 PM</b> 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church)  <b>6:00 PM</b> The Loft</p>	<p><b>25</b>                      Fair Parking                      Pastor Dan's Day Off  <b>6:00 PM</b> Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p><b>26</b>                      Fair Parking</p>	<p><b>27</b>                      Fair Parking  <b>8:00 AM</b> Open Prayer &amp; Communion  <b>8:30 AM</b> Prayer Gathering  <b>9:30 AM</b> Pastors Meeting  <b>5:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>28</b>                      Fair Parking  <b>10:00 AM</b> Pastor's Bible Study  <b>5:30 PM</b> Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe)</p>	<p><b>29</b>                      Fair Parking                      Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>30</b>                      Fair Parking</p>



## Alpha Update:

Alpha season is approaching! I am excited to announce we will be partnering with the YMCA for our Fall Alpha starting **September 18th**. Each session will be held in the YMCA Chapel in Auburn. We want to create a relaxed environment to invite friends who are not Christians yet to explore faith and life. Alpha will be held on **Monday evenings 6pm-7:30pm**. Child care is provided by the Y.

There are three things that you can do now that will make this the best Alpha ever:

1. **Pray.** Please begin to pray for the people that you would like to invite. Think about people in your social network. I.E. Friends, work colleagues, family, etc.
2. **Plan.** Put the dates listed below in your in your calendar. It is a commitment, but it is worth it all when a friend comes to know Jesus!
3. **Promote.** Be bold and ask new people to join you in coming to Alpha! Pass on the word to other churches to invite their friends who are not Christians. Share on social media and by word of mouth! Let's invite ALL of Auburn to experience Alpha! Postcard flyers will be coming soon!

9/18	Session 1	Is There More to Life than This?
9/25	Session 2	Who is Jesus
10/2	Session 3	Why Did Jesus Die?
10/9	Session 4	How Can I Have Faith
10/16	Session 5	Why and How Do I Pray?
10/23	Session 6	Why and How do I Read the Bible?
10/30	Session 7	How Does God Guide Us?
11/6	Session 8	Who is the Holy Spirit?
11/11 Retreat	Session 9	What Does the Holy Spirit Do?
11/11 Retreat	Session 10	How Can I Be Filled with the Holy Spirit?
11/11 Retreat	Session 11	How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of My Life?
11/13	Session 12	How Can I Resist Evil?
11/20	Session 13	Why and How Should I Tell Others?
11/27	Session 14	Does God Heal Today?
12/4	Session 15	What about the Church?

\*Please only come to Alpha if you are bringing a friend who doesn't know Jesus yet, as it is important to have an even mix of Christians and people outside the church.

For any questions please email me at [jon@stmarksauburn.org](mailto:jon@stmarksauburn.org).

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Kathy Fribley	Church Secretary
Linda Vandemark	Preschool Director

**Our Mission: To bring about transformation in individuals, families, our community, and the world through Jesus Christ**