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# ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

## VOLUME 21 ISSUE 6 • JUNE 2017

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### Prayers of the People

One of the great privileges of being a pastor here at St. Mark's is the great Council groups I have had the privilege of working with. They have all been fantastic, but over the past 2 or so years as we have changed the structure and focus of our meeting, a powerful shift has taken place. This shift is not just about the structure and focus of the meetings or even the people on Council, but also the great spiritual growth taking place in our congregation.

As long as I have been at St. Mark's and perhaps before, we have always had our council members lead a devotion and a prayer at the beginning of our meeting. Oftentimes, council members would find a nice devotional to read and a prayer that came with it. It is always nice to hear the different voices, perspectives and devotional thoughts they come up with. Recently, as we added the reading of our mission statement at our meetings, those who lead the devotion also lead a short reflection on our mission statement during part of the meeting. That too has been a great way to hear different voices and perspectives.

Recently, however, some of our council members have been choosing to write their own prayers for the devotional time. This is not something ever suggested, and it has been a very powerful experience for the group as a whole. These prayers, thoughtful, heartfelt, and powerful, have been a gift. I have asked permission to have and share those prayers in the newsletter. They show the heart of our council members and the gift that we have in having such amazing people serve in this way.

These prayers not only apply to our council, but to each person who calls St. Mark's their home. We are all leaders, and we are all in this together. I hope you find these prayers meaningful and adopt them or a modified version of them for your own prayers for our church. In fact, if you write your own prayers, please share them with me!

Our Council is a diverse group who is not afraid to speak their minds, ask tough questions or think and pray hard about issues. I leave every meeting so thankful for the meaningful and rich conversations and decisions that are made. I look forward to Council meetings for the first time in my 18 plus years of ministry! I have never seen a group think so carefully, practically, pragmatically, strategically, spiritually and prayerfully all at the same time. So often, I wish all of the congregation could be a 'fly on the wall' for the rich conversations that happen in our meetings.

We are so blessed to have such an amazing Council group. Being a part of council is not easy. There are meetings, reading, devotional preparation and a lot of work. There is very little thanks and they often hear the various complaints, opinions and concerns of the congregation (which is part of their role) and very little joy, celebration and praise. This group of people are people who work hard and care deeply about the people of St. Mark's. They care about the community. They care about the Gospel. They want people to know Jesus and to be transformed by Jesus. They truly are a blessing. They are leaders. They are a gift from God!

Blessings,  
Pastor Marcus

#### Prayers from Council Members

Dear God, thank you for allowing us to come together in your name. We give thanks that we meet in Christian love. Thank you for the willingness to serve of those gathered here. Please help us to know that you will give us the resources and gifts (whatever they might be) to do that which you wish us to do. Help us to know that personal preferences are OK, but not to stumble over them. Please give us wisdom and good judgment to lead this congregation as you wish us to do. We ask you to fill us with your grace and tip us so it pours into the lives of others. In the name of Christ, Amen! *William Hathaway*

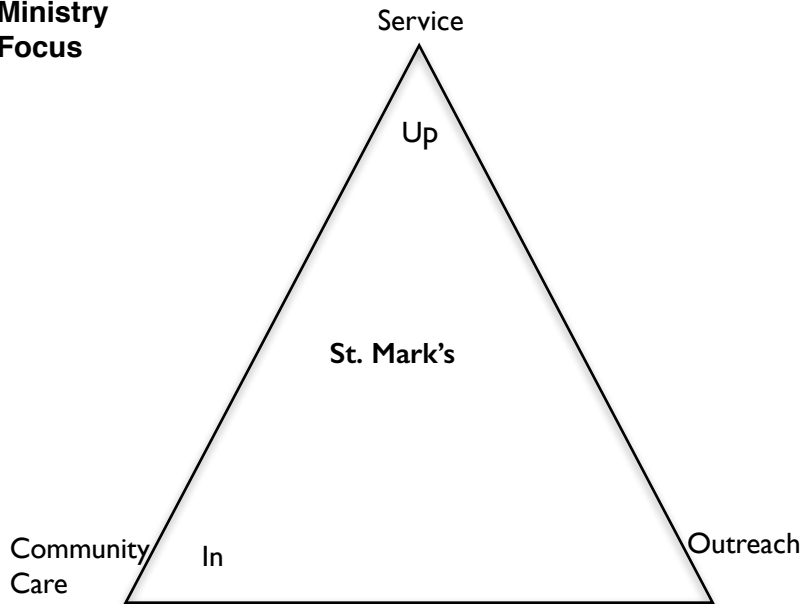
Tonight as we are gathered together, we have our own hopes, dreams, visions and concerns about the future of St. Mark's. Please help us to remember that we have been elected to be stewards of this church and stewards of our Kingdom. Help us to push aside our own personal agendas and to focus instead on what is best for your Kingdom. Help us each day to strive to be more like you so that when people who don't know you see and interact with us, they can say without hesitation, "I want what that person is having." We pray these things in your name, Amen. *Marilyn Myers*

# 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.

### Church Ministry Focus



**Church Ministry 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 many areas of focus in our ministry to one another and the world. First, our ministry focuses *in* on community care, caring for those who call St. Mark's home. Secondly it involves an a journey *up* to *service* as we serve God by serving others outside of our church walls. Finally our ministry has a focus on *outreach*, reaching *out* to those who do not have a church home and those who do not know Jesus.

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## 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 *culture and culture question*.

**Culture:** Central to our function is a shared culture around our values, mission, vision and vocabulary.

**Culture Question:** 'What is God doing?' This is the key question of our culture that we will use as a part of almost all of our life together.

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## Prayer of the Month:

God, surprise me.  
God, surprise us.  
God, surprise our church.  
Amen

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## Culture Question of the Month:

This year is the 500th anniversary of the reformation. What kind of reformation does the Church of Jesus Christ today need? What part can you plan in this reformation?

## Notes

Dear Members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church:

Thank you for the peanut butter and jelly during the month of March. That is always a staple. Thanks again for your continued support.

Shirley Johnson, Program Coordinator, RSVP

Dear friends of St. Mark's,

Thank you for the nice Easter gifts and cards you so thoughtfully sent to all the home bounds. Also, thank you to the friends who take their time to deliver and visit. I have especially enjoyed the 21 day devotional-The Story of Easter.

Sincerely, Sandy Muckenfuss

## Save The Date

June 21 (5-7:30pm)	Community Cookout
July 9	Kathleen Lutz Presents after Worship
July 16-19 (6pm to 8pm)	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 10-October 10	40 Days of Prayer
September 17	Faith in Action Sunday
September 19-Dec 5	ALPHA
September 25-30	Fair Parking
October 21	Oktoberfest
October 28	Church Work Day

### Servant Spotlight: Diann Hines

#### Family Info

My husband is Dave, we've been married 34 years. I have two sons, Brian who is the Manager of Starbucks at Butler University in Indianapolis and Jonathan, who is married to Lindsey and a science writer for Oakridge Laboratories in Oakridge, TN.

#### What's your job?

I am an Independent Senior Sales Director for Mary Kay. I have been working with Mary Kay for 33 years and as a full time director for the last 25 years!

#### Interests and hobbies

Quilting. My family. Cooking, as I am in a cooking club. I am also in a book club. I'm active in the community, as a part of the Rotary and I help with the United Way's Power of the Purse. I'm also a part of Bible Study Fellowship.

#### Where do you volunteer in the church?

I'm a part of the choir, the altar guild, Spiritual Development Team leading the Sunday Adult Bible Study, Fellowship and Church Community Team, Assisting Minister & Communion Assistant, and Dave and I volunteer to help with coffee on Sunday mornings.

## Dates

### June Birthdays

2 — Wilma Brumbaugh  
4 — Morgann Leslie  
6 — Geneva Sigler "96"  
12 — Mark McCollough  
15 — Mason Reese  
16 — Ken Heyse, June Wyss  
18 — Rosemary Gallagher  
20 — Jerry McClain

### June Birthdays Cont.

21 — Don Myers  
22 — Marisa Robinett  
24 — Ella McClellan

### June Anniversaries

4 — Jerry & Joyce Springer  
21 — Pastor Marcus & Jessica  
Carlson  
25 — Jim & Anna Friend  
26 — Justin & Alison Aldrich

## 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

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, 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

## **New Members**

Please join us in welcoming new members: Dave & Sue Houser, Brent & Kathy Novak, Mandy Kintz, Jeremy Miller, Taryn & Trenton Kintz, and Jon & Esther Hunter. We are thankful that each of these individuals and families have decided to call St. Mark's their home.

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## **Church Keys!**

As a part of a grant project and in order to have stronger safety and security at our church, especially for the preschool and secretary, a new entry system is being installed the first week of June. As a result, how we enter and open the building will change that week once the system is installed. We will no longer use keys to enter the building; rather we will be using cards to enter the building. Additionally, the building will be locked at all times except for worship services and those entering will either need to use the card they have, or buzz in using the video & audio intercom system. Again, this is to maintain better safety and security. As a result, everyone, besides staff who has a key to St. Mark's, must turn in keys, whether a door key or a Master key, into the secretary no later than Sunday June 4 at noon. You can drop them by during normal business hours, or you can leave it on Kathy's desk in an envelope with your name on it.

As soon as the new system is installed, we will be issuing cards to anyone who needs regular entry into the building outside office hours. You will be able to pick those up starting the week of June 11. Some members will need to be reissued a Master Key to be able to get into other parts of the building such as the office. We have that list together and will issue those keys to the necessary people when they pick up their entry card. *Please note, that beginning June 5, current keys cannot and should not be used to enter or unlock the building.* If you have questions, please contact the church office.

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## **Bulletin Changes**

Beginning in June, we will be making changes to how we do our Sunday morning bulletins. Given that the majority of people use the screen to follow the service and that very, very few are taking bulletins home with announcements in them, we are changing how we do things both to be more effective, but also to save money on printing and paper, better helping us meet our budget.

Each week, everyone will receive from the ushers an announcement sheet with a space for sermon notes. This will contain the information everyone needs to know and see and you will be strongly urged to take this home with you. A second document, of which there will be a limited number will contain the order of service for the day. The ushers will then ask each couple/family if they *need* a bulletin to follow service and if so, one will be given to them until we run out. The number of order of service bulletins available will be higher to start as we get used to this system, but will reduce to be closer to the actual number needed after a few weeks. Change, even small change, is not easy, but we know that we are a church focused on the things that matter most while trying to be thoughtful and effective in the small things. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding.

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## **Community Cookout — Wednesday, June 21st**

We are going to host a community cookout for our neighborhood on Wednesday, June 21 from 5-7:30pm. This is an event for everybody in Auburn and beyond. If you would like to volunteer (whether to help or you'd like to bring your grill), please see the sign up in Kraus Korner! Please join us for this great evening of getting to bless our neighbors!

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## **Service Project**

In June we will be collecting any kind of canned goods.

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## **Italy & Germany Trip**

In April, 5 people from our church plus one family member went on a trip to Germany, with 4 also going to Italy as a part of a Reformation Tour as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The group may present some information in the future, but in the meantime, if you want to learn about their meaningful experience feel free to see Pastor Marcus, Sue Brown, Jane & John Foell or Kathryn Gustin.

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## **Vacation Bible School: Mountains**

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner, Sunday, July 16 — Wednesday, July 19 from 6pm to 8pm — and we are wondering if you would like to help. We are looking for people to help volunteer to teach, to help with crafts, to help with games, to help with food, and we're always looking for people to help invite the kids in their lives to come! Sign Ups are in Kraus Korner, as well as post cards to pass out to friends!

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## **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!

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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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## **Wednesday Morning Prayer**

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!

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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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## **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 class has 2 more sessions on Prayer: June 4th and June 18th. We meet right after worship in the downstairs council room. Grab some coffee and join in on the last 2 sessions! 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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## **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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## **Visit from Kathleen Lutz**

Kathleen Lutz, St. Mark's Member and Missionary in Kenya will be with us in worship the morning of July 9. She will join us for worship and coffee time and then will share a presentation and update on her work and ministry downstairs in the Fireplace Room after coffee time. Please plan on joining us for worship and staying to hear from Kathleen!

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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, will be roughly 10 days in length and occur sometime mid-February to mid-March. More information will be available at the beginning of August 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. If you have questions, please email the church office.

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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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## **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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## **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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## **Sunday Morning Sermon Series**

Our summer Sprint through the Bible series begins in June and 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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## **5pm Gathering**

The 5pm Gathering is off to a great start! 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 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! If you are interested in serving, please contact Jon Hunter at the church office or [Jon@stmarksauburn.org](mailto:Jon@stmarksauburn.org). If you have general questions about the service see Marcus, Dan or Jon.

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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 will be available soon. Please see Pastor Marcus with questions.

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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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## **Prayer Chain**

I am trying to make sure the Prayer Chain List is up-to-date. If you are on the email list or the phone list, please mark on the list that is in Kraus Korner if you would still like to be left on. Also, if anyone would like to be included on this list, please put your name down.

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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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## **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, the vast 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, replacing carpet in the basement and chapel as well as some work on the classrooms this summer for the preschool.

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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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## **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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## **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. 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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### **Pastor Hobby**

As many of you know, The Rev. Dr. Clark Hobby passed away in April. He was a beloved former Pastor of St. Mark's. We have had many of you ask questions about memorial gifts and a gift from the church. Also, others have raised some questions regarding the memorial suggestion mentioned in Pastor Hobby's obituary. Council discussed all of these matters at our May meeting and wanted to share some information with the congregation. The council has made a memorial gift from our budget funds to the St. Mark's Memorial Fund in the name of Pastor Hobby. This gift as well as any other gifts received by St. Mark's in honor of Pastor Hobby will be held in the Memorial Fund until a later date. The council has also decided that the future use of these gifts must be for the purpose of equipping and training future pastors as that was the intent and heart of Pastor Hobby's memorial wishes. If you have questions, please see a Council member.

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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.

#### **Community Covenant**

May 28 — Challenge & Promise [TBD]

#### **Sprint Through the Bible**

June 4 — Kings: 1 Samuel: Cure Hurts  
[1 Samuel 15:34-16:13]

June 11 — Kings: 2 Samuel: Cure Brings  
Good [2 Samuel 6:1-19]

June 18 — Kings: 1 Kings: Success  
[1 Kings 3:5-12]

June 25 — Kings: 2 Kings: Failure  
[2 Kings 8:16-19]

July 2 — Minor Proph: Zephaniah:  
Don't Settle [Zephaniah 1:1-18]

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### **Opportunities to Serve**

#### *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.

#### *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.

#### *Care Team:*

We are looking for additional members of our care team. The care team works with the staff to help find various ways to visit and care for our shut-ins, those who are hospitalized and other members in need. The care of those who call St. Mark's home is the responsibility of all in the church, so even if you are not called to be a part of the care team, be sure to do all you can to care for those in our church. The next care team meeting will be Thursday, June 8 at 5:30 p.m.

#### *Finance Team:*

We are looking for one more member of our finance team. The finance team meets at least 3 times a year to look at the budget and finances of the church, make recommendations, address issues, evaluate systems and their integrity and create a budget to send to council each year. Please let Pastor Marcus know if you are interested in being part of this team.

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## For Whom the Bell Tolls?

As we move into summer, we have made some landscape and lawn improvements which will need your attention. We ask that you sign up for mowing and trimming our lawn, watering flowers, and pulling weeds in the Bercaw Memorial gardens. We appreciate your support and volunteering for these outdoor projects.

Equipment for all the projects is located in the bell tower. Kathy has a key, water spigot handle, plus a secret location for an outdoor key to the bell tower. As before, each time you have finished your task, please ring the bell in the tower! It tolls for all of us as we call out to God! Property Team members are: Jeff Reese as chair, Russ Hoff, Tony Konieczki, and others.

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## May 20th Workday Success!

Thanks to the many members who helped in making our "work day" a major success!

We were able to accomplish many objectives; below are some of the projects:

1. Prepared Pre-School area for renovation by moving pews, cabinets, furniture, and pre-school material. Renovation will begin in early June due to increase enrollment.
2. Prepared Haite Chapel for new carpet by removing furniture, stage, and painting walls. This will enable us to use the Chapel for individual and group prayer along with small group activities.
3. The Altar Guild worked on cleaning and organizing the preparation room.
4. Outside St. Mark's, a team worked on trimming bushes along Van Buren Street and mulching and trimming Bercaw Memorial gardens plus removing the weeds along our curbs in the parking lot.
5. Assorted jobs: fixed the light switch in the Woman's rest room, repaired the exterior light on 11th street, pew repairs and many other projects.

Thanks again to our members who volunteered and Pastor Dan who organized the jobs and teams! We were able to finish prior to the afternoon rain! If you have suggestions or ideas, please inform the Property team!

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## The June Challenge

*[Each month we announce a challenge for the entire church congregation! The challenge is in the newsletter, there are copies in Kraus Korner, and it is posted on the Facebook page. Some months the challenges will be intense. Some months the challenge will be a simple act; we hope you'll join us. Here is June's challenge.]*

This month's challenge is to take a prayer walk around your neighborhood.

We have been emphasizing prayer this year in our church community. We believe that as a church we need to pray more. A great way to be intentional about this is to take a walk and pray for your neighborhood (if you live in the country, why not drive around the roads that you live near?).

As you walk by houses of your neighbors, pray for them (by name if you know their names). Pray that God would bless them, pray that they would be drawn into a deeper relationship with God, and pray that you might have the opportunity to get to know them better, and perhaps talk with them about your faith.

Here are a few reflection questions to help process this experience :

*Was it hard to pray for your neighbors?*

*Is this something you'd like to do regularly?*

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## Worship Assistant Schedule June 4, 2017 - July 16, 2017

	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25	July 2	July 9	July 16
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Dan	Pastor Marcus	Jon Hunter	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Dan
<b>Assist. Minister</b>	Diann Hines	Mason Reese	Pastor Marcus	Dave Hines	Rod Knox	Pastor Dan	Dave Hines
<b>Children's Time</b>	Rod Knox	Pastor Marcus	Rod Knox	Kristen	Kristen	Jon Hunter	Pastor Dan
<b>Call to worship</b>	Pastor Dan	N/A	Jon Hunter	N/A	Kristen	N/A	Pastor Marcus
<b>Acolyte</b>	Riann Myers	Ashlyn R.	Micah	Abby	Riann M.	Abby C.	Alex K.
<b>Lector</b>	Kathy Garrison	Jerry Springer	Suzanne Leslie	Jayne M.	Mary Heyse	Marilyn M.	Sue Brown
<b>Communion Asst.</b>	Peggy & Glenn	Barry Trenary, Marge N.	Rex & Vicki B.	Marge & Barry	Connie M., Janice T.	Marge N., Barry Trenary	Peggy B., Diann H.
<b>Ushers</b>	Rex, Jerry, Dave & Jayne M.	Rex, Jerry, Tony K., Jarrett	Jerry, Glenn M., Tina M., Janice T.	Rex & Vicki, Jerry, Carolyn O.	Jerry, Rex, Dave & Jayne M.	Jerry, Rex, Tina M., Glenn M.	Jerry, Rex, Tony K., Russ H.
<b>Greeters</b>	Trenary	Hathaway	John Foell, Jean Yoder	Aldrich	Don & Connie Myers	Trenary	Ken & Mary Heyse
<b>Nursery</b>	Aldrich	Jessica & Kaitlyn	Carol & Linda	Mandy Kintz	Laker	Jessica & Kaitlyn	Carol R., Linda W.
<b>Sunday School</b>	Kathy Garrison	Cindy R. & Helper	N/A	Vicki	N/A		
<b>Tech</b>	Barry & Micah	Jeff & Alex	Connie & Barry	Justin & Micah	Barry, Alex K.	Micah, Justin A.	Barry, Connie M.
<b>Coffee</b>	Ken & Mary Heyse						
<b>Altar</b>	Diann Hines	Diann Hines	Diann Hines	Diann Hines			
<b>Prayer Team</b>	Jessica, Dan	Cindy R., Jayne M.	Jon, Esther	Jessica, Sue B.	Sue B., Brian M.	Esther, Jon	Jayne M., Pastor Marcus

The past few weeks we have enjoyed some field trips around town. We braved the rain one morning and walked to the Sprinkling Can. While we were there, we had a chance to see all the different flowers and learn about the floral arrangements they put together for their customers. Last week we walked down to the Eckhart Public Library. We admired the beautiful stained glass windows and all the wonderful art work on display. Then we went downstairs to the Children's area. There we played, spent some time reading books, and then we were able to see their Secret Garden. We are looking forward to spending more time there when we resume school in August!



### 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.

### Help Needed

The Preschool is always looking for items for our practical life shelves. Most of the items we use in this area can be found at garage sales or Good Will. If you would be interested in helping with some of these items we would truly appreciate the donations.

Items Needed: Baskets (all sizes), Trays (plastic or wood), small glass bowls, pitchers, vases, cups, unique small spoons, ladles, tongs, wooden puzzles, blocks, legos.

## Jocelyn Asleep in Jesus

My beautiful wife, Jocelyn, died on March 6th. She endured a devastating degenerative neurological condition for more than seven years. You readers, and many others in the Church, faithfully upheld Jocelyn and our family in prayer. We thank you for your prayers for Jocelyn as her life came to an end in this creation.

Your prayers powerfully sustained and carried us along in the hands of Jesus for several years. In all we experienced, including the death of our son, Kevin, four years ago, not once, not even for a moment, have I ever been or felt alone. Jesus keeps all His promises, especially to be with us *“always, to the end of the age.”* He keeps His promise for me in and through your prayers.

Our good Lord answered your prayers. A few weeks before Jocelyn’s death, I began asking people to pray she would die peacefully in Jesus in her sleep. Her condition was such that the pain could have intensified in the final weeks. Instead it lessened to almost no pain.

Jocelyn was at high risk for aspiration. Her doctors said she would likely die of pneumonia. Her home hospice nurse thought she would have some buildup of fluid in her remaining hours. He supplied us with medications to use if her breathing became heavily labored and carefully instructed us what to do. Your prayers were answered. Her breathing in the last 24 hours was only slightly labored. Not once in her last couple days was there any indication of fluid in her lungs nor any coughing.

Our daughter, Ruth, a nurse, was in the room when her Mother died. She had never seen such a peaceful death. You can hear how Jocelyn died by listening to Bach’s *Mass in B Minor*. Listen to the *Et Incarnates est* and *Crucifixus* in his setting of the Nicene Creed. The gradually slowing and softening of the chorus in those parts until there is utter silence is exactly how peacefully Jocelyn fell asleep in Jesus.

Of course if you listen to that part of the Mass, right after the peaceful silence you will hear the glorious joy of our Lord’s resurrection, and the hope of Jocelyn’s resurrection, as well as ours and all the saints.

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

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## Mission Reflections from Kathleen Lutz

Living in poverty and having mouths to feed and no running water, which would you choose? The obvious may be bread. However, when I visit schools, homes or in a conversation with a student, someone will ask me for a Bible. I find that people who live in poverty are thirsty for the Word. The response is positive as I offer Bible studies and times of fellowship.

You can help by gifting someone with a Bible, the Word that gives Hope in Jesus Christ, the very Hope that we want to share with others. *You and I can reach many with the true Bread of Life.*

*One Bible costs just \$6. Simply send a contribution to: World Mission Prayer League, 232 Clifton Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403 with a note: LUTZ Bible Ministry Fund OR go to [wmpl.org](http://wmpl.org) and see “gifts” to contribute online. Thank you, Kathleen Lutz*

## JUNE 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)	29 Memorial Day Pastor Dan's Day Off	30 Wall Removal Work	31 Wall Removal Work 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 10:30 AM Bible Study at Betz 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice	1 Wall Removal Work 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	2 Pastor Marcus' Day Off Wall Removal Work	3
4 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA 1:00 AM Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)	5 Pastor Dan's Day Off Security System Install Work Removal Work Backup	6 Carpet Work Security System Install Work Removal Work Backup	7 Carpet Work Security System Install 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors & Kathy Meeting 12:00 PM Ministry Calling Group 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice	8 Carpet Work Security System Install 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 4:30 PM Preschool Board Meeting 5:30 PM Care Team Meeting 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	9 Carpet Work Pastor Marcus' Day Off Security System Install	10
11 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:30 AM Immersion Team Gathering 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)	12 Pastor Dan's Day Off	13	14 Flag Day 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:00 AM All Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Pastors Meeting 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice	15 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	16 Pastor Marcus' Day Off	17
18 Father's Day 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)	19 Pastor Dan's Day Off	20	21 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors Meeting 12:00 PM Genealogy Group 12:00 PM Senior's Lunch 5:00 PM Community Cookout 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice	22 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	23 Pastor Marcus' Day Off	24
25 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)	26 Pastor Dan's Day Off	27	28 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice	29 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	30 Pastor Marcus' Day Off	1

## St. Mark's Financial Update

We are currently revising the information we list in the newsletter as well as how we list our financial information in the newsletter. If you have questions or comments, do not hesitate to let us know. 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 April 30, 2017

	Income	Expense	Net
Budget	\$81,666.67	\$86,928.82	\$-5,262.15
Actual	\$81,032.53	\$85,766.96	\$-4,734.43
Difference	\$-634.14	-\$1,161.86	

### April Finance Note

April was our strongest month of giving this year, though it included Easter and five Sundays. If giving each month matched the giving for April we would be very close to meeting our total planned expenses. Our hope is that we can keep this up and catch up for slower giving from first three months of the year. This would allow us to meet our budget, which is primarily staffing (the two Pastors, secretary and music director) without using up all our undesignated reserves.

### Finance Education for May

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. Throughout the year, we want to educate you about these various funds in our newsletter. This month we are focused on our two investment funds: the Endowment Fund and the Funding our Future Reserve Fund.

*Endowment Fund:* This fund is an investment fund held at the Lutheran Foundation. Its purpose according to its founding documents: The purpose of the Fund is to receive gifts and contributions, in whatever form donated, on behalf of the Congregation, and to hold and invest such gifts and contributions in order to provide and maintain a financial resource for the Congregation to accomplish charitable purpose such as the advancement of religion, the advancement of education, or any other purpose the achievement of which benefits the community. The fund was established to provide a means of ensuring long-term financial support for the various ministries of our Congregation and for the mission of St. Mark's Lutheran Church as we bear witness to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Funding Our Future Reserve Fund:* This is the investment reserve for our Funding our Future Fund. It is meant to provide long term support for the Funding our Future Fund which is used for special ministries, projects and needs that cannot be covered in the budget. These are often one time, larger needs or seed money to start new ministries or initiatives. These are not for items that should be covered in the budget or things that are considered maintenance or administrative in nature. They must be things that help move the church forward. They also must be consistent with our mission, vision and are usually something that are a part of our strategic plan. Council makes the decision on how these funds are used based on suggestions from staff, council or ministry team leaders. This fund was initially started for a 3 year term, but will be continued much like the building fund was in the past.



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**St. Mark's**  
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

**Building Relationships  
Transforming Lives**

St. Mark's Messenger is published monthly by St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Rev. Dan Bellinger	Family & Outreach Pastor
Jon Hunter	Pastoral Intern
Laura Deckard	Director of Music
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**