
ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 3 • MARCH 2017

At the core of Christianity is the belief that Jesus is the hope of the world. This means we believe the world, our country, our region, our county, and our state will only get better through the work of Jesus here. All other promises of hope are empty promises.

I was talking with Jon Hunter about Auburn and DeKalb County lately. He's been studying our community and we were talking about stats. The stats are that nearly 60% of the people in our county claimed no religious affiliation on the 2010 Census — **60%**! So that means, only 40% of our county makes a claim of faith. We should note, that's people who claim a particular religious connection, not people who are actually a part of a religion.

Shocking as they may seem, I think these numbers should motivate us. We believe Jesus is the hope of the world — that all other people who claim to bring hope are counterfeit — and 60% of the people we work with, grocery shop next to, cheer with football games, and see sitting around the tables of the restaurants don't even claim to have a connection to him. This means that we have a mission field right on our very streets as we live in a community where the minority are Christians.

The church is a fascinating group, because it is the only group that exists for the sake of everybody who is not a part of it. Our purpose for opening our doors and for all the work that we do, is that we would join God in making all things new. This is done by engaging people and the community with Jesus.

St. Mark's is a wonderful community of faith here in Auburn. But we constantly need to be thinking how can we find new ways to share Jesus to our community. Our goal is not just to minister and care for each other; that's part of what a church does, but not our primary mission. The point and purpose of our church is to transform lives by telling them about Jesus, and we should be constantly looking for new ways to do this.

One new way our church is looking to do this is a Sunday Evening Gathering. On April 23rd, we are going to be gathering at 5pm for a modern worship service. This time will look different than our 9:30am gathering, but that's the point. We're looking for new ways to tell new people about Jesus. We are excited and hope that this would be a powerful experience to engage people with the good news of Jesus.

More important than a new gathering is the mindset behind it. The measuring stick for whether or not we are a successful church is not our Sunday morning attendance or our weekly giving. Our measuring stick is lives transformed, lives being impacted by Jesus is all that matters.

We're about to enter into the season of Lent, a time of prayer and reflection. Perhaps this year in your time of prayer you could pray that God would work in and through St. Mark's, that our church would have the vision to find new ways of reaching new people with Jesus, and that he would empower you to join him in his mission of transforming lives and our community.

For His Kingdom,
Dan

Why do we???....

This is the sixth in a new series of articles we will publish in our newsletter every other month or so. It is an opportunity to look at the 'why' of what we do.

Why do we??...

Have a Pastoral Intern?

Last fall, the council made a decision in faith to bring a Pastoral Intern to St. Mark's to be a part of the team. This turned out to be a great blessing in many ways and God has provided beyond our expectation and we are just getting started. We are excited to see what God has in store for us in this new adventure. So, why do we have a Pastoral Intern and why did council make this decision?

We are a Great Commission Church. The Great Commission were some of Jesus' last words, 'Go and make disciples of all nations...' As a church associated with the NALC and LCMC, we are a Great Commission Church. As a church focused on Jesus and the Scriptures, we are a Great Commission Church. As defined by our identity, values, mission and vision, we are a Great Commission Church. Our call is to make disciples. This happens in a variety of ways, and our call to make disciples is not limited to our congregation or community. We are called to make disciples of 'all nations.' By equipping current and future leaders in the church, we are honoring our call to the Great Commission. When discussing this idea, one council member said, 'if we are going to be a Great Commission Church, we must consider this.'

We deal not just with the present, but the future. As we look to our own church, churches in the United States and the world, we recognize that we cannot just focus on the present, but must also focus on the future. Our failure as a Christian church worldwide to think about the future has been one of the major causes of the decline of the Christian church. There is a tremendous shortage of pastors as less people pursue ministry and as many pastors retire. For both the benefit of St. Mark's and other churches, we need to consider opportunities to raise up quality pastors for the future of the church.

We are called to bless others. It is not all about us. It is about the world around us and more people coming to know Jesus and becoming disciples of Jesus Christ. Having an intern helps us to make this more of a reality.

We won the intern lottery. Those of us who know anything about Jon's experience, gifts and qualifications for ministry have a hard time considering him an 'intern.' Jon has more experience, gifting and qualifications than some ordained pastors. Most churches would give anything they could to have a pastor and staff member like Jon.

We too are going to be blessed. Jon's ministry here will bless us immensely. There are four main areas of Jon's work: leading our ALPHA ministry to reach those outside the church, being the main leader of our Sunday Night Modern Worship Gathering, helping establish missional clusters within the church and finally assisting in and learning the various Pastoral roles, duties and responsibilities here at St. Mark's.

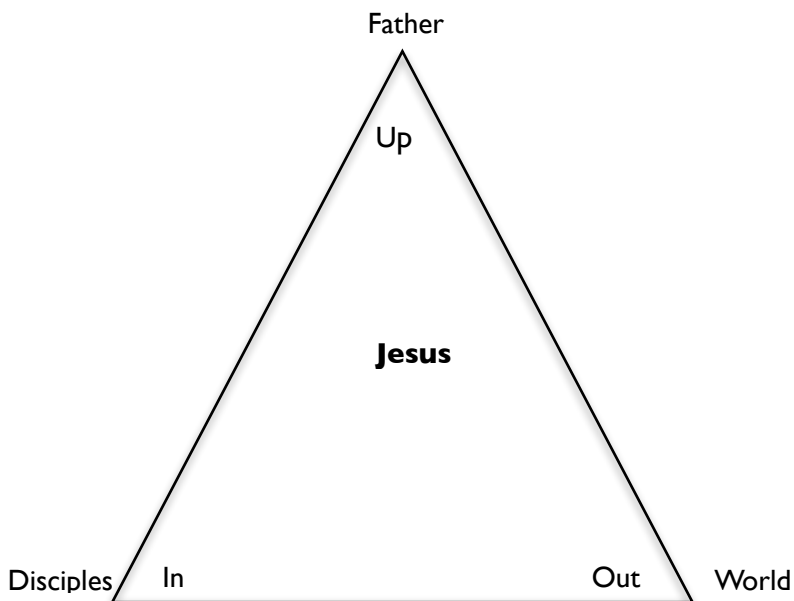
We are excited for the congregation to get to know Jon (and Esther) and be blessed, challenged and encouraged by his ministry here. We are honored that he chose St. Mark's and thankful for a congregation who is open to him.

St. Mark's Culture & DNA

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

Our DNA:

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



The Triangle: The Triangle helps us to understand that first God is a relationship and He has created us for a relationship with him and other people. *Up*-Jesus only did what He saw the Father doing. Who we are comes before anything we do. Jesus was never too busy to spend time alone talking to the Father. In the same way it all starts with a relationship with God. *In*-Just as we spend time with God it is important to live our lives with other Christians. This is more than a meeting on a Sunday; it is sharing food, celebrating life, and caring for each others needs. *Out*-Jesus also spent time out in the world announcing and bring in the kingdom of God. In the same way God wants us to life a life that brings hope, restoration, and reconciliation to a hurting world. He is calling his church to join him on His mission for the world and point people to his son Jesus.

Our Vocabulary:

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

Disciple: one who learns from, follows and is a pupil or apprentice of Jesus Christ. Following Christ, loyalty to Christ, a desire both to learn from Christ and to teach what has been learned, a desire to multiply disciples and become more like Christ are some key markers of a disciple. Making disciples is our focus along with creating a discipleship culture. To be a disciple of Jesus is to imitate Jesus in all areas of life.

Prayer of the Month:

Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, All things pass away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things. He who has God finds he lacks nothing; God alone suffices. [Prayer of St. Teresa of Avilla]

Culture Question of the Month:

What do you see God doing in the world right now?

Dates

March Birthdays

3 — Claire Greathouse
 5 — Peggy Badenhop
 6 — Katie Carlin
 7 — Vicki Bergdall
 10 — Anna Friend
 12 — Marisa Meschberger
 14 — Travis Moeller
 15 — James Johnston
 23 — William Hathaway, Leah Reynolds
 24 — Carol Sigler, Brian Moeller, Glenn Mundroff

Birthdays Continued

25 — Diann Hines
 28 — Evelyn Jungk, Carol Reese, Jerry Springer
 29 — Ruby Tuttle
 31 — Dan Bellinger

Save the Date

Mar 4 — Church Family Game Night
 April 15 — Easter Fun Day
 April 16 — Easter!
 May 7 — New Member Class
 May 20 — Youth Group Retreat
 June TBD — Community Cookout
 July 16-19 (evening) Vacation Bible School

Prayer Requests

Church Members

Evelyn Jungk, Barry Trenary, Regina Smith, The Kaduk Family, Jim Friend, Ruby Tuttle, Sue Brown, Joyce Springer, and Kathleen Lutz, our missionary in Kenya

Friends of St. Marks

Nancy Pearl (Mandy Kintz's mom) ... Levi Bracht (Laura Deckard's 6-year-old great nephew) ... Leona Bracht (Laura Deckard's mom), ... Jake Jacobsen (Mary Heyse's daughter-in-law's father) ... John Ford (father-in-law of Mike Muzzillo) ... Olivia Gadabu (friend of Peggy Badenhop) ... Teri Fritch (friend of Jane Foell and Peggy Badenhop) ... Leonard Hines (Mary Heyse's brother-in-law) ... Diana Raney (Cindy Warstler's sister) ... Ronda Clayton (friend of the Muzzillo family) ... Mungumio Vine (Kristen Konieczki's sponsored child) ... Bill Gulish (co-worker of Rex & Vicki Bergdall)... Judith Berry (Sue Brown's sister) ... Bob Friend (cousin of Marge Norris & Marilyn Myers) ... Jimmy & Jan Robison (Jimmy is a friend of John Foell from work) ... 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, Arnold Krumma, Ella McClellan

**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.*

Lent, Holy Week & Easter Schedule

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

Wednesday March 1, 7:30-9am	Drop in Ashes & Communion in the Prayer Chapel
Wednesday March 1, 7pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesdays starting March 8, 8-8:30am	Open prayer time in Prayer Chapel
Wednesdays starting March 8, 8:30-9am	Prayer Service
Wednesdays March 8-April 5, 6-7pm	Lenten Soup Suppers
Wednesdays March 8-April 5, 7pm	Lenten Service
Sundays March 5-June 4, 11am-12pm	Spring ALPHA Course (does not meet 4/16)
Sunday March 19, 5pm	Test Launch of Modern Worship Gathering
Thursday April 13, 7pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday April 14, 7pm	Community Good Friday Service (St. Mark's hosts)
Saturday April 15, 9am-6pm	Prayer Vigil
Saturday April 15, 10am-2pm	Easter Fun Day
Sunday April 16, 8am	Easter Service (coffee & light snacks after)
Sunday April 16, 10am	Easter Service (coffee & light snacks before)
Sunday April 23, 5pm	Sunday Night Modern Worship Gathering begins

Notes

Ladies,

Thank you for the beautiful hats and scarves you created for children. Your efforts were amazing and we are sure the children receiving them will be blessed. Thank You!

Brad Harris

The Alpha Update by Jon Hunter

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore the Christian faith and the meaning of life. Alpha is an effective tool that helps build relationships with people inside and outside the church family as we all journey closer toward Jesus together. It involves a short topic video and discussion questions. Alpha is all about building friendships and growing in Jesus.

Current Alphas

We recently started our Thursday evening Alpha sessions in which eight people from our St. Mark's family attended. We are towards the end of our Sunday morning Alpha, as we just had a session to discover more about the Holy Spirit. This group consists of 30 people who are trying Alpha for the first time.

Coming Up

We have another Alpha opportunity starting on March 5th from 11am-12pm after our morning worship gathering. If you are interested please put your name down on our signup sheet in Kraus Korner.

All of these Alphas are helping us to prepare for this fall, as we are launching a whole church Alpha where we have a vision to invite Auburn to experience Alpha.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lent Dinners & Worship

Wednesday, March 1 is Ash Wednesday. We will be having a worship service with the imposition of Ashes at 7:00 p.m. Our Wednesday night Lenten services will be offered every Wednesday night between Ash Wednesday and Easter (except April 12) at 7:00 pm. We will have soup suppers at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights starting on March 8. Please consider signing up to help with setup, clean up, or bringing a soup or other item on the bulletin board.

Easter Worship Assistants

We need many volunteers to make our two Easter services happen. If you are able to help in any way (usher, greet, etc), please let the church office know.

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday

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

Prayer Vigil

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

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 Sunday Adult Bible study group is the Alpha course on Sunday mornings, December through March. We will start our next Bible Study book on April 9.

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.

Modern Worship

Plans are underway for our new Modern Worship Experience on Sunday nights. The service will be at 5:00 p.m. each Sunday night starting the Sunday after Easter (April 23). This will be very different from our current service and is intended to reach the lost, those without a church, and those under 50. While it is primarily a worship experience for those not currently worshipping at St. Mark's, anyone is welcome to be a part of the service. We will be having a soft launch (practice run) of the service on Sunday, March 19. We will not be advertising this, but instead will be inviting friends and family of those helping lead the service as well as those who currently call St. Mark's home.

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

Church Directory Update

The Church Directories have arrived. Please take the directory with your name on it. The directories will be in Kraus Korner for you to pick up. If you would like a directory, please let the office know.

Service Project

In March we will be collecting peanut butter and jelly.

ALPHA

We are asking everyone at St. Mark's (Grade 6 and above) to participate in a new ministry that we are launching called ALPHA. ALPHA is an internationally renowned study of the basics of the Christian faith. We are asking everyone at St. Mark's to go through it so that we can experience it together, learn together, and have another opportunity for community. It has, can, and will be, an incredible ministry to the community, those we are trying to reach, those new to the church or faith, as well as those willing or interested in exploring Christianity. Again, we cannot encourage you enough to find a way to participate in one of the three offerings of ALPHA over the next year. If you have any questions, please speak to one of the pastors.

ALPHA Opportunities for the Congregation

Winter 2016-2017 [Sunday AM]

December 11-March 19, 11am-Noon

Winter/Spring 2017 (Thursday PM)

February 16-May 18, 7-8pm
(no meeting April 13)

Spring 2017 (Sunday AM)

March 5-June 4, 11am-noon
(no meeting, April 16)

**Childcare will be provided by request.*

Boiler Update

The Boiler project is mostly complete, with just some behind the scenes upgrades of software. We have collected enough money from various sources to cover the cost of this project through the Building Fund. Once this project is complete, we will use the adequate amount of funds we have to pay the bill in full for the boiler project. We look forward to building that fund up again for any other major needs that may come our way.

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.

Upcoming Sermons

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

Stations of the Cross [Lent]

- March 1 — Ash Wednesday, Station 1: Jesus Condemned [Mark 15:1-15]
- March 8 — Station 2: Jesus Carries Cross [John 19:13-17]
- March 15 — Station 3: Jesus Falls 1st Time [Matthew 11:28-30]
- March 22 — Station 4: Meets his Mother [John 19:25-27]
- March 29 — Station 5: Jesus Falls 2nd Time [Mark 15:16-22]
- April 5 — Station 6: Jesus Nailed to Cross [Luke 23:33-43]
- April 13 — Maundy Thursday, Station 7: Jesus Laid in Tomb [Mark 15:46-47]

6 Streams of Faith [Sunday's in Lent]

- March 5 — Contemplative: Prayer Filled [1 Cor. 1:3-9]
 - March 12 — Holiness: Virtuous Life [2 Peter 3:8-15]
 - March 19 — Charismatic: Spirit Empowered [Romans 16:25-27]
 - March 26 — Social Justice: Compassion [1 These. 5:16-24]
 - April 2 — Evangelical: Word Centered [Luke 2:22-40]
 - April 9 — Incarnational: Sacramental [John 1:1-14]
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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.

Bake Sale Fundraiser for Special Olympics

Once again, DeKalb County Special Olympics will be hosting their annual fundraiser on March 12 at the DeKalb High School at 2:00 p.m. If you would like to donate a baked good for the fundraiser, please let me know and drop it off at the office on Friday, March 10th by 3:00 p.m.

Where are we headed?

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.

Chapel Use

We are going to start making more use of the Chapel at St. Mark's. For Ash Wednesday, from 7:30-9am we will make Ashes available to anyone who wants them in the morning along with communion and prayer for those who want it. Starting Wednesday March 8, we will begin using the Chapel on a weekly basis both for St. Mark's and our larger community. Every Wednesday morning from 8:30-9am we will be having a prayer service. Our staff will all be there and we are strongly encouraging leaders and anyone who calls St. Mark's home to join us as often as possible. We will pray for our church and our community and will have a short time of a service together. The chapel will also be open for drop in prayer for all in the community and will be staffed by Pastor Marcus, Pastor Dan, or Jon each Wednesday from 8-8:30am. The chapel will also be open during all other office hours (but not staffed) for drop in prayer. Please spread the word and take advantage of this time. Prayer is our most important act and its critical to our church and our community that we gather more to pray.

Sermon Series

We will have just finished a short three week series on UP-IN-OUT, a new way we use to help us look at faith, discipleship, ministry and church. For Lent we will have two great sermon series. On Wednesday nights we will be preaching through the Stations of the Cross. On Sunday morning we will be preaching through the different streams of the spiritual life that have shaped Christianity and our various Christian faith traditions.

As always, If you miss a Sunday or Wednesday, you can always go online to watch or listen at the church website [<http://stmarksauburn.org>] or request a DVD of the service from the office.

Automatic & Online Giving Now Available

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

Funding Our Future Summary

As a reminder, Funding Our Future is our three-and-a-half-year campaign (July 2014 to December 2017) to help propel St. Mark's into the future God has for us. Each year the Council approves projects as a part of Funding Our Future. These projects include things that help us discern, live into, or move forward into our future. Building projects, ministry initiatives, staffing, learning experiences, and other items that are important to our future are considered. No project is started until funding is completely secured. Funding is not limited to the Funding Our Future account as grants are utilized as well as gifts from Memorials and the Endowment Fund. When appropriate, budget or building funds may also be utilized. We are thankful to the many who have given regularly of varying amounts to this fund in addition to their regular giving. We would not have been able to move forward without you. We are also thankful to the St. Mark's Endowment Fund and the Lutheran Foundation for all that they have and continue to do for St. Mark's as we move into the future.

As a reminder, our 2014 Funding Our Future projects were the hiring of Pastor Dan and the installation of our screen. The 2015 Funding Our Future projects included carpeting on the main level, launching the preschool (all grant money except required match funds per grant), and the installation of the chair rail lift.

Our 2016 projects include the England immersion trip, the Eagle Scout project to build a tech room in the balcony, the Willow Creek Leadership Summit, strategic planning expenses (retreat, resources, training), the US immersion experience, the LCMC National Gathering, a day of service, boiler work, the pastor spouse retreat, signage work, and finally a sound and video upgrade.

The 2017 projects and plans will be based on the strategic plan, grant availability, and the status of the Funding Our Future Account. We will let you know when those projects are developed, approved, and implemented.

Important Financial Note

We did close 2016 just over \$10,000 in the negative. We are thankful for undesignated reserves that covered this shortfall. We do anticipate a shortfall in 2017 as well. We are appreciative of any addition and increased gifts to our general fund to help close that gap and maintain healthy undesignated reserves. Thank you for your continued support as we continue to close the budget gap for 2017. As mentioned in the annual meeting, our assets remain solid, our main challenge is meeting our budget through general fund giving. We started the year off well, but a bit short on our goal on general giving to our budget/operating fund.

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. You will begin to see this emphasized more and will find more opportunities to do that at St. Mark's. We urge all who call St. Mark's home to be in prayer for our church, our community, our leaders and our staff. Taking more time for prayer will become our most important effort going forward and we hope that as many people as possible take advantage of opportunities for corporate and private prayer. We are very excited about our weekly prayer service on Wednesday mornings from 8:30-9am starting March 8. We hope that many from St. Mark's join us whenever possible for this time.

Socks & Underwear Collection

Thanks to all who contributed children's socks and underwear for the DeKalb Central elementary schools. They expressed the need for these items. I know they will be thrilled when I drop them off! Vicki Marhenke

Family Game Night

Saturday, March 4th, 5:00-8:00 p.m. we are having a Family Game Night! This is an event for the whole church to come and spend time together. Hotdogs, sides, and drinks will be provided! Along with games and food, we will be having a Cupcake Decorating Contest! There will be prizes for the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place! Bring a game, a snack, and a plate of cupcakes. See you there!

March Challenge

March 1st is the first day of Lent, our headlong journey in preparation for Easter (which is April 16 this year)! Lent is a time for reflection and contemplation, a time of preparation for our biggest celebration of the year. Over the centuries, Christians in an attempt to prepare themselves have fasted* during Lent. The thought and belief is that by removing something from our normal routine, that we become a bit more aware of the world around us.

This month, we would like to invite you to fast something for Lent. The challenge is to fast as a family or a group of friends, spending time praying for each other throughout the season. If you're struggling to think of something to fast, talk with a pastor.

[*sometimes a fast includes adding something, like extra Bible reading and prayer time.]



Loft Dates

March 5th
March 19th

Loft in March

In March, we are going to be talking about Music and will be looking at the songs that are all around us, asking what message that we're absorbing.

Loft Times

With the start of the Sunday 5:00 p.m. Worship Gathering, our times for the Loft are going to change just a bit. We are asking students to come at 5pm and be a part of the Gathering, then afterwards head up to the Loft, which will go until 7:30 p.m. This will start in April.

Summer Camp Info

Summer is right around the corner, and with summer comes camp! If you are interested in your children or teenagers going to camp, we have information in Kraus Korner! Also, any St. Mark's students going to camp are eligible to have 50% of the cost paid. See a Pastor if you have any questions.

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 January 31, 2017

	Income	Expense	Net
Budget	\$20,416.67	\$21,732.21	\$-1,315.54
Actual	\$31,685.66	\$22,582.45	\$9,103.21
Difference	\$11,268.99	-\$850.24	\$7,787.67

January Note

Please note that the numbers for January look especially good on income because the final part of the grant for Pastor Dan's position deposited that month as did some gifts that are given yearly at the beginning of the year.

Finance Education for March

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 three major funds: the General Fund, the Building Fund, and the Funding Our Future fund.

General Fund: This is the main fund of St. Mark's and is how we pay for budgeted expenses and where we record general income, offerings and any undesignated income. The vast majority of money we receive on Sunday mornings or via electronic or online giving goes into this fund. This is how we pay our salaries, general bills such as utilities and insurance, and fund most of our regular programs and ministries. In that sense, this fund is our operating fund and is most essential to our work and ministry at St. Mark's.

Building Fund: This is the fund used for special building projects and needs that cannot be covered in the budget. These are often one time, larger needs around maintenance and replacement such as heating and cooling. This helps us take care of our building and have a consistent budget each year for the more regular maintenance needs. This fund is only used for the building.

Funding Our Future: This is the fund 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.



Montessori Moment

We attend the Shrine Circus in late January. This is one of our favorite field trips! The kids had a great time seeing the animal acts and clowns. Thank you to all the parents who drove and John and Kathy Fribley for joining us. With the arrival of February, our Practical Life Shelf is full of red and pink hearts to spoon, pour and touch, building those fine motor skills. We celebrated Valentines Day with the exchanging of treats and decorating cookies. We have been discussing what love means to each of us and how can we show love to others around us. John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 are Bible verses we are reading and learning more about at circle time. It truly is amazing to hear the children talk about what love means to them and how they can show love to others. Our work and studies in the classroom are helping our children build a community of love, grace, and acceptance of others, that will carry them through their adult lives, which is exactly what Maria Montessori envisioned when she began her teaching. I encourage anyone who would like to see what goes on in our classroom to schedule an observation. We would love to share with you some of the Magical Montessori Moments that happen in our room.

Events

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

Our Scholastic book club orders continue every month. You can go on-line and use our class code Q6PHH and every purchase you make will help us earn points to buy books and other materials for our class. There is a wish list on the site of books we would like to have for our students. Books always make wonderful gifts and it's a great way to help the preschool.

Help Needed

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

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

MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA	27 Pastor Dan's Day Off	28	1 7:30 AM Ashes & Communion 9:30 AM Pastors & Kathy Meeting 7:00 PM Ash Wed. Service 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM ALPHA	3 Pastor Marcus' Day Off	4 5:00 PM Family Game Night
5 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA 6:00 PM The Loft Gathering	6 Pastor Dan's Day Off	7 7:00 PM Immersion Meeting	8 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors Meeting 10:30 AM Bible Study at Betz 6:00 PM Lent Supper 7:00 PM Lent Service 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM ALPHA 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	10 Pastor Marcus' Day Off	11
12 Daylight Saving Time 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA	13 Pastor Dan's Day Off	14	15 7:30 AM All Staff Meeting 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 Luncheon 6:00 PM Lent Supper 7:00 PM Lent Service 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 4:30 PM Preschool Board Meeting 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM ALPHA	17 Pastor Marcus' Day Off St. Patrick's Day	18
19 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA 5:00 PM Gathering (soft launch) 6:00 PM The Loft Gathering	20 Pastor Dan's Day Off	21	22 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors Meeting 6:00 PM Lent Supper 7:00 PM Lent Service 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM ALPHA	24 Pastor Marcus' Day Off	25
26 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA	27 Pastor Dan's Day Off	28	29 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 6:00 PM Lent Supper 7:00 PM Lent Service 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 9:00 AM Pastors Meeting 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM ALPHA	31 Pastor Marcus' Day Off	1 April Fool's Day

LCMC Update

We Stand on the Word of God

“...you also like living stones are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood...”

1 Peter 2:4-10

I travel a lot in my job, and the countryside is beautiful. But the amazing part is the people. What the Lord is building in our people is remarkable! I have met people from one end of this country to the other: the mountains of Spokane to Kodiak Island, Alaska; from Rincon, Georgia, to Phoenix, Arizona. Everywhere I travel I meet people and pastors who love Jesus, who love His church, and who love and acknowledge the power of God’s Word. I believe God is putting together something amazing in and through the people of LCMC, and I am privileged to be a part of it.

I am a charter member of LCMC, and I remember those first days of our association. Back then, no one gave us a chance. Some said we were a mistake and that this should never happen. Some said we were a bunch of loose cannons and wouldn’t amount to anything. I love it when some say we can’t or shouldn’t or won’t—because I believe that God can, God does and God will. And isn’t it time for some loose cannons? After all, every major mainline protestant denomination is growing smaller and growing older, and simply doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results is one very good definition of insanity.

But what I believe drives LCMC is that which is central to our name—we are in mission for Christ. We will stand on the Word of God. We will not be ashamed of the Gospel. We will preach and teach with conviction. We will live in the hope that is ours in Christ, and we will proclaim that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life!

I don’t believe that we are here by accident. I don’t believe that LCMC is a mistake. I am grateful we have a few loose cannons (not all of us like that term, but I have been called much worse), and we are all committed to Jesus and to the authority of God’s Word. We have pastors and members and churches of many styles, interests and forms. I am grateful for the most traditional and the most contemporary, for the oldest and for the youngest, for the largest and the smallest—we are a family of families and we are in this together.

But not for ourselves, it cannot be about us. This is about Jesus, and anything less is simply not enough upon which to build anything at all.

[Article by Mark Vander Tuig, Service Coordinator of LCMC]

Worship Assistant Schedule: February 26, 2017-April 13, 2017

	Feb. 26	March 1 - Ash Wed.	March 5	March 8 - Wed.	March 12	March 15 - Wed.	March 19
Preaching	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Dan	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus
Assist. Minister	Brian Moeller	John Foell	Kristen K.	Jane Foell	Pastor Dan	Diann	Jon Hunter
Children's Time	Pastor Marcus	N/A	Kristen K.	N/A	Rod Knox	N/A	Pastor Dan
Call to worship	N/A	N/A	Pastor Dan	N/A	N/A	N/A	Pastor Dan
Acolyte	Tyler W.	Abby	Camden	Micah	Ashlyn	Abby	Riann Myers
Lector	Alison	Sue Brown	Kathy G.	Jayne McClellan	Lora K.	Micah	Suzann L
Communion Asst.	Connie & Janice	Foell, Diann, & Peggy	Rod & Pastor Dan	Glenn & Pastor Marcus	Diann & Marge	Pastor Dan & Rod	Vicki & Pastor Dan
Ushers	Rex Jerry, Tina, Mason	Glenn & Rod	Rex Jerry, Art, Stan	Jayne & Marge	Rex Jerry, Glenn, Tony	Russ & Janice	Jerry, Rex, Rod, Tina
Greeters	Tilghman	Heye	McClellan	Knox	Linda W & Tina M	Mary H.	Abby & Gary H.
Nursery		N/A	Laker	N/A	Jessica & Kaitlyn	N/A	Carol & Linda
Sunday School	Reese	N/A	Jessica C.	N/A	Vicki	N/A	Reese
Tech	Justin & Barry	Jarrett & Barry	Alex & Connie	Micah & Barry	Jeff & Barry	Micah & Connie	Mason & Barry
Coffee		N/A		N/A		N/A	Hines
Altar	Peggy B	Cindy Warstler	Cindy Warstler	Cindy Warstler	Cindy Warstler	Cindy Warstler	Cindy W.
Other		Ashes-Dan & Marcus					

Worship Assistant Schedule: February 26, 2017-April 13, 2017

	March 22-Wed.	March 26	March 29-Wed.	April 2	April 5-Wed	April 9	April 13-Maundy Thur.
Preaching	Pastor Marcus	Jon Hunter	Pastor Dan	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus
Assist. Minister	John Foell	Rod Knox	Diann Hines	David Hines	Jane Foell	Kristen K.	
Children's Time	N/A	Kristen K.	N/A	Jon Hunter	N/A	Pastor Marcus	N/A
Call to worship	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jon Hunter	N/A	Pastor Dan	
Acolyte	Abby Carlson	Alexander K.	Morgann L.	Riann Myers	Micah Carlson	Ashlyn R.	
Lector	Jerry Springer	Alison A.	Bill Hathaway	Jayne M.	John Foell	Sue B.	
Communion Asst.	Glenn & Peggy	Janice & Connie	Foell	Rex & Vicki	Rod & Diann	Connie & Janice	
Ushers	McClellan	Jerry, Rex, Tony, Janice	Rod & Glenn	Jerry, Art, Stan, Mason	Russ & Janice	Jerry, Rex, Vicki, Jeff	
Greeters	Hathaway	Peggy B & Jean Y	Russ H. & Vicki M.	Don & Connie Myers	Heyse	Randy & Kathy Bergdall	
Nursery	N/A		N/A	Aldrich	N/A	Jessica & Kaitlyn	N/A
Sunday School	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A
Tech	Micah & Barry	Connie & Alex	Micah & Barry	Justin & Barry	Micah & Barry	Jeff & Connie	
Coffee	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A
Altar	Cindy Warstler	Cindy Warstler	Cindy Warstler	Tammy O'Malley	Tammy O'Malley	Tammy O'Malley	Tammy O.
Other							

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Pastoral Intern

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