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# ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

## VOLUME 21 ISSUE 5 • MAY 2017

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Recently, I was in a pastor's meeting and Jon made an interesting point. We were talking about the language we were going to use for the new 5pm Modern Worship Experience.

Language, is important, because it sets a foundation for how we begin to think about things. I can be kinda weird about the words I use — perhaps you might call me annoying in this...(it wouldn't be the first time). So we were talking about the language we were going to use to use to describe the 5pm, and Jon suggested that we call it a Gathering.

He suggested that we should call it a gathering because this is what it really is, a gathering of St. Marks. St. Marks is the people that make it up, so anytime people who make up St. Mark's get together, it is a gathering of the church. Our gatherings can be large group gatherings, like what happen at 9:30am and 5pm on Sundays or it can be any number of smaller gatherings that happen throughout the week: choir practice, Bible studies, lunch meetings/dates, mission trips, getting coffee, and retreats....all gatherings.

Again, this language is important because it keeps us thinking in the right way about things. Our church is not the program that happens at 9:30am/5pm. A church is not the building that is at 211 W. 9th St. Our church is the collection of people who are a part of our community, like coals in a fire, sand in the desert, trees in a forest. The events that happen at 9:30am & 5pm are gatherings of our church. The building at 211 W 9th St is a facility we own and operate in order to gather together in.

Stephanie, my wife, is a teacher, which means that every year we get to experience all the new colds and flus. This result of is what happens to teachers who are stuck in close contact with 20-30 children; as well as being a place of learning, a classroom often functions as a petri dish of sorts. When you get that many people together in close proximity, they can't help but share germs. The same can be said of life in the church, when we all get together, in close proximity, we can't help but share our passion and excitement. This is why we gather.

The truth of the matter is that I need you and you need me; we need to be together. This is why we gather. Our gathering should more than gathering on 9:30am or 5pm on Sunday. A group from the Thursday Pastor's Bible study has started to get together for lunch after the Bible study. After the 5pm Gathering, a group is invited to go afterwards to Mad Anthony's for a meal. I know that many people in the church get together for coffee throughout the week. All of these are gatherings of St. Mark's.

What are the new ways that we can find to gather together? Perhaps its gathering around service in the community? Perhaps we can gather together for prayer more? Perhaps it is gathering to host an Alpha in your house? Perhaps it is gathering to do a Bible study in your home?

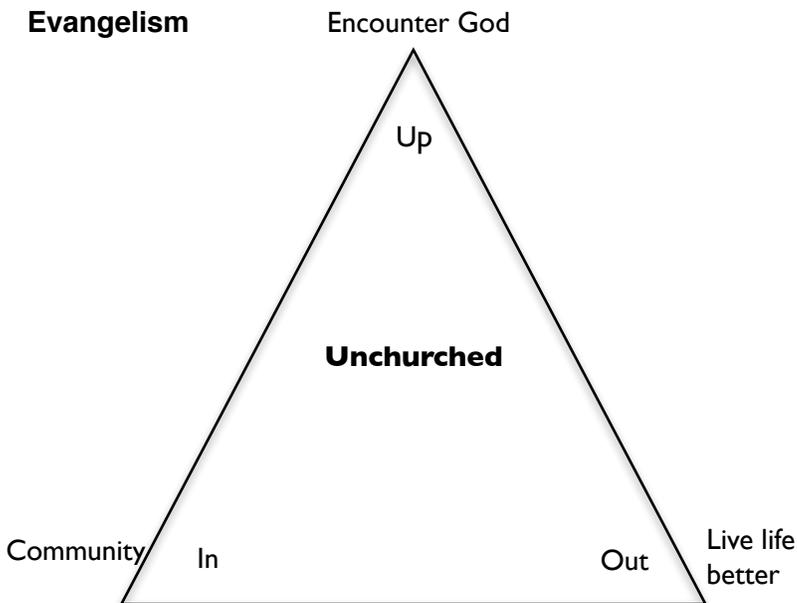
What do you think?

For His Kingdom,  
Dan Bellinger

# 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.



**Evangelism:** The Triangle helps us to understand evangelism based on how Jesus lived his life, up-in-out with the Father, the disciples and the world. As Christ-followers we are called to help others come to know Jesus. This is called evangelism, sharing the good news of Jesus. What does evangelism look like? First, in involves a connection *in* to community, a community of believers. The church is a community of communities. Secondly, it involves an a journey *up* to *encounter God*. Our goal is to help people encounter the living God that we know and love. Finally, a person takes what they have gained *out* into their lives in order to *live life better*. Those who come into Christian community and encounter God live differently. Evangelism = lives changed by 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 word is *Trust*.

**Trust:** Trust is the very definition of faith and our one great action as Christians. This is only possible through the Holy Spirit. The posture for a disciple is to grow in their trust of God in dynamic relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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## Prayer of the Month:

Holy Spirit,  
In this midst of the craziness of life, I cry out to you, longing for your help and guidance. As I walk through the quiet places life, remind me that you walk with me and I need you.  
As I walk through the valleys of life, remind me that you walk with me and I need you.  
As I walk through the open fields of life, remind me that you walk with me and I need you.  
As I walk through the happy times of life, remind me that you walk with me and I need you.  
As I walk through the sad times of life, remind me that you walk with me and I need you.  
In all times and in all places, remind me that you walk with me and I need you.  
Amen

## Culture Question of the Month:

What do you see God doing in your life right now? What is God calling you to do or be as a result?

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## Notes

Dear Members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your continued support with your special collections of food every month. They are greatly appreciated by the residents of DeKalb county that are served.

Shirley Johnson, Program Coordinator

Dear Judy,

I want to thank you for the lovely Easter Gift bag. It was a struggle but with my magnifier I enjoyed The Easter Story, very nice. Wishing you and your family a Happy Easter. Again I want to thank all of my friends at St. Marks Lutheran Church for remembering me.

In Christian Love, Ellen Bates

I would like to share the power of prayer. My friend, Olivia, has been on our prayer list for over a year. Her year began with chemo, followed by surgery to remove the cancer, reconstructive stomach surgery, and ended with 2 more rounds of chemo. Recently, Olivia was found to be cancer free and will return to work on April 10. She wanted to thank everyone for their prayers. Olivia is looking forward to enjoying life along with her 2 young sons. Praise be to God.

Peggy Badenhop

## Save The Date

May 7	New Member Class
May 20	Work Day
June TBD	Community Cookout
July 16-19 (evening)	Vacation Bible School
August 10 & 11	Willow Creek Leadership Summit
August 20	Church Picnic
September 9	Gratitude, Cornerstone of Generosity Seminar w/Mark VanderTuig, head of the LCMC
September 10	Mark VanderTuig, head of the LCMC preaching
September 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
October 29	Confirmation Sunday
November 11	All Church/ALPHA Retreat

## Dates

### May Birthdays

4 — Mary McClain, Marilyn Myers  
 9 — Abby Carlson  
 11 — Pastor Marcus  
 12 — Kathleen Lutz  
 13 — Janice Tilghman  
 17 — Larry Myers  
 19 — Jim Friend  
 22 — Christie Greathouse, Dolores Souder

### May Birthdays Cont.

23 — Joyce Bidlack,  
 Dave McClellan  
 27 — Lora Konieczki  
 28 — Jordan Wilhelm  
 30 — John McCollough

### May Anniversaries

7 — Darin & Tina Meschberger  
 19 — Barry & Janice Tilghman

## Prayer Requests

### Church Members

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

### Friends of St. Marks

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

**Remembering those who have passed away:** Leona Bracht, Laura Deckard's mom; Herman Bozarth, Stan Bozarth's dad

### 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

## **Greeter & Usher Training**

If you are a Greeter or an Usher, we will have a training session to talk over the procedures for these to roles on May 7th at 11am (after our 9:30am Gathering). We would like all those who are ushers and greeters to be at this meeting, if you cannot make it, please talk with Pastor Dan.

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## **New Members**

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

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## **Work Day, May 20**

We will be having a church work day on Saturday, May 20th, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We will be getting the Chapel and Fireplace Room ready for new carpet. If you have any questions or can help, please contact Pastor Dan.

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## **Graduation Sunday**

We will be honoring graduations on Sunday May 21st. If you have any graduates in your family, would you please call Kathy in the office (925-3882) or shoot her an email (office@stmarksauburn.org) with information about your graduate!

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## **Sunday School Help Wanted**

We are looking for people to help us with Sunday School at the 9:30am Worship Service. We have looked to make it a very user friendly experience. If you would be willing to lead, please talk with Pastor Dan.

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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. 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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## **Weekly Bible Studies**

### Pastor's Bible Study

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

### Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

The Adult Bible Study will be meeting on May 7 and 21 after worship in the council room. All are welcome to come! We are starting a study on prayer. This is a great time for our church family to learn more about prayer. Does it make any difference? Does prayer change us or God or both? We will have a DVD to watch, discussion, Bible exploration, sharing, and group prayer. Please join in!

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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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## **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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## **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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## **Service Project**

In May we will be collecting personal care products.

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## **5pm Gathering**

The 5pm Gathering has begun. 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!

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

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## **Sunday Morning Sermon Series**

After Easter, we will begin a new 4 week sermon series on our mission and vision at St. Mark's. After that series, we will take one Sunday to look at our community covenant before we begin our summer Sprint through the Bible series in June. 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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## **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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## **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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## **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 Marge Norris 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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## **Vacation Bible School: Mountains**

We are looking for volunteers for Vacation Bible School this summer, July 16-19. Our theme is Mountains. Look for a sign up sheet in Kraus Korner, and see Pastor Dan with any questions.

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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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## **Upcoming Sunday Morning Sermon Series**

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.

### **Vision Part 1**

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

### **Vision Part 2**

May 14 — Sent [Isaiah 6:1-8]

### **Vision Part 3**

May 21 — Revitalize [Revelation 21:1-6]

## **Community Covenant**

May 28 — Challenge & Promise [TBD]

## **Sprint Through the Bible**

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

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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. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 10 at 5:30 p.m.

#### *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?**

We have spiritually grown inside St. Mark's at our own pace and comfort. We have an opportunity to "Ring the Bell" for St. Mark's outside our church! We have several outside projects that can improve our community appearance. We need help in the following areas:

- Trimming Knockout Roses - Goggles not required but long sleeves encouraged. Lobbers in bell tower.
- Trim back some bushes in Bercaw Garden
- Add new mulch in Bercaw Garden
- Add back dirt around new sign and seed with grass or plant bulbs
- Add back dirt at new curbing on 9th Street plus seed.
- Trim bushes around church ( Van Buren)
- Add dirt on Van Buren and seed by road
- Plant flowers in pots on corner and by 9th Street entrance
- Plus add weed killer in play area where stones are located
- Plus many others: solar lighting, white cross in garden, flag pole

Here is your incentive! All equipment for mowing, trimming, blowing, loppers plus water hose are located in the bell tower. We have gas and special mix gas for small equipment. Keys are available on the bulletin board or from Kathy. When you finish a job... You can ring the bell 3-5 times to Glorify God with your special talent! Let's ring the bell and wake up our community! If you have any questions, please see Rod Knox. Thank you!

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### **Loft Dates**

May 7th — Loft Gathering

May 21st — Loft Final Night

### **Loft May Theme**

For the month of May, we will be talking about being a disciple: UP—IN—OUT.

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### **The May 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 May's challenge.]*

This month's challenge is to share a meal with others from the church.

Often we see people from our church community only when we are gathered together, then quickly go home afterwards. One way we can become a better, stronger congregation is to have meals with each other. There is something powerful about having a meal together, whether at home or at a restaurant.

We would love for people in the St. Mark's community to invite each other to share a meal together, whether to their home or out to a restaurant, whether you pay or go dutch, whether in big groups or small groups. We think this can be an exciting and powerful experience for you and everybody involved!

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

*What new things did you learn about your friends?*

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

*Are there other people you'd like to have a meal with?*

## LCMC Update

### Traveling Throughout Our Association

In this work of “Service Coordinator,” I am called to travel what seems like almost constantly. When I interviewed for this position, my wife wanted me to ask about the expectation for travel. The Board of Trustees members thought it would probably be about 100 trips a year, which I thought wouldn’t be so bad. It hasn’t been that much, but it is almost every weekend and sometimes during the week. What is interesting is the great diversity across our association: in language, worship style, ministry focus and weather!

I have no idea how many different languages are spoken in the worship life of our congregations, but I have had to have an interpreter on a few occasions while preaching in churches here in the U.S. It is so encouraging to know that the Gospel is not bound to one “tongue” but moves with power through every language! Worship styles and formats also vary widely—which seems completely appropriate. Worship reflects the life and interests of those who gather to lift their voices in prayer and praise. In some places only contemporary music is sung, in others only hymns. Some pastors wear clergy shirts and robes, other places the attire is very casual. What binds us together is not our worship style or clothing, but our theology! Check out Article 7 of the *Augsburg Confession*: this is fundamental to the formation and on-going life of LCMC.

Even more exciting are the myriad ways that our congregations are engaging the community with the Gospel of Christ! From reaching out to laundry mats to a church service at a bar on Wednesday nights. And even to hear congregations asking good questions is so encouraging ... it is a great beginning toward a much stronger future.

The other thing about travel: I have no idea what the weather will be! The second weekend of January I was in southeast Texas, in the community of El Campo...and I froze! When we landed in Austin I asked the pilot, “Did we actually land in Texas? It feels more like Iowa, the place I left!”

I am excited about our future. No matter where it leads, I will look forward to meeting more and more of our pastors, leaders and people of the congregations of LCMC! And I am grateful to God for calling us to form this association so many years ago.

[Article by Mark Vander Tuig, Service Coordinator]

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### The Alpha Update- By Jonathan Hunter

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

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

For more information about Alpha check out [alpha.org](http://alpha.org).

## Worship Assistant Schedule May 7, 2017 - June 18, 2017

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28	June 4	June 11	June 18
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Dan	TBD	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Dan
<b>Assist. Minister</b>	Mason Reese	Pastor Dan	John Foell	Brian Moeller	Jane Foell	Mason Reese	Pastor Marcus
<b>Children's Time</b>	Jon Hunter	Pastor Marcus	Kristen	Rod Knox	Jessica	Pastor Marcus	Rod Knox
<b>Call to worship</b>	Jon Hunter	N/A	Jon Hunter	N/A	Pastor Dan	N/A	Jon Hunter
<b>Acolyte</b>	Camden K.	Tyler Wilhelm	John M.	Alex K.	Riann Myers	Ashlyn R.	Micah
<b>Lector</b>	John Foell	Mary Heyse	Jane Foell	Lora K.	Kathy Garrison	Jerry Springer	Suzanne Leslie
<b>Communion Asst.</b>	Foells	Connie M. & Janice T.	Diann & Vicki B.	Foell	Peggy & Glenn	Barry Trenary, Marge N.	Rex & Vicki B.
<b>Ushers</b>	Rex, Jerry, Art B., Stan B.	Rex, Jerry, Tina M., Rod K.	Rex, Jerry, Glenn M., Tony K.	Rex, Jerry, Russ H., Carolyn O.	Rex, Jerry, Dave & Jayne M.	Rex, Jerry, Tony K., Jarrett	Jerry, Glenn M., Tina M., Janice T.
<b>Greeters</b>	McClellan	Cindy & John	Tilghman	Linda W. & Tina	Trenary	Hathaway	Foell
<b>Nursery</b>	Laker	Jessica & Kaitlyn	Carol & Linda	Mandy Kintz	Aldrich	Jessica & Kaitlyn	Carol & Linda
<b>Sunday School</b>	Vicki	N/A	Cindy & helper				N/A
<b>Tech</b>	Jarrett & Micah	Barry & Alex	Jeff & Connie	Justin & Alex	Barry & Micah	Jeff & Alex	Connie & Barry
<b>Coffee</b>							
<b>Altar</b>	Jane Foell	Jane Foell	Jane Foell	Jane Foell	Diann Hines	Diann Hines	Diann Hines
<b>Prayer Team</b>	Sue Brown	Jayne M., Brian M.	Cindy R., Jon	Esther, Sue B.	Jessica, Dan	Cindy R., Jayne M.	Jon, Esther
<b>Other</b>							

## Montessori Moment



The Auburn Fire Department came and visited our classroom this month! They showed us all the equipment that a Fireman has to wear to protect them while they fight fires. The children got a chance to feel all the clothes and even had a chance to lift the 50 lb. air tank they use. Then we got to go out and see all the different areas of the fire truck and see the lights and hear the siren. The lesson that they taught us was even though a Fireman can look pretty scary when he has all of his equipment on, we are not to be afraid, because they are there to help and protect all of us!

### 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

We are currently looking for help in the classroom for the last 4 1/2 weeks of school. Tuesday-Thursday from 9am-2pm. If you would be interested in helping anytime those days or hours please let me know. You can email me at [linda@stmarksauburn.org](mailto:linda@stmarksauburn.org)

I'm accepting applications for an assistant for the 2017-2018 school year. If you know of anyone looking for employment please have them send a resume to me at [linda@stmarksauburn.org](mailto:linda@stmarksauburn.org)

# St. Mark's Financial Update

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

## Budget Snapshot

General/Operating Fund (Budget)  
Through March 31, 2017

	Income	Expense	Net
Budget	\$61,250.01	\$65,196.63	-\$3,946.62
Actual	\$60,504.22	\$63,785.30	<b>-\$3,281.08</b>
Difference	-\$745.79	\$1,411.33	

## 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 funds: the Youth Fund, and the Memorial Fund.

*Youth Fund:* This is the main source of funds for ministry and programs to and with our children, youth and families. We have a small amount of budget funds each year that are used for things like Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. The youth fund is used when this is depleted and to cover other events, programs and ministries for our children and youth. The primary source of income for the youth fund is our fair parking event. The congregation works together to run this important fundraiser to support our children and youth. The youth fund covers some of the cost of retreats, mission trips and other children, youth and family events. This fund is also used to support our children and youth that go to one of our three Lutheran summer camps. St. Mark's pays half the fee for any child or youth from St. Mark's that participates and has for a number of years. The money for this comes from the youth fund. We do receive some donations to this fund in addition to youth payments and fair parking monies from time to time. Next time you are working the fair parking, remember, what you are doing makes a difference!

*Memorial Fund:* This is the fund that contains memorial gifts given to St. Mark's in honor of the passing of a person from St. Mark's, someone who asks for donations to be made to St. Mark's or someone who has a connection to someone at St. Mark's. When these gifts are received, the family is notified and the church secretary keeps track of the amounts given in the name of each person. All these gifts are kept in the Memorial Fund until they are used. There is a specific policy governing the use of Memorial Funds depending on the amount and the project. The Pastor, the family of the person who the monies were given in honor of are always involved in the use of the fund. Depending on the amount of the gifts, the finance team and the council may be involved in the decision as well. Please note, this does not include estate gifts. Estate gifts are handled differently and covered under a different policy. Estate gifts are gifts given to the church directly from the estate of a deceased former member. If you are interested in seeing a copy of the policy that guides our Memorial Fund (or our estate gifts), please contact the church office.

**MAY 2017**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30 Germany Trip 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA 11:00 AM Confirmation 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship) 6:00 PM The Loft Gathering</p>	<p>1 Germany Trip Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p>2 Germany Trip</p>	<p>3 Germany Trip 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors &amp; Kathy Meet 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4 Germany Trip 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM ALPHA 7:00 PM Executive Council Meeting</p>	<p>5 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA 11:00 AM Greeter &amp; Usher Training 11:00 AM New Member Class 11:00 AM Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship) 6:00 PM The Loft Gathering</p>	<p>8 Pastor Dan's Day Off 5:30 PM Finance Team Meeting</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors Meeting 11:00 AM Pastors Retreat 4:30 PM Preschool Board Meeting 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:30 PM Property Team Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM Worship &amp; Music Team Meeting</p>	<p>11 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM ALPHA 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>12 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Mother's Day 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)</p>	<p>15 Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 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 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM ALPHA</p>	<p>19 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>20 8:00 AM Work Day</p>
<p>21 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM ALPHA 11:00 AM Confirmation-Faith Project Meeting 11:00 AM Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship) 6:00 PM The Loft Gathering (Final Night)</p>	<p>22 Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 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>25 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>26 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>29 Memorial Day Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p>30 Wall Removal Work</p>	<p>31 Wall Removal Work 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:00 AM Pastors Meeting 10:30 AM Bible Study at Betz 5:30 PM Modern Worship Practice</p>	<p>1 Wall Removal Work 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>2 Pastor Marcus' Day Off Wall Removal Work</p>	<p>3</p>

# Why do we???....

*This is the seventh in a 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 Special Financial Accounts?

At St. Mark's, we love questions. We love it when people ask questions instead of wondering, making something up or engaging in gossip or conspiracy theories as is so often the case in our world today. We have found that 90% of the questions asked are answered in the newsletter, but we also know that there are many questions that are not asked. Anticipating and answering those questions is tricky, but part of the purpose of this piece is our newsletter every other month. The question for this month is a financial one. Why do we have special financial accounts? If you read the newsletter, you have likely noted we have various types of accounts. You see this in other publications, on offering envelopes and in the online giving portal. We take time throughout the year to educate the congregation on each of the major accounts on our financial education page, but why do we have them? Most of us in our personal finances have one budget, one way (through maybe a couple different bank accounts) that our money goes in and out, but that is not exactly the case with churches. We are not alone in this, as the vast majority of churches in the United States function this same way.

**As a Non-Profit, we must honor designated gifts.** Every non-profit relies on generous giving from those who support the organization. It may be from members or those who are a part of the organization, much like those who give regularly to St. Mark's. They might be special gifts in honor of someone who has passed away or a gift from an estate of someone who has passed away. They could be grants or other special gifts. If a gift is marked for a specific purpose and we accept the gift, we must honor the designed purpose of the gift.

**Special accounts protect the intended use.** While most of us give to the general or operating fund to fund our budget each year, we also receive many specific gifts. They may be things marked by the giver or could be memorials, estate gifts or grants. Each of these have a specific purpose and we are obligated to honor that purpose. Having the special accounts makes sure we protect the intended use and track it well in case we ever have to account for it. This is particularly important in dealing with grants.

**Special accounts roll over from year to year.** Our budget clears out every calendar year, while our special funds rollover. This is helpful for accounting and for the work we do as it is the wise way to make sure funds are used the way they were intended without being forced to spend them to zero every year.

**Special accounts have a special purpose.** As Pastor Dan likes to explain, our general fund or operating fund (the budget) is for our regular, day-to-day operation. It is the things that occur regularly like salaries, utilities, benevolence giving etc. Special accounts are for those special things that occur one time, are a start-up expense, a project or have a specific purpose that cannot or should not be met in our budget. This includes building, ministry and other items.

As always, we hope this piece answers any questions you might have or questions that you did not even know that you have! Do not hesitate to ask our pastors, council or in this case finance team if you have any questions. If we do not know the answer off the top of our heads, we will get it for you as soon as possible.

**ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

211 West Ninth Street

Auburn, IN 46706

Web Page: [www.stmarksauburn.org](http://www.stmarksauburn.org)

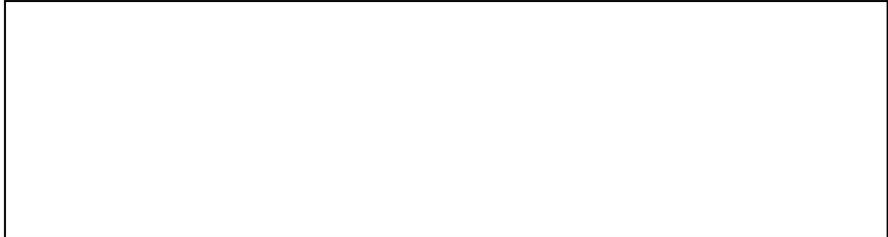
Pastor Marcus: [pastormarcus@stmarksauburn.org](mailto:pastormarcus@stmarksauburn.org)

Pastor Dan: [pastordan@stmarksauburn.org](mailto:pastordan@stmarksauburn.org)

E-mail: [office@stmarksauburn.org](mailto:office@stmarksauburn.org)

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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**