
ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 11 • NOVEMBER 2017

Pastor Dan's Article

My last two newsletter articles have been reflections on the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel. This month, I'd like to continue the pattern and talk about the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah is a very interesting book centering around the fact that the people are being sent into exile because of their failure to be faithful to Yahweh.

Isaiah 1 begins in a very alarming manner: God tells his people to stop worshipping him. He tells them that they should stop making sacrifices to him, because they are meaningless. He continues that they should end their sabbath remembrances and festivals because he is weary of them. He ends by saying he hides his eyes from them and is not listening when they pray. Like I said, alarming.

To help understand Isaiah, I'd like to go back to Exodus chapter 19. Exodus 19 is the chapter right before the 10 Commandments, the first of the 613 laws in the Torah, and is a preamble to the covenant between Yahweh and his people. It sets up a the purpose for why Yahweh is doing what he's doing. Verses 5 and 6 say,

"Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests & a holy nation.

Yahweh creates Israel to be set apart and different (i.e. to be holy) and to be a kingdom of priests. Priests are people who reflect the divine to the world. It is the job of a priest to show the world who their god is. So the reason why Yahweh covenants with Israel is so that they can show the world who he is. They were created with a mission and a purpose in mind: to tell the world about Yahweh.

Interestingly, he gives them Canaan, a narrow land bridge with the sea on one side and an impenetrable desert on the other. To the north and south of this land were the major powers of the ancient world; to the south, Egypt; to north Assyria, Babylon, the Hittites, and the Persians. Going back and forth between these empires were trade routes, one of the biggest and most important one going right smack dab through the middle of the land that Yahweh gave his people. So Israel — founded to be a different people, revealing God to the world — was placed in one of the highest traffic places in the world in order to reveal Yahweh to the world.

Yet, to go back to Isaiah 1, we'll see why Yahweh is angry at Israel. They have blood on their hands. They need to learn to do right, to see justice, defend the oppressed, to take up the cause of the fatherless, to plead the case of the widow. They were once full of justice, but now they're murderers. The rules and leaders have become corrupt. This list does not look like a people who are set apart. It does not look like a list of descriptors for a kingdom of priests. Yahweh, through Isaiah, is condemning Israel because it has forgotten its mission, and their religion has become just meaningless gestures to him. As a result, they are sent into exile.

The story of Israel is our story. As we read the words of the prophets, our task is to ask ourselves how they reflect on us and our lives. We too have been given the sacred task of being Yahweh's priests to the world around us. The question Isaiah forces us to ask is, have we, like the people of Israel forgotten our mission; have we walked away from the call that Yahweh has given us? Do we lives our lives in such a way that through our actions and deeds people are coming to see God for who he is? Or do we too comfortably fit in with the world around us?

As I look around at many of the churches in our neighborhoods and around the country, I see so many churches who seem to have forgotten the sacred task God has given them. They are too interested in the form of religion and have not been active in revealing God to the world. I pray that St. Mark's would never forget the call to be God's priests here in Auburn, DeKalb County, and Northeast Indiana. I pray that we would always put the sacred task that we have been given at the forefront of all that we do as a church.

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. Below is our community covenant, which outlines our goals and expectations of one another as members of St. Mark's.

A Community Covenant: Membership Expectations at St. Mark's

We welcome anyone and everyone to worship at St. Mark's as the church is truly a community of faith where all are welcome. Membership is a commitment to the community, and it is a covenant relationship. Membership is for those individuals and families that desire to make a commitment to St. Mark's as their church home. Our prayer is that each individual and family who are members at St. Mark's would connect with God, St. Mark's and the community in a way that is meaningful and transformative. Our hope is that every member at St. Mark's would connect in ways that fit their gifts, calling, schedule and season of life while seeking to grow in each of the four areas of commitment. The greatest priority is that we would all grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ and be a part of Jesus' vision for the Kingdom of God in the world. There are four aspects of the membership covenant here at St. Mark's outlined in our four-quadrant diagram below.

	<i>Outside the Church</i>	<i>Inside the Church</i>
<i>Spiritual</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tend to your Personal Spiritual Life:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pray Regularly 2. Read the Scriptures 3. Practice other Spiritual Disciplines 	<p style="text-align: center;">Participate in the Life of the Church</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend Worship Regularly 2. Connect with other Members 3. Participate in other Ministries/Events
<i>Practical</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Use your Gifts in the World:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pray for our Community & World 2. Serve in the community in at least one capacity 3. Encourage others to serve in the community. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Use your Gifts in the Church:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Time: share your time with the Church 2. Talent: use your gifts/talents in the Church 3. Treasure: give to the Church

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 *vehicle and priesthood*.

Vehicle: People, programs and processes that carry out the ministry of the church and fulfill our mission and vision. These are also tools used to help people in their discipleship journey.

Priesthood of all Believers: Luther taught that all Christians should be seen as priests, or ministers. We are all ministers of the Gospel and all called to do ministry in the church and the world. Ministry is not to be performed exclusively by pastors, staff or leaders alone, but is the work of all in our church community.

Prayer of the Month:

God, help me to see what my role is as one of the priesthood of all believers.

Culture Question of the Month:

What is God calling you to sacrifice for the good of others, the church and the Kingdom of God?

Save The Date

November 5	Faith Forum: Pastor's mission to Nepal & Bangladesh
November 8	SpeakUp: A Conference on the Church & Mental Health
November 11	All Church/ALPHA Retreat
November 19	My First Bible class
December 3	Annual Congregational Meeting
December 16 4:00-10:00pm	Carlson Family Open House/Christmas Party
December 24	Christmas Eve Services: 5pm Modern, 7pm Traditional

Thank You

Dear Faith in Action Group,

Thank you so much for your donation of 4 blankets. What a wonderful addition to our supply of baby items for our clients. It was very thoughtful of you to think of WCCNE. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely, Mary Jo, Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne

Dear St. Mark's Friends,

The board and staff wish to express our deepest thanks to your "Faith in Action" volunteers. The tasks they completed were so helpful, and the kittens loved all of the attention!

We truly appreciate your support and hope you will visit us again soon. We always are in need of volunteers.

Sincerely, Sue Houser, Secretary, DeKalb Humane Society

Dear St. Mark's,

What a wonderful group of people who came to my home. Each person worked faithfully (and hard) to accomplish many tasks for me—with smiles on their faces and a willingness to do more. Thank you to each person for his/her contribution to the work that was done. This has been a tremendous blessing for me, and I am most grateful. God bless you all.

Mary Rowell

Dear St. Mark's,

We would like to thank everyone at St. Mark's for your continued support of our preschool. Special thank you to: Jane Foell, Cindy Warstler, Marge Norris, Marilyn Myers, Vicki Marhenke, Vicki Bergdall, Barb Knox, Mary Heyse, Rod Knox, Dave Treckman, William Hathaway, John and Kathy Fribley and Jessica Carlson. We appreciate the sewing projects, cutting material, donating supplies on our supply list, helping sub in the classroom, volunteering in classroom, and the maintenance on the playground and in the classroom! We apologize if we have missed anyone. We are truly humbled and blessed by all of your kind generosity!

Linda Vandemark, Preschool Director

The Alpha Update by Jon Hunter

Alpha at the YMCA has been an amazing experience. Over thirty people from several churches have been involved in this kingdom initiative. God is moving and working in several people. The small groups have been fantastic as tears, love, and laughter has been shared as each group as gelled together.

Dates

November Birthdays

8 — Bonnie Trenary
10 — Kirk Robinett
14 — Stan Bozarth,
Barry Tilghman
18 — Mark Velkoff
20 — Deborah Hundagen
21 — Joyce Springer

Nov. Birthdays Cont.

26 — Cheryl Myers
27 — Duane Runion
28 — Barb Hoff
29 — Connie Dicke

November Anniversaries

28 — Aaron & Breanna Orwig

Prayer Requests

Grief: Evelyn Jungk

Church Members

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

Friends of St. Mark's

Ron Kock (friend of Rod Knox) ... Eva Young (neighbor of Barry & Bonnie Trenary) ... Susie Dilley (friend of Cindy Warstler) ... Jo Kruse (Jane Foell's sister recovering from eye surgery) ... Jeannie Warstler (Linda Wolff's sister-in-law) ... Randy Young (member of our community) ... Mike Buchs (son of friend of Nila Muzzillo) ... Gerry Nagel (Konieczki family) ... Steve Dwyer, Bun Mettert, Katlyn Kucharik (friends of Mary Heyse) ... Gladys Girado (Barry Trenary's cousin) ... Betty Deininger (Diann Hines friend's mother) ... Bob Danenburg (friend of the Foell's) ... Nancy Pearl (Mandy Kintz's mother) ... Leonard Hines (Mary Heyse's brother-in-law) ... Diana Raney (Cindy Warstler's sister) ... Mungumio Vine (Kristen Konieczki's sponsored child) ... Judith Berry (Sue Brown's sister) ... Bob Friend (cousin of Marge Norris & Marilyn Myers) ... Rosie Reade (friend of Marilyn Myers)

Shut-ins and Homebound Members

Alden Swenson, Joanne Ruger, Marilyn Imus, Dolores Souder, 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

Faith Forums

There is one more Faith Forum on Sunday morning after church from about 11am-noon. Faith Forums are special educational opportunities for the congregation to learn about specific topic or experience and they have been very meaningful in the past.

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

Mental Health

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

SpeakUp: A Conference on the Church & Mental Health

Recognizing the growing need in our churches for assistance and guidance in mental and behavioral health, the SpeakUp Conference presented by The Lutheran Foundation,

Brotherhood Mutual, and Parkview Health brings together nationally recognized experts and speakers to help equip and inspire pastors, priests and church & lay leaders of all denominations to better serve their congregations, parishes, and communities.

Church Retreat

The church retreat is Saturday, November 11 at Pokagon State Park at the Potawatomi Inn, 6 Ln 100 Lake James, Angola, IN 46703 from 9-4pm. To participate in the retreat you must have gone through ALPHA or must be going through it. Cost is \$25 per person or \$40 per family and includes breakfast, lunch, and retreat costs. Make check payable to St. Mark's and mark "ALPHA."

First Bible Class

Children in grades 2 and up that are interested in learning how to read the Bible can participate in our first Bible class on Sunday, November 19 after 9:30am worship. You need to register by November 12 with the church office and at least one parent should attend the class with their child/grandchild. We will then present brand new Bibles to our children in the 9:30am worship service on December 3.

Information Update/Offering Envelopes/ Newsletter Delivery

Recently, we sent a mailing to all active church members and others who receive our newsletter. Please be sure to complete the forms in that mailing to update your contact information and let us know your preferences regarding offering envelopes and newsletter delivery no later than November 20, 2017. If you did not get the mailing or lost your forms, please contact the church office.

Wednesday Morning Prayer

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

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.

Service Project

In November we will collect any kind of food items, paper projects, personal care items, etc. (Donor's choice)

Celebration Sunday

On Sunday November 26, we will have our first annual celebration Sunday in both worship gatherings. The shortened sermon and service will focus on gratitude and thankfulness. We will also be sharing stories and testimonies of gratitude throughout the service. We hope you can join us! We do need your help regardless of whether or not you are able to join us that Sunday. We are asking all who call St. Mark's home to share stories and testimonies of how God has work in or through your life or St. Mark's over the past 4 years. Please submit your stories and testimonies to the church office via email, mail, or dropping off your stories no later than November 20, 2017. We will be making this an annual tradition and hope that you will be able to join us, share your stories and hear the many great stories of what God has done in our midst!

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting this year is on Sunday December 3 after the 9:30am worship service. All are welcome to attend, though only active members may vote. At the meeting we will have some business to conduct such as electing endowment trustees, one council position and voting on the 2018 budget. This year we will also take some time to discuss the second pastor position as well as share an update on the 'state of the church' as we move forward into 2018. Packets for the meeting will be available two weeks ahead of the meeting.

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.

Israel 2018

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

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. We have also added several of the recent books to our church library. 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.

Building Projects Update

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

Kenya Mission Trip

Plans are underway for our mission trip to Kenya in 2018. We will be working with our missionary in Kenya, Kathleen Lutz and her various ministry connections in Kenya for this mission trip. We have received a grant from the Lutheran Foundation to assist in funding this trip! ***You must sign up by December 10 to participate.*** Open to those 13 and over. Financial support from St. Mark's (special gift) and the Lutheran Foundation are covering 40% of the costs of the trip. See Pastor Marcus with questions.

Discipleship Initiative

Please read the page about our new disciple initiative launched last month in this newsletter!

LCMC National Gathering

Pastor Marcus, Pastor Dan and Diann Hines attended the LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) National Gathering in October. It was a wonderful and meaningful event for all. Next years gathering, the second week of October will be in Des Moines and we will be using some grant funds to help others attend this gathering as we will be able to drive out for the event. If you have questions or interest, please see Pastor Marcus or Pastor Dan.

Christmas 2017

This year we have one of those rare occurrences where Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. After surveying the staff, the worship and music team, the council and random ministry leaders and church members, we have decided the schedule for our worship gatherings for Christmas Eve 2017. Please note that this decision applies only to 2017, as we will revisit it again for 2018. For Christmas Eve, we will have two evening services, one at 5pm which will be a Modern Worship Gathering and then a Traditional Worship Gathering with candles at 7pm. There will be no morning service or late night service this year.

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

In November we will meet on the 12th and 19th. We will be using Phillip Yancey Study - *The Jesus I Never Knew*.

Philip Yancey offers a new and different perspective on the life of Christ and his work—his teachings, his miracles, his death and resurrection—and ultimately, who he was and why he came. From the manger in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem, Yancey presents a complex character who generates questions as well as answers; a disturbing and exhilarating Jesus who wants to radically transform your life and stretch your faith. *The Jesus I Never Knew* uncovers a Jesus who is brilliant, creative, challenging, fearless, compassionate, unpredictable, and ultimately satisfying. “No one who meets Jesus ever stays the same,” says Yancey. “Jesus has rocked my own preconceptions and has made me ask hard questions about why those of us who bear his name don't do a better job of following him.”

Nov. 12 -Jesus Death and Resurrection

Nov. 19 or Dec. 3 -The Difference Jesus Makes

Come and learn about Jesus! We meet in the Council room after worship. All are welcome! See Diann Hines for a study guides. Cost is \$8.

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 to learn more.

5pm Gathering

Our 5pm Gathering is off to a great start even with the challenge of summer attendance and help. We have seen many visitors and new people come, especially younger people. 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 continue to pray for this new ministry, consider serving and invite those without a church home to join us on Sunday nights!

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

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.

Ever Wonder?

Ever wonder or have questions about the various policies and procedures of St. Mark's? Over the past year we have been collecting all of the various policies and procedures of St.

Mark's to ensure that they can be found in one place both in print and electronically. If you ever want to see a printed or electronic (uneditable) copy of a policy or procedure, please contact the church office. We are also hoping to add staff job descriptions to this list pending Personnel Team and Council approval.

Opportunities to Serve

Prayer Team:

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

Property Team:

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

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 anytime the church building is open for prayer. 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.

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 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.

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.

Nov. 5 - Disciples Making Disciples: TBA
[Luke 9:23-26]

Nov. 12 - Disciples Making Disciples: TBA
[Mark 1:16-22]

Nov. 19 - Disciples Making Disciples: TBA
[Matthew 28:18-20]

Nov. 26 - Gratitude Sunday!: TBA
[TBA]

Dec. 3 - False Gospel of Guilt & Shame: TBA
[TBA]

Sunday Sermon Series

On November 5, we begin a 3 week series on Discipleship. 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.

Sermon Series in December!

On Sunday mornings and evenings in December we will be presenting a special and important sermon series, The False Gospel of Guilt and Shame. Do not miss it! This is also a great sermon series to invite friends to join us for.

Who Broke My Church?

In September, a new book released that some from St. Mark's were honored to read earlier drafts of. This book, *Who Broke My Church*, is by Kent Hunter (Jon's dad) and Tracee Swank. It is a fantastic book that will be helpful to many churches, their pastors, staff, leaders and congregation members. We have a grant that will allow us to purchase this book for anyone at St. Mark's that is interested in reading it. You can get your copy from the church office. We will also be hosting a book study for this book led by Jessica Carlson beginning in January. The study will meet from 11am-Noon on the following three dates for discussion of the reading: 1/7 (beginning-end of chapter 4), 2/18 (chapters 5-8), 3/4 (chapter 9-end).

Carlson Summer of Missions

We have spent some time in the past couple months doing some family planning and visioning as we think about what God is calling us to do and be and as we look ahead to some key things coming up. As a result of those prayers and conversations, we have decided to dedicate a chunk of our time in the summer of 2018 to giving back through service and missions. We will both be going on the church mission trip to work with Kathleen Lutz in Kenya. Also, after having served in Nepal and Bangladesh this past spring, Pastor Marcus received many invitations to serve. After weighing all of those, we are both going to go to train pastors for 4 days in Calcutta, India in July. ***We have decided that Pastor Marcus will use his own time off in his call contract for this service rather than being loaned out as was the case with Nepal & Bangladesh.*** We feel very much called to this, but feel it is best to use Pastor Marcus' time in this case. We will also be raising all our funds for both Kenya and India. The bulk of the funds that we need to raise will

be to cover the cost of the conference in India as the pastors there cannot afford to even travel to a conference, let alone attend one. This is an important effort for us as most pastors in this part of the world have little to no training. The council has given us permission to raise funds through the church so that those who give our our summer of missions will be able to make a tax deductible contribution. After our service in India, we also plan to do a vacation together at our own expense and again with our own time. We do need to raise support, especially for the pastors in India to be able to attend the conference. We covet your prayers as we plan, raise funds and go to serve. If you are are willing and able to support our effort to raise around \$7,500, you can give through the church by marking your giving for 'Carlson Missions.' We thank you in advance for any prayers or support

-Pastor Marcus & Jessica Carlson

Immersion Experiences

As you are already probably aware, we have had several church members participate in an immersion learning experience in the past couple years, some traveling to England and others to Hot Springs, Arkansas. Those who have participated in these trips have urged us to continue to offer these opportunities to those who are interested. Many of those members who have been on one of the trips have given money to a special fund to pay it forward. We also received a grant to help match those funds, allowing for more people to participate. While not all expenses will be covered, a significant portion of them will be covered. We currently plan on participating in the Hot Springs, Arkansas immersion experience in October of 2018 and the England immersion in January of 2019. If you are interested in participating in one or both of these experiences or have questions, please contact Pastor Marcus.

Nursery Help

We are looking for a couple of people to join us in helping with nursery. If you would be interested in helping us out, either for the 9:30am Traditional Worship Service or for the 5pm Gathering, please let Pastor Dan know!

Blessing bags

Don't forget that in the narthex by the wooden doors there are blessing bags set out for everybody to keep in their cars. They have been designed and organized for you to keep with you to pass out to people you see asking for help along the side of the road. Please feel free to pass them out wherever you are and wherever you go!

Advent Brunch

The Women of St. Mark's Advent Brunch will be on Saturday Dec. 9 from 9:00 AM -11:00 AM in the fireplace room. We will start with Advent devotions, good food, and Sandra Keller from Destiny Rescue will be sharing with us. There may even be some surprises! Please sign up on the bulletin board. Friends and family are welcome! Please bring a bunch type food to share.

Carlson Family Christmas Party/Open House

The annual Carlson family Christmas Party/Open House is on Saturday December 16, 4-10pm. Everyone who calls St. Mark's home is invited to stop in for as long as you like. Good food, over the top decorating and great company are guaranteed!



November Loft Schedule

November 5 — Loft Gathering

November 19 — Loft Gathering

November Loft Theme

Students in middle school and high school are much more are of and impacted by depression and suicide than any adults today were. Statistics and experience reveal that this is a topic that so many kids are having to deal with and walk through. In November, we would like to take a couple of weeks to reflect on this, to help start a conversation that we believe will help our kids understand what is happening.

Worship Assistant Schedule 9:30 a.m., November 5, 2017-December 10, 2017

	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Nov. 26	Dec. 3	Dec. 6-Wed.	Dec. 10
Preaching	Pastor Marcus	Jon Hunter	Pastor Dan	Pastor Dan	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus
Assist. Minister	Diann Hines	Pastor Dan	Jane Foell	Brian Moeller	Jon Hunter	Rod Knox	Jane Foell
Children's Time	Pastor Marcus	Jon Hunter	Rod Knox	Pastor Dan	Kristen K.	N/A	Rod Knox
Call to worship	Jon Hunter	Pastor Dan	Pastor Dan	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Dan	N/A	Pastor Dan
Acolyte	Abby Carlson	Morgann Leslie	Tyler Wilhelm	Ashlyn Reese	Tyler Wilhelm	Micah Carlson	Ashlyn Reese
Lector	Mary Heyse	Marilyn Myers	Bill Hathaway	Jerry Springer	Suzanne Leslie	Jayne McClellan	John Foell
Communion Asst.	Rod K. & Barry T.	Vicki B. & Marge N.	Glenn M. & John Foell	Janice T. & Connie M.	Diann Hines & Jane F.	Marge N. & Barry T.	Janice T. & Connie M.
Ushers	Jerry, Rex, Janice T., Carolyn O.	Jerry, Rex, Russ H., Art B.	Jerry, Rex, Janice T., Tina M.	Jerry, Rex, Stan B., Carolyn O.	Jerry, Rex, Rod K., Glenn M.	Carolyn O. & Tina M.	Jerry, Rex & Vicki B., Stan B.
Greeters	Kathy G. & Vicki B.	Marge N. & Marilyn M.	Linda Wolff & Tina M.	Reese	Aldrich	Knox	Jean Yoder & Carol Reese
Nursery	Cindy Warstler	Alison A. & Kaitlyn G.	Carol Reese & Linda Wolf		Aldrich	N/A	Jessica C. & Kaitlyn G.
Sunday School	Jessica Carlson	Cindy Reese & Helper	Vicki Marhenke	N/A		N/A	Cindy Reese & Helper
Tech	Connie M. & Justin Aldrich	Justin Aldrich & Barry T.	Barry T. & Connie M.	Barry T. & Jarrett R.	Justin A. & Micah C.	Barry T. & Connie M.	Jeff & Jarrett Reese
Coffee	Jessica Carlson	Hines	Ken & Mary H.			N/A	
Altar	Jayne McClellan	Kathy Garrison	Jayne McClellan	Jayne McClellan			
Prayer Team	Brian M. & Jayne M.	Mary H. & Esther H.	Brian M. & Sue Brown	Cindy R. & Jayne M.	Jessica C. & Sue Brown	N/A	Cindy R. & Mary Heyse

We enjoyed our first field trip of the school year this month when we went to Autumn in the Country. This is the second year we have attended their pumpkin event. We had a chance to learn about the crops they grow on their farm and what those crops are used for. They demonstrated the making of apple cider. We enjoyed a wagon ride around the farm and then had a chance to go visit the animals they have on the farm. We finished our tour with a snack at the barn and playing in the hay maze. As October comes to a close we plan to cut open our big pumpkin and explore the inside and roast the seeds for our snack.



Events

If you know of anyone looking for a preschool please give them our information. There are brochures and post cards that you can give to family, friends or businesses. Make sure you check out our Facebook page and share our posts. This is a great way to help advertise the school.

Help Needed

We are doing a cookie fund raiser to raise money to purchase Montessori Math materials for our classroom.. There is an order form hanging in Kraus Korner, Please see Vicki Bergdall if you are interested in purchasing items. Deadline for orders is November 3rd. Thank you for everyone's help.

5pm Worship Assistant Schedule November 5, 2017-December 17, 2017

	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Nov. 26	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17
Preaching	Pastor Marcus	Brian M.	Pastor Dan	Pastor Dan	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus
Emcee	Pastor Marcus	Brian M.	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Dan	Jon Hunter	Pastor Dan	Jon Hunter
Communion	Jeff Reese	Marilyn Myers	Pastor Dan	Marilyn Myers	Marge Norris	Pastor Marcus	Jeff Reese
Prayer Team	Cindy Reese	Marge Norris	Cindy Reese	Jayne McClellan	Cindy Reese	Jayne McClellan	Cindy Reese
Greeter & Hospitality	Esther Hunter	Esther Hunter	Esther Hunter	Jessica Carlson	Esther Hunter	Jessica Carlson	Esther Hunter
Nursery	Heidi Moeller	Linda Wolf	Jessica Carlson	Heidi Moeller	Jessica Carlson	Linda Wolf	Heidi Moeller
Tech	Micah C. & Mason R.	Pastor Dan	Jeff R. & Mason R.	Esther H. & Micah C.	Micah C. & Jeff R.	Micah C. & Esther H.	Micah C. & Mason R.

TIME TO START PACKING!

Time to get those Operation Christmas Child boxes packed! Our collection deadline this year is **Thursday, November 16th at 12 noon**. Have your boxes to the church by that time and they will be transported to our local drop-off site.

There are some new rules for this year. Due to custom regulations **do not** pack candy or toothpaste in your boxes. They are asking for a \$9 donation per box however if you pack multiple boxes - there are others who donate rather than pack boxes so don't let this stop you from packing additional boxes - just put 1 check in your first box. We have a limited supply this year of the paper boxes so stop by the Dollar Tree and pick up a plastic shoebox to pack your goodies in. Be sure and pack a "Wow" item like a stuffed toy or clothing outfit. Don't pack anything that is liquid like shampoo and only new items should be considered - nothing used. For additional ideas on what to pack go to www.operationchristmaschild.com.

Several stores in the area like Hobby Lobby are actually tagging OPC ideas in their stores so you can look for these tags as well. *We've even included a coupon for you to use for OPC items at Hobby Lobby.* Materials for OPC will be in Kraus Korner the beginning of this month. Don't forget to pick up a label for your box - it needs to be taped on the top of the box indicating Boy or Girl and age level. St. Mark's has always been so generous in this effort in past years and we really appreciate your participation. Last year St. Mark's donated 54 boxes - let's see if we can top that number this year.



Why do we???....

This is a part of 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??...

Make Decisions the Way we do?

Every organization has a particular way that they make decisions, including churches. In many churches there is no method or consistency to the way decisions are made which is incredibly unhealthy. Here at St. Mark's we have a very simple way that we make decisions. Our primary authority is always the word of God (the Bible). If it is not consistent with the scripture, we just cannot do it. There are many things where the Bible is unclear or silent however. The second thing considered when making a decision is our mission statement and vision. WE ask does this help us achieve our mission and vision? Then we look at our strategic plan to help us decide. On smaller things we trust our experts and leaders. On many things we will seek input from staff, council, ministry team leaders and those who have a direct connection. For example, if we were to change the day of confirmation classes, we would want to get input from parents. Our overall guiding principle as to how we are lead as a congregation is that we are council guarded, staff guided and member gifted. The council guards the mission, vision, DNA, culture and health of the church. We hire staff to be experts in their area and seek their guidance. Ultimately the ministry of the church is carried out by all who call St. Mark's home through their time, talent and treasure.

It is never about one person. It is always about what God is doing. So often in churches, the power and decisions ultimately lie with one person whether it be the pastor, the most vocal or involved church member or the biggest giver. This is neither Biblical nor healthy. We want to carefully think and pray about what God is doing, doing our best to discern what is right and trust God.

Those who aim for nothing hit their target every time. This is the definition of insanity. We must make decisions with a goal in mind. We must have a purpose and must be focused on our mission.

Group wisdom is the best wisdom and many angles must be considered. Wisdom is most solid when it comes from a group which is why we never make decisions in isolation. We have a great staff team that is not afraid to wrestle with issues and disagree. We have a fantastic council that considers things from all angles, (spiritual, practical, financial, etc) and cares deeply about doing the right thing for the right right reasons the right way.

Church Health is Essential. Ultimately we have an obligation to focus on the health of our church short and long term. This often means making a harder decision in order to avoid an unhealthy precedent or habit that could damage our church in the long term.

Many opinions makes it imperfect to please. One of the challenges of decision making in any church is that those in the church love their church, are passionate and have many opinions. I have always noted that if you have 10 Christians in a room you have at least 12 different opinions. While our aim is not, nor should it be to please people, we care and often struggle with the reality that it is impossible to make everyone happy.

As we continue into our future, our hope and prayer is that we listen well to God. It is our desire as the leadership of St. Mark's to do the right things for the right reasons the right way at the right time. We do not always get it perfectly, but we do our best to be careful, thoughtful, prayerful and faithful.

We have launched a new discipleship initiative at St. Mark's. You can read more below. Our goal is to have everyone participating by March 1, 2018

Discipleship @ St. Mark's

Our Purpose: To ensure that everyone at St. Mark's is in intentional discipleship relationships inside and outside of the church. Our primary question is who are you discipling and who is discipling you?

Our Model: Our model is simple; we want to ensure that everyone at St. Mark's is in at least two intentional discipleship relationships, one where they are being disciplined and another where they are discipling someone. Our hope is that most would be in more than two discipleship relationships inside and outside the church. Discipleship relationships are both intentional and relational. We look to Jesus as our model of how to do discipleship. We also look to the early church in Acts as a model of how we do this today. There are three simple characteristics of a discipleship relationship that we focus on: meeting together, doing life together and doing faith together.

Defining Discipleship: A disciple is one who follows, specifically one who follows Jesus. To be a disciple, one must desire to learn and to grow. The goal of discipleship is to become an apprentice of Jesus. As apprentices of Jesus we imitate Jesus in our lives and model Jesus to others.

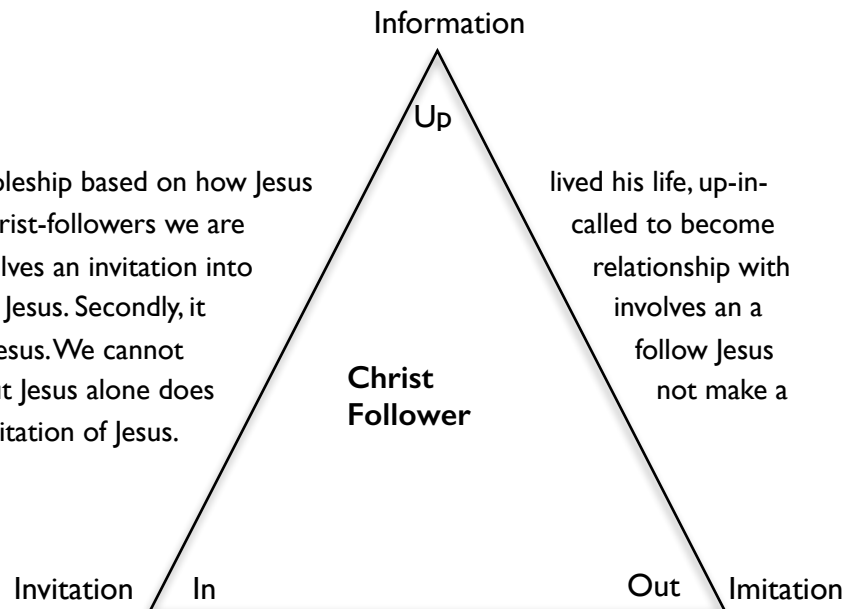
Discipleship Relationships: Discipleship relationships are not hierarchical in nature with one being a mentor and one being the mentee; rather it is about intentionality. Remember, discipleship is doing life and faith together as you both try to imitate Jesus. Someone who disciplines you takes responsibility for ensuring that they and you are doing all you can to truly be a disciple. Being disciplined by someone is inviting someone into your life and faith to help you more closely follow Jesus.

Suggestions for building discipleship relationships:

- Meet together weekly for prayer, sharing and talking about your relationship with Jesus.
- Intentionally do things together and take some time to talk about life and faith as you do so. Maybe it is a project at your house, taking a trip, sharing a meal, helping someone else in need, serving together in the church or a non-profit in the area.
- Do a Bible study or read some discipleship or ministry books together and get together and discuss on a regular basis. The pastoral team can make suggestions for books or Bible studies depending on what you need.
- Enjoy a hobby together, taking time as you engage in the hobby to talk about life and faith.
- Consider participating in some sort of discipleship or leadership training process together.
- Attend various events on discipleship and leadership together and discuss.
- Work with the Pastors to design something that fits your life and schedule to further your discipleship journey.
- Engage in the spiritual disciplines separately and together and reflect on your experience.
- Utilize the community covenant at St. Mark's to grow your faith together.

Discipleship Triangle

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



LCMC

Let the Reformation Continue!

[Article written by Mark Vander Tuig, Service Coordinator]

This is the year we celebrate the Reformation. When we speak of it, we identify a moment in time— either by a birthday, the nailing of the *95 Theses* on a door, a paradigm shift away from the institution to the value of the individual, the greatest economic revolution since the birth of Jesus and more. But in every case, it seems it is a moment frozen in time. I don't believe that's what was ever intended.

When I was in seminary, I had a professor who taught church history. When we got to the time of Martin Luther, he had some very interesting things to say. It turns out, according to my professor, that Martin Luther never wanted to be a Lutheran and was embarrassed that people called themselves by his name! Apparently, Luther did not intend to start another church: what he wanted was a reform movement that would never stop. For Luther, it was not a Reformation frozen in time, but a **reforming movement** that would bring back to Scripture the church that he believed had lost its way.

Movements are dynamic, flexible and able to change. Movements are driven by an overwhelming sense of mission and a compelling vision. Movements draw people out of their comfort and into service. A movement will only last as long as it stays true to its original call.

I remember that lecture because it resonates with me. When I think about how Jesus spoke of the Church, it sounded much more like a movement than an institution. *"The gates of hell will not prevail against it"* He said. (Matthew 16:18). Gates are a defensive measure, to keep things out. The church is meant to be storming the gates of hell!

Paul spoke of *"the whole armor of God"* in Ephesians 6. When you examine each piece of armor listed, none of it covers the back side of the soldier—apparently, the Church is never to back down or turn tail and run, but to stand. We even sing, *Onward Christian Soldiers*.

As we remember the dawning of the Reformation, I hope we begin to look forward to the reforming work of the Holy Spirit in today's Church. I am counting on God to move us again to a passion for the Gospel, a love for the world for which He died, and for a Life to be breathed into us again. Let the reformation continue in us!

St. Mark's Financial Update

Due to timing of bank statements, reconciliation and council meeting schedules, we will always be presenting information from the end of the month occurring two months before the date of the newsletter.

Operating Fund Snapshot

General Fund/Budget/Operating Fund

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

	Income	Expense	Net
<i>Through September 30, 2017</i>			
			<i>Operating Fund Reserve Remaining: \$29,369.93</i>
Budget	\$183,750.00	\$195,589.84	-\$11,839.84
Actual	\$193,778.53	\$191,278.76	\$2,499.77
Difference	\$10,028.53	\$4,311.08	<u> </u>

November Finance Note

September was a very positive month as the gifts from the council reserve to protect the second pastor position as well as the gift from the endowment fund posted. We are still running behind on expected income, but are also below budget on expense. We are working on the 2018 budget, hoping that we are able to step up to our financial challenges with the operating fund. Our currently monthly giving will cause us to be in the negative at some point this year. We are hoping to be able to end the year within \$5,000 of what was originally expected (a negative amount).

Financial Picture

Through September 30, 2017

Assets

<i>Total of all Accounts</i>	<i>\$476,723.99</i>
 <u>Special Funds (Restricted/Designated Accounts)</u>	
Building Fund	\$6,706.93
Memorial Fund	\$12,185.11
Youth Group	\$6,839.00
Funding Our Future (\$27,000 earmarked)	\$31,549.14
Preschool	\$48,908.61
Grants	\$34,715.26
Endowment Fund (investment held at Lutheran Foundation)	\$182,998.27
Funding Our Future Reserve (investment held at Lutheran Foundation)	\$95,616.36
Other Restricted Designated Accounts	\$25,559.86
<i>Total Restricted/Designated Accounts</i>	<i>\$445,078.54</i>
 <i>Operating Fund Reserves</i>	 <i>\$29,369.93</i>
Bills to be Paid/Accounts Payable	\$2,275.52
 Total	 \$0

NOVEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29 Confirmation Sunday 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM Confirmation Lunch & Faith Project 12:30 PM Information Meeting (Kenya Mission Trip) 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship) 6:00 PM Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church)</p>	<p>30 Pastor Dan's Day Off 6:00 PM Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:00 AM Pastors & Kathy Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe) 6:00 PM Learn how to Plan, Save, and Grow Together (YMCA of DeKalb Co.) 7:00 PM Executive Council Meeting</p>	<p>3 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 Daylight Saving Time End 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM Confirmation 11:00 AM Faith Forum- Pastor Mission Trip to Nepal & Bangladesh 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship) 6:00 PM The Loft</p>	<p>6 Pastor Dan's Day Off 5:30 PM Finance Team Meeting 6:00 PM Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p>7 Election Day</p>	<p>8 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Conference: Church & Mental Health 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 4:30 PM Preschool Board Meeting 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe) 6:00 PM Learn how to Plan, Save, and Grow Together (YMCA of DeKalb Co.) 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>10 Pastor Marcus' Day Off Veterans' Day (observed)</p>	<p>11 Alpha Retreat</p>
<p>12 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)</p>	<p>13 Pastor Dan's Day Off 6:00 PM Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>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 Lunch 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe) 7:00 PM Council & Ministry Team Leaders Meeting</p>	<p>17 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM Confirmation 11:00 AM First Bible 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</p>	<p>20 Pastor Dan's Day Off 6:00 PM Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering</p>	<p>23 Thanksgiving Day 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe)</p>	<p>24 Office Closed Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)</p>	<p>27 Pastor Dan's Day Off 6:00 PM Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:00 AM Pastors Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe)</p>	<p>1 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>2</p>

DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)</p>	<p>27 Pastor Dan's Day Off 6:00 PM Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:00 AM Pastors Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe)</p>	<p>1 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM Annual Meeting 11:00 AM Confirmation 11:00 AM Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 12:00 PM Council Organizational Meeting 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship) 6:00 PM The Loft</p>	<p>4 Pastor Dan's Day Off 6:00 PM Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors & Kathy Meeting 12:00 PM Ministry Calling Group 7:00 PM Advent Service 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe) 6:00 PM Council Meeting & Dinner at the Carlson's</p>	<p>8 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>9 9:00 AM Advent Brunch</p>
<p>10 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)</p>	<p>11 Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors Meeting 7:00 PM Advent Service 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe)</p>	<p>15 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM About St. Mark's Class 11:00 AM Confirmation 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</p>	<p>18 Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 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 Lunch 7:00 PM Advent Service 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe)</p>	<p>22 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship) Christmas Eve 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service (Traditional)</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p>26 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>27 8:00 AM Open Prayer & Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cafe)</p>	<p>29 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship)</p>	<p>1 New Year's Day Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4 7:00 PM Executive Council Meeting</p>	<p>5 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>6</p>

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

The Rev. Dr. Marcus J. Carlson	Senior Pastor
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