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# ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

## VOLUME 21 ISSUE 10 • OCTOBER 2017

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### Life as a Professor

As many of you know, one of my 'jobs' in addition to serving as Senior Pastor here at St. Mark's is teaching at the college level (graduate and undergraduate) online. This has been a joy for me in many ways. I teach courses in leadership, pastoral leadership, youth ministry, ethics and theology. One of my least favorite things to do is to grade papers. I have often heard that people teach out of love, but get paid for grading. Recently, I read a paper from a student whom is the lead pastor of a small church plant in the south. I think it is especially fitting for October as that is the month each year we put the conflict covenant in our newsletter as a yearly reminder of how we operate as Christians and at St. Mark's around conflict.

#### *Lesson Learned Through Conflict*

"Two gifted men both called by God suddenly were in conflict. The younger of the two was caught off guard and suddenly frustrated. He wondered how the leaders would tolerate one another. The older gentleman called at the most inconvenient time possible. As the cell phone rang, the reluctant pastor excused himself from the child's birthday party for a moment to take the call. It felt like out of nowhere the pastor was being accused of incompetence and his philosophies were bitterly criticized by the gentleman. The infuriated accusations stung deeply. Very shortly after the call, an email was received that has been referred to as the "break up email." The older leader who had become a major donor to the church as well as a key person in leadership was leaving. The ministry's first conflict had arisen and seemed to have the potential to halt what was thought to have been something God had started. The pastor was not sure how things were going to move forward in this very new church with incredibly low funding. However, he believed God would provide and that this would be an opportunity for God to "show Himself strong" and prove to any doubters that He had a plan for the ministry still in its infant stages.

The conflict between the two men was rooted in two different sets of expectations. Who was right? Who was wrong? Was it the older gentleman or the pastor? Actually, neither man was wrong, at least in their philosophies. Each was different but neither was wrong. Conflict is not always a bad thing; in fact, when handled right it can lead to a better future.

A better future for both leaders is what happened. Conflict flared up because of different philosophies which naturally lead to a different set of unspoken expectations. In this case, that conflict hurt initially but its pressure forced unseen personal and organizational issues to the surface. Those issues could have led to a much worse outcome if left undone. They could have grown out of proportion and impossible to recover from proportions. Thankfully, in this instance, the conflict eventually bettered both men and their ministries. Conflict led to growth.

Today both men are very good friends. Understanding of their differences grew because of properly handled conflict. Understanding one another helped them be more compassionate. Understanding a person makes it much easier to have compassion. Furthermore, a parent has a unique understanding of their child. Thus, compassion comes much easier than it would for a stranger that does not know the child or what causes them to do certain things."

I have found this to be accurate to my own experience. Conflict handled poorly or avoided is always damaging to the health and ministry of the church and its people. Conflict handled well can not only be resolved, it can be fruitful and bring even stronger relationships and understanding. Some of my deepest relationships have come to that place because of working through a significant conflict. Jesus gave us a model because he knew being the church would not be easy. I can say that since we created the conflict covenant here at St. Mark's here, our conflict covenant has been essential and not one person who has left St. Mark's for reasons other than moving followed the conflict covenant. I can also say that through the conflict covenant many questions, issues and problems have been resolved and greater relationships have been built. Not one person who followed Jesus' method for conflict has run away from their relationship with an individual in the church or the church itself. I can think of many instances where greater relationships have been built, understanding has increased and lessons have been learned. ***Maybe Jesus was on to something...***

~Pastor Marcus

## St. Mark's Culture & DNA

### *Our DNA:*

While we are all unique and have our own unique DNA, we also as a church have a shared and unique DNA. In 2013, one of the first things we did when Pastor Marcus arrived was to create a conflict covenant. This was critical because it impacts our church and its health greatly. It was important because conflict has done tremendous damage to our church in the past. Each year, we offer this reminder of how we handle conflict at St. Mark's. In the last four years, not one person who followed this covenant has left St. Mark's. In the midst of utilizing this, we have become healthier, relationships have been improved and we have learned and experienced spiritual and relational growth as a result.

### *Conflict Covenant*

The purpose of this covenant is to provide a framework for how we handle conflict at St. Mark's. The covenant is the expectation for our employees and council. It is a guide for our other leaders, and we hope and pray that it will guide the way that we all operate at St. Mark's. You can get a full copy of the document from the church office.

- The covenant is focused on two passages: the Greatest Commandment from Matthew 22: 37-40 and the method for dealing with sin and conflict in the church outlined in Jesus' message to us in Matthew 18.
- There is a focus on loving God, loving others, and loving ourselves as emphasized in the Greatest Commandment.
- Loving God includes avoiding gossip, seeing others as God sees them, and practicing the spiritual disciplines (prayer, reading the scripture, worship, etc.)
- Loving others includes acting in love towards one another (especially in conflict), avoiding diminishing others, and supporting the pastor, staff, and church leaders.
- Loving yourself includes avoiding anger, seeing yourself as Christ does, and focusing on your relationship with Christ.
- A key part of the covenant is the conflict process that we will use when a concern needs to be addressed, which is based on Matthew 18 and is described below.
- If you have a concern that needs to be addressed, the first step is to go directly to the individual or group with whom you have the concern.
- If the individual or group you share the concern with is not receptive or the issue is not resolved, the next step is to bring in another party to help navigate the conflict. This would generally be the pastor, unless the concern is with the pastor, in which case the council president would be invited to assist in dealing with the conflict.
- If after prayerfully navigating this second step, the issue is not resolved, the next step would be to consult with the mutual ministry team chair or representative.
- If the issue is still not resolved after this third step, then the member with the concern must prayerfully discern if they can tolerate the situation as it is or if other options must be considered.
- The purpose of this covenant is to handle conflict in a healthy and Biblical way, not to suppress, diminish, or demean any individual or conflict. How conflict in the church is handled has a significant impact on how well we live out our faith and mission, and Jesus has given us an excellent model for doing so.

### *Our Vocabulary:*

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

**Three Dimensions( Up-In-Out):** We use these dimensions for various understandings of ministry.

**Triangle:** the image we use to help understand and diagram our various understandings of faith and ministry.

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### *Prayer of the Month:*

God, help St. Mark's to honor the wisdom of Jesus when it comes to conflict. Help us to be the healthiest church we can be regardless of our size, success and failures. Amen.

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### *Culture Question of the Month:*

What is God saying to you right now as you pray for our church and community?

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## Save The Date

October 1	Faith Forum: Immersion Experiences
October 21	Oktoberfest
October 28	Church Work Day
October 29	Confirmation Sunday
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 St. Mark's Friends,

We wish to express our most heartfelt thanks for your donation of cat and dog food, litter, and cleaning supplies. We truly appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely, Sue Houser, Secretary, DeKalb Humane Society

Dear Members of St. Mark's,

It was good to worship with you again and to have the opportunity to share my story and my latest mission work in Kenya. You are very much a part of my story being raised up as a youth at St. Mark's and continuing as your partner in mission. Please know that I deeply appreciate your ongoing prayerful support and generous contributions. I wish to also give appreciation to the Endowment Trustees for the generous gift of \$2000 toward my mission work. This helps tremendously at a time when my mission funds were at a low. An answer to prayer! I am grateful.

Things have been very interesting in Kenya since I returned. I have not been back to the office until this week due to the national election results and unrest. There has been violence in parts of Kenya and advice was --- not go into those areas and many businesses were closed.

I have begun to make plans to further my teaching of the Bible and God's love especially among the poor. This is made possible by your support and with God's help. There are more to be reached. Donations for raising Bibles for the poor and furthering my work to reach others with the Good News of the Gospel may be sent with a note "LUTZ Ministry Fund" to: World Mission Prayer League 232 Clifton Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403-3466

May God bless you all! I will long remember you lifting your hands in prayer for me, led by Pastor. Thank you!

Your partner in God's mission to the world,

*Kathleen*

## Dates

### October Birthdays

2 — Jack Daniel  
6 — Ashley Meschberger  
11 — Mary Lu Kain, Marilyn Imus  
13 — Cindy Warstler,  
Matthew Johnson  
15 — Heidi Moeller  
18 — Joan Knepper  
19 — Alex Kaduk

### Oct. Birthdays Cont.

21 — Wayne Burdick  
Suzanne Leslie  
Darin  
Meschberger  
23 — David Hines  
25 — Melanie Carlin  
John Foell  
Margaret Ruger  
30 — Denise Johnson

### October Anniversaries

5 — Jerry & Mary Ann McClain  
9 — Stan & Judy Bozarth  
24 — Wayne & June Wyss

## Prayer Requests

**Passed Away in September:** Doris Emenhiser (Diann Hines' mother)

### **Church Members**

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

### **Friends of St. Marks**

Matt Warstler (Cindy Warstler's son) ... 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) ... Karen Ackelbargar (Bonnie Trenary's cousin) ... Betty Deininger (Diann Hines friend's mother) ... Bonnie Danenburg (friend of the Foell's, recovering from heart surgery) ... Nancy Pearl (Mandy Kintz's mother) ... Teri Fritch (friend of Jane Foell & Peggy Badenhop) ... Leonard Hines (Mary Heyse's brother-in-law) ... Diana Raney (Cindy Warstler's sister) ... Mungumio Vine (Kristen Konieczki's sponsored child) ... Judith Berry (Sue Brown's sister) ... Bob Friend (cousin of Marge Norris & Marilyn Myers) ... Rosie Reade (friend of Marilyn Myers)

### **Shut-ins and Homebound Members**

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

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

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

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

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## **October Faith Forum**

Our October Faith Forum will be led by the 7 individuals who have participated in one of our immersion trips to England or Arkansas. The group will be sharing their experiences and learnings and their application to St. Mark's. The group will also be talking a bit about future plans and will launch a new discipleship initiative at St. Mark's. Please be sure to join us!

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## **Church Work Day**

The Church Work Day will be Saturday, October 28 from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Most of our work will be outdoors, taking care of fall cleanup, removing rocks from playground, gutters and more. Please bring outdoor work wear. We will have some small indoor projects for minor repairs as well. If you have questions, talk to Jeff Resse or David Treckman.

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## **Confirmation Sunday — October 29**

Sunday, October 29th will be Confirmation Sunday, as we will be confirming Morgann Leslie that morning in our service. After the service everybody is invited to come downstairs for lunch and a time for Morgann to do her Faith Presentation.

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## **Service Project**

In October we will collect any kind of canned good: soups, veggies, fruit, etc.

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## **Oktoberfest 2017**

Our Oktoberfest will be on Saturday, October 21 from 5:00-8:00pm at the Moose Lodge as usual. Tickets will be available for sale after Sunday services until October 15. This is a great event with time for fellowship, food, music, and a silent auction. If you have silent auction items, please contact the church office or Jessica Carlson. There is a sign-up sheet in Kraus Korner for helping with the event and for bringing food items. The proceeds from this years Oktoberfest will be placed into the account for Faith in Action to ensure we have funds to support future Faith in Action Sundays.

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## **Grief Share**

This cycle runs thru October 29th. The weekly sessions on Sunday's will be from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Auburn Methodist Church. Another resource that might be helpful is [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).

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## **40 Days of Prayer**

This year we have joined together as a congregation for 40 days of prayer from September 10-October 20. During this time we are asking everyone in the congregation to take 5-10 minutes to pray each and every day for St. Mark's, its people and ministry as well as offering prayer for our community. Additionally, we are encouraging everyone to use these 40 days of prayer to expand their own prayer life and develop a deeper habit of prayer.

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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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## Israel 2018

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

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## 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.

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## Chapel Use

The chapel is now open for private prayer, reflection, and time with God during church office hours. You may also use it anytime the church building is open. Anyone in the community is welcome to use this space as well. We have a time for drop in prayer and communion open for the community every Wednesday from 8-8:30am.

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## Building Projects Update

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

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## 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! Information meetings are: **10/1 Noon, 10/11 6pm, 10/17 7pm, 7 10/29 after confirmation lunch**. Come learn about the trip and consider serving in this way. 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.

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## Lawn Mowing

We have the month of October to finish up the mowing season. Please sign-up for a time that works for you.

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## Weekly Bible Studies

### Pastor's Bible Study

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

### Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

In October we will meet on the 8th and 22nd. 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.”

Oct. 8 -The Revolutionary Grace  
Oct. 22 -Jesus Miracles  
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.

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### **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](mailto:Jon@stmarksauburn.org). If you have general questions about the service see Marcus, Dan or Jon.

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### **Wednesday Morning Prayer**

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

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### **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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### **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.

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### **Christmas 2017**

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

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### **Opportunities to Serve**

#### *Prayer Team:*

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

### *Property Team:*

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

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

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

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### **Focus on Prayer**

Perhaps our most consistent learning over the past couple years as we have hosted and gone to seminars, worked with other leaders and consultants and participated in immersion experiences is a need to have a great emphasis as individuals and as a church on prayer. This may seem simple or obvious, but it is in fact far more important and profound than we realized. We simply do not pray intentionally enough for our church and our community. We encourage you to continue to pray for St. Mark's and have invited everyone to pray for our church at least 5 minutes a day. We also invite you to take advantage of our prayer stations each Sunday. Please feel free to use the chapel 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. Finally, we will have a 40 days of prayer focus starting September 10.

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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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### **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.

- Oct. 1 - Stewardship: Delivery  
[1 Corinthians 4:1-5]
  - Oct. 8 - Prayer: Inward: (Jesus) Transformation  
[Romans 12:1-2]
  - Oct. 15 - Prayer: Upward: (Father) Intimacy  
[John 17:1-12]
  - Oct. 22 - Prayer: Outward: (Holy Spirit) Ministry  
[Galatians 5:1-9]
  - Oct. 29 - Reform, 500 years! Still Reforming  
[Ephesians 2:1-10]
  - Nov. 5 - Disciples Making Disciples: TBA  
[Luke 9:23-26]
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## **Sunday Sermon Series**

On October 8 we start a three week sermon series on prayer! On October 29 (Confirmation Sunday) we will have a special 500 Anniversary of the Reformation Sunday message. 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.

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## **Sermon Series in December!**

On Sunday mornings and evening 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.

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## **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).

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## **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 its 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*

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## **Mental Health**

Mental Health challenges are not uncommon in our culture today and not uncommon amongst those who call St. Mark's home. They vary in name, nature and severity, but they often have a tremendous impact that goes unnoticed. If you remember our testimony series from the past, you know just some of the stories from those in our congregation. The Lutheran Foundation has placed an emphasis on this unmet need not only in Northeast Indiana, but in the churches of the region. A while back, they formed a Mental Health task force made up of pastors, lay people and professionals. Invited to be a part of this team was our own Jessica Carlson. The task force has been working on putting an event together for churches and will host this event on November 8, 2017 from 8:30am-4pm. We are encouraging as many staff, leaders and lay

people in our congregation to attend this event as possible. It will be a great event and is an important ministry need. The cost for the event is \$25 and we would be glad to register you for the event and if needed, pay the cost of your registration (not from the Operating Fund). If you have questions or would like to register, please contact the church office. 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.

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**Church Retreat**

This year we will have another retreat, but this time it will be connected with ALPHA. The retreat is Saturday November 11. More details to follow. The retreat is for anyone in the church who has gone through ALPHA and will be our one day Holy Spirit Retreat. See a member of the Pastoral team with questions.

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**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!

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**Proofreader Needed**

Kathy is in need of someone to proofread the announcement bulletin every week. If you would be willing to do this, please let Kathy know.

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**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!

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**Confirmation & Loft Schedules**

October 08: Confirmation 11am—Noon, Loft 6:15—7:30pm  
October 22: Confirmation 11am—Noon, Loft 6:15—7:30pm  
October 29: Confirmation Faith Project Presentation & Lunch 11am—Noon

**The October Challenge**

*[Each month we will be announcing a challenge for the entire church congregation! We will have the challenge in the newsletter, have copies in Kraus Korner, and will post it in the Facebook page. So month's the challenges will be intense, some months' the challenge will be a simple act, we hope you'll join us. Here is October's challeng...]*

This month the challenge is to write a letter of encouragement for Morgann Leslie, who is being confirmed this month.

The goal is that we would have a basket of letters to give to her from the church that would encourage her as she comes before the church and confirms her faith and baptism on October 29th. There will be a basket set out on that Sunday for you to put a card, note, or letter for her. (If you cannot be there on the 30th, leave them in the office).

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## Worship Assistant Schedule 9:30 a.m., October 1, 2017-November 12, 2017

	October 1	October 8	Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29	Nov. 5	Nov. 12
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Marcus	Jon Hunter	Pastor Dan	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Jon Hunter
<b>Assist. Minister</b>	John Foell	Dave Hines	Brian Moeller	John Foell	Jon Hunter	Diann H.	Pastor Dan
<b>Children's Time</b>	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Dan	Pastor Dan	Jessica C.	Kristen K.	Pastor Marcus	Jon Hunter
<b>Call to worship</b>	Pastor Dan	N/A	Pastor Dan	N/A	Pastor Dan	Jon H.	N/A
<b>Acolyte</b>	Abby Carlson	Tyler W.	Morgann L.	Camden K.	Ashlyn R.	Abby C.	Morgann L.
<b>Lector</b>	Jane Foell	Barry Trenary	Mary Heyse	Peggy B.	Lora K.	Mary H.	Marilyn M.
<b>Communion Asst.</b>	Marge N. & Glenn M.	Diann H. & Peggy B.	John & Jane Foell	Janice T. & Connie M.	Rex & Vicki B.	Rod K. & Barry Trenary	Pastor Dan & Marge N.
<b>Ushers</b>	Jerry, Rex, Dave & Jayne M.	Jerry, Rex & Vicki, Tina M.	Jerry, Rex, Russ H., Dave M.	Jerry, Rex, Glenn M., Rod K.	Jerry, Tony K., Art B., Stan B.	Jerry, Rex, Janice T., Carolyn O.	Jerry, Rex, Russ H., Art B.
<b>Greeters</b>	Foells	Nila & Mary Lee Muzzillo	Ken & Mary Heyse	Hathaway	Bozarth	Cindy W. & John C.	Marge N. & Marilyn M.
<b>Nursery</b>	Aldrich	Jessica & Kaitlyn	Carol R. & Linda W.		Jessica & Judy B.	Cindy W.	Alison A. & Kaitlyn
<b>Sunday School</b>	Cindy R. & Helper			Vicki M.			Cindy R. & Helper
<b>Tech</b>	Connie M. & Justin A.	Barry T. & Micah C.	Barry T. & Connie M.	Micah C. & Barry T.	Jarrett R. & Barry T.	Connie M. & Justin A.	Justin A. & Barry T.
<b>Coffee</b>							
<b>Altar</b>	Kathy G.	Kathy G.	Kathy G.	Kathy G.	Kathy G.	Jayne McClellan	Jayne McClellan
<b>Prayer Team</b>	Jessica & Pastor Dan	Brian M. & Sue B.	Esther H. & Jayne M.	Brian M. & Jayne M.	Cindy R. & Sue B.	Jessica & Jayne M.	Jon & Esther Hunter

It's September and fall is in the air! We have some new activities on our shelves and we have started a unit on Apples. One morning we became scientists and used our senses to explore different types of apples. We discussed their different colors, textures, and taste. Then we voted on which ones we liked the best. We sliced and cored apples and made homemade applesauce. We read about Johnny Appleseed and his adventures of planting apple seeds. We are excited about our first field trip coming up in the next couple of weeks as we travel to Lemper Farms for their pumpkin patch presentation.



### **Events**

We still have a couple open spots for our school this year. 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 have a wish list posted in Krause Korner for some Practical Life supplies for the month of October. If you would be interested in donating any items off of the list please cross it off and write your name next to the items. You can bring them downstairs and place them on the table in front of our bulletin board. Thank you for everyone's help.

## 5pm Worship Assistant Schedule October 1, 2017-November 12, 2017

	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29	Nov. 5	Nov. 12
<b>Preaching</b>	Jon H.	Jon H.	Pastor Dan	Jon H.	Meghan Ulrich	Jon H.	TBD
<b>Emcee</b>	Pastor Marcus	Jon H.	Jon H.	Pastor Dan	Jon H.	Pastor Marcus	Jon H.
<b>Communion</b>	Pastor Marcus	Jon H.	Pastor Dan	Pastor Dan	Jon H.	Jeff R.	Marilyn M.
<b>Prayer Team</b>	Jayne M.	Jessica C.	Jayne M.	Cindy R.	Esther H.	Cindy R.	Marge N.
<b>Greeter &amp; Hospitality</b>	Esther H.	Esther H.	Esther H.	Esther H.	Jessica C.	Esther H.	Esther H.
<b>Nursery</b>	Jessica C.	Carol R.	Linda Wolf	Jessica C.	Carol R.	Heidi M.	Linda Wolf
<b>Tech</b>	Pastor Dan & Micah	Micah & Esther H.	Esther H. & Jeff R.	Micah C. & Esther H.	Micah & Pastor Marcus	Micah C. & Mason R.	Pastor Dan & Micah C.

### Alpha Update:

We are excited to announce that we will be partnering with the YMCA for our Fall This session has already started. Each session will be held in the YMCA Chapel in Auburn. We want to create a relaxed environment to invite friends who are not Christians yet to explore faith and life. Alpha will be held on **Monday evenings 6pm-7:30pm from September 18 thru December 4**. The Alpha Retreat will be November 11. Child care is provided by the Y.

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

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

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

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

## Discipling at All Ages, Including Seniors

The NALC is offering its first conference on Senior Ministry at Reformation Lutheran Church in Culpeper, Virginia, on October 17-18. Brad Hales, pastor of Reformation Lutheran Church, leads the NALC Renewal Team, and is a conference presenter. He has helped to renew several older congregations in discipleship, outreach and mission. Pr. Hales is the author of *A Covenant of Aging*, and a new Bible study, *Graying in Grace: Becoming mature disciples of Jesus Christ* (available at [thenalc.org](http://thenalc.org)).

Other presenters include Gary and Laurie Pecuch, who serve at St. John Lutheran Church, Grove City, Ohio, and began *faithwebbing.com*, a congregational youth and family consultation ministry. Gary is the NALC's coach for congregational youth and family ministry. Pastor Wendy Berthelsen also will be a presenter. Most of Wendy's time as a pastor is devoted to *Call, Inc.*, a non-profit teaching mission of Hope Lutheran Church where she serves in Cedar Hill, Texas.

Baby boomers accounted for about a quarter of the U.S. population in 2012. As they retire, seniors will account for a very large percentage of the population. The proportion of seniors in the average congregation is much greater, given the low participation of the younger generations. The median age of a Lutheran congregant is greater than 55.

Pr. Hales' new Bible study is timely. Being a disciple of Jesus is a lifelong journey of maturation. The Apostle Paul writes frequently about maturing in Christ, and uses the analogy of running a race in 1 Corinthians 9:24. I think of running a marathon when I read his words to Timothy: *"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"* (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

Our need to be disciplined in Jesus does not diminish with age. We always need to be disciplined, and daily we have opportunities to disciple others, even as we approach the finish line. I encourage you to download and make use of Pr. Hales' new Bible study.

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

## St. Mark's Financial Update

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

### Operating Fund Snapshot

#### General Fund/Budget/Operating Fund

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

*Through August 31, 2017*

*Operating Fund Reserve Remaining: \$35,603.52*

	Income	Expense	Net
Budget	\$163,333.33	\$173,857.63	-\$10,524.30
Actual	\$175,391.32	\$166,634.94	\$8,756.38
Difference	\$12,049.82	\$7,222.69	_____

### Important Financial Update & Information

Thank you for your continued support in prayers, time, talents and treasure at St. Mark's. Our finance team and council have been working hard to monitor, discuss, plan and communicate our current financial status as well as our needs and goals for the future. Again, our assets, particularly our restricted funds are strong. Restricted funds are funds that are earmarked for specific purposes and generally cannot be used for anything other than that purpose. This includes the building fund, funding our future, the endowment, the funding our future reserve, memorials, youth funds, grants and some others. The Operating Fund which is our general fund that covers the day to day, regular expenses is in better shape after increased giving in July and August and gifts from the Endowment and Funding Our Future Reserve. We are back in the black, but not yet meeting our monthly expenses through giving.

By now you should have received the stewardship letter that outlines our standing, projections, challenges and victories. We can celebrate that through grants, special gifts and these special funds that everything new that we have done at St. Mark's besides part of the second Pastor position compensation have been done entirely through grants and special funds. We praise God for his continued provision! The challenge is that the grant for the second pastor ends this year and there are no grants for churches for operating funds. In this way we need to grow our giving from current and new members at St. Mark's and possibly use some reserves in order to maintain the second pastor position. We are optimistic that we can meet this challenge and more importantly, trust that God has, can and will provide for our needs. While we need a significant growth in giving for 2018 to meet our budget, we did recently receive an unexpected estate gift that will provide some reserves to give us more time to grow into this position, keeping in mind the less of this we use immediately, the better. The estate gift we received went to a reserve to protect the second pastor position as well as to the endowment fund, the 'forever fund' of St. Mark's. We are blessed to have investment funds, one that allows us to reach people over the next decade and the other that preserves St. Mark's for the long haul.

Each of these gifts have been received entirely due to the grace of God. Whether your giving, a grant, memorial, estate gift or any other kind of gift, we recognize it is a gift from God. The people of St. Mark's have been faithful, generous and sacrificial. We continue to receive affirmation that we are headed in the right direction (sometimes imperfectly so) and so we know that God will get us through this challenge. As we join together in praying, remaining faithful and considering how God might be able to use us to meet this challenge, may we remain focused on how God has provided for us and the future to which God is calling us to.

# OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b> 40 Days of Prayer  <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion  <b>11:00 AM</b> Faith Forum-Immersion Trips  <b>12:00 PM</b> Information Meeting (Kenya Mission Trip)  <b>3:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>5:00 PM</b> 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship Church)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church)</p>	<p><b>2</b> 40 Days of Prayer            Pastor Dan's Day Off  <b>6:00 PM</b> Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p><b>3</b> 40 Days of Prayer</p>	<p><b>4</b> 40 Days of Prayer  <b>7:30 AM</b> All Staff Meeting  <b>8:00 AM</b> Open Prayer &amp; Communion  <b>8:30 AM</b> Prayer Gathering  <b>9:30 AM</b> Pastors &amp; Kathy Meeting  <b>12:00 PM</b> Ministry Calling Group  <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>5</b> 40 Days of Prayer  <b>10:00 AM</b> Pastor's Bible Study  <b>5:30 PM</b> Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cate)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Learn how to Plan, Save, and Grow Together (YMCA of Dekalb Co.)  <b>7:00 PM</b> Church Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>6</b> 40 Days of Prayer            Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>7</b> 40 Days of Prayer</p>
<p><b>8</b> 40 Days of Prayer            LCMC National Gathering  <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion  <b>11:00 AM</b> Confirmation  <b>11:00 AM</b> Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study  <b>3:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>5:00 PM</b> 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship Church)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church)  <b>6:00 PM</b> The Loft</p>	<p><b>9</b> 40 Days of Prayer            LCMC National Gathering            Pastor Dan's Day Off  <b>6:00 PM</b> Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p><b>10</b> 40 Days of Prayer            LCMC National Gathering</p>	<p><b>11</b> 40 Days of Prayer            LCMC National Gathering            Pastor Planning Retreat  <b>8:00 AM</b> Open Prayer &amp; Communion  <b>8:30 AM</b> Prayer Gathering  <b>9:30 AM</b> Pastors Meeting  <b>6:00 PM</b> Information Meeting (Kenya Mission Trip)  <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>12</b> 40 Days of Prayer  <b>10:00 AM</b> Pastor's Bible Study  <b>3:30 PM</b> Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cate)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Learn how to Plan, Save, and Grow Together (YMCA of Dekalb Co.)</p>	<p><b>13</b> 40 Days of Prayer            Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>14</b> 40 Days of Prayer</p>
<p><b>15</b> 40 Days of Prayer  <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion  <b>3:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>5:00 PM</b> 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship Church)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church)</p>	<p><b>16</b> 40 Days of Prayer            Pastor Dan's Day Off  <b>6:00 PM</b> Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p><b>17</b> 40 Days of Prayer  <b>7:00 PM</b> Information Meeting (Kenya Mission Trip)</p>	<p><b>18</b> 40 Days of Prayer  <b>8:00 AM</b> Open Prayer &amp; Communion  <b>8:30 AM</b> Prayer Gathering  <b>12:00 PM</b> Geneology Group  <b>12:00 PM</b> Senior's Lunch  <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>19</b> 40 Days of Prayer  <b>10:00 AM</b> Pastor's Bible Study  <b>5:30 PM</b> Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cate)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Learn how to Plan, Save, and Grow Together (YMCA of Dekalb Co.)</p>	<p><b>20</b> 40 Days of Prayer            Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>21</b> 5:00 PM Oktoberfest</p>
<p><b>22</b> 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion  <b>11:00 AM</b> Confirmation  <b>11:00 AM</b> Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study  <b>3:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>5:00 PM</b> 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship Church)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church)  <b>6:00 PM</b> The Loft</p>	<p><b>23</b> Pastor Dan's Day Off  <b>6:00 PM</b> Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion  <b>8:30 AM</b> Prayer Gathering  <b>9:30 AM</b> Pastors Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>26</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study  <b>5:30 PM</b> Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cate)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Learn how to Plan, Save, and Grow Together (YMCA of Dekalb Co.)</p>	<p><b>27</b> Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>28</b> 10:00 AM Church Work Day</p>
<p><b>29</b> Confirmation Sunday  <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion  <b>11:00 AM</b> Confirmation Lunch &amp; Faith Project  <b>12:30 PM</b> Information Meeting (Kenya Mission Trip)  <b>3:30 PM</b> Modern Worship Practice  <b>5:00 PM</b> 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship Church)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Grief Share (Auburn Methodist Church)</p>	<p><b>30</b> Pastor Dan's Day Off  <b>6:00 PM</b> Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion  <b>8:30 AM</b> Prayer Gathering  <b>9:00 AM</b> Pastors &amp; Kathy Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>2</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study  <b>5:30 PM</b> Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cate)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Learn how to Plan, Save, and Grow Together (YMCA of Dekalb Co.)  <b>7:00 PM</b> Executive Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>3</b> Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>

## NOVEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>29</b> Confirmation Sunday 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM Confirmation Lunch &amp; 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><b>30</b> Pastor Dan's Day Off 6:00 PM Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:00 AM Pastors &amp; Kathy Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>2</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cate) 6:00 PM Learn how to Plan, Save, and Grow Together (YMCA of Dekalb Co.) 7:00 PM Executive Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>3</b> Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b> 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 &amp; Bangladesh 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship) 6:00 PM The Loft</p>	<p><b>6</b> Pastor Dan's Day Off 6:00 PM Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p><b>7</b> Election Day</p>	<p><b>8</b> 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion 8:30 AM Conference: Church &amp; Mental Health 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>9</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 4:30 PM Preschool Board Meeting 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cate) 6:00 PM Learn how to Plan, Save, and Grow Together (YMCA of Dekalb Co.) 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>10</b> Pastor Marcus' Day Off Veteran's Day (observed)</p>	<p><b>11</b> Alpha Retreat</p>
<p><b>12</b> 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><b>13</b> Pastor Dan's Day Off 6:00 PM Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> 7:30 AM All Staff Meeting 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors Meeting 12:00 PM Genealogy Group 12:00 PM Senior's Lunch 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>16</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cate) 7:00 PM Council &amp; Ministry Team Leaders Meeting</p>	<p><b>17</b> Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b> 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM Confirmation 11:00 AM First Bible Class 3:30 PM Modern Worship Practice 5:00 PM 5pm Gathering (Modern Worship) 6:00 PM The Loft</p>	<p><b>20</b> Pastor Dan's Day Off 6:00 PM Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering</p>	<p><b>23</b> Thanksgiving Day 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cate)</p>	<p><b>24</b> Office Closed Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> 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><b>27</b> Pastor Dan's Day Off 6:00 PM Alpha Session 6 (YMCA of Auburn)</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> 8:00 AM Open Prayer &amp; Communion 8:30 AM Prayer Gathering 9:00 AM Pastors Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>30</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery (Cupbearer Cate)</p>	<p><b>1</b> Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>

**ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

211 West Ninth Street

Auburn, IN 46706

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

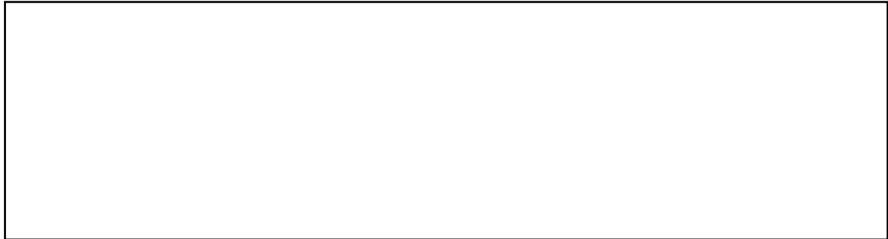
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— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

**Building Relationships  
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Rev. Dan Bellinger	Family & Outreach Pastor
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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**