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# ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

## VOLUME 23 ISSUE 10 • OCTOBER 2019

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### Transition

Kent Hunter, church consultant (and Jon's dad), often likes to say, 'the only one who likes change is a baby with a wet diaper.' I appreciate his sentiment, but as someone who has had children, even they don't love that process of change! No one really likes change, though I find that most people don't mind change that they choose, control, create or see coming as much as other change. It is also true that the older we get, the harder change can be (but doesn't have to). The old joke goes this way, 'how many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb? Change?! Change?!' Anyway, enough with the jokes.

This is a season of change, but in a different way in the past. In the past we have made changes to better minister to those inside and outside of our church, to address problems or to help with church health. We have made changes to the best of our ability. Changes are made after making our best effort to listen to the Holy Spirit, measure the decision against scripture and to ensure it fits with our mission. Over the past several years we have worked to make the best decisions we can for the best reasons possible and to implement decisions to the best of our ability. We have not been perfect in this process, but God has certainly used it for good. This season of change is not at all like that season of change. In this season of change, we find ourselves in the most uncomfortable kind of change, transition.

I hate transition. It starts with a change but is the period of pure limbo before the next change. It is just uncomfortable and unpleasant. Not only is transition uncomfortable, but it is also anxiety producing. We often assume the worst in a season of transition. We often panic and operate out of fear in the midst of transition. Transition is dramatic and scary. It is the uncertainty that is most challenging. I see this in medical situations all the time. It is the not knowing that is often the worst part of any season of medical challenge. At St. Mark's, given our history and makeup, transition can be especially challenging and anxiety producing.

Add to this that we had some mourning to do. We said goodbye to an incredible human being and pastor, someone that not one of us wanted to see leave our team. Grief is not easy and while many don't flinch at the changing of a pastor, many grew close to Pastor Dan, and his departure, though what was best for him, created grief in some of us. In the midst of that, we had my sabbatical and the inconsistency of summer. It made for a challenging start to transition. While we only selectively like change, I know few people who enjoy transition. In fact, if you do, please see your local mental health professional!

The good news about transition is that it does not last forever. In the midst of this season of transition, the Holy Spirit is moving and speaking. God has remained faithful to St. Mark's and to its people, especially the last several years. The best thing we can do in transition is to pray. The best thing we can do in transition is to trust God, assume the best in one another and to live in the hope we have in Jesus Christ. We are thankful to God for God's faithfulness. We are thankful to our staff and council leaders for their hard work. We are thankful to the congregation for their prayers and support. We are thankful transition is only temporary and in the midst of it, God is with us.

*~Pastor Marcus*

## Dates

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### October Birthdays

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

### October Birthdays

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21 — Wayne Burdick,  
Suzanne Leslie  
23 — David Hines  
25 — Melanie Carlin,  
Margaret Ruger, Nicki  
Tackett, John Foell  
30 — Denise Johnson

### October Anniversaries

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5 — Jerry & Mary Ann  
McClain  
9 — Stan & Judy Bozarth

## Prayer Requests

**Grief:** Marilyn Imus, Dolores Souder

### **Church Members**

Rosemary Galligher, Peter Jungk, Kathleen Lutz, our missionary in Kenya

### **Friends of St. Mark's**

Barb Zabel (friend of the Foell's), Tim Smith (John Martin Smith's son), Jan & Art Wacker (friend's of the Foell's), Steve Hill (Tony Konieczki's brother-in-law), Brent McCollough (Len McCollough's son), Diane (friend of Rex & Vicki Bergdall), St. Albans Episcopal Church, Norman Willoughby (friend of John Foell), Paul Marlow (community member)

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

Mary Lu Kain, Joanne Ruger, Richard Bowerman, Betty Saunders, Ella McClellan, Maxine Mason, Jean Yoder, Noel Flannigan

*\*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

## Look Up Conference

Did you know?

- 1 in 5 people are living with a mental health concern
- according to LifeWay Research, 59% of people living with a mental illness want their church to talk openly about mental illness to help reduce the stigma about it. The faith community has an opportunity to “start the conversation and silence the stigma” about mental health issues. To help with this, everyone is invited to attend the Look Up Faith Conference on Mental Health, October 7, inspired by The Lutheran Foundation. With two keynote presentations, a dozen breakout sessions, numerous exhibits, resources, and more, we can promote mental wellness and reduce stigma around mental illness. Register today by contacting Pastor Marcus or at [www.lookupconference.org](http://www.lookupconference.org).

## Church Directory

Lifetouch is providing the directory at no cost to our church. Every family photographed receives a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory. Portrait Sessions:

October 10th - 1:00pm- 8:00pm

October 11th - 1:00pm- 8:00pm

October 12th - 10:00am - 5:00pm

All photography and portrait viewing will take place at our church with NO sitting fee. You will have a variety of poses taken. One pose will be selected for the directory. You will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits on the day of your portrait session.

## Save the Date

Sept. 29-Oct. 2	LCMC National Gathering
Oct. 13	Church Homecoming
Oct. 27	Confirmation Sun. (1st service)
Nov. 9	Church Work Day

**Reminder:** Please have any announcements for the newsletter to me by the 20th of each month.

## Save the Date: St. Mark's Homecoming

Everybody who's been a part of St. Mark's Ministry throughout the years is invited to join us on Sunday, October 13 celebrating the legacy of this community of faith. This is a time to 'Welcome Home' former members, especially those without a church. Former staff and pastors will join us as well. In addition to celebrating in our worship services, we will have a time of celebration and fellowship in between services. If you have any questions, please see Nicki Tackett.

## Church Work Day

Our Church Work Day will be November 9. We will have more details coming soon. This is an important day to work on some key items in our building to keep it in good shape, save expenses and create a welcoming environment for members and visitors, especially as we get ready for the holiday season. There is always something for people of all skill sets and physical abilities.

## Christmas Eve

This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Tuesday. We will have two services, one at 7:00pm and one at 10:30pm. Both services will be identical except the later service will not have the choir and some of the instrumental music. Be praying about which service you will attend, where you might serve and whom you might invite to join you.

## Israel

We are planning our next spiritual pilgrimage to Israel for October 2020! Flyers are available in Kraus Korner. The dates for the trip are October 19-28, 2020. There will be two option extensions (Jordan & Petra, The Jesus Trail) October 28-November 2, 2020. The information meetings will be held: Wednesday, October 9 at 6pm and Sunday, November 3 at 10:45am.

## **Kenya Trip Update**

We have decided to cancel our 2020 mission trip to Kenya with plans to reschedule for 2021. This is due to a variety of factors: the delay in Erick's visit, staff transition, staff shortage, more interest in Israel, having only one mission/spiritual/education trip per year due to one fully ordained pastor and more. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Marcus.

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## **Kenyan Partnership**

As many of you know, the initial application for Erick Liona to visit us for 3 months from Kenya was denied due to a minor issue related to a post 9/11 law. We are working with Erick, the process and our local congressman's office to resolve the issue so that he can reapply in 2-4 months. We will keep you posted on this as more information becomes available.

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## **Financial Update**

We are running behind our projects and needs for income for this year. If you are behind in your planned giving and can catch up or are able to give additionally to help us catch up, it would be appreciated. We would also encourage you to consider directing any giving you have been giving to those special funds (endowment, preschool, Funding Our Future etc.) to the general fund as that is where they are most needed.

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## **Stewardship Note**

We are thankful for the prayers, time and talents you all share in the life of St. Mark's as well. Please be considering how you plan on serving at St. Mark's and in the community in 2020, whether you are adding new things, continuing previous service or trading roles. Please also consider your pledge for 2020. Cards have been mailed to families. These are kept confidential and seen only by the church secretary who enters the information anonymously for the finance team. These cards are essential to our planning and budget process. This is especially true this year as we consider how to best cover the duties performed by Pastor Dan. We want to continue all of the ministry we have here with the best staff we can find and afford. We are asking families to turn their pledge cards in by Sunday, October 13 to

the church office or in the container provided on the 13th. If we do not receive a card from your family, we will assume your giving will be identical to your pledge/giving for 2019.

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## **Monthly Prayer Gathering**

We will have a monthly prayer gathering open to staff and congregation members on the second Wednesday of each month from 9-9:30am. We hope you can join us. This replaces the former weekly gathering.

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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

October 6th and 20th. Everyone is welcome to attend. We start at 10:50am and end by 11:30am.

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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.

### **Thinking in Threes**

10/6 - Discipleship [Matthew 4:18-23]

10/13 - Ministry Priorities [1 Samuel 3:1-10]

10/20 - Greatest Commandment [Matthew 22:36-40]

10/27 - Service [Mark 10:35-45]

11/3 - Church Ministry Focus [John 13:1-17]

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## **Grandparents & Caregivers Support Group**

Every 4th Tuesday of the month, from 6:30-7:30pm at the Heimach Center (1800 E 7th St., Auburn) there will be a support group for custodial grandparents and grandparents who often care for their grandchildren. If you would like to come and need childcare, please contact Amanda and Rita at 260-357-3333.

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## **Schedules in Kraus Korner**

The schedules are located in Kraus Korner. We need more volunteers for Coffee/Hospitality. Also, we might need to mow the grass in October. The Lawn Mowing schedule is up in Kraus Korner. Please sign-up for a weekend that works for you.

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## **Kingdom Communities: Auburn Hotel**

Our outreach to the Auburn Hotel will continue this month with our meals in October being on the 4th and the 18th. We enjoy a meal and fellowship as well as build lasting relationship with the residents of the hotel during our visits. All meals are served at noon. If you have any questions, please speak with Nicki. We hope to spend time with you there!

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## **Opportunities to Serve**

### *Staff Assistance:*

We have several areas where we could use assistance due to having less ministry staff hours available for the foreseeable future. There are a variety of tasks for people with varying schedules and gifting. If you are interesting in learning more, please contact Pastor Marcus.

### *Preschool Volunteers:*

We are looking for individuals willing to volunteer in the preschool as we continue to grow. It does not require a lot of effort and is a great way to minister to our community on your schedule. Contact Pastor Marcus or Linda Vandemark if interested.

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## **Sunday Sermon Series**

We are in our new sermon series that will bring us to Thanksgiving, Thinking in Threes. 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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## **Now Hiring-Preschool Subs**

We are looking for some paid preschool subs who are willing to sub when we have a staff member out. If you are willing to be a substitute when needed and able, please email Linda-linda@stmarksauburn.org

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## **Support St. Mark's Early Learners While Buying your Groceries**

We have been approved to be part of the Community Rewards Program with Kroger. If you have a Kroger card, please sign up and Early Learners gets a percentage each quarter. Steps to Sign Up

- Go to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com). You may need to make an account if you do not have one.
- Click "Savings & Rewards" at top
- Select "Community Rewards" from drop down menu then "I am a customer".
- Search EA418.
- Click to enroll in St. Mark's Early Learners.

Please note that this has no negative impact on earning fuel points and you get the normal prices.

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## **Support St. Mark's while shopping**

Do you ever shop on Amazon? If so, you can get the same great prices and support St. Mark's. Instead of going to [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select St. Mark's Lutheran Church as your charity. You will still get the same prices, shipping and benefits, but St. Mark's will gain a portion from your shopping. Note: this does not work if you shop using the app or the regular [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) page, but only if you use [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select St. Mark's.

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## **40 Days of Prayer**

September 15-October 26 is our annual 40 Days of Prayer. We are asking all who call St. Mark's home to take at least 10 minutes each day to pray. We ask for your to pray for your own growth in faith, for St. Mark's, our staff and for our mission to build relationships and change lives! We also ask that you pray for St. Mark's in this season of transition. If you need a recommendation for a prayer book for this season, see Pastor Marcus.

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## **Sabbatical Reflection**

I am thankful to have had my time of sabbatical as a part of my call agreement. I was gone for 9 weeks, 6 of that sabbatical, 2 of it continuing education and 1 week of vacation. It was a time to read, be with family and work on my home. It was also a time of rest that I needed and am

both thankful for. God certainly spoke to me in this time. As it relates to St. Mark's, I got some ideas for sermons/sermon series and some thoughts to help us all participate in our efforts to grow. Personally, I found a season of encouragement and a call to do more to take care of myself and set boundaries for my overall health. It was a very positive experience. If you have questions, do not hesitate to ask! ~Pastor Marcus

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### **Update on Dan's Position**

You should have received a mid August about the status of the position held by Pastor Dan. As noted, we have a transition plan for the rest of 2019 where both Andre and Nick are going to full time status. The hiring team will look at possible candidates and share that information with council. Council will continue to look at the needs of the church along with finances to make a determination how to proceed. If you did not get the letter, please contact the church office for a copy.

Nicki's current role, though with the same title as Jon's, is a bit different. Her primary role is ALPHA, evangelism and managing our technology for worship. She, like many other staff and volunteers helps some with worship as well. As she increases her hours for this transition period, most of the work that she will be adding will be behind the scenes, support oriented stuff. She will help take some stuff off Marcus' plate as he takes some of Dan's and she will take a lot of the behind the scenes work Dan had been doing.

Andre's current role is to do a variety of things a pastor would do in worship, in visitation, Bible study and more. Andre will continue to take on more of these things to take items off of Marcus' plate as well as taking on some of Dan's upfront roles, particularly preaching more this fall and winter.

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### **Staff Sabbath/Schedules**

We wanted to provide some information on the weekly sabbath day for our staff members. For our preschool staff and our church secretary, Kathy Fribley, their sabbath is on Saturdays. They are usually off on Sunday as well unless there is a special event.

For our other church staff, Laura and Nicki are off on Tuesdays. Andre is off on Mondays and works from Fort Wayne on Tuesdays. Marcus' sabbath day is Friday. Our other church staff is usually out on Saturdays unless there is a special event but are almost always available via phone.

Please note that on their sabbath day, staff are not available via phone, email etc. There is always a staff member on for emergencies. Sometimes staff have to switch their sabbath day due to an event such as a funeral.

Given this season of transition, the lower number of staff hours and the busy fall season and the start of the school year, our staff is currently quite swamped. We also have several items from the summer to catch up on that were not completed. Please note that it might take a little longer than usual to respond. Also, for the ministry staff (Marcus, Andre, and Nicki) if you need to speak with us outside of an emergency it is much, much easier and preferred if you set up an appointment, at least for now. We love talking with people when they pop in, even though it's not always possible. It is even more challenging in this season. We appreciate your understanding and support.

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### **Operation Christmas Child**

It's getting close to that time to when we think about packing an Operation Christmas Child Box. Hopefully some of you took advantage of the "back-to-school" sales a month ago since school supplies are favorites for these boxes. I attended a OCC Planning Session where we had a shoebox recipient tell his story. He lived in India at the time and received a box. What was the gift in it he remembers most? A package of pencils. He told how he was so thankful for his own pencils - up until that time he only got discards and little stubs of what was left of pencils from his family and then they were only inches long. He stressed this fact - don't pack these boxes like you would pack a box for an American child. Children in other countries do not have the abundance Americans kids do - they are grateful for more modest and less costly gifts. The gratitude he felt for the stranger who gave him this box plus the Bible studies that went with it led him to Jesus and today he is a missionary. A pretty powerful testimony.

Think about that as you continue to collect items to pack in your shoebox. Just a quick reminder: No liquids, candy or toothpaste. Thanks, Judy

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### **EYA-Stealth Service Team**

As a part of our engaging young adults initiative, a stealth service team has been formed. This team is made up of young adults (18-35 years old). The goal of this team is to serve the community and affect positive change in the world around us. For the month of September, the team partnered with the preschool to show appreciation to our first responders and veterans on the National Day of Remembrance and Service, September 11th. The team donated items for homeless veterans and made cookies for the preschoolers to present as a thank you to our city firefighters and police officers. If you know someone that may be interested in joining this team, please see Nicki.

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### **ALPHA**

A new season of Alpha has begun at the Y. Please be in prayer for the attendees. We will be meeting weekly on Mondays, with dinner beginning at 6 pm. Please feel free to join us for any session. Our last session will be November 11th. Come join us for food, fellowship, laughter and discussion.

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### **Thanksgiving Day**

The St. Mark's staff is preparing a special present for you and your family for Thanksgiving day. More information will come soon. Blessings, Andre Vogel

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### **Youth Group**

Our youth group met for the first time for the new school year on September 15th. We enjoyed seeing a couple of new faces. The youth decided to name the group Axious, which is Greek for worthy. Axious is a place that our youth not only learn about Jesus and the gospel, but also to build relationships and have a safe space to talk about how to navigate life in the real world. Axious is open to grades 6-12 and meets on a bi-weekly basis. The October meetings of Axious will be on the 13th and 27th. We are excited to spend time with this group of young people. If you know of any youth that

would be interested in attending, send them our way! If you have any questions, please see Jessica Carlson or Nicki Tackett.

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### **Thank You**

Dear Friends,  
Thank you so much for once again participating in "Faith in Action." We cannot express how grateful we are for your help at the DeKalb Humane Shelter.  
Sincerely, Sue Houser, Secretary

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### **Conflict**

As our yearly reminder, 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.

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### **Estate Policy**

The following is our yearly reminder of our estate gift policy:

Purpose: From time to time, St. Mark's Lutheran Church is a benefactor of an estate. This policy is meant to guide how gifts from estates are handled.

### Policy & Procedures:

#### Receipt & Tracking

- Funds received by St. Mark's as estate gifts are considered designated funds and are treated differently than other gifts given to St. Mark's.
- Like all gifts, the amount of the gift and the name of the giver are not shared with the general congregation unless specifically requested by the giver.
- When an estate gift is received, it will be deposited into the Funding Our Future account in accordance with church deposit and accounting procedures. This fund is designated and is not part of the general church-operating budget. The fund carries over from year to year.
- The Council will then decide how the gift is to be divided up, put into other accounts at St. Mark's and used based on the guidelines below.

#### Use of Estate Gifts

- If the gift comes with conditions, required or suggested uses, those must be honored first and foremost. Designations made with the estate gift as a part of the estate are given first priority.
- For any undesignated gifts or amounts, the council will decide how to best use the funds and disperse the funds based on the following:
  - If the undesignated portion of the gift exceeds \$100,000, a minimum of 10% of the gift must go in the Endowment Fund, if in existence.
  - If the undesignated portion of the gift exceeds \$100,000, a minimum of 10% of the gift must go in the Funding Our Future Reserve Fund, if in existence.
  - The gift should be used primarily for one time expenses, seed money and other items not covered in the budget.



- The gift should be used to help propel the church and its mission forward.
- Building projects should receive the lowest priority when designating the gift, unless the building project is urgent.
- Estate gifts will show up on the church financial statements as do all assets. While the name of the giver and the amount of the gift will not be disclosed, the congregation will see the gift listed as a part of its assets in the appropriate accounts.

### **Preaching at St. Mark's**

There are a variety of ways in which a church can approach preaching and the preaching schedule. When I (Pastor Marcus) arrived at St. Mark's, one of the things I heard most frequently was a desire for more meaningful, deep, relevant preaching. It's one of the reasons I was most interested in this call. Our focus for preaching has been on the Scripture and best practices. In any sermon, our goal is to point people to Jesus and to the Kingdom of God. While we work hard on sermons, we ultimately have to trust the Holy Spirit to speak through us and speak to those who listen in the congregation and online around the world. We are thankful for a congregation that is hungry for meaningful, centered based sermons. We try to balance out our sermon series and always try to offer a balance of encouragement and challenge. Some sermons and sermon series may lend themselves to one more than another, so we also look at the balance for the year as well. We work faithfully to include the full scripture, Old and New Testaments, in our preaching schedules.

Our preaching is a shared preaching approach, with the primary preaching coming from Pastor Marcus and other voices, mostly staff, sharing in the preaching. While many smaller churches are often used to only one preacher, we are blessed to have more than one voice and for a variety of reasons, we embrace that gift.

The first reason for this approach is the recognition that we are called to raise, train and build up future ministers, preachers and

pastors. As a pastor, I, (Marcus) would not be where I am today without many opportunities to preach long before I was ordained. In fact, preaching experience is required as a part of every Masters Degree used for ordination. My first sermon was when I was 16 years old. Let's just say, I have come a long way. The number of people going into ministry is decreasing. The number of pastors with solid preaching has shrunk even more. We have the opportunity to change both of these things for the future of our and every church.

We also take this approach because there is great value in different voices. One of the great blessings of having Pastor Dan for so long was that both he and I (Pastor Marcus), though in agreement on the most important things, had very different gifts, styles and approaches. Some could relate to one of us better than the other (in preaching and otherwise) which is a gift for the whole congregation and was a gift for the two of us as well. The different voices have especially been a gift in our testimony sermons and sermon series.

Another reason for this approach is the recognition of gifting. We all have been given different gifts and it's been important to stick to the scriptural concept that we help everyone find and use their gifts. This includes preaching and teaching. It is also a way to help people that might have a call to ministry be able to decide if this is in fact the case. We are believers in the scriptural and deeply Lutheran concept of the priesthood of all believers, that we are all called to ministry in and outside the church, all called to use the various gifts God has given us. While some are called to the ordained ministry (see paragraph below) we are all called to use our gifts.

Finally, we take this approach to follow conventional wisdom and maximize the quality of preaching here at St. Mark's. The best senior pastors who are biblical preachers today across the United States will tell you that the best scenario for a church is to have the senior leader do most of, but not all of the sermons. As the senior leader, you need to be the main and primary face and voice. Yet, there is clear recognition that burnout is an issue and that quality goes down if you have to preach every single weekend. The conventional wisdom is that the best number for a senior leader in a

church is 30-36 weeks/weekends a year. The other reality right now is that with all the other tasks on my (Marcus) plate its almost impossible for me to have the time to prepare a sermon every single week. As we work on the preaching schedule, we keep in mind all of these principles as well as staff gifting, sermon series, schedules and more as we map out our preaching schedule.

We are thankful for the people God has called here, for a congregation that is hungry for good sermons and for the opportunity to be able to honor biblical and practical principles for the benefit of our leaders, congregation and the church of the future. If you have questions, contact me (Pastor Marcus).

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### **Andre's Ordination**

Ordination is primarily about call. While it is often tied to education, every single denomination that has an education requirement also has exceptions. Ordination is also not about what a person can and cannot do in service to the Lord. As Bible believing Lutherans we embrace the priesthood of all believers, that we are all ministers of the Gospel called to ministry. Ordination is a ministry, set apart, which is based primarily on calling. Ordination is also about character and gifting. Ordination is something that while not required for preaching, communion, and funerals/weddings (depending on the State), it often is and should be something that is required to lead a congregation.

We have begun the process for Andre's ordination. Andre needs to be ordained in order to be certified with the LCMC. He completes his internship hours at the end of this year. In order

to be ordained, he must have a call. The process for all of this is:

1. The Ordination team will ask Andre for various documents and meet to interview him. That team (Pastor Marcus, William Hathaway, Jayne McClellan, Russ Hoff and Justin Crowder) will then make a recommendation to council regarding Andre's ordination.
2. The council will make a decision on the recommendation from the ordination team. If the council recommends Andre be ordained, it will be placed on the agenda for the December annual meeting.
3. At the December annual meeting, the congregation will have to vote to call and ordain Andre. Again, a call is required for ordination and ordination by a local church is required for certification with the LCMC. The call will not be a traditional call, but a call nonetheless. Andre will be called to some title to be determined by council. He will not be compensated per his student status, but depending on his role and hours at St. Mark's and our financial status, we may consider covering a portion of his expenses as we have been. Andre is working on his dissertation and so after December 31, 2019 his role will have to be limited due to the required time of the dissertation and having a young child with one on the way. The final details on all of this will be communicated as they are figured out.

If you have any support for the ordination of Andre, please let one of the ordination team members know. If you have any questions or concerns, or have a question you want to be sure the ordination team asks Andre, please email Pastor Marcus.

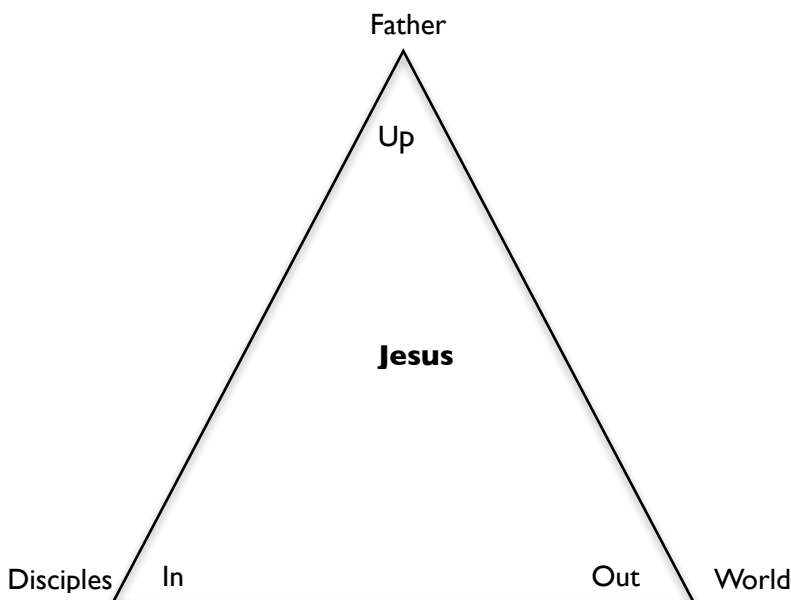
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# St. Mark's Culture & DNA

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

## *Our DNA:*

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



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

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## *Our Vocabulary:*

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

**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:*

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

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## *Culture Question of the Month:*

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

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## Worship Assistant Schedule October 6, 2019 to November 10, 2019

	<b>October 6</b>	<b>October 13</b>	<b>October 20</b>	<b>October 27</b>	<b>Nov. 3</b>	<b>Nov. 10</b>
<b>Assisting Minister (T)</b>	Diann H.	John F.	Rod K.	Dave H.	Andre V.	Pastor Marcus
<b>Children Time (T)</b>	Nicki T.	Andre V.	Andre Vogel	Jessica C.	Nicki T.	Rod K.
<b>Acolyte (T)</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	Riley M.	N/A	N/A
<b>Lector (T)</b>	Mary H.	Jane F.	Bill H.	Peggy B.	Lora K.	Mary H.
<b>Communion Asst. (T)</b>	Glenn M. & Rex B.	Janice T. & Kathy G.	Peggy B. & Vicki B.	Diann H. & John F.	Glenn M. & Jane F.	Kathy G. & Peggy B.
<b>Ushers (T)</b>	Jerry S., Tina M., Art B., Stan B.	Jerry S., Rex B., Tony K., Glenn M.	Jerry S., Rex B., Tina M., Russ H.	Jerry S., Rex B., Gary H., Jon H.	Jerry S., Rex B., Tina M., Tony K.	Jerry S., Rex B., Stan B., Art B.
<b>Greeters (T)</b>	Jim & Ann F.	Nila & Mary Lee M.	Vicki M. & Gary H.	Barry & Janice T.	Len & Carolyn M.	Carol R. & Susan S.
<b>Nursery (T)</b>	Cindy W.	Jessica C.	Jim & Ann F.	Carol R. & Linda Wolf	Cindy W.	Jessica C.
<b>Sunday School (T)</b>	Cindy R.	Andre V.	Nicki T.	Matt D.	Peggy B.	Matt D.
<b>Tech (T)</b>	Jeff & Jarrett R.	Arthur B. & Micah C.	Barry T.	Connie M. & Micah C.	Connie M.	Jeff & Jarrett R.
<b>Prayer Team (T)</b>	Cindy R. & Jessica C.	Sue B. & Nicki T.	Jessica C. & Mary H.	Mary H. & Nicki T.	Jessica C. & Sue B.	Cindy R. & Nicki T.
<b>Altar</b>	Barb K.	Judy B.	Tina M.	Diann H.	Jayne M.	Jayne M.
<b>Coffee/ Hospitality</b>		N/A				
<b>Emcee (M)</b>	Nicki T.	Nicki T.	Nicki T.	Andre V.	Andre V.	Nicki T.
<b>Communion (M)</b>	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus	Nicki T.	Jeff R.	Pastor Marcus	Marilyn M.
<b>Prayer Team (M)</b>	Brian M.	Jayne M.	Brian M.	Cindy R.	Mary H.	Jayne M.
<b>Greeters/Usher (M)</b>	Brian M.	Jayne M.	Brian M.	Jeff & Cindy R.	Ken & Mary H.	Tina M.
<b>Nursery (M)</b>	Janice T.	Sharon V.	Cindy W.	Ashlyn R.	Janice T.	Sharon V.
<b>Tech (M)</b>	Barry T.	Andre V.	Jon & LeAnn H.	Jarrett R.	Barry T.	Marge N.
<b>Other</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

We have been very busy this month. We have added a few more students, a pet turtle, a monarch butterfly chrysalis and had our first field trip! We went to Cook's apple orchard and even got to pick our own apples. We released four Monarch butterflies and will be releasing the one in our classroom once it emerges from the chrysalis. We are excited to start studying apples and pumpkins to go with our fall theme throughout the classroom in the coming weeks.

In chapel this month we studied Creation and The Ark and the Flood. The children have been giving their own prayer requests at the end of chapel for us to pray about. We have had requests for many things from Lightning McQueen to our Moms and Dads.

We have a few wish list items below and also information on how to help us earn rewards with Kroger.



### **Do you shop at Kroger?**

1. Go to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com).
2. (Optional) If you do not have one, set up a Kroger account that is connected to your card.
3. Click on "Savings & Rewards".
4. Click on "Kroger Community Rewards"
5. Search our code EA418 for St. Mark's Early Learners.
6. Click "Enroll".

### **Our Wish List**

- Apples
- Homemade play-doh
- Volunteers
- Toilet Paper
- Hand sanitizer
- Pumpkins

# OCTOBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>29</b> 40 Days of Prayer LCMC Annual Gathering 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM 11:30 Gathering (Modern) 1:30 PM Stealth Service Team Meeting 5:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Axioms (Youth Group)</p>	<p><b>30</b> 40 Days of Prayer LCMC Annual Gathering 6:00 PM ALPHA</p>	<p><b>1</b> 40 Days of Prayer LCMC Annual Gathering</p>	<p><b>2</b> 40 Days of Prayer LCMC Annual Gathering 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>3</b> 40 Days of Prayer 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:00 PM Modern Service Rehearsal 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p><b>4</b> 40 Days of Prayer Pastor Marcus Day Off 12:00 PM Lunch at Auburn Hotel 6:00 PM Farrell/Crowder Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>5</b> 40 Days of Prayer 4:30 PM Farrell/Crowder Wedding</p>
<p><b>6</b> 40 Days of Prayer 9:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:45 AM Coffee Hour 10:50 AM Adult Bible Study 11:15 AM Modern Worship</p>	<p><b>7</b> 40 Days of Prayer Look Up Faith Conference 6:00 PM ALPHA</p>	<p><b>8</b> 40 Days of Prayer</p>	<p><b>9</b> 40 Days of Prayer 9:00 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Ministry Team Meeting 11:00 AM All Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Israel Information Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>10</b> 40 Days of Prayer Photo Church Directory 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:00 PM Modern Service Rehearsal 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p><b>11</b> 40 Days of Prayer Pastor Marcus Day Off Photo Church Directory</p>	<p><b>12</b> 40 Days of Prayer Photo Church Directory</p>
<p><b>13</b> 40 Days of Prayer Church Homecoming 9:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:45 AM Coffee Hour 11:15 AM Modern Worship 5:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Axioms (Youth Group)</p>	<p><b>14</b> 40 Days of Prayer Columbus Day 6:00 PM ALPHA</p>	<p><b>15</b> 40 Days of Prayer</p>	<p><b>16</b> 40 Days of Prayer 9:30 AM Ministry Team Meeting 12:00 PM Senior's Luncheon 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>17</b> 40 Days of Prayer 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 12:00 PM Local Lutheran Pastors Meeting 5:00 PM Modern Service Rehearsal 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p><b>18</b> 40 Days of Prayer Pastor Marcus Day Off 12:00 PM Lunch at Auburn Hotel</p>	<p><b>19</b> 40 Days of Prayer</p>
<p><b>20</b> 40 Days of Prayer 9:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:45 AM Coffee Hour 10:50 AM Adult Bible Study 11:15 AM Modern Worship</p>	<p><b>21</b> 40 Days of Prayer 6:00 PM ALPHA</p>	<p><b>22</b> 40 Days of Prayer</p>	<p><b>23</b> 40 Days of Prayer 9:30 AM Ministry Team Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>24</b> 40 Days of Prayer 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:00 PM Modern Service Rehearsal 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p><b>25</b> 40 Days of Prayer Pastor Marcus Day Off</p>	<p><b>26</b> 40 Days of Prayer Holy Spirit Retreat</p>
<p><b>27</b> Confirmation Sunday 9:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:45 AM Coffee Hour 11:15 AM Modern Worship 5:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Axioms (Youth Group)</p>	<p><b>28</b> 6:00 PM ALPHA</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> 9:30 AM Ministry Team Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>31</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:00 PM Modern Service Rehearsal 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM Executive Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>1</b> All Saints' Day Pastor Marcus Day Off 12:00 PM Lunch at Auburn Hotel</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

211 West Ninth Street

Auburn, IN 46706

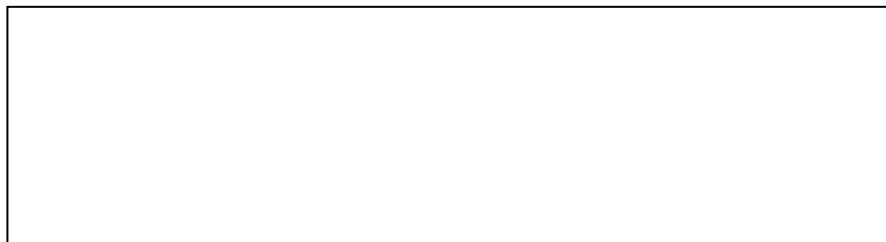
Web Page: [www.stmarksauburn.org](http://www.stmarksauburn.org)

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

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

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# St. Mark's

— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

**Building Relationships  
Transforming Lives**

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

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**Our Mission: To bring about transformation in individuals, families, our community, and the world through Jesus Christ**