



St. Mark's Lutheran Church MESSENGER

July 2015

From the Executive Committee

Congregation Update

St. Mark's has challenging times ahead. Regardless of our current situation, we face some daunting and uphill opportunities. Some congregation members have withheld offerings since January to get attention. Our current financial condition, which was projected and communicated to congregation members in our December 2014 annual meeting, and again in a special congregation meeting in February 2015, and again in the Saturday MOP meeting in March, is coming true.

Our comptroller is forecasting that without change, our operating funds will run out mid-July of this year. We have exhausted our operating reserves year-to-date to pay our current bills. Our Council approved a Continuing Resolution to pay bills at the 2014 rate in the absence of an approved 2015 Spending Authorization. Our Finance Committee recommended, and Council approved a spending priority plan based on paying salaries first, mortgage commitments second and all other bills last as a means of conserving our assets. Year to date we have exhausted close to \$40,000 in undesignated funds to offset offerings that have not materialized. Another action the Finance Committee and Council are considering is submitting grant requests to the St. Mark's Foundation to offset future mortgage payments and staff educational expense we have made commitments to pay.

What does this mean to this congregation? We have been unable to fund outreach programs this congregation has faithfully observed in the past. We may have to make hard decisions regarding our property needs. We may have to reconsider our monthly benevolence payments, and instead accrue this expense for future payment. We may have to consider what happens to St. Mark's Ark as a viable operation if we can no longer pay our utility bills, water bills and liability insurance.

Another consideration is St. Mark's infrastructure (our buildings, property and maintenance). We are faced with significant coming expense in new roofs and air conditioning requirements. Our Property Committee has received estimates these expenses will exceed \$150,000. Over half of the church campus air conditioning units are past their life expectancy. Our nave roof is over twenty years old! Our Finance Committee has been discussing the possibility of a Capital Funding campaign to raise funds to specifically address these issues—but this will not come to reality without a congregation volunteer to lead this campaign.

Have you noticed that we have a problem with securing volunteers? When was the last time you volunteered to usher, be a greeter, work in the Sunday morning nursery, or work in the church office? It is sad when we receive under fifty Time and Talent sheets for volunteers to help in this loving and caring congregation.



Please, prayerfully consider how you can constructively help as we move forward. Please consider this question: What can I do to help? —Can I volunteer? Can I help financially?

—Your Church Council Executive Committee
Bill VanAs, Bob Wofford, Pat Ainsley, Jan Berglund

Music Notes

Summer Music at St. Mark's

All singers are encouraged to join our summer choir. We meet in the choir room at 9:30 to rehearse the psalm, hymns, and other service music. We also learn an easy anthem to be sung for the musical offering that day. Singers of all levels are welcome and we hope that YOU will join us!

Summer Bells will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, July 8, at 6:00 p.m. The group will rehearse each Wednesday from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. through September 2. If you want to join the group, please contact Tony Cruz at vespers@comcast.net. Summer schedules are more fluid than the rest of the year, so it's okay if you have to miss some rehearsals – just please let Tony know in advance as much as you can. We will plan to play in church on July 26, August 23, and September 13. This schedule is subject to change. We may need to make adjustments after we see who is available to play.

– Tony Cruz

What To Do When You Have to Miss Church on Sunday Morning

Sometimes you just have to miss church on Sunday morning – especially during those summer months. Don't forget that we have an alternative for you on the first and third Saturday of each month at 5:30. Our casual service won't seem that unfamiliar since it preserves the traditional format of Gather, Word, Meal, and Sending.

Our worship songs/hymns are led from the piano and you already know many of them. The repertoire is varied since we sing contemporary hymns (writers such as Dan Schutte and Marty Haugen), spirituals, folk songs from around the world, and praise choruses. Sometimes a "traditional hymn" works its way in, but it may be reimagined in a modern harmonization or different style.

Come as you are. All are welcome.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be **No Service on Saturday, July 4**, due to the Holiday.

-- Tony Cruz

Worship & Music

Summer worship schedule

Our summer worship time is 10:00 am on Sunday mornings. This single service continues through September 13, which is "God's Work Our Hands Sunday." See Tony's article above for information about the continuing Saturday services.

—Pastor Tom

St. Mark's Ark

Our Fairy Godmothers

Flora, Fauna, and Merryweather were the three fairy godmothers to Aurora, also known as Sleeping Beauty. They bestowed gifts onto Aurora. The three fairy godmothers took her to the woods to protect and nurture her. St. Mark's Ark has three "fairy godmothers" as well, Jane, Ginger and Punkie. They also bestow gifts and nurture the students at the Ark.

Jane bestows the gift of peace. Jane helps lead chapel service. She plays the piano while the children sing chapel songs about the spirit that runs through us all. Jane will step in to do a Bible story if needed and encourages the staff to play chimes with her at the end of service. She has done the impossible. I play an instrument now. It is just two notes, but that is a big deal for someone who got kicked out of piano lessons.

Ginger bestows the gift of music. Ginger teaches the students songs about God and his love. Some of the songs I remember from my childhood at St. Paul Lutheran. The students are playing bells and rhythm instruments. It is a joy to see her at work.

Punkie bestows the gift of language. Punkie teaches French. Our two, three, four and five year old students are learning so much. They can greet you, sing and count in French. I can't tell you how cute it is to see a two year old singing Frere Jacques.

Our three fairy godmothers work together with joy and love. They coordinated schedules and lessons to make our Spring Program a success. Like Sleeping Beauty, we would not be the same without the gifts given so graciously by those who love us unconditionally.

— Patrice Roux-Neal

The Drip Line

Blood drive "Be a hero—donate blood"

Thank you to all who were able to participate in last month's blood drive. A total of 11 units of blood were collected from 15 donors. Thank you all for being quiet heroes! The next collection date will be on August 16, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. until 12 Noon.



See you on the bus! —Jan Berglund

Nourish Team

Stewards of Stuff

As part of our on-going theme this year of Stewards of God's Love, the Nourish Team is focusing on the IN portion of the cross diagram. We look at the things God has entrusted to our care. Not only has God given us time, talent, and treasure, but also "stuff"... and in some cases plenty of it.

During July we will be sharing the stuff we aren't using with those who would be grateful to have it. Each week we are focusing on a particular item, but the bins will be available in Hart Hall until the end of the month if you miss a week.

July 05 – Personal Size Toiletries – to be used later for our God's Work Our Hands project in September

July 12 – Canned Meats – will be given to UCOM

July 19 – Gently Used Clothing – Charity TBD

July 26 – Kitchen Items – LSS

Thanks for your help! – Nourish Team

Men In Mission

Work and Fellowship

Our monthly Men in Mission workday was held on Saturday, June 6th. We began the day with prayer and another great breakfast prepared by Sue and Pastor Tom. The group again was small, but many items were accomplished. Eric and Gina Olson checked and changed A/C filters; Robert and Aaron Brown worked on lighting; Ken and Cindy Sohacki repainted parking lot lines, and Ken repaired some wooden appliances in the Ark. Bill and Punkie VanAs started painting the small office. Jim Dennis repaired baseboard moldings in several of the Ark rooms and Bernie caulked some sinks in the Ark rooms.

There will not be a workday in July. Our next scheduled workday will be Saturday, **August 1, 2015**. As stated previously, we really do need more folks to attend in order to keep up with the maintenance and keep costs down. A notice will go out via the phone tree with the work planned and as always all are welcome. See you in August!

Property

There were no major projects or problems this month. The Property Committee continues to review and prioritize larger items that require attention.

Thanks to all for your continued support of our facility. God's work, Our hands.

—Bernie, Ken and Property Committee

Women's Ministries



July Circle meetings

Rebecca Circle — July 11, Saturday, 10:00 am/Hart Hall

Deborah Circle — July 14, Tuesday, 9:30 am/Hart Hall

Priscilla Circle — No Meeting for July

All women are invited to participate in Circle meetings and special events. Contact Rachel Mumford or Joyce Wertz for more information.

Congregation Council

Council Spotlight

At the June 22nd Council meeting, the following items were acted on: 1) Established August 23, 2015 as the day for the blessing of the backpacks, and 2) approved the recommendation of the Finance Committee to delay by 10 days during the months of June and July the payment of our Synod benevolence commitment.

Council minutes and financials are available in the hallway by Fellowship Hall or by calling the church office. Next Council meeting will be Monday July 27, at 6:30 pm in the Library. —Bill VanAs, president

Community Events

Health and Nutrition Support Group

St. Mark's Health & Nutrition Support Group will meet on Saturday, July 18, 2015 from 9:00am to 10:00 am in Hart Hall. (The third Saturday of each month.) This group is for anyone who is interested in health and nutrition – diabetics, heart patients, those who want to lose weight or maintain weight loss, those interested in healthy aging, or anyone who just wants to eat and live in a healthy manner. (It is not a weight-loss group.) Family and friends are invited to attend. Each person brings a new perspective. For questions, please call Lynn Doiron at 904-703-0847 or doironl@comcast.net. We hope to see you there! —Lynn Doiron

Lion's Pride

Summer Hiatus

The Lion's Pride meetings will resume in the fall on September 11. Please watch the future Roars and Messengers for information. Have a great summer and join us in September! —Clara Echerer

The Stewing Pot

A Few Summertime Thoughts for Consideration

- Be safe this summer. Remember that Saint Mark's is there for you throughout the year. Please remember that your church is dependent upon your kindness and support to remain open. Summertime, as you would expect, presents a challenge to many churches. This is also true at Saint Mark's. Our comptroller has advised that due to current circumstances and patterns of giving that Saint Mark's has operational funds to remain open until some point in July. This is a fluid situation which will improve with your constant support. Please keep your financial support active and current.
- Forgiveness isn't just a gift from God. It's a gift God gives us to share with one another. The Lutheran, April, 2015.
- Jesus says that God rewards every act of generosity regardless of how small. Matthew 10:42
- "Give the Lord your God what you promised him; bring gifts to him all you nearby nations." Psalm 76:11
—Uncle Stew



Member Updates

The following families joined our membership on April 26. Please update your directories with their information:

Paul & Judy Eggen

11669 Sedgemoore Dr. W.
Jacksonville, FL 32223
Phone: (904) 268-5803
Email: jaeggen66@gmail.com



Martin (Marty) Hebrank

10135 Gate Parkway N. #1009
Jacksonville, FL 32246
Phone: (850) 443-7953

Fellowship

Supper Club

We thank all of you who have made Supper Club such a success this year and we are already gearing up for our 2015-2016 year beginning sometime in the fall.

Please be watching for updates. Mary M. and Jenny have started a sign-up sheet for the coming year which will be posted on a bulletin board at Church. We only meet 4 times a year normally with a kick off in the fall with the entire group, followed by 2 gatherings in the smaller groups Oct./Nov./Dec. and again in Feb./Mar./April, whatever is convenient for your group. The smaller groups are held in the home of the host/hostess. The finale is a group event so we can all come together in May. When you sign up just indicate if you will be willing to host, season you would prefer, and the number of guests you would be comfortable hosting in your home. We have had groups of 6, 8, 12, etc. so it's what is convenient & fun for the Hostess. If you do not have room to host a dinner in your home, that is okay, just let Jenny know, or you can be creative! (Some smaller groups have been held at restaurants; or you could host a meal in Fellowship Hall.)

We want to see this wonderful tradition continue so please join us! If you have any questions, please call or see Steve or Jenny Hicks, or Mary Mittelstadt.

Have a great Summer!!

—Jenny Hicks

Worship Assistant Schedule for July 2015

Date	Assisting Minister	Lector	Server	Altar Guild
July 4 Saturday	5:30 NO SATURDAY SERVICE	NATIONAL HOLIDAY		
July 5	10:00 Pat Ainsley	Leslie Allen	Eddie Jackson	Renee Roath & Nicki Hassell
July 12	10:00 Barbara Brown	Jan Berglund	Susan Jackson	Renee Roath & Nicki Hassell
July 18 Saturday	5:30 Karl Stupski	Cathy Stupski		Ginger Hudson & Marianne Prokop
July 19	10:00 Ron Eckels	Ellen Olson	Al Voss	Renee Roath & Nicki Hassell
July 26	10:00 Steve Hicks	Neil Daraskevich	Carol Daraskevich	Renee Roath & Nicki Hassell

Date	Order of St John	Fellowship	Nursery	Ushers	Flowers
July 4 Saturday	5:30 NO SATURDAY SERVICE	HOLIDAY			
July 5	10:00 <i>Volunteers</i>	Jorn Family	Madden, Han-son, Pudimat	<i>Volunteers</i>	Marvin Brown
July 12	10:00 <i>Volunteers</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>	Olson, Rambeloarisoa	<i>Volunteers</i>	Mary Mittelstadt
July 18 Saturday	5:30		none	<i>Volunteers</i>	
July 19	10:00 <i>Volunteers</i>	Al & Ruth Voss	Sohacki, Hillis	<i>Volunteers</i>	Lee Stanford
July 26	10:00 <i>Volunteers</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>	Mumford, <i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Volunteers</i>	Bill & Punkie VanAs

Saint Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our Mission

We invite all people to our church home to celebrate God's many gifts. Nourished by Christ Jesus and led by the Holy Spirit, we send enthusiastic servants to proclaim the hope and joy of life in Christ.

Our Vision

We strive to celebrate the rich diversity of God's people, welcoming all to be nourished in their faith journeys. We live to serve others and fulfill our relationship with Christ in service to community.

Thank You!!!

Thanks to all the members of the Fellowship Team who made the Fish Fry on June 7 so enjoyable! Jack Mixer would certainly be proud! Many hands went into the setup, cooking, and cleanup, and we appreciate everyone who pitched in. The fish was fried to perfection by Steve Hicks and his crew and the extra dishes were very tasty indeed. We look forward to the next fellowship event! Thanks again to all!

– The St. Mark's Family

July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 28	June 29	June 30	1 6:30-8:30pm Holy Family Catholic Church Volleyball/FH	2 10:00am Ark Chapel/N 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH	3 St. Mark's Church Office Closed & St. Mark's Ark Closed	4 NO Men in Mission NO Casual/Contemporary Worship <u>National Holiday</u>
5 UCOM Dollar Sunday 9:45am Blood pressure screening/L 10:00am Worship/Nave	6	7 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH 7:30pm Community Band/FH	8 6:30-8:30pm Holy Family Catholic Church Volleyball/FH 6:00pm Summer Bells Rehearsal/N	9 10:00am Ark Chapel/N 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH 6:30pm Property Team/CR NO Priscilla Circle Meeting	10	11 10:00am Rebecca Circle Meeting/HH
12 9:45am Blood pressure screening/L 10:00am Worship/Nave	13 6:30pm Nourish Team/CR 6:30pm Finance Team/L	14 9:30am Deborah Circle/HH 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH 7:30pm Community Band/FH	15 Messenger Submission Deadline 6:30-8:30pm Holy Family Catholic Church Volleyball/FH 6:00pm Summer Bells Rehearsal/N	16 10:00am Ark Chapel/N 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH	17	18 9:00am Health & Nutrition Support Group/HH 5:30pm Casual/Contemporary Worship/N
19 9:45am Blood pressure screening/L 10:00am Worship/Nave	20	21 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH 7:30pm Community Band/FH	22 6:30-8:30pm Holy Family Catholic Church Volleyball/FH 7:00pm Executive Committee/CR 6:00pm Summer Bells Rehearsal/N	23 10:00am Ark Chapel/N 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH	24	25
26 9:45am Blood pressure screening/L 10:00am Worship/Nave	27 6:30pm Council Meeting/L	28 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH 7:30pm Community Band/FH	29 6:30-8:30pm Holy Family Catholic Church Volleyball/FH 6:00pm Summer Bells Rehearsal/N	30 10:00am Ark Chapel/N 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH	31	August 1

Service Opportunity

Fellowship coffee hour

Nothing is better than a vibrant fellowship hour after worship, especially when we have only one worship service in the summer and can greet people we may not usually see because they attend a different service.

Please do your part and sign up for a Sunday or two in the coming months. The sign-up sheet is in Hart Hall by the table and there are many open slots. This is an easy way to serve your brothers and sisters and to share your love for them. If you have questions, call me.

—Keels Jorn

Financial Summary for May 2015

Budget amounts will not be loaded until approved

Operating Fund	Current Month	Year to Date May			Prior Year
		Actual	Current Year		
	Budget		Actual	Difference	
SPENDING					
Invite Ministry	50		102		117
Nourish Ministry	180		405		816
Celebrate Ministry	275		2,334		2,053
Fellowship Expenses	93		268		417
Send Ministry	0		0		0
Synod Benevolence	2,750		13,750		14,167
Mortgage	6,145		30,790		30,275
Utilities	2,073		16,029		16,212
Insurance	2,525		12,491		10,804
Other Property Expenses	3,588		18,102		27,887
Administrative Expenses	944		4,824		5,756
Church Staff	6,155		32,099		45,156
Pastoral	8,181		41,787		39,846
Total Spending	\$32,958		\$172,980		\$193,505
SOURCES					
Pledged Offerings	19,073		130,403		110,507
Non-Pledged Offerings	2,903		19,213		42,080
Other Receipts	6,343		32,855		34,527
Total Sources	\$28,318		\$182,471		\$187,114
Sources less Spending	(\$4,640)		\$9,491		(\$6,391)
Mortgage balance at month end			\$460,569		\$513,262

All Funds	Beginning Balance	YTD Receipts	YTD Spending	Ending Balance
Operating Fund Reserve	2,619	182,471	172,980	12,110
Capital Funds	26,369	0	1,443	24,927
Designated Gifts	59,860	8,800	7,538	61,123
Special Activity Funds	11,908	5,716	9,305	8,319
Other Dedicated Funds	20,000	0	20,000	0
Total Funds	\$120,757	\$196,986	\$211,265	\$106,478

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	May 2015				
	2 & 3	10	16 & 17	24	31
Saturday Service	18	-	20	-	-
Sunday Service	92	112	98	99	107

From the Church Office

Keeping our records accurate

If your address, phone number, cell phone number, or email address changes at any time, please notify the church office so the records can be accurate and your corrections published in the Messenger & directory.

Is your birthday or anniversary missing? Then it is not in the church database. Let the Church office know of any omissions so everyone can be remembered on their special days.

—Karen Kristopeit

Calendar items and articles

Items to be included in the weekly Roars must be in by Wednesday at noon. Items to be included in the monthly Messenger must be submitted by the 15th of each month. Please keep messages brief. All articles, messages, calendar info, etc. are subject to approval and may be reformatted at the discretion of the "Messenger" editor. Submit all notices and articles to the office or email at admin@stmarksjax.org.

— Rose Tallman

July Birthdays

Rae Royal	July 4
Ruth Voss	July 4
Barbara Brown	July 5
Steve Hicks	July 8
Ginger Hudson	July 8
Jane Kilby	July 10
Jane Daugherty	July 11
Jeanette Snyder	July 11
Joan Snyder	July 15
Gary Pudimat	July 17
David Swan	July 18
Alan Ainsley	July 22
Jenny Hicks	July 23
Joe Williams	July 23
Marie Friedsam	July 24
Mark Bryant	July 25
Marge Broward	July 28
Tara O'Rourke	July 29
Punkie VanAs	July 30
Mary Lou Weidenmier	July 31

July Anniversaries

John and Mary Cox	July 2
Larry and Rose Tallman	July 11

Memorial and Honor Gifts

The following gifts, not previously acknowledged, were received by St. Mark's in recent weeks:

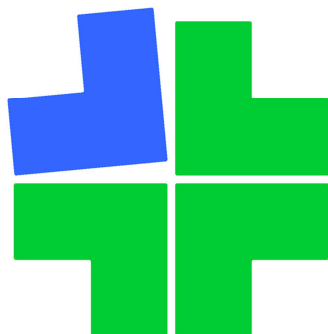
In memory of Aubrie Brown –

Steve & Jenny Hicks
Mike & Mary Swart
Larry & Rose Tallman

In memory of Svend Simonsen –

Al & Ruth Voss

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
3976 Hendricks Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32207



St Mark's Lutheran Church

We are a welcoming congregation where you can express your love for God and for God's people and creation no matter your age, race, economic status, or sexual orientation.

Worship & Office Hours

Worship Services

Saturdays (Casual/Contemporary)

1st and 3rd Saturdays 5:30 pm

Sunday Morning

8:30 am 11:00 am

9:45 am Sunday school for children and adults

Nursery provided at both services.

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (temporary)

Closed on national holidays.

Contact us

Church Office

3976 Hendricks Avenue

Jacksonville, FL 32207

Office phone: 904-396-9608

Fax: 904-396-3515

Email: admin@stmarksjax.org (for office and council)

Web: www.stmarksjax.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarksjax

Contact us

Ministry Staff

Rev. Thomas S. Hanson Senior Pastor

Office phone: 904-396-9608

Mobile phone: 904-416-5341 (preferred)

Email: hansonts@comcast.net

Tony Cruz Cantor

Office phone: 904-396-9608 x 21

Email: vespers@comcast.net

Congregation Officers & Council

Bill VanAs *President* **Bob Wofford** *Vice-president*

Pat Ainsley *Treasurer* **Jan Berglund*** *Secretary*

Lynn Doiron *Send* **Eric Olson** *Celebrate*

Bernie Jorn *Invite* **Barbara Brown** *Nourish*

Bernie Giancola *Property* **Punkie VanAs** *Nourish*

**Jan Berglund, Stewardship*

Larry Tallman *Comptroller* **Rose Tallman** *Fin. Secretary*

St. Mark's Ark Preschool

Patrice Roux-Neal Director of St. Mark's Ark Preschool

Office phone: 904-346-0404

Email: director@stmarksark.com

Web: www.stmarksark.com