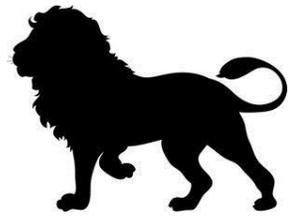


The Messenger



Monthly Newsletter of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2018

From the Pastor

Ah ha! Epiphany is the “ah ha!” season. With Advent and Christmas gone as quickly as they arrived, we venture our liturgical hearts, minds, and bodies in to the season of “ah ha!” Epiphany literally means “to show” or “to make known.” It is a revealing, really. During the Epiphany season we celebrate and recall Christ being revealed to the world. The season begins with Christ’s baptism and calling of the first disciples. We’ll hear Jesus’ first sermon and witness his first healing event. Christ is the Messiah, the long-awaited savior, and his presence is made known to the world during the Epiphany season. Ah ha!

My “ah ha!” understanding of Epiphany is rooted in a single confirmation lesson when I was a counselor at Lutheridge. The confirmands were studying the seasons of the church year during their camp week, and Tuesday was Epiphany day. The pastor spoke about the “ah ha” moment we have when we obtain a full understanding of something. More than just a revealing of information, the “ah ha” moment is an embodied understanding of something previously unknown—some might refer to it as a “game changer” moment. The pastor went on to relate that moment to God being made known to the world in human form. In this revealing the world was destined for an “ah ha” moment. Jesus was the long-awaited and long-promised Messiah, and his words and actions would show the world this very truth.

There is a deeper meaning to this season as well. It is a season of truth and honesty, clarity and transparency. Epiphany is a season reminding us not only of our call to make Christ known to the world, but also of our Christian responsibility to speak, teach, and act with clarity and understanding in the name of Jesus. To live in Christian fellowship in the spirit of God incarnate, the spirit of grace and peace.

I have been incredibly encouraged to see this spirit of transparency and truth at St. Mark’s. The congregational council has been working tirelessly to docu-

ment, publish, and revise all committee minutes and reports. They have worked hard to be not only Christ-centered in their deliberations and actions, but forth-coming as well. Recently the council-appointed Policies and Procedures committee published an initial draft after many months of hard work. Council’s hard work has set an example for committees and ministry teams to operate in the same manner.

As we move forward in this new chapter of ministry I invite you all to continue in this same spirit by staying informed. The council is committed to making things known and communicating as well as possible their on-going actions. Council minutes, committee reports, and the newly drafted Policies and Procedures document are available for your review in Hart Hall. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas as we move forward please do not hesitate to call my cell or send me an e-mail.

We should be glad to remember that Epiphany means “to make known,” or “to show,” and that throughout the season we remember that God continues to make God’s presence known. God continues to show God’s people God’s faithfulness and love. While the season lasts only a few short weeks, we should always consider how God is making God’s self known in our everyday life.

Is the Spirit leading you to any “ah ha” faith experiences this season? How do you see God’s presence among you daily? How is God’s light shining through your actions, your neighbors, or even your enemies?

—Pastor Daniel Locke

Lion’s Pride

Lion’s Pride will meet on January 12 at noon in Hart Hall. Join the Pride and listen to Ms. Nelson speak about Hubbard House. All are welcome.



Hubbard House
EVERY RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE-FREE

From the Council President

Dear St. Mark's Family,

I am very proud to have been called by the Council to serve as the next Council President. I am also very happy that we will have John Trainer serving as Council Vice-President, Elizabeth Jenkins as Council Secretary, and Jane Kilby as Treasurer. This is a great time for us to be serving in these positions. The past two years at St. Mark's have been challenging and we have all responded with renewed faith and commitment. Much of the success of our recovery is attributable to the Council leadership of President Tracy Williams, Vice-President Bridget Pudimat, Secretary Jane Kilby, and Treasurer Larry Wertz for the past two years, as well as to the guidance we received from Pastor Hale and Pastor Bell during our transition. They were faithful servants in His mission and we realized the rewards of their efforts. Once again, God has blessed us!

However, I know that each of them would say that the largest factor in our recovery has been you. This congregation has continued to do the things that make us great. We have continued our commitment to excellent Christian worship, we have maintained our involvement in service to the community, and we have continued to seek new ways to reflect His light in this world. We have become stronger as a church and, with the addition of Pastor Locke to our family, I feel a renewed sense of optimism for our future.

During the coming year, I feel that we are poised to do even greater things at St. Mark's and I am excited about this opportunity which has been bestowed upon me. I am grateful for the confidence of the Council in choosing me as its President for the coming year and I will dedicate myself to giving all that I have to this calling. Please share with John and me your ideas for improvement and growth of the church. I look forward to serving you.

—Ray Booth, *Council President*

Men in Mission

Men in Mission will meet on Saturday morning, January 6 at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a Bible study on what has been called "The Slaughter of the Innocents" and why it is an important part of the Christmas story. Those willing and able will then complete some church maintenance. Just might be a good way to get your new year started and focused around your faith! All are welcome.

—Jim Dennis

Chrismon Tree Take-down

Please join the Celebrate Team on Saturday, January 6 at 9:00 am or come at 8:00 am and join Men in Mission.

We will be taking down the Chrismon tree, decorations, and outdoor nativity scene. It's a good time to share Christmas stories and memories. Look forward to seeing you!

—Eric Olson, *Celebrate Chair*

Women of the ELCA



January Circle Meetings:

Deborah Circle: Tuesday, January 9 at 9:30 am in Hart Hall

Priscilla Circle: Thursday, January 11 at 7:00 pm in the library

All women are invited to participate in circle meetings and special events. Contact Rachel Mumford at (904) 730-3880, or Joyce Wertz for more information.

So What Did Jesus Do, Anyway?

I will begin a four week Adult Study on Sunday, January 21, titled, "So What Did Jesus Do, Anyway?" All adults are welcome and there is no special preliminary reading. I recommend, however, reading at least one of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, or Luke in advance.



—Dale Gatz

Installation

The Reverend Daniel Locke will be installed as pastor of St. Mark's on January 14 at 5:00 pm. The Reverend Wally Meyer, Interim Assistant to the Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, will preside.

Altar Flowers for 2018

The Altar Flower Chart for 2018 has been posted in the narthex. Please sign up if you wish to provide flowers for a particular Sunday. The cost for both vases is \$45. If you have any questions, contact Jenny Hicks.



St. Mark's Ark

Joy comes in many forms during the Christmas season. Santa, Nativity scenes, songs, wreaths, birthdays, pajamas, and even fire drills made the end of 2017 a time of happy memories.

Santa came to visit St. Mark's Ark again this year. The "willing" children got to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what he or she wanted for Christmas. The Webers took pictures of our children with Santa (who looks a lot like Steve Hicks). At the end of what had to be a long, hot day for Santa, the children of the Bear rooms collectively gave him a hug. They were so happy to see him.

In chapel, Pastor Daniel has been talking about Nativity scenes and the Advent wreaths. The children squealed with laughter when he pulled out the snowman and the rubber duck nativities.

All of the Bears vibrated with excitement when they were about to process into the nave at Birthday for Christ. They were lined up by birthday. As they walked in, many announced their birth month. Thomas said, "I am the only July!" He was smiling from ear to ear because no one was going to walk with him.

On the 21, the children wore pajamas to school and watched a Christmas *VeggieTales* movie. Most of the school sat in the gym, eating lunch and learning about Jesus. It was great. That day we also had a fire drill that afternoon. Much of the school was still napping (I am required to do a naptime drill each year). One child was on the potty and her teacher had to tell her, "We have to go. You are going to have to hold your cheeks together." Pastor Daniel came running over. They got up and out in four minutes and three seconds. On the way back in, Grayson yelled, "We did it!"

The year ended with lots of joy. I expect 2018 to be joy filled as well.

—Patrice Roux-Neal, *St. Mark's Ark Director*

Mid-Winter Supper Club

Plans are in the making for a mid-winter group gathering of Supper Club. The gathering will be held in our fellowship hall on Saturday night, January 20, after the 5:30 pm service. With the New Year and our Church Family welcoming new beginnings, what better way for us to gather than to break bread and share fellowship with one another and Pastor Daniel and Sarah?

After our "Group Gathering," we will hope to have 1 or 2 smaller group Supper Club gatherings hosted by different members in their homes during spring, and then a "Group Finale" in late May or early June.

A sign-up sheet is posted. All are welcome! If you can host a small group, please indicate on the sign-up. Also please indicate how many you will feel comfortable hosting in your home (total including yourself.) 6, 8, or 10.

We hope to have another good response this year and hopefully you will come and join us!

—Leslie Allen & Jenny Hicks

Youth Gathering Fundraising Kick-Off

Every three years the ELCA gathers over 30,000 youth and adult leaders for a week of Faith Formation learning and experiences. They spend very busy days and nights in interactive learning activities (justice, prayer, and more), Bible study, serving the community, prayer, and worship.

Seven St. Mark's youth and three adult leaders will attend the ELCA Youth Gathering June 27-July 1 in Houston, Texas.

It will cost \$10,000 to send all to the event for registration, lodging, and transportation. We've been coordinating travel with other churches in the First Coast Conference to save costs. We've been fortunate enough the last two Youth Gatherings to raise enough funds to these expenses through fundraising and gifts—youth paid for food and incidentals. This makes the trip more affordable for any youth interested in attending.

—Bridget Pudimat, *Youth Group Leader*

Visit, "Like," and "Follow"

While many post-print updates appear on the online calendar, St. Mark's also has a social media presence.



Website: www.stmarksjax.org



Facebook Page (Public):

www.facebook.com/stmarksjax

Facebook Group (Private/Request to join):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/94748356090/>



Instagram: [stmarksjaxelca](https://www.instagram.com/stmarksjaxelca)

Also, visit the St. Mark's Ark
Preschool website:
<http://stmarksark.com>



Worship Assistant Schedule for January 2018

Date	Assisting Minister	Lector
Saturday, January 6 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i>	Loree Mueller	
Sunday, January 7 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Eric Olson	Al Voss
Sunday, January 14 <i>2nd Sunday After Epiphany</i>	John Trainer	Gina Olson
Saturday, January 20	Loree Mueller	
Sunday, January 21 <i>3rd Sunday After Epiphany</i>	Gary Pudimat	Bridget Pudimat
Sunday, January 28 <i>4th Sunday After Epiphany</i>	John Trainer	Neil Daraskevich

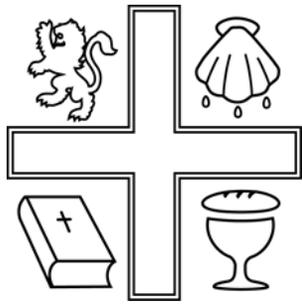
Date	Altar Flowers	Order of St. John
Saturday, January 6 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i>		
Sunday, January 7 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Mary Cusick	Miora Rambeloarisoa
Sunday, January 14 <i>2nd Sunday After Epiphany</i>	Leslie Allen	Ian Heneghan
Saturday, January 20		
Sunday, January 21 <i>3rd Sunday After Epiphany</i>	Barbara Brown	Nolan Pudimat
Sunday, January 28 <i>4th Sunday After Epiphany</i>	TBA	Tahiana Rakotomandrindra

Usher for January: Lee Stanford

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2 No Evening Prayer 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 11:00 am Funeral Service for Gene Hutson @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	3 No St. Mark's Ringers or Choir	4 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	5 No Morning Prayer	6 8:00 am Men in Mission 9:00 am Chrismon Tree Take-down @ Hart Hall 5:30 pm Festival of Epiphany @ Nave
7 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 10:30 am Adult Sunday School @ San Marco Room 10:30 am Confirmation Class @ Library 10:30 am Kindergarten through 3 rd Grade Sunday School @ Classroom next to "Nursery" 5:30 pm Youth Group Meeting @ Hart Hall	8	9 9:30 am Deborah Circle @ HH* 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Evening Prayer @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ HH 6:30 pm Celebrate Meeting @ Conference 7:00 pm Nourish @ Library 7:30 pm Community Band @ Fellowship Hall	10 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite	11 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle @ Library	12 11:15 am Morning Prayer @ Nave	13
14 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 10:30 am Adult Sunday School @ San Marco Room 10:30 am Confirmation Class @ Library 10:30 am Kindergarten through 3 rd Grade Sunday School @ Classroom 5:00 pm Installation of Pastor Daniel Locke @ Nave	15 Martin Luther King Day Deadline for February Messenger 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting @ Conference Room	16 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Evening Prayer @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:30 pm Community Band Rehearsal @ Fellowship Hall	17 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite	18 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	19 11:15 am Morning Prayer @ Nave	20 5:30 pm Casual/Contemporary Worship @ Nave
21 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 10:30 am Adult Sunday School @ San Marco Room 10:30 am Confirmation Class @ Library 10:30 am Kindergarten through 3 rd Grade Sunday School @ Classroom 7:00 pm San Marco Chamber Music Society Concert @ Nave	22	23 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Evening Prayer @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:30 pm Community Band @ Fellowship Hall	24 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite	25 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	26 11:15 am Morning Prayer @ Nave	27
28 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 10:30 am Sunday School @ San Marco Room 10:30 am Confirmation Class @ Library 10:30 am Children's Sunday School @ Classroom	29	30 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Evening Prayer @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:30 pm Community Band Rehearsal @ Fellowship Hall	31 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite			*HH=Hart Hall

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

Dear Family of St. Mark's,

A wonderful thing happened at the Birthday For Christ celebration. The church was filled with smiles of families coming to see their children in their Christmas pageant and the children sang their hearts out. 101 children received gifts for under their tree. You are a very generous loving congregation and those lucky children will experience that love. Thank you for such a wonderful response and a special thanks to all who helped make this such a memorable occasion.

Blessings,
Bonnye Bell

Devotionals for January

I have not included any devotionals in this January *Messenger*. Take advantage of the various devotionals on the narthex tables and consider visiting the Luther Seminary website and subscribing to God Pause.

If you know of any devotionals, please let me know. I will find some devotionals for the February *Messenger*.

—Gina Olson

Soon: A New Email

I started doing newsletter layouts in the summer of 2015. At the time, I used a church email address to distribute E-newsletters. More recently, I have used my personal account. While there is nothing wrong with using my personal account, it is important that I make a transition to a different account to make it easier for my eventual successor.

I will inform you when I have made this transition. In the meanwhile, continue to read both newsletters. Thank you.

—Gina Olson

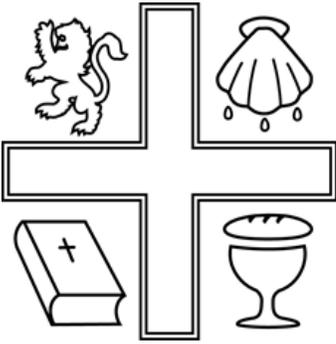
January Birthdays

Hilda Wickman	January 2
Gina Olson	January 10
Ray Booth	January 14
Robert Brown	January 20
John Schoenecker	January 22
Al Voss	January 25
Laura Kate Snyder	January 28

St. Mark's Newsletters

St. Mark's has two newsletters. *The Lion's Roar* is distributed weekly and by email (E-Roar), and *The Messenger* is distributed monthly (primarily through email, but available in print upon request). Gina Olson does layout and editing for both of them.

The deadline for *The Lion's Roar* is by noon on each Wednesday, and *The Messenger* deadline is the 15th day of each month.



Worship & Office Hours

Worship Services:

Saturdays (Casual/Contemporary)

1st and 3rd Saturdays at 5:30 pm

Sunday Morning at 9:30 am

Children are welcome in worship, but a nursery is available.

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

The office is 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 Page (Public):

www.facebook.com/stmarksjax

Facebook Group (Private/Request to join):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/94748356090/>

The Lion's Roar & The Messenger

Gina Olson

Email: ginaolson4@gmail.com



Contact us

Ministry Staff

Pastor Daniel Locke *Pastor*

Phone: (828) 638-3280

Email: Pastor.Daniel.Locke@gmail.com

Tony Cruz *Cantor*

Office phone: 904-396-9608 x 103

Email: cantortonycruz@gmail.com

Congregational Council

Ray Booth *President*

John Trainer *Vice President*

Elizabeth Jenkins *Secretary*

Jane Kilby *Treasurer*

A more complete list will appear in February and will include committee chairs.

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

