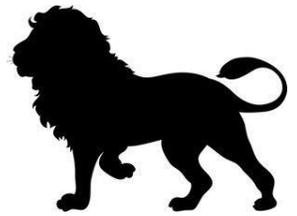


# The Messenger



*Monthly Newsletter of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

March 2019

## From the Pastor



The article that follows is a difficult, yet necessary conversation regarding sexual assault and the role and response of the Christian church. I apologize if anything within this article serves as a trigger for anyone. That is not my intent. If you are triggered, or desire further conversation, I pray you know that my door is always open to you.

Two weeks ago, the Houston Chronicle published an article called, "Abuse of Faith." It is the first of three, detailed and well-researched articles exposing the Southern Baptist Convention with a long history of sexual abuse and a neglect to protect their membership. I won't recount the details of the article here, but the subtitle claims more than 700 victims over the last 2 decades. Even more alarming is the number of clergy and lay volunteers who have faced allegations in the last 20 years: 380. This is a disgusting statistic.

The Houston Chronicle article is, unfortunately, just the latest wave in a sea of misconduct, sexual abuse, and neglect within the Christian church. Last week, a prominent leader in the Catholic church, Ex-Cardinal McCarrick was defrocked by the Pope for sexual misconduct. Even as I write this paragraph, the news is breaking that Vatican Treasurer Cardinal Pell is being convicted of child sex offenses.

Certainly the Protestant, and even the Lutheran Church isn't exempt from such stories of misconduct. The terrifying reality is that there are more of these stories than I could ever have the time or space to write about.

Ever since the start of the #MeToo movement a year and a half ago, our culture has become inundated with stories of assault, misconduct, abuse, and worse. More and more, women (in particular) are feeling empowered to speak their truths despite the risks and responses. These stories are

terrifying, appalling, and truly unfortunate. And yet, hearing these stories is necessary. Painfully necessary.

As victims and survivors tell their stories, empowering more and more people to confront the weight of their own truths by disclosing their own stories, I can't help but pray and wonder, "What is the role of the Christian church?" Faith and our communities of faith should be safe, empowering places for stories to be told. Our churches need to be places where victims feel safe to speak their truths. I think our communities of faith have a responsibility to be present and supportive of our siblings who have survived situations of assault.

The truth is that even within our Christian heritage we have our own stories of abuse and misconduct. The Old Testament has more than enough of such stories. Tamar was raped by her half-brother (2 Samuel 13). Bathsheba was sexually abused by David (2 Samuel 11). Jephthah was willing to sacrifice his daughter (Judges 11). This is to say nothing of the countless unnamed women who were neglected, exploited, or abused by the hand of their offenders. We cannot deny or overlook these stories of our faith. They are canonized within scripture and therefore a part of our own story. Rather than dismiss or neglect them it is important that we hear them, honor their experiences, learn from them, repent the offenses, and grow to be better.

Now, more than ever, the Christian church has an opportunity and responsibility to respond to the painful truths told in scripture and being told today. The community of faith - the Body of Christ - is a gift of God to share burdens, joys, and sorrows. Here at St. Mark's, I hope to continue the conversations that have begun with the brave women of the #MeToo and #ChurchToo movements by fostering a brave space that is safe and healing. We are called to be a community of grace and wholeness, of love and hope. As your pastor, I continue to work toward being a better ally and pastor for those who have been affected by sexual assault and violence. I am here. I hear you. I believe you. And I will help you in any way that I can.

— Pastor Daniel Locke

## From the Council President

Your Congregation Council met on February 25 and the following items were discussed:

1. The contractors who came to St. Mark's to give us estimates for the replacement of the main water supply line have been very slow to give us estimates. This needs to be our next priority for the deferred maintenance project and consideration of other projects will not occur until this problem has been resolved.
2. The Constitutional Revision Committee will be chaired by Darryl Kendrick. Tracy Williams and John Trainer will also serve on the committee. Two more members will be appointed and then the committee will solicit input from the congregation. The ELCA will be promulgating new mandatory provisions for each church constitution and we expect to receive those during the summer. The Committee will also incorporate those required provisions into our Constitution.
3. We will have a vitality and leadership retreat here at Saint Mark's on March 30. It will be led by Pastor Rob Carlson from the Synod office. All members of the congregation are invited to participate. Members from other churches of the First Coast Conference will also attend.
4. We have renewed the required background checks for members who work with children and youth.
5. Work on the organization and the appearance of the library will soon resume.
6. We have changed the service we are using for mass email distributions. It allows us to better organize emails and to know how many recipients open and review the items in the emails. You will soon be receiving minutes of Council meetings after they are approved.
7. Kathy VanOsdol addressed Council and described her seminary project studying the history and culture of Saint Mark's.
8. Our next Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 25 at 6:00 pm. Any member is welcome to attend that meeting. If you would like to address the Council on any subject, please contact me by email at least one week in advance of the meeting. In the meanwhile, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me. Your Council is here to serve you!

— **Ray Booth, Council President**  
(904) 673-0048 cell phone  
[RayBooth55@gmail.com](mailto:RayBooth55@gmail.com)

## From the Ark Director

Please make sure your calendar is marked for **Friday May 10**, the date of our **Annual Spring Program, Supper and Silent Auction**. This is the highlight of the year for the St. Mark's Ark. **The Giraffes, Ducks and Bears** will be sharing their musical talents with you and your families. The children are practicing in music classes every week to bring you a spectacular program under the direction of our wonderful Ms. Ginger, Ms. Punkie and Ms. Jane! I am sure you will be impressed when our little ones sing in English and French. Although the children's performance will be the feature of the evening, a delicious supper will be served, and fabulous goods and services will be auctioned to benefit the Ark. All proceeds from the dinner and auction will go toward the St. Mark's Ark scholarship fund, new equipment and curriculum purchases. There is limited space and reservations are needed and placement is on a first come first serve basis.

Gift certificate donations will be accepted through April 23. So, if you have a business or frequent a business that may donate to this worthy cause, please contact the Ark. We also need people to donate their time and talents. Lots of leg work is needed to put the evening together. One of the Ladies Circles is doing a basket for our auction. Please call the office at 346-0404 if you can help set up tables, break down tables, help in the kitchen, serve food, or clean up.

Don't miss the opportunity to fellowship with our families on this fun filled night!

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Saint Mark's Ark Preschool is requesting donations for its Annual Spring Program/Dinner and Auction Fundraiser May 10, 2019. The purpose of this dinner is to celebrate our years of service to the community. We would like to raise funds for our Scholarship Program, to purchase curriculum enhancements and to purchase additional playground equipment. We have asked several people to solicit for Saint Mark's Ark Child Development Center (Federal Tax I.D. # 596018404, Florida Tax Exempt # 85-8012646353C-9). It would be greatly appreciated if you would donate goods or services for our auction.

We thank you for your time and if you should provide one, for your generous donation.

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

## Lent 2019

**March 5** - Shrove Tuesday Breakfast @ 7:00 am – 9:00 am

**March 6** - Ash Wednesday @ 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm

**Lenten Midweek** - Wednesdays during Lent...

Dinner @ 5:00 pm

Worship @ 6:40 pm

**April 18** - Maundy Thursday @ 7:00 pm

**April 19** - Good Friday @ 7:00 pm

**April 20** - Easter Vigil @ 7:00 pm

**April 21** - Easter Morning @ 9:30 am

## Lenten Dinner Volunteers

The Fellowship Committee will be providing soup and salad dinners prior to the Wednesday evening Lenten Services on March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3, and April 10. We are looking for 5 volunteers who are willing to plan, prepare, and serve these dinners. Funds would be provided for supplies. Attendance averages around 25, so we usually plan for 30. Dinner is served from 5:00 until 6:15 pm. The Fellowship Committee would assist with clean-up. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Leslie Allen at 755-6013. We also need volunteers to help with preparation, serving, and clean-up for Easter Breakfast which is held following the service on Easter.

## Wednesdays in Lent

**RESTLESS:** We will reflect and discern on what it means to be restless in our faith. We become restless for many reasons, but the good news is that the Holy Spirit is just as restless as we are, if not more. God is restless in love, forgiveness, mercy, and grace. We will turn our restlessness into worship by using stations instead of a typical liturgy, which empower us to worship, reflect, and discern at our own pace. There will be a labyrinth available to all in Hart Hall on Wednesdays, starting at 11:00 am.



## Synod Assembly

The Florida-Bahamas Synod will meet June 6-8 in Orlando for their annual synod assembly. St. Mark's is allowed to send 2 lay delegates as well as a youth (age 18-25). Expenses are covered by St. Mark's. If you are interested in representing St. Mark's at this year's assembly, please contact Pastor Daniel by March 24.

<http://fbsynod.com/synod-assembly-2019/>

## Adult Sunday School – Spring 2019

Revelation: A Unique Study

- March 3 & 10

What Did Jesus Do, Anyway?

- March 17, 24 & 31
- April 7

Dwelling in the Word

- May 5 & 12

Daily Faith Practices: A Second Reading

- May 19 - New Commandment
- May 26 - God is Love
- June 2 - Victory of Faith

## Women of the ELCA



### March Circle Meetings:

**Deborah Circle** – Tuesday, March 12 at 9:30 am in Hart Hall

**Priscilla Circle** – Thursday, March 14 at 7:00 pm in Library

- Deborah was a leader of Israel; Judges 4-5
- Priscilla was an early evangelist; Acts 18

## Lion's Pride

The March Lion's Pride Lunch will be meeting on Friday, March 8, at 12 noon, in Hart Hall. Please bring a bag lunch to eat. Hosts will provide drinks and desserts. A head count is needed, so please contact Clara Echerer (904-737-4480) to confirm your attendance.

## Mutual Ministry

The Mutual Ministry Committee exists and operates "to affirm and strengthen the mission for the congregation and the ministry of the staff" (Constitution C12.02.01). The committee is comprised of three to six members of the congregation, serving staggered, 3-year terms. The members of the committee are selected by the president of the congregation and the rostered minister with the appointments ratified by the Congregation Council.

This year we are happy to announce that the members of the Mutual Ministry Committee are: Bill Ahrens, Aleizha Batson, and Karl Koepke. The committee will meet quarterly (and as needed) with Pastor Daniel to share concerns, celebrate joys, and harness opportunities for growth. This committee is not an evaluation or performance review committee. Rather, the mutual ministry committee serves as a circle of confidence and mutually beneficial support for the pastor. Thank you to the members of this committee for their service.

## Congregation Vitality & Leadership Retreat

Saturday, March 30, 2019

St. Mark's is hosting a congregation vitality and leadership retreat on March 30. We will gather with several Lutheran congregations from across our conference for the day-long event. The retreat will be led by Pastor Rob Carlson, Assistant to the Bishop for Florida-Bahamas Synod. This retreat is designed to empower congregations and their leaders as they envision for the future. Pastor Carlson will equip us with a variety of tools and skills for visioning that will serve as the foundation for future conversations. The St. Mark's Council is committed to representing the congregation during this retreat and would like to extend the invitation to anyone interested. The event is free. For more information or registration, please contact Pastor Daniel.

## Lion's Pride



The March Lion's Pride Lunch will be meeting on Friday, March 8, at 12 noon, in Hart Hall. Please bring a bag lunch to eat. Hosts will provide drinks and desserts. A head count is needed, so please contact Clara Echerer (904-737-4480) to confirm your attendance.

## Library Renewal Project

There is a new opportunity to serve at St. Mark's! The Library Renewal Project is underway, and we are inviting people to join in on the fun. Why renewal? Well renewal, meaning ***an instance of resuming an activity or state after an interruption*** correctly identifies what is taking place with our library. When we talk about renewal of the library, we are describing the process of restoration, modernization, and regeneration of this hidden gem so that the congregation can access its resources. Very exciting!

The project is just getting started so the invitation to join is open. Please consider donating your time or talents to this project. We need people who are willing to do the following: data entry, mural painting, book selection, program development, cataloging and communication. As you can see, there are a variety of volunteer opportunities available with varied time commitments.

Please mark your calendars for our first event: A ***Free to Good Home*** book give away. Starting March 2 continuing until March 10, look for book tables set up in Hart Hall. The books displayed on these tables are **FREE** and we want people to take as many as they like. Following Sunday worship service, on March 10 we will take the remaining books to a resale book store.

Please contact Kathy VanOsdol by phone, 317-459-9766 or email, [tkvano1@comcast.net](mailto:tkvano1@comcast.net) to discuss volunteer opportunities. Marjorie Broward and Karin Ulvin have graciously agreed to serve alongside Kathy on the Library Renewal Project. Feel free to ask them questions about the vision for St. Mark's Library when you see them.

## Worship Assistant Schedule for March 2019

Date	Assisting Minister	Lector	Altar Guild
Saturday, March 2	Kathy VanOsdol	Neil Daraskevich	Marieanne Prokop & Ginger Hudson
Sunday, March 3 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>	John Trainer	Janet Linn	Mary Lou Weidenmier & Mary Cox
Wednesday, March 6 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	12:00 pm – <b>TBD</b> 7:00 pm – John Trainer	12:00 pm – Kathy VanOsdol 7:00 pm – Janet Linn	
Sunday, March 10 <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	Ellen Olson	Debora Koepke	Susan Jackson & Mary Cox
Saturday, March 16	Loree Mueller	Leslie Allen	Marieanne Prokop & Ginger Hudson
Sunday, March 17 <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	Steve Hicks	Al Voss	Rachel Mumford & <b>TBD</b>
Sunday, March 24 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	Eric Olson	Karl Koepke	Bonnye Bell & <b>TBD</b>
Sunday, March 31 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	Jane Kilby	Judy Batson	Francine Baker & <b>TBD</b>

Date	Altar Flowers	Order of St. John	Nursery Volunteers
Saturday, March 2			
Sunday, March 3 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>	Patrice Roux-Neal	Miora Rambeloarisoa	Angie Powell & Arold Rakotomandriandra
Sunday, March 10 <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	Bob Wofford	<b>TBD</b>	Angie Powell & Francine Baker
Saturday, March 16			
Sunday, March 17 <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	Sue & Bill Rust	Tahiana Rakotomandriandra	Angie Powell & Rachel Mumford
Sunday, March 24 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	<b>TBD</b>	Becca Jorn	Angie Powell & Miora Rambeloarisoa
Sunday, March 31 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>		Miora Rambeloarisoa	Angie Powell & Joyce Wertz

Date	Greeters
Saturday, March 2	
Sunday, March 3 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>	Mary Lou & Carl Weidenmier
Sunday, March 10 <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	Mary Lou & Carl Weidenmier
Saturday, March 16	
Sunday, March 17 <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	Mary Lou & Carl Weidenmier
Sunday, March 24 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	Mary Lou & Carl Weidenmier
Sunday, March 31 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	Mary Lou & Carl Weidenmier

**March Ushers:** Alice & John Trainer

**\*If you are unable to serve at your appointed time, please arrange for a substitute. Thank you for your service to St. Mark's!**

# March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Men in Mission 5:30 pm Casual/Contemporary Worship @ Nave 5:30 pm Youth Group Lock In @ Hart Hall
<b>3</b> <b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 10:45 am Adult Sunday School @ San Marco Room	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 am Shrove Tuesday Breakfast 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	<b>6</b> 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service @ Nave 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers Rehearsal @ Nave 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service @ Nave 7:30 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Nave	<b>7</b> 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	<b>8</b> 12:00 pm Lion's Pride @ Hart Hall	<b>9</b> 7:00 am Q Friends Social
<b>10</b> <b>Family Promise Host Week</b> <b>1st Sunday of Lent</b> 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 10:45 am Adult Sunday School @ San Marco Room	<b>11</b> Family Promise	<b>12</b> Family Promise 9:30 am Deborah Circle @ Library 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	<b>13</b> Family Promise 5:00 pm Lent Dinner @ Fellowship Hall 5:30 St. Mark's Ringers Rehearsal @ Nave 6:40 pm Lenten Midweek Service @ Nave 7:30 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Nave	<b>14</b> Family Promise 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle @ Library	<b>15</b> Family Promise Messenger Submissions Due @ Noon	<b>16</b> Family Promise 5:30 pm Casual/Contemporary Worship @ Nave
<b>17</b> Family Promise <b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b> 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 10:45 am Adult Sunday School @ San Marco Room 7:00 pm San Marco Chamber Music Society Concert @ Nave	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Voting Precinct @ Fellowship Hall 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	<b>20</b> 5:00 pm Lent Dinner @ Fellowship Hall 5:30 St. Mark's Ringers Rehearsal @ Nave 6:40 pm Lenten Midweek Service @ Nave 7:30 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Nave	<b>21</b> 6:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting @ Office Suite 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b> 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 10:45 am Informal Meeting with the Congregation @ Nave 5:30 pm Youth Group Meeting @ Hart Hall	<b>25</b> 6:00 pm Council Meeting @ Library	<b>26</b> 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:00 pm Ark Board Meeting @ Library	<b>27</b> Staff & Committee Reports Due @ Noon 5:00 pm Lent Dinner @ Fellowship Hall 6:40 pm Lenten Midweek Service @ Nave 7:30 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Nave	<b>28</b> 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>4th Sunday of Lent</b> 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 10:00 am Youth Group Murder Mystery Brunch @ Hart Hall 10:45 am Informal Meeting with the Congregation @ Nave						

## 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.

## Ministry Teams and Committees

- Invite:** Bonnye Bell
- Celebrate:** Eric Olson
- Nourish:** Bridget Pudimat
- Send:** Tracy Williams
- Stewardship:** Jane Kilby
- Property:** Jim Dennis
- Finance:** Jane Kilby
- Fellowship:** Leslie Allen

## 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). The deadline for *The Lion's Roar* is by noon on each Tuesday, and *The Messenger* deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month. If you have an article for either newsletter, please send it to [stmarksjaxnews@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksjaxnews@gmail.com).

## March Birthdays

Camille Cassella	March 1
John Cox	March 1
Adam Kilby	March 7
Sarah Locke	March 7
Hope VanOsdol	March 7
Barbara Stevens	March 10
Bonnye Bell	March 11
Elizabeth Cox	March 12
AJ Harkrider	March 16
Diana Tannous	March 16
Nancy Thrun	March 16
Molly Keifer	March 17
Tom VanOsdol	March 17
Mary Cox	March 18
Evan Harkrider	March 18
Camille Decker	March 19
Amelia Jorn	March 20
Francine Baker	March 21
Janet Linn	March 21
Andrew Cox	March 24
John Daraskevich	March 27
Dale Gatz	March 29

## March Anniversaries

Jenny & Steve Hicks	March 16
Laura Kate & Jordan Herriff	March 17
Marianne & Fred Prokop	March 19
Emily & Martin Beckmann	March 23

## Worship & Office Hours

### Worship Services:

**Saturdays** (Casual/Contemporary)

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Thursday

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

*The office is closed on national holidays.*



### Church Office

3976 Hendricks Avenue

Jacksonville, FL 32207

**Office phone:** 904-396-9608

**Fax:** 904-396-3515

**Email:** [admin@stmarksjax.org](mailto:admin@stmarksjax.org) (for office and council)

**Web:** [www.stmarksjax.org](http://www.stmarksjax.org)



**Facebook Page (Public):**

[www.facebook.com/stmarksjax](http://www.facebook.com/stmarksjax)

**Facebook Group (Private/Request to join):**

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



**Instagram Page (Public):**

[www.instagram.com/stmarksjaxelca](http://www.instagram.com/stmarksjaxelca)

**Follow:** @stmarksjaxelca

### *The Lion's Roar & The Messenger*

Ashlyn Kendrick

**Email:** [stmarksjaxnews@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksjaxnews@gmail.com)



## Contact Us

### Ministry Staff

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**Email:** [Pastor.Daniel.Locke@gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.Daniel.Locke@gmail.com)

**Tony Cruz** *Cantor*

**Office phone:** 904-396-9608 x 103

**Email:** [cantortonycruz@gmail.com](mailto:cantortonycruz@gmail.com)

### Congregational Council

**Ray Booth** *President* (2019)

**Phone:** (904) 673-0048

**Email:** [RayBooth55@gmail.com](mailto:RayBooth55@gmail.com)

**John Trainer** *Vice-President* (2019)

**Kathy Kleppinger** *Treasurer* (2021)

**Debora Koepke** *Secretary* (2021)

**Jim Dennis** (2019)

**Alonzo Batson** (2020)

**Bonnye Bell** (2020)

**Janet Linn** (2021)

**Loree Mueller** *Financial Secretary*

### St. Mark's Ark Preschool

**Patrice Roux-Neal**

*Director of St. Mark's Ark Preschool*

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**Email:** [director@stmarksark.com](mailto:director@stmarksark.com)

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