



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

Nursery provided at both services.

Office Hours

Monday – Friday; 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

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

Web: www.stmarksjax.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stmarksjax

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

St. Mark's Ark

Patrice Roux-Neal Dir. St. Mark's Ark

Office phone: 904-346-0404

Email: director@stmarksark.com

Email: stmarksark@stmarksark.com

Web: www.stmarksark.com

Congregation Council Officers

Bill VanAs

President

Bob Wofford

Vice-president

Pat Ainsley

Treasurer

Jan Berglund

Secretary

Larry Tallman

Comptroller

Rose Tallman

Financial Secretary

At the foot of the cross

Pastor Tom Hanson

“At the foot of the cross” is a common phrase spoken during the season of Lent. There are hymns, sermons, devotionals, and prayers that seek to place us there, at the foot of the cross. I believe we need to find ourselves there, not just during Lent, but each day of our lives.

Martin Luther recommends that we start each day by making the sign of the cross, saying the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. He recommends the same for each night as we go to bed—make the sign of the cross, say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. We begin and end the day at “the foot of the cross.” We do that, not just as a pious exercise or an act of devotion, we start and end at the cross because the cross puts our whole lives in perspective.

Rather than being a picture of the suffering love our savior has for us, the cross with a crucified Christ is a mirror through which we measure our lives. The crucified Christ is the lens through which we examine our lives. If being at “the foot of the cross” were only a picture, we could look, then turn away and go about our business, untouched by the sorrow. But if being at “the foot of the cross” means that we are pulled into that scene, that we are truly there, then we cannot be moved and driven to our knees.

At the foot of the cross, what becomes of our boasting?

At the foot of the cross what becomes of our claims on anything we think is ours?

At the foot of the cross, how do we explain the judgments we make, the divisions we create, the sorrow and loneliness we allow to continue?

At the foot of the cross, how do we justify the hungry poor and the forsaken?

If being at the foot of the cross is only a pious statement that we bring out each year to decorate our Lenten season in the same way we bring out a manger scene to decorate for Christmas, then we have missed the power of the gospel. We miss the greatest gift God gives—the entire forgiveness of all our sins and full reconciliation between us and God, between us and each other, and between us and all creation.

Use these days of Lent now in March to truly get yourself to the foot of the cross. Examine your life. Examine your hopes. Examine your sinfulness. Examine your need for forgiveness. Nothing else really matters.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
 by the cross are sanctified;
 peace is there that knows no measure
 joys that through all time abide.

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” (ELW 324, v. 4)
 text by John Browning



From the Church Office

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, as well as the 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. Thanks!

Calendar items and articles

Items to be included in the weekly Roars must be in by Wednesday. 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 admin@stmarksjax.org.

Office volunteers needed

We are in need of office volunteers to serve as morning receptionists from 9:00 am to 12 noon. No office skills are needed other than a friendly face and a friendly voice. Volunteer one day a week or a month—whatever fits your schedule.

—Pastor Tom

From the Staff

Tony’s musical notes

The new swell engine for the organ has been installed. The new one gives a better effect because it opens the swell shades in 16 stages. The old one opened them in only five. Thanks to Camelle Decker who funded the new shades during the refurbishment and thanks to Ruth Copeland for funding the new engine.

The University Singers from Jacksonville University concert was well attended by an appreciative audience. My thanks to Ray Booth, Ruth Copeland, Kim Dodds, Marie Friedsam, Dale and Yvonne Gatz, Keels Jorn, Jane Kilby, Mary Mittelstadt, and Carl Moser for financial contributions to feed the choir. Also thanks to Larry Tallman for helping with food preparation to feed the choir before the concert.

The handbell choirs went on a retreat to Epworth by-the-Sea at St. Simon’s Island, Georgia from Friday, Feb. 27 to Sunday, Mar. 1.

Organ recital. I will be playing in an AGO all-Bach recital on Sunday March 22 at 6:00 pm at All Saints Episcopal Church. All are invited to attend this recital.

— Tony Cruz

A Message from the Ark

St. Mark’s Ark Preschool is about to celebrate its 25 year anniversary. For 25 years we have been your outreach to this community. We have loved and cared for families with young children. Those families don’t forget how much this school has shaped their lives. The children and parents have learned valuable lessons over on this campus.

The students at St. Mark’s Preschool have learned to walk, pee in the potty, talk, eat new foods, paint, play with friends, share, sing and pray. We have taught children to speak in English, Spanish, and French. Currently, some of our students are learning to dance and play chess.

Our parents get an education as well. We have had parents ask questions on every topic from feeding to college. Yes, preschool parents worry about college. Most questions are about how to help their children move from one milestone to the next. Our teachers have always been here to guide and advise our parents and grandparents.

Recently, one of our children on scholarship at less than half price was withdrawn from our school. His family has faced many hardships in the months and years just after their 2 ½ year old was born. St. Mark’s Ark has been a place that was stable and inviting for him. His parents often talked about how much he learned at the Ark. Unfortunately his parents could not afford to pay partial tuition and we don’t have very much left in our scholarship fund.

In honor of our 25th anniversary, I ask that you give a gift of \$25 (or multiples of 25) to St. Mark’s Ark Preschool. Indicate the Rosa Mok Scholarship fund on the memo line.

— Patrice Roux-Neal

Worship & Music

Midweek Lenten services

Wednesday evening Lenten services continue in the Nave at 6:15 pm. Join us for evening vespers as we explore the Lenten topic this year, “Stewards of God’s Love: Down, In, Out, and Return.” It is a way of seeing one’s whole life in Christ.

—Pastor Tom

Ministry Teams

Fellowship coffee hour

Nothing is better than a vibrant fellowship hour after worship. 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. 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

Something Stewing

Picture God's Love

If anyone has pictures of church activities they wish to donate to the Stewardship team for display on a board please provide them to Jan Berglund. If you wish the pictures returned please have your name on the back. Note that pictures may be stapled. Thank you!

—Jan Berglund

Women's Ministries



All women are invited to participate in Circle meetings and special events. Contact Rachel Mumford (333-2468) or Joyce Wertz (432-1098) for more information.

Circle meetings

Priscilla Circle: Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 pm in the Library
 Rebecca Circle: Saturday, March 14 at 10:00 am in Hart Hall
 Deborah Circle: Tuesday, March 10 at 9:30 am in Hart Hall
If you are a member of one circle but can't make your meeting, you are welcome to attend another circle's meeting.

St. Mark's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, March 28, at 10:30 am we invite St. Mark's Ark children, parents and friends to the Annual Egg Hunt at St. Mark's. There will be face-painting and special games. A light snack will be provided after the Easter Bunny arrives. The Hunt will be outside in the church yard, weather permitting. If not, we'll bring the fun inside!

Anniversaries

Steve & Jenny Hicks	March 16
Fred & Marieanne Prokop	March 19
John Schoenecker & Mark Crowston	March 28

March Birthdays!

Camille Cassella	March 1
John Cox	March 2
Barbara Stevens	March 7
Bonnye Bell	March 11
Elizabeth Cox	March 12
Katie Murphy	March 14
Barbara Morton	March 15
A.J. Harkrider	March 16
Diana Tannous	March 16
Nancy Thrun	March 16
Mary Cox	March 18
Evan Harkrider	March 18
Camelle Decker	March 19
Amelia Jorn	March 20

Andy Cox	March 24
Pat Winter	March 26
Dale Gatz	March 29

Outreach Opportunities

Family Promise Day at Crispers

All Day on Sunday, March 1 is Family Promise Day at Crispers (St. Johns Avenue and Town Center). Enjoy a delicious meal and help Family Promise change the lives of homeless families with children. When ordering, tell them you are here for Crispers Tonight for Family Promise. Family Promise gets 20% and you get a yummy meal while doing good!

—Lynn Doiron

Help provide warm beds

St. Mark's has been a Host Church for Family Promise of Jacksonville since 2009. We are now in need of new blankets for our Family Promise guests. Due to storage limitations, we prefer blankets and not thick comforters or heavy quilts. We are also in need of new twin-sized sheet sets. Some of our twin-sized sheets are rather ragged, and we feel that our guests deserve to have nicer bedding.

If you are able to donate gently used blankets, or new twin-sized sheet sets, please place them in the box provided in Hart Hall. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jane Kilby (307-2189) or Lynn Doiron (703-0847).

The Blood Alliance

Thank you to all who were able to come out and support the recent blood drive. A total of 16 units were collected. The next blood drive at Saint Mark's will occur on April 12, 2015 beginning at 8 a.m. Please plan to attend and help those in need of blood. Thank you and see you on the bus next time! Come be a quiet hero.

— Jan Berglund

Note of Thanks

Dear St. Mark's friends,

Many thanks for your ongoing prayers, thoughts, and good-wishes during my recovery over the past month. There is no doubt that the power of prayer works and has strengthened me. My grandson wished me "a great hip" and that is now the case times two! It will be good to return to worship with all of you! Blessings.

—Mark Weber

Update on Members

Pete Armstrong

Pete has moved to Tennessee to be close to his brother. He says that he misses all of us at St. Mark's and he is doing pretty well. His contact information is:

Peter Armstrong
c/o Steve Armstrong
380 Loftis Lane
Cookeville, TN 38501

email: petearmstrong51@gmail.com

Steve & Nadine's phone number is 931-268-6003.

Pete will be getting a new modular home in a couple of months and then his own address will be 370 Loftis Lane.

Community Events

San Marco Chamber Music Concert March 1

The San Marco Chamber Music Society's next concert will be Sunday, March 1 at 7:00 pm right here at St. Mark's. We will be featuring JSO percussionists Steve Merrill and Joel Panian on marimba, vibraphone, and other percussive goodies! Along with Steve and Joel will be flutist Les Roettges, clarinetist Marci Gurnow, cellist Betsy Federman, violinist Piotr Szewczyk, and of course our own Eric Olson on oboe. It's not every day that the percussion section comes out from the back of the orchestra! Don't miss this unique concert! Free admission. And join us afterwards for a delicious reception.

Jacksonville Jaguars Booster Club Bingo Social

Do you have the luck of the Irish?

Come join us for the
Jacksonville Jaguars Booster Club
Bingo Social!

Date: Saturday, March 14, 2015

Where: St Mark's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Time: Doors open at 5:15 pm. First game at 6:00 pm.

Cost: \$15 per pack for 30 games. Money goes to prizes.

Please bring a snack to share. The club will provide paper supplies and ice. Prepay is preferred but you can pay at the door. Please call the booster office (721-5530) or email then at info@jaguarsbooster.com to reserve your space. Mail checks to JJBC, 1010 East Adams Street, #107, Jacksonville, FL 32202. Bring your own drinks. No alcoholic beverages, please. Deadline to sign up is Monday, March 9, 2015.

—Loree Mueller

Mission Opportunity Planning

On Saturday, March 14, all voting members are asked to attend a Mission Opportunity Planning Session to establish the mission plan financing for 2015. After two failed attempts to reach consensus on this plan (in December and in February), the finance committee and congregation council have decided to encourage participation of all members in establishing our 2015 plan and financial goals to fulfill our mission.

We are calling our financial support plan a "mission opportunity plan" or a "spending authorization." This plan or goal is not a "budget" because we are not a business, we are a mission organization that has no accounts receivable and cannot always count on the pledges made by our members. As a church, we move forward in trust with our MISSION:

- trust in our members to give thanks to God for all God has given;
- trust in our members to support our mission;
- trust in God to bless our mission plan.

We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 8:30 am for coffee and donuts. Worship will begin at 9:00. A presentation and explanation of the mission opportunity plan will follow. We will then meet for as long as is necessary to reach agreement on this plan. We encourage everyone to bring a brown bag lunch. Beverage and a sweet dessert will be provided.

We have not yet worked out all the details or agenda for the day but all will have the opportunity to ask any questions or raise any concerns about our mission plan.

This planning session is not an official meeting; there will be no votes taken. Any changes recommended at the meeting will have to be approved by the finance committee and congregation council in accord with our constitution.

Once we have agreed by consensus on the way forward for our mission opportunity plan, the executive committee will put in place the notification requirements necessary to call a special meeting of the congregation to ratify the mission opportunity plan for 2015.

As required by the constitution, no other business other than this one item of ratifying the mission plan can be brought to the floor of the special meeting. No amendments can be made. Ratification of the plan is a yes or no vote by voting members.

We hope to see most of our voting member present and ready to pull together to be the body of Christ here along Hendricks Avenue in Jacksonville.

God's Work Our Hands

Financial Summary for Jan 2015

FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT					
JANUARY 2015					
To: St. Mark's Congregation, Church Council & Finance Committee					
From: Larry Tallman, Comptroller					
<i>Budget amounts will not be loaded until approved</i>					
Operating Fund	Current Month	Year to Date January			
		Current Year			Prior Year
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Difference	Actual
SPENDING					
Invite Ministry	0		0		59
Nourish Ministry	43		43		0
Celebrate Ministry	553		553		520
Fellowship Expenses	0		0		203
Send Ministry	0		0		0
Synod Benevolence	2,750		2,750		2,833
Mortgage	6,355		6,355		6,055
Utilities	3,535		3,535		2,658
Insurance	2,504		2,504		2,282
Other Property Expenses	5,271		5,271		6,022
Administrative Expenses	1,433		1,433		1,621
Church Staff	8,831		8,831		8,831
Pastoral	7,974		7,974		7,991
Total Spending	\$39,247		\$39,247		\$39,075
SOURCES					
Pledged Offerings	40,940		40,940		20,229
Non-Pledged Offerings	4,647		4,647		26,145
Other Receipts	4,565		4,565		5,695
Total Sources	\$50,151		\$50,151		\$52,069
Sources less Spending	\$10,904		\$10,904		\$12,994
Mortgage balance at month end					
			\$477,066		\$526,898
All Funds		Beginning Balance	YTD Receipts	YTD Spending	Ending Balance
Operating Fund Reserve		2,619	50,151	39,247	13,524
Capital Funds		26,369	0	0	26,369
Designated Gifts		59,860	3,329	363	62,826
Special Activity Funds		11,908	1,986	1,185	12,709
Other Dedicated Funds		20,000	0	20,000	0
Total Funds		\$120,757	\$55,466	\$60,795	\$115,429
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE					
January 2015					
		3 & 4	11	17 & 18	25
Saturday Service		21	-	18	-
Sunday Service		115	125	101	129

Worship Assistant Schedule for March 2015

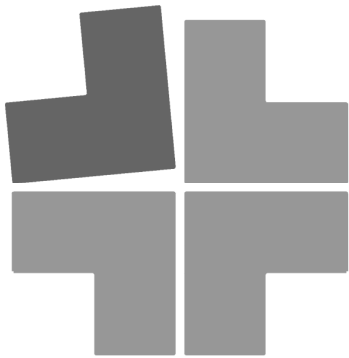
Date	Assisting Minister	Lector	Server	Altar Guild
March 1 8:30 11:00	Pat Ainsley	Neil Daraskevich	Carol Daraskevich Eddie Jackson	Berglund Hassell
March 7 Saturday 5:30	Stupski	Stupski	<i>none</i>	Prokop/Hudson
March 8 8:30 11:00	Bill VanAs Carl Moser	Leslie Allen Gary Pudimat	Jack Hudson Susan Jackson	Berglund Baker/Jackson
March 15 8:30 11:00	Steve Hicks Barbara Brown	Eric Olson Al Voss	Ellen Olson Dennis Doiron	Snyder/Cusick Baker/Mumford
March 21 Saturday 5:30	Tallman	Tallman	<i>none</i>	Prokop/Hudson
March 22 8:30 11:00	Ron Eckels Jane Kilby	Jan Berglund Carl Moser	Rose Tallman Dennis Doiron	Snyder/Cusick Weidenmier/Mumford
March 29 8:30 Palm Sunday 11:00	Larry Tallman Pat Ainsley	Leslie Allen Gary Pudimat	Jack Hudson Bridget Pudimat	Snyder/Cusick Baker/Jackson

Date	Order of St John	Fellowship	Nursery	Ushers
March 1 8:30 11:00	<i>volunteers</i> <i>volunteers</i>		Hanson/Madden Pudimat	Sohacki
March 7 Saturday 5:30	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>	Prokop
March 8 8:30 11:00	C. Sohacki Nolan & Jordan		Ellen Olson Arold Rakotoman- drindra.	Punkie VanAs Sharon Feingold
March 15 8:30 11:00	<i>volunteers</i> Jodi/Grace			Snyder
March 21 Saturday 5:30	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>	Prokop
March 22 8:30 11:00	<i>volunteers</i> Tahiana/Miora		Mumford	Snyder
March 29 8:30 PALM SUNDAY 11:00	Paige/Cindy S. Grace/Ken Sohacki Miora/Nolan Jordan/Adam		Tallman/Cox Baker	VanAs

If you can volunteer for one or more of the open spots, please contact Pastor Hanson.
(hansonts@comcast.net | 904-416-5341)

March 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am & 11:00am Worship/Nave 9:45am Blood pressure screen/L 9:45am Sunday School 7:00pm San Marco Chamber Music concert /Nave	2	3 4:00pm-7:00pm Literacy Partners/L 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH 7:00pm Diakonia class/CR 7:30pm Community	4 10:30am Bible Study/CR 5:30pm-6:15pm Retreat Ringers/N 6:15pm Lenten Vespers/N 6:45pm Alleluia Ringers/N	5 10:00am Ark Chapel/N 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH	6	7 7:30am Men in Mission/FH 9:00am Confirmation 5:30pm Casual/Contemporary Worship/N
8 Daylight Savings Time 8:30am & 11:00am Worship/Nave 9:45am Blood pressure screen/L 9:45am Sunday School 12:15pm Youth Choir/MS	9 6:30pm Nourish Team/CR 6:30pm Stewardship Team/L	10 9:30am Deborah Circle/HH 4:00pm-7:00pm Literacy Partners/L 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH 7:00pm Diakonia class/CR 7:30pm Community Band/FH	11 10:30am Bible Study/CR 5:30pm-6:15pm St.Mark's Ringers/N 6:15pm Lenten Vespers/N 6:45pm Alleluia Ringers/N 7:30pm Festival Choir/MS	12 10:00am Ark Chapel/N 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH 6:30pm Property Committee/CR 7:00pm Priscilla Circle/L	13 12:00pm Lion's Pride/HH 4:00pm St.Mark's Ark Sweet Frog Fundraiser/Sweet Frog University Location	14 8:30am Mission Opportunity Planning/FH 10:00am Rebecca Circle Meeting/HH 4:00-10:00pm Jax Jags Boosters Bingo/FH
15 Messenger Deadline 8:30am & 11:00am Worship/Nave 9:45am Blood pressure screen/L 9:45am Sunday School 12:15pm Youth Choir/MS	16 6:30pm Finance Team/L	17 St.Patrick's Day 4:00pm-7:00pm Literacy Partners/L 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH 7:00pm Diakonia class/CR 7:30pm Community Band/FH	18 10:30am Bible Study/CR 5:30pm-6:15pm St.Mark's Ringers/N 6:15pm Lenten Vespers/N 6:45pm Alleluia Ringers/N 7:30pm Festival Choir/MS	19 10:00am Ark Chapel/N 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH	20	21 9:00am Confirmation 9:00am Health & Nutrition Support Group/HH 5:30pm Casual/Contemporary Worship/N
22 8:30am & 11:00am Worship/Nave 9:45am Blood pressure screen/L 9:45am Sunday School 12:15pm Youth Choir/MS	23 Ark Spring Picture Days 6:30pm Council Meeting/L	24 Ark Spring Picture Days 4:00pm-7:00pm Literacy Partners/L 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH 7:00pm Diakonia class/CR 7:30pm Community Band/FH	25 10:30am Bible Study/CR 5:30pm-6:15pm St.Mark's Ringers/N 6:15pm Lenten Vespers/N 6:45pm Alleluia Ringers/N 7:30pm Festival Choir/MS	26 10:00am Ark Chapel/N 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH	27	28 10:30am WELCA Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic in Courtyard
29 Palm Sunday 8:30am & 11:00am Worship/Nave 9:45am Blood pressure screen/L 9:45am Sunday School 12:15pm Youth Choir/MS	30	31 4:00pm-7:00pm Literacy Partners/L 5:15pm Meditation/N 6:00pm Yoga/HH 7:00pm Diakonia class/CR 7:30pm Community Band/FH		April 1 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm service	April 3 Good Friday 12:00 pm 7:00 pm services	April 4 Easter Vigil 7:00 pm service

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
3976 Hendricks Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32207



St Mark's Lutheran Church

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church • 3976 Hendricks Avenue • Jacksonville, FL 32207

Holy Week Services

Sunday Mar. 29 *Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion (choir sings at both services)*
8:30 am and 11:00 am services
Choir rehearses @ 8:00 am

Thursday, April 2 *Maundy Thursday*
7:00 pm service
Choir rehearses @ 6:30 pm

Friday, April 3 *Good Friday*
12:00 noon and 7:00 pm services
Choir rehearses @ 6:30 pm

Saturday, April 4 *Easter Vigil*
7:00 pm service
Choir rehearses @ 6:15 pm

Sunday, April 5 *Easter Sunday/Resurrection of Our Lord (choir sings at both services)*
8:30 am and 11:00 am services
Choir rehearses @ 8:00 am

Festival Choir Dates to Remember

Wednesday, April 8 NO REHEARSALS FOR CHOIRS OR HANDBELLS

Friday, April 5 *Ascension Day*
7:00 pm service
Choir rehearses @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday, May 5 LAST REHEARSAL BEFORE SUMMER BREAK

Sunday, May 24 *Day of Pentecost*
8:30 am and 11:00 am services
Choir sings at both services
Choir rehearses @ 8:00 am

Sunday, May 31 *The Holy Trinity*
8:30 am and 11:00 am services
Matins Choir sings at 8:30 am service
Festival Choir sings at 11:30 am service

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday June 7 — Sunday Sept. 6
One service at 10:00 am