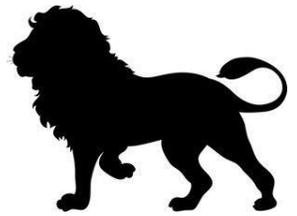


The Messenger



Monthly Newsletter of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 2019

From the Pastor

Generosity is deeply woven into the fabric of our Christian identity. At the genesis of creation, God freely and generously created all things good and for good. God did not create out self-interest, or personal gain, but rather God created out of pure joy and love as an expression of God's communal triune nature. God formed order and beauty from chaos, sweeping the breath of life over the face of the waters, separating the darkness from the light, carving every mountain, molding each valley, and gathering the seas. God gifted the breath of life to every plant, and animal, and, from the dust of the earth, God fashioned humankind. God gave life to creation, including you and me, with no requirement of reciprocity or repayment. God made all things good, and for the sake of good. God is generous.

Despite the world's deep lack of appreciation or awe, God generously chose to walk among us. God incarnate, Jesus Christ, born to the world to offer grace, teach about peace and forgiveness, heal the sick, loved the other and, ultimately, redeem the world. God generously and unconditionally gave so that we might come to know, experience, and share in the fullness of the Kingdom of God that is everlasting life. Still today, God freely and generously gives. Each and every week God welcomes the repentant sinner to the font of life and table of blessing. God generously forgives, feeds, nourishes, and sends us again. Our God has always been and continues to be overwhelmingly generous. And because each of us are created in the image of God, claimed as God's children and heirs of the promise, generosity is woven into our very being. We are generous people, and to live otherwise is a fight against our very nature.

I think generosity is something we live into primarily by experience. Sure, we can read about it in scripture, think about what it means, or even define it, but to fully embrace the awe of generosity, I think it must be experienced. When I started seminary, I was nervous about how I would get by financially. The month before I started, a pastor in my life said, "Our congregation does not have a line item for supporting seminarians financially, but I promise you that on behalf of

this church, I will support you." For the next four years, he sent me a check every month from his discretionary fund to aid in my seminary living.

I recently wrecked my car. Thankfully, no one was injured, but my car sustained significant damage. Other than the front of my car, the biggest impact on our lives was pure inconvenience. We were frustrated, annoyed, and stressed about how to juggle life without our primary vehicle for six weeks. Within hours, at least six people from St. Mark's offered their car to me to use as long as needed. Six people! I know I should not be surprised, but the generosity of this community of faith to offer me their car only hours after I wrecked mine was shocking. Thank you to everyone who offered, especially Mark and Lynette Weber, who let me borrow their car for almost six weeks.

Generosity, by definition is "readiness to give more of something than is strictly necessary or expected." Generosity is a beautiful expression of our identity in Christ. It is humbling to experience the generosity of others, and it is an affirmation of faith to act generously. As I write this, volunteers are sleeping at the church so that three families may have a safe, warm place to stay. Generosity is hundreds of pounds of food passing through the UCOM food cart each month. It is donating pints of blood, serving at the local food bank, building homes, picking up trash along Hendricks Avenue, and baking meals for families going through transition.

We do not obtain, earn, or store-up generosity. It is not a benchmark or achievement. It is embedded within our identity as Christians - a spiritual practice. And as Christians-- created, named, and claimed by a generous God-- we cannot help but stand ready to give more than is necessary or expected because it is who we are.

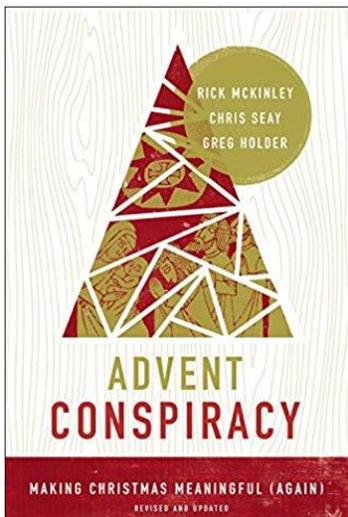
—Pastor Daniel Locke

Book Review

Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)

As we enter the season of Advent, a time that seems to come more quickly every year, I often spend time reflecting on the meaning of the season. It's not easy, to be sure, as I also begin thinking about Christmas gifts, holiday traveling, and preparing for the many worship services. This year, I decided to take some time to listen to the audiobook version of *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)* by Rick McKinley. It was convicting to listen to as I drove to St. John's Town Center to buy a Christmas gift.

It asks the compelling question of *what if the incarnation, the most incredible gift ever given in Christ Jesus, was actually what we celebrated during the Advent and Christmas seasons?* McKinley challenged me to think about those who are most vulnerable in the world as we celebrate the one who came as a vulnerable baby to an unwed mother in Bethlehem. In the next couple of weeks, I hope to focus less on the hustle of Christmas shopping and more on Christ's mission to be with the last, lost, and least.



Consumerism, McKinley says, is the fastest growing religion in the United States. Ouch. As much as I would like to deny it, I know that I often neglect God the Creator for the gods that are money, consumerism, and the insatiable need for the new shiny thing of the Christmas season. Even though I know, theologically, what Christmas is all about, I need to be reminded every year (if not every month and every week), that this season is

meant to celebrate our incredible God who loves us so much that God would become flesh and blood and live among us.

Christmas *is* about a gift— but only one— the gift that saved the entire world in his living, healing, dying, and rising again. I'll continue to ponder what Advent might mean if we focus more on that everlasting gift and our relationship with our siblings in Christ, and less on the gifts we place under a tree. I invite you to ponder with me.

You can find *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)* by Rick McKinley in the St. Mark's library. You can also find out more information about the movement at adventconspiracy.org



—Book Review: Pastor Sarah Locke, Campus Pastor for Jacksonsville Campus Ministry at UNF and JU, and Assisting Priest at Redeemer Episcopal Church

From the Council President

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's,

Your Congregation Council met on November 25. The following items were discussed, and actions taken;

1. Deferred maintenance projects are on hold because our remaining budget for those items has been depleted. We are hopeful that some funds will be available after January 1.
2. The Peter Mayer concert is scheduled for **Monday, December 9, 2019 at 7:30 pm**. Planning for the event has been done and we discussed additional ways to publicize the event.
3. As is done annually, the Pastor submitted a request to designate a portion of his salary as a housing allowance, which results in the IRS treating that portion of his salary as non-taxable. Last year's housing allowance was \$35,000 (and you will note this as a separate line item in the budget.) The same housing allowance was requested and approved this year by written resolution of the Council.
4. After the birth of Pastor's Locke's son, the Ark granted the Pastor a waiver of tuition for his son to be enrolled at the Ark. A member of the congregation has questioned whether some amount of the waived tuition should be treated as income and reported on a 1099. The Ark contacted other church day care centers to question how they handle that matter and the Ark was consistently told that it was treated as non-taxable income. We could request a written opinion on this subject from a qualified CPA firm, but the rendition of a written opinion would probably cost a minimum

of \$1,500 in accounting fees. Our comptroller did not feel that solicitation of a written opinion was warranted. Therefore, the Council concluded that we would not ask for a written opinion and would continue to treat the tuition waiver as non-reportable income.

5. The Council heard a lengthy presentation from our Treasurer on the budget proposed for calendar year 2020. After extended discussion on several implicated policy issues, the Council unanimously approved the proposed 2020 budget. That budget will now be presented to the Congregation at the annual Congregational meeting on **December 15**.
6. The Council also heard a report from Vice-President Trainer and Secretary Koepke on their review of the Policies & Procedures Manual and recommended changes. The recommendations include revisions in both form and substance. All of their recommendations had previously been circulated to Council, discussed, and some changes had been recommended. Therefore, the final recommendations were approved unanimously.
7. We have one remaining Policy & Procedure change which first needs review and comment by the Finance Committee and will subsequently be considered by the Council at our December meeting. The revised Policies & Procedures manual will then be printed and placed in Hart Hall for review by the congregation. In the meanwhile, if you would like to receive a digital copy of the Policies & Procedures Manual as currently amended, please contact either me or Secretary Koepke.

Our next Council meeting will be held on **Monday, December 16, 2019 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 | RayBooth55@gmail.com

St. Mark's Ark

You won't want to miss the performance the Bears, Ms. Ginger and Ms. Punkie have been working on. Each year the children amaze me. They learn so much with enthusiasm most adults can't muster up.

Wednesday, **December 11**, is St. Mark's annual birthday for Christ celebration. A children's musical performed by the Bears will be the highlight of the evening. **We would love to have all the Ark and church families come, enjoy dinner and attend our celebration on a Wednesday evening!** For reservations, complete the form below and drop it off at the Ark or church office with payment attached by December 4. The presents from the giving tree will be presented that night.

Reservation Form

Meal includes, regular sized Firehouse Sub, chips, drink, and dessert for just \$10.

Name: _____

_____ Turkey Sub

_____ Ham Sub

_____ Veggie Sub

Total Price Enclosed \$ _____ .00

Checks made out to St. Mark's Ark Preschool

Credit cards may be used in the Ark office. However, there will be a \$5 service fee added to your total.

*You may want to have small children share.

Dinner @ 5:00 pm.

Doors Open @ 6:30 pm.

— **Patrice Roux-Neal, Director**

2019 Reflection

On behalf of the Send Team, thank you all for your support to our various outreach programs during 2019. Over the past year, you supported OneBlood, Andrew Robinson Elementary School, Family Promise, UCOM, LSS, Church Without Walls, ELCA's Global Mission, Lutheran World Relief, Florida Bahamas Synod Mission Project, Sulzbacher Village, St. Mark's Ark, Jacksonville Campus Ministry and children in protective custody.

For three different weeks, multiple families were fed, played, slept safely and stayed together as a family due to our volunteers through Family Promise. Jane Kilby leads this mission project and deserves a huge thank you for this critical community program. Barbara Brown ensures food is available for the whole week and Mark Crowston does all that laundry after everyone leaves our church. We also have many other volunteers who spend the night, make meals, bring in snacks, set up and make beds and clean up the church. Because of each of you, families are staying together and staying safe in our community. Bonnye Bell works hard each year to ensure children in need receive Christmas presents through our annual Birthday for Christ. Tom Serdar led a collection for the annual Synod Service Project. Barbara Brown coordinates with OneBlood for dates of the big red bus. Carl Moser's passion for ensuring every child has needed school supplies allows us to collect hundreds of school items. Rachel Mumford coordinates dinner for Jacksonville Campus Ministry so our local college students can continue to be supported in Christian love. Alonzo Batson led our efforts for Global Mission Sunday. Bridget Pudimat encourages everyone to sleep in a cardboard box to raise money during Cardboard City. Please take a minute to thank each of these people for their hard work and dedication to our outreach programs.

During God's Work. Our Hands day, you helped make toiletry kits for Lutheran World Relief and Sulzbacher Village. You helped make 100 lunches for those in need for Church Without Walls. Over 50 children received school supplies at Andrew Robinson Elementary due to your donations. The big red bus from OneBlood was at our church 3 times and your blood donations saved lives in our community. Diapers and wipes were donated to the LSS Refugee Program and St. Mark's Ark. Over 50 St. Mark's Ark and church families were welcomed for dinner and treats during Trunk or Treat.

Each one of you supported our outreach programs through donations, funding, your time and prayers of support. You have truly lived our mission. Thank you.

Matthew 25:35-40

'For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink' [...] 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?' [...] 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

– Tracy Williams

Advent Midweek Worship



Join us on Thursday nights in Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, Emmanuel - God with us. This year, we are excited to offer midweek worship on Thursday evenings at 6:15pm. Join the community of faith in song and prayer, with Holden Evening Prayer as our Liturgy.

December Fellowship



Peter Mayer - Stars and Promises Concert

St. Mark's Lutheran Church is delighted to present:

Peter Mayer, guitarist and singer-songwriter of Jimmy Buffett's Coral Reefer Band and the Peter Mayer Group in concert! Peter is bringing his widely acclaimed Christmas tour "Stars and Promises" to Jacksonville!

When: December 9, 2019 @ 7:30pm. Doors 6:30pm.

Where: St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tickets: General Admission - \$30, 12 & Under - \$15

<https://bit.do/Mayer> (Half of all proceeds will go to benefit Lutheran Social Services of NE Florida.)

About Peter Mayer and the Stars and Promises Christmas Tour: Mayer has released 14 albums under his own name including four Christmas releases; "Stars And Promises," "Stars

and Promises Live," "Echoes of The Season" and the most recent "A Junkman's Christmas," which is accompanied by the artist's first published book.

"Echoes of the Seasons - A 20th Anniversary Celebration" features a world-class seven-piece band, including violin, woodwinds, pipes, keyboard, guitar, bass and percussion. All of these instruments will highlight 20 years of melodies that have made the annual tour a holiday staple for family and friends around the country. This unique yuletide celebration both reflects on the years gone by and revels in the holiday spirit and the New Year to come, inspiring fans to call this tour, "A Christmas show like no other".

"It is an honor to celebrate 20 years of the Stars & Promises Christmas tour, which has brought so much joy to my life, and I hope to the lives of those who have enjoyed the performances and music," said Peter Mayer.

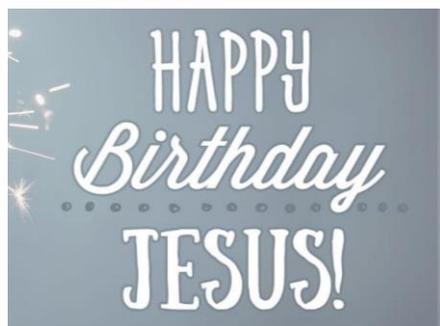
Volunteers Needed for Peter Mayer Concert

If you are interested in volunteering for the Peter Mayer concert on December 9, please contact Pastor Daniel. We will need a variety of volunteers: Parking Attendants, Door Greeters, Ticket Collection, Ushers, Concessions, Set-up, Clean up, as well as assistance for the band's load-in and load-out. Please consider not only attending the concert but offering your time as well to help make this a tremendous event.

SEND Team Updates

Don't forget... The first Sunday of the month, you will continue to see special offering envelopes on the pews for UCOM donations. Every dollar adds up so please give a little extra if you are able. Our red food cart is located by the front door of the church and you can drop off any food items for distribution.

Birthday for Christ



We celebrate Birthday for Christ every year on the second Wednesday in December. Children's names are provided from Family Promise, the Sulzbacher Village and children who are in

the Child welfare system and are at risk of abuse and neglect. Their names are written on ornaments, that are hung on "The Giving Tree." You will see the tree in Hart Hall Thanksgiving weekend. Please take an ornament off the tree, sign

the register beside your child's name and number. Bring your gifts to the Birthday for Christ celebration in the Nave on **Wednesday, December 11, at 6:30 pm.**

This tradition started in the early 90's and has been a wonderful, inspiring way for us to share God's love with children in need. We carry our gifts to the Altar, during the Birthday for Christ service, while singing Christmas carols. Please mark your calendar and join in the celebration!

Christmas Purse

At this time of year, we have traditionally recognized our appreciation for the many gifts of our Pastor, Cantor and Ark Director. If you would like to contribute to this year's Christmas Purse, please place your donation in the offering plate and mark it "Christmas Purse." To ensure we can meet the goal of giving these gifts on Christmas Eve, we ask that you make your donations no later than **December 15**, which is also the date of the Annual Congregation Meeting. Thank you for your support of our church staff!

Holy Land Update...

2020 Holy Land Tour

As you are aware, St. Mark's is planning a trip to the Holy Land for **October 13-23, 2020**. If you have not yet signed up and would still like to do so, we still have spots available. Please contact Pastor Daniel ASAP.

If you have signed up, it is time to register and make your first deposit to save your spot. The earlier you register the more money you can save! Please visit <http://www.eo.travel-withus.com/tours/hl20101320159810#.XVX0ey3MyRt> Scroll to the bottom and click "register".

Tour: HL20
Date: 10/13/20
Code: L
ID #: 59810
Tour Host: Rev. Daniel Locke

Women of the ELCA



Circle Meetings:

Deborah Circle – Tuesday, December 10 at 11:30 am at Epping Forest (Please RSVP to Francine Baker by 12/08.)
Priscilla Circle – Saturday, December 7 at 11:00 am at Bonnye Bell's House

Lion's Pride



Lion's Pride "Brown Bag Luncheon" does not have a scheduled meeting for December. Please check your "Roar" for any updates on their events.

All church members and their friends are welcome to attend and enjoy fellowship. Please contact Clara Echerer (904-737-4480) to if you have any questions.

Altar Flowers

The 2020 Altar Flower Chart has been posted and is ready for volunteers to sign up. As a reminder, two altar flower vases costs \$45 and four festival stands cost \$75. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Hicks.

- We still have one opening for Altar Flowers in 2019, on December 29.
- Additionally, it is time to order Christmas Poinsettias. Please use the order form below, or check your bulletin on Sunday.

Poinsettia Order Form

Name: _____

Number of Poinsettias: _____

"In honor of" or "In memory of" (*Circle One*)

_____ My plant may be delivered to a shut-in.

_____ I will pick up my plant for personal use.

Poinsettias will be available following the 10:30 pm service on Christmas Eve. Please return this form and payment to the office, or place in offering plate and mark your check "poinsettia" by **Sunday, December 8.**

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ .00

**Each plant is \$12.*

UCOM Holiday Drive



St. Mark's will be collecting gift cards and holiday food items for UCOM's Annual Holiday Food and Gift Card Drive. Every year UCOM gives our clients a choice of holiday bag in addition to regular monthly groceries. Holiday bags include the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving or Christmas meal. We also include a gift card for families to purchase a turkey and incidentals. The items needed are listed below. We will pass out bags **November 19, 20, 21 and December 17, 18, 19.** Thank you for your continued love and support of your neighbors in need!

- \$15.00, \$25.00, or \$35.00 Grocer Gift Card
- Stuffing Mix
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Corn & Green Beans
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- French Fried Onions
- Canned Pumpkin
- Pie Crust Mix
- Condensed Milk
- Chicken Broth
- Canned Yams/Sweet Potatoes
- Cranberry Sauce

Please drop off all items in the red food cart in Hart Hall from now until December 8. You can put any gift cards in the offering plate or in the SEND mailbox. UCOM will put together the holiday bags the week prior to each handout. We will deliver items the week of November 11th and December 8th. If anyone is interested in going to UCOM to help drop off items, please let Tracy Williams know (tracyb78@yahoo.com or 904-655-0049). It should only take about 30 minutes, but it is a wonderful opportunity to see the facility and hear about their great work in our community.

Special Deliveries



Deborah and Priscilla Circle would like to have help from St. Mark's members to deliver altar flowers. They would like to compile a list of those willing to participate so they can call on a member when needed. It is just an occasional Sunday when help is needed.

The altar flowers are picked up after the Sunday service. At that time, the circle can help you decide where the flowers can be delivered. Please contact Bonnye Bell, 268-2313, or Mary Lou Weidenmier, 904-718-7108, if you are able to assist. Thanks in advance!

Celebration of St. Mark's Ark



Please join in a celebration of St Mark's Ark at fellowship time in Hart Hall after the church service on **Sunday, December 8**. We'll have coffee and juice, along with tasty morsels for your enjoyment, as we celebrate the church's wonderful child development and day care center.

The Ark opened its doors in 1990 with nine children, after receiving permission to do so from the congregation of St Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church through a special resolution. The resolution followed exploratory work by a church committee researching feasibility. Come to see your center's progress and accomplishments over the years, to ask questions, and to enjoy the celebration. Everyone is welcome. We love to have visitors to the church join us in fellowship.

Children's Ministry

NON-AVenger's FOR JESUS! -- THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR IS GOING STRONG! Come check out the NON-AVENGERS for JESUS Sunday School program, where we are discovering that God wins His victories through PEACE, LOVE, FORGIVENESS and SECOND CHANCES, rather than violence and vengeance! Kids are learning how they can be "SUPER-HEROES FOR JESUS" today as they explore Bible stories through interactive and fun lessons. Sunday School is open to ALL KIDS, Ages 3 – 5th Grade, and we would love to involve older youth and adults in helping lead the lessons as well! Please speak with Jan Winkler (651-230-3810 or winkler.janice@gmail.com) or contact a member of the Nourish Team for more information. We'd love to have you join us!

EXTRA HELP NEEDED due to Jan's surgery...

Jan Winkler, who has been volunteering with the Non-Avenger's Sunday School program, will be having some surgery mid-December. Due to this, we are especially in need of volunteer help for Sunday School through the months of January and February. If you are able to help lead, assist and/or

donate or prep items for the lessons, please contact with Jan Winkler, Pastor Daniel or a member of the Nourish Team. Your help is a blessing and greatly appreciated!

SPECIFIC WAYS TO HELP:

1. PRAY for our program and for the kids and families who are a part of it!
2. INVITE kids and families to join us!
3. DONATE items needed for the "Christmas Snack Mix" on December 8th (Bugles, Mini Pretzels, Goldfish crackers, Sunflower Seeds, Raisins, M&M's, Teddy Grahams, Hershey's Kisses)
4. DONATE Christmas & Valentine's Day craft items (contact Jan for specifics)
5. VOLUNTEER to assist and/or lead lessons with the kids – **especially in January & February**– it's easy and fun!

GOT THRIVENT? YOU MIGHT HAVE \$500 AVAILABLE TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT OUR CHURCH, IN OUR COMMUNITY AND IN THE WORLD – but it "vanishes" on December 31! Did you know that, if you have Thrivent Financial products and are an "Associate Member," you may be eligible for 2 grants of \$250 each to do service projects to share God's love with others? These "Action Team" grants are available each year and the application process isn't too difficult – if you have these and would be interested in ideas of possible projects you can do through St. Mark's, please contact Pastor Daniel or Jan Winkler – your Thrivent representative can also assist you in information about applications and project guidelines. **BE SURE TO NOTE THAT THIS YEAR'S GRANTS WILL "GO AWAY" ON DECEMBER 31 and the money will be lost. Applications should be submitted by mid-December if possible, but for sure by the end of the month/year.** Thanks for helping!

Fabric Kits



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Deborah Circle is collecting fabric and thread to make Fabric Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Please bring the items to Hart Hall by **Sunday, January 12, 2020**. Sewing is a valuable skill that can help men and women earn reliable income. Fabric Kits provide fabric and thread for vocational training programs teaching sewing, and for newly trained tailors to launch their sewing businesses.

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER:

- Fabric should have no stains or holes.
- Pieces do not need to match in size or color/pattern if they fit into one of the three size options.
- Each spool of thread should match one of the pieces of fabric. Neutral thread is also a good option.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or group names.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

INCLUDED IN EACH FABRIC KIT:

- TWO spools of neutral-colored, general purpose thread, 250-300 yards each
- TWO pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits of 100% polyester)

Each piece should match one of the sizes: 2 ¼ yards of 60" wide, 3 yards of 44" wide, or 4 yards of 36" wide fabric.

Flyers with this information are available in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Feingold (904-994-1538) or Mary Lou Weidenmier (904-642-5140). You may also visit www.lwr.org.

Want to share a good laugh?



Al Ernst who performed at the last Synod Assembly and Conference on Ministry, will be performing at the Comedy Zone in December. A group from St. Mark's church will be going **December 11, at 7:30 pm**. Come join us for some good clean laughs! Ticket cost is \$25.14 (includes the service fee and taxes). If you are interested in going, please call Debora Koepke as soon as possible, 904-207-8636.

Thank you...

Dear Friends and Family of St Marks,

It is impossible to thank you for the many ways you have supported our family during Russ' illness and death. Your presence at the funeral was a tribute to Russ' faith for the 59 years we have been members at our "second home". The prayers and cards with inspiring notes were a reminder of the love that exists even in the saddest of times. God bless each of you as you continue to lovingly reach out to others.

Faithfully and with love,
Jeanette Snyder & Family

Garage Sale

Kevin Dial and his parents will be having a garage sale Saturday, December 7, at 7:00 am. There are household items, tools, men's and women's clothes, as well as lots of Christmas decorations. The location is 6977 San Jose Blvd, between Epping Forest Yacht Club and DuPont Avenue.

Thank you and have a blessed day!

Events at a glance...

December

- 5 - Advent Midweek Worship @ 6:15 pm
- 9 - Peter Mayer Concert @ 7:30 pm
- 11 - Birthday for Christ @ 6:30 pm
& Comedy Zone Outing @ 7:30 pm
- 12 - Advent Midweek Worship @ 6:15 pm
- 15 - Congregation Meeting @ 11:00 am
- 19 - Advent Midweek Worship @ 6:15 pm
- 21 - Longest Night Service @ 5:30 pm
- 24 - Christmas Eve Worship @ 4:00 pm
& Candlelight Worship @ 10:30 pm

Worship Assistant Schedule for December 2019

Date	Assisting Minister	Lector	Altar Guild
Sunday , December 1 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	Gary Pudimat	Janet Linn	Mary Cusick & Mary Cox
Saturday, December 7	Ron Eckels	Kathy VanOsdol	Ginger Hudson & Marieanne Prokop
Sunday , December 8 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	Alonzo Batson	Judy Batson	Susan Jackson & Francine Baker
Sunday , December 15 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	Eric Olson	John Viescas	Susan Jackson & Rachel Mumford
Saturday, December 21 <i>Longest Night Service</i>	Kathy VanOsdol	Jennifer Treat	Ginger Hudson & Marieanne Prokop
Sunday , December 22 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	Steve Hicks	Neil Daraskevich	Nicki Hassell & VOLUNTEER
Tuesday , December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4:00 pm: John Trainer -----	4:00 pm: Jennifer Treat -----	Renee Roath & VOLUNTEER -----
	10:30 pm: Jane Kilby	10:30 pm: Debora Koepke	Renee Roath & VOLUNTEER
Sunday , December 29	John Trainer	Karl Koepke	Nicki Hassell & Mary Cox

Date	Altar Flowers	Order of St. John	Nursery Volunteers
Sunday , December 1 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	Patrice Jenkins	Kamm Eckels	Bonnye Bell
Sunday , December 8 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	Cathy Stupski	Monika Drake	Naomi
Sunday , December 15 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	Jeanette Snyder	Jordan Batson	Arold Rakotomandriandra
Sunday , December 22 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	Jennifer Treat	Tahiana Rakotomandriandra	Joyce Wertz
Tuesday , December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	Festival Stands: Margaret Janz	4:00 pm: Kamm Eckels -----	
		10:30 pm: Karl Koepke & VOLUNTEERS	
Sunday , December 29	OPEN	Kevin Dial	Rachel Mumford

Date	Ushers	Greeters
Sunday , December 1 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	Jeanette & Rusty Snyder	Mary Lou & Carl Weidenmier
Sunday , December 8 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	Jeanette & Rusty Snyder	Jenny & Steve Hicks
Sunday , December 15 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	Jeanette & Rusty Snyder	Jenny & Steve Hicks
Sunday , December 22 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	Jeanette & Rusty Snyder	Mary Lou & Carl Weidenmier
Tuesday , December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4:00 pm: Jeanette & Rusty Snyder -----	4:00 pm: Mary Cusick & Bonnye Bell -----
	10:30 pm: VOLUNTEERS	10:30 pm: VOLUNTEERS
Sunday , December 29	Jeanette & Rusty Snyder	Mary Cusick & Bonnye Bell

***If you are unable to serve at your appointed time, please arrange for a substitute.**

Thank you for your service to St. Mark's!

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave	2	3 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	4 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 7:00 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite	5 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 6:15 pm Advent Service – Holden Evening Prayer @ Nave	6	7 10:00 am Craft Team Meeting @ Library 11:00 Priscilla Circle Meeting @ Home 5:30 pm Casual/Contemporary Worship @ Nave
8 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 11:00 am Anniversary Celebration of St. Mark's Ark @ Hart Hall 5:30 pm Youth Group Meeting @ Hart Hall	9 7:30 pm Peter Mayer – Stars and Promises Concert @ Fellowship Hall	10 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 11:00 am Deborah Circle Meeting @ Epping Forest Yacht Club 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	11 Staff & Committee Reports Due 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 6:40 pm Birthday for Christ @ Nave 7:00 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite	12 6:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting @ Office Suite 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 6:15 pm Advent Service – Holden Evening Prayer @ Nave	13	14 8:00 am Men-in-Mission Bible Study & Property Committee 10:00 am Craft Team Meeting @ Library
15 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 11:00 am Annual Congressional Meeting Messenger Submissions Due	16 6:30 pm Council Meeting @ Library	17 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	18 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 7:00 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite	19 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 6:15 pm Advent Service – Holden Evening Prayer @ Nave	20	21 10:00 am Craft Team Meeting @ Library 5:30 pm Casual/Contemporary Worship @ Nave
22 4th Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave	23	24 Christmas Eve 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service @ Nave 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Service @ Nave	25 Christmas Day 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 7:00 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite	26 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	27	28 10:00 am Craft Team Meeting @ Library
29 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave	30	31 New Year's Eve				

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 15th day of each month. If you have an article for either newsletter, please send it to stmarksjaxnews@gmail.com.

Birthdays

Matthew VanOsdol	Dec 01
Loree Mueller	Dec 05
Alan Eckels	Dec 06
John Alvin Harrison	Dec 06
Luann Moore	Dec 06
Grace Maszy	Dec 07
Noelle Mitchell	Dec 17
Greg Dodds	Dec 21
Alonzo Batson	Dec 22
Kathy VanOsdol	Dec 26
Larry Wertz	Dec 26
Yvonne Gatz	Dec 27
Mary Swart	Dec 27
James Edwards	Dec 29
Lynette Weber	Dec 30
James Lumpkin	Dec 31

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 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 (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/>



Instagram Page (Public):
www.instagram.com/stmarksjaxelca
Follow: @stmarksjaxelca

The Lion's Roar & The Messenger

Ashlyn Kendrick
Email: stmarksjaxnews@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 (2019)
Phone: (904) 673-0048
Email: 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
Office phone: 904-346-0404
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