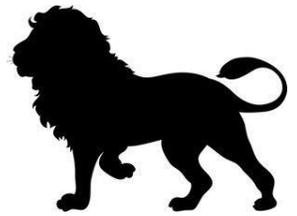


The Messenger



Monthly Newsletter of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2019

From the Pastor



The roadwork on Hendricks Avenue is endless. I was warned when I first arrived in Jacksonville that “they” like to “work” on Hendricks Avenue every other year or so. But ever since I arrived at St. Mark’s, “they” have been paving, striping, repaving, and paving some more. Some days I feel like Bill Murray in “Groundhog Day,”

stuck in repetition. Didn’t they pave this exact lane yesterday?

Last week, I was sitting in traffic on University Blvd, waiting to turn on to Hendricks Avenue, and I heard the words of the prophet Isaiah in my head as John the Baptist is introduced in Luke 3, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

If Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation, anxious yet patient waiting – a season calling us to prepare the way for the king of kings and to straighten and smooth pathways – then it seemed oddly appropriate that I sit in traffic waiting for a giant truck to lay a new, shiny path for me to journey on. So, I waited to turn right, said a prayer of thanksgiving that the return of Jesus was not dependent upon FL-DOT or Duval Asphalt, and then waited some more.

By the time you read this, Advent has come and gone (here’s to hoping we can say the same for the work on Hendricks). We transitioned from Advent to Christmas, and now Christmas to Epiphany as the liturgical cycle continues. But, I wonder, have our lives been changed by all the hard work of Advent – the waiting, anticipation, and preparation? We

spent a significant amount of emotional and spiritual energy preparing the way, making straight the paths, filling the valleys, and lowering the mountains. Are we at all changed by the labor of Advent? Or like Hendricks Avenue being “worked” on every other year, are we resigned to simply wait around for another time of waiting? Do we wait for waiting’s sake because that’s what “we” like to do?

True, our waiting comes to somewhat of a culmination on Christmas Eve as we remember the birth of Christ but, deep down within our Christian identities, waiting is deeply rooted in the promised return of our Messiah. And with every season of waiting – active waiting – the path is formed, reformed, and transformed. Each cycle of waiting brings new light to the imperfections of our way. Once corrected, lowered, raised, or straightened, our new, shiny way yields a renewed sense of waiting – active, proclamation-filled waiting. A re-reformed path should be easier to traverse, clearly marked with signs and direction.

Maybe I’m naive and hopeful because I’m still new to Jacksonville, but I think the work on Hendricks Avenue will come to an end (even if temporary). Then we will travel Hendricks again and again until such a time that it needs to be “worked” on once more.

The same is true with us. Advent was a season of waiting and preparation, making straight the paths. Now that Advent has gone (and it will come again), how has your life in Christ been changed? Illumined? Reformed? Transformed?

—Pastor Daniel Locke

From the Council President

Dear Members and Friends,

Your Congregation Council met on December 17 and the following items were discussed:

1. The main water line for the building will need to be replaced to eliminate the persistent leak that we have detected. This will probably be handled by our usual plumbing service instead of soliciting bids.
2. The Ark has also reported several leaks around windows and in the roof on the Nordsiek Building. This will be investigated and addressed by Men in Mission and any needs that cannot be resolved by them will be discussed at the January 2019 Council meeting.
3. Policies and Procedures were adopted to address the donation of tangible items to Saint Mark's and also to standardize and create some standards for the annual staff evaluations performed by Executive Committee.
4. Pastor and I jointly nominated Aliezha Batson, Karl Koepke, and Bill Ahrens to serve on the Mutual Ministry Committee. These nominations were unanimously approved by Council.
5. The Saint Mark's Foundation has granted us an additional \$5,543.69 for deferred maintenance projects. The use of these funds will be reviewed at the January 2019 Council meeting.
6. Officers elected to serve for 2019 are

President	Ray Booth
Vice-President	John Trainer
Treasurer	Kathy Kleppinger
Secretary	Debora Koepke
7. Council approved the use of \$500.00 from the dedicated Christian Education account to partially fund Tony Cruz's final semester of master's-level education.
8. Our next Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 28 at 6:30 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

Music Notes

As human beings we so often make plans for our lives and I think sometimes God just smiles about our ignorance...

I have to speak about our gifts given to us by the grace of God. In my case, I have been singing God's praises ever since I was 2 years old.

In October of 2008, going through anterior cervical spine surgery, I was told that there would be a 98% probability of vocal damage and my voice would be gone. Singing; I should not plan on it ever again. The surgery was successful, and the surgeon was able to save my speaking voice. What a blessing. Now I was praying and hoping that my ability to sing God's praises would come back.

Nothing happened!

Even though I was told and warned that this could happen before the surgery, one is never prepared for this when you have been singing in your church for 55 plus years. I started mourning my loss, grieving; I practically had tunnel vision and could not think of anything else. My sorrow and cries were so deep, part of my very essence and who I am - was gone - I thought!

After months of such emotional, painful grieving process I could not handle this anymore without something breaking in me. One evening I said my prayers and just gave my pain to God.

I fell asleep and awoke startled, felt emotionally lifted and light, I had a vision of the most beautiful gold beaded triple cross, a Chrismon Ornament I had seen somewhere. The Crosses at Golgotha. I also had vision in my mind of our poor Christmas tree from the year before in our church. It was not pretty at all.

God had reminded me of the other gifts he had graciously given to me, creating with my hands. Immediately I jumped out of bed, stumbling to my craft closet. Remembering 2 large glass jars of pearl beads I had for 5 years not knowing what to do with them and started beading on a piece of fabric. I did not quit until 3:00 in the morning and was so delighted and happy. I had done it, a Chrismon Ornament, yes, I can do this and thanked God!

God had heard my cries, and his answer to my pain was totally different, unexpected, but filled me with joy and lifted me. Essentially that was the beginning of our Chrismon Team at church, stitching for Christ. We made 195 Chrismon

Ornaments, I was able to teach some on the team who never held a needle in their life. Seventeen ladies met with me every Friday faithfully.

I really do know that God has His plans for all of us and we just have to do his bidding. This time, and so many other times in my life God has shown me the way according to His plans and not mine.

I don't know about you, but I forget so easily that God is in charge and asked me to use all the gifts I have been given. They are not mine to keep, I need to share.

It is now over a year after the surgery and God has blessed me a second time with my singing voice, once at birth and now with healing. The most amazing part, I am singing with only 1 vocal cord, as clear as a bell. How rich I am to receive such a gracious gift from God a second time in my life.

Part of these Chrismon Ornaments are now bequeathed to St. Marks Evangelical Lutheran Church and found a wonderful home.

Living in the shadow of the cross.
Blessings to you,
Monika Drake

– submitted by Tony Cruz



Holiday Music Schedule

Attention Festival Choir and St. Mark's Ringers:
There will be no rehearsal on January 2. The usual rehearsal schedule resumes on January 9. New singers and ringers are welcome! Please contact Tony Cruz for more information about joining us in the new year.

Keep in touch...

Marie Friedsam
25 State Road 13
Jacksonville, FL 32259
(904) 287-7376

Men in Mission

Men in Mission will have their next meeting on Saturday, January 5 at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. These meeting usually start with a Bible study/discussion for the first 45 minutes. Then, the group will work to remove, clean and store the decorations from Christmas. This Bible study is sponsored by the men, but women and older children are always welcome. Please contact Jim Dennis with any questions.

Women of the ELCA



January Circle Meetings:

Deborah Circle: Tuesday, January 8 at 9:30 am in Library

Priscilla Circle: Thursday, January 3 at 7:00 pm in the Library

Lion's Pride

The January Lion's Pride Lunch will be gathering to hear Joanne Hickox, Founder & Executive Director of *Seniors on a Mission*, speak. We will be meeting on Friday, January 11, at 12 noon, in Hart Hall. Please bring a bag lunch to eat. Hostess, Bonnye Bell, will provide drinks and desserts. A head count is needed, so please contact Clara Echerer (904-737-4480) to confirm your attendance.



Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life memorial service for Susanna Birks will be held on January 5 at The Riverside Avenue Christian Church at 11:00 am. Susanna was the mother of Clay Birks and mother-in-law to Carl Moser. Please join them to share memories of Sue's life and stay for a potluck luncheon after the service. Sue loved potlucks but hated any directions given on what to bring. She would tell people to bring whatever, it will work out. And, it always did!

<< Ordination of Sarah Locke >>

On Thursday, January 24, Sarah Locke will be ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament at Jacksonville Campus Ministry through the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council. You are all invited to attend the ordination celebration with the Church and all the saints! Ordination is a service of the whole church, not merely of the local congregation or of the assembly that gathers, so wherever you may be, know that you are with us!



Sarah's Ordination Details

Date: January 24 at 6:00 pm

Location: St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Color: Red

Note: All rostered leaders are invited to vest.

Worship Assistant Schedule for January 2019

Date	Assisting Minister	Lector	Altar Guild
Saturday, January 5	Loree Mueller	Neil Daraskevich	Marieanne Prokop & Ginger Hudson
Sunday, January 6 <i>Festival of Epiphany</i>	Eric Olson	Janet Linn	Mary Cox & Nicki Hassell
Sunday, January 13 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Steve Hicks	Karl Koepke	Nicki Hassell & TBD
Saturday, January 19	Loree Mueller	Leslie Allen	Marieanne Prokop & Ginger Hudson
Sunday, January 20 <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	Ron Eckels	Alonzo Batson	Renee Roath & Francine Baker
Sunday, January 27 <i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	John Trainer	Kathy Van Osdol	Renee Roath & TBD

Date	Altar Flowers	Order of St. John	Nursery Volunteers
Saturday, January 5			
Sunday, January 6 <i>Festival of Epiphany</i>	Lynette & Mark Weber	Miroa Rambeloarisoa, Ellen & Gina Olson, Al Voss	Angie Powell & Joyce Wertz
Sunday, January 13 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Leslie Allen	Kamm Eckels	Angie Powell & Bridget Pudimat
Saturday, January 19			
Sunday, January 20 <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	Bridget, Gary, Jordan & Nolan Pudimat	Tahiana Rakotomandriandra	Angie Powell & Arold Rakotomandriandra
Sunday, January 27 <i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	TBD	Becca Jorn	Angie Powell & Francine Baker

Date	Greeters
Saturday, January 5	
Sunday, January 6 <i>Festival of Epiphany</i>	Susan & Eddie Jackson
Sunday, January 13 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Susan & Eddie Jackson
Saturday, January 19	
Sunday, January 20 <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	Nicki Hassell & Loree Mueller
Sunday, January 27 <i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	Nicki Hassell & Bonnye Bell

January Ushers: Mary Cusick

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

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	2 NO St. Mark's Ringers Rehearsal 6:40 pm Evening Prayer @ Nave NO Festival Choir Rehearsal	3 11:15 am Morning Prayer @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle @ Library	4	5 9:00 am Men in Mission @ Hart Hall 5:30 pm Casual/Contemporary Worship @ Nave
6 Festival of Epiphany 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave	7	8 9:30 am Deborah Circle @ Library 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	9 12:00 pm Staff & Committee Reports Due 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers Rehearsal @ Nave 6:40 pm Evening Prayer @ Nave 7:30 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Nave	10 11:15 am Morning Prayer @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting @ Library	11 12:00 pm Lion's Pride @ Hart Hall	12
13 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 5:30 pm Youth Group Meeting @ Hart Hall	14 6:30 pm Council Meeting @ Library	15 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 12:00 pm Messenger Submissions Due 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting @ Conference Room	16 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers Rehearsal @ Nave 6:40 pm Evening Prayer @ Nave 7:30 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Nave	17 11:15 am Morning Prayer @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	18	19 5:30 pm Casual/Contemporary Worship @ Nave
20 2nd Sunday of Epiphany 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave	21 Martin Luther King Day	22 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	23 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers Rehearsal @ Nave 6:40 pm Evening Prayer @ Nave 7:30 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Nave	24 11:15 am Morning Prayer @ Nave 6:00 pm Ordination of Sarah Locke @ Nave	25	26
27 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 5:30 pm Youth Group Meeting @ Hart Hall	28	29 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall	30 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers Rehearsal @ Nave 6:40 pm Evening Prayer @ Nave 7:30 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Nave	31 11:15 am Morning Prayer @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ 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.

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.

December Birthday Addition

Ron Eckels

December 6

January Birthdays

Hilda Wickman	January 2
Angela Wells	January 8
Tommy Moore	January 9
Gina Olson	January 10
Raymond Booth	January 14
Robert Brown	January 20
John Schoenecker	January 22
Alan Voss	January 25
Laura Kate (Snyder) Herriff	January 28

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)

Jim Dennis *Secretary* (2019)

Jane Kilby *Treasurer* (2018)

Tracy Williams (2018)

Bridget Pudimat (2018)

Leslie Allen (2018)

Debora Koepke (2018)

Alonzo Batson (2020)

Bonnye Bell (2020)

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

