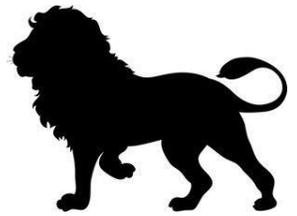


The Messenger



Monthly Newsletter of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2020

From the Pastor



My dad's call to seminary and ordained ministry came as a second career, which meant I was in high school, my brother was in college, and we were all figuring out our new "normal." I have never known a more committed human being. My dad commuted to seminary 3-4 days a week, 2.5 hours each

God's call. He was committed to his family. I doubt that I will ever understand how he did it and, having gone through seminary myself, I will forever be in awe.

In the fall of his first year, between a full course load and a long commute, dad thought of a creative way to share his story with those closest to him. For the season of Advent, dad wrote a daily devotional that featured stories about our family. Each day of the devotional included a scripture reading, a short devotional, and a relevant story about our family. He committed a significant amount of time and energy into making framing the stories he told within the narrative of scripture.

For as long as I can remember, Advent has been one of the most important seasons for our family. For my mother, Advent meant winter, and winter meant the possibility of snow. She loved snow! Advent was also a time of certainty because no matter the curveballs of life, everyone would be together to celebrate the Advent of Christmas and the birth of Christ. School was out, and relatives would travel to town for vacation. The family would be together again. Some of our most powerful and meaningful adventures and memories as a family occurred during Advent. So, when my dad graduated from seminary, my mother gave him a blue stole.

It seemed only appropriate and natural that my dad embrace the season of Advent to connect the stories of our family with the stories of our faith. He has always been a wonderful

storyteller and, although I can't recall all the details of his devotional, I can remember the reaction of those who received a copy.



Advent and the celebration of Christmas is the perfect time to connect and share our stories. Too often, we observe the nativity from afar. Sometimes we are so confident in our understanding of the story that we never get too close. We keep the nativity at arm's length and watch it unfold. But the truth is, the nativity story is our

story too. We are not simply an audience of the nativity, but rather participants in the gift of God's Emmanuel. Christ comes for you and for me.

As good as we are at retelling the nativity story, we must also be confident in telling the world about our place in the story. As people of faith, claimed and called through the waters of baptism, we have the precious gift and opportunity to tell the world about God's incarnation within our lives.

Stories are powerful. The stories we tell about our lives have the power to deepen relationships. Can you imagine the power of those stories when embedded within the story of our faith? "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to **ALL** people. For unto **YOU** is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." A new church year births a new opportunity to reconnect the story of our lives to the story of what God has done, is doing, and will continue to do. I invite you to challenge yourself and talk about your faith with a stranger. And, while you're at it, invite them to share their story as well.

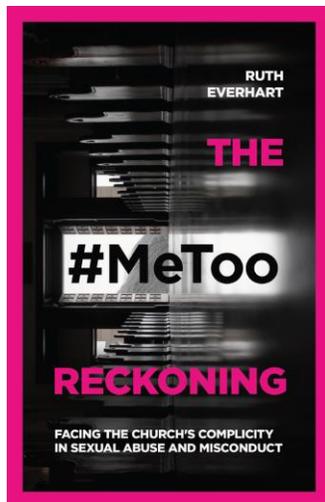
—Pastor Daniel Locke

Book Review

The #MeToo Reckoning by Ruth Everhart

Available January 14, 2020

The #MeToo movement has revealed sexual abuse and assault in every sphere of society, including the church. But victims are routinely ignored by fellow Christians who deny their accounts and fail to bring accountability to the perpetrators. All too often, churches have been complicit in protecting abusers, reinforcing patriarchal power dynamics, and creating cultures of secrecy, shame, and silence.



Pastor and survivor Ruth Everhart shines a light on the prevalence of sexual abuse and misconduct within faith communities. She candidly discloses stories of how she and others have experienced assault in church settings, highlighting the damage done to individuals, families, and communities. Everhart offers hope to survivors as she declares that God is present with the violated and stands in solidarity with victims. Scriptural narratives like those of Tamar and Bathsheba carry powerful resonance in today's context, as do the accounts of Jesus' interactions with women. God is at work in the midst of this #MeToo moment to call the church to repentance and deliver us from violence against the vulnerable.

We cannot be naive in saying that sexual assault and abuse are things that only happen in the Catholic Church, the Baptist Church, or some other denomination. It affects even the ELCA. This book has not only incredible stories of trauma and bravery, but it also sheds a light on how congregations are groomed by perpetrators and gives good insight into what congregations can do to both prevent and respond to sexual assault and abuse when it happens.

I am, personally, so thankful for Pastor Everhart's continued witness to God's incredible grace and love in the midst of this plague. I found this book to be jarring, difficult, necessary, and healing to me as a victim and pastor. It is an absolute must-read for anyone working in the church or wondering where we go from here. We are called in this time and place to be a light for the world, and I believe that Everhart's work will push us to shine all the more brightly amid a dim and tragic situation. I commend it to you and your reading list for

the new year. It will be available to borrow from the St. Mark's Library on January 15, 2020.

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

2020 Council & Executive Committee

On December 15, the congregation elected 5 new members to serve on council for 2020. Congratulations to them and thank you for serving! During its meeting on December 16, the St. Mark's Council nominated and elected executive officers. Each officer was elected with a unanimous vote.

Our 2020 officers are:

Jane Kilby, President

Janet Linn, Vice President

Tracy Williams, Treasurer

Debora Koepke, Secretary

Music Notes

Lutheran liturgy and worship practices can be confusing even for people who grew up Lutheran. For a newcomer, they might be even more so.

Why do we sing canticles? How do I find extra prayers in the hymnal? What should I do before church while the service is getting ready to begin? How do I follow and sing the psalm? Why can't we just read the psalm? Can I sing parts on the hymns? Do you take hymn requests? (Yes, to this last one, by the way.) There are probably even more questions that have occurred to you or someone else from time to time.

I'm here to help! So, if you have a question about our liturgical practices or need help with an element of worship (maybe you'd just like for someone to play the melody of the *Gloria* all the way through), contact me through email or schedule an appointment. (I'm generally at St. Mark's Tuesdays through Fridays, usually into the early evening hours.) I'm happy to answer quick questions after church.

I look forward to hearing from you!

— Tony Cruz, *Cantor*
904-742-5136 | cantortonycruz@gmail.com

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

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.

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/hl20101320l59810#.XVX0ey3MyRt> Scroll to the bottom and click "register".

Tour: HL20

Date: 10/13/20

Code: L

ID #: 59810

Tour Host: Rev. Daniel Locke

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 can assist. Thanks in advance!

Lion's Pride



Lion's Pride "Brown Bag Luncheon" will be held on Friday, January 10, at noon in Hart Hall. Arrive to eat by noon. Janis Lumpkiin, Hostess, will provide beverages and dessert. Speaker, Joe Pipka, from AARP, will discuss "Safe Driving for Seniors." All church members and their friends are welcome to attend and enjoy fellowship. Please contact Clara Echerer (904-737-4480) to RSVP, as a head count is needed.

Women of the ELCA



Circle Meetings:

Deborah Circle – Tuesday, January 14 at 9:30 am in the Library

Priscilla Circle – Thursday, January 9 at 7:00 pm in the Library

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 lots of openings for Altar Flowers in 2020!

Sunday School

ADULT & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Coming 2020...

CONFIRMATION: Confirmation classes continue through the end of the year, following Sunday's service in the Office Suite. Students will be confirmed on Pentecost. If you have any questions, please contact Jeni Heneghan at enisean@gmail.com.

Employment Opportunities

Several members of St. Mark's are seeking employment. If you or someone know is hiring, please contact Pastor Daniel.



St. Mark's is hiring!

It was announced at our annual meeting that St. Mark's has received a major gift from an anonymous donor, designated for the purpose of hiring a part-time Administrative Assistant. The job will be advertised as 20 hours a week, and a description will be posted on our website soon. If you know someone who may be qualified for this position, please contact Pastor Daniel. The position is not open to members of St. Mark's.

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.

Worship Assistant Schedule for December 2019

| Date | Assisting Minister | Lector | Altar Guild |
|--|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Saturday, January 4 | Ron Eckels | Jennifer Treat | Marianne Prokop & Ginger Hudson |
| Sunday , January 5 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i> | Gary Pudimat | Judy Batson | Nicki Hassell & Renee Roath |
| Monday , January 6 <i>Epiphany (7:00 pm)</i> | Ellen Olson | Janet Linn | VOLUNTEER |
| Sunday , January 12 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> | Steve Hicks | Neil Daraskavich | Francine Baker & VOLUNTEER |
| Saturday, January 18 | Ron Eckels | Kevin Dial | Marianne Prokop & Ginger Hudson |
| Sunday , January 19 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> | John Trainer | Debora Koepke | Susan Jackson & Mary Cox |
| Sunday , January 26 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> | Jane Kilby | Monika Drake | Susan Jackson & Nicki Hassell |

| Date | Altar Flowers | Order of St. John | Nursery Volunteers |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sunday , January 5 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i> | OPEN | Kamm Eckels | Mary Cox |
| Monday , January 6 <i>Epiphany (7:00 pm)</i> | OPEN | Gina Olson | |
| Sunday , January 12 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> | Leslie Allen | Jordan Batson | Bridget Pudimat |
| Sunday , January 19 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> | Jenny & Steve Hicks | Tahiana Rakotomandriandra | Naomi |
| Sunday , January 26 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> | Pastor Daniel Locke | Ellen Olson & Isla Williams | Arold Rakotomandriandra |

| Date | Ushers | Greeters |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Saturday, January 4 | VOLUNTEER | VOLUNTEER |
| Sunday , January 5 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i> | VOLUNTEER | VOLUNTEER |
| Monday , January 6 <i>Epiphany (7:00 pm)</i> | VOLUNTEER | VOLUNTEER |
| Sunday , January 12 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> | VOLUNTEER | VOLUNTEER |
| Saturday, January 18 | VOLUNTEER | VOLUNTEER |
| Sunday , January 19 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> | VOLUNTEER | VOLUNTEER |
| Sunday , January 26 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> | VOLUNTEER | VOLUNTEER |

***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 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 New Year's Day 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 7:00 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite | 2 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall | 3 | 4 10:00 am Craft Team Meeting @ Library 5:30 pm Casual/Contemporary Worship @ Nave |
| 5 Epiphany of Our Lord 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave | 6 7:00 pm Festival of Epiphany @ Nave | 7 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall | 8 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 7:00 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite | 9 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle @ Library | 10 12:00 pm Lion's Pride Luncheon @ Hart Hall (Speaker from AARP) | 11 8:00 am Men-in-Mission Bible Study & Property Committee 10:00 am Craft Team Meeting @ Library |
| 12 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 5:30 pm Youth Group Meeting @ Hart Hall | 13 6:30 pm Council Meeting @ Library | 14 9:30 am Deborah Circle @ Library 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall | 15 Staff & Committee Reports Due Messenger Submissions Due 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 7:00 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite | 16 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 6:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting @ Office Suite | 17 | 18 10:00 am Craft Team Meeting @ Library 5:30 pm Casual/Contemporary Worship @ Nave |
| 19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave | 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | 21 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall | 22 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 7:00 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite | 23 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall | 24 | 25 10:00 am Craft Team Meeting @ Library |
| 26 3rd Sunday After Epiphany 9:30 am Worship Service @ Nave 5:30 pm Youth Group Meeting @ TBD 7:00 pm San Marco Chamber Music Concert @ Nave | 27 6:00 pm Council Meeting @ Library | 28 10:00 am Ark Chapel @ Nave 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall 7:00 pm Ark Board Meeting @ Library | 29 5:30 pm St. Mark's Ringers @ Nave 7:00 pm Festival Choir Rehearsal @ Music Suite | 30 6:00 pm Yoga @ Hart Hall | 31 | |

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Hilda Wickman | Jan 02 |
| Angela Wells | Jan 08 |
| Tommy Moore | Jan 09 |
| Gina Olson | Jan 10 |
| Ray Booth | Jan 14 |
| Jack Cassella | Jan 15 |
| Robert Brown | Jan 20 |
| John Schoenecker | Jan 22 |
| Al Voss | Jan 25 |
| Laura Kate (Snyder) Herriff | Jan 28 |
| Kristen Kemp Richard | Jan 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)

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

Email: director@stmarksark.com

Web: www.stmarksark.com

