



The Vineyard Press

JANUARY 2018
VOL 19, ISSUE 1

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sharing Christ's Abundant Love

"I am the vine, you are the branches." (John 15:5)

It's happening!



Pastor Patrick J. Fish with his wife, Kathryn (Kate), and their daughters, Madelyn (Maddie) and Noelle (Ellie)

PASTOR PATRICK is starting in January!

Here's what we know about the arrival of our new Associate Pastor, as of the December 20th press date for this issue of the Vineyard:

- 1 Monday, January 15, 2018, is the start date for Pastor Patrick Fish.
- 2 Pastor Patrick and Kate have sold their house in Iowa and purchased a home in Montgomery.
- 3 The Fish family, including daughters Noelle and Madelyn, are looking forward to life among us.
- 4 At press time, an installation date had not been determined. We are coordinating this with the Metropolitan Chicago Synod and will keep you posted!

"When Pr. Pat phoned following the congregational vote to call me as your Associate Pastor, I leaped in joy! I truly believe this is a call from God and cannot wait to discern together what God is up to in Aurora, IL. I am thrilled for this opportunity to serve alongside as your pastor and am eager to enter into the story of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. My wife, two daughters, and I are looking forward to joining your community and cannot wait to meet you all very soon. Thank you in advance for all your support and prayers as we transition from Iowa back home to Illinois. God is good!"
—In Christ, Pastor Patrick

This is your meeting

2018 JANUARY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

St. Mark's Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 28, 2018
11:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary

Mark your calendars to be part of our beginning-of-the-year meeting. We gather to celebrate what we have accomplished in the past year and to set our goals (and the budget to ensure they can happen) for the New Year.

All are welcome! Even if you are not a member, the annual meeting is a great way to get to know more about what goes on behind the scenes, to enjoy the year-in-review with photos from 2017, and to anticipate 2018.

The schedule for the day is slightly different from an ordinary Sunday, to make it easier for all to be involved.

9:00 a.m. - No Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - One worship service only

11:00 a.m. - The meeting will follow worship in the Sanctuary (to make use of our media capabilities). There will be **activities for children** in the Nursery/Community Room during the meeting.

12:30 p.m. - Lunch will follow in the Sanctuary Hall, and the children will join us.

Budget Forum Meeting
Sunday, Jan 21, following the 10:30 a.m. service

Want the details? Have questions? The budget forum held the week before the annual meeting will allow time for more in depth discussion and questions. Please join us!

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The Light shines for all people!

The early church celebrated the visit of the Magi, Jesus's baptism by John, and the Miracle at the Wedding at Cana all at once, on **January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany**. This is a very old celebration dating from the 4th century!

For the ancient people, these stories revealed just who this Jesus was: Jesus, the Light of the world, come for all people as God's own—Beloved! He lived out God's transforming and abundant graciousness . . . Water became Wine! More than enough!

The Feast of Epiphany became a season, one that lasts until **Ash Wednesday, which is February 14** this year. So, even when the Christmas cookies are all eaten, the tree is taken down, and the sweater is exchanged, we will still have the GIFT of ongoing love that welcomes, includes, and shines for all people.



An opportunity to serve and lead

The Congregation Council of St. Mark's is an important part of the church. It has responsibility for the general oversight of the life and activities of the congregation, including worship life, financial and property matters, and employment of lay staff. The people who serve on this Council are active and dedicated, and we are grateful for their service.

Thank you to **Preston Runyan** who has stepped down as Treasurer after almost six years of service. We appreciate also his leadership and guidance on the Executive team.

Thank you to **Lindsay Meyer** and **Julie Simpson**, who are completing their council terms and will not be running for a second term.

Charlie Brummet has been appointed to serve as the Interim Treasurer until the Annual Meeting of the congregation on January 28, 2018.

Another seat from a previous year remains to be filled. Therefore, **we have three council openings**, each to serve a three-year term. More details about the various responsibilities are outlined in the constitution. If you would be interested in this significant form of leadership and service, please contact our president, Don Friend, or Pastor Pat Geiseman.

Have you ever wondered ... what happens on a Wednesday night at St. Mark's?

2018 JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Programs start up on Jan 10th

Wednesday nights at St. Marks are busy, fun, faith-filled nights with a church full of kids and adults! There are almost 90 students registered for our Wednesday night programs.

The church is busy from about 4:30 p.m. for setup until after 8 p.m. Here's a brief overview of our schedule:

- **5:00 p.m. - Roaring Ringers Handbell Choir** rehearsal (3rd - 5th grade)
- **5:30 p.m. - Faith in Daily Life (FDL)** students (1st - 5th grade) meet for dinner in Fellowship Hall
Senior High Youth meet for dinner in Fellowship Hall
Joyous Praise Handbell Choir rehearsal (6th - 8th grade)
- **6:00 p.m. - FDL students** split into grade levels and rotate between classes and music with Lauren Twohill and Sue Hilderbrand
Confirmation students meet for opening with Pastor Pat and dinner in Fellowship Hall
Senior High Youth begin their meeting with Anna Themanson
- **6:40 p.m. - Confirmation students** split into grade levels and go to their classrooms
- **7:30 p.m. -** Everything wraps up

Want to be part of the fun?

We can always use more volunteers! Between teachers, music, and kitchen helpers, there are currently 15-20 adults who come every Wednesday night to help keep our programs running. If you'd like to see what happens, please feel free to stop by. We'd love to see you here.

Join your kids for our monthly Wednesday Worship, Jan 24, 7:30 p.m.

This month's Wednesday Worship will be led by 5th graders, and the theme is "Christ Alone."

GRADES 1-5

Faith in Daily Life

starts Jan 10, 5:30 p.m.

Our Faith in Daily Life (FDL) program is for 1st - 5th graders to build a strong foundation in their faith formation. It uses the same curriculum and lessons as Sunday School, but there is more time to reinforce the lesson with music, crafts, games, and fellowship. These students enjoy a shared meal as well as a music lesson and class time every Wednesday night.

GRADES 6-8

Confirmation classes

start Jan 10, 6:00 p.m.

Our Confirmation program supports young people in growing their faith development and learning what it means to be a member of this congregation. This ministry is for 6th - 8th graders and includes lessons, discussions, field trips, service projects, prayer, and an annual retreat.

GRADES 9-12

Senior High Youth Group

starts Jan 10, 5:30 p.m.

Our Senior High Youth Group offers a shared meal, time for learning and growing in faith, and fellowship time. They use the FaithLens blog from the ELCA website as a curriculum that helps them make connections between scripture and their everyday lives.

FOR 2nd GRADERS

First Communion kick off is Feb 4th

11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The kick-off luncheon for First Communion families is the first and very important part of our First Communion process, so please put it on your calendars now. Students visit different stations to help make communion bread and create their First Communion banners. Lunch is provided for the whole family, and there will be childcare for siblings age 4 and under. Kindergarten and 1st-grade siblings can attend an Interactive Sanctuary tour while parents and 2nd graders are doing their stations.

If your child is not baptized, please let us know right away as we will need to do this prior to their taking their First Communion in April. Please contact Kari Reiseck or Pastor Pat Geiseman to make arrangements.

Things you might want to do in the new year



Join the handbell choir

Perhaps as you listened to the glorious sound of the bells during the Christmas services, the thought crossed your mind, 'I might like to try that . . .' Director Sue Hilderbrand would be glad to talk with you! Drop her a note at shilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net, or leave a phone message at 630-897-6891, ext 24. The Glory Ringers rehearse weekly on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.



Sing in the choir

The Lions Voice Choir presented some amazing choral music this Christmas! Would you like to be a part of this? If you love to sing, we invite you to add your voice to the angelic sound of this choir. Give Kristin Young a call at 630-897-6891, ext 16 or send an email to kyoung@stmarksaurora.net. Rehearsals resume on Thursday, Jan 4th at 7:00 pm.



Keep tabs on your blood pressure

Saturday, Jan 13, 4:15 p.m.
Sunday, Jan 14, 11:30 a.m.

If one of your New Year's goals is to take better care of yourself, drop by for a free blood pressure screening offered by our Faith Community Nurse, Jean Clementz.



Replenish your coffee stock

Saturday, Jan 6 and Sunday, Jan 7
Sunday, Jan 21

Holiday guests wiped out your coffee supply? The coffee project team will be back on three occasions in January with their amazing coffees and chocolates.



Join the Book Club

The great reads and lively discussion continue with two more books this school year:

The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman
Friday, March 9, 10:00 a.m.

Gentle Spirit, Memoirs by Marie Wilkinson.
Friday, May 11, 10:00 a.m.

You are welcome to join us for either or both of these Book Club meetings. Want more info? Please call Marge Gugerty at 331-262-2784 or email marge.gugerty@gmail.com.



Take the BeFriender training

If you're interested in becoming a "BeFriender" who offers a sacred and safe listening space for someone who wants to talk about their experiences, thoughts, and feelings, save the dates. The four-session training course will be offered at St. Mark's next April.

Saturday, April 14	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Monday, April 16	6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Monday, April 23	6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Monday, April 30	6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Contact Jean Clementz, jean.clementz@presencehealth.org, or 630-897-6891, ext 23, for more information

Please note: You must be able to attend all trainings.

Have information about an upcoming event? Articles for the *Vineyard* are due by the 15th of the month, and for the weekly *Courier*, by noon each Monday. Email your article to Marcia Broucek, communicationcoord@stmarksaurora.net, or drop it in Marcia's mailbox.

St. Mark's Calendar January 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>CHRISTMAS TIDE DEC 31</p> <p>No 9:00a Sunday School</p> <p>10:00a Worship Ankrom baptism</p>		<p>2</p> <p>1:00p Staff meeting Glory Ringers - HS & adults rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30a The Bread Wrappers Office volunteers 1:00p Office volunteers</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00p AA meeting Lion's Voice Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 Feed My Starving Children DACA March & Rally 6:30p Al-Anon</p>	<p>6</p> <p>2 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD 5:00p Worship</p>
<p>BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 7</p> <p>9:00a Worship Sunday School Coffee sales</p> <p>10:30a Worship</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00p Sanctuary Arts & Banners</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1:00p Staff meeting Glory Ringers - HS & adults rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30a The Bread Wrappers 9:30a WVMITA meeting 1:00p Office volunteers 5:00p Roaring Ringers gr 3-5 5:30p FDL gr 1-5, HS 5:30p Joyous Praise Bells gr 6-8 6:00p Confirmation classes gr 6-8</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p AA meeting Lion's Voice Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30p Al-Anon</p>	<p>2 EPIPHANY 13</p> <p>1:00p Nielsen recital 4:15p Blood pressure screening 5:00p Worship PADS dinner at Hesed House</p>
<p>2 EPIPHANY 14</p> <p>9:00a Worship Sunday School</p> <p>10:30a Worship Blood pressure screening 11:45a Council meeting</p>	 <p>9:30a Ruth Circle</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:00p Staff meeting Glory Ringers - HS & adults rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30a The Bread Wrappers 1:00p Office volunteers 5:00p Roaring Ringers gr 3-5 5:30p FDL gr 1-5, HS 5:30p Joyous Praise Bells gr 6-8 6:00p Confirmation classes gr 6-8</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00p AA meeting Lion's Voice Choir</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30p Al-Anon</p>	<p>3 EPIPHANY 20</p> <p>5:00p Worship Kiesing baptism</p>
<p>3 EPIPHANY 21</p> <p>9:00a Sunday School Coffee sales</p> <p>10:30a Worship Budget Forum meeting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00a Lydia's Piecemakers & Knit Pickers 7:00p Health Ministry board meeting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1:00p Staff meeting Glory Ringers - HS & adults rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30a The Bread Wrappers 1:00p Office volunteers 5:00p Roaring Ringers gr 3-5 5:30p FDL gr 1-5, HS 5:30p Joyous Praise Bells gr 6-8 6:00p Confirmation classes gr 6-8 7:30p Wednesday Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00p AA meeting Lion's Voice Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30p Al-Anon</p>	<p>4 EPIPHANY 27</p> <p>11:00a Sampson recital 5:00p Worship</p>
<p>4 EPIPHANY 28</p> <p>No 9:00a Sunday School</p> <p>10:00a Worship 11:00a</p> <p>ANNUAL MEETING Lunch follows</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00a Lydia's Piecemakers & Knit Pickers</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1:00p Staff meeting Glory Ringers - HS & adults rehearsal</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30a The Bread Wrappers 1:00p Office volunteers 5:00p Roaring Ringers gr 3-5 5:30p FDL gr 1-5, HS 5:30p Joyous Praise Bells gr 6-8 6:00p Confirmation classes gr 6-8</p>	<p>FEB 1</p> <p>7:00p AA meeting Lion's Voice Choir</p>	<p>FEB 2</p> <p>6:30p Al-Anon</p>	<p>5 EPIPHANY FEB 3</p> <p>5:00p Worship</p>

January is a month for giving back



Pack meals for “Feed My Starving Children”

Friday, January 5, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Confirmation students are gathering to help pack meals at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora. We'll be meeting at the church at 9:00 to head over. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Kari Reiseck for details.



Deliver Meals on Wheels

Do you have two hours to donate once or twice a month, or more often? The Salvation Army is in need of people to deliver Meals on Wheels to seniors in the North Aurora/Aurora area. If you would like more information, call Dotty Johnson 630-209-0843 or Kathy Loubsky at 630-232-6676.



Support DACA

When St. Mark's Book Club members read *Dreamers: An Immigrant Generation's Fight for Their American Dreams*, they felt it was important to take action. On December 5th, five members representing St. Mark's Outreach Committee at the Aurora **DACA March and Rally**, and they are eager to continue. Will you join them on **Jan 5, Feb 5, and March 5?**

Meet at Water Street Mall, 44 E Downer Place at 5:00 p.m. Other groups participating include Aurora Indivisible, The Aurora Huddle, The Women's March Aurora Huddle, and People Power. If you're interested, sign up at the Welcome Center. For more information, call Marge Gugerty at 331-262-2784 or email marge.gugerty@gmail.com.



Be a part of “Feed the Need!”

February 18, 2018

3:00-5:00 p.m.

**North Central College Rec/Res Hall
Naperville, IL**

“Feed the Need” is an annual event that donates and creates **Feed My Starving Children MobilePacks**. Last year, people at the “Feed the Need” event packed over one million meals. That's enough food to feed 2,748 children one nutritious meal each day for an entire year!



Each year the people of St. Mark's join this grand event, and this year we have once again committed to 40 people. We are scheduled to participate on February 18th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at North Central College in Naperville. In addition to packing food boxes, there will be jobs available to check people in, make boxes, and otherwise provide support for the effort. The donation this year is \$50 per attendee (which covers the cost of one box of food).

If you want to be a part of this event, sign up at the Welcome Center AND use the specially designated “Feed the Need” Event envelopes for your donation. (This is important because it is the only way the counters will know where to allocate the funds.)

Oh, yes. One more important note! At the end of the event, there will be a raffle drawing for a brand new car! For more information, visit feedtheneedillinois.org



PADS 'R US!

Did you know that the PADS® Overnight Emergency Shelter operated by Hesus House is the second largest shelter in the State of Illinois? Each night, up to 200 men, women, and children seek a place to sleep, shower, do laundry, eat a meal, find medical and legal assistance and other life-sustaining services. Over 70 faith-based communities with teams of volunteers provide food and serve meals.

Every January our Outreach Team highlights **PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter)**, and our yearly collection of food items. There are lots of ways you can help!



Dinner is served

On the second Saturday of every other month, a team from St. Mark's makes dinner for about 200 men, women, and children. Our dates for 2018 are:

- Saturday, January 13
- Saturday, March 10
- Saturday, May 12
- Saturday, July 14
- Saturday, September 8
- Saturday, November 10

The team camaraderie and the opportunity to serve in this hands-on way is heart-warming, soul-filling, and, literally, body-nourishing.

Will you join us for one of these Saturdays? Sign up at the Welcome Center.

PADS runs on volunteer power!

A special thanks to our great PADS volunteers in 2017: Jim & Linda McArdle and family, Scott & Janet Mayhew and family, Pastor Al Bergh, John Thorsen, Adele Buss, Melvin & Tatyanna Smith.



January food drive

Our goal is to collect enough nonperishable food items for six months worth of dinners, which will cover St. Mark's bi-monthly meal commitment for 2018. Here's the shopping list:

Items for cold weather menu

CRANBERRY CHICKEN

- Minute Rice - need five 72-oz boxes
- canned fruit - need six 6-7 lb cans
- mixed green vegetables - need six 6-7 lb cans
- second vegetable (corn or green beans) - need five 6-7 lb cans
- decaf coffee - need one 3 lb can
- liquid laundry detergent - need one large container each time we serve

Items for warmer weather menu

SLOPPY JOE'S

- 3-bean salad - need six 6-7 lb cans
- canned fruit - need six 6-7 lb cans
- baked beans - need six 6-7 lb cans
- decaf coffee - need one 3 lb can
- liquid laundry detergent - need one large container each time we serve

These large-quantity cans are available at Sam's Club, Gordon Food Service (GFS), or Costco, and you can drop them off in the collection bin in the narthex. If you prefer, you may make a money donation, and we will purchase the items for you. Please use the PADS Food Donation envelopes at the Welcome Center.

Extra support

- pray for those in need at PADS
- be a volunteer at PADS
- donate on Souper Bowl weekend (Feb 3-4, this year)
- donate year-round
 - hotel-size toiletries
 - wash cloths and bath towels
 - twin-size bed sheets
- check the PADS website "wish list" at hesedhouse.org

Your support is needed and appreciated. Thank you!

The road to resilience



***“You are my rock and my fortress;
for your name’s sake
lead and guide me.”
Psalm 31:4***

How do people deal with difficult events and the very challenging life experiences that change their lives?

Resilience!

What is resilience? Resilience is the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or significant sources of stress. It means “bouncing back” from difficult experiences. Research has shown that resilience is ordinary, not extraordinary. Resilience is not a trait that people either have or do not have. It involves behaviors, thoughts and actions that can be learned and developed in anyone.

Factors in Resilience: A combination of factors contributes to resilience. Many studies show that the primary factor in resilience is having caring and supportive relationships within and outside the family.

Ways to Strengthen Resilience:

- **Make connections.** Good relationships with close family members, friends, or others are important. Assisting others in their time of need also can benefit the helper.
- **Avoid seeing crises as insurmountable problems.** You can’t change the fact that highly stressful events happen, but you can change how you interpret and respond to these events.
- **Accept that change is a part of living.** Accepting circumstances that cannot be changed can help you focus on circumstances that you can alter.
- **Move toward your goals.** Instead of focusing on tasks that seem unachievable, ask yourself, “What’s one thing I know I can accomplish today that helps me move in the direction I want to go?”
- **Take decisive actions.** Take decisive actions, rather than detaching completely from problems and stresses and wishing they would just go away.
- **Look for opportunities for self-discovery.** Many people who have experienced tragedies and hardship have reported better relationships, greater sense of strength even while feeling vulnerable, increased

sense of self-worth, a more developed spirituality, and heightened appreciation for life.

- **Nurture a positive view of yourself.** Developing confidence in your ability to solve problems and trusting your instincts helps build resilience.
- **Keep things in perspective.** Avoid blowing the event out of proportion. Try to consider the stressful situation in a broader context and keep a long-term perspective.
- **Maintain a hopeful outlook.** Try visualizing what you want, rather than worrying about what you fear. It enables you to expect that good things will happen in your life.
- **Take care of yourself.** Taking care of yourself helps to keep your mind and body primed to deal with situations that require resilience. Engage in activities that you enjoy and find relaxing. Exercise regularly.

Additional ways of strengthening resilience:

- Writing about your thoughts and feelings can be a good way to relieve stress and gain clarity.
- Meditation and spiritual practices help some people build connections and restore hope.
- Getting help when you need it is crucial in building your resilience. Beyond caring family members and friends, people often find it helpful to turn to a **licensed mental health professional**. **Self-help and support groups** can aid people struggling with hardships. **Books and other publications** by people who have successfully managed adverse situations can motivate readers to find a strategy that might work for them personally. Different people tend to be comfortable with different styles of interaction. Find the support with which you are comfortable!

—Jean Clementz, RN
Presence Mercy Hospital Medical Center
Faith Community Nurse at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church



If I can be of assistance to you or someone you know, please contact me, 630-897-6891, X-23, or jean.clementz@presencehealth.org

Source: American Psychological Association



Thrivent Choice

Eligible Thrivent Financial members can use the Thrivent Choice grant program to direct their "Choice Dollars" to St. Mark's or to another participating nonprofit organization or congregation.

Last month, Thrivent deposited \$550.00 in our account, thanks to Brent Bartell and Maybelle Rygh. These gifts help St. Mark's in its ministries. Thank you for directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars here!

Monthly Budget Recap for November 2017

Monthly Information

Monthly Budget Goal		\$ 71,480.67
Monthly Offering Information		
Envelopes – General Fund	\$	59,037.95
CDC Rent	\$	10,000.00
Miscellaneous (Primarily Child Care Center)	\$	240.00
Other (loose, Sunday School, interest)	\$	575.68
Total General Fund Income		\$ 69,853.63
Monthly Shortfall/Surplus		\$ (1,627.04)

Summary Information as of 11/30/2017

Annual Budget	\$ 857,768.00
Percent of Year Completed	92%
Offerings/Commitments received Year to Date	\$ 712,793.07
Actual Expenses Year to Date	\$ 769,197.60
Actual Expense Shortfall/Surplus Year to Date	\$ (56,404.53)
Budget Shortfall/Surplus Year to Date	\$ (73,494.26)

Share and Secure Capital Campaign

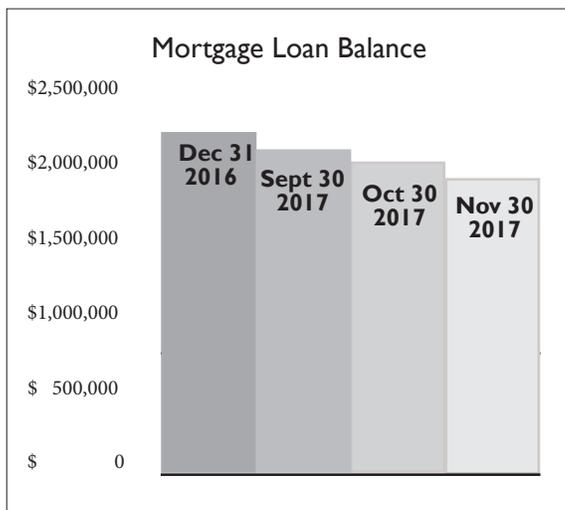
Additional principal payments to Mortgage from 2016 Gifts	\$ 90,000.00
Additional principal payments to Mortgage from 2017 Year to Date	\$ 194,725.57

Mortgage Balance as of 11/30/2017

Balance Due on Church (not including CDC)	\$1,989,520.73
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We've reduced the mortgage by over \$500k!

... that's a half-million dollars paid down! We've come a long way since the beginning of the Capital Campaign, and we're now under the \$2 million mark. THANK YOU to all for your generous giving. The mortgage balance as of November 30th is \$1,989,520.73.



St. Mark's staff

(phone is 630-897-6891, unless indicated otherwise)

Pastor Patricia Geiseman Pastor	Ext 15 pgeiseman@stmarksaurora.net
Kristin Young Director of Worship & the Arts	Ext 16 kyoung@stmarksaurora.net
Kari Reiseck Director of Youth & Family Ministry	Ext. 22 kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net
Sue Hilderbrand Director of Bell Choir	Ext. 24 shilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net
Marcia Broucek Communications Coordinator	Ext. 27 communicationcoord@stmarksaurora.net
Deb Arcilla Office Manager	Ext. 10 darcilla@stmarksaurora.net
John Themanson Finance Administrator	Ext. 19 jthemanson@stmarksaurora.net
Al Lettow Facility Manager	Ext 12 facilitymgr@stmarksaurora.net
Jean Clementz Faith Community Nurse	Ext. 23 jean.clementz@presencehealth.org
Jim Erickson Financial Secretary	630-235-6510 jerickson@stmarksaurora.net
Colette Patterson-Moon Director, Child Development Center	630-897-6063 stmarksdir@att.net
Terese Ruppel Nursery Coordinator	630-466-1036 ter60554@gmail.com



Dear St. Mark's,

It has been a joy to share in St. Mark's mission and ministry over these past two-plus years. They will be fondly remembered.

Thank you for the gift cards. We will enjoy time and good food because of your thoughtfulness.

God's blessings on your future life and ministry.

—Pastor Olson

More thanks!



Thank you for your gifts to **ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response** this year. Thanks to you, together we're working for justice and peace in the United States and more than 60 countries around

the world. May God bless you this year and always, even as you and your generosity are a blessing to others.—*The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



Naomi Circle is so grateful for St. Mark's support of their **Angel Tree program**. 144 Visiting Nurse Tags were taken and gifts purchased for these children. Two "American

Dolls" were given with many sets of clothing made by Karen Lorence. Every gift card tag for Association For Individual Development was taken...20 tags. Also, 27 Constitution House gift card tags were taken. Paper Products!!! WOW!! The staff at Constitution House is ecstatic. 11 rolls of paper towels, 1 package of napkins, 54 mega rolls of toilet paper and 31 regular rolls, 10 regular boxes of Kleenex and 4 small boxes. Their raffle this Christmas will be quite lively. Every year the Christmas Spirit of Giving is so evident at St. Mark's.

Pastoral Acts

Memorial Service

Warren Hestekin, December 13, 2017

Council highlights

- Charlie Brummet was welcomed for stepping in as Treasurer.
- Preston Runyan, Beth Ulrich and the Executive Board meet on Monday, December 11 to discuss the proposed refinancing of the mortgage.
- Two forums are being planned on January 14 & 21 to discuss the proposed 2018 budget.
- Three council positions will be open for 2018.
- Eileen Ruppel, who grew up participating in St. Mark's Children's, Confirmation and Youth programs, has been accepted at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Luther Seminary in St. Paul. She plans to attend Seminary after graduating from Augustana College in the spring.
- LSSI has agreed to a slight increase in rent for the new three year lease.
- The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28th.

Council members

Don Friend Council President	630-892-6616 donaldfmd@yahoo.com
Charlie Brummet Interim Treasurer	cbrummet@aol.com 630-466-7087
Rick Jansen Property	630-253-3800 sigmolding@yahoo.com
Jeanne Flynn Member	630-896-6312 flynn64sq@sbcglobal.net
Julie Simpson Member	630-212-6413 djsimp480@hotmail.com
Lindsay Meyer Member	630-207-2668 lindsay.meyer84@gmail.com
Heather Rehg Member	630-801-4121 rehg@comcast.net
Carol Reiseck Member	630-554-4255 carol.reiseck@cuchicago.edu
Pastor Pat Geiseman	Ext. 15 pgeiseman@stmarksaurora.net

Servers for worship

January 6 & 7	Saturday, 5:00pm	Sunday, 9:00am	Sunday, 10:30am
Acolytes	TBA	Isabelle Jones, Shaelin Dunn	TBA
Adult Worship Assistants	Bob Johnson	Sheryl Campen	-
A/V Desk	Sheila Johnson	Scott Thompson	Jill Fox
Altar Care	Don Bryant	Team A	Team A
Bread Baker	Pam Krasinski	Pam Krasinski	Pam Krasinski
Hospitality Team	Don Bryant, Dave & Nancy Clark	Team A - Mark Perry	Team A - Deb Steinheimer
Reader	Nancy Clark	Team A	Team A
Welcome Center Hosts	TBA	Team A	Team A
January 13 & 14			
Acolytes	Shaelin Dunn	TBA	TBA
Adult Worship Assistants	Bob Johnson	Anna Themanson	-
A/V Desk	Kathy Walz	TBA	TBA
Altar Care	Erik Egeland	Team B	Team B
Bread Baker	Matt Greising	Matt Greising	Matt Greising
Hospitality Team	Don B., Jens J., Steve K.	Team B—Bruce Wood	Team B - Youth Group
Reader	Erik Egeland	Team B	Team B
Welcome Center Hosts	TBA	Team B	Team B
January 20 & 21			
Acolytes	TBA	TBA	TBA
Adult Worship Assistants	Bob Johnson	Jill Fox	-
A/V Desk	Nancy Clark	TBA	TBA
Altar Care	Debra Haddad	Team C	Team C
Bread Baker	Susan Manning	Susan Manning	Susan Manning
Hospitality Team	Jim & Clare Toynton, Sheila Johnson	Team C - John & Terry Thorsen	Team C - Gordon Olp
Reader	Clare Toynton	Team C	
Welcome Center Hosts	TBA	Team C	
December 27 & 28		10:00 a.m.	No 10:30 a.m. Service
Acolytes	TBA	TBA	
Adult Worship Assistants	Bob Johnson	Sue Hilderbrand	
A/V Desk	Sheila Johnson	TBA	Annual Meeting
Altar Care	Virgil Ostreng	Team D	following 10:00 a.m. Worship
Bread Baker	Emma Albers	Emma Albers	
Hospitality Team	Virgil O., Matt H., Kathy W.	Team D - Thorsen & 10:30	Team D
Reader	Miriam Hicks	Team D	
Welcome Center Hosts		Team D	



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January highlights



**Wednesday
JAN 10**

**FDL, Confirmation,
Senior Youth Group
start up**
(see pg 3)



**Saturday
JAN 13**

**St. Mark's
hosts PADS
at HESED HOUSE**
(see pg 7)



**Monday
JAN 15**

**Pastor Patrick
starts as
Associate Pastor**
(see pg 1)



**Sunday
JAN 28**

**Annual Meeting
featuring
year-in-review**
(see pg 1)