

# God's Work, Our Hands



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



## Youth Mission Trip—only 3 weeks away!

From July 21-28, 18 high school students and 3 adult leaders will be headed to the Blue Ridge Mountains for our much anticipated HS Summer Mission Trip.

On Sunday, **July 8 at the 10:30 service**, there will be a special **Blessing & Sending** for all who are going on the trip. Then, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., all Mission Trip participants will meet for **Mission Trip TeamBuilding** (plus some practical planning, such as what to pack and what to expect).

We **leave at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 21**. We will meet in the parking lot and pile into our rented 12-passenger vans. We will be staying at Gethsemane Lutheran church in Lexington, KY, both on the way there and way back. It's halfway to North Carolina, which is where our YouthWorks Mission Trip site is located.

On Sunday, July 22, we will arrive to Taylorsville, NC, where we will be staying at St. Luke Lutheran Church. For the remainder of the week, we will be hosted by St. Luke's and be serving the great community of Taylorsville. Service projects include: KidsClub, painting, landscaping, and home repairs in the community.

We will leave on Friday, July 27, and again stay in Lexington, KY, at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Saturday, July 28, we will wake up early and head to JamesBond Escape Room in Louisville, KY. Following that fun activity, we will head home and be **back in Aurora by late evening on July 28**.

Thank you for your support thus far. Please keep all those participating in this mission trip in your prayers. Pray for their safety and that they may grow deeper in their relationship with one another and with Christ.



## Blessing & Sending

**Sunday, July 8, 10:30 a.m.**

During the worship service on July 8th, we will be asking God's blessing on all those participating in this year's Mission Trip. We want to encourage them to trust in God's care and to send them forth with our prayers and support.

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
27 South Edgelawn Drive  
Aurora, Illinois 60506



Phone: 630-897-6891  
www.stmarksaurora.net  
Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Please call or email the appropriate staff member if you have questions about the following areas of ministry. Please visit our website (stmarksaurora.net) for more information about St. Mark's.

## Staff Contact Information

### Pastoral Staff

Pastor Patricia Geiseman Ext. 101 pgeiseman@stmarksaurora.net  
Pastor Patrick Fish Ext. 102 pfish@stmarksaurora.net

### Ministry Staff

Kristin Young Ext. 103 kyoung@stmarksaurora.net  
*Director of Worship & the Arts*  
Sue Hilderbrand Ext. 108 shilderbrand@stmarksaurora.net  
*Director of Bell Choirs*  
Kari Reiseck Ext. 104 kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net  
*Director of Youth & Family Ministries*

### Support Staff

Deb Arcilla Ext. 100 darcilla@stmarksaurora.net  
*Office Manager*  
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*Finance Administrator*  
Gregg Kobliska Ext. 106 facilitymgr@stmarksaurora.net  
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Terese Ruppel 630-466-1036 ter60554@gmail.com  
*Nursery Coordinator*  
Marcia Broucek Ext. 107 news@stmarksaurora.net  
*Communications Coordinator*

### Financial Secretary

Jim Erickson 630-235-6510 jerickson@stmarksaurora.net

### St. Mark's Child Development Center

Colette Patterson-Moon 630-897-6063 stmarksdir@att.net  
*Director*

### Council Members

Don Friend (President), David Albers (Property), Austin Bredow (Outreach), Charlie Brummet (Treasurer), Jeanne Flynn (Youth and Family), Chad Gooch (Technology), Ginny Pavesich (Stewardship), Heather Rehg (New Members), Carol Reiseck (Stewardship), Pastor Patrick Fish, Pastor Patricia Geiseman

## Prayers

**5:00 p.m.** Brett Deiter, Alexandria Downing, Joe Jaras, Mary Kenner, Carol Lippert, Kathy Pippig, Charlotte Regis, Julia Taylor

**9:00 a.m.** Gavin Duffy, John Harazin, Sara Johansen, Debbie Manson, Kay McKeen, Bruce Nicholson, Lois Swan, Linda Weigand, Rob Williams

**10:30 a.m.** Katie DeSotell, Victoria Halsted, Berdelle Hoth, Dennis Johnson, David Lippold, Terry Mueller, Helen Rachford, Greg Williamson

**Continuing Care:** Jim Anderson, Bill Beattie, Johanna Brinkman, Richard Brinkman, Laurie Dunn, Tad Dyer, Joanne Jackman, Tom Jones, John Lange, Bruce Lindgren, Mason McNamara, Terry Minor, Terry Mueller, Lauren Muscat, Grant Oestrich, Wendy Overstreet, Joe Rangel, Sharon Ross, Bessie Sclavos, Lorand Szekely

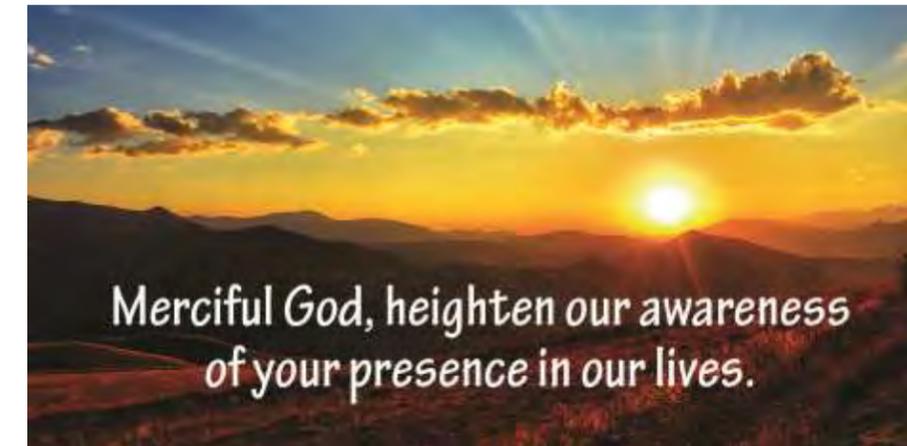
We rejoice with Jim and Ruth Benson in celebration of their 65th wedding anniversary.

*The Courier*

June 30-July 1, 2018

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

Sharing Christ's Abundant Love  
with Each Other and the World



## VBS launches in just 2 weeks!

Things kick off on **Monday morning, July 16 at 9:00 a.m.** Many people have been working behind the scenes to get things ready, but there is still a lot to do before we launch.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Consider volunteering! It's heartening and energizing to see these kids having great fun and learning about God's love in action. Check the VBS bulletin board for openings and contact Kari Reiseck ASAP (kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net).

**SET UP/TEAR DOWN:** Anyone who can help with **set up on Sunday, July 15th** (right after the close of the last service) is VERY welcome. Same goes for our **tear-down on Saturday morning, July 21st**. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Kari Reiseck (kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net).

**REGISTRATION:** While we're close to capacity, there is still room for more. We won't be able to get T-shirts for new registrants at this point, but we would love to welcome more kids! Please contact Kari Reiseck (kreiseck@stmarksaurora.net) if you are interested in registering.



## Supplies needed for VBS

Check out the window behind the sanctuary. The "sea creatures" are waiting for you. Each one has the name of an item that VBS needs. Pick an item you'd like to donate or loan. When you bring your item to deposit in the bin, please return the sea creature as well. Thanks!

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

### SUNDAY, July 1

9:00a Worship

Coffee & Fellowship  
hosted by The Neighbor Project  
(formerly Emmanuel House)

### Coffee Project sales

10:30a Worship

11:30a HS Praise Team rehearsal

### MONDAY, July 2

9:00a Lydia's Piecemakers & Knit Pickers

7:00p Naomi Circle

### TUESDAY, July 3

1:00p Staff meeting

### WEDNESDAY, July 4

FOURTH OF JULY

OFFICE CLOSED

### THURSDAY, July 5

7:00p AA meeting

### FRIDAY, July 6

6:30p Al-Anon

### SATURDAY, July 7

5:00p Worship

### SUNDAY, July 8

9:00a Worship

Coffee & Fellowship  
hosted by the Youth Group

### Coffee Project sales

10:30a Worship

Mission Trip  
Blessing & Sending

11:30a HS Praise Team rehearsal

11:45a Council meeting

12:00p Mission Trip Team Building



The July Vineyard is in the mail and is available online at [StMarksAurora.net](http://StMarksAurora.net).

Check it out for Mission Trip and VBS information, plus details on July events and important upcoming dates.



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

# Discipleship



## New women's circle forming Wednesday, July 11, 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in exploring the possibility of being in a women's circle, you are invited to meet with a core group of women who are initiating the formation of a new circle. We're gathering to discuss what circles do, how they interact with the whole church, and what a new circle might look like. Many women have already expressed interest. Will you join us? *Sign up at the Welcome Center.*



## Serving dinner at PADS Saturday, July 14, 6:00—11:00 p.m.

Since people are traveling during the summer, it is especially important that we make sure we have enough people to keep our commitment to prepare and serve our bi-monthly dinner at PADS. If you've never done this before, you're in for a surprise at how much your work will be appreciated and how good you will feel! We may be the "servers," but in many ways we are served by the people whose lives and stories touch us. *Sign up at the Welcome Center to join us for a heart-warming evening.*

## You're welcome here!

Come as you are.  
Experience love.  
Find hope.

## New website coming . . .

During our visioning process, we affirmed that we wanted to be open to the future. And for the foreseeable future, that includes being very visible online. Our world is connected on the web. Our news. Our entertainment. Our phones. Our messages. Our pictures. Our ideas. In fact, it's almost gotten so that, if you don't have a digital presence, you don't exist.

Think about it: When someone is looking for a church, do they call ahead? Do they drive over for a service? Most likely, they go online to check out the church, get a feel for it, find out when the services are, see if they think this church might be a good fit for them.

So what we present about St. Mark's online matters! Our words and images reflect who we are. And we want people to know that we're welcoming, that we embody love, that we put caring into action.

Watch for updates as we prepare to launch our new look on **Saturday, August 4 and Sunday, August 5.**

# Announcements



## Adult Fellowship Thursday, July 26, 10:00 a.m.

### "Legacy Workshop & lunch"

Representatives from Thrivent Financial will present a workshop on "YOUR LEGACY: Family, Church, Charity" at St. Mark's on Thursday, July 26 at 10:00 in Sanctuary Hall. Learn how you can develop a strategy to help you leave a legacy for the people and causes you care about. We'll also have information about St. Mark's Endowment and funeral planning programs. After the presentation, we'll head over to Mother's Restaurant for lunch provided by Thrivent. *Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Al Bergh for more information (630-585-8422).*



## Memorial trees & pavers

Did you know that St. Mark's has Memorial Tree and Memorial Paver programs? The trees beautify our grounds, and the pavers in the courtyard become part of St. Mark's history. Both are very special ways to celebrate, honor, or remember a loved. *Pick up a brochure at the Welcome Center for more information.*



## SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, October 27, 2018

### "Radical Hospitality"

This Fall, St. Mark's has the privilege of hosting the Metro-Chicago Synodical Women's Organization 2018 Convention. This one-day event will focus on the timely topics of immigrants and refugees. St. Mark's women are invited to attend this important event. Stay tuned for registration details.



## Say "hi" to old friends

Former members Wilmer and Betty Hermann, who now live in Arizona, would love to hear from people at St. Mark's. Here's their address if you'd like to drop them a note:

Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Hermann  
7686 N Park Crest Ln  
Prescott Valley, AZ 86315



We've been waiting for you!

Our mission at St. Mark's Lutheran Church is to share Christ's abundant love with each other and the world. We are called to reach out to persons of all ages and life situations with Christ's own hospitality and acceptance, to invite you to be our companion on the spiritual journey as we discover together the ways that Christ is offering hope, healing, and a renewed sense of meaning for our lives. If you are not a member, we would love to talk with you about our ministry. We invite you to talk to one of our pastors or stop at the Welcome Center near the church entrance. May your worship experience here at St. Mark's draw you closer to Christ and his abundant love!

## For your reflection: today's Worship focus



Our lesson from 2 Samuel is one of lament as David loses both a mentor—King Saul—and a friend—Saul's son, Jonathan. Their relationships had become conflicted and complicated. The messenger of the grim news expected David to rejoice over Saul's death. Instead, David laments. Our lesson is a song of sorrow.

David's mourning is public and personal. He mourns for Israel and for himself. But this sad time will not be his last. This lament is the beginning of many as this young, handsome, gifted shepherd boy now becomes king. He picks up the mantle of the anointed one to carry on. As king, David will mourn the death of sons and the division of his kingdom.

This difficult chapter speaks to the raw emotion of war, conflict, companionship, and death. We remember those who have gone before us, relationships that were both meaningful and maligned, persons who were companions and competitors.

So, we take time to mourn, to remember the best and grieve what wasn't—for ourselves and for our country. We, too, are anointed with power to carry on in our lives and in our world.

## For your consideration: next week's Worship focus



At this point in the story, David is in the city of Hebron, contemplating the truth that he is now the king. No longer is it a possibility. No longer is it some potential reality. It's *now*. He must carry on the responsibility of that title and offer leadership to mend the kingdom.

That's when the people of Israel arrive. They come seeking one thing: *Unity*. All the elders and leaders of the tribes converge and seek to have one unified kingdom under the reign of David. They no longer want to be a divided kingdom. They want to be one people with one king. What a moment for David! More importantly, what a moment for God's people!

While David will have that unity for only seven years, it's an important reminder about God's intention for God's people to be unified. God doesn't want us divided. God doesn't want walls between us. God desires unity.

At St. Mark's, we are a unified people gathered into God's love. Freed by God's grace. Sent out to share God's abundant love with each other and the world.