

**ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

## **Submitted by Bruce Nelson**

Dear St. Marks Family,

This has been a busy year for St. Mark's. The Holy Spirit has been in our midst, guiding us in our church's mission and personal lives.

In the fall, Sunday school began a new curriculum called Godly Play. The teachers and parents are thrilled with curriculum, and feel the children are learning more about the gospel through story. I'd like to thank the Sunday school director, Katie Kadlec, and all of the teachers for helping to make Godly Play a success.

Thanks to the generosity of St. Mark's members, we ended 2017 in a positive financial position. This support allows St. Mark's to continue its mission of sharing the Gospel through worship and service, and being an inclusive community for justice and peace among diverse people. We were able to purchase a new van that will enable us to transport our retirees to and from church and our youth to their various activities. St. Mark's members are very active in the community and continue to serve many outreach services such as Lutheran Community Services, Dining with Dignity, Bite2Go, SPEAR, Crosswalk, St. Ann's, and international outreach.

Throughout the year, the call committee worked toward calling a third pastor. After going through an extensive process, the committee presented a motion to the church membership to extend a call to Pastor Edwin. We are very excited that Pastor Edwin accepted the call and will begin his ministry in July. We are very blessed to add Pastor Edwin to our pastoral team of Pastor Eric and Pastor Kate.

As you know from the bulletin each Sunday, St. Mark's is a vibrant church with many activities. We are a very diverse congregation where people of all ages and backgrounds come together to worship in peace, love, and genuine respect for others. We will continue to work to make all people feel welcome.

Peace of Christ be with you,  
Bruce Nelson

# **PASTOR'S REPORT**

## **Submitted by Eric Dull**

Dear Faithful Members of St. Mark's,

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)

As I enter the year 21 at St. Mark's, I am thinking about time of renewal. As you read this I will have begun my 3<sup>rd</sup> sabbatical. An Annual report often looks back and begins to look forward.

As I look back on this past year, I am struck by what has been accomplished. We said goodbye to some saints, and hello to others. We helped members and visitors who have fallen on hard times and were blessed by your generosity as we reached out in mission and ministry. We welcomed to our pulpit Catholic Bishop William Skylstad as we celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> year of the reformation. This was a sign of what is hoped for even as the work continues toward full communion with our brothers and sisters of the Roman Catholic Church. Thanks to the work of Katie Kadlec and Ann Benson, we embarked on a new Sunday school program. (See Susan Hagen's article for more about this). And we went through a patient process of calling a new pastor. Pastor Edwin, by all accounts, is a faithful pastor with a deep heart for ministry. He brings a contagious energy, and I look forward to the gifts he will bring. In calling Pastor Edwin, we are living more fully into our mission "to share the Gospel in worship and service, and to be an inclusive community for justice and peace among diverse people."

As we call a third pastor, we are stepping out in faith. This will be a stretch for us financially. We should be stretched. We need to risk in order that we continue to find vitality. In a day and age where church is seen increasingly as just another option, we need to step out in faith with the message of how we are called to love God and neighbor. Change always causes some transition pains. As the church changes, we always do our best to change according to where God is leading.

As I look forward, I anticipate sabbatical being an opportunity for learning and renewal. I look forward to how we might make ourselves a community of calling. Our own Bishop Emeritus, Martin Wells, is spearheading a focus on vocation. Specifically we will be looking at how whose we are connects with who we are throughout the week. This focus will permeate what we do at St. Mark's for at least the next two years. We hope St. Mark's can be a place that will help you identify the meaning and purpose God has for your life. I will be dedicating part of my sabbatical to learning more about how we might implement this focus into the life of our congregation. I will also be delving more deeply into Richard Rohr's contemplative meditations and considering some online courses. My renewal will also take shape as I enter into times of relaxation through my hobbies of fishing, biking and hiking. I also look forward to getting away from technology for a while.

I continue to be convinced that St. Mark's has a bright future. You are St. Mark's, and I hope you see yourself as being a part of that bright future. Please pray for me and know that I will continue holding you in prayer. May that prayer always be ultimately about discerning the will of God. See you on December 1.

Pastor Eric

# **PASTOR'S REPORT**

**Submitted by Kate LePard**

*“Our tradition suggests that it is very difficult to live a life of integrity apart from the support, encouragement, witness, challenge and celebration of a community. Community is the medium in which so many other important things of the Gospel can happen.” -Jack Jezreel, JustFaith Ministries*

Sometimes I picture St. Mark's as this beautiful pool of living water, in which we are immersed during worship services, Bible studies, support groups, youth gatherings, social ministry activities, just about anything that happens in this place. The Holy Spirit keeps pouring in more living water, which is crucial because our pool leaks! There are streams that trickle out wherever our members go, bringing refreshment, encouragement, help, healing, and other gifts of the Spirit.

Jesus, of course, is the Living Water and gives us the hydration and nourishment we need to do those “important things of the Gospel” through our community of faith. Living water moves through each of us, also, in the places God has put us, everyday places where we do the Lord's work just by being faithful to the roles we have been given.

Last June, I was gifted with a six month sabbatical by this congregation, the first one in 28 years of ordained ministry. Pastor Susan Briehl was here while I was gone, sharing her tremendous gifts. I had the gift of time – time to rest, time to be renewed with friends and family, through nature and travel. Just having time to be at home with my husband and dogs was a pleasure. Having quiet time at the lake was soul sustaining. Having time to visit some other countries was stimulating. Along with all those blessings, I still missed being in our pool of living water and especially missed worship here. It was a good opportunity to worship some other places but it wasn't the same without the connectedness of community, a “home” congregation. I was very happy and reinvigorated when I returned, ready to plunge into our ministry at St. Mark's. The last six months have been full of all the good things we are traditionally called to do as pastors: preaching and teaching, visiting the sick, caring for souls in so many ways. Pastor Eric and I have such a good partnership and share all these responsibilities. The staff at St. Mark's is a group of talented and dedicated people who love the Lord and this congregation. A lot of our time and energy went into the call process. I am very thankful that we have called Pastor Edwin to join our team.

Streams of living water will follow Pastor Eric as he goes on sabbatical. I have written in the newsletter about how dedicated he is and how much he has needed this rest. We will all be upholding him in prayer while he is away from us. I'm looking forward to beginning with Pastor Edwin in July.

We will be tracing the flow of living waters that run from St. Mark's as we become involved in the project about calling and vocation in daily life. I'm thankful for the passion of Pastor (formerly Bishop) Wells regarding this aspect of Christian faith and living. He has been part of the inspiration for us to set our focus the next few years on vocation and calling. As we put this out to a number of our established groups, we found a good deal of enthusiasm for people to explore their purpose as it intersects with God's work.

So many good things have been happening at St. Mark's this year, new programs like "Godly Play" for our children, and continued programs with youth, education, social ministry, worship and all the other areas we share as part of this faith community. I'm excited to see where we will stretch and grow with the help of Pastor Edwin and with the faithful attention we will give to the Holy Spirit's flow of living water, through us, into the world.

Thank you for your partnership in this amazing ministry. And, above all, thanks be to God for the many blessings we have to share with others.

Pastor Kate

# CALL COMMITTEE REPORT

The call committee was appointed at the congregational meeting two years ago. By this time last year, we had received the files of a few candidates from Bishop Wells, selected the most likely ones for phone interviews, asked them to submit recorded sermons, and then held video interviews. Pastor Ray McKechnie had spent a weekend with us for a formal interview and the committee had voted to recommend him to the congregation for call. However, before we could hold a congregational meeting to vote, Pastor McKechnie decided to withdraw from the process with us. Having decided he would rather have a solo call than serve on a team again, Pastor Ray eventually took a call to a smaller church in Oregon.

Last spring we started over again with some new candidates given us by Bishop Wells. After going through the same process as before, we eventually invited Pastor Arianna Arends to Spokane for a weekend of interviews. The call committee decided, afterwards, that Pastor Arends was not quite the right fit for St. Mark's. Eventually Pastor Arianna received a call to serve as pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran in Cheney and campus pastor at Eastern Washington University.

There was some lag time as Pastor Kristen Kuempel was elected to be the bishop of our synod. The fall was a busy time of adjustment for her to a demanding new call. In January, Bishop Kuempel met with the call committee and presented us with some new candidates. After reviewing their files, our pastors once again held phone interviews. We received recordings of sermons and had video interviews with two candidates. We were very impressed with Pastor Edwin Weber and moved ahead to invite him and his finance, Freddie Hampton, to spend a weekend with us in Spokane. After the usual round of meetings with various staff and a formal interview with the pastors and another with the call committee, some dinners and a brunch, our initial impressions were reinforced that Pastor Edwin is a very good fit with our ministry here. The call committee subsequently voted unanimously to recommend Pastor Weber for call to St. Mark's. At the next church council meeting, the council members voted unanimously to affirm the recommendation of the call committee.

On Sunday, April 22, an adult forum was held for the call committee to share our reasons for recommending Pastor Edwin. Congregational members were given time to make comments and ask questions. Materials had also been sent to the members by mail. On Sunday, April 29, a congregational meeting was held to vote on the call and the vote passed.

We are very pleased with the outcome of this process and are looking forward to the arrival of Pastor Edwin. Thank you for your patience during this long process. We believe the Holy Spirit has guided us throughout and the time was necessary for the right pastor to be called to St. Mark's. Thank you, also, to Pastor Kate and Pastor Eric, and to our wonderful staff for all their help with the call process. We expect the ministry of Pastor Edwin Weber to be a great blessing for our ministry!

Cynthia Moore, Chairperson  
Brett Hauber  
Liz Grosen  
Peyton Krych

Mark Nelson  
Dave Tanner  
Harmony Young

Barb Belstad, alternate  
Bruce Nelson, alternate

# **EVENT AND NEW MEMBER COORDINATOR REPORT**

## **Submitted by Loris Stupel, Event and New Member Coordinator**

### **2017 New Members**

At St. Mark's, 2017 was another strong year for new member classes. Between the spring and fall classes, we welcomed 30 individuals into our congregation. One couple got married in our sanctuary the weekend prior to the fall session. I'd like to give a sincere **thank you** to all those who helped with the potluck suppers that start off each class. This social time is a great opportunity for pastors, some of the congregation, and new members to visit and learn a little bit about each other along with a delicious meal. The three classes help new members learn more about the faith histories of others in the group, the Lutheran religion, and how we do things at St. Mark's. We also have various staff members share information about our youth and family programming, volunteer opportunities that St. Mark's is involved with, and important ways to be connected at St. Mark's. I always learn something at every New Member class; anyone is welcome to attend should they need a brush up on Lutheran theology!

### **2017 Events**

We are blessed here at St. Mark's to have many special events to look forward to throughout the year.

A highlight in September of 2017 was the installation of our synod's new bishop (first change in 18 years) with the event taking place at St. Mark's. Bishop Kristen Kuempel, from the Tri-Cities, was installed with Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, from churchwide in Chicago, delivering the sermon on that special day. The event was celebrated with many Lutheran church leaders and members in attendance along with ecumenical leaders from the greater Spokane community. A choir including her some folks from her home church sang to make it an extra special event.

Earlier in the year, we enjoyed a Fat Tuesday service, with incredible Jazz Liturgy by member and Whitworth professor Daniele Keberle, ending with a feast of desserts and coffee in the Fellowship Hall.

This year, our annual Oktoberfest was sponsored by a large number of our youth, who were raising money to attend the National Youth Gathering in Houston in June of 2018. They did a lovely job decorating and cooking delicious bratwursts with all the fixings and we all enjoyed some festive accordion music by the Spokane Accordion Ensemble, with long time St. Mark's member Helen Eldenburg participating.

Our Bazaar in early November included a new concept in raffle items, a number of canned goods from various church members assembled into a beautiful hand turned wooden bowl created by Bob Schmidt. It was very popular, looking at the number of raffle tickets purchased for it. Proceeds from this event allowed us to donate to many causes near and far.

The finale of the year is St. Mark's Smorgasbord, with multi-cultural dishes from various ethnicities, live music and beautiful decorations to help us get into the Christmas spirit. The Children's Christmas pageant takes place between the two seatings of the

Smorgasbord, so those attending can eat before or after. We especially enjoyed the lovely singing of the Lucia Brides, who deliver platters of cookies while singing the traditional Sankta Lucia song; they sure are multi-talented!

Please consider participating in some these enjoyable fellowship events at St. Mark's. The more you get involved, the more St. Mark's will mean to you!

# **YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY REPORT**

## **Submitted by Susan Hagen, Director of Youth & Family Ministries**

This report is a compilation of all of the youth and family programming at St. Mark's for 2017-2018. It encompasses the time and energy of the many individuals who spearheaded our youth and family programs over the past year. Each contributor who led, supported, and participated in these programs has helped us to be as Christ calls us to be.

For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. 1  
*Corinthians 3:9*

### WALKING WITH THE LIGHT (WWL)

**Walking with the Light** is our principal youth program serving youth in grades 5-12. About 60 youth attend WWL on any given Wednesday evening for 8 weeks in the fall and 8 weeks in January and February. WWL programming consists of dinner, recreation, class time/Confirmation and worship. Our WWL attendance was consistently high all year. Thank you to the many parent volunteers, who helped with set up and clean up, and to Boucher family for faithfully preparing our meals each week.

### **JUNIOR HIGH**

**Walking with the Light** (WWL) is the primary program element for junior high youth. Calvin Moore leads the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class time during WWL while the 8<sup>th</sup> graders attend Confirmation class. Pastor Eric taught the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade class in combination for fall session. Pastor Kate resumed with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class upon return from sabbatical.

**Wednesday Night Youth Group** for both Junior and Senior High took place nearly every week when WWL was not in session.

All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders were invited to Lutherhaven for a **Junior High Confirmation Retreat** January 26– 28. Eight girls and 8 boys participated in the weekend retreat which was a requirement for 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation. This event has proven to be essential in promoting relationships within the youth group and with other Lutheran youth from around the area.

Other Junior High Activities included Junior High chillers, bowling, a lock-in, and a trip to Greenbluff for the Corn Maze. The junior high youth helped with the big job of sorting gifts for the SPEAR and LCS Foster kids at Christmas and Turkey Treating at Thanksgiving.

### SENIOR HIGH

Six youth attended camp at **Idaho Servant Adventure** in Idaho's Panhandle National Forest, June 23-28, 2017. Led by Calvin Moore, they experienced camp life as well as, team work and service learning as they did projects for underserved people in the Silver Valley throughout the week, including a day camp for kids.

The **Summer Camping Trip** was held July 10-13, 2017 at Heyburn State Park on Lake Chatcolet in North Idaho. Ten youth spent 3 days tent camping, swimming, and biking on the Trail of the Couer d'Alenes. There was also a day of boating with Todd and Susan Hagen. This trip was led by Calvin Moore and Naomi Widmer. Meaningful conversation was had over the camp fire.

**Walking with the Light** is our primary program component for our senior high youth and includes Confirmation for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders. After being confirmed, 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders often come for dinner and then socialize in the Youth Room during WWL. Pastor Eric taught the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders as a combined class during fall session. Pastor Susan Briebl taught the 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

Other senior high events over the past months have included Café Nights, a lock-in, game nights and bowling. Wednesday Night Youth group (when WWL is not in session) provided another opportunity for camaraderie aside from other programmed events and WWL.

**Teens Encounter Christ (TEC)**, held in conjunction with St. John's the Evangelist Episcopal Cathedral, was held January 12<sup>th</sup>-14. Sixteen youth from St. Mark's attended the 3 day retreat, 10 of whom held leadership positions. TEC is a weekend without judgment where youth come together for one purpose...to love each other and God. It is a three day journey centered on the Easter story. Much singing, laughing, learning and conversing took place. TEC is a requirement for all 9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation students. Pastor Eric is involved in the planning of this event and spent the weekend guiding the youth through their journey in worship. Susan works closely with the youth director at St. John's in preparation for the retreat and spent most of the weekend in the kitchen cooking for the group.

**Holden Village May Youth Weekend** was held May 25-27. Holden welcomed high school students from all over the northwest for 2 sessions in May. St. Mark's youth attended session 2 over Memorial Day weekend accompanied by Youth Leaders Calvin Moore and Naomi Widmer. Susan Hagen was on the planning team for May Youth Weekend. Susan led Session II along with her "team" of Todd Hagen and Jane Somers. The theme was "You have been called by name." St. Mark's youth represented us well, jumping in to lead motions for music, acting as Assisting Ministers, hiking, doing pottery, eating a lot of ice cream and Holden bread, doing service work around Holden, and winning 2 bowling trophies!

Eighteen youth and 5 adults are heading to Houston, TX for the **2018 ELCA Youth Gathering**. Over the course of the year the youth held several fundraisers as a means to cover their travel and registration costs. Fundraisers included Oktoberfest, Thanksgiving Pie Sale, Pancake Breakfast, Chris Bovey custom design merchandise sale, and the Hoedown to Houston Dinner & Auction. Thank you to the entire congregation for your never ending support of the youth programs at St. Mark's!

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Katie Kadlec, Sunday School Director

Sunday School kicked off in September with Rally Day on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Classes were available for all children ages 3 to 6th grade in the Parish House. A new curriculum called **Godly Play** was used for the first time this year. **Godly Play** uses a Montessori approach that helps children explore their faith through bible stories, gain religious language, and enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Weekly music was led at the end of each class time by Ann Benson, Director of Children's Arts.

Other events included the annual **Lutherfest!** on October 29th. The kids learned about Martin Luther, played pinned the beard on Martin Luther, had pictures taken while pretending to nail the 90 thesis to a church door, received books about Martin Luther, and did arts/crafts. There was also a **Pentecost** party on May 27th. The kids learned about the importance of Pentecost and enjoyed "red" snacks while doing crafts related to Pentecost.

Thank you to our 2017-2018 Sunday School teachers:

- **Ann and Kevin Benson**
- **Charlotte Mahar**
- **Jill Manion**
- **Kate Bassett**

The annual **Advent Breakfast** was held on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you to Wendy Fitzgerald and Debbie Olson for spearheading this event! This year's breakfast was a joyful opportunity for young and old to celebrate Advent together.

Under the direction of Ann Benson, a **Christmas pageant** was presented by the Sunday School children on December 10<sup>th</sup>, between seatings of the St. Mark's Smorgasbord. Nearly 100 children helped to tell the story of Christ's birth. Thank you to Heather Brown and Dan Keberle for playing in the "pit orchestra" and adding a layer of artistry to the pageant's music. The work of Katie Kadlec, the Sunday School teachers, and many other volunteer helpers was also much appreciated.

ALLELUIA CHOIR – Ann Benson, choir director

**Alleluia Choir** is an opportunity for children in grades 1-6 to sing in an organized musical ensemble and present the music they have learned to the congregation in various worship settings. Up to 30 children meet on Sundays in the choir room during the early service. Thank you to Heather Brown for volunteering her time to accompany the choir.

ST. MARK'S CHOIR CAMP – led by Ann Benson

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual **St. Mark's Choir Camp** was held August 15-17, 2017. Thirty-nine children participated in the camp that is open to all children entering 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade. Camp activities included amazing marimba class taught by our own accompanist, Heather Brown, a gigantic slime fountain created by the campers out of recyclables under the leadership of special guest artist Kayleen Campbell, a fully staged Broadway-style production of "Be Our Guest" from *Beauty and the Beast* with choreography from the youth counselors as well as guest artist Lauren Bray, as well as an awesome large-group game in Manito Park, "Color Wars," designed and run by the outstanding game master himself, Calvin Moore. Thank you, especially, to Katie Kadlec for serving as operations director for the camp.

LUTHER ARTS – led by Ann Benson

For 8 weeks in the fall, about 20 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders gathered at the church on Wednesday night to share a meal and explore ideas about the Bible, the faith and the church through arts media. The theme this year was *Church Trek* and, in addition to exploring how our faith is reflected in our own sanctuary, we also went on a tour of St. John's Cathedral. Thank you to Ann Mires for taking on the coordinator responsibilities for **Luther Arts**.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Katie Kadlec, VBS coordinator

St. Mark's hosted **Vacation Bible School** June 19-23, 2017. Nearly 100 children, age 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, participated in this fun-filled week themed, *Masterpiece*. This year we tried something new and contracted with Lutherhaven Ministries to conduct VBS for us. Three Lutherhaven counselors stayed in the Parish House for the week. Each day there was much laughter, singing, praying, and crafting. Thursday was "water day!" The counselors played water games in the parking lot while the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders went to Splashdown. Thank you to the many volunteers, youth and adults, who made this week happen!

VBS 2018 starts June 18<sup>th</sup>!

## FAMILY EVENTS AT ST. MARK'S

There were many opportunities for families to participate in the life of the church, the Spokane community, and the world through family events at St. Mark's. Events included:

- **Gods' Work our Hands** Sunday - September 10<sup>th</sup>. This year we worked under the guidance of Spokane Riverkeepers.
- **Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack** - September 30<sup>th</sup>
- **Turkey Treating** (Thanksgiving baskets for S.P.E.A.R. families) – the month of November
- **Family Sort Night & Bite 2 Go at Second Harvest** - October 23<sup>rd</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, February 8<sup>th</sup>
- **Christmas Giving Tree** gifts for LCS foster kids and S.P.E.A.R. kids – the month of December

Social outings also brought St. Mark's members together for fellowship and fun.

- Summer Movie nights on the Parish House Lawn
- Spokane Indians game

## FAMILY FORUM

Family Forum was derived from the desire to provide adult programming on Sunday morning for parents and family members of children of all ages. The topics presented at Family Forum are intended to enlighten us, strengthen our faith, and provide tools with which we can talk about faith at home.

Family Forum speakers included:

- Susan Hagen – Faith 5 Refresh
- Katie Patterson-Larson – Art Salvage
- Cathy McMeekan & Pat Shelley – College Prep
- Shawn Van Gordon & Tim Kadlec – Money Management for Families
- Jane Joseph, RD – Mindful Eating

During the winter, Adult and Family Forums were combined and covered the topic of Anxiety. In order to help us understand the disease state, its implications in young & old alike, and some strategies for dealing with anxiety, experts in the field presented from their unique perspective including:

- Pastor Eric Dull
- Pat Gunderson, Psychologist, Eastern State Hospital
- Sandra Gormon-Brown, MSW, LICSW, Grassroots Therapy Group
- Bob Maixner, MD, Pediatrician, Providence Pediatric Associates
- Pat Shelley, Counselor, University High School

# **PARISH LIFE REPORT**

## **Submitted by Pat Sowder, Parish Administrator**

St. Mark's members participate in the life of our congregation in many ways. In addition to worship, members can be a part of the many groups that meet throughout the year. Listed below are groups that met during 2017-2017 along with a contact person who can provide more information about the activities of these groups. More detailed information can also be found in the Messenger and on St. Mark's website.

The Social Ministry Committee (Pat Manz and Patti Berg) coordinates St. Mark's involvement in the following programs:

- Sunday Neighborhood Lunch Program at St. Ann's (Donna Evenson)
- All Saint's Lutheran Soup Supper (Steve Nash)
- Crosswalk (Sue Luppert)
- SPEAR (Donna Huck)
- Shalom Ministries and Dining with Dignity (Deidre Jacobson)
- Bite 2 Go and Second Harvest Food Bank (Patti Berg)

The mission of the following service groups is to provide support for the church and our members:

- Altar Guild (Randy Darst)
- Mary Cares (Sande Paulson)
- Memorial Reception Committee (Sue Luppert)
- Newsletter Assembly Crew (Diana Pickering and Marilyn Walli)
- Diakonia Guild (Ruth Schmidt)

Finally, there are many groups whose purpose is to provide fellowship and educational opportunities:

- Sunrise Saints and Sinners (Roger Chase)
- Ruth Circle (Martha Harvie)
- Eat, Pray, Laugh (Pastor Kate)
- Scripture & Coffee (Pastor Eric and Pastor Kate)
- Theology on Tap (Pastor Eric)
- Empty Nesters (Susan Hagen)
- Walking Circle (Martha Harvie)
- Book Group (Pat Sowder)

As you can see, St. Mark's offers many opportunities for you to be involved in the life of our congregation. In addition to these formal groups, many individuals participate in other ways in congregational life. Thank you to all who help St. Mark's be a special place.

# **FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Submitted by Loris Stupel, Financial Secretary**

## **2017 General Fund Results**

2017 was a solid year at St. Mark's as far as giving goes. As is often the case, December started with a sizeable deficit, this year it was over \$56,000, which has been our largest deficit to date. However; to make up for that, our caring and responsive congregation gave a total of \$159,495 that same month, a record for any month in the 71 years our church has been around. We ended up the year at a contribution level of \$784,000, an increase of 6.2% from the 2016 giving. We ended up with a significant overage at year-end which we put towards the start of a fund to upgrade our old, well used van, to a new 15 seat passenger bus that will serve us for years to come.

## **2017 Mortgage Fund Results**

The Mortgage Fund, which is used to pay our monthly mortgage payment, ended up with almost a \$26,000 cushion, which is several months of budgeted giving for that account. This year, the church council chose to use most of these additional funds to completely pay off the parking lot expansion project.

## **2018 Stewardship Drive**

We continued with the Reformation theme highlighting the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this transformative time in our history. "Give Boldly" was a play on Martin Luther's phrase "Sin Boldly." St. Mark's congregation came through with 49 households increasing their pledges by filling out a pledge card to state that they would like to give a combined amount of almost \$32,000 more in contributions than in the prior year. As is always the case, life changes resulted in several families that needed to decrease or discontinue what they contribute to St. Mark's. Several folks signed up for Simply Giving, the simple, automatic giving system that helps with consistent, year round giving, which is very helpful for St. Mark's when working with budgets. Thirteen families turned in a pledge card that hadn't in the past, committing to contributing \$ 18,800 for the 2018 year. It is important to remember that some of these families might have been giving regularly, but didn't make the effort to fill out a pledge card until now. We appreciate the many ways congregants give at St. Mark's; of their time, talents and treasure.



# **MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS AND RECORDS 2017**

**Submitted by Jane Somers, Parish Secretary**

## **Total Membership**

Total as of January 1, 2016 = **1558**

New Members received in 2017 = **38**

Removed from records in 2017 = **187**

- Transfer = **12**
- Death = **10**
- Statistical Adjustment = **165**
- Total = **187**

Membership, end of 2016 = **1558**

Membership, end of 2017 = **1409**

Members Confirmed in 2017 = **11**

Average Sunday Worship Attendance for 2016 = **392**

Average Sunday Worship Attendance for 2017 = **369**

## **Marriages**

Brenda Blake & Eric Biddle

Naomi Dull and Travis Widmer

Michael Huffington and Jennifer Bauder

Chris Larson & Katherine Henze

Sabrina Meyer-Quiroz & Augie Hernandez

## **Funerals and Memorial Services**

Alma Charlotte Louise Cleveland

Jud Heathcote

Roy Jeremiah

Anita Pirello

Verne (Smitty) Smith

Albert Goetzing

George Jacobson

Robert Munn

Jeanne Ratliff

Marie Sowder

## **Births**

Emrie Gingras

Daphne Huri

Pennell Ann Tribbett

## **Baptisms**

Chloe Beck

Emrie Gingras

Daphne Huri

Logan Maguire

Boone Thomas Tribbett

Keith Beck

Olivia Graham

Ephraim Huri

Rhys Halvor Rowand

Pennell Tribbett

Samuel Martin Gering

Rowan Graham

Fionnuala Rosemary Libertini

Willis Clifford Smith

Fredrick Willis VanHeuvelen

# ST. MARK'S CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>President:</b>	Bruce Nelson	443-1242
<b>Vice President:</b>	Barb Belstad	245-3730
<b>Secretary:</b>	Tammy Walker	533-9401
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Gunnar Evenson	434-4930 (Appointed by Council)

Eric Dull	570-8386	Rachel Manz	475-1286
Kate LePard	208-457-9533	Cynthia Moore	838-8202
Rich Bailey	484-6214	Jim Nelson	535-3802
Wendy Fitzgerald	822-7069	Shawn Van Gordon	835-5202
Liz Grosen	939-4568	Dave Tanner	747-1453

# ST. MARK'S STAFF

**Pastors: Eric Dull, Kate LePard**

Director of Youth and Family Ministries:	Susan Hagen
Parish Secretary:	Jane Somers
Parish Administrator:	Pat Sowder
Parish Life Coordinator	Loris Stupel
Volunteer Coordinator	Debbie Olson
Pastoral Assistant/Visitation:	Donna Nelson
Youth Program Leader:	Calvin Moore
Youth Leader:	Kai Block
Youth Leader	Naomi Widmer
Director of Music/Organ:	Carol Miyamoto
Director of Music/Choir:	Deborah Hansen
Director of Children's Arts:	Ann Benson
Sunday School Director:	Katie Kadlec
Sexton:	Gib Dominguez
Wedding Coordinator:	Nancy Collins