



fall 2014

weird animals vbs || 4
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devoted

seek. strengthen. send.



God made us to be in relationships - a primary relationship with Him as well as in relationships with others.

We are in a relationship crisis. We eagerly post and read items from our “relationships” with friends and followers, but know that these are mostly faux ones with little depth. We read about what our “friends” are doing without really knowing more about them. We can “like” a picture or update with any real investment into the joys and heartaches in their lives.

It’s the equivalent of the time-honored tradition of asking someone we pass, “how are you?” “Fine. You?” “Fine, thanks.” There is no real question being asked or answered with no true desire to understand the person and no expectation that either person will answer truthfully.

These are not the kind of relationships we are made for. We are made for deep, loving, probing relationships. Ones that go beyond the “likes” and “fines”. Ones that get to the heart of people. Ones that get to a true and sincere love.

Those take time, energy, and a change in our hearts and actions! It means being intentional about investing time, emotion, and energy into others; just as Jesus does with us!

I want to build a relationship with you! Yes, you - the one reading this right now!

I can’t promise that I will be your best friend or that our relationship will be the best, but I will promise to set aside time to be with you, talk with you, laugh with you, cry with you, and pray with you. I promise to pray for you and with you. I promise to work to be someone in an ongoing and positive relationship with you.

Don’t believe me? Let’s try it! My cell number is 713 965 6761 and my email address is sheitshusen@stmarkhouston.org. Give me a ring or stop by and visit.

Let’s build something special because we build it - together - in Christ!

In joy for you,

Pastor Scott

Staff

Scott Heitshusen	713 255 3611	Senior Pastor
Timothy Duerr	713 255 3679	Associate Pastor of Care and Assimilation
Andy Roettjer	713 255 3636	Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults
Susan Converse	713 255 3634	Director of Operations
Bob Burgess	713 255 3612	Principal
Sheryl Seybold	713 255 3632	Early Childhood Education Director
John Marrs	713 255 3616	Director of Music Ministry
Julie Burgess	713 255 3617	Director of Discipleship
Julie Hardin	713 255 3631	Associate Director of Finance
Susan DePue	713 255 3610	Office Manager
Suzanne Thompson	713 255 3619	School Office

devoted

FALL 2014
VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1

FALL FESTIVAL

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24
5-9 PM AT ST. MARK**



**Bring the whole family
and join us for an evening of food,
live music and games galore!**



Our theme for Vacation Bible School this year was *Weird Animals*. We experienced God's Word in surprising and unforgettable ways.

Weird Animals was a huge success! We shared the stories of Jesus and His love for us to more than 200 kids. We had 48 volunteers and 12 Summer Camp Staff leading and building relationships with these kids and with each other. Thank you for your prayers, support and constant faithfulness to reach out to *all* people with the message of Jesus' love.

All week long, the St. Mark campus was busy with kids learning more about how Jesus' love is one-of-a-kind! Part of our mission was Operation Kid-to-Kid which helps bring clean water to kids in India. Our VBS donations for Operation Kid-to-Kid were \$276.59!



Jim Hendricks Piano Concert and Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 24 || 2 pm || Sanctuary

A free-will offering to support Mr. Hendricks' ministry will be collected.

Following the concert, join us in the Cafeteria for our third annual **Second Family Ministry Ice Cream Social**.

This social is for all members ages 55+ (and their families).

We'll provide the ice cream and all the fixin's!

Come with an appetite for ice cream and enjoy some fun and fellowship as we cool off during the dog-days of summer.

Please RSVP for yourself and any family members who would like to attend by contacting the Church Office, reservations@stmarkhouston.org or 713 468 2623.

BEYOND THE BLEACHERS

IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME.

The Texans had the number one pick...but only at the cost of being the worst team in the league. While the past has been hard, the future looks bright with young prospects and hopeful stars.

The Church in America is in a similar position, but with an eternal championship on the line.

What will it take for you to go beyond the bleachers and get in the game?

NEW SERIES BEGINS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

adult studies - AS OF 7/14

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES AT 9:45 am

Women's Bible Study

Cheryl Dinwoodie - 713 463 9550

Location: Room 151

Biblical Principles from the Old Testament

Ginny Zuppann - 281 752 9869

Location: CAFÉ C

Growing Gracefully

Pastor John Freed - 713 462 7597

Location: Room 220

Serendipity Study

Pete Peters - 713 468 1727

Location: Room 225

An Intimate Walk Through the Bible

Dennis Rochow - 713 569 8670

Location: Room 221

I Have Good News for You! (begins 9/7/2014)

New member class required for membership.

Willis Schramper - 713 895 0285

Location: Conference Room 155

Books of the Bible

Charles McDaniel - 713 996 1115

Location: M-01

The Truth Project

Pastor Scott Heitshusen

Location: Room 224

The Book of Esther

FUSION Bible Class for young adults.

Jacquelyn Reuther - jacquelyn.n.reuther@uth.tmc.edu

Location: M-51

MIDWEEK CLASSES

Women's Daytime Study

Join other women for a time of fellowship and Bible study. It's a great way to be refreshed in the midst of a busy life.

Katie Tonn - 713 461 4615 / Julie Burgess - 713 255 3617

Tuesdays at 9:30 am; Conference Room 161

Thursdays at 8:30 am; Conference Room 161

P.U.B. - (Personal Understanding of the Bible)

This is a men's only group, studying how to be a man of God.

Pastor Tim Duerr - tduerr@stmarkhouston.org

3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm; Live Oak Bar & Grill

Men's Early Study

This men's study explores the issues men face living their faith, using books by current Christian writers as basis for discussion.

Duane Heckman - 713 461 2748

Wednesdays at 6:30 am; Conference Room 155

Pastor's Bible Study

This group is open to anyone and is led by a Pastor.

Pastor Scott Heitshusen - sheitshusen@stmarkhouston.org

Thursdays at 6:30 pm; Conference Room 161

Small Groups - stmarkhouston.org/smallgroups

Small groups meet once a week (or once a month) on the same day and time for about an hour. A typical group has 8-10 people who spend time sharing, studying the Bible and praying together. If you would like to join a group, contact Julie Burgess at 713 255 3617 or jburgess@stmarkhouston.org.

social groups

St. Mark Conservatory of Music

Private music lessons are available to all students of music.

John Marrs - jmarrs@stmarkhouston.org

Prayer Chain

Individuals are organized into evening or daytime teams for passing on prayer needs of those who request them.

Katie Tonn - ktonn@sbcglobal.net

Prayer Time at the Altar

Join in prayer with others at the Altar.

Fridays at 6 am; Sanctuary

Fred Tonn - ktonn@sbcglobal.net

42 Club

Open to anyone who enjoys a fun game of Dominoes.

2nd Friday of each month at 7 pm; Scout House

Gloria & Erwin Eschenberger - 713 465 8273

Phase III

Women 50+ and widows meet for fellowship and support. Bring a sack lunch. Drinks and dessert are furnished.

3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:30 am; Conference Room 161

S.P.I.C.E.

Seniors Participating In a Caring Environment - all senior citizens are invited to join! Bring your own sack lunch.

1st Thursday of each month at 10 am; Scout House
Glenda Lehmann - 832 370 7746

Healing Prayer

Come for prayer, and a team of people will pray for you.

Sundays at 5 pm; Sanctuary
Katie Tonn - ktonn@sbcglobal.net

Moms in Prayer

Join with other moms for a time of prayer.

Julie Burgess - jburgess@stmarkhouston.org
2nd & 4th Friday from 8-9 am; Conference Room 155

Quilting Club

Join us as we make quilts to benefit different organizations.

Thursday mornings from 9 am - 1 pm; Room 221
Elinor Fischer - 281 469 1067

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)

This women's group meets for prayer, Bible study, socializing, and planning future projects to support missions.

» *Circle of Concern* meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 9:30 am in Conference Room 161
Myrtle Emery - 713 468 4764

» *Evening Circle* meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 pm in Conference Room 161
Amy Kyle - amy@kyle2003.com

Seekers

Join in fellowship with other St. Mark single members over 40.

1st Saturday : games & dinner; 6 pm at Teeba Cafe
3rd Sunday : brunch after 11 am worship
Pete Peters - mpete37561@aol.com

Second Sunday Supper

Join us for a meal and music with your family in Christ.

2nd Sunday of each month at 6 pm; Cafeteria
Anna Helmich - 713 464 6487

service groups/opportunities***Altar Guild***

Barb Mannlein - 713 688 7734

Bereavement Meals

Church Office - info@stmarkhouston.org

Children's Ministry

Scott Heitshusen - sheitshusen@stmarkhouston.org

Choir/Instrumentalists/Worship Teams

John Marrs - jmarrs@stmarkhouston.org

Church Readiness Team

Church Office - info@stmarkhouston.org

Counting Team

Susan DePue - sdepue@stmarkhouston.org

First Impressions Greeting Team

Chris & Gail Williamson - cwilliamson@breitburn.com

Food Pantry

Katie Tonn - ktonn@sbcglobal.net

Gift Shop

Nancy Graham - 713 255 3616

Lunch Bunch

Cafeteria - cafe@stmarkhouston.org

Nursing Home Ministry

Pastor Duerr - tduerr@stmarkhouston.org

Office Help

Church Office - soconnor@stmarkhouston.org
School Office - sthompson@stmarkhouston.org

Peanut Butter Brigade

Stephen Monsen - texolina@hotmail.com

Second Family Care Team

Rita Schaller - ritaschaller@sbcglobal.net

Stephen Ministry

Sharon Lem - lem@pdq.net

Tech Team

Susan O'Connor - soconnor@stmarkhouston.org

Ushers

Steve Wible - s_wible@earthlink.net

Whole Person Health

Mary Marrs - mjmarrs@yahoo.com

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Pastor Andy - aroettjer@stmarkhouston.org

children's ministry

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES AT 9:45 am

FaithWeavers

(3 YEARS - 6TH GRADE)

Children ages 3 years - 2nd grade meet in our Large Group area (RM III) for a time of praise and great Bible teaching. Kids will meet in Small Groups after the Large Group time. Small Groups will meet following the group time. Registration for this ministry is required. Visit stmarkhouston.org/sundayschool to register.

Small Group areas: 3 years : RM 109 1st/2nd grade: RM 108
 4 years : RM 105 3rd/4th grade: RM 110
 Kinder: RM 104 5th/6th grade: Library

Caraway Street

(3 YEARS - 4TH GRADE)

Caraway Street is an event that connects children to Christ through puppets. Children are escorted from the sanctuary at a special time during the regular Sunday service.

2nd & 4th Sundays at 8:30 & 11 am (September - May)
 Location: Conference Room 161

junior high ministry (ignite)

(7TH - 8TH GRADE)

Confirmation - 8:30 am

Students explore the awesomeness of God and the mysteries of faith, personally confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and identify themselves as members of St. Mark and a special part of the body of Christ.

Pastor Andy

Junior High Bible Study - 9:45 am

Junior high students will dig in and study the Bible together.

high school ministry (sm2)

(9TH - 12TH GRADE)

SM2 Bible Study - 9:45 am

High School students will grow in faith, their personal relationship with Christ and who they are as God's people. It is also a place where they know they are accepted, can ask hard questions, and find answers about faith and life in order to serve in meaningful ways in the church and in the world! Come early to hang out and shoot pool before the lesson.

Pastor Andy with Cory Thorson and Kaeli Bauer
 Location: SM² Room (M-91)



Sunday School Registration

Please register your child(ren) at stmarkhouston.org/sundayschool
Sunday School classes begin September 7

Sunday School Teachers

We are looking for adults/youth to be teachers, assistants, and greeters.
 Volunteer and make a difference!
 Contact Julie Burgess to learn more about these opportunities.
jburgess@stmarkhouston.org or 713 255 3617



SM2 Fall Lock-In
October 17 -18
at St. Mark

Invite your friends and get away for a night of fun and games with SM2!



St. Mark's eight week "Animal Planet" summer camp had over 100 children from preschool through fifth grade in attendance. Each week, the children were introduced to a new category of animals and every day a different animal was thoroughly discussed. They participated in several field trips including the Houston Zoo, Sky High Sports, the Downtown Aquarium, and many more! They attended chapel every Wednesday where they were involved in praise and worship and even lead the service on several occasions. We were blessed to see so many smiling faces every day and look forward to seeing many more this school year!



monument valley, utah || daniel villagomez



I'm riding in a white Honda Pilot, hoping that Monument Valley, Utah is really as good as the pictures. "I at least hope that we stay in a semi-desert terrain," I thought as we pass through Dallas, about 5 chapters into an audio book playing in the car's audio system. Inching into Armadillo, I take a picture of every mountain we pass in awe of their vastness and... well, I can't really describe it; that's why I took pictures. We moved through northern Arizona and eventually into Monument Valley. I began testing the multiple theories of how such distinct monuments and plateaus - still looking fake even as we drove on some and within yards of others - could be formed, wondering if they were here from the beginning, if glaciers could form them like scientists say, or if it was the Great Flood. Then I took loads more pictures, waiting to see Clint Eastwood, an Indian in wool clothing, Forrest Gump... anything!



Before

Judging from my introduction, one may say that I have crowned this trip the best mission trip. This would be true. Though I only have two mission trips to choose from, I'm certain this was the best one. It wasn't all about the scenery, though. It was almost surreal having to leave my crew and roommates that I had only known for a week, yet, couldn't let go. They were like my elementary school friends already! So, right as I got home, I made a Facebook and gave those people a nice cozy spot in my "close friends" area.



After

I was also blessed to be the devotion leader of my crew and lead the "Jesus time", as if the whole week weren't "Jesus time". That led me to discover some very interesting variants of Christianity along with interesting stories, mainly of our residents, how people had come to Christ, many against the current Indian traditions. In addition, let it be known that, with God on our side, two (then eventually three) crews of 4-5 people finished replacing about a third of the siding on our resident's house, primed it, painted it, laid down a full set of roofing, built a deck and ramp and replaced a drainage pipe... all with a late start. Three cheers for the Trinity!

new faces of st. mark



**melanie
bellinger**

KINDERGARTEN



**keyah
king**

**ASST. DIRECTOR
LICENSED PROGRAMS**



**courtney
nordyke**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
SCIENCE**



**brenda
palacios**

TINY TOTS

stephen ministry || sharon lem

Calling all Stephen Ministers (past and present)! In Spring 2015, St Mark will be celebrating 25 years of Stephen Ministry. We will re-commission our current Stephen Ministers on Sunday, September 14 and want to recognize all current or former Stephen Ministers for serving and sharing the love of Christ with others in our congregation on the same day.

Interested in becoming a Stephen Minister? Potential Stephen Ministers will meet weekly on Tuesday nights this Fall to be trained in the art of listening, mentoring, caring and praying with those who are hurting. If you would like more information, our annual "Taste of Stephen Ministry" informational session will take place on Tuesday, September 23 at 7 pm. For more information, contact our Stephen Ministry Coordinator Sharon Lem, lem@pdq.net.

senior ministry || pastor duerr

Senior Ministry Workshop

People of all ages are invited to join us on Saturday, August 16 from 9 am - 2 pm at St. Mark for a special Senior Ministry Workshop (not Care Ministry) featuring Rev. Ken Holdorf from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Carrollton, Texas. Rev. Holdorf is a member of the Board of Directors for ALOA (Association of Lutheran Older Adults). Our goal is to provide more opportunities for older adults to get connected socially with others at St. Mark. The cost of this special conference is \$8. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by emailing Pastor Duerr, tduerr@stmarkhouston.org or call 713 255 3679!

COMPASSION MINISTRY



Caregiver Information Assistance

Are you a caregiver who needs encouragement as you meet the needs of an aging parent or friend? Or, are you coming upon your own golden years and looking for helpful information to navigate your way through the difficulties that come with aging? If so, Pastor Duerr has a wealth of information, including which nursing homes he would feel comfortable sending his own parents to, books with facts and contact information for services in our area, referrals to Christian counselors and Stephen Ministers, and free monthly telephone seminars and local events. For more information, contact Pastor Duerr at 713 906 1627 or tduerr@stmarkhouston.org.

Welcome to St. Mark Lutheran!

We want you to feel at home with us as we worship, praise and proclaim God's Eternal Love and Joy in Jesus Christ for each one of us! We offer several types of worship services in order for everyone to worship at a service that best fits their needs.

If you are interested in membership at St. Mark or would just like more information, stop by the visitors table in the Narthex on Sunday mornings before or after services or you may contact the church office during the week at 713 468 2623.

Worship Services

SUNDAYS

8:30 am - Traditionally Focused

Using worship that is rooted in our rich heritage of grace, this service is for all who enjoy traditional elements of worship such as liturgy, Lutheran hymns, organ and classic instruments.

11 am - Contemporary Service

Offering a relaxed blend of majestic worship style and contemporary, this service includes praise singers, praise band and instrumentation to accompany praise songs and modern worship music.

WEDNESDAYS

7 pm - This midweek service is designed as a worship/Bible study hour with singing.

For Parents With Young Children

Children's church with the Caraway Street puppets meets during the 8:30 and 11 am worship services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month from September to May. This puppet ministry is an exciting and fresh Bible experience for children ages three through 4th grade. Books, crayons and pictures to color are available on the cart in the Narthex for your young children who are attending the worship service in the sanctuary. There is also a nursery for children under 3 years of age, which is located off the Gathering Area. An usher will be happy to assist you in locating the nursery.

Worship Message on DVD/CD

DVDs & CDs of the worship message may be received by filling out the information on the "Tape Ministry" envelope located in the pew rack and dropping the envelope in the offering plate. DVDs/CDs are duplicated by our volunteers and mailed on Mondays.

Hearing & Visual Assistance

For those with difficulty hearing, we offer a "hearing assistance" system. The individual systems can be obtained from the sound technician at the back of the sanctuary. We also offer large print bulletins for those that might need them.

Prayer Needs

If you have a prayer request, please feel free to come up to the front of the church after the service, where the pastors, elders and prayer partners will gladly pray with you. You may also send your prayer request to prayer@stmarkhouston.org and your prayer will immediately be placed on the prayer chain.

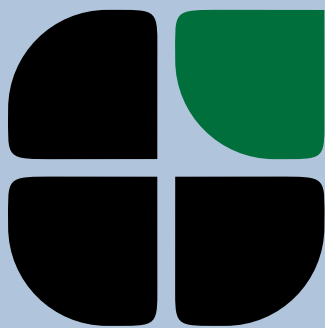
About St. Mark

St. Mark Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community that is dedicated to sharing our love for Jesus Christ by caring for people and equipping them to live out their faith in the world.

We believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior from sin. We believe that the Bible is the foundation of all truth and guide for our lives. Because of God's great love for us, we believe that we best show our love for Him by our response of caring and kindness to others.

Our mission statement is:

In response to God's call, we live to **SEEK, STRENGTHEN AND SEND** fully devoted disciples for Christ.



St. Mark
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

1515 Hillendahl

Houston, Texas 77055

stmarkhouston.org

