



winter 2014

holiday schedule || 3
christmon tree || 5
compassion ministry || 10

devoted

seek. strengthen. send.



As I write this, we are preparing for Reformation Sunday commemorating October 31, 1517, when Dr. Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses for debating on the church door in Wittenberg, German.

By the time you read this, that event will be well over and Thanksgiving and Christmas will be on the minds of all.

Yet, the two are linked.

Dr. Luther desired to see a church reformed – changed for the better by removing errors, abuses, and misunderstandings. He wanted to correct faults that had made their way into the life, teaching, and even doctrine of the church. He wanted to see things restored to what God shared in His holy, inerrant Word.

Advent and Christmas strongly touch upon this as well. God created all things good, yet through the fall in Genesis, errors, abused, misunderstandings, and faults not only found their way into the life and faith of people and, indeed, all of creation. Our loving and gracious Lord couldn't stand for that corruption to continue. He loved His people far too much for that.

So He sent His Son, Jesus, to reform. Reform His people through forgiveness and grace. Reform hatred into love. Reform death into life. Reform falsehoods into truth. Reform mourning into laughter. Re-form the form of creation itself. Reform everything!

This is why Advent and Christmas are so joyous, because when the Creator of all things becomes a part of that creation in the Flesh, it means a reforming of our very nature; our very core; our very relationship with god Himself. Through the coming of Jesus, God has reformed everything!

O come, O come, Immanuel! Reform us in every way. Reform all things in Your way.

Amen!

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

WINTER 2014
VOLUME 5, NUMBER 2



ST. MARK LUTHERAN

Holiday Schedule

Thanksgiving Worship

November 26 7 pm

Kids Advent Event - Family Movie Night

December 3 5-7 pm *Frozen*

Advent Worship - *Unto Us A Child Is Born*

December 3 7 pm *One Great Light*

December 10 7 pm *Wonderful Counselor*

December 17 7 pm *Everlasting Father*

Christmas in the Park

December 14 5:30 - 7:30 pm at Spring Valley Village Park

St. Mark EC-8th Grade - *Christmas Sing-A-Long*

December 20 8:30 am

St. Mark Adult Choir Christmas Concert

December 21 8:30 & 11 am Worship Services

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 4 pm Family Service

December 24 6 pm Contemporary Candlelight Service

December 24 9 pm Traditional Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Worship

December 25 9 am

New Year's Eve Worship

December 31 7 pm

Learn more at stmarkhouston.org/holidays.

YOU'RE INVITED!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

AT ST. MARK

AN ADVENT CELEBRATION FOR KIDS!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3
5 - 7 PM // SML GYM

Bring a blanket
(and a pillow or two!)
and snuggle up to watch *Frozen*
on our giant movie screen!

ADMISSION: FREE

MOVIE // PIZZA // POPCORN

Disney
FROZEN



© 2013 Disney

DAVE RAMSEY'S

FINANCIAL *Peace* UNIVERSITY



This changes
EVERYTHING!

Your money. Your story. Your life.

Learn God's ways of handling money with
Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University*!
The average turnaround is \$8,000 in just
the first three months!

more info

9 Week Class

Mondays
Beginning January 5, 2015
6 - 7:30 pm
at St. Mark

Visit
stmarkhouston.org/fpu
to register.

Contact Julie Burgess,
jburgess@stmarkhouston.org
with any questions.

daveramsey.com/findaclass



On Sunday, October 19, St. Mark FUSION young adult group spent the afternoon serving food to those receiving care at Bo's Place (bosplace.org). Bo's Place is a grief support center in which family members (adults as well as children) who have lost a loved one attend group grief consolation sessions led by trained volunteers. Grief support groups are designed to provide bereaved children, families and adults with a safe place to express their thoughts and feelings in an honest way with others on a similar journey. This process cultivates courage, instills hope and fortifies those in grief so that, even in the midst of sorrow, there is rediscovered joy and renewed hope for the future. Because all support at Bo's Place is free of charge to those who take advantage of it, the pre-group family meals are provided by donation. FUSION has volunteered at Bo's Place twice in the past two years as one of their quarterly service projects.

We were thanked for our support as the director shared that due to their proximity to NRG stadium, and the time of their meals (1 pm), it is generally difficult to find volunteers who are willing to come help. Our contribution was an extra blessing for them!

Interested in serving our community this holiday season? FUSION will be volunteering to help with St. Mark's Operation Christmas Child Relay Center operations in November and are currently assisting a family in need through MD Anderson. We will raise at least \$200 for a family suffering a medical crisis and will be helping them with their medical expenses.

FUSION will also have their annual Christmas Party and Men's Hunting Trip coming up, so watch for more information coming soon! St. Mark young adults are active and making a difference in our church and community.



Monday, November 17

18 hole, 4 person scramble

at



CYPRESSWOOD
Golf Club

21602 Cypresswood Drive - cypresswood.com

7:30 am - Registration

8:30 am - Shotgun Start

Post-Tournament BBQ Lunch,
Drawing & Awards Presentation

2014

Cougar Golf Classic

Learn more and register at gostmark.org/golf

adult studies - AS OF 10/14

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 - 713 201 8475
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 1/11/2015)

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

FUSION Bible Study (young adults ages 25-35)

Jacquelyn Reuther - jacquelyn.n.reuther@uth.tmc.edu
Location: M-51

Family 101 - Back to the Basics

Bob & Juie Burgess
Location: Conference Room 161

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 8:15 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; Gathering Area
Gloria & Erwin Eschenberger - 713 465 8273

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
Sally Canty - 713 856 9676

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
Elinor Fischer - 281 469 1067

» *Evening Circle* meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 pm in Conference Room 161
Peggy Ramer - 281 759 9330

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

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



Save the Date!

Everest VBS 2015

June 15-19

Embark on an icy expedition where kids overcome obstacles with God's awesome power!

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 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)

Born of Great Joy

Christmas Eve Family Service
Wednesday, December 24 at 4 pm

sm2 winter events

- 11.9 Sunday Fun Day**
Paintball
- 12.7 SM2 Christmas Party**
Progressive Dinner
Bring a White Elephant Gift
- 1.11 Sunday Fun-day**
Video Scavenger Hunt
- 1.23-25 SM2 Leadership Retreat**
- 2.8 Sunday Fun-day**
Big Game Party

Join a Huddle!

Sunday School
 9:45 - 10:45 am in the SM² Room

Contact Pastor Andy, aroettjer@stmarkhouston.org, with any questions.



Operation Christmas Child Relay Center

Volunteers Needed!

November 17 - 24

Operation Christmas Child demonstrates God's love to hurting children by delivering gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

St. Mark will be a Relay Center to drop-off their filled shoe boxes.

**NEED: Groups of 5-7 volunteers (5 years - adult; families welcome!)
Help unload donated boxes and pack them for shipment.**

Contact Julie Burgess, jburgess@stmarkhouston.org or 713 255 3617 to sign up!



Garden Getaway

Where women walk with God

St. Mark Women's Retreat
January 24-25, 2015
Jordan Ranch in Schulenburg, Texas

Cost \$150

(includes one night lodging,
3 meals and retreat materials)

"There is a time and season for everything," said the writer of Ecclesiastes. The Garden Getaway retreat teaches us about God's timing in our lives.

All women are welcome! Invite your friends for a weekend away.

Registration forms are available at the Welcome Desk.

Questions?

Contact Cheryl Dinwoodie: 713 463 9550
or email her at cadinwoodie@aol.com.

*Let me hear of your unfailing love each morning,
for I am trusting You. Show me where to walk,
for I give myself to You.
Psalm 143:8*

new to the st. mark family!

Michael and Stephanie Alonso
Madelyn & Sara

Gabriel Alvarado

Micheal Anderson

Alma Byerly

Dorothy & Laura

Ben and Kari Cromeens

Dusty and Amy Drosche
Braeden, Jackson, & Stella

Dust Hanna

Jamie and Josephine Harper

Mike and Carol Henke

Dallas and Sarah Lusk

Noah & Sophia

Ana Maria Mena

Audrey Meisner

Lynn Mueller

Enrique and Candice Navas

Zack and Lounell Pennington

Henry Reed

Terry and Dana Roby

Carol Santiago
Evan

Victoria Skipper

Jim and Kathy Symmank

Emily Terrazas

Stacey Van Camp

Angelica Young

COMPASSION MINISTRY



THIS SEPTEMBER, ST. MARK SECOND FAMILY CARE TEAM, WITH INTERFAITH CARE PARTNERS, CELEBRATED THEIR 3RD ANNIVERSARY.

We have accomplished many things over the past 3 years, but we have realized the initial goals, targets and purpose of the Second Family Care Team were not being effectively met. St. Mark and the staff of Interfaith Care Partners have made the difficult decision to bring the official work of the Second Family Care Team to a close.

Though we will not be creating long-term care circles, we will continue many tasks of the Second Family Care Team, including:

1. Connecting elders who will visit all home-bound members monthly with communion
2. visiting home-bound and hospitalized members
3. sending birthday cards signed by the church staff to all 70+ aged members
4. quarterly fellowship events (Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Summer Ice Cream Social and Christmas Caroling).
5. providing short-term care circles for members who are returning home from the hospital or who have had a baby

THERE ARE ALSO THREE NEW AND EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED IN MINISTERING TO ONE ANOTHER AT ST. MARK:

1. CARE CIRCLE AMBASSADORS

When St. Mark has more than 2 people needing meals after a hospital stay, I am not able to provide the type of friendly, courteous, hospitable or personal care that St. Mark is known for to them all. There are simply too many people to keep up with on my own, so I'm seeking your help! This volunteer needs access to a computer to set up a Care Calendar and will follow up with assigned members to find out what their needs are and help provide those meal needs. (Approximately 2 hours/month)

2. MEAL CALENDAR CARE CIRCLE MEMBERS

These volunteers will provide meals and deliver them to members when they return home from the hospital. This will require use of a computer to check Care Calendars, and the ability to cook/bake/purchase meals. (Approximately 2 hours/month)

3. SERVING ON THE FELLOWSHIP EVENT PLANNING TEAM

We need folks to help Rita Schaller as she plans and organizes our quarterly fellowship events. Volunteers will assist with cooking, writing articles for the Happening to advertise events, calling and inviting members to attend and writing brief articles to celebrate events in *devoted*. (Approximately 2 hours/month)

Finally, thanks to the work of Rev. Ken Holdorf at our Senior Ministry Workshop in August, there is a Senior Ministry Task-Force surveying the needs of our St. Mark Senior community. I am looking forward to seeing the opportunities this group will provide for our seniors to fellowship, care for and minister to one another, reach out and lead others to Jesus.

Godspeed. *Pastor Duerr*

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 Visitor Center as you exit the Sanctuary 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 Sunday 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.

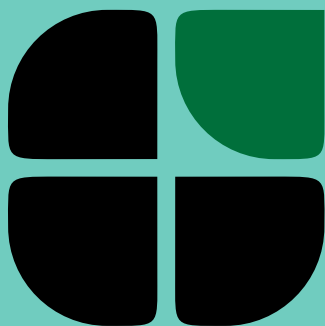
About St. Mark

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