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# ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

## VOLUME 24 ISSUE 9 • SEPTEMBER 2020

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### WHAT'S NEXT??

On August 11, St. Mark's heard the Church Doctor Report. Like many doctors, we heard how we can improve the health of our church. Like most patients, we listen and act upon the recommendations. It is up to us on how we want to respond.

So, what is next? First, we would encourage you to read the 71 page report and pay special attention to the recommendations along with the many positives that were reported. Secondly, you may want to prioritize the recommendations some are easy and some require more time and money. Thirdly, we would like for you to consider being part of the Action Team whether it be on the main team or part of a sub-committee.

Yes, we can do it! St. Mark's is at a critical junction in our church history. However, we have been given a road map for our future mission and vision. Like many road maps, we can choose to look at the map or drive aimlessly on the road that we think may be the route to our future.

Why not look at the map? We have spent time with surveys and interviews; we trusted and engaged with Church Doctor to present a plan for the future. It makes sense to invest in reading the road map and plotting our destinations for the next 5 to 10 years. This journey is not over, in fact, Church Doctor will help steer us in the right direction. In fact, we are expected to submit an Action Plan to Church Doctor for their review and response.

Yes, we have a lot of questions and concerns. How can we continue without a Pastor? How can we grow? Can we practice the "Great Commission"? How can our Early Learners school be part of our Outreach mission? Do we have the income to support our mission and ministry?

Yes, we can do it! Together, we can follow the road map by boarding the bus, looking in the same direction, providing the energy by asking for God's help. Remember God willing .... The wheels on the bus go round and round to our future destinations. All aboard!

Answer Key:

Church Doctor Diagnostic Consultation Report - Hard copies can be checked out from Church Office or we can send you a PDF file electronically. Contact Kathy Fribley.

Key Strategic Recommendations: (p. 71)

1. Focus on the Future
2. Develop the school as an engine for Outreach.
3. Make your facilities more guest-friendly.
4. Equip members to be disciples.
5. Develop an off-campus informal worship service satellite
6. Pray for God's direction for the selection of your next pastor, a pastor who resonates with the recommendations with this Consultation report.

## Dates

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### September Birthdays

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5 — Norma Yoder  
10 — Kristen Konieczki  
11 — Linda Wolff  
15 — Nila Muzzillo

### September Birthdays

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17 — Weston Hillabrand  
19 — Linda Wolf  
23 — Jill Kaduk  
26 — Sue Brown  
27 — Tony Konieczki

### September Anniversaries

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21 — Greg & Linda Wolf

## Prayer Requests

**Grief:** Ella McClellan

### **Church Members**

Joyce Springer, Bill Hathaway, Jon Hillabrand, Peter Jungk, Kathleen Lutz, our missionary in Kenya

### **Friends of St. Mark's**

Karen (has bone cancer, friend of Diann Hines), Jan Wacker (her Great-Granddaughter), Vince Konieczki (Tony Konieczki's brother), Pastor Kraus & JoAnn, Tim Smith (John Martin Smith's son), Brent McCollough (Len McCollough's son), St. Albans Episcopal Church, Norman Willoughby (friend of John Foell), Paul Marlow (community member)

### **Shut-ins and Homebound Members**

Ruby Tuttle, Mary Lu Kain, Joanne Ruger, Richard Bowerman, Maxine Mason, Jean Yoder, Noel Flannigan

*\*Prayer Requests will be kept on this list for two months, unless otherwise requested. If you would like to add a new request or update us on the status of a person currently on the list, please contact Kathy Fribley in the office.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Sermon Series

### Live Life Better

9/6 James 5- Warnings of Wealth

### Discipleship Training Camp: 6 weeks

9/13- **"Discipleship Basics"** Jon (Matthew 28:16-20)

9/20- **Faith in Action-** Jon (John 20:19-23)

9/27- **"Confession: forgiveness and healing"** Dan Bellinger (James 5:13-16)

10/4- **"Daily Bible"**- Jon (2 Timothy 3:10-17)

10/11- **"Praying for others"**-(Colossians 4:2-6)- Dan Bellinger

10/18- **Prayer: "Listening, speaking and responding to God"**: Jon (Mark 1:35-39)

10/25- **"Everyday Worship"**- Jon (Mark 12:28-34)

11/1- **"Living life of Mission"**- Jon (Romans 10:9-15)

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## Book Study

During this Covid-19 time we have been able to gather as believers of St. Mark's to pray together and study God's word on zoom! We meet at 1:00pm on Mondays. If you would like to join in please let Diann Hines know and she will send you the zoom link. Currently we are reading and discussing the book Restoring Civility by Kent Hunter. We have also been discussing the sermons and applying them to our daily lives. This has been a source of inspiration and comfort during these times. All are invited!

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## Faith In Action – September 20th

St. Mark's will be joining other community congregations as we participate with Faith in Action. Most of the projects will be outside with a few inside. Participants are expected to wear masks and socially distance. Mary and Ken Heyse will be co-chairing this event.

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**Reminder:** Please have any announcements for the newsletter to Kathy by September 25th for the October newsletter.

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## Offering/Gifting

St. Mark's expenses continue with salaries, utilities, insurance, and other costs. We hope you are still able to gift whether by check or electronically through our webpage site ([www.stmarksauburn.com](http://www.stmarksauburn.com)). The financial status is being closely monitored. Your gift will be greatly appreciated.

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## Outdoor Beauty of St. Mark's

Please consider helping to keep St. Marks beautiful by mowing the yard, planting flowers, and weeding in gardens east of the building. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

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## Prayer Chapel

Prayer Chapel is currently cancelled until further notice.

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## St. Mark's Facebook

Check out our Facebook page at [stmarksauburn](https://www.facebook.com/stmarksauburn). Check - like, and click - share. Communicate our activities and events to our community.

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## Weekly Bible Studies

### Thursday Morning Bible Study

Bible Study is currently cancelled until further notice.

### Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Bible Study is currently cancelled until further notice.

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## Opportunities to Serve

### *Preschool Volunteers:*

We are looking for individuals willing to volunteer in the preschool as we continue to grow. It does not require a lot of effort and is a great way to minister to our community on your schedule. Contact Linda Vandemark if interested.

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### **Thrivent and St. Mark's**

St. Mark's is asking members if they belong to Thrivent; if you do—St. Mark's could be eligible for \$250 donation from Thrivent for projects such as cookouts, Bible School and church dinners. Please notify Kathy how we can work with Thrivent and you. We appreciate Thrivent's support of church ministries.

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### **Birthday Wishes**

Norma Yoder is celebrating her 90th birthday on Saturday, September 5th. Her family has asked that you send her a card to help celebrate this special birthday. Her address is: Norma Yoder %Lutheran Life Villages, Magnolia Lane, Rm 355, 6701 South Anthony Boulevard, Fort Wayne, IN 46816

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### **Thank You from Kathleen**

Thank you. You and the members of St. Mark's remain in my prayers even more during these pandemic days and throughout the difficult trials facing the USA. As always, I surely appreciate the support and prayers of St. Mark's. Missing you all.

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### **Handmade Paper Making Project**

Handmade paper making project is a great idea to boost the 2 support groups' journey towards their dreams of setting an eco-friendly project the same time put money in their pockets living a habitable environment. The project is sustainable since most of the raw materials like banana fibre, wood, grass, jute, straw, cotton rags, waste paper, etc. are of low cost and easily available at the garbage found at the slums. This handmade paper making project will be a small-scale with moderate investment with good returns to the members and the environment. There is an increasing demand of handmade papers in Kenya as well as abroad. By exporting this paper and its product, the group will make money since these 2 groups have a proper business plan and marketing strategies.

The major benefits of this project are for slum dwellers because they will increase their income. The environment will be clean and habitable free from garbage. It will also have an impact to the economy since it will create employment to the slum people and reduce deforestation and pollution because this project will reduce the number of trees cut down for paper milling.

If anyone wants to contribute to this project, Kathleen would be very grateful. Donations should be sent to World Mission Prayer League, 232 Clifton Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403.

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## Reopening Guidelines

This is what you can expect when we do re-open:

1. We expect you to wear your own mask but disposable masks will be available.
2. Ushers will monitor exterior doors on 9th Street and 10th Street parking lot to minimize door handle contact. Masks will be available outside the church if you should forget your mask. Weather permitting doors will be propped open.
3. On tables outside sanctuary, you can pick up your prepackaged wafer and juice, bulletin, and drop off your offering gift in baskets. Two Sanitizer stations will be setup at entrance to nave.
4. Please enter the nave via the side aisle and avoid the center aisle. We would like to fill from the front to the back of church looking for marked "X" for seating and keeping your social distance. This may vary due to the size of your family. Use your own judgment focusing upon the safety of others. Prior to our worship service beginning try to minimize talking and social contact.
5. When the service begins, we will not sing hymns but listen to Laura's beautiful voice and as she leads us in singing. Laura will sing liturgy with congregation responding at appropriate times.
6. There will be a Children's sermon where children will stand in pews and listen to the message. There will be no offering. A friendly wave or text will replace sharing the peace.
7. The pastor will lead us in Communion, when the time comes to share the bread and wine, we will do this together in our pews and with the pre-packaged wafer and wine.

We will use the kneelers in the pews as we take Communion together.

8. When the service is over, we ask that the right side facing the altar exit first and move out of the nave without socializing in Kraus corner and exit the church. After the right side has left, the left side of the nave will exit following the same practice. Jon or Dan will be outside the nave to greet you keeping their social distance. There will be no Coffee or snacks in Kraus Corner. Weather permitting, we will congregate in the 10<sup>th</sup> Street parking lot with bottles of water, juice boxes and prepackaged snacks available for a grab and go maintaining our social distance for conversation.
9. We would like for you to review prior so you know what to expect. If you are at high risk, we encourage you to worship from home as we will be recording the service for release on You Tube and/or our Facebook page. Thank you for your patience as we begin to experience the "new-normal". Please note that Bibles, Hymnals and With One Voice book will be removed from the pews, so please bring your own. The service will be on the screens.

The cost of the 4 year audit was approximately \$22,000. Church Doctor expenses were approximately \$8,200, half of which was covered through a grant. We received funds from the government's Payroll Protection Plan which is currently considered a loan but might not have to be paid back as part of the government's program to keep workers employed during the pandemic.

### 2020 Attendance & Offering

Week Of	Sun. 9:30	Facebook Views	Total	General Offering	Building	Other	Total
7/5	23		23	\$3,436.08	\$60.00	\$590.00	\$4,086.08
7/12	40		40	\$4,343.00	\$21.00	\$3,480.00	\$7,844.00
7/19	35	93	128	\$2,929.00	\$31.00	\$468.00	\$3,428.00
7/26	37	89	126	\$3,631.16	\$21.00	\$160.81	\$3,812.97

\*Other category includes: Flowers, Memorials, Tuition, Funding Our Future

### Worship Assistant Schedule September 6 to October 11

	Sept. 6	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27	Oct. 4	Oct. 11
<b>Preaching</b>	Jon H.	Jon H.	Jon H.	Pastor Dan	Jon H.	Pastor Dan
<b>Assisting Minister (T)</b>	John F.	Dave H.	Rod K.	Diann H.	John F.	Dave H.
<b>Lector (T)</b>	Peggy B.	Mary H.	Kathy G.	Jayne M.	Jane F.	Sue B.
<b>Ushers (T)</b>	Jerry S., Rex B., Glenn M., Tony K.	Jerry S., Rex B., Dave & Jayne M.	Jerry S., Rex B., Russ H., Len M.	Jerry S., Rex B., Jim & Ann F.	Jerry S., Rex B., Kathy G., Janice T.	Jerry S., Rex B., Len M., Russ H.
<b>Tech (T)</b>	Barry T. & Art B.	Connie M.	Barry T.	Connie M. & Art B.	Barry T.	Connie M.
<b>Altar</b>	Barb K.	Barb K.	Barb K.	Barb K.	Barb K. & Diann H.	Barb K. & Diann H.

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
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# St. Mark's

— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

**Building Relationships  
Transforming Lives**

St. Mark's Messenger is published monthly by St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Laura Deckard                      Director of Music  
Kathy Fribley                        Church Secretary  
Linda Vandemark                  Preschool Director

**Our Mission: To bring about transformation in individuals, families, our community, and the world through Jesus Christ**