

**TWENTY**

**21**

**ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**YEAR IN  
REVIEW**

21  
POINTS OF  
IMPACT IN  
2021

# 2020

ACTIVE PARTNERS



37  
CONFIRMATION STUDENTS



PASTORAL INTERNS

"We are thankful for the (radio) messages we receive from the Alpha Team at St. Mark's. For the last four years, these men and women have shown us grace and friendship and we are reminded that while we currently cannot fellowship with them, they are still thinking of and praying for us."  
**JOSEPH**  
ANAMOSA PRISON INMATE

5 WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S CLASSES

54 PEOPLE ATTENDED A WELCOME CLASS

31 BAPTISMS

39 NEW PARTNERS



OUTDOOR WORSHIP

BEGAN A PARTNERSHIP WITH  
**LINDALE MANOR MOBILE HOME PARK**

BEAUTIFUL DAY

CREATED **TRAIL TO TOMB**, AN EASTER DRIVE-THRU EXPERIENCE ON MAUNDY-THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY

146 STUDENTS AT **VBS**

LAUNCHED OUR CHURCH CENTER **MOBILE APP**

TOTAL GIVING  
**\$2,209,722.95**

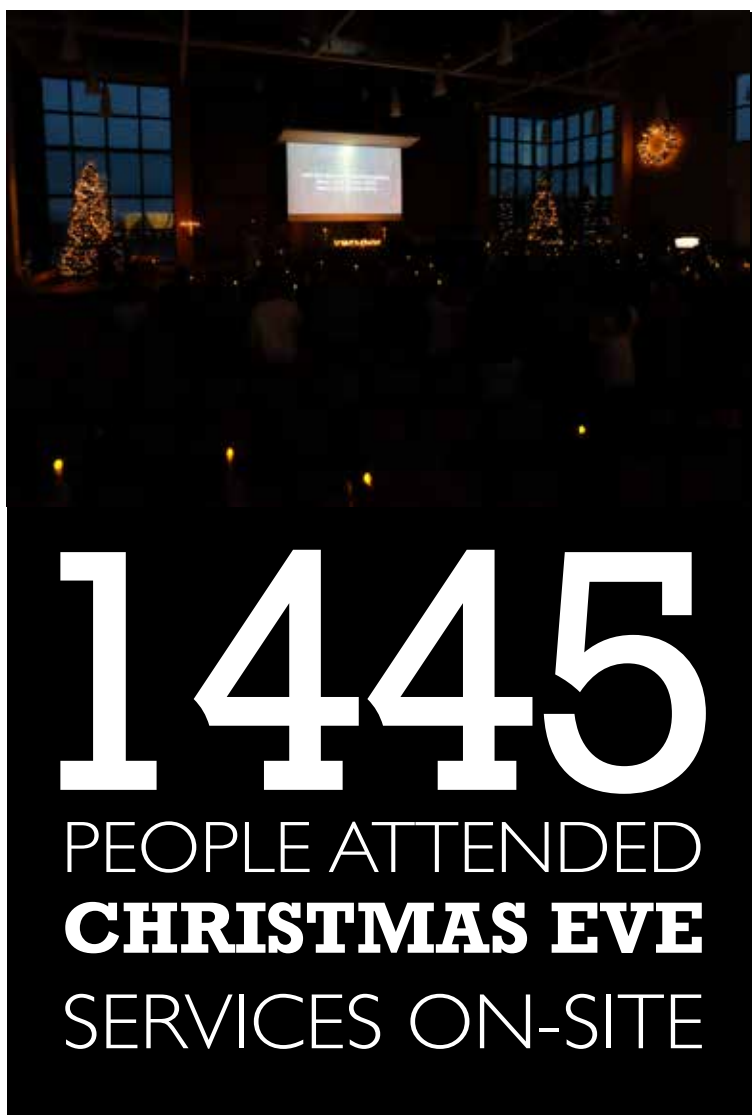
WE RAISED **\$33,897.00** FOR THE LENTEN PROJECT SUPPORTING WELLINGTON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CHURCH

**THE LIVING STORY**, OUR DRIVE-THRU LIVE NATIVITY RETURNED FOR A SECOND YEAR

**LIFE ATRIUM & CONNECTIONS CAFE REMODEL**



SUMMER SOFTBALL LEAGUE **CHAMPIONS!**



1445 PEOPLE ATTENDED **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES ON-SITE**



## OUR STORY

That's what you'll find in the pages of this Year in Review, the story of God's people at St. Mark's making a difference in each other's lives and thousands of lives across our community and the world. It's meant to give you a glimpse of the real life impact we are having as a church and invite you to be a part of it. So whether you are reading this as a guest to St. Mark's (welcome by the way!) or you've been a part of St. Mark's for years, you're invited to be a part of God's story here.

I told a lot of stories this year during my sermons, that is, mainly about my two boys, Theo (7) and Toby (3) and sometimes daringly about my beautiful wife of 16 years, Ellie. Most of my jokes were spot on, only a few were real groaners (this is all in my mind of course). We had lots of guests join me in preaching this year - Greg Finke, Brother Charles, Dr. Efenbein, Keeyon and Stephanie Carter from Wellington Heights Community Church, our missionaries Mark Wolter and Alex Ludvick, our pastoral interns, and others.

My favorite series was probably "Since You Asked..." where we explored questions people submitted concerning everything from baptism to heaven to what it's like being a woman in ministry.



Of utmost importance this year was laying out our strategic vision for the next three to five years. We've called it "Made for More" and it coincides with our capital campaign which begins in 2022. Three key words are guiding us: **innovation, growth, and future.**

- To reach our community and beyond, we need to put **innovation** and creativity at the forefront of all we do.
- **Growth** comes out of innovation, but also by doubling down on what works. We need to continue what works and add satellite start-ups.
- Innovation and growth change our **future** - but we can't sustain this kind of future with our current debt load. We need to get out from under long-term debt.

Facing an ever-changing world of uncertainty, the success of our ministries will rely on these three areas and achieving measurable goals within each one.

Looking ahead a bit, in April 2023, I am leading a trip to Greece, Turkey, and Italy for all who are interested in traveling in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. This is something I really enjoy doing every couple of years and I invite you to join me. You can find a brochure in the office or go online to [registernow.ittworld.com](http://registernow.ittworld.com) and enter "HenningsG23" in the search box to download one. These trips forever change your understanding of scripture and make a lasting impact on your faith!

I look forward to the stories that will come in 2022. What new adventure will God call us to as a church? Who will come to faith in Jesus through our love and sharing of the gospel? How will we strengthen our ministry for future generations to come? Whose faith-life story will be forever changed from our little part of God's kingdom on earth? These and countless other questions will be answered in time and, just like the stories of scripture, I pray our story changes lives forever.

### SENIOR PASTOR PAUL HENNINGS

1 standing desk	2 D. Min. classes	4 VBS skits
7 sermon series	40 sermons	45+ Pastor Paul Update Shows

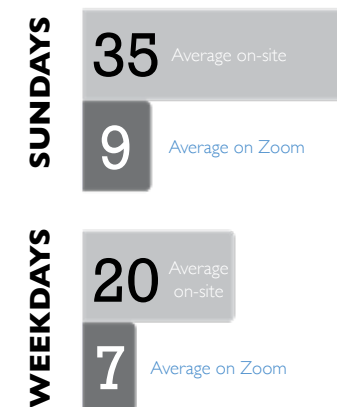
**WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN 2021?** "I learned that hoping for things in life to return to normal is probably a false hope - and always has been. Putting my hope in the Lord to do a new thing in and through me is much more productive!"

## UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE

"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." Psalm 127:1 (NIV) We entered into the year of our Lord 2021 as beloved children of our heavenly Father. We came with some of our own plans and ideas for our lives and for His beloved church. But so much, including Covid-19, continues to remind us of the broken nature of this dark world. The great news, though, is that "on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, has walked with us through every moment of this year. He has spoken to us through the Scriptures, and has shared His love with us in so many ways through this community of faith! He has been building His house!



ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
STEVE QUALBEN



### BIBLE STUDIES

Throughout this year, we sought to give as many opportunities as possible for people to connect safely and continue their time in worship. The Sunday Adult Sunday Bible study met on-site and online almost every week. The weekday Bible Studie met on-site and online for nine-and-a-half months in 2021. We praise the Lord that He built up community and brought encouragement to so many as we connected with His Word and one another through our studies.

**FUNERALS AND FUNERAL TEAMS** If memory serves, we had **13** funerals this past year (including seven over a period of eight weeks!) I praise the Lord for the great heart of service here at St. Mark's. Our Funeral Meal Team, coordinated by Carol Stulken, stepped up again and again to provide hospitality for our grieving families. We couldn't have made all these services come together without the work of Barb Ritchie, Karen Barth, Carol Beyer, our soloists and musicians, our ushers, and our tech team including Jim Wood, Jason Christensen, Joel Drzycimski, and many others.

New for 2021 was the ability to livestream our funeral services which allowed so many who were not able to attend be a part of the service. What an amazing outreach!

### WHAT DID YOU CELEBRATE IN 2021?

"That God's love endures forever!"

**CARE TEAM** 2021 saw major revisions to our care team ministries. We can all be very grateful to our faithful team members who were able to make hospital, homebound, and nursing home visits. Our team was incredibly patient at adapting to, at times, weekly changes in the Covid-19 visitation rules at various facilities. We owe our thanks to so many who have rallied around those in need of support this past year. Our teams included: hospital visitation, home communion, phone visitation, Grief Share, and even several groups of Carolers this past Christmas! Our team members include: Carol Beyer; Dennis Culbertson, Rick Erickson, Jon Griswold, Phyllis Griswold, Anita Haughenbury, Phyllis Hubler, Lois Mulbrook, Pastor Gordon Salsman, Judy Seiwald, Joy Thompson, Deb Voss, and many others. In addition to our training events for our teams, we are so grateful for the work Lois Mulbrook and Anita Haughenbury have put into developing a way of keeping track of our visits and identifying those in need. One of my personal highlights was being able to complete an intensive online Stephen Ministry Leader training in January/February 2021 which has allowed me to become a certified Stephen Ministry trainer.

As we enter into 2022, we do so with confidence. We proceed not with confidence that everything will be so much better in the new year, but confidence that whatever comes, good or bad, we live as those who have been rescued from the dominion darkness and brought into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:13). May you experience the full wonder of redemption, forgiveness, and life in Jesus Christ throughout this new year!

Peace and joy in the Lord Jesus Christ,  
Pastor Steve Qualben



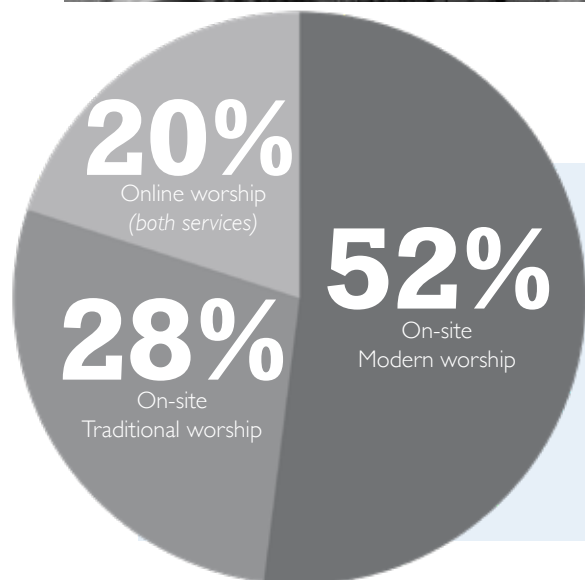
# WORSHIP & TECH PRODUCTION

## WORSHIP IS THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR FAITH AND LIFE.

**TRADITIONAL ROOTS** St. Mark's values its roots in the Lutheran church tradition. We seek to meaningfully incorporate hymns, sacraments, prayers, and creeds into our worship services. Traditional worship continues to bless the congregation in our Faith Worship Center custom built to enhance the beauty of our world-famous Opus 695 organ (masterfully played by Barb Ritchie), the chancel choir, and the beauty of traditional liturgy.



**MODERN MUSIC** Our worship is band-led and we seek to provide excellent music with a relevant sound to facilitate our times of worship. Modern worship continues in the St. Mark's tradition of excellence. The Life Worship Center houses the technology and atmosphere of modern worship that keeps St. Mark's on the cutting edge of worship evolution.



**WE'RE LIVE** 2021 saw worship take a giant step forward with the launch of our livestream technology! Since our initial broadcast on January 3, 2021, we have offered both a live traditional and live modern worship service every week to people all over the world! Our online ministry now makes up a significant portion of our weekly worship attendance (20%).

This technology has also allowed us to privately broadcast weddings, baptisms, and funerals to family and friends that are unable to attend.

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF FROM 2021?



**DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP & WORSHIP LEADER**  
**JASON CHRISTENSEN**

"That in a time of a global pandemic we have continued to offer a variety of worship experiences every week that cater to the comfort level of each individual."



**PRODUCTION COORDINATOR**  
**JOEL DRZYCIMSKI**

"I'm most proud of all the growth and streamlining that's happened in the St. Mark's production department. We're making great strides in producing more professional content and putting on more engaging services."



**CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR**  
**MARK LOGAN**

"When we transitioned from a virtual choir format back to an in-person Chancel Choir in the fall, that provided an opportunity to sing praises to God throughout the whole year!"



**TRADITIONAL MUSIC COORDINATOR & ORGANIST**  
**BARB RITCHIE**

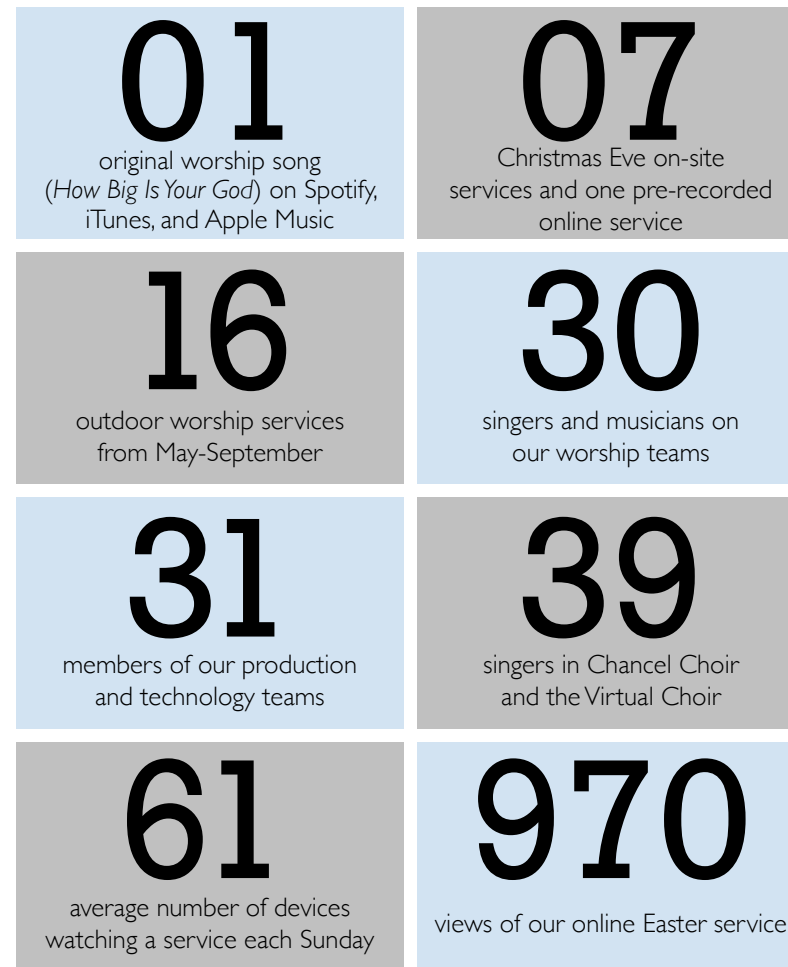
"I'm so proud of the dedicated musicians that have kept the beautiful message of the church's song going out into the world, clear and strong, both in person and online."



**FACILITIES MANAGER & TECH PRODUCTION**  
**JIM WOOD**

"I'm proud that we continue to move forward with the changing world, our continued improvements to our facility, and also of all our programs at St. Mark's!"

We are blessed with a variety of worship experiences offered every week. All of this has allowed us to reach people in significant ways.



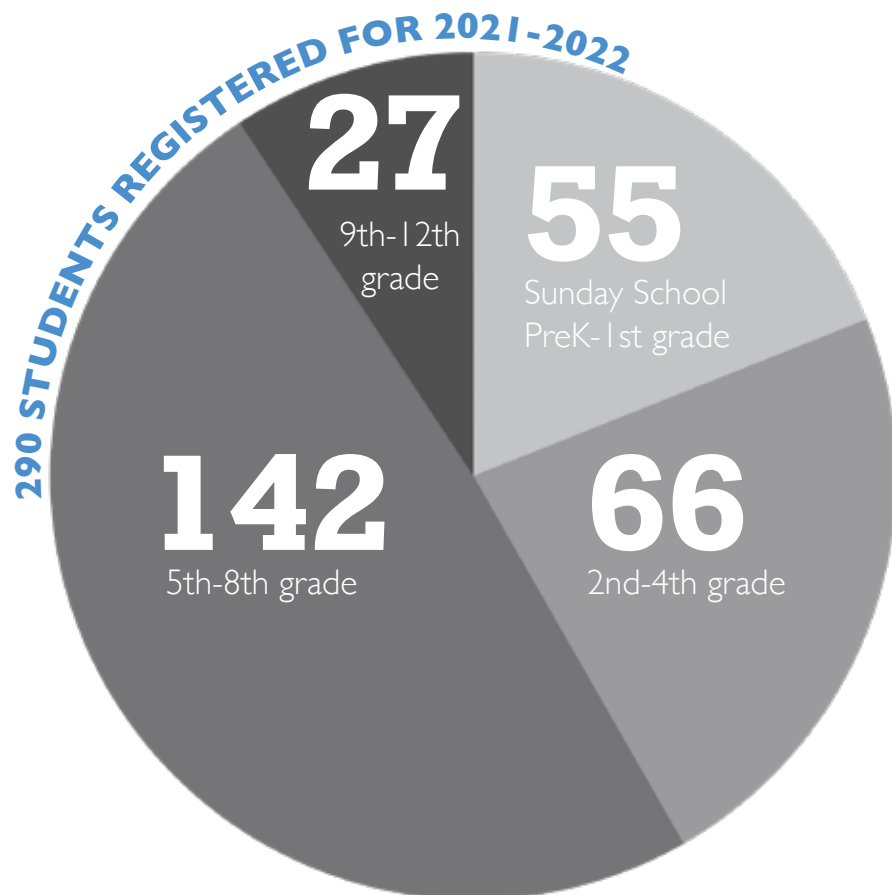


# FAMILY MINISTRY

## YOUR FAMILY IS A BIG DEAL TO US.

[stmarkscr.org/familyministry](http://stmarkscr.org/familyministry)

2021 has been a great year in Family Ministry. It has been full of memories made, faith deepened, and relationships built! We are so thankful to God for how he has provided in the midst of the challenges. At the end of 2021 and going into 2022, **we are still in need of volunteers** to help with both Wednesday and Sunday ministries. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for our students.



**January** New to Family Ministry was facilitating baptisms. What an honor to celebrate this meaningful Christian event with families!

**May** We continued our hybrid/every other week meetings for Wednesday evenings through May. We recognized **26** high school and college seniors during graduation time.

**June** Fan the Flame was hosted throughout the summer for our middle and high school students.

**July** **146** students rode the Rocky Railway, our VBS program, with **64** rockstar volunteers.

**September** With the Delta variant surging, we pushed back our Wednesday evening start date. We met outside and built community between students. A huge highlight was having Sam Crumpton join our team as Early Childhood Ministry Coordinator!

**October** We began fall ministries on-site with a new rotation schedule that both students and volunteers have quickly adapted to and love! We recognized **37** confirmands.

**November** We held a 1st communion class for middle schoolers and celebrated together at worship on Sunday, November 21. Some of our middle and high schoolers headed to Riverside Bible Camp for a recharge weekend.

**December** Cultivate (5th & 6th graders) and Anthem (7th and 8th graders) participated in The Giving Tree shopping night and were so generous to our community!

**290** students registered for 2021-2022 activities

**19** middle school students attended Riverside Bible Camp this summer

**31** baptisms in 2021 - ranging from infant to adult

**73** volunteers serving on Sundays and Wednesdays

**146** students (ages 5-10) registered for VBS

**11** Hype Team students: middle schoolers who lead worship

**22** 5th graders who attended our First Communion class



### WHAT WAS SOMETHING FUN YOU DID IN 2021?



**MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY COORDINATOR  
BAILEY COMEGYS**

"I got to attend Riverside with students and serve/pour into their staff while I was there! And I got engaged - YAY!"



**EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY COORDINATOR  
SAM CRUMPTON**

"I started working with some amazing people here at St. Mark's and I started the MDiv program!"



**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
LYNNE KENDRICK**

"Rocky Railway VBS was so fun! And I took a summer vacation to Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon."



**DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRY  
ALICE MURRAY**

"I took a family vacation to Michigan City, Indiana! Here at St. Mark's, I began baptizing students - what a blessing!"



# FAITH • LIFE GROUPS

## WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER

[stmarkscr.org/faithlifegroups](http://stmarkscr.org/faithlifegroups)

FaithLife Groups help individuals get connected in community and grow in their faith. Our FaithLife groups are three or more people who meet together regularly for fellowship, Bible studies, service projects, and more.

*"My guys are a blessing to me every time we meet. We share 'Jesus Calling', Bible study, group work projects, and most importantly, LIFE."* - John

*"I truly cherish the ladies in my small group. They have helped me more than they know, keeping me mentally grounded and my soul nourished; especially in our current times. I do not want to envision what my life would be without 'my prayer warriors'."* - Denise

*"I need my FaithLife Group. It's all about establishing relationships - friendship with our church/Christ community. We share our faith and pray for each other. We are a part of the Family of Christ."* - Cathy

*"I love our small group because we have deep meaningful friendships...the kind where you can share, laugh, and joke, but also share life's hard moments, sufferings, and trials as well as life's joys. They are the people we go to for prayer, for celebrations, and for struggles. They are the people we've grown closer to Jesus with...and what can be more bonding than that?"* - Deb

## SAVE THE '22 DATE

**January 9** *The Chosen* season 2 begins

**March 6** Church-wide Biblical stewardship study

**June** Pick a day for your small group to celebrate with a FaithLife group potluck. Take photos!

**September** *The Chosen* season 3

*And maybe a surprise or two along the way!*



**8** WEEK STUDY  
participants watched and discussed an episode (on-site AND online) weekly

**58** DISCUSSION STARTER QUESTIONS

[stmarkscr.org/thechosen](http://stmarkscr.org/thechosen)

**19** BIBLICAL CHARACTERS  
*"Watching the series brought the Bible to life for me and made it so much easier to understand. I was so drawn to the voices of Jesus and Simon Peter."*

**10** DISCUSSION GROUPS  
*"We had really fruitful, joyful conversations. Everyone, regardless of their level of knowledge and relationship with Jesus or even St. Mark's, learned something, shared a moment, and made a connection!"*

**121** INDIVIDUALS WHO REGISTERED

**82** TEACHING POINTS SHARED BY PASTOR PAUL

**174** PIECES OF PIZZA EATEN on the last night



# MISSIONS & OUTREACH

[stmarkscr.org/serve](http://stmarkscr.org/serve)

## LOCAL

**42** participants at Second Chance Month Prayer Walk

**20** beds built for Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build event

**25-30** volunteers participated in a cleanup day at Lindale Manor Mobile Home Park

**60** volunteers on Beautiful Day! St Mark's partners did cleanup work, deck staining, washing windows, yard work, and with the supervision of Matthew 25, skirted mobile home trailers

**350** Snow Day Lunch kits assembled for FLY

**50** volunteers rang bells for the Salvation Army

**450** gifts contributed for The Giving Tree campaign

**20** pounds of ground beef donated each month for Mission of Hope meal



## MISSIONS TEAM LEADS

**BACK:** Tom Brennom, Eight Days of Hope • Jerry Weber, FaithWorks • Pastor Paul

**FRONT:** Mary Kay Kolb, Missionary Support • Michele Jones, Short-Term Mission Trips • Alice Murray, High School Mission Trip

**NOT PICTURED:** Jon Doerrfeld, HopeCDA/Wellington Heights

## EIGHT DAYS OF HOPE

[eightdaysofhope.com](http://eightdaysofhope.com)

**18** responses sponsored nationally

**8** day derecho follow-up event in Cedar Rapids which served **53** families by **85** skilled volunteers, plus **60** local volunteers supported a community cleanup project

**3** bases of operation, including Cedar Rapids warehouse

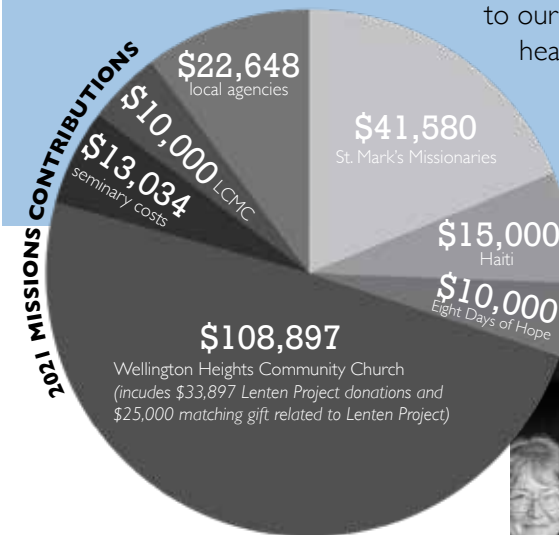
**100%** of all donations go to the people and projects being served



## THANK YOU MARLYS

After 13 years serving on staff, most recently as the Director of Missions and Outreach, Marlys Fruhling resigned in November 2021. We are thankful for her many years of service to our faith community and look forward to hearing what Marlys will do in the future!

Marlys was recognized in July 2021 as a Justice Ambassador through the non-profit Prison Fellowship.



## HAITI

**100** student sponsorships at UCI

**\$5,000** sent from St. Mark's to award student business development plans

**2** canceled mission trips

**1600** Christmas gift bags given to students at UCI - St. Mark's was able to contribute over 100 bags!

## GLOBAL

**3** missionaries able to visit St. Mark's in 2021 (Aisenbreys, Ludviceks, and Wolters)

**9** supported missionary families

**31** daily prayers in our monthly missionary prayer guide

**130** tickets sold to watch the *Ends of the Earth* documentary. What a great way to help our partners better understand the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship!

**8219** miles between Marion, IA and Indonesia (the farthest St. Mark's supported missionaries - the Ludviceks!)



**AISENBREYS** Senegal  
• Wycliffe Bible Translators



**BRIAN DREGITS** Eight Days of Hope



**SCOTT & PAIGE HEEMSTRA** Iowa City and Cedar Rapids, IA • The Navigators



**ALEX & PATRICIA LUDVICEK** Papua, Indonesia  
• Mission Aviation Fellowship



**MOMPRIEMERS** Haiti  
• United Christians International

**NELSONS** Corallvis, OR  
• The Navigators



**SLOTERDYKS** Kenya  
• International Missions Board



**SMITHS** Louisville, KY  
• Youth With A Mission



**MARK & MAKI WOLTER** Kyoto, Japan • Japanese Evangelical Mission Society

Learn more about each of our missionary families at [stmarkscr.org/missionaries](http://stmarkscr.org/missionaries)



# CONNECT & COMMUNICATE

"Oh, so you do church bulletins?"

I get this question a lot when I say I work in communications at a church. It's so much more than bulletins! Every day here at St. Mark's is very different, which I love. We work to get the word out in a variety of ways. I say "we", even though I am a one-woman marketing department. As a team, we try to tell everyone, everything that is going on!

**DIGITALLY** Everything you need to know about St. Mark's can be found on our website [stmarkscr.org](http://stmarkscr.org). I work to grow our social media presence, as well as utilizing our mobile app.

**IN-PRINT** Sermon notes and Connection Cards are available each Sunday. Our quarterly Connections newsletter is also available in print.

**BIGGEST PROJECTS IN 2021**

- website facelift
- moving to a user-friendly email platform that integrates with other programs we use
- our Church Center mobile app



**FROM THIS... TO THIS!**



Giving our website a facelift took about 100 hours of work to build brand new pages with updated content and photos. The website is designed with guests in mind - what would someone who knew nothing about St. Mark's want to know first?



**THE CHURCH CENTER APP**

New year, new technology! In early 2021, we launched our mobile app through Church Center. This is available on your phone, tablet, or from our website. The app isn't just for Sunday - it's where you can explore, engage, and get involved throughout the week.

**DIRECTORY**

Over the summer we launched our digital partner directory - to date we have **486** individuals listed! This is an opt-in feature available on Church Center. YOU choose what information you'd like to share with other St. Mark's partners. You will be able to see other members of the directory and share your own household information.

Do you have questions about using our Church Center app or the directory? Please reach out to me at [communications@faith-life.org](mailto:communications@faith-life.org)

<b>01</b> number of coffees Jason owes me for beating him in total cribbage games	<b>02</b> "nativity nightmares" I had leading up to The Living Story	<b>04</b> print newsletters mailed to 170 households
<b>31.5</b> estimated hours spent working on this document before printing	<b>36%</b> average open rate of weekly Friday eConnections newsletter	<b>37</b> weeks of sermon notes - available in-print, online, and on our app
<b>55</b> individual web pages built prior to website facelift	<b>411</b> YouTube subscribers	<b>4:40 am</b> time when website facelift went live - I was on the phone with a 3rd party web developer!
<b>1538</b> Facebook followers	<b>1630</b> email subscribers in our database	<b>6693</b> total text messages sent to 732 subscribers



**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING**  
**KELLY FRAMPTON**

- THIS / OR / THAT**
- CAKE / PIE
  - LAUNDRY / DISHES
  - HAMBURGER / TACO
  - ONLINE SHOPPING / STORE
  - AMUSEMENT PARK / BEACH DAY
  - ICED COFFEE / HOT COFFEE
  - HORROR MOVIE / COMEDY
  - SWEATER / SWEATSHIRT
  - ROADTRIP / FLY
  - NINJAS / PIRATES
  - LETTER / TEXT
  - DAY / NIGHT

**GOALS IN 2022**

Create social media posts that serve and engage (not just announcements and events!)

Start integrating our platforms to sync data #WorkSmarterNotHarder

Get better at Instagram

Recruit more volunteers for The Living Story 2022 (mark your calendars for December 15-17!)



## YOUR STRENGTHS ARE UNIQUE

God made each of us in his own image...beautifully, fearfully, wonderfully. And each of us has a purpose in life: at work, at home, and as a Christian. At St. Mark's we want to help you connect with your purpose by understanding how God has uniquely equipped and called you. We do this through CliftonStrengths.

CliftonStrengths is grounded in more than five decades of research and is designed to help people discover the source of their natural talents. People who use their dominant CliftonStrengths repeatedly refine them. They gain experience, and through that experience, they gain knowledge and skills that combine with their talents to create strengths. Strengths develop when people intentionally use their talents to accomplish tasks or achieve desired outcomes.

Are you interested in learning your strengths? Are you ready to take a strengths class? Learn more, request an access code, or register for upcoming classes at [stmarks.org/strengths](http://stmarks.org/strengths)

## FIVE STRENGTHS CLASSES WILL BE OFFERED IN 2022!

- Introduction to Strengths
- Deeper Dive into Strengths
- Parenting with Strengths
- Strengths-based Marriage
- Strengths-based Leadership

# 251

individuals have taken the assessment and reported their top 5 strengths back to St. Mark's

# 92

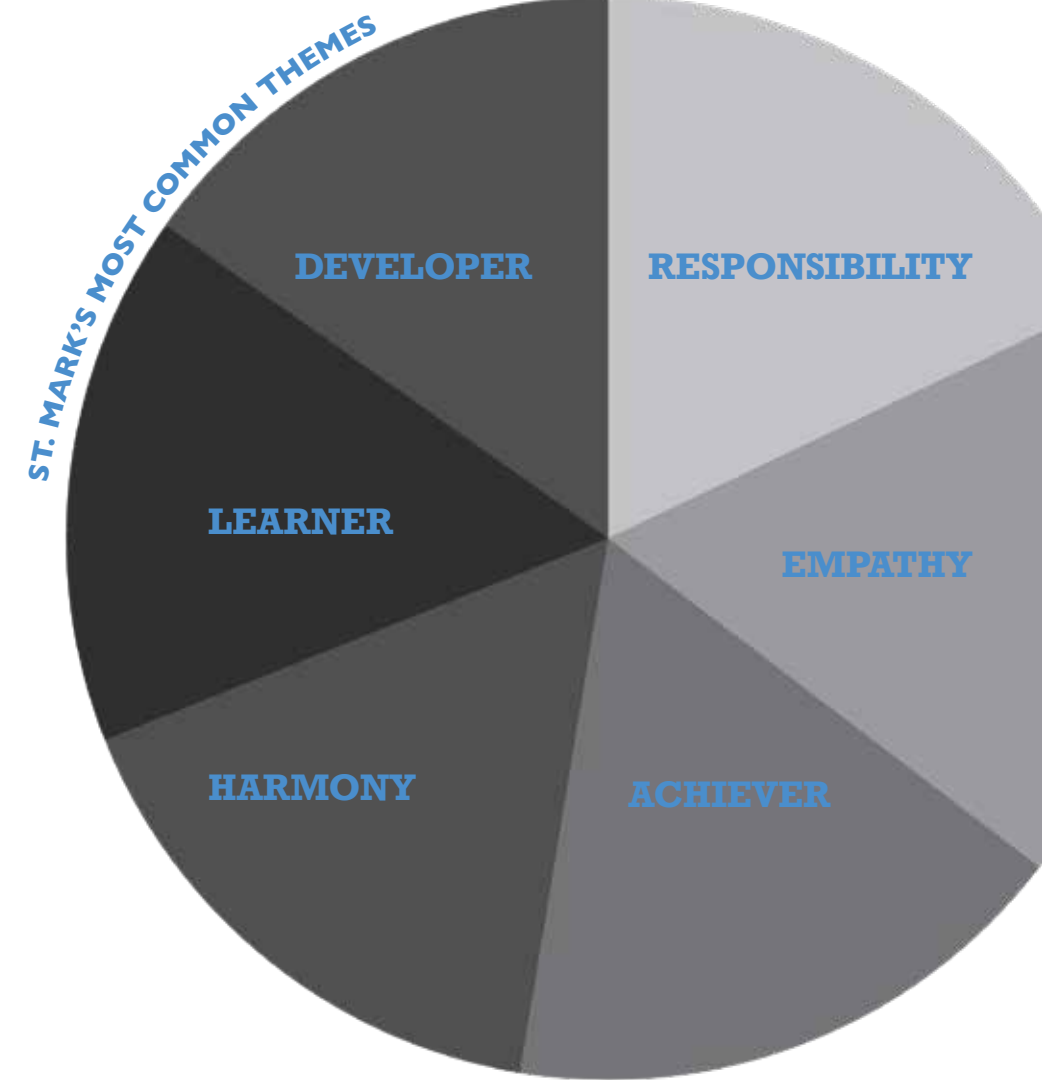
people have taken a strengths class

# 21

people have participated in a one-on-one coaching session with Pam or Sarah

# 1

couple has received a strengths based pre-marriage coaching session



### LESSER COMMON THEMES AT ST. MARK'S

Self-Assurance • Command • Significance

*You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! - Psalm 139:13-17 (NLT)*

## GALLUP CERTIFIED STRENGTHS COACHES

St. Mark's has two **Gallup Certified Strengths Coaches** on staff: Pam Schulz and Sarah Bartlett!

They spent countless hours in 2021 learning, preparing, and testing to become certified.

Both Pam and Sarah are available to schedule up to two free one-on-one sessions with anyone who is interested.



### WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IN 2021?

*"I got two new knees! Working on and completing the sale of 3.66 acres to the city of Cedar Rapids was a big job too!"*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**PAM SCHULZ**

*"Becoming a Clifton Certified Strengths Coach was a biggie for me!"*

**DIRECTOR OF FAITHLIFE MINISTRIES**  
**SARAH BARTLETT**

# STRENGTHS



# PASTORAL INTERNS

We are blessed to have not one, not two, not three, but FOUR Pastoral Interns on our team! Jason Christense, Michele Jones, John Mosinski, and Alice Murray began serving as Pastoral Interns in 2021 after completing their Micro MDiv program. They are now enrolled in online seminary through The Masters' Institute and will graduate in May 2024.

**What does this mean?** The interns' primary objective is to serve, observe, and learn best practices in worship. Other regular experiences include attendance at conferences, church retreats, staff training as well as one-on-one mentorship. They continue to meet weekly to discuss their classes and work on spiritual and ministry formation with Pastor Paul and academic professors.

They participated in preparing and giving sermons throughout 2021 and beginning in October, they began partnering with Word of Life Lutheran Church, an LCMC church located in Fairfield, IA. They are currently on a preaching rotation each week through May 2022. Alice is also teaching confirmation to their middle school students twice a month.

# M•DIV



Our newest Micro MDiv session (in partnership with the Master's Institute) began in September 2021. The Micro MDiv program combines 18 master's level courses with weekly spiritual/character formation, spiritual mentoring, monthly scripture practicum exercises, and a formal leadership development process into a vital, accessible, Jesus-focused program.

Our cohort consists of eight St. Mark's staff and partners.

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Julia Christensen</b> | <b>Michelle Meyers</b>   |
| <b>Bailey Comegys</b>    | <b>Sam Pape</b>          |
| <b>Samantha Crumpton</b> | <b>Khrystle Sullivan</b> |
| <b>Kellie Landon</b>     | <b>Kelly Vieth</b>       |

Thank you to the St. Mark's Foundation who supported our newest cohort with a donation of \$8,000 total to their tuition costs!



John, Alice, and Jason at their Micro MDiv graduation in Minnesota in May 2021. This ceremony was delayed a year because of COVID.



Michele was the first intern to preach at Word of Life in October 2021!



# TRAIL TO TOMB



**\$3400**

raised for Wellington Heights Community Church

**1214**

people through our parking lot

**500**

Easter egg gifts for kids

**420**

cars drove through our parking lot

**75**

individual volunteers serving in cast member, hospitality, and operations roles

**15**

members of the planning team

**8**

narration tracks written, produced and recorded by St. Mark's staff and partners

**6**

scenes depicted: *On the road to Bethlehem, Last Supper, Garden of Gethemane, Jesus at trial, Mary at the cross, and the empty tomb*

**2**

incredible nights

**1**

donkey

# THE LIVING STORY

**\$4104**

community donations to benefit The Churches of Marion Food Pantry

**2700**

feet of rope to mark the parking lot

**918**

cars through our parking lot in three nights

**662**

lighted milk jug luminaries

**80**

individual volunteers serving in cast member, hospitality, and operations roles

**38**

lighted trees

**10**

foot star on top of donated fork lift

**7**

narration tracks written and produced by St. Mark's featuring the voices of four partners. *FUN FACT: In track #4 you hear a baby cry. That is the "voice" of Finn Drzycimski, Joel's son when he was three weeks old!*

**2**

limousines drove through in the same night

**1**

baby who changed the world





# OUR STORY







*connect faith + life*

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