

# CHURCH invited

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## IMPORTANT FALL DATES

8/22	Backpack Blessing at all services
8/29	Backyard Bash
9/1	Chancel Choir rehearsals begin
9/8	Family Ministry Volunteer Info Night
9/12	Alpha begins
9/20	Vision Town Hall
9/23	Vision Town Hall
9/26	<i>The Chosen</i> study begins
9/30	Welcome to St. Mark's Class
10/2	Beautiful Day
10/3	Fall Worship Schedule begins
10/6	Family Ministry programs begin

### COME AND SEE!

Join us this fall as we prepare to launch into a new school year and a new opportunity to share Christ's love with our family, friends, and community.

### YOU ARE INVITED:

- to join us for worship - **our fall worship schedule begins October 3.**
  - 8:30\* and 10:00 am traditional services
  - 9:00 and 10:30\* am contemporary services
  - \*livestream service
- to attend *The Chosen* study beginning September 26 - more information on page 7
- to volunteer all around the church - we have many opportunities big and small to contribute to our mission and share the love of Jesus!

Dear Partners at St. Mark's,  
 "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."  
**COME AND SEE** the place where he lay."  
 - Matthew 28:6

Would you like to hear more about where God is leading us in the future at St. Mark's? **COME AND SEE!** We begin a sermon series in September entitled "How Big Is Your God?" where we explore some epic stories from scripture and discuss what they might mean for our future at St. Mark's.

Along with that, I am hosting two "Town Hall" meetings on **Monday, September 20 and Thursday, September 23 at 7:00 pm** to give an overview of three main areas concerning our vision for the future. I'd love to have you attend, ask any questions, and give any feedback you might have. **COME AND SEE!**

Also, at the **end of September** (the 26th to be exact), I am excited to host, along with Sarah Bartlett, our Director of FaithLife Ministries, *The Chosen* mini-series in Life Worship Center. This series has taken the world by storm - it is the largest crowd-funded series in history. It's all about the lives of people surrounding Jesus, particularly their responses and interactions with

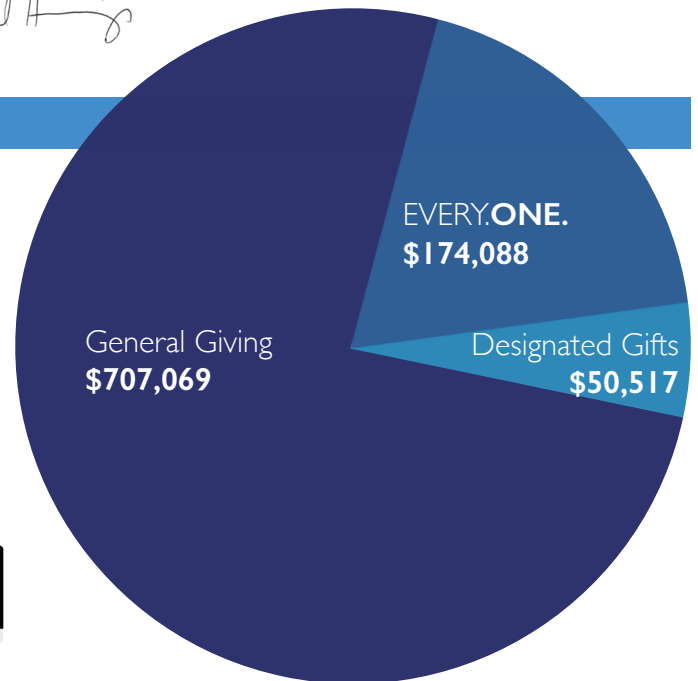
him. We are encouraging all of our FaithLife groups to go through this with us and would love to have you in one of those groups. The tag line of *The Chosen* is **"COME AND SEE"** which is how Philip invites Nathanael to meet Jesus. You're invited in the same way. **COME AND SEE!** Learn more about *The Chosen* on page 7 of this newsletter.

If you haven't heard already, we are putting on **The Living Story again this December!** Does it seem like a long time away? Trust me, it will be here before you know it! We would love for you to volunteer. Please look for more information in the coming months and invite all your friends to **COME AND SEE!**

Finally, I've been working on a project recently that looks at all the ways Jesus is questioned in the Gospel of John. This project will be a sermon series during **Lent 2022.** One of the main themes of John's Gospel is an invitation to **COME AND SEE!** That's my invitation to you and your family and friends. God is doing amazing things at St. Mark's and this upcoming school year will be no exception. Just as the angels said to the women at the tomb in the Gospel of Matthew: **COME AND SEE!**

GIVING UPDATE • JANUARY- JULY 2021

Your generosity supports not only the work we do at St. Mark's, but dozens of partner ministries in our city and around the globe. We can't accomplish the work God has given us without YOU! THANKYOU for your continued generosity and support. **This summary graph to the right shows our giving through July 31, 2021.**



3 WAYS TO GIVE



**APP**  
 Give using the free Church Center app, available on iOS, Android, and Amazon.



**MAIL OR IN-PERSON**  
 Address checks to St. Mark's Lutheran Church.



**ONLINE**  
 Online giving provides a secure and convenient way to make one-time or recurring donations.

## THANK YOU MARLYS



Marlys Fruhling has served many roles and worn many hats in her years on staff at St. Mark's. Beginning in September, she will be wearing a new hat - Coordinator of Prison Ministries. Marlys will be stepping down as Director of Missions and Outreach, effective September 4.

## THE DIVINE DRAMA

On Wednesday, August 25 at 12:00 pm we will begin a 16-week journey through God's word. Pastor Steve will lead our study using the Crossways International course entitled "The Divine Drama."

This intensive 60-minute per week course will focus on the Bible and applying the teachings of Jesus in our lives through a deeper study of the Old and New Testament, the problem of sin, God's never-failing promises, and His work to make all things right through His beloved son, Jesus the Messiah. The course will meet in person and on Zoom.

REGISTER NOW at [stmarkscr.org/crossways](http://stmarkscr.org/crossways) on your St. Mark's app. **Please register by Friday, August 20!** Questions? Email Pastor Steve at [squalben@faith-life.org](mailto:squalben@faith-life.org)

The course materials are \$25 for the text, workbook, and biblical timeline. Materials can be paid for online in advance or with a check (payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church) or cash the first day of the course. All materials can be picked up on Wednesday, August 25.

## MICRO-MDIV PROGRAM UPDATE

Jason Christensen, Pastoral Intern

I am both blessed and excited to begin a new Micro-MDiv cohort here at St. Mark's in partnership with the Master's Institute! Our cohort begins in September and consists of eight St. Mark's staff and partners:

Julia Christensen  
Bailey Comegys  
Samantha Crumpton  
Kellie Landon  
Michelle Meyers  
Sam Pape  
Khrystle Sullivan  
Kelly Veith

Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to embark on a new season of learning and spiritual formation.



The Master's Institute is a seminary that equips the heart, head, and hands of servant leaders to continue the ministry of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit through spiritual and character formation, Biblical teaching, and leadership training.

The Micro-MDiv is an 18-month leadership training program focused on increasing the competency, character, and capacity of Christian leaders so they can optimize their calling in God's kingdom. The Micro-MDiv combines eighteen masters 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.

### -Jason Christensen

Director of Worship and Pastoral Intern

Micro-MDIV graduate and current seminary student at The Master's Institute

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

## HANDS IN AND HANDS UP!

As a follower of Jesus, God calls you to serve. **From A to Z we have many opportunities at St. Mark's for you to use your strengths and God-given talents.**

We ask you to prayerfully consider the areas in which God has uniquely gifted you to serve. Most volunteer opportunities are a low-time commitment and HIGH reward!

**Questions on how to get involved? Email [stmarks@faith-life.org](mailto:stmarks@faith-life.org) or contact Carol in the church office at 319-447-0100.**

Check with your employer - some give additional incentives for reporting your volunteer hours!

Altar Guild: *prepare communion elements*

Band Aids: *serve on our Life Safety team*

Care Team: *make visits to homebound members*

Digital Engagement Team: *engage with online worshippers*

Eight Days of Hope: *work with skilled volunteers for labor projects*

Family Ministry: *serve our students through leadership, meals, games, and more!*

Global Missions: *support our missionaries through planning and prayer*

Hospitality: *greet our guests and give a great first impression*

Ice removal: *help keep our parking lot safe*

Joyful noise: *make a noise in our worship bands or chancel choir*

Kitchen cleaning: *one-hour commitment once a week to clean up our kitchen*

Living Story: *our drive-through live nativity in December will need lots of help!*

Men's Work Team: *build or remodel special projects throughout the building*

Night to Shine: *be a buddy for community special needs students and adults*

Outreach: *share Christ's love and invite others to St. Mark's*

Prayer team: *join others in prayer for our family, friends, and community*

Quilters: *sew quilts for World Relief and area organizations*

RJ's Helpers: *prepare meals for Family Ministry students*

Small group leaders: *facilitate questions and lead a FaithLife group*

Tech teams: *produce Sunday services with audio, visual, and lighting elements*

UCI Haiti: *support our Haitian friends through mission trips and child sponsorships*

VBS: *lead students at the most joy-filled week each summer*

Wedding coordinators: *this paid role helps couples prepare for their big day*


Xylophones: *special music during worship - any instrument is welcome!*

Yard work: *mow our grounds, pull weeds, and care for flowers*

Zip drive: *data entry and administrative help in our church office*



# August 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 <b>CROSSFIRE PRAYER MEETING</b> @ 11:00 AM Join us weekly in the Prayer Room to pray for each other, our community, and the world.	6	7
8 <b>MARK WOLTER</b> AT ST. MARK'S Check out pictures of Mark's visit on our Facebook page!	9	10	11	12	13 <b>CONNECTIONS</b> MAIL DATE	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>EIGHT DAYS OF HOPE IN CEDAR RAPIDS!</b> Volunteers needed in a variety of ways - learn more at <a href="http://stmarkscr.org/eightdaysofhope">stmarkscr.org/eightdaysofhope</a>						
22 <b>BACKPACK BLESSING</b> ALL SERVICES. Students, teachers, and educators are encouraged to bring your backpacks to be blessed for the new school year.	23	24	25 <b>DIVINE DRAMA STUDY</b> @ 12:00 PM 16-week Bible intensive course begins. \$25 materials cost.	26	27	28
						
						
29 <b>BACKYARD BASH</b> @ 11:00 AM St. Mark's will provide the meal! We'll have lawn games and a s'mores making contest.	30	31				
						

# September 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <b>CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN @ 7:30 PM</b>	2	3	4
5	6 <b>LABOR DAY</b> Church office closed.	7	8	9	10	11
<p>Have you and your spouse registered for <b>WEEKEND TO REMEMBER?</b> The last day for a discounted rate is September 13.</p> <p>Register at <a href="http://familylife.com">familylife.com</a> and use our group name "Soul On Marriage"</p>						
12 <b>ALPHA @ 11:00 AM</b> Ask questions and explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting. RSVP at <a href="http://stmarkscr.org/alpha">stmarkscr.org/alpha</a>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 <b>VISION TOWN HALL @ 7:00 PM</b> Pastor Paul wants to share his vision for St. Mark's with you.	21	22	23 <b>VISION TOWN HALL @ 7:00 PM</b> Pastor Paul wants to share his vision for St. Mark's with you.	24	25
26 <b>THE CHOSEN @ 3:00 PM</b> Weekly study watching an episode with discussion. Ages 10+ welcome to join! RSVP at <a href="http://stmarkscr.org/thechosen">stmarkscr.org/thechosen</a>	27	28	29	30 <b>WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S CLASS @ 6:00 PM</b> Learn more about our church, missions, values. Meal provided. RSVP at <a href="http://stmarkscr.org/events">stmarkscr.org/events</a>	1	2 <b>BEAUTIFUL DAY IS OCTOBER 2!</b>
3 <b>FALL WORSHIP BEGINS</b> 8:30* & 10:00 AM (T) 9:00 & 10:30* AM (C) * LIVESTREAM	4	5	6 <b>FAMILY MINISTRY FIRST NIGHT @ 5:30 PM</b> Register your student or sign-up to volunteer at <a href="http://stmarkscr.org/familyministry">stmarkscr.org/familyministry</a>	7	8	9



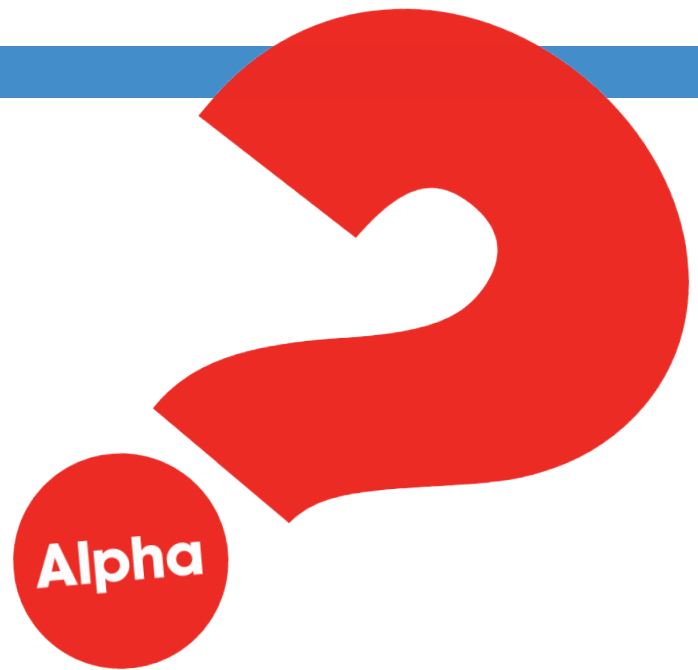
## ALPHA

**ALPHA IS FOR ANYONE.** The Alpha course provides an opportunity to ask questions and explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting. It covers the basics of Christianity and answers questions like "Who is Jesus?" and "Why did he die?" It's a 12-week series, including a weekend retreat where anyone can explore the Christian Faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.

Each session includes refreshments and a discussion on how Christianity approaches the question at hand, followed by a small group discussion where you can share your thoughts and questions in a relaxed setting.

Alpha will start on Sunday, September 12 at 11:00 am in Cafe Ablaze. **NOTE: The Alpha Retreat is scheduled for November 5-6 here at St. Mark's.**

Register for Alpha at [stmarkscr.org/alpha](http://stmarkscr.org/alpha) or on your St. Mark's mobile app. For more information, please email [stmarks@faith-life.org](mailto:stmarks@faith-life.org)



## THE CHOSEN CHURCH-WIDE STUDY Sarah Bartlett, Director of FaithLife Ministries

# Come and See!



Mark your calendars: *The Chosen* is coming to St. Mark's this fall!

*The Chosen* is an incredible, multi-season TV show about the life of Jesus as told through the eyes of those who met him during his earthly ministry. We're so excited to be offering it as a church-wide FaithLife group study!

Each Sunday, from September 26 through November 21 (except October 31), from 3:00-5:00 pm, EVERYONE is invited to come to the Life Worship Center to watch an episode of Season 1 of *The Chosen* on the big screen. After we watch an episode, we will break into

small groups for discussion. Online attenders, this includes you via Zoom!

Come with your family, your FaithLife group, or a group of friends. *The Chosen* is appropriate for ages 10+. If you aren't in a FaithLife group, this will be the perfect opportunity to join one! Child care will be available.

REGISTER NOW at [stmarkscr.org/thechosen](http://stmarkscr.org/thechosen) or on your St. Mark's mobile app. Questions? Contact Sarah Bartlett, Director of FaithLife Ministries at [sbartlett@faith-life.org](mailto:sbartlett@faith-life.org)



The Family Ministry team is so excited for Fall 2021! We can't wait to see our students! After much prayer, discussion, and more prayer, we have decided to make one **BIG** change to the start the fall off -- we are pushing back our start date for a month. **We will begin in October.** This follows the church's decision to stay outside for worship another month and give us some time to see how to keep us all safe with the increasing COVID-19 concerns.

We will be hosting some outdoor get-togethers and online events during September for Family Ministry. This was a very hard decision to make but we want to see what happens with kiddos going back to school and move forward with caution and careful planning to keep everyone as safe as possible. Please let us know if you have any questions, ideas, or concerns. We appreciate your prayers and support as we make these decisions.



Bailey and Alice give a Family Ministry update - watch the video at [stmarkscr.org/familyministry](http://stmarkscr.org/familyministry)

**FAMILY MINISTRY FALL DATES**

- 8/22 Backpack Blessing
- 9/8 Leader Training
- 10/6 First Wednesday night programming for 2nd-8th graders
- 10/10 First Sunday programming for PreK-1st graders + 2nd and 5th graders receive their Bibles + High Schoolers meet
- 10/30 Confirmation
- 11/11 First Communion class
- 11/13 First Communion class
- 11/21 First Communion for 5th graders

**SCHEDULE CHANGE STARTING OCTOBER 6**

**PRE K-1ST GRADERS**

Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:00 am

**2ND-8TH GRADERS**

Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:30 pm

**9TH-12TH GRADERS**

Sunday afternoons from 3:00-5:00 pm

Register your student(s) NOW for school year programming - sign up at [stmarkscr.org/familyministry](http://stmarkscr.org/familyministry)

**NURSERY**

Don't forget - the nursery is available for infants through preschool age at each service on Sunday!







What a great week in July and what a blessing to spend our mornings with over 140 students teaching them about Jesus and his mighty power! We couldn't have done it without our 65+ volunteers (most of them middle and high school students!)

Photos below were taken by Matt Mulbrook. Find more on our Facebook page!



## BY THE NUMBERS

# \$291.88

offering raised for  
Trees Forever  
"Releaf CR" campaign

# 147

students registered  
(preschool - 5th grade)

# 65

volunteers

# 12

crews

# 09

HYPE team members

# 04

Bible verses and  
actions learned



Watch our VBS  
recap video at  
[stmarkscr.org/vbs](http://stmarkscr.org/vbs)





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**Church office hours:**

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Friday: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Website: [stmarkscr.org](http://stmarkscr.org)  
Phone: 319-447-0100  
Text Alerts: Text **STMARKSCR** to **94-000**

**Current Worship Schedule:**

**8:30 am | Traditional:** the majesty of liturgy, pipe organ, & choral music - in Faith Worship Center

**10:00 am | Contemporary:** joyful contemporary worship in a casual setting - outdoors

**WATCH LIVE:** A livestream of each service by clicking the **WATCH LIVE** button at [stmarkscr.org](http://stmarkscr.org)

**Worship Schedule Beginning October 3:**

**8:30 am and 10:00 am | Traditional:** the majesty of liturgy, pipe organ, & choral music - in Faith Worship Center

**9:00 am and 10:30 am | Contemporary:** joyful contemporary worship in a casual setting - in Life Worship Center

**WATCH LIVE:** Our 8:30 am and 10:30 am services by clicking the **WATCH LIVE** button at [stmarkscr.org](http://stmarkscr.org)

**ST. MARK'S FOUNDATION UPDATE**



**WAYS TO SUPPORT ST. MARK'S FUTURE**

Planned gifts help continue the work of Christ on this earth. They are a wonderful way to remember St. Mark's Lutheran Church as we prepare for the day we will depart this life and enter into the blessedness of God's eternal kingdom. Planned gifts can be specified in one's will as either a dollar amount or a stated percentage of one's estate.

Please contact Tim Wuest of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church Foundation ([info@stmarksfoundation.org](mailto:info@stmarksfoundation.org)) to learn more about the many ways planned gifts can be given to create a legacy to continue Christ's work.

[stmarkscrfoundation.org](http://stmarkscrfoundation.org)