



Join Us

In this Lenten season, may we connect together in an enriching and fulfilling spiritual journey.

stmarkscr.org/easter

ASH WEDNESDAY - MARCH 2

12:00 pm in Faith Worship Center + online

7:00 pm in Life Worship Center + online

Join us for services of repentance and renewal as we begin the Lenten season with the imposition of ashes.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN LUNCHEES & SERVICES - MARCH 9, 16, 23, 30, AND APRIL 6

11:45 am - 12:20 pm lunch in The Connections Cafe

12:30 pm service in Faith Worship Center + online

Join us for traditional Lenten services! Pastor Steve will lead us through the book of Philippians, which conveys a powerful message about the secret of contentment. Although Paul had faced severe hardships, poverty, beatings, illness, and even his imprisonment, in every circumstance he had learned to be content. A study guide will be available at stmarkscr.org/easter or at the church office. **PLUS!** Pastor Steve will lead a deeper-dive Bible Study called "Paul's Letter to the Philippians: "Our Partnership in the Gospel!" every Thursday from 12:00-1:00 pm on-site and on Zoom beginning March 10.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 14

7:00 pm in Faith Worship Center + online

A special service celebrating our Lord's Last Supper and the giving of the new command: "Love one another"

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 15

7:00 pm in Life Worship Center + online

A unique blended service focused on our Lord's crucifixion and his final words from the cross.

easter

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

SONRISE SERVICE OUTSIDE AT THE CROSS

6:30 am

TRADITIONAL SERVICES IN FAITH WORSHIP CENTER

8:30*, 9:30, 10:30 am • 30 minute services!

MODERN SERVICES IN LIFE WORSHIP CENTER

9:00, 10:00*, 11:00 am • 30 minute services!

* livestream service

EASTER BREAKFAST

We anticipate having some sort of Easter breakfast with donations directed to our summer High School Mission Trip. With the rising cost of food, number of volunteers needed, and large gathering comfort levels, this may be a modified "grab and go." **More information coming soon!**

connections

FEBRUARY 2022

REDEMPTION AT THE ROOT

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" - the Apostle Paul, 2 Corinthians 9:15

How would you like to be a fundraiser for a living? Always asking people for money, always wondering if you'll receive enough by the deadline, always hoping better days are ahead (by the way, if you fundraise for a living, you get all of this). Fundraising can be a gut-wrenching and, at times, perilous job.

Did you know the Apostle Paul was a fundraiser? Yep. In fact, second only to his church-planting prowess was his knack for raising money in these upstart congregations. When the mother church in Jerusalem was suffering through hardship, persecution, and famine, the churches that Paul planted chipped in more than enough to sustain the brothers and sisters in Israel. Throughout Paul's travels he is housed by, partnered with, and supported financially by local Christians throughout the Roman Empire (consider Aquila and Priscilla, Lydia, and the list at the end of Romans). And although he is vehemently proud of not receiving a penny from the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 9), he adamantly implores them to give to his capital campaign for the Jerusalem church.

How does Paul do it? How does he plant churches on the one hand and fundraise on the other? How can he get newly converted Christians to give so recklessly and abundantly that they provide enough for the Jewish Christians on the other side of the empire whom they have never met? How can he inspire the Corinthian community, who he seemed to be in conflict with most of the time, to fork over a buck?

The answer: **redemption**. Redemption was at the root of everything Paul said or did. Jesus had redeemed Paul from the folly of his own self-righteousness and that redemption won over the cross was now the key to Paul's newfound identity in Christ. His life was something that had been bought at a price so there was no price he wasn't willing to pay. And he preached this message of redemption in connection with everything he taught, from how you relate to other Christians to how you deal with pagan culture, from how you manage those caught in sin to how you treat outsiders, from how you run a household to how you use your money. It's all based on redemption.

I want our capital campaign (**MADE FOR MORE**) to be a redemption-based experience as well. I hope you've heard me say from the pulpit at some point or another that this is primarily a spiritual endeavor, a spiritual campaign in the sense that it's an opportunity to show our appreciation for all God's goodness in our lives as well as a way to overcome our false allegiance to money. I hope this campaign can be a starting point in your life for a new way of viewing your relationship with Jesus and money - one based on his redemption on the cross, where he gave the gift we could never give: his life.

And after the three years of our campaign are up and we have achieved our goal, I hope we can all say with the Apostle Paul, knowing full well the double meaning of the phrase: "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"



Paul Hennings,
Senior Pastor

PS: check out your generosity from 2021! Our total giving was **\$2,210,000!**



WE REMEMBER PASTOR GORDON

Rev. Gordon Salsman, a long-time member of our St. Mark's family and Pastor Emeritus, died on February 2, 2022. We certainly cherish our memories of Pastor Gordon but rejoice that he is home in heaven and no longer in pain.

Pastor Gordon's family is making plans for an outdoor service at St. Mark's at the cross sometime this spring. Per Pastor Gordon's request, German chocolate cake and key lime pie will be served to those in attendance, as he really enjoyed those desserts!

MADE FOR MORE

Let's get to the point: **MADE FOR MORE** is a capital campaign. More than just a fundraising exercise, this campaign is a focused effort to recognize fully and honestly what the Word of God says about stewardship. For some, it will be the beginning of developing trust in God. For others, it may be the final piece in giving God control over every aspect of their lives. No matter where you're at with your stewardship, you are invited to grow in faithful giving.

FOUR THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS CAMPAIGN

- 3-YEAR CAMPAIGN** ending in 2025.
- GOAL OF 100% PARTICIPATION**
 - If you are not currently giving at St. Mark's, take a step to give to our general fund.
 - If you are currently giving at St. Mark's, take the extra step to give to the **MADE FOR MORE** capital campaign as well.
- ACCOUNTABILITY. TRANSPARENCY. COMMUNICATION.** We promise to be accountable with how funds are used, transparent in spending only what has been given and how we divide that spending, and communicate at least quarterly on our progress.
- FAITH AT THE CORE** More than anything, we desire this campaign to be something that increases your faith as you see God provide for you, your family, and our faith community.

"But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." - 2 Corinthians 8:7

Our goal is 100% PARTICIPATION, as we see the great value in every gift.

Even a small sacrifice made each week as a statement of faith and trust will have a significant impact on the campaign's success.

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 24: Q&A Forum at 7:00 pm on-site or online. Please register at stmarkscr.org/madeformore or on your St. Mark's app

FEBRUARY 28: Last day to register for our church-wide stewardship study on the book "Renewing Your Money Mind." Register and pay for your book (\$10/each) at stmarkscr.org/madeformore

MARCH 24: Q&A Forum at 7:00 pm on-site or online. Please register at stmarkscr.org/madeformore or on your St. Mark's app

APRIL 17 (EASTER SUNDAY): Financial Commitment cards due

APRIL 24: Campaign Celebration - we will announce our commitment total!

WAYS TO GIVE TO MADE FOR MORE

MAIL A CHECK to our church office. Please make checks payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church and include "**MADE FOR MORE**" in the memo line.

IN-PERSON Return your gift by placing it in our offering stands throughout the building or at the front office during business hours.

ONLINE OR USE OUR CHURCH CENTER APP Giving is safe and secure. Please choose "**MADE FOR MORE**" from the dropdown.

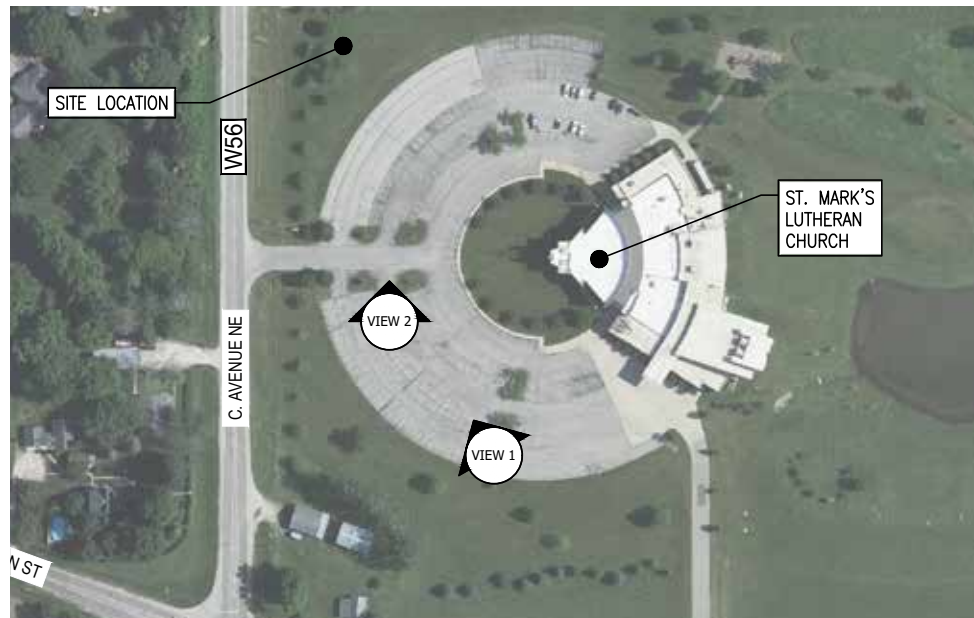
Lisa Pritchard, a long-time St. Mark's partner, is serving as our Stewardship Director during our campaign. Contact her at lpritchard@faith-life.org with questions.

WEEKLY AMOUNT GIVEN	MONTHLY	YEARLY	3-YEAR
100	400	5,200	15,600
75	300	3,900	11,700
50	200	2,600	7,800
25	100	1,300	3,900
20	80	1,040	3,120
10	40	520	1,560
5	20	260	780

ANNUAL CELEBRATION RECAP

On February 6, 2022 we met for our Annual Celebration (also known as the Annual Meeting.) We are SO thankful for technology - especially in Iowa during the winter. With the hard work of our staff, the patience of the congregation, and the power of technology, we were able to host a hybrid Annual Celebration. We joined in-person and online to review how God worked in 2021, prepared our focus for 2022, and kicked off our **MADE FOR MORE** capital campaign.

Kristin Roberts, church Council President, presented a report, as did Pastor Paul. Pam Schulz, Executive Director, and Cheri Presley, Finance Manager, presented the financials for 2021 and 2022. Kristin Roberts also led us through nominating new members for church council, the nominating committee, and St. Mark's Foundation. Finally, we voted to "give the Church Council the authority to lease approximately 2,500 square feet to SouthWestCo Wireless Inc d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a monopole cell tower to be placed on the northwest corner of the property."



ABOVE: rendering of a monopole

LEFT: proposed site location of monopole on St. Mark's property

There are ongoing negotiations and the church is working through an attorney, Church Mutual (insurance), and Thrivent Financial (mortgage lender). The cell phone tower will be a consistent source of revenue for the church. Questions? Contact Pam Schulz, Executive Director at pschulz@faith-life.org

CHURCH COUNCIL

We give thanks to our elected church council officers for 2022-2023. Council members play an important role in the body of our church by helping to see that St. Mark's fulfills its mission, vision, and values for partners and guests. The council meets monthly to evaluate our resources and ensures that we are being responsible stewards of the gifts we've been given.

A big shout-out to outgoing council members: Anita Haughenbury, Amy Steinbach, and Greg Voss for their multiple years serving on council.

2022-2023 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Kristin Roberts
 Vice President: Cynthia Culbertson
 Treasurer: Aaron Loan
 Secretary: Michelle Meyers
 Chaplin: Eric Knoll
 Member: Mark Freed
 Member: Mike Jones
 Member: Sarah Young

FAMILY MINISTRY

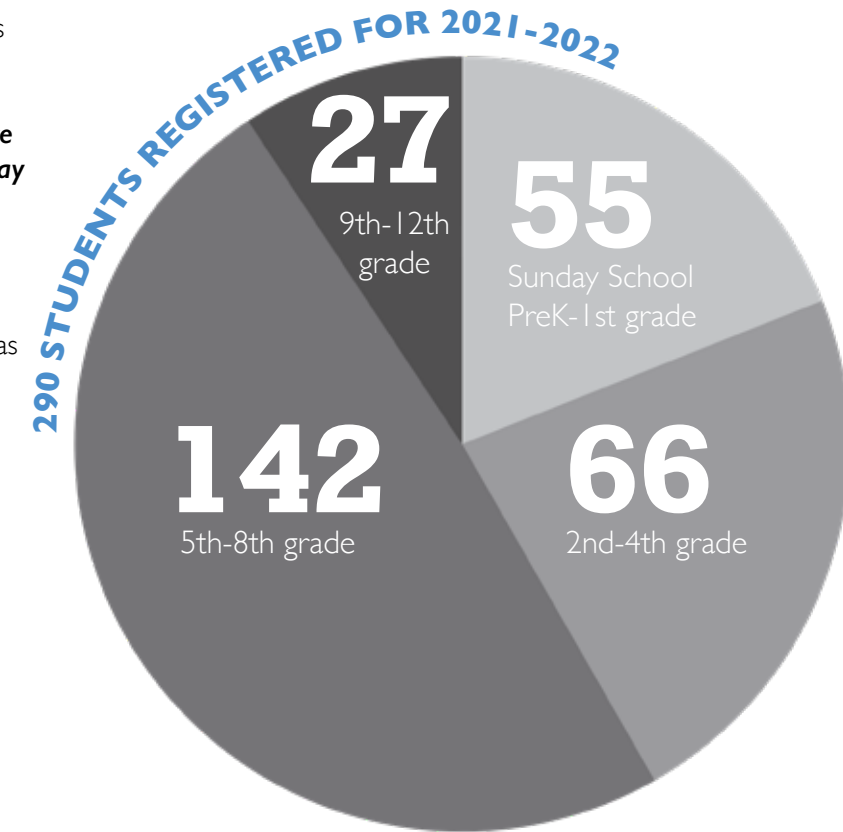
Great things are happening within our Family Ministries programs. From birth to high school graduation, our Family Ministry team works to partner with and equip families to connect faith + life. **Going into 2022, we are still in need of volunteers to help with both Wednesday and Sunday ministries!** Please prayerfully consider volunteering for our students.

BAPTISMS

New to Family Ministry at the beginning of last year was facilitating baptisms. What an honor to celebrate this meaningful Christian event with families! You can learn more about baptisms at St. Mark's at stmarkscr.org/baptisms

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

Sunday mornings have been a great opportunity for some of our younger members to learn some awesome new things. January's theme was "A Night at the Museum." It focused on how the Bible shows us God and Jesus. At the end of the month they got to participate in a museum adventure throughout several classrooms on the lower level. The adventure included a room to dig up and find "dinosaur bones" as junior archeologists to show that we can see God through Jesus much in the way archeologists can see dinosaurs through their bones. Next was a visit to the aquarium complete with an underwater feel. Here the students got to hear and listen to different sea animals' noises to illustrate that we can hear God's voice if we listen. Third, they got to travel the world in a taste exhibit, which included sweets from three different Asian countries: Japan, Korea, and China. Here they could see that these sweets gave them a taste of life in another country, much like Jesus gives us a taste of God's power. Finally, the students went to a science exhibit and got to take part in science experiments showing three forces of nature: wind, gravity, and electricity. These experiments allow students to make the connection that even though we can't see these forces with our own eyes we know they are there because we experience them. Much in the way these science experiments help them experience these unseen forces of nature, the Bible shows us how to experience God. This museum adventure was so fun and exciting for all involved! We can't wait to see what other fun things happen at Sunday School.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (GRADES 2-4)

We LOVE our time on Wednesday evenings with our younger students. Our hope is that students in 2nd-4th grade begin their faith journey with a strong foundation in community with their peers. Our students are on an incredible JOURNEY with Jesus and we're thrilled to be a part of their faithlife.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY (GRADES 5-8)

Confirmation with our middle schoolers is going great. Bailey Comegys pours her love and energy into all of our students and is building meaningful relationships with students, parents, and volunteers. Middle schoolers have a ton of events to look forward to including:

- Heart & Soul Retreat
- Youth Baking Day
- Give HOPE Food gathering

Save the date: Confirmation for our current 8th graders will be October 29 (they'll be 9th graders then!)

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY (GRADES 9-12)

Our biggest highlight is we've pinned down our Mission Trip location for July 2022! We are heading to Wilmington, NC for eight days. We are so excited to be the hands and feet of Jesus and serve the people of North Carolina.

SAVE THE DATES! VBS at St. Mark's will be July 17-21.

UPCOMING EVENTS



2/28 Deadline to order "Renewing Your Money Mind" book (\$10/each). This companion study to our **MADE FOR MORE** capital campaign is designed to be a four-week discussion of Biblical principles on giving. Register and order at stmarkscr.org/madeformore



3/4 & 3/5 IF:2022 is a two-day event where women (ages 16+) all over the world gather together, get equipped, and discover the next step in their calling: to go and make disciples. Learn more and register (\$20) at stmarkscr.org/lifgathering



3/6 & 3/20 Pastor Paul is leading a tour to Greece, Turkey, and Italy in April 2023. We are hosting informational meetings on March 6 and March 20 at 11:30 am. Download a trip brochure at registernow.itworld.com and enter "HenningsG23" in the search box.

YOUR STRENGTHS ARE UNIQUE

God made each of us in his own image...beautifully, fearfully, wonderfully. Each of us has a purpose in life: at work, at home, and as a Christ follower. 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 stmarkscr.org/strengths

FIVE STRENGTHS CLASSES WILL BE OFFERED IN 2022!

Introduction to Strengths

Strengths-based Marriage
February 28 at 6:30 pm

Deeper Dive into Strengths
March 21 at 6:30 pm

Parenting with Strengths
March 30 at 5:30 pm

Strengths-based Leadership
April 4 at 6:30 pm

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.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 2022		1	2 Ash Wednesday Services 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm	3	4 IF: Gathering Women's Conference Learn more & register (\$20) at stmarkscr.org/lifgathering	5
6 Greece Trip Informational Meeting 11:30 am	7	8	9 Lenten Lunch & Services March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6	10	11	12
13	14	15	Sign up to provide food or serve a meal at stmarkscr.org/events	17	18	19
20 Greece Trip Informational Meeting 11:30 am	21 Deeper Dive Into Strengths Class 6:30 pm	22	Meal: 11:45 am Service: 12:30 pm	24 MADE FOR MORE Q&A Forum 7:00 pm	25	26
27	28	29	30 Parenting With Strengths Class 5:30 pm	31	Register at stmarkscr.org/strengths	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 2022					1	2
3	4 Strengths-Based Leadership Class 6:30 pm	5 Have you turned in your MADE FOR MORE Financial Commitment Card yet? We would like them back by Easter Sunday! Printed cards available or fill out a Digital Commitment Card at stmarkscr.org/madeformore	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm	15 Good Friday Service 7:00 pm	16
All Holy Week services listed at stmarkscr.org/easter						
17 Easter Services 6:30, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00 am	18 Church Office Closed Staff Holiday	19	20	21	22	23
24 MADE FOR MORE Capital Campaign Celebration!	25 Church Office Closed Staff Retreat	26	27	28	29	30



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Marion, IA 52302

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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

Phone: 319-447-0100

Text Alerts: Text **STMARKSCR** to **94-000**

Current Worship Schedule:

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

10:00 am | Modern: joyful worship in a casual setting
in Life Worship Center

WATCH LIVE: A livestream of each service is available by
clicking the **WATCH LIVE** button at stmarkscr.org

ST. MARK'S FOUNDATION



FOUNDATION

stmarkscrfoundation.org

ENSURING ST. MARK'S FUTURE

The St. Mark's Lutheran Church Foundation provides partners of St. Mark's a way to give a gift that keeps on giving, forever. The Foundation's mission is to accept partner's legacy gifts, to ensure the funds are managed for the long-term, and are used to the partner's intended purpose. Legacy gifts include estate gifts, designation in a will, beneficiary assignment of a insurance, 401K, or any other gifts received by the Foundation.

For more information visit the Foundation website at stmarkscrfoundation.org

2022-2023 FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Bruce Altorfer

Mike Bringolf

Chris Lindell

Kevin Becker

Caitlin Hartman

Kristin Roberts

Rosie Bowers

Marlene Hill

Tim Wuest