

# YEAR IN REVIEW

St. Mark's Lutheran Church • *connect faith + life*



2022

# 22 POINTS OF IMPACT

2,019 ACTIVE PARTNERS



40 CONFIRMATION STUDENTS



SENDING TWO PASTORS

4 WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S CLASSES

47 PEOPLE ATTENDED A WELCOME CLASS

23 BAPTISMS

51 NEW PARTNERS

190 STUDENTS AT VBS



OUTDOOR WORSHIP

THE GARDEN OF GIVING WAS PLANTED

BEAUTIFUL WEEK

STAFF TRANSITIONS INTO NEW ROLES

9 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

TOTAL 2022 GIVING \$2,931,128.16



HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP



TWO TRIPS TO PANAMA

LAUNCHED A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



7 STRENGTHS CLASSES OFFERED WITH OVER 50 PEOPLE ATTENDING

RETURN OF THE EASTER BREAKFAST

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

1703 PEOPLE ATTENDED CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

HOSTED AN ALPHA CLASS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HOPE CDA

# PASTOR PAUL'S PAGE

Jesus is on the move at St. Mark's! Our mission is to help everyone connect faith and life. It's pretty simple, but we feel when we're living out our faith in Jesus in our everyday lives, it's the best way to make our families, communities, and world a better place.

That's what you will find in the pages of this Year in Review document. From our mission work to our Family Ministries, we've seen Jesus moving in powerful ways!

I can't tell you how proud I am of our congregation and what we accomplished in 2022. It was a healthy year of growth, transition, new ministries, and a little bit of "return to normalcy" (if there is such a thing!).

With that said, so many of the ministries we offer week in and week out are because of a great staff who loves Jesus and want people connected to him. I am eternally grateful to be able to work with such an excellent team!

## BY THE NUMBERS:

- **1 REVELATION CLASS:** Over 165 people going through an in-depth Bible study twice a week.
- **2 NEW PASTORAL CALLS:** It was exciting (and sad) to see God call Pastor Steve Qualben and Pastor Jason Christensen to new churches (Holy Ghost Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg, TX and Word of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfield, IA respectively).
- **3 NEW CHRISTMAS JACKETS:** Enough said!
- **7 SERMON SERIES:** We started with MADE FOR **MORE** and ended with Mercy with an \* in-between (see page 7)

So as you peruse the pages of this Year in Review document, I invite you to be part of what God is doing here at St. Mark's. **Connect faith and life!**

-Senior Pastor Paul Hennings

ONE OF MY NEW CHRISTMAS JACKETS!



## ST. MARK'S STAFF

Senior Pastor  
Pastoral Interns

Rev. Paul Hennings  
Michele Jones  
John Mosinski  
Alice Murray  
Khrystle Sullivan

Executive Director  
Director of FaithLife Ministries  
Director of Communications  
& Marketing  
Director of Missions  
Director of Care & Hospitality

Pam Schulz  
Sarah Bartlett  
Kelly Frampton

Stewardship Director  
Finance Manager  
Financial Assistant

Michele Jones  
Alice Murray  
Lisa Pritchard  
Cheri Presley  
Pam Koranda

Receptionist

Carol Beyer

Production Coordinator  
Traditional Music Coordinator  
& Organist  
Chancel Choir Director  
Facilities Manager & Technical Arts

Joel Drzycimski  
Barbara Ritchie

Mark Logan  
Jim Wood

Early Childhood Ministry Coordinator  
Family Ministry Administrative Assistant  
Middle School Ministry Coordinator  
High School Ministry Coordinator  
Nursery Coordinator  
Nursery Caregivers

Sam Crumpton  
Lynne Kendrick  
Bailey LeBeau  
James Swanson III  
Lisa Huggins  
Holly Huggins  
Jennifer Mixdorf  
Amy Von Alexander  
Mia Von Alexander

Custodians

Amy Fortin  
Libby Fortin  
Paul Fortin  
Kevin Sindelar





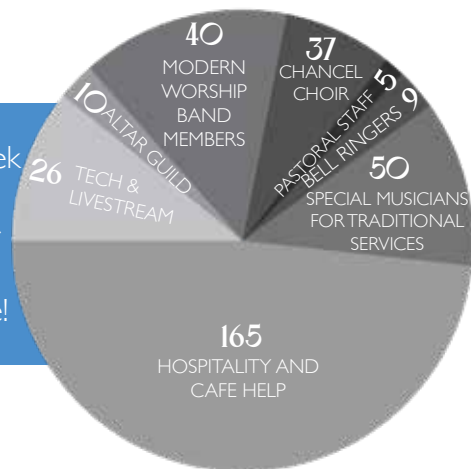
# WORSHIP

Sunday worship provides an opportunity to respond and connect together to what God has done through song, giving, and teaching. We are a welcoming congregation with two different worship styles, but one message: Jesus Christ crucified.

**MODERN MUSIC** Our worship is band-led and we seek to provide excellent music with a relevant sound to facilitate our times of worship.

**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 services.

Sundays come once a week and we are grateful for all those who volunteer their time and talents to create a meaningful worship time!



## 2022 SERMON SERIES

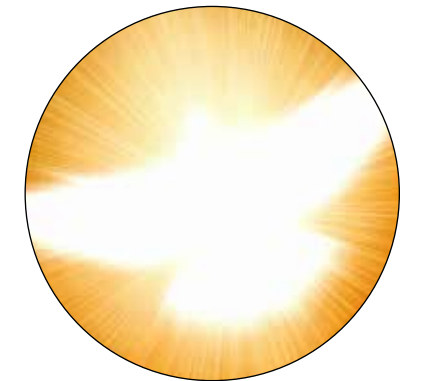
St. Mark's bases its teachings, vision, and future on the inspired Word of God. The Bible and prayer are a part of every program, study, and worship experience as we gather in the name of Jesus.



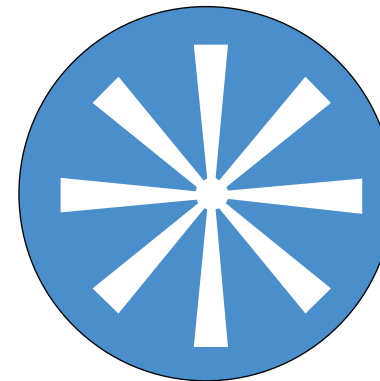
**JANUARY - FEBRUARY**  
Discovered we were  
**MADE FOR MORE**



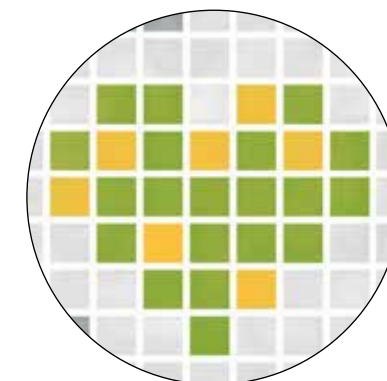
**MARCH - APRIL**  
Questioned Jesus



**MAY - JUNE**  
Got ghosted with the Holy Spirit  
during our AWAKEN series



**JUNE - AUGUST**  
Learned how to pronounce Asterisk\*



**SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER**  
Wordled with the best of them



**NOVEMBER**  
Gave thanks in all circumstances



**NOVEMBER - DECEMBER**  
Offered mercy

In 2023 we'll tackle Four Women & A Trickster, The FaithLife Movement, Something Has to Break, and a new Missions series ... **and so much more!**

Have a sermon series suggestion? Email [stmarks@faith-life.org](mailto:stmarks@faith-life.org)

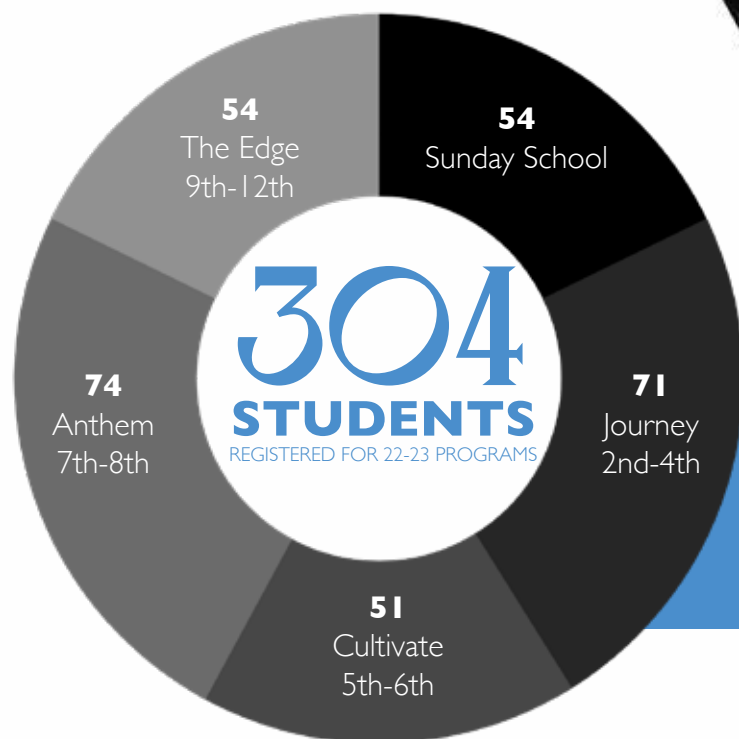
# FAMILY MINISTRY

We desire every student to know, love, and follow Jesus. Our staff and volunteers teach and interact with kids in a way that develops their wonder for God and helps them become mature disciples.



2022 was a great year for our Family Ministry programs. It was full of memories made, faith deepened, and relationships built!

- **190** students at VBS
- **40** confirmation students
- **23** baptisms
- **15** students on our high school mission trip



We can't forget our **66 VOLUNTEERS** who dedicate their time to our students each week on Wednesdays and Sundays.

There is great joy in watching a child grow in their faith and trust in Jesus! Thank you!

## I WONDER VBS



## HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

North Carolina • July 2022



# FAITHLIFE GROUPS

FaithLife Groups (what we call small 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.

We have **31 ACTIVE FAITHLIFE GROUPS** including 4 new groups that started in 2022. That's roughly 300 people involved in FaithLife groups at St. Mark's! We continue to provide RightNow Media to all of our families and friends. If you do not have access to RightNow Media, contact Sarah Bartlett, Director of FaithLife Ministries at [sbartlett@faith-life.org](mailto:sbartlett@faith-life.org) and request an invitation to join!

# THE CHOSEN

**90 PEOPLE** gathered weekly in January and February 2022 to watch season 2 of *The Chosen*!

In addition, at least six groups totaling about 70 people watched the series on their own as a FaithLife study!

# 51 NEW PARTNERS IN 2022

- Mike and Jan Bear
- Paul and Karen Cody
- Mat and Kelly Hennings and children, Hudson and Emry
- Kurt and Elise Hexum
- Beau and Dana Hubert and children, Hudson and Greta
- Cheryl Jons
- Gordon and Lynne Kerley
- Shawn and Heather Koranda and children, Emily and Drew
- Michael and Kelli Kurek and daughter, Adeline
- Nick and Jennifer Mixdorf and children, Nate, Adam, Martin, Nora, and Max
- Eric Mullinex
- Lisa Nieman
- Trent and Katie Powell and son, Allen
- Janine Roling
- Steve and Mary Sheppard
- Jill Snitko
- Jesse and Amanda Snyder and children, Addi and Reese Pierce
- Mike and Linda Spangle
- Judy Steinman
- Terry Subbert
- Justin and Amanda Zuck and son Jaxton

# WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER

St. Mark's offers many opportunities to get plugged in and connected to other partners and community members.

## 2X4 MINISTRY

2x4 was a new women's ministry held in the Fall. Participants were paired in groups of two and groups of four. The first half of the month, the groups of two met for coffee, lunch, or a walk for the purpose of getting to know other women from St. Mark's. The second half of the month, two groups of two women would meet to do the same. By the time the end of November rolled around, each of the women had met and gotten acquainted with 9 other women!

It was fun to see so many new relationships forming for the **35+ WOMEN** who participated!

## IF: GATHERING

IF:Gathering exists to equip women with gospel-centered resources, events, and community so they may learn more about who God is and disciple other women right where they are.

Each year, IF hosts a huge virtual women's conference which they live stream around the world. We host an IF:Local – a gathering of local people to watch the live stream right here at St. Mark's. It's an amazing event with God-honoring nationally-known speakers and musicians that will fill your soul with God's truth.

At IF:2022, we had **25 WOMEN** attend the live stream event in March, and about a dozen more that joined us for break-out sessions in August.

Learn more and register for IF:2023 at [stmarkscr.org/ifgathering](http://stmarkscr.org/ifgathering)

## ALPHA

In January, we held the Alpha on Sunday mornings after worship and had three groups complete the course. In September, we offered Alpha on Tuesday evenings, inviting our congregation as well as our friends and co-workers in Christ from Hope CDA.

Alpha

As always, Alpha is an incredible experience for all who attend. Between the two sessions, there were **70 PARTICIPANTS**. Learn more at [stmarkscr.org/alpha](http://stmarkscr.org/alpha)

## STRENGTHS

We want our folks to connect with their purpose. One of the tools we use is CliftonStrengths. God made each one of us in a wonderfully magnificent way. We are set apart and to be seen with awe. Don't believe us? Read Psalm 139. We want everyone to see themselves and others in the same way God sees us: as masterpieces!

In 2022 we offered **SEVEN STRENGTHS CLASSES WITH 52 PEOPLE** learning how to use their strengths in all facets of life. That's 52 more folks who are using their strengths in their marriages, work places, and as they parent their children and in the community. That's how it's done, St. Mark's!



*connect faith + life*





DID YOU KNOW...

**164**  
**QUILTS**  
 WERE CREATED BY OUR  
 QUILTERS GROUP  
 in 2022?

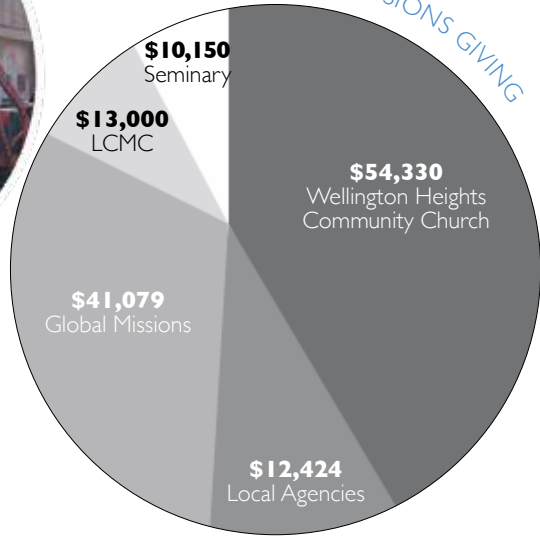
# MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Jesus said in Matthew 16, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." We continue to see our St. Mark's partners let their light show the goodness of God to our community and world! This year instead of Beautiful Day, we changed it to a **BEAUTIFUL WEEK**: a week-long event serving our community and neighbors. Some of the activities included washing windows of 11 of our partners, making 50+ freezer meals for the guys at Hope CDA, and providing household items to Chains Interrupted for two women rescued from sex trafficking.

Locally, we continue to partner with **MISSION OF HOPE** with over 50 partners either volunteering or providing ingredients, for our monthly meal. Mission of Hope feeds 140-150 people each week day. Additionally, men at St. Mark's are filling the role of "coaches" to participants of **HOPE CDA** and serving in leadership positions.



2022 MISSIONS GIVING



In the summer of 2022, we had 188 volunteer spots to fill **FLY** (Feeding Lunches to Youth). FLY regularly provides over 1800 lunches each week.

We also continue to partner with **WELLINGTON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CHURCH**, donating to their Blessings Box with items such as toiletry essentials.

St. Mark's developed a new relationship with **CALMS** in Panama. Our mission team of six in May 2022 was the first group that CALMS had brought to the area of Tierras Altas. From this trip we began a relationship with the small elementary school that we served. In November 2022, eight partners were able to continue and grow that relationship. We see God opening doors and we are so excited!

We continue to pray for our friends at **UCI** in Haiti and look forward to when we can return. 84 school kids at UCI received Christmas gifts from their sponsors. We were also able to provide funds for rice and beans for the community (hunger is at a critical stage in Haiti). St. Mark's also continues to support missionaries around the world from Japan, to Papua New Guinea, to Panama, to right here in Iowa.





# CARE MINISTRY

We all have defining moments in our lives—challenging circumstances, relational pain, or transitional seasons.

We want to come alongside you!

We love to walk with you in all times of your and your family's life. This year we have provided care for our partners and families in many ways. We have a team of **21 CARE TEAM LEADERS** who help us accomplish this important ministry. We are so thankful for their servant hearts!

**HOSPITAL VISITS:** Visitors are an important part of the recovery process and can help people recover faster and also help reduce their anxiety and stress.

**SHUT IN VISITS:** where we take communion and pray with people on a monthly basis.

**GRIEFSHARE:** We completed a GriefShare course in early 2022, then hosted a "Surviving The Holidays" seminar in November. With the new year, we will begin a new GriefShare course.

**PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING:** We hosted 5 weddings in 2022!

We also love to have **ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATIONS** with people in both struggles and times of celebration. To set up a time to meet or if you have questions about Care Ministry, please contact Alice Murray, Director of Care & Hospitality at [amurray@faith-life.org](mailto:amurray@faith-life.org)



# HOSPITALITY

**SUNDAYS:** The goal of our St. Mark's Hospitality Ministry is to provide a welcoming environment for partners, guests, and friends in order to enhance their worship experience, encourage fellowship, and help build community. We love our times of fellowship and connection on Sunday mornings in the Connections Cafe to reflect on the message, catch up with old friends, and meet new ones. We are so thankful for this ministry!

**MONDAY-SATURDAY:** We really began to open up our building this year and hosted over 150 community events in 2022! Hosting events of other organizations is a great way to bring in new people from our community and to serve those in need.

DID YOU KNOW...

**150**  
COMMUNITY  
EVENTS  
WERE HOSTED IN  
OUR BUILDING  
IN 2022

Beethoven Club Breakfast  
Boy Scouts  
Cedar Rapids Police  
Cub Scouts  
Days for Girls  
Girl Scouts  
Harmony Hawks Concert  
High School Graduations  
Language Class

Linn Mar Schools  
Local Elections  
Montessori School  
Northern Lights  
Orchestra Concerts  
PEO  
Student Recitals  
Weather Spotters  
Weddings

# THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF ST. MARK'S.

Your generous gifts make our ministries possible.

St. Mark's moved the fiscal year to July 1 - June 30 on July 1, 2022. This does not impact your giving schedule, but it does allow the church's operating budget the time to adjust mid-year if needed based upon current giving.

All partners will receive a calendar year giving statement to be used for their income tax returns.

Any gifts that are received from a charitable trust or other fund that is non-deductible will receive a separate statement from St. Mark's.

DID YOU KNOW...

**26%**  
OF GENERAL FUND GIVING IS RECEIVED IN DECEMBER EACH YEAR?



Give online at [stmarkscr.org/give](https://stmarkscr.org/give)

With a bag of small stones and big faith, David conquered Goliath. Battles fought in the name of God can have remarkable results. In early 2022, St. Mark's began a three-year capital campaign. Developed to be an extension of one's spiritual journey rather than a financial exercise, the campaign has already accomplished great things.

Perhaps more than anything, this campaign represents how the St. Mark's faithful have placed trust in God for their finances. Of all the things we place in the Lord's care, money is often the hardest to surrender control. THANKYOU to those who have demonstrated that faith.

### CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS (UPDATES SHOWN THROUGH 12/31/22)

- **\$3,346,699.62**: Amount pledged to date
- **\$1,778,689.43**: Total cash received to date
- **47%** of gifts/pledges are at 33% or above fulfillment
- **253** partner units have committed to the campaign
- **\$886,612.00** has been applied toward principal payment & monthly mortgage payments

MADE FOR MORE



MORTGAGE REDUCTION (85%)

\$1,485,863.02



MISSIONS (10%)

\$174,807.41



CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS (5%)

\$87,403.71

MADE FOR MORE spending priorities and current allocations based on monies received since the beginning of the campaign.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the campaign may contact Pastor Paul ([phennings@faith-life.org](mailto:phennings@faith-life.org)) or Lisa Pritchard, Stewardship Director ([lpitchard@faith-life.org](mailto:lpitchard@faith-life.org)).

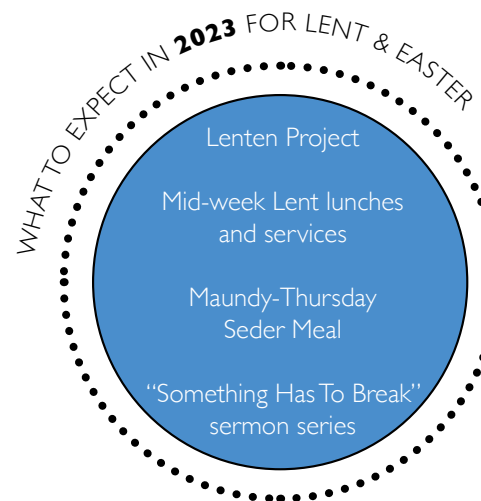


# EASTER

**HOLY WEEK** offered us the opportunity to journey with Christ through the real emotions life invites us to experience.

During Palm Sunday, we experienced Christ's triumphal processing; on Maundy Thursday, we experienced injustice with Christ; on Good Friday, the tragedy of loss; followed by the triumph of Easter Sunday as we celebrated God's ability to continue bringing new life.

• Sunday, April 9 • **1602** people attending on-site or online • **7** services • **1** Easter breakfast with \$4700+ donated to the High School Mission Trip •



# LIVING STORY

Drive-thru live nativity • December 15-17

**THE LIVING STORY** is a drive-thru nativity experience with multiple stations, beautiful narration tracks, and live animals where the community can experience all the wonder and celebration of the birth of Jesus without exiting their vehicle.

*It is such an amazing gift to the community - in all honesty it's why we came to the church a year ago!*



**\$3849.61** in donations to FLY and Churches of Marion Food Pantry

**796** hours of preparation including **100** hours of construction/ set building, **50** hours of script development, **10** hours of narration recording and editing

**662** lighted milk jug luminaries

**641** cars in our parking lot

**212** volunteers and staff covering 300 roles

**60** dog treats bags handed out

**11** planning team meetings

**7** narration tracks

**3** nights

**1** baby who changed everything

# CHRISTMAS EVE



Saturday, December 24

We gathered together for a hope-filled message and beloved Christmas music across seven separate services. Between all services, we had **1703** people hear the Christmas story and experience Christmas at St. Mark's.

We were thrilled to bring back REAL candles this year to end our services with singing Silent Night!

A big thank you to our musicians, worship and tech volunteers, and hospitality hosts who helped make our service welcoming and impactful!

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023



What's in store for 2023 you ask? Here are just a few things to be on the lookout for:

- Starting a new ministry location (multi-site ministry)
- Buying our first house for low cost rental
- Watching a new road come in (Tower Terrace)
- New mission opportunities

## SAVE THE DATES

- FEBRUARY 10:** Night to Shine
- FEBRUARY 26:** Ash Wednesday services
- APRIL 6:** Seder Meal
- APRIL 9:** Easter services
- APRIL 15:** Poverty Simulation
- APRIL 22:** Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build
- JUNE 19-22:** VBS "On The Case"
- JULY:** High School Mission Trip
- AUGUST 27:** Annual Meeting
- DECEMBER 24:** Christmas Eve services



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