

Address Service Requested



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ABOUT ST. MARCUS

At St. Marcus, God bridges between a diversity of people so they can connect to Him and with even more people. We have rich and poor, educated and under-educated, life-long Christians and those new to Jesus. We celebrate a variety of ethnic backgrounds and family histories, but we are all part of God's united family. We are not afraid of letting people know who we are or taking risks to win souls. We don't shy away from the truth of sin and evil of humanity but can't stop showing the love and forgiveness of God in Jesus. We are firm in the truth but flexible in how we share the message.

...DID YOU KNOW?

St. Marcus has Christmas Angels? Employees from ManpowerGroup and Kohl's Corp blessed and lifted 200 students and 30 St. Marcus families through gifts of books, Christmas packages, groceries and gas cards. The handiwork of God has blessed us with new hands in ours.

CELEBRATE WITH US!

New Members

Nick Aiello
John and Jacqueline Bauer
Luke and Rachel Beilke
LaKendra Brown
Erika Hafemann
John Torres

Baptisms

Jude Beyer
Jordan Brown
Kennedy Brown
Tara Johnson
Isabelle Mount
Archer Rose
Elise Weber

Wedding Anniversaries

Gary and Beth Evans	February 1, 1986
Doug and Tracy Saugstad	February 10, 2008
Bob and Susan Buss	February 22, 2004
Bill and Linnea Hanson	February 23, 1992
Chris and Brenda Jashinsky	February 25, 2006
Jeff and Candy Underwood	February 26, 2000

FEATURED MEMBER: AMY DIRKSEN

About her: Amy grew up with two younger brothers and one older sister on a dairy farm in Iowa. She attended Luther Preparatory High School in Watertown, WI. and Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN. She never wanted to be a teacher, but God had a different plan. It is truly amazing how He works!



After graduating from MLC in the STEP program, her first assignment was to California Lutheran High School to teach freshmen and sophomore English and History. She went back to reassignment at MLC and was placed at St Peters in Schofield, WI where she taught first and second grade for four years before moving to Little Rock, AR to teach fifth grade English at a new "no excuses" charter school. Last summer, she accepted the Call to teach 2nd grade at St. Marcus!

Tell us about teaching at St. Marcus. "It is intense in many ways but it is exciting to be at a school where you have an opportunity to not only teach high-level academics but also teach about Christ's unconditional love and His plan for salvation. Helping students to prepare for this life and the life after death is truly a privilege!"

What motivates you? How do you unwind? God has blessed me with this wonderful job and I view it as a true blessing and privilege to be a part of this ministry. Even though I can belly ache like the Israelites in the desert, it is Christ's love that compels me to keep going every day.

I enjoy a glass of red wine while watching The Office or Friends to unwind. On nice days, I like to walk around the lake. I also enjoy driving around in my car with the radio blasting so that I can sing along without causing anyone pain in their ears.

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2012



WORSHIP: SUNDAYS 8:00AM, 10:30AM, 2:00PM & 5:30PM

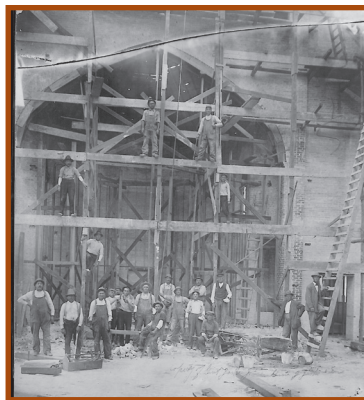
ANNIVERSARY POTLUCK

Celebrating 137 Years in the Ministry!

Join St. Marcus on Sunday, February 19th following the 10:30am service to celebrate **our anniversary!** For almost three decades a **potluck dinner** has been a tradition when celebrating this milestone event.

Members, please prepare to share your "special" dishes or ones that are ethnically significant in your family. **Diversity is a big part of what makes St. Marcus unique** - let's embrace those differences while sharing our family specialties.

Come for an afternoon of good food and great company (each other) as we thank God for loving all of us and bringing us together in a **family of believers**.



Church Construction - 1913

CHALLENGE TO LEAD



FOUNDATION, INC.

"There's no such thing as free money", but some money does come with a silver lining...

During the summer of 2011, the M&I Foundation, already a major supporter with a grant of \$250,000 in 2010, wrestled with how to partner with St. Marcus in closing out our "*Unlock the Potential*

Capital Campaign". Realizing that most non-profits struggle with raising the final 20% of funds needed to reach "goal", they offered the means to complete Phase II and close out the campaign by leveraging this gift with new gifts, encouraging us to continue building relationships with other funding partners whose new gifts would be "**matched**" by M&I. One million matching dollars are waiting for St. Marcus to do the hard work of raising the \$2.5 million necessary to meet the expectations of this phenomenal and trusting challenge.

Meeting goal is more than a number or a financial accomplishment-it means more of Milwaukee's children will be served with life altering education- more families will be reached with the life-line to a healthier existence-and it means we will finish this effort-positioned to begin anew.

St. Marcus has crossed that magic number. We are 16% from goal. To date, we have been gifted with \$10.1 million in gifts, grants, promises and commitments from members, foundations and our community partners. This number already includes \$400,000 of the M&I Challenge!

The "challenge" is due to expire on March 31st. God willing, we will endure and exceed expectations. \$600,000 awaits any and all gifts and pledges to Unlock the Potential.

Will one of these gifts be yours? The apostle Paul challenged the Corinthians (2 Cor. 8) to excel in this "grace of giving".

Are you involved in the grace of giving?

Please pray for our Capital Campaign and for God's direction – may you find the joy that awaits this type of giving and experience the true silver lining of joyful surrender.

PASTOR'S LETTER



Dear Brothers & Sisters of Jesus,

St. Marcus will be 137 years old in 2012. Or shall we say we are 137 years young? Some will recognize 137 as a prime number. Mathematically, it means any other number besides the number one and itself cannot divide it. Theologically, we are bound to the God who is the Three-

In-One, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **We celebrate "the Power of One."** We are One in the faith in Jesus! I like to think that St. Marcus is in it's prime and carries the family resemblance evident in younger years, pronounced all the more as we look at ourselves today.

We're on the edge! Back in the 1870's, North Ave. wasn't just a street on the north side of Milwaukee. It was the edge of the city. Today, the edge of the city is anywhere from five to fifteen miles from where we are on North, still here on the edge. Almost every political, social, racial, and economic movement has origins in our neighborhood. (*Where did Occupy stake its claim in November?*)

Today, there are still many here living on the edge: it's either the edge of poverty and despair, or success and hope. People have observed that we are on the cutting edge of worship and congregational life. It's where we need to be to reach people who are on the edge. Whether they fall off or take off may well be within our reach. That's why it is great to have Wandani Youth Outreach and Time of Grace media ministries launched at St. Marcus as partner ministries.

We have a thriving school! Looking back to 1875, St. Marcus was a school before it was a church. In 1873, St. John's Lutheran Church (still at 8th & Vliet) purchased a 50 by 150 ft. property at the northwest corner of Beaubian and Short St. (Garfield Ave. and N. Palmer St.) and erected a branch of its school.

On June 13, 1875, St. Marcus Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded, and those present were informed that St. John's was willing to sell this branch for only \$1,000. By June 30th, St. Marcus purchased the school. We continue to invest in the ministry of the school as all students are taught the value of faith in Jesus Christ along with the benefit of academic success.

We are a member-led congregation! We celebrate the universal priesthood, as Jesus taught it, that the kingdom of God is within each Christian. In 1875, 13 men from four congregations (St. John's, St. Matthew's, Immanuel, Trinity) formed St. Marcus with no "founding" pastor. From June until October, five neighboring pastors preached in rotation on Sunday afternoons while a teacher read the sermon in the morning. These faithful men saw to everything else including calling their first resident pastor, Pastor J. Westernberger of Prairie du Chien in October of 1875.

We are grateful for the 17 pastors* who have served, but who can count the thousands of people who have served at St. Marcus and the hundreds of people here today? There is still a place for us on the edge in Milwaukee where Christians still gather to educate the young, serve one another, and preach the gospel to the world. Certainly that makes St. Marcus feel young all over again!

Grace and peace in Jesus,

Pastor Bill Schaefer

Happy Anniversary and Praise the Lord!

**We thank God for the ministry of our pastors in these 135 years: Joseph Westenberger, Eugene Notz, George Reinsch, August Pieper, Ernst F. Dornfeld, Ernst Ph. Dornfeld, Adolf Zeisler, Walter Gieschen, Professor J.P. Meyer, John C. Jeske, Paul Knickelbein, Richard M. Seeger, Mark A. Jeske, James R. "Ski" Skorzewski, Paul Steinberg, Kelly Huet, William J. Schaefer*

PARISH NURSE NOTE

By Kary Wiesler, RN

February is National Heart Month so lets learn about cholesterol. *What is it?*

Cholesterol is a waxy, fat-like substance that occurs naturally in the body and in some foods. Our bodies need it to function properly and we make the small amount we need. Depending on what kind of foods we eat and how efficiently our body breaks it down, excess cholesterol can accumulate and that's the problem. Excess cholesterol can build up in our arteries causing plaque, which narrows them and **decreases blood flow that can lead to heart attack or stroke.**

The only way to find out if you have high cholesterol is with a blood test that measures four components - total cholesterol, HDL, LDL and triglycerides. Total cholesterol is just what you think it is, the actual amount of cholesterol found in your blood. Now, here's the confusing part...there are two kinds of cholesterol.

High-density lipoproteins (HDL) absorb cholesterol and carry it back to the liver where it is flushed from the body. This is the "good" cholesterol and high levels decrease the risk of heart attack or stroke. Unfortunately, most of the cholesterol in the body is made up of low-density lipoproteins (LDL), the "bad" cholesterol that builds up in the arteries as potentially deadly plaques.

There are **several risk factors for high cholesterol**, some fixable, some not. Because cholesterol levels rise with age (not fixable) everyone's risk goes up. But women's LDL levels go up more quickly than do men's. Until around age 55 most women have lower LDLs than men...that changes with menopause. If you are significantly overweight then your levels are likely high and the same goes for children. Considering the rapidly increasing rate of childhood obesity it would be wise to have them checked as well.

Next month I'll have some strategies for managing cholesterol. But we could all start by **going for a walk...no excuses!**

ST. MARCUS LOVES SCHOOL

PARENTS

By Pastor Paul Steinberg

To an outside observer, it might appear that Jesus' work in our school is only done by and through our outstanding teachers and staff. However, the ones God calls to love and raise children, the ones who do so much at home and on the way to school, and **the ones who will continue to love these children** for years to come -- are the parents.

Here are 3 distinct ways St. Marcus is working to build relationships with families.

Packed atrium, overflowing balcony, full aisles...there almost was no room in the.... CHURCH when over 1500 parents and extended family members came to worship and hear their children talk about the baby-child, Jesus at our school Christmas Services. **This is record participation and attendance!**

"**Thankful Thursdays**" is a new event created and hosted by the school ministry team to visibly recognize, thank, and build relationships with school parents. Each week, the ministry team meets with a classroom teacher to gather contact and spiritual information about students and their families. These families are then invited to come on Thursday morning for breakfast, treats, and audible gratitude. This provides an opportunity for parents to be involved in their child's spiritual and academic education. Families who attend enjoy the opportunity to listen to their **scholars sing songs for Jesus**. Thankful Thursdays also provides an opportunity to invite families to our **Gospel Worship of Hope** service at 2pm on Sundays. Open to all, this service is designed for those families who enjoy gospel music. Each service is led by our new Gospel Band and features a children's message and song. GWH provides another opportunity for families to find a worship home.

The school ministry team continues to look for ways to connect more parents to Jesus – please consider joining them in building these essential relationships.



School Ministry Team - Tamisha Clark, Pastor Paul Steinberg, and Marie Richardson

CANS, CHECKS AND PROMISES

Thanks to wonderful member and community support, the November/December food drive was **blessed with success!** St. Marcus members donated \$4,134.00 while community members contributed another \$3,315.00. Many provided generous donations of food and clothing as well. **These gifts come at a vital time** for the St. Marcus Food Pantry, which is facing increased demand for its services, as record numbers of individuals swarm to local food pantries. Many neighboring pantries have bare shelves and severely limited supplies.

St. Marcus served 1302 people in 2011! Your ongoing support for our food pantry is much appreciated. Gifts to this ministry significantly help address the continued challenges of serving a community in need.



SAVE-THE-DATE

Mama Mia's Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction
Sunday, March 25, 2012
Serving 11:30am - 2pm

The event will feature music, a silent auction, student performances, fun raffles and delicious Italian cuisine.

We are looking for help securing auction items and greatly appreciate each and every one! The endless possibilities are endless- we invite you to use your imagination and your connections to assemble wonderful items. How about a restaurant gift card, tickets to local attractions or themed baskets? *Children-focused, Easter, Gardening, Spring or Picnic themed baskets are some favorite ideas!*

We are also looking for unique containers, boxes or baskets for use in the silent auction.

Please share your items, experiences and talents with the St. Marcus Development Office at 414-267-8391.



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to reach out to the community with the Word of God; to lead sinners to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ; to strengthen believers to lead God-pleasing lives and to train believers as disciples, teachers, stewards and witnesses for Christ.