



SAINT MARK'S

EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Minneapolis



2023 Annual Report

612-870-7800

ourcathedral.org

519 Oak Grove Street
Minneapolis, MN 55403



Bishop's Message

Dear People of Saint Mark's,

With every passing year, our beautiful cathedral, and all of you who hold and hallow it, become more and more of a treasured home for me. Often, when I am with you for our highest feast days, ordinations, or confirmations, I have time during the liturgy to just sit quietly in the cathedral, unseen by most of the congregation. There is usually a soaring choral anthem resounding through the nave, and I love to just sit, stare up at the majestic ceiling, and feel the generations of faithful disciples who have come before us, and saturated the walls with their prayers. They've come in good times and in hard times. They've offered their fears, their joys, their hopes, grief, anger, and lives on that altar. It's an extraordinary thing to stand in such a line, and I love those quiet moments when I can just feel the weight of it.

This is a season of transition in the life of our cathedral. I've been around long enough now to know that transitions of any kind always bring their fair share of anxieties and challenges. But I've also been around long enough to know that they are a unique opportunity to remember who ultimately governs and sustains us. This beautiful place doesn't belong to us. It belongs to God, and it is given into our care for a time. The power of God's love has sustained us year in and year out, generation after generation. God will

see us through the current season, too. So, as you continue to strive to be faithful stewards of this magnificent cathedral and its resources, take time, too, to remember that God and God alone has the power to sustain our lives and our ministries.

We are built on a solid foundation; we are blessed with the gifts and leadership of a truly extraordinary congregation. I hope you will join me in this season of change and renewal at Saint Mark's of leaning again on the almighty arms of God, following more closely the way of Jesus, and then sitting back, watching the good things that God will continue to do in our midst.

“The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this”

1 Thessalonians 5:24

Many blessings, much love, and exceeding gratitude for all you are,

The Right Reverend Craig Loya
X Bishop
Episcopal Church in Minnesota



Interim Dean's ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

I am deeply honored and happy to be serving as your Interim Dean. Because I'm very new here, I want to share the basics of what a Cathedral Dean is and the goals and purpose of my interim presence with you.

The word "dean" as it applies to a Cathedral Dean or a Dean of an academic institution is from the Latin decanus, which means the "chief of a group of ten." If you're familiar with Roman "centurions," you know that they oversaw 100 Roman troops, and a Dean is a subset of that. In the Episcopal Church, some dioceses are subdivided into "deaneries," each led by a Dean appointed by the Bishop to coordinate the activities of a geographic region. In Minnesota, for example, our diocese is divided into northern and southern regions, led by Deans.

We Episcopalians picked up the practice of referring the lead clergy of a Cathedral as a Dean. According to canon law, a Cathedral Dean is synonymous with the Rector of a Parish, or for those new to Episcopal-speak, the Senior Pastor of a Congregation. The term is intended to convey a particular emphasis on the responsibility of the Cathedral and its leadership to take a lead role in amplifying and embodying the vision ministry of our Bishop.

I joined you on Sunday, November 5, following the August departure of my friend and colleague Dean Paul Lebens-Englund. Like all congregational clergy, I have a Letter of Agreement about my rights and responsibilities, and that document was ratified by the Bishop, the Senior Warden, and me after a search team of Council members recommended my appointment to the full Council of Saint Mark's. The Bishop endorsed and approved that decision. Clergy Letters of Agreement customarily enumerate specific expectations. Some of those apply to all clergy in comparable roles, and others are specific to the particular needs of a congregation.

These are, verbatim, my "marching orders," and the expectation of the Bishop and Council for my interim work here:

This Letter of Agreement is between Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral (the "Church") and the Reverend Lane Hensley (the "Interim"), who has been approved by the Church's Council as Interim Dean with the understanding that his tenure will begin November 5, 2023, and will continue until no later than May 4, 2025, or until dissolved by mutual consent, or at the sole discretion of the Bishop. **(Letter on following page)**

Letter of Agreement is between Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral and the Reverend Lane Hensley

PREAMBLE

The Interim shall lead the Church as pastor, Dean, and teacher, sharing in the councils of this faith community and of the whole Church, in communion with our Bishop. By word and action, informed at all times by the Holy Scriptures, the Book of Common Prayer, and the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, the Interim shall proclaim the Gospel, love and serve Christ's people, nourish them, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.

The Interim's ministry includes activities directed to God's mission in the faith community, but also within the neighborhood surrounding the faith community, the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, and the wider Church. Subject to the Church Council's approval, the Interim shall attend Convention, Clergy Conferences, and participate fully in the Councils of the Church, and is encouraged to participate in a clergy support group, spiritual direction, and other practices that contribute to the Interim's well-being.

SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE INTERIM:

The Interim's work includes not only activities directed to the Congregation and its well-being, but also labors on behalf of the diocese and the various communities of the larger church. The Interim will:

- Support the Church's Council in its review of, and as appropriate revisions of, the mission, vision, and values of the Congregation
- Support the Church's Council in its review of, and as appropriate revisions of, the organizational structure, finances, and fundraising mechanisms of the Church.
- Support Council, staff, and other lay leaders to maintain a regular schedule of worship services and preaching, Christian education and formation, pastoral care and pastoral offices (weddings, funerals, baptisms), calling upon the sick and homebound, visiting newcomers, and the ongoing administration of the parish.
- Work with the Council, staff, and other lay leaders to facilitate services that promote the spiritual learning and growth of the Church's members, of all ages.
- Supervise Church staff, both lay and ordained, in the exercise of their responsibilities and ministries, for which they shall be accountable to the Interim. In cases where job performance reviews are to be conducted, and where there are questions about a staff member's continued employment, the Interim shall make any such decisions only in consultation with, and with approval of, the Senior Warden.

- Function as Member of the Council and support the Council in its several responsibilities

DEVELOPMENTAL TASKS OF THE INTERIM

- Support the Council, lay leaders, and Church staff in evaluating the governing policies, procedures, and practices of the Church, and participate in discussions led by the Council regarding changes as may be needed to align parish life and administration with the canons and the generally accepted standards, policies and procedures within the diocese and The Episcopal Church.
- Support the entire Church to review and assess its history, and the role of the Dean in the Church's life, in order to be well-positioned to welcome the next Dean as a collaborative partner in the mission of God.
- Support Council, lay leaders, and Church staff to address the financial and property challenges facing the cathedral, and to develop a plan for addressing those challenges.

These are tall orders, and I look forward to sharing progress, successes, and challenges with you in the months ahead. In the weeks ahead, I'll break open each of these bullet points and tell you why they're on the list and how I'm approaching them.

My first priority continues to be knowing you better, because at the core, the Church as the Body of Christ is entirely based on our relationships to one another. Paul writes, "Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love" (Eph. 4:15-16). And Jesus' Great Commandment is "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40). Without these, nothing else we do matters. And our mission and ministry matter.

It's all about the relationships. I continue to welcome and encourage your taking the time to let me know you better. You can reach me at (612) 400-1205 or laneh@ourcathedral.org, and you can schedule time in the office, at your home, or over a meal at <https://lanehensley.org/meet>. Thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality to me and my wife Becky. It's a privilege to serve with you for a time.

Lane+

Senior Warden's

ANNUAL REPORT



At this point last year, I commented that the Cathedral found itself at a crossroads that was both financial and programmatic. I noted that financially, we needed to raise significant sums of money in both the short and intermediate terms. I noted further that, programmatically, Cathedral governance was focused on refining priorities that would guide important work shaping Cathedral leadership.

I think we accomplished much programmatically. We engaged in productive visioning sessions that produced a result with which participating Congregants seemed happy. The work that we did will help shape the search for our next Dean. This work will, of course, be a primary focus for 2024.

Financially, in my judgment, the time has come for Saint Mark's to reckon seriously with the fact that its expenses have exceeded its income for some years now. For various reasons – which have been defensible, in my judgment – we have elected to postpone such reckoning. We've hoped that mid-year pledge-campaigns and well-timed gifts would forestall difficult decisions on the expense side of the Cathedral's ledger. The reality, however, is that we need both robust giving and reductions in expenses to sustain the Cathedral into the future.

In particular, even with reductions in operating expenses, the Cathedral will need robust financial support for its upcoming capital campaign in order to keep up its physical plant. Since last year, the Cathedral accomplished significant property-related results in replacing its chiller and in addressing water-intrusion matters. Saint Mark's accomplished these results through the effective leadership of numerous Saint Markans, some of whom helped secure about \$80,000 in public grants in support of the chiller project. We will need to persist to care for the Cathedral's exterior, at considerable expense, and the elevator will require replacing imminently, at an approximate cost of \$170,000. As I noted last year, a third-party property assessment commissioned by our Property Committee posits that the expenditure of considerable sums in the near term will be necessary to maintain the Cathedral's physical structure.

Amid this difficult financial news, I have tried to bear in mind what I view as Saint Mark's beating heart: love. A love for what is good, and true. A love for our fellow Congregants. A love for our neighbors, near and far. A love, ultimately, for God.

And we will take this love into our next season, which will be one of shoulders-to-the-wheel. I believe that we Saint Markans will lean into our great work together.

Brian Childs
Senior Warden



Junior Warden's ANNUAL REPORT

I felt honored to be elected and to serve as your Junior Warden in 2023. It has admittedly been a challenging year, as we dealt with the transition of Dean Paul leaving and faced and managed our current financial issues.

In working with the Gather, Transform and Send commissions, I have also seen growth in our community, with 30 new members incorporated and 15 baptisms performed. We have continued to put forth efforts to address issues of climate justice, social justice, and racial justice. We have maintained and grown a cadre of small groups supporting people in exploring and deepening their spiritual life.

There is more work to do moving forward on all these fronts, including improving transparency and communication about how we will deal with our financial situation and our impending search for our new Dean.

David Vaughan
Junior Warden



Canon Pastor's ANNUAL REPORT

As I journey through this season of Advent and reflect on the year for this report, I am compelled to draw connections between the themes of reflection and renewal inherent in this sacred time. For me, this season intertwines our faith journey and a period of transition in a tapestry of introspection and hope-filled spiritual growth.

Advent, as you know, is a season of deep reflection and hopeful anticipation, marked by moments of introspection as we prepare our hearts to welcome the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a time when we embrace the uncertainties and, at times, even a touch of anxiety that accompany the expectation of the joyful arrival of Jesus.

In a similar vein, the Canon Pastor's Annual Report represents my moments of reflection on our faith community's journey in the past year. It provides me with a retrospective opportunity to ponder our achievements, challenges, and the collective path we've traversed. It prompts me to ponder who we are today, and who we aspire to be in God's creation. These questions must weigh on all our hearts as we enter 2024 and the transition work ahead of us.

Amidst the backdrop of our ongoing transition, we are called to scrutinize ourselves closely and seek divine guidance for the next chapter of Saint Mark's Cathedral. Transitions can be demanding, often accompanied by feelings of grief, loss, and imbalance. Yet, we find solace in standing upon the firm foundation laid since 1941, which has seen us through various trials and celebrated our successes and strengths.

In year two of our post-COVID pandemic reality, I reflect on the remarkable strides we've taken, including significant achievements in Property and Climate Justice. We've addressed a major mechanical issue by installing a heat pump to support HVAC, a decision that was both financially prudent and environmentally responsible. Furthermore, our commitment to environmental stewardship is evident in the expansion of our pollinator garden, promoting beauty and environmental health. We plan to expand these efforts to the Hennepin Avenue side of the campus.

We've also witnessed member growth, a resurgence of new families and children, a growing youth acolyte program, and the return of our nursery, to name just a few highlights. I am so very grateful for the work of so many people in our Cathedral family, but will name staff members Mary Lusk, Rev. Bryan Bliss, and Council and Committee Leadership Chris Kirwan and Joe Ward as a few.

As we navigate this season of transition, much like in Advent, I invite you to embrace this time as an opportunity for personal reflection, growth, and spiritual renewal. Seasonal self-examination is a valuable practice that will serve our community well. It is our season to turn our hearts towards God, to confess our shortcomings, and to prepare ourselves with great joy for the work of God in our midst.



With unwavering belief in our strength, let us confidently discern what comes next, as we reach out to God and lean into the calling of our eighth Dean of our beloved Cathedral. All our presence and dedication to our faith community is invaluable, especially during these times of transition and reflection, and your unwavering support is a testament to the strength of our community.

May 2024 and this transition season be moments of profound renewal, filled with hope, peace, joy, and love. Let us continue to move forward together, guided by faith, as we build upon the remarkable foundation of Saint Mark's Cathedral.

In faith and gratitude,

The Reverend Timothy M. Kingsley †
Canon Pastor



Canon Community Developer's ANNUAL REPORT

Often, when I introduce myself with my title, people wonder about the role of a “community developer.” The description is simple: develop a community of people growing as disciples and as followers of Jesus. Develop a group of people that grows as a thriving community through relationships with others, with God at the center.

To develop and grow relationships in our congregation, I work with many people, staff, and volunteers to plan and offer many different opportunities both in person and online. The highlights of this past year include engaging formation opportunities that may lead to membership, and small groups, purposefully planned to foster deeper relationships.

- Episcopal 101 series was one step in becoming a new member of Saint Mark’s for nearly 30 people. This series is led by a team of clergy and ministry leaders, teaching basic practices and background of the Episcopal church with plenty of opportunity to become acquainted within the group.
- Small groups offered throughout the year included weekly scripture study, monthly SAAGES offerings, and seasonal groups for Way of Love, Spiritual Listening, and Pollinator Gardening, to name just a few.

Perhaps the ongoing program that makes the most significant impact on many people (and that is looked forward to every season) is The Round Table. These gatherings are part of our common life together, as we come with open hearts and minds, ready to listen, to learn, to pray, and to find fellowship with each other.

While there are many ways we can obtain information, that is not the primary purpose. This series is about being a community and doing community life together. This fall, there were nearly 60 people who registered for the three-week series, which returned for its ninth year. The formation classes, small group offerings, and Round Table evenings impact our whole community.

Along with Sunday morning hospitality, our Cathedral is alive with the Holy Spirit, that feeling that God is in our midst. That sense of “God with us” is felt by visitors who join us on Sundays. During this past year, we were blessed with visitors; by my estimate, 25% of most Sunday attendance was visitors, first time or returning.



And our visitors expressed interest in learning more about this community, completing more than 100 Connect Cards. That is one of our highest years for connections, in a time when we hear so much about dying churches.

I am thankful for all of you, as it takes each of us to “welcome the stranger” and help people feel comfortable in our church home. To do the work of building community takes many people, as we all invite, greet, orient, and incorporate new people into our shared life. I am very thankful for so many partners in this ministry of community-building, which allow us to welcome new members, to engage any number of visitors, and to offer small group opportunities that help us all to become better connected.

I am especially thankful for the support that Jim Arnold and Dan Ferber give with communications, so that we offer a clear message of who we are as a community of disciples. The collegial teamwork with Bryan Bliss and Sarah Hoch is allowing us to interact with newcomers more quickly, help them connect in significant ways, and offer strong formation options.

Hospitality, welcoming and orienting into our common life is so magnificently led by John and Lois Satterberg, Kimberly Darnall Johnson and Bill Russell, who are always on the watch for the stranger to welcome. Additionally, Tim Kingsley offers unending support as we move through our current transition phase and continue to transform as the community that God is calling us to be.

Repeatedly when asked the question, “What keeps you here at Saint Mark’s?” we hear the following answers: “The people.” “The windows, the music, the sermons.” “The people!”

It is because of each of you that we are a thriving community, growing and evolving, walking as disciples together as the road unwinds before us. I am thankful to be on this journey with you.

Mary Lusk
Canon Community Developer

Gather Commission Chair's

ANNUAL REPORT

It is my privilege to be the GATHER Council Member for Saint Mark's. GATHER invites people to the church and welcomes them, TRANSFORM includes the many programs conducted at Saint Mark's, and SEND is work done in the community.

I am continually amazed by the many amazingly dedicated people at Saint Mark's who contribute their time and resources to welcoming people to our wonderful home. These include Kimberley Darnall Johnson, Bill Russell and Company for hospitality, Sally Cunningham and her group for greeters, and Bill Carpenter, David Hudson, Gayle Gaskill and John Rittman for ushers. Also, of course, the welcome desk, programming, and hospitality, to name only a few. I feel very fortunate to be counted among them!

I am proud of the diligent work done by staff and lay leaders to create a welcoming and inviting environment.

David Albrecht
GATHER Commission Chair



Send Commission Chair's

ANNUAL REPORT

According to Cathedral Statutes, the purpose of the SEND Commission is "connecting members with God's loving, liberating, and life-giving work in the world." The SEND Ministries give life to three of the "5 Marks of Mission" to which we Episcopalians adhere.

These include:

- Responding to human need through loving service
- Transforming unjust structures of society, challenging violence of every kind, and pursuing peace and reconciliation
- Safeguarding the integrity of creation and sustaining and renewing the life of the earth

It has been my pleasure to advocate for, represent on Council, and celebrate the many ways in which Saint Mark's faithfully lives out these commitments. In a time of constricted financial resources – none of the ministries in SEND have received financial support from the Cathedral budget in the past year – this work has nonetheless gone on unabated and with loving enthusiasm, as dozens of parishioners have individually and communally dedicated themselves in service.

Special thanks is due to former Dean Paul's leadership and to the ministerial staff for facilitating greater congregational engagement this year through expanded use of the Weekly Connector, Sunday Bulletin, and "Timely Topics" opportunities between Sunday services.

Mary Ramsbottom
SEND Commission Chair





Worship

ANNUAL REPORT

Here at Saint Mark's, our worship offerings have increased over the past year. In addition to the 8 a.m. Eucharist, 10:30 a.m. Eucharist, and 5 p.m. Evensong on Sundays, the 5:30 p.m. Santa Misa (Spanish spoken) Eucharist on Saturdays, and the 12:15 p.m. Eucharist on Wednesdays, we offer Morning Prayer on Tuesdays at 8 a.m. and Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. The preparations for each of these worship services vary depending on the space in which they are held and the person planning them. Besides our regular worship services, there are many feast days and special services throughout the year. I am grateful for the staff and volunteers who continue to assist in maintaining our sacred spaces.



There are many people responsible for creating inspiring sacred spaces in which we can provide meaningful worship experiences. I would like to thank Altar Guild members, the vergers, the acolytes, the clergy, the choir, the Canon Musician, the ushers, the lectors, the intercessors, and the staff. We all, along with the congregation, do our part to worship God.

The Reverend Terry M. Erickson
Deacon and Sacristan



Music

ANNUAL REPORT

Music is an integral aspect of our worship at Saint Mark's. We are fortunate to have an excellent choir capable of offering the finest music from the cathedral repertoire. Maintaining a high standard is an enjoyable challenge, and thanks go to our adult volunteers and section leaders who give so generously of their time and talent.

There were many highlights during the year – the Advent and Christmas Carol services, Holy Week services, and Music Series concerts, to name but a few; but the most rewarding aspects are the commitment of those who participate in the choirs and choral society, and the enthusiasm and appreciation of those who hear and are moved by our work.

I look forward to continuing our fine musical tradition and am excited to initiate The Cathedral Choral Academy – an opportunity for young singers throughout the diocese to come together to create some wonderful music!

Very many thanks to you all for your continued support and encouragement!

Ray Johnston
Canon Musician



Liturgy

ANNUAL REPORT

Oh, what a year!

Prayers, smiles, people, music, sharing, learnings, new experiences, and so much agape.

This faith community, cathedral by name, is rising from the ashes of COVID-19 restrictions, trepidation, and fear like a phoenix. The phoenix is a beautiful bird described below by Saint Clements, 4th Bishop of Rome in the 1st Century:

There is a certain bird which is called a phoenix. This is the only one of its kind, and it lives 500 years. And when the time of its dissolution draws near that it must die, it builds itself a nest of frankincense, myrrh, and other spices, into which, when the time is fulfilled, it enters and dies (then later rises again). Do we then deem it any great and wonderful thing for the Maker of all things to raise up again those that have piously served Him in the assurance of a good faith, when even by a bird He shows us the mightiness of His power to fulfill His promise?

Or like Job in the Old Testament, reckoning his life choices: "Then I thought, 'I shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply my days like the phoenix'" (Job 27:18).

A nest made of frankincense and myrrh, gifts for a king, sound like the seasons of Christmastide and Epiphany to me. It is our time to look with fresh eyes at our gifts. And of our many gifts, liturgy is just one. The structure, offered to us through centuries of liturgical examples, allows us to worship with Rite I and Rite II language, Evensong solace, contemplative meditation joy, Morning prayer, Evening prayer and divine candlelight Compline.

Zoom technology continues as a tool for Gospel Based Discipleship, and we are blessed with the technology that offers us the opportunity to livestream many of our services to those unable to attend in person. The stories of grace I have heard from those attending our community through our livestream offerings are so beautiful.

Children's Chapel has been added in Advent, and that is a joy to behold. Learning from God's children, through their eyes, is the meaning of The Way.

The ministries of the people continue to be cared for by many, some as mentors and others as new learners. All are welcome to explore their gifts with the Altar Guild, Lector Teams, Acolyte and Eucharistic Ministries, Hospitality as Greeters, and the Usher Teams.

We are all ushers in a sense, we are all capable of ushering in, assisting and marking anew the gifts of this community for the Diocese of Minnesota as an Episcopal Cathedral, as a beacon of Jesus' love to the community at large, and as a haven for peace.

Liturgy is the work of the people....and we are rising to new experiences.

Amen,

Siri Hustad
Associate for Liturgy



Community of Hope Circle of Care: Pastoral Ministries

ANNUAL REPORT

The Community of Hope Circle of Care (15 people) meets monthly to study the Rule of Saint Benedict, debrief pastoral care visits and encounters, and plan for future programming.

The Circle of Care provides the bedrock for all of Pastoral Ministry at Saint Mark's. We support each other in our ministries, and we support the many others in the Cathedral community in their outreach and loving care. We are uniquely trained with a comprehensive curriculum, designed by The Reverend Dr. Helen Appelberg, an Episcopal priest who, as a chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston, founded a lay chaplain training curriculum called The Community of Hope, based on Benedictine Spirituality. Today, it is the Community of Hope International, an independent entity offering training across the United States, Africa, and Canada.

Pastoral Care is a ministry of all Saint Markans. Many cathedral members provide support to each other by writing cards, making phone calls and visits, participating in the Circle of Prayer, assisting folks with healthcare visits, alerting the pastoral care team or clergy about congregants who need support, reaching out to the bereaved, entering into personal

conversations, and, so importantly, welcoming the stranger and listening with the ear of the heart. With time, our "culture of care" has continued to grow.

Encouragement for Caregivers

Since the Saint Mark's "Encouragement for Caregivers" group began in 2019, 28 people have participated in the group. Currently, there are 14 active participants who are heroic in the daily, loving care they give to a spouse, a parent, a sibling, or a grandchild. One might think that it would be depressing to gather online twice a month to listen to stories of declining health and the difficulty of securing adequate care support. Indeed, many of the stories are heartbreaking.

However, caregivers find it healing to be listened to by others who understand how difficult the journey can be, because they are experiencing a similar journey. In the midst of the pain, stories of grace, blessing, and God's presence emerge so that by the end of the hour, caregivers often leave feeling that the load is a little lighter than when they arrived. All who are in a role of caring for a loved one are invited to join the group which meets Mondays at 10:30 a.m.



Eucharistic Visiting

Eucharistic Visitors made 210 visits in 2023 to people in all kinds of circumstances and in all manner of places – homes, apartments, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, hospice care, and more. Eucharistic visits often include not only the communion liturgy, but Psalms, poems, prayers, and anointing. Most Eucharistic Visitors make regular visits to a number to parishioners who are permanently homebound and unable to attend worship services.

Pastoral Visits

The pastoral care team made some 293 “touches” in 2023. These touches involve phone calls, offering support, and inquiring about people’s well-being. These touches also involve visits without Eucharist—helping people get to health care appointments, assisting people to get to church, reading scripture, offering prayer, and anointing.

Prayer Station

Five pastoral ministers serve at the Enmegahbowh Prayer Station during the Sunday morning 10:30 a.m. worship service, and occasionally for other services. We aim to resume Prayer Station ministry in 2024 at the 8 a.m. service. In this very intimate space, we have the privilege of listening to and praying with others, and offering blessings and anointing.

Card Ministry

Five Saint Markans sent out nearly 150 cards to parishioners to communicate support, provide encouragement, offer prayer and scripture, and acknowledge special concerns, losses, and needs in difficult situations.

Circle of Prayer

The Circle of Prayer is made up of six pastoral care members who pray daily and confidentially for those who have requested private prayers. People who request these prayers often share more personal information about their needs for intercessions or petitions.

Longest Night

The Longest Night is a service offered on the winter solstice, designed to provide solace to those for whom Christmas is a time of loss, uncertainty, and grief. During this service we remember losses and acknowledge God’s loving care.

Helen Hansen

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Newcomers' Gatherings

ANNUAL REPORT



Saint Mark's is blessed to have scores of newcomers come through the Cathedral doors every year. What are they looking for when they come? Our experience in meeting many of them tells us that they are looking for a place where they can grow in their relationship with God, where they can practice their faith in relationship with other Christians, and where they can find opportunities to use their gifts to serve others.

In Newcomers' Gatherings, we share what Saint Mark's has to offer to enable them to deepen their faith, participate in Christian community, and find opportunities to serve others. Each one of us at Saint Mark's plays a role in helping them feel welcome.

John Satterberg
Staff Chaplain

Round Table

ANNUAL REPORT



This trio of Wednesday soup suppers with a program, held in three seasons of the year, continues to create community, deepen relationships, and provide a framework for small table discussions.

Many Saint Markans make this happen by providing appetizers, bringing bakery breads, delivering seasonal soups from Black Forest Restaurant, and baking bars and cookies. It feels like a family supper with folks helping set up and clean up together.

The Fall series challenged us with the Micah 6:8 passage, "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

The Winter and Spring series continues with the themes of Belonging, Behaving, and Believing. Each Round Table has time for discussion questions and sharing. Consider attending a series in 2024. Building community around the tables can be a priority for learning, growing, and reaching out to others.

Lois Satterberg



Climate Justice

ANNUAL REPORT

Climate Justice is about the long-term quest to shine light in the shadows of our comfortable, energy-intensive, and often self-centered lives; and, to set some examples for others for “Loving, Liberating, and Life Giving” choices. It’s about living out our values, our faith-driven goals, and our Fifth Mark of Mission at Saint Mark’s.

Following are some notable highlights of the past year in this area of our faith in action:

- **Climate Justice Congregation Designation awarded by Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light:** As noted in the award letter, Saint Mark’s is now “one of two dozen plus Minnesota congregations and spiritual communities who are leading the way with meaningful responses to the climate crisis. Your 2022 Climate Action Plan and your work in the last 12 months shows commitment and positive action! We hope the work you’ve been doing continues to inspire and motivate your community.” To learn more, see <https://www.mnipl.org/take-action/climate-justice-certificate-program/>
- **‘Let the Butterflies and Bees Thrive’:** In its second season, the Pollinator Garden thrived. Its educational impact was deepened by labelling of all plants and by a hands-on small group offering on Pollinator Gardens led by Dana Dickson and his Master Gardener wife, Julie Dahl. Many Saint Markans kept the plots watered and weeded.

- **Energy Efficient Heat Pump:** Installation was completed December 2023, thanks to a loan from the Cathedral Foundation. As reported last year and at a recent Timely Topics session, this is the culmination of a carefully researched, cost-analyzed, Property Committee and Council-approved project to replace Saint Mark’s failing chilling unit proactively with an equivalent sized heat pump (heat pumps are the most efficient means for building heating by a factor of 3-5x). The energy-saving results from installing the new technology will pay for the heat pump several times over during its 30-year lifetime. The heat pump system qualified us for a \$75,000 Minneapolis Grant. Additionally, Climate Justice Task Force members have pledged \$25,000 over three years to the capital funds drive, which has not kicked off yet.

Joe Ward
Climate Justice Team Leader



LGBTQ+ Ministry

ANNUAL REPORT

Nearly a quarter (22.5%) of Saint Mark's newcomers in 2023 asked to join the LGBTQ+ mailing list; this is a growing ministry area.

The year 2023 was a reboot year after the COVID lull – the year kicked off with June's Pride celebration, during which Saint Markans marched in the Rally/Parade, painted the steps in welcome to the Twin Cities Pride community in Loring Park, and embraced our status as a subsequent Instagram hot-spot for the festival weekend.

We continued our tradition of holding a Pride service on the Sunday afternoon of Pride Weekend. We also re-launched our formal LGBTQ+ group this fall with two regular monthly gatherings: a brunch every third Sunday, and a study group on first Tuesday evenings.

It has been a fruitful time of building social ties and community, and one we look forward to building upon and continuing to evolve in the year to come.

The Reverend Sarah Hoch
LGBTQ+ Ministry Facilitator

Groveland Food Shelf

ANNUAL REPORT

Groveland Food Shelf was started in 1975 by a couple of members of Plymouth Congregational Church. Saint Mark's was one of the first congregations to help make food security a downtown churches' concern – a member of Saint Mark's was GFS' first paid staff person. Saint Mark's has supported Groveland throughout good and bad times.

While GFS survived the pandemic in good shape, 2023 presented many challenges. GFS guest visits more than doubled from the high reached in 2022, and access to free or subsidized food for the GFS became more difficult while donor contributions fell.

There is a public perception that people don't need as much help now. This is a false narrative, since inflation at grocery stores and in housing has limited people's funds for food. SNAP benefits (government food stamp program) have also dropped back to pre-pandemic levels.

In 2023, no budgetary contribution was made to GFS by the Cathedral. But thanks be to God, the Wells Foundation stepped in with its financial support to this vital, Loring Park/Stevens Square Neighborhood institution.

Rich Meier





Saint Mark's Lionheart

SCHOLARSHIP FUND REPORT

In the year 2023, Minneapolis College awarded Lionheart Scholarships to 20 students in the amount of \$20,000. The qualifying students may have experienced homelessness or were from the North Minneapolis area.

The partnership between Saint Mark's and Minneapolis College began in 2016. Since then, Saint Markans have contributed over \$160,000 to the Lionheart Scholarship fund, benefiting more than 90 students. Most students were the first in their families to attend college.

For many students, English is not their first language. Lionheart Scholars have the challenges of coursework, raising families and working. Many work either full-time or part-time jobs. Scholarships are necessary, and not only for tuition – many students have costs relating to food and housing insecurities, increased healthcare and child care expenses, and financial emergencies.

The Lionheart Scholars do their best to better themselves, their families, and the wellbeing of their communities.

- **27% of Minneapolis College students are first generation students**
- **57% are students of color**
- **45% are considered low income**
- **15% have experienced homelessness**

For further information regarding the Lionheart Scholarship program, please contact The Rev. Lowell Johnson at deaconlowell@gmail.com.

The Rev. Lowell Johnson
Deacon for Community Connections

Racial Equity and Justice

ANNUAL REPORT

Commissioned in May 2021, the Racial Equity and Justice team (8 members) continues to meet monthly to create, coordinate, and publicize activities to help us understand and live out our Baptismal calling as agents of social justice and reconciliation. The REJ Team includes: Linda Brandt, Mary Beth Farrell, Lowell Johnson, Monica Kruger, Joan Olsen, John Satterberg, Dorothy White, and Emmanuel Wilson.

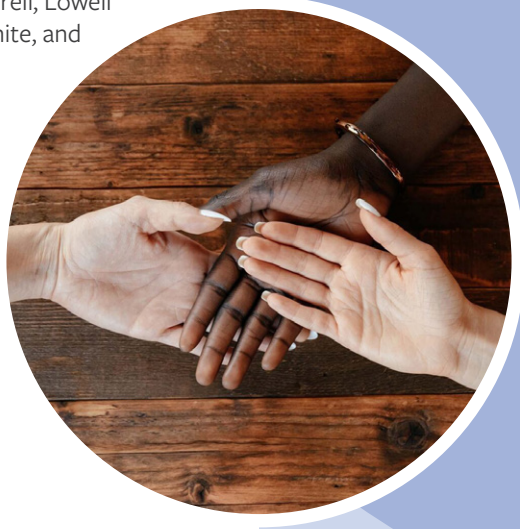
Our strategies this year have included:

- Regularly promoting REJ-related events and advocacy opportunities in the Connector
- Developing and moderating two REJ-focused “Timely Topic” Sunday presentations
- Engaging more intentionally with ECMN and other parishes to share REJ work
- Completing participation in ACTION project
- Renaming and expanding membership in First Nations First Advocacy/Land Acknowledgement group

Highlights included:

- ‘Let’s Talk: Land Acknowledgements’: In April, our SMEC ACTION group planned and moderated an open mic opportunity to hear congregational opinions, which 47 attended.
- ‘The Land Under the Pews: Stories Linking Saint Mark’s Past and Present’: In September, Monica Kruger presented a carefully researched and balanced historical presentation, which 35-40 attended.
- ECMN Racial Justice and Healing Summit: Sponsored by the ECMN Racial Justice and Healing Commission and held at St. John the Evangelist in St. Paul, there was a plenary September 28 and a two-day retreat September 29-30. Ten Saint Markans were in attendance at plenary session with Dr. Catherine Meeks, and 8 Saint Markans attended the two-day retreat.

Mary Ramsbottom
Racial Equity and Justice Chair



Sunday Night Supper

ANNUAL REPORT

Decades ago, Saint Mark's helped found and develop an ecumenical churches' rota of providing Sunday Night Supper for food insecure residents of downtown. COVID changed the location (centralization at Plymouth Congregational Church) and method of delivery (distribution to clients outdoors for take-away) from winter 2020 through summer 2023.

But throughout, Saint Mark's volunteers have supported this important ministry on the second Sunday of each month. Regular volunteers include both seasoned members from the past sit-down dinners, as well as several members of SMEC young professionals' group.

Current SNS coordinators for Saint Marks are Drisana (Mosaphir) and Ian Iverson. Regular monthly volunteers include Drisana and Ian Iverson, John Ramsbottom, Nancy and Greg McDaniels, Tom Allen, Jasmin and Dan Thompson, and Harriet McCleary. Others join on an occasional basis.

The SNS ministry lost any budgetary commitment from the Cathedral in the 2022 budget year. (Several SMEC folks expressed shock to learn this.) Significantly, all the other downtown churches have returned to a communal sit-down meal on "their" Sundays, covering their own costs. Saint Mark's has continued in 2022-2023 with the second Sunday preparation and distribution at Plymouth with strong volunteer participation, but three other congregations, recruited from its membership by ALIGN, are currently "footing" the bill. "Our" night in the monthly rota is now at risk due to insufficient financial support and rising costs. SNS is hoping for some SMEC budgetary contribution in 2024.

Drisana Mosaphir
Coordinator for Sunday Night Supper



Morning & Evening Prayer Offices

ANNUAL REPORT

Beginning in September, the Cathedral has been offering weekly Morning Prayer on Tuesdays at 8 a.m. and Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. Attendance ranges from 3 to 10, with a committed core attending for each service.

The focus is on presence, contemplative silence, and praying together in intercession and thanksgiving for the myriad things going on in our lives. Advent brought the seasonal addition of a candlelight Compline office for three Thursday evenings, which saw between five and 20 people each week. A community that prays for and with each other shares an anchor in Christ, and it is my hope that this prayer offering will continue to grow.

The Reverend Sarah Hoch

Hospitality

ANNUAL REPORT

Sunday Mornings

“Where did the coffee go?” one might have asked at different moments this year, as it moved around so much. We did some experimenting this year, but the coffee was always findable once one listened for the chatter.

Between and after Sunday morning services, we gather, connect, reconnect, and welcome new faces (some new, some returning, some newly exploring or lingering) at our current winter location in the Community Room and at our summer location on the patio.

In 2023, we brought back the goodies and treats, often donated by members (thank you!). Coffee hour lasts much more than an hour and is about much more than being hospitable to visitors. In these moments, we deepen our understanding of and connection with each other.

Picnics

The year 2023 brought the return of the potluck, after a 4-year hiatus. At the two picnics in 2023, we had sunny and cool weather, allowing us to gather together outside.

Here’s the scene: a mix of new members and seasoned ones, grilling together, hot and working hard but jovially laughing. Multiple lines formed, everyone with name tags, and an entire two lines devoted to vegetarians, vegans and gluten-free eaters.

It was a time of reconnecting after time away, and of connecting with newer members, some of whom had been at Saint Mark’s for close to a year but were unknown to many. Tables in the sun allowed us to take time to savor both the food and the company.

Picnics are, especially this year, moments when we meet, connect, and expand our community at Saint Mark’s.

Kimberley Darnall Johnson





Welcome Center

ANNUAL REPORT

As we bid farewell to another year, we wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude and reflect on the many wonderful guests and events that have graced the Saint Mark's Campus throughout the year.

It has been a year filled with warmth, hospitality, and the joy of welcoming each and every one of you to Saint Mark's. Whether you visited us for the first time or have been a part of our extended family for years, your presence has made Saint Mark's a place of community, connection, and camaraderie.

Each time we draw near toward the end of December, I always enjoy reminiscing about what I have, accomplished, and who I have met throughout the year. I begin thinking about the last three years at the Cathedral and the changes we have seen in Campus Services.

As many know, the entire Campus Services staff started during the pandemic. We have seen so much change over the last three years, from only a few people in the building through each of the stages back to what we now know as an almost pre-pandemic Cathedral. We have been blessed to see this transition from an empty building to so much color, laughter, smiles, and even a few tears filling the space.

We've had the privilege of hosting a diverse array of events, from cultural gatherings and workshops to support groups and celebrations. Each event brought its own unique energy and spirit, and it was a pleasure to witness the bonds and friendships formed within these walls.

We are blessed to walk this journey with each of you from the birth of Christ to the Resurrection. We are honored to care for this space that means so much to each of you, and to greet you with a smiling face for whatever occasion brings you to Saint Mark's.

Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers has been the heart and soul of our Welcome Center and Campus Services. Their unwavering commitment to creating a welcoming

environment and their warm smiles have made all the difference. We appreciate their tireless efforts in ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors feels valued and cherished.

As we look forward to 2024, we are excited about the possibilities and opportunities that lie ahead. We have some exciting plans in store, including more events, workshops, and activities that aim to enrich our community and provide a haven of hospitality for all.



We want to hear from you! Please share your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas for how we can make our Welcome Center and the entire Saint Mark's Campus an even more inviting and vibrant space in the coming year. Your feedback is invaluable to us, and together, we can continue to create a place where everyone feels at home.

Once again, thank you for being a part of our Campus Services family. Your presence, your stories, and your connections have made this year truly special. We look forward to seeing you in the upcoming year and sharing many more cherished moments together.

Wishing you a joyous and peaceful holiday season, and a new year filled with love, laughter, and warm welcomes.

Tina Kraby
Welcome Center and Campus Services Supervisor



Governance

ANNUAL REPORT

Greetings from your new Chair of the Governance and HR Committees on the Saint Mark's council. The year 2023 was a time of transition, for me at least, as I undertook review of our governing documents, recent amendments thereto, and other documents under the jurisdiction of these Committees.

In addition, I (along with other dedicated members of the Council) have had the opportunity to engage in interviews for the Interim Dean. Looking forward to 2024, I am excited about continuing my leadership of these Committees and helping serve the Council.

Andrew Moratzka
Chair of the Governance and HR Committees



Treasurer's ANNUAL REPORT

The year 2023 was another challenging one in terms of financial performance. While reductions were made to a number of expense budget items at the beginning of the year with the goal of having a balanced budget, the impacts of both inflation and a severe winter on our actual 2023 expenses were significant. The staff has taken a number of steps to mitigate these in the future, including re-bidding and re-negotiating agreements for operations- and building-related services.

The Cathedral was the beneficiary of the COVID-related Employee Retention Credit in 2023. We also saw the Saint Mark's community's ongoing generosity through stewardship, planned giving, and of particular note, an extremely impactful, major unrestricted contribution in November. This was a game changer in terms of shoring up the Cathedral's balance sheet and liquidity.

In 2023, there was major progress in the ongoing modernization of our finance and accounting practices, which will contribute to improved visibility and transparency regarding our financial condition, more reliable reporting, and a further improved budget process. Over the past three years, we have successfully introduced a three-year budget process, implemented a new accounting system, and fully onboarded an external professional services firm to perform our accounting financial reporting functions.

In closing out my term as Treasurer, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Canon Pastor Tim Kingsley and Finance Chair Gina Christ for their great work, support, and collaboration over the past years. Thank you.

Ted Sherman
Treasurer

	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL
Revenue	\$1,831,344	\$1,797,384	\$2,076,159
Expenses	\$2,048,388	\$1,797,384	\$2,248,486
Operating Income	(\$217,044)	-	(\$172,327)

Wells Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT

The Wells Foundation, a 501(c)3, has been committed to making a difference in the community since its founding in the late 1880s as a settlement house. In the last ten years, our main focus has been homelessness, particularly among youth and veterans.

Our grants to nonprofits are targeted to be innovative in helping clients remove barriers to self-sufficiency in many ways. Annually in November, the board approves grants to local nonprofits that align with its mission: We drive entrepreneurial social innovation resulting in lasting change in our community.

The Wells Foundation Board currently seats 9-13 directors who all are members of Saint Mark's. The Foundation receives income from its endowment, investments, trusts, and donations. In 2023, we granted \$105,000 to 23 nonprofits (of 41 applicants). We highlight one or two grants each week in the SMEC Connector, which is emailed to members and guests.

In May, we displayed photos of our 2022 grant recipients in the Gallery Hall. In September, we had an informational table after Sunday services with board members, brochures and refreshments.

WellsFound.org has a wonderful history of the foundation's creation by Annie Wells (wife of Saint Mark's rector, Rev. Thomas Wells). She gave sewing machine lessons to immigrant women, and the innovation to lasting change in our community began! One-hundred-forty years later, her mission lives. It is an absolute privilege to be on this board.

Martha Hoover
President of Wells Foundation Board





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