



*imagine*  
the possibilities.™



## A Commitment Guide for GREATER IMPACT

Saint Mark United Methodist Church  
1525 N. Lorraine Street, Wichita, KS 67214 | (316) 681-2214  
Junius Dotson, Senior Pastor

## A Message From Pastor Dotson



Dear Friends,

Saint Mark is a place of possibilities and transformation. For more than 100 years we have built a firm foundation of ministry and mission that allows us to fulfill God's plans and purposes in a very tangible way. By God's grace, we are a growing congregation equipping and connecting our members with spiritual and personal growth opportunities that positively impacts our community.

For several months, the Leadership Team and I have been praying and visioning on a greater and more effective ministry that will reach more people for Christ and that will benefit generations to come. The time is now for us to catapult Saint Mark into the next phase of our ministry.

We have reached a crucial juncture in our journey together. Like champions of the faith before us, we stand on the edge of God's Promise. Stopping, going back, losing faith, are not options. We have never been a complacent church. We have always risen to new challenges in order to reach new people for Christ. Now it's time to plan for a new generation of believers and step out in faith.

We can't escape it; we can't avoid what God is calling us to do. It's going to be a stretch to our faith and resources in ways that would seem crazy – only crazy if God wasn't in it, and God is fully in this plan! Our mission remains the same and is clearer than ever: to reach all persons who know or need to know Jesus Christ through Praise, Fellowship and Empowerment as we grow and build for the Kingdom.

I, along with our leaders are asking you to imagine new possibilities for our church and our community. Carefully read the information that has been compiled for you in this guide that will give you a complete understanding of; What God is calling us to do; Why we must respond to his call; and how everyone plays a part in making sure that we can complete the task that is before us.

Saint Mark, we are on the verge of making an even greater IMPACT for our community and the kingdom of God. Over the next few weeks, you will be challenged to engage your head and your heart as together we commit to embarking upon this journey that will make a difference for generations to come.

Let's do this together. *Imagine the possibilities!*



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# Imagine

the possibilities™

@ Saint Mark UMC!

## What is God calling us to do?

Our current growth and increased emphasis on ministry to children and their families have exposed a number of needs and opportunities on our campus. We value an attractive facility reflecting the glory of God where possibilities and transformation take place. Our facility is aging and is in vital need of updating to enhance Saint Mark's ministry effectiveness. Our sanctuary is in need of repairs/renovations to continue to maximize its capability. Our children and youth facilities are at capacity on most Sundays and they are inadequate to meet the 21st Century learning needs of our children. The junior and senior high ministries lack the creative space necessary to attract and engage our students.

Therefore, we have three specific goals. First, we want to eliminate the existing mortgage debt; Second, we will enhance our sanctuary with much needed repairs and renovations and; Finally we plan to expand our facilities for children and youth.

## Here are the details: *Priority One*



### • To Eliminate Existing Mortgage Debt (\$736,000)

This will free up approximately \$17,000 per month to focus staff and resources to develop and implement ministries that cultivate small group development, ministry to children and their families, a high energy youth ministry, growth in worship attendance and enables us to return to giving 100% of our United Methodist apportionment to support worldwide ministry and mission. Additionally, we will fulfill our commitment to the Annual Conference Bridges To The Future capital campaign.

## Priority Two

- **Enhance Campus & Renew Current Campus (\$789,000)**

The second goal is to repair and renew an aging building to live out our value of an attractive facility that reflects the glory of God and facilitates the expansion of His Kingdom. This will include additional parking, new carpet, updated seating, lighting and staging in the sanctuary, and improved technological capabilities in existing classrooms.



## Priority Three

- **Expand Children & Youth Space (\$1,475,000)**

Our goal is to create an experiential, participatory, image rich environment for children. **This space will be specially designed to minister to the unique needs and learning styles of our children and youth.** This will be a place where children and youth can find God's direction during this critical time of their lives. This would triple our capacity to provide meaningful ministry to children, youth and families.

Our response to these and the other challenges before us will determine if we continue to grow and expand our ministry or settle comfortably into our current state of being. As a people of faith and progress, it is clear that we will choose the path that leads to continued growth and expansion.

Saint Mark, Imagine the possibilities! We are asking every member of our family, every person who shares in our ministry, and everyone who has a heart to see the Gospel expand, to do three things: Pray confidently, Commit boldly, Give generously and sacrificially. The time has come to step out in faith.

These needs are necessitating a "re-tooling." In this new season we must launch a journey of stewardship that will deepen our personal faith, unify our corporate life and enhance our ministry effectiveness.



## Where to Start?

The best place to begin is by talking with God about what's on your heart and mind, specifically in relation to this giving commitment. Be honest and open about it.

Even in the nuts and bolts of sorting out financial questions, this is a spiritual journey. It's not about guilt or obligation. Remember, the idea isn't to figure out a mathematical formula, it's about giving Jesus access to your heart and letting him lead you in financial decisions.

In the next few pages, you'll discover some resources to help you and your family decide what your faith step should be. You'll discover how to Imagine the possibilities.

**Go to [www.saintmarkumc.com](http://www.saintmarkumc.com) under "My Pledge" for more helpful links:**

- +** Electronic Budgeting Spreadsheets
- +** Online Giving



# Why We Must Respond to God's Call

The Bible has a lot to say about giving, and the promises attached to it. Giving is a responsibility and a privilege. With that in mind, I want to share with you four biblical principles on giving from 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.

### **FIRST, EVERY BELIEVER IN EVERY CHURCH SHOULD GIVE.**

Giving is a universal practice. The apostle Paul told the Corinthian believers, "Follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia" (NLT). In other words, Paul was saying, "They did it in Galatia—you need to do it in Corinth. They did it in Macedonia, and we need to do it here. Every church should do this." It was not just something the Corinthians were asked to do; it is asked of every believer. No one is exempt from giving.

**SECOND, WE LEARN THAT GIVING IS TO BE DONE CONSISTENTLY AND REGULARLY.** "On every Lord's Day," Paul said in verse two, "put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned" (NLT). The idea is to consistently take a percentage of your income and set it aside for the work of God. This is what the Scripture tells us we ought to do. And then, as you do this, you are able to invest it in his kingdom.

### **THIRD, GIVING IS A PERSONAL ACT.**

Notice that Paul says, "each of you should put aside some amount of money" (verse 2, NLT). Paul's point is that every one of us should set aside an amount of money to give. Even children ought to be taught this. Giving to God's work is a personal act for every single believer.

### **FOURTH AND LASTLY, WE SHOULD PREPARE OURSELVES TO INVEST IN THE WORK OF GOD.**

The apostle Paul told the believers "put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering" (1 Corinthians 16:2, NLT). Paul is saying to prayerfully consider how much to give. Do it in advance. It should never be a last-minute or flippant practice. Paul also says, "in relation to what you have earned." In other words, not all of our gifts will be equal, but our sacrifice should be. Our giving should be in proportion to what we earn. Giving is an opportunity to be an obedient Christian. Take it seriously, but do it cheerfully.



## Discover

SAINT MARK'S God-Given Purpose and YOUR God- Given Calling: **How will we meet our goal?**



### DELIBERATE - Talk With GOD

First we ask that you go to God and ask that his will be done in your life. It's important that you are striving to follow the direction he has for you and that you find the doors he wants you to walk through.



### DEFINE - What Sacrifice Looks Like for You

What changes can you make in your life that will better enable you to invest in what you believe in? How can you give in ways that will make a difference in you?



### DETERMINE - A Starting Point

Imagine the Possibilities is based on "Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice." In other words, not all of our gifts will be of the same amount, but every one of us can meaningfully invest in proportion to the resources God has given us to work with. Your 3-year commitment is to be a demonstration of the definition of sacrifice that God has revealed to you.

We thought it would be helpful to explain what commitment IS and IS NOT. A commitment **IS** a heartfelt decision to get behind what Saint Mark is doing - and it's something you make that's between you and God. A commitment **IS NOT** a contract or legal agreement. It's not between you and the Finance department.



### DECIDE - Create a Personal Giving Plan

Prayerfully come up with a three-year plan of giving that goes above and beyond your regular tithe. Remember, we are not just constructing buildings; we are investing in bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to this and future generations.





## Want to be involved but not sure how?

If you're excited about getting involved, but you're not sure where to start, let us help you out! The truth is, there are several creative ways to contribute to our Imagine the Possibilities campaign. Here are a few:

### DECREASE



Is there something in your daily life that you can take advantage of less frequently? By decreasing a weekly expense, regardless of what it may be, you can save a significant amount of money to contribute to Imagine the Possibilities.

#### Things I can decrease:

*Cut back on coffee drinks.*

*Go out to dinner less.*

*Adjust cable packages.*

### DELAY



Are there any plans that you might be making that involve a financial commitment? If so, prayerfully consider delaying these plans and use that extra income to contribute.

#### Things I can delay:

*Wait on that remodeling project.*

*Take that vacation next winter.*

*Wait to buy a new car.*

### DO MORE



Considering some creative ways you can do more is another way you can give to Imagine the Possibilities. Perhaps it's been a while since you've gotten another quote on an existing service. Maybe you can do some extra comparison or bargain shopping.

#### Ways I can do more:

*Shop around.*

*Pay off a bill, keep giving that amount, but give to Imagine the Possibilities.*

*"I'm shopping around for the best price on auto insurance so I can give the savings to Imagine the Possibilities" -John & Jane Doe*

### DONATE



Another way you can contribute to Imagine the Possibilities is by giving existing assets. Giving the asset to the church and then letting the church sell it, eliminates potential capital gains taxes and can increase the after-tax proceeds.

#### Ways I can donate:

*Donate Stocks.*

*Donate Real Estate.*



## How will we meet our goal?

### What can I afford?

YOUR INCOME:

What portion of your income could you give to Imagine the Possibilities over the next three years?

Current surplus (*income in excess of spending*)

Year 1	\$
Year 2	\$
Year 3	\$

### What can I sacrifice?

Consider some lifestyle changes, or putting some planned expenses on hold (see ideas on the previous page). The sacrifice we are asking you to make in this movement might be hard. However, not only will you receive blessing for those sacrifices in eternity, but also when you see your time, talent and resources used to affect life change right here.

Lifestyle Changes:

<i>Example:</i> Cut Back Cable Service	\$60/month
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$



### What is my Step of Faith?

How is Jesus calling you into action? What's the step that helps you to trust God in a new way? Where is he asking you to trust him without a safety net—so that you can experience his ability to “catch you” in a way that will radically transform your heart and faith?

*“Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about the things we cannot see.” Hebrews 11:1*

**My 3-Year Faith Step & Commitment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

*\*3-year commitment begins November 18, 2012, and continues through November 2015.*

### Need help?

If you need assistance to dig deeper and figure these things out, please contact our office at (316) 681-2214 ext 107 and we can put you in touch with our Executive Director to help.

### REMEMBER THE GOD FACTOR

Don't put yourself in a box! As we dream for the future of Saint Mark, what are your dreams? What if God chooses to bless your future too? We think he will! So, don't forget the 'God factor' that could adjust your commitment because of a new job, raise, promotion, etc. God has shown how he can take a commitment made in faith that was a real stretch for someone, and bring in the resources to meet it.



Let Us Do the Math  
for You.



## 3 Year Gift Guide

WEEKLY	3 YEAR TOTAL	MONTHLY	3 YEAR TOTAL
\$5	\$780	\$20	\$780
\$10	\$1,560	\$60	\$2,160
\$15	\$2,340	\$80	\$2,880
\$20	\$3,120	\$100	\$3,600
\$35	\$3,900	\$125	\$4,500
\$30	\$4,680	\$150	\$5,400
\$40	\$6,240	\$200	\$7,200
\$50	\$7,800	\$250	\$9,000
\$60	\$9,360	\$300	\$10,800
\$75	\$11,700	\$350	\$12,600
\$100	\$15,600	\$400	\$14,400
\$200	\$31,200	\$500	\$18,000
\$300	\$46,800	\$1000	\$36,000
\$500	\$78,000	\$2,000	\$72,000
\$1000	\$156,000	\$4,000	\$144,000



## Nuts and Bolts: *How to Give*

### Make a Pledge

November 18th is designated as commitment Sunday, when we will ask the congregation to turn in pledge cards that represent their potential donations. This is not a binding contract, but a declaration of your intentions which will help us fulfill all priorities.

You will also be able to fill this form out online at:  
**[www.saintmarkumc.com](http://www.saintmarkumc.com)**

### Sunday, December 2nd

We will begin accepting contributions to the Imagine the Possibilities campaign on December 2nd. Remember to clearly designate on your check's memo line or envelope that the contribution (or a portion of the contribution) should be attributed to Imagine the Possibilities.

### Online

Contributions may be made through the Saint Mark website ([saintmarkumc.com](http://saintmarkumc.com)) using a credit/debit card. From the main page, choose "online giving". The Imagine the Possibilities fund will be available online for scheduled gifts beginning Sunday, November 25th.

## Nuts and Bolts: *How to Give* *continued*



### Direct Mail

If you choose to mail your gifts to Saint Mark, please address the envelope as follows:

Saint Mark UMC  
Attn: Executive Director of Finance  
1525 N. Lorraine Street  
Wichita, KS 67214

### Stock

Contact the Finance Office at (316) 681-2214 ext 107 with the name of the stock and the number of shares you are contributing. We will provide your broker with the necessary information for Saint Mark UMC to make the contribution.

### Assets

Saint Mark UMC is happy to consider the acceptance of appreciated assets or land. Generally we will not accept timeshares, jewelry or automobiles. Please contact the Finance Office at (316) 681-2214 ext 107 if you would like to discuss the donation of assets.

### Questions?


Find answers by calling (316) 681-2214 ext 107 or by visiting [saintmarkumc.com](http://saintmarkumc.com).



### A closing thought from Pastor Dotson...

Saint Mark, let's imagine the possibilities! You got in there and you went for it. If you took the time to listen, pray, read, and contemplate what God has wanted to reveal to you, I trust that you are not quite the same person you were when you started this journey. God is looking... "searching the whole earth for people who are totally committed to him" (2 Chron. 16:9). I believe that's this church! I believe that's you.

Just wait and see what God will do both through this church and right in your own life. It's very possible that it will be far above what we have dared to ask, hope or think. He's going to do it. Just imagine the possibilities!



Thank You for engaging  
in the journey!



# IMPACT

**A Simple Plan To Change The World**

Every time we turn to the Bible, something amazing happens. We learn more about our purpose, unpack the truth about God's power and find ways to sync the two together. If you want to make a difference, join me for the new message series IMPACT! We will discover that what God has in store for us today is the very thing that will help us to leave our imprint on tomorrow!

Oct. 21st

***THE TARGET***

Oct. 28th

***GOD-OPS***

Nov. 4th

***BEHIND THE WALL***

Nov. 11th

***WHO ARE THEY?***


Nov. 18th (Commitment Sunday)

***OUTLIVE YOUR LIFE: LEAVING A LEGACY***



A Place of Possibilities  
and Transformation

Sundays | 9 am and 11:15 am  
Wednesday Night "The Journey", 7 pm  
1525 N. Lorraine St. (316) 681-2214

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