



Life

A Publication of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

November 2023
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According to a medieval legend, God once sent two angels to the earth on a special mission, with each one of them carrying a basket. One angel was assigned to gather up all of the prayers of petition, and the other was assigned to gather up all of the prayers of thanksgiving.

The first angel returned very quickly, and her basket was filled to overflowing with requests. "Ah, yes," reported this angel, "the people of God have remembered well the Bible's counsel: 'Ask, and you shall receive.'" Yet the second angel was gone a long time, and when she finally returned, her basket was nearly empty. "I had a hard time finding people who pray prayers of thanksgiving," she said quietly.

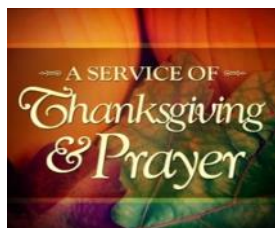
Like everyone else, I too have plenty of petitions to place in the first angel's basket, including a petition for peace with justice in the Middle East and, indeed, throughout the entire world. I have a petition that God will inspire and empower each of us to be not part of the problem but rather part of the answer which I believe is forever and always blowing in the wind, that wind which is the Holy Spirit of God. I have a petition that all of the subtle systemic aspects of racism, sexism, and phobias will be both honestly recognized and courageously overcome. I have a petition that every protest will clearly seek to address the problems which all of us have created together and which all of us need to correct together without creating distractions that lead us away from this task. I have a petition that we will seek what Martin Luther King, Jr. once called a "double victory" of freedom for oppressed and oppressor alike and that each and every protest will always be ultimately rooted in that divine love for all humanity which casts out human fear. And I have a petition that we will all recognize the truth the Franciscan monk Richard Rohr expressed when he wrote, "If we do not transform our pain, we will most assuredly transmit it."

At the same time, I do not want to neglect the second angel's basket, as we are all often tempted to do. I want to give thanks for a God Who steadfastly refuses to give up on any of us—a God Who is forever and always at work for good: forming, reforming, and transforming the world, the church, and every human heart. I want to give thanks for the privilege of being called—along with all my sisters and brothers—to be not passive spectators but active participants amidst the ongoing struggle for peace with justice in our personal relationships, our neighborhoods, and our world. I want to give thanks for the strength God graciously promises to us amidst struggles. And I want to give thanks for the ELCA and this congregation which, for all its flaws and foibles, still offers the world a glimpse of people who keep humbly seeking to learn to live together in love.

Yes, I have my petitions, but I also have my prayers of thanksgiving, and not just on the fourth Thursday in November but throughout the year. Peace and Love, Pr. Travis



FROM OUR
PASTOR



Service of Thanksgiving - Sunday, November 19th 5pm at Grace

The service is a mix of music and readings from poems, scripture, reflections and prayers. The joint service will be held at Grace.

The St. Mark Choir will be a part of a joint choir in the singing "Canon of Thanks" arr. by Donald Moore (Alfred Publishing).

The offering gathered at this service will go to Iglesia Camino de Emaus, led by Pr. Pilar. This ministry is housed out of St. Mark and supported by the ELCA, Southeastern Iowa Synod, and local congregations.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

November 2023

November 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4
8:30am 3rd-5th gr Bible study 9:30am Worship 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 5:00pm Emmanuel Worship - Chapel	4:30pm Centering Prayer Via Zoom - Grace sponsored	6:00am Election Day 9:30am Office Hours 10:00am -2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00am Bible Study 4:30pm Special Olympics - C. Williams 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	9:30am Office Hours 10:00am -2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	No Preschool 9:30am Office Hours 10:00am -2:00pm Food Pantry	No Preschool Office Hours by Appointment 6:30pm Pickleball	11:00am Private Event: Sherrod-Hensler 5:00pm Worship
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30am 3rd-5th gr Bible study 9:30am Worship 11:00am Care Package For Men and Women 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 5:00pm Emmanuel Worship - Chapel	4:30pm Centering Prayer Via Zoom - Grace sponsored	6:00am Election Day 9:30am Office Hours 10:00am -2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00am Bible Study 4:30pm Special Olympics - C. Williams 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	9:30am Office Hours 10:00am -2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10:00am -2:00pm Food Pantry 4:30pm Special Olympics - C. Williams 6:00pm Finance	Office Hours by Appointment 6:30pm Pickleball	Veterans Day (United States) 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group - Lounge 5:00pm B.I.G. Night 5:00pm Worship
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30am 3rd-5th gr Bible study 9:30am Worship 11:00am Care Package For Men and Women 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 5:00pm Emmanuel Worship - Chapel	4:30pm Centering Prayer Via Zoom - Grace sponsored	10:00am -2:00pm Food Pantry 4:30pm Special Olympics - C. Williams 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Endowment	10:00am -2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9:30am Office Hours 10:00am -2:00pm Food Pantry 4:30pm Special Olympics - C. Williams 6:30pm Council	Office Hours by Appointment 6:00pm Bunco	5:00pm Worship
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30am 3rd-5th gr Bible study 9:30am Worship 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 5:00pm Emmanuel Worship - Chapel 5:00pm Thanksgiving Worship	11:00am Preschool Family Feast 1:00pm Circle 4:30pm Centering Prayer Via Zoom - Grace sponsored	9:30am Office Hours 10:00am -2:00pm Food Pantry 12:00pm LIFE articles due! 4:30pm Special Olympics - C. Williams 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	9:30am Office Hours 10:00am -2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY 8:00am (No Activities in Building)	Office Hours by Appointment 6:30pm Pickleball	10:00am Habitat Lunch Prep 11:30am Habitat Lunch 5:00pm Worship
26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2
8:30am 3rd-5th gr Bible study 9:30am Worship 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 5:00pm Emmanuel Worship - Chapel	4:30pm Centering Prayer Via Zoom - Grace sponsored	9:30am Office Hours 10:00am -2:00pm Food Pantry 4:30pm Special Olympics - C. Williams 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	9:30am Office Hours 10:00am -2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9:30am Office Hours 10:00am -2:00pm Food Pantry 4:30pm Special Olympics - C. Williams 6:30pm Advent Bible Study	Dec 1	

Thank You For Your Commitment!

Thanks to those of you that have turned in your pledge for 2024. If you haven't turned in your pledge yet, it's not too late! You may use the one below or pledge forms are available in the narthex, in the lounge, and in the office. Your completed form should be returned to the church office.

Remember: You ARE a vital "piece of the puzzle" that allows St. Mark Lutheran Church to continue serving the community through welcoming, worshipping, and Witnessing.

Stewardship Vision for 2024

Name _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

Address _____

My/Our estimate of giving to St. Mark for 2024 is:

\$ _____ ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ As follows: _____

Envelopes will be sent to you throughout the year.

I am/We are unable to make an estimate of giving for 2024...for the following reason (optional) _____



Remembering loved ones...

On Sunday , November 5th we will remember all those who have gone before us with an All Saints worship service. St. Mark community members who have departed this earthly life in the pasty year will be honored (listed at right). Family are invited to attend and participate in the lighting of candles to remember their loved ones.

Steve Edmunds
William Eye, Sr.
Mary D.Zuber
Robert Marcussen
Ellie Dearborn
Donna Baker
Gary Baker
Thomas Sherrod
Lynn Chapman
Barbara Mallette
June Lucille Olds
Don William Schwartz
Jacquelen Elsie Tunis
Jim Landhauser
Susan Beamer

Finance Update

General Fund Summary

September Offerings	\$ 17,623
September Expenses	\$ 25,861

Regular Offerings 2023 Through September

Received	\$ 168,001
Budgeted Amount	\$ 187,499



We are looking for a few St. Mark members who are not afraid to put in work, lead, and serve on church council members. If you are interested, please let Amber Sherrod, Council President, or Candy Nagel, Council Secretary, know of your willingness to serve in this important way.

Congratulations to Arianna Meade and April Howes for Affirming their Baptism on October 29th.



Your Council Members for 2022

Amber Sherrod (2024) - President	Tom Leibold (2023)
Cathy Barton (2025) - Vice President	Rick Martin (2023)
Candy Nagel (2023) - Secretary	Beth Claeyes (2025)
Barb Jakubowski (2024) - Treasurer	Doug Rowley (2024)
	Linda Ray (2025)



Notes from the Organ *Bench by Ross Jallo*

Thee last three Sundays of this liturgical year (which fall on November 12th, 19th, and 26th in 2023) are as good a segue into Advent as one could hope for. Advent, of course, is about preparation: it's a time to prepare for Christmas, but it's also a time to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus. These three Sundays in November double down on this theme: our lectionary readings are full of statements about what to expect in the end times. We are urged to be ready, to keep our lamps trimmed and burning, to make the most of our time and talents, since we don't know when Jesus will return. Finally, on the feast of Christ the King (the last Sunday of the liturgical year), we anticipate the final victory of Jesus, "when the Son of Man comes in his glory".

Naturally enough, the hymns at this time of year echo these themes. "Wake, awake, for night is flying" -- that is, time is short. The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night: Jesus will return, to use an old cliché, *when you least expect it*. But God, our help in ages past, is also our hope for years to come. While we are encouraged to use this fleeting time to prepare for the end, we can also rest secure in the knowledge that our loving God -- "the Lord of years, the potentate of time" -- is in control.

Social Ministry Outreach Project:

Hygiene Bags & Veteran Care

Volunteers needed on Sunday November 12th after fellowship.

Our outreach project for November will be personal hygiene bags for women and care packages for veterans.

Many hands will make short work!

See you in Luther Hall.



TRUNK OR TREAT 2023

An estimated 400 children attended the event!

*For all that donated candy, decorated trunks, and served the lunch. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!***

It took many hands to make this a success.

This outreach is essential to the West End of Davenport. it has become a favorite for many families.

Gods Work Our Hands. St Mark Social Ministry



Mission Planning/Budget is being worked on for 2024. If you would like to see any changes, contact Jimmy Paustian or Barb Jakubowski. We can not operate without your generous tithes and offerings.



Year round stewardship

Stewardship

Commitment is hard! It means we've signed up for something that we may not always want to do. Even showing up for the weekly bowling league can be a task at times. But God's commitment to us is never a burden. His love is there at every turn. So why do we fail to commit to Him? Each year we are asked to make a pledge of commitment to God's work, to St. Mark's ministry, to keeping our mission alive. But very few of us even take the minutes needed to fill in the form. Our yearly budget depends on the financial promises of each of us. Is it a burden to make a promise to God?



How does your commitment fit into St. Mark's commitment to God's plan for our church?

In Christ's Service – your Stewardship Committee

Grace Lutheran Church

Centering Prayer

Mondays 4:30pm via Zoom

(Excluding holidays)

Cheryl Kritsch facilitates the Centering Prayer Group which meets via ZOOM every Monday (except holidays) at 4:30pm. Periodically the group will meet in-person in the Grace Lutheran Church Choir Room providing the ZOOM option, as well. Please contact Cheryl Kritsch with any questions and to verify if the group is meeting in-person on that Monday at 563-343-0135. Zoom Meeting ID: 392 407 7028 Passcode: 2020

Thank you!

Big Thank you to Linda Wescom, Dianne Fellman,



Sue Geise, Nancy Beaderstadt and Candy Nagel for helping in the office while we are between office coordinators. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Pr. Travis.

I would like to thank all of you who recognized Clergy Appreciation Month/Day in October. It is a privilege to serve as your pastor.

To My St. Mark Family: thank you for supporting me for nearly 12 years as your office coordinator—it was a pleasure to serve you. I also want to thank all the folks that gave me cards, gifts, and well wishes my last week in the office.

Peace to all,
Lisa Willey



Sincere Thanks and Appreciation for all the kind words of encouragement, via texts, cards, and phone calls, during my recuperation after ankle surgery. As I continue to heal, every day your thoughts and prayers are a blessing. Thank you all again - **Nancy Beaderstadt**



Altar Flower sponsorships are available for \$25 through mid-December. Sign-up and envelopes are in the lounge.



Hospital Stays

The office and Pastor are no longer contacted by the health systems if you or a loved one is in the hospital. If you would like the Pastor or parish nurse to visit; you or a family member needs to notify the office at 563.322.5318 or Pr. Travis directly.

Everyone is invited to **Bunco night Friday. Nov 17th** at 6:30.
Please bring a snack to share and sign up on the sheet in the lounge.
There will be door prizes. Beginners welcome!



Peace and greetings from Beth Claeys, Parish Nurse!

Flu is a contagious disease that spreads around the US every year, usually between Oct & May. Anyone can get the flu but it is more dangerous for some people. Infants and young children, people 65 & older, pregnant women, people with certain health conditions, or a weakened immune system are at greatest risk for flu complications. Pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus infections, and ear infections are examples of flu related complications.

Flu symptoms can include fever, chills, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, cough, headache, and runny or stuffy nose. Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.



In an average year, thousands of people in the U. S. die from the flu and many more are hospitalized. Flu vaccination prevents millions of illnesses and flu related visits to the doctor each year.

The CDC recommends everyone 6 months & older get vaccinated every flu season. It takes about 2 weeks for protection to develop after vaccination.

Talk to your health care provider if you have had an allergic reaction after a previous flu vaccine, have severe life threatening allergies or have had Guillian Barre syndrome.

Taken from VIS
US Department of Health & Human Services CDC

If you would like to speak to the parish nurse, please call the church office. I will call you as soon as I am available. I am still working full time & it is difficult for me to take phone calls during work hours. Thank you for your understanding.

Prayer Shawl Group will meet in the church lounge Sat Nov 11th from 10-11.



There will not be a foot clinic in November. Please watch for future schedule announcements in LIFE and bulletin inserts.

Sponsor Flower Decorations for Advent

If you would like to honor or remember a loved one by sponsoring Advent and Christmas decorations, you may use this form and include it and your \$15.00 in an envelope and bring or mail it to the church office.

Forms are due in the Church Office no later than December 14.

We will include a list of those you choose to remember or honor in our January Newsletter and also the emails that will include our Christmas Eve worship links and bulletin.



Given by (your name) _____

Offering Env. # _____

In memory

of _____

-Or

In honor

of _____

Habitat For Humanity News



The year is coming to a close and several houses have been completed, dedicated and now occupied with new owners who have worked hard alongside construction volunteers putting in their required sweat equity hours. If you can attend one of these house dedications I encourage you to do so—they are very moving. Another house on East 6th street will be dedication on October 28th and construction continues on new builds on N. Nevada and Brown streets, as well as several renovations in progress throughout the city. The need for simple lunches for the construction volunteers is ongoing and St. Mark will provide these on November 18th and December 16 to one to three different locations; the number of volunteers working on these days will be known closer to the dates.

We will meet between 10-10:30am on those Saturdays to put everything together and have lunches delivered by 11:30am. Sign-up sheets will be in the lounge. Questions can be directed to Maureen Currier (**563-940-8744**). Thank you to all who have contributed to this wonderful cause!

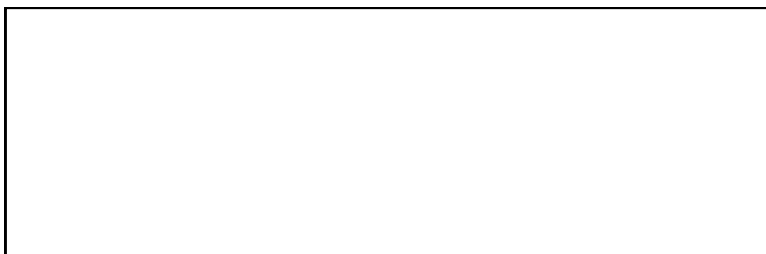




ST. MARK LIFE
St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Grief and the Holidays

A Program and Activity of Remembrance for those who find the holidays tough due to the loss of a loved one will be held Sunday, December 3rd at 3 PM at St. Mark. To have enough supplies we ask that you RSVP by calling the church office at 563.322.5318. Thanks, Beth Claeys, Parish RN, and Pr. Travis Fisher-King



Advent Study

"Unexpected Advent: Characters in the Christmas Story"

Facilitated by Beth Claeys, Parish RN
November 30th, December 7th and 14th at 6:30PM

All are invited to attend. If you know you are planning to attend, please let Beth know, or call the church office. This way we can make sure we have enough handouts ready.



Fall Back

**Sunday
November 5th**



Saturday
5:00pm
Sunday
9:30am



Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday:
by appointment.

*Call Church office
at 563.322.5318
to make an
appointment.*

Visit Us! St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church • 2363 West Third Street, Davenport IA 52802
Send Correspondence to: St. Mark Ev. Lutheran Church • PO Box 3248, Davenport IA 52808 Phone: 563-322-5318
Annual subscription of \$1.00 per year is included in payment of weekly pledge of members. Email: stmark@stmarkcares.org