

Life

A Publication of St Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

From the Pastor:

January 2025

I recently reread a poem by Howard Thurman called "*The Work of Christmas.*" It is a poem that always makes me think about what happens after Christmas. After the Christmas Eve Candlelight service where we celebrate the birth of Emmanuel-God with us. After the gifts are opened and the gatherings of family and friends are done. After we share our bounty with others through Angel tree gifts and Holiday food boxes. Are all those warm fuzzy feelings we experience for and with our families, friends, neighbors and even the people we don't know, are they still around? Or are they simply a memory. A once-a-year event.

Here we are beginning a new year, and I wonder if all the charity, love and compassion we felt for others during the Advent and Christmas season is still with us or is it starting to fade from our thoughts and lives. The need doesn't go away just because the holidays are gone. There continues to be much need for compassion and care both in our community and the world after this season of hope and generosity. People still look forward to and need visits and calls from friends as their living situations change. The list for help here at church doesn't go away but continues to grow. We always need lectors, assisting ministers and ushers, Sunday coffee hour would welcome more host families and more volunteers at the food pantry and to serve at Habitat lunches are always welcome. The list can go on and on and the needs I have just named are only here at St. Mark not even looking out into the community.

There are many ways we can live out the message of Emmanuel-God with us as we look and live into the new year. I would challenge each of us to not let the love, care and compassion of the Advent and Christmas season fade away. Instead, let us continue to find ways to share and proclaim to each other, to the community and the world the good news of the gift of a Savior who came into the world to forgive our sins and give us eternal life. A Savior who lives with us and in and through us. So, as we go through the coming year may we be about "*The Work of Christmas.*" Below is Thurman's poem "*The Work of Christmas*" from his book, **The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations** (Friends United Press, 1985). May it speak to you as it has and continues to speak to me.

(continued next page)

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

God's peace and blessings to you all during this New Year. *Pastor Janine*

St Mark Community:

- Interim Pastor Janine Johnson invites you to contact her for hospital and homebound visits or to simply talk. You may contact her directly or via the church office during office hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday at 563-322-5318. She is also available by appointment on Mondays. Pastor's work e-mail is: jjohnson@stmarkcares.org Her cell phone number is 563-5293767.
- A reminder to please let pastor or the church office know of hospitalizations or moves. We wish to keep in contact with St. Mark members. Hospitals and healthcare facilities can no longer notify us of members' whereabouts.
- Thank you to all those of St. Mark for your care and concern during the past several months during the time of declining health, hospice care, and celebrating my dad following his death in December. The many kind expressions of caring including cards, messages, prayers, conversations, flexibility and assistance in regard to office tasks, and attending the visitation were all greatly appreciated.
Sincerely, Sue Geise
- Habitat for Humanity Lunch will be January 25th. Watch for sign-up and information. Contact person: Maureen Currier.

Saturday Worship

On December 19, 2024, after much discussion the congregational council voted to suspend Saturday evening worship services for the months of January and February. This decision will be revisited at the February council meeting. The council's conversation regarding this ranged from weather issues, attendance, to concerns about people's safety driving at night. It is important to know this was a difficult decision for the members of the council and was not taken lightly. I look forward to worshipping together Sunday morning at 9:30AM. If you would like to talk further about this decision, please contact a council member or Pr. Janine.

God's peace. Pr. Janine

Council Corner: Here is a summary of the information discussed at our last Council meeting, December 19, 2024: Beth Claeys, our Parish Nurse, is ready to help if you are losing a physician, due to moving or perhaps retirement. If you have any questions, please contact Beth. A "daytime retreat" is being looked at as a possible fellowship event with Grace in January. As a safety concern for members and staff related to weather conditions, Saturday evening worship services are suspended for January and February. The annual meeting will be February 9th, following the 9:30 service. Please plan to attend, as a quorum is needed. Discussions will include our 2025 budget, a call committee update, and the filling of 1 position on the church council.

November Financial Information:

General Fund Summary

November Offerings \$26,509

November expenses \$24,610

Regular Offerings 2024 Through November

Received \$225,861

Budgeted Amount \$229,166

Individual 2024 Statements are now available in the lounge. If possible, please pick up prior to Jan 26th. Any remaining statements after worship on Sunday, January 26th will be mailed.

From Volunteer Parish Nurse, Beth Claeys

As we look forward to the new year, resolutions are often considered. Usually, we think about eating healthier, losing weight, and increasing exercise. These are good goals, but I would like to share some additional ideas to consider for a healthier, more satisfying life.

Place a priority on maintaining your health. We are all busy and it's easy to put off medical checkups, vision exams, and health screenings. Good health is the foundation for everything we want to do in life. Exams and screenings are important in achieving and maintaining good health.

Resolve to make quality sleep a priority. It's hard to feel your best when you're exhausted. Scientific research proves how fundamental sleep is to our overall health. Not only does getting enough quality sleep help you keep extra weight off, but it can reduce some risk factors for heart attacks, strokes, or chronic diseases. It also helps you think more clearly.

Plan to strengthen social relationships. Harvard Medical School's Women's Health Watch reports dozens of studies have shown that people who have satisfying relationships with family, friends and their community are happier, have fewer health problems, and live longer. Reach out to a friend by a phone call or invite them to meet for coffee. Join a group at the church or library that you are interested in.

Look for ways to brighten someone else's life. In a recent survey of nearly 2 million people, one thing that makes people feel most fulfilled is giving. There are many people, causes, or organizations that can benefit from our time, expertise, or resources.

Source: Abbott Website

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Bunco is Friday, January 17th. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a snack and sign the sign up sheet if you are planning to attend.

Foot Clinic – Monday, February 3rd. There are a limited number of appointments available, by advance sign-up only. If you have questions or concerns regarding the appointment schedule, please contact Nancy Baderstadt. The cost is \$35 and a towel should be brought to the appointment.

Weekly bulletin insert contains more comprehensive and current calendar information. Individual Committees or event coordinators should notify the office or write on the wall calendar to have their meetings or events included.

From the Office Keyboard: Enquiring Minds Would Like to Know....

The time and supply expense in creating, editing, printing, mailing costs of providing hard copies of LIFE Newsletter each month is one of the most resource consuming tasks of the office resources each month. As staff, we are continuing to look to identify ways to be better stewards of our limited resources. You may notice various adjustments to the appearance of LIFE as we look at the most time efficient formats to share information. As electronic communication has grown to be the mainstay in the current world and finances are tight, many churches no longer mail out hard copy monthly newsletters. They have replaced it with on-line newsletters or weekly e-mail updates without a monthly newsletter. Is that a possibility for St. Mark? Or, if there are only a very limited number of people needing a hard copy could there be a combination of e-mail and hard mailing? (There are postal regulations regarding bulk mailing to continue that rate so an analysis would need to be done.) If you are seeing this, you actually do read LIFE, but it is occasionally pondered how many copies are set aside or tossed creating a waste.

Do you have e-mail access? If so, would you be opposed to receiving LIFE via e-mail instead of a paper copy in the mail? If you have e-mail, does the church office have your current e-mail address? If you receive the weekly on-line worship link, we do have it. We will be striving to update that list in the coming months as well. If you have e-mail, please feel free to share your thoughts and/or current e-mail to us at: sgeise@stmarkcares.org or if you do not have e-mail or would prefer you may call the office during business hours on Tuesday thru Thursday and ask for or leave a message for Sue. Your consideration and input are appreciated.

Make a Joyful Noise!

Thank you to all involved with the special music during the Christmas season. Received from one of the online worship participants who are unable to attend in person: "Thank you, and warm and healthy new year. Beautiful Christmas Eve candlelight service. I turned off my lights, and lit a candle, here, in my home."

The turn of the calendar is a perfect time to consider participating as a part of the choir. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm. Any interest or questions, please contact Ross, a choir member, or the office. Those who may wish to participate only for Lent, Holy Week or Easter Sunday are also welcome.

If you have other musical interests or talents beyond choir which you would like to share, please let Ross know. Winter is a great deal of sameness...some variety with music can not only enrich our worship but contribute some moments of joy.

The Christmas Flowers for 2024 were dedicated:

- in memory of Mike Jakubowski by Barb Jakubowski and Family.
- in memory of Elizabeth & Chet Lagoni by Barb Jakubowski and Family.
- in memory Harvey, Margaret, Harv ,Tim and Terry Christianson by Virginia Smith and Randy Smith Jr and family
- in memory of Randy Smith and Harold and Verta Smith by Virginia Smith and Randy Smith Jr family
- In loving memory of Dennis Bass by Pam Bass, Jodee and Cody Williams.
- in loving memory of Mel and Dee Misfeldt by Pam Bass, Jodee and Cody Williams
- in loving memory of Virgil and Genevieve Bass by Pam Bass, Jodee and Cody Williams
- in memory of Mr &Mrs Raymond Mosher and Mr &Mrs Carl Muhlhausen,Sr by Mr &Mrs John Muhlhausen
- in memory of George and Helen Paustian by Jim and Dianna Paustian
- in memory of Jim, Jane, Dave, Glynn and Raylynn by Ileen Landhauser
- In memory of husband , Ira , parents and siblings by Dolly Dunsworth
- in honor of children and grandchildren - Konnie, Lyle, Tim, Mandy, Greg, Huda, Kody, Zain, Matt, Tad, Lynette, Talori, Maleesa, Sam, and Audrey, and sister, Sally Mechem, by Dolly Dunsworth.
- in memory of Darrell And Louise Goodale by Brenda Hampton and Cheryl Bailey
- In memory of Frank and Jan Dumerauf and Tom Claeys by John and Beth Claeys
- in memory of Jack Serrine by Yong Ho and Debra Serrine
- in memory of Richard Hoffmann my loving husband by Judy Hoffmann
- in memory of Dad, Richard Hoffmann, so grateful for your love and generosity by Eric & Brittany, Emily & Fred and Heidi and Travis
- In memory of Grandpa Hoffmann, we love and miss you by Grant, Olivia, Owen, Frederick, Eli, Aiden and Ava
- In memory of my husband Les, by Carolyn Schjelderup
- In memory of my son, Tim and my grandson Mitch by Carolyn Schjelderup
- In memory of loved ones we hold in our hearts by David & Nancy Baderstadt
- in loving memory of very special family members no longer with us, Paul Lensmeyer, Mike Kroening, Ingrid Kroening and Ruth Staudt by Debbie Lensmeyer
- in memory of Larry, Kim and Max by Kate Brasch
- In honor of Betty Current by Kate Brasch
- in memory of my husband Allan and our parents, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Bohnsack and Mr. & Mrs. Henry Hoffmann by Jeanette Hoffmann.
- in memory of Grandparents Havey and Genevieve Serrine by Rick & Candy Nagel.
- in memory of Ralph & Jean Nagel by Rick & Candy Nagel.
- in memory of Marilyn & Denny Moore by Rick & Candy Nagel.
- in memory of Keith Benjamin by Karen Benjamin
- in memory of Ted & Irene Mairet and sisters, Dorene and Barbara By Carole J Wulff
- in memory of son Melvin Jr, parents, brothers and sisters by Melvin and Delores Grubbs
- In appreciation of the good people of St Mark by Pastor Janine

- In memory of my dad who I still miss very much, Ira Dunsworth by Konnie Goldensoph
- In appreciation of Ross Jallo and fellow choir members by Maureen Currier
- In memory of parents, grandparents and loved ones by Jerry and Maureen Currier
- In honor of Phyllis Wilford by Friends
- In memory of Marcella Scheel and John Kroeger by Sally Mechem
- In honor of Cork Dunsworth family, Ira Dunsworth family and St Mark Staff by Sally Mechem
- In memory of Joe & Brandon Mechem, Wm & Florence Dunsworth, Dort & Harry Seligman, Jan & Wendel Peiffer, Cork, Barb & Bob Dunsworth, Ira Dunsworth and Brad Roelandt by Sally Mechem
- In memory of sister Kathie by Barb Niemi
- In memory of sister-in-law Glenda by Barb Niemi
- In memory of my dad, Wayne, PaPa, Grandma and Grandpa Tony, Louis Goldensoph, Grandma Phyllis, Brandon and Joe Mechem. In Honor of: My mom Konnie, Lyle, Timmy, Granny and Grandma Phyllis Goldensoph by Mandy Matzen-Schulueter.

Thank you to all who helped beautify the sanctuary during the Christmas season with dedications in memory and honor of those special to you. A special thank you to all those who were a part of the beautiful seasonal decorating efforts and those who work with moving us through Epiphany and storing everything away again. It is a lot of work and contributes greatly to the worship experience throughout the season.

Annual Meeting of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday February 9th

Please plan to attend. The meeting will be held following the 9:30am worship service. There needs to be a quorum to conduct business. All 2024 report information is due to Sue in the office by Friday, January 10th so that the annual report may be compiled and distributed in a timely manner prior to the meeting. If you would like an electronic copy emailed to you when it is available, please e-mail Sue (sgeise@stmarkcares.org) or sign-up on the list in the office. There will also be hard copies available at the church. Parish visitors may also be willing to bring a copy to homebound members who are unable to attend services if they wish to receive a report.

2025 Fellowship Sign-Up for hosting the fellowship time in the lounge after Sunday worship is available in the lounge. Please sign up if there are special occasions/dates you would like to host. There are also plenty of opportunities for folks willing to just help as needed.

ST. MARK LIFE

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

2363 West 3rd Street

Davenport, IA 52802

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Beer & Theology: “How Happiness Happens”

An opportunity for both fellowship and growth all wrapped into one (plus a meal and beverages as you choose!) on February 11th. A book discussion of “How Happiness Happens” by author Max Lucado will be facilitated by Beth Claeys and Pr. Janine at Sippi’s (American Grill & Craft Beer, 406 W. 2nd Street) in downtown Davenport. The group will gather there at 6:00pm. Please sign up in the lounge or contact Beth in order that appropriate plans can be arranged.

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30am to 2:20pm and Thursday 9:30am to 1:00pm

Food Pantry Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00am to 2:00pm

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Annual subscription of \$1.00 per year is included in payment of weekly pledge of members.