

# Life

A Publication of St Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

at approximately 10:45am following worship

All Members: Your presence is requested at to attend the 2024 Congregational Annual Meeting of the St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. The annual meeting of the congregation is when both legal and visionary work of the congregation occurs. A quorum is required to do business. To prayerfully seek the path forward of our congregation, the participation of everyone who is a member is important, not just the council, staff, and those leaders who have always been involved.

The annual report was sent out via e-mail to all those members on the office e-mail list on Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Printed copies are available to pick up during office hours or at Sunday worship. If you do not have an e-mail and are unable to pick up a printed report, please contact the church office at 563-322-5318. If you did not receive an e-mail copy and would like one, please e-mail a request to [sgeise@stmarkcares.org](mailto:sgeise@stmarkcares.org) .

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### **Super Bowl of Caring**

It's time again for the Souper Bowl of Caring. We will be collecting non-perishable food items for our busy food pantry on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. We will also be collecting monetary donations. What makes this fun is we will be receiving your donations in specially marked shopping carts and soup kettles, labeled for each team playing the "Big Game" on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you all for your support of our food pantry. ~ Rick Martin

### **Notes From the Organ Bench**

It's very easy to take liturgical music for granted, even as a church musician. (When I say "liturgical music", I mean the songs we sing in church that are unchanged from week to week. Put another way, I mean the songs that aren't hymns -- which change to fit with the Scripture readings of the day.) In this month's article, I thought it might be enlightening to provide a little background information about this very familiar music.

In a normal Sunday church service at St Mark, there are usually five pieces of liturgical music:

1) the Cantic of Praise. This is almost always a setting of the texts "Glory be to God on high" or "This is the feast of victory". In the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent we use a Kyrie ("Lord, have mercy") in place of the cantic of praise. Some churches will use both.

2) the Gospel Acclamation. We stand and welcome the reading of the Gospel by singing "Alleluia". (Again, we do things slightly differently in Lent, when it's traditional to avoid the use of the word "Alleluia".)

3) the Offertory Response. We sing this as our offering is presented. While there's a bit more leeway for this song, often we use the texts "Create in me a clean heart" or "Let the vineyards be fruitful". Other texts, like "As the grains of wheat", tie the offering to the Eucharist, which happens next in the church service.

4) the Sanctus. In the Communion liturgy, this is when we sing "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts", a text taken from Isaiah 6:3 and Matthew 21:9.

5) the Agnus Dei. Later in the Communion liturgy, we sing "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world", echoing the words of John the Baptist in John 1:29.

So why do we sing these pieces of music in every liturgy? Well, the short answer -- and one that might appeal to Lutherans -- is: *We've always done it that way*. Use of these texts at these points in the liturgy goes back to the Middle Ages. Indeed, if you attend a Roman Catholic or Episcopalian church service, you'll notice they do the same thing (though of course the musical settings may be different). When you sing these songs, you are partaking in a tradition that extends back for more than a thousand years. It's something to think about, the next time your brain goes on autopilot in church.

~Ross Jallo, Director of Music

**Social Ministry:** It's time for our annual **UNDERWEAR BECAUSE WE CARE** drive!! Through the month of February, we will be collecting underwear, socks, and sports bras for those in our community. Men, women, and children who are unhoused, in temporary shelters, or who are financially in need will benefit from your generosity. Last year, St. Mark donated over 650 items!! Let's do it again!!! Collection baskets will be in the lounge and narthex.

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**COUNCIL CORNER** - from the January meeting. 1) Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 9th, following worship. Please plan to attend, as a quorum is required for any business to be conducted. Top priority - the 2025 budget. 2) Gretchen Flynn is the new Social Ministry Chairperson. In December, 100 hats, gloves and scarves were provided to our Food Pantry clients, and 24 foster children received Christmas gifts. 3) Our Call Committee continues to work on our Ministry Site Profile. 4) Council will be discussing suggested options for our Saturday evening worship services.

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### **FINANCE:**

#### GENERAL FUND SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER

December Weekly Offerings \$36,765

December Expenses \$39,641

#### REGULAR OFFERINGS FOR 2024

Weekly Offerings Received \$262,626

Budget Expectation Amount \$250,000

Financial Giving Statements for 2024 were mailed out on Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> if they were not picked up previously at church. If you have any questions or do not receive your statement, please contact Barb Jakubowski directly or through the office.

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**St. Mark Preschool :** If you have any questions about the St. Mark Preschool including preschool class schedules, Kid's Crossing Care, availability or rates, please contact Rebecca (Becky) Dankert, Preschool Director at 563-326-5060 or [rdankertstmarkpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:rdankertstmarkpreschool@gmail.com)

## **From the Parish Nurse – Beth Claeys**

### **Reducing Risks of Illness**

Rates of infections for respiratory viruses have risen. Flu, Covid-19, and RSV spread more in fall and winter, especially during gatherings, travel and time spent indoors.

Dr. Robert Jacobson, medical director of Mayo Clinic's Primary Care Immunization Program, says there are tools to help reduce the risk of becoming severely ill from these respiratory infections.

"We're all at risk for getting the flu, and we can actually get it more than once a year. Every year about 10% to 20% of us get the flu," Jacobson says.

Along with the flu, Covid-19, and RSV are among the most common respiratory illnesses. These viruses share similar symptoms, risks, and prevention strategies. Jacobson's no. 1 tip is to get vaccinated. "this is specific protection your body can make to protect you and your loved ones," he says.

Along with vaccination, hand washing is extremely important. Wash your hands with soap and water to help prevent the spread of germs, especially before you eat and when you come home. If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol based hand sanitizer.

Additional Strategies:

1. Avoid touching your face. Keeping your hands away from your eyes, nose, and mouth helps keep germs away from those places.
2. Cover your coughs and sneezes, then wash your hands.
3. Clean surfaces: regularly clean often touched surfaces to prevent the spread of infection from touching a surface with the virus on it.
4. Avoid crowds. Respiratory illnesses spread easily wherever people gather. By avoiding crowds, you lower your chances of infection. If you do get sick,, stay home to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Source: Mayo Clinic News Network

## **Calendar Notes:**

Sun Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> - 10:45am - Endowment Committee meeting

Monday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 to 11:00am - Foot Clinic \$35 and bring a towel.  
By appointment only -contact Nancy Beaderstadt for availability.

Sat Feb 8<sup>th</sup> - 10:00am - Prayer Shawl Group

Sunday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> – 10:45am - Annual Meeting following worship.

Monday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm – Finance Committee meeting

Tues Feb 11th Book Group - 6:00pm at Sippis (downtown Davenport). We will be discussing the book, “How Happiness Happens” by Max Lucado.

Monday, Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – 1:00pm – Women’s Circle Group. Contact person: Milly Heskett.

Tuesday, Feb 18<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for March LIFE Newsletter (by end of the day).

Thursday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm – Church Council Meeting (newly elected council)

Friday, Feb 21st – 6:30pm – Bunco (Watch for sign-up in case of weather changes.)

Saturday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> Habitat for Humanity Lunch – Watch for sign-up sheet. Winter volunteer numbers/lunch needs may be affected by weather. Contact is Maureen Currier.

Wednesday, Feb 26<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am – Assembly of LIFE by Volunteers

Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday – the beginning of Lenten season. (TBA)

A detailed weekly calendar is printed in the bulletin insert on Sundays and included in the weekly online Link e-mail. If you do not get this e-mail or others and would like to, please contact Sue Geise in the office or Rick Nagel. Please contact Sue Geise in the office or write the information on the wall calendar if you would like meetings or events listed in LIFE and/or the weekly bulletin.

**Update the Church Please:** The church is no longer notified of hospitalizations or address changes. Many obituaries are no longer listed in the newspaper. Please let the church office, parish nurse/visitor, or pastor know if you experience any of these or other changes.

## Food Pantry

**Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:00am to 2:00pm**

The St Mark Food Pantry continues to be a significant ministry in the community and the life of the church. The total number of households served during 2024 was 1,580. The total number of individuals was 4,785. Weekly orders are picked up from Riverbend Food Bank, which also supplied free bread and bakery items. Hy-Vee also supplies bakery items thru “Food Rescue Us”. Pick-ups are made from Starbucks and Walmart. Monthly deliveries are received from Riverbend and Midwest Food Bank.

The majority of phone calls received in the office are regarding the food pantry. Anywhere from 75 to 100% of the calls per day are inquiring about the pantry or other assistance resources. There is a significant difference in the activity at the church on days the food pantry is open. It is wonderful to see our building space used for such a meaningful and important purpose.

Thank you to all those who support the food pantry in any way. Food or monetary donations, volunteering to assist clients, prayers, picking up and processing donations – all are appreciated.

A special thank you to the below list of 2024 volunteers which has been updated from the annual report:

Lynn Atkins	Gary Bates	Max Bunge
Debbie Bushek	Dave Beaderstadt	Nancy Beaderstadt
Rick Determan	Dick Dulaney	Geri Dulaney
Dolly Dunsworth	Barb Erickson	Diane Fellman
Gretchen Flynn	Rick Flynn	Linda Ray
Patti Roelandt	Debbie Rowley	

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*February is the month we are reminded of love. What are ways we can extend God’s love and caring to others? Friends, family, congregation, community or beyond?  
God’s Work. Our Hands.*



## **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**

**Lutheran Disaster Response** is responding to the devastating wildfires in Los Angeles County, as well as continuing to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Our church at work. A way we as individuals can help others through our ELCA outreach. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip our church to respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike.

Donations can be made directly on-line. Go to <https://www.elca.org> and search for Lutheran Disaster Response.

To give by phone, call 800-638-3522. Checks or money orders can be mailed to:

Lutheran Disaster Response  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

There are quite a number of resources on the ELCA website that are worth exploring. Articles regarding our national church's views on current happenings, social issues, and questions of faith. There are directories, study resources, statements of beliefs, synod connections, and so much more.

**What We Believe...**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's story is both ancient and timely. It is a story of a powerful and patient God who has boundless love for all people of the world. It is a story that brings deep meaning, comfort, and strength to a growing community of people who live in modern, often unsettling times. (There is more about the ELCA faith statement on the website.)

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### **Interested in Church History? Consider This Read:**

"A Dream Eclipsed: The Fractured Quest for Greater Lutheran Unity", a recently published book by Dr. Lowell G. Almen on his recollections of the founding of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is available through Augsburg Fortress.

Pastor Dan Witkowski, a son of St. Mark, writes of it: "Over the history of the ELCA, the name Lowell Almen has meant integrity, order, candor, and wisdom. His life and ministry within the Lutheran church have taken him to important rooms handling delicate matters, making this volume of recollections as an important contribution to the cannon of ELCA history, by one of its founders. His gifts of right remembering and storytelling, along with his pastoral heart, make this an enjoyable read. ~Daniel Witkowski, pastor, First Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois"

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## **Theology On Tap: “How Happiness Happens”**

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

*Office Hours:* Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30am to 2:30pm and Thursday 9:30am to 1:00pm.  
(Monday by appointment only. Closed Fridays.)

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