

From the Pastor's Desk:

LIFE—Aug. 2025

"We are the church, the body of our Lord." (Jay Beech)

I've recently been pondering "church" and what "church" is and what it means to me and to us, the people of God. For many, "church" is about being together in a building with people we know and sometimes with people we don't know. Many times, "church" is defined by the structure—a beautiful building maybe with stained-glass windows, or we may think of it as the musicians or the preaching or the feeling of welcome one gets or maybe even about a specific group of people who attend. Lately I've pondered even more about my understanding of "church." And I wonder if over this past year if your understanding of "church" changed especially now as we live into the transitions and changes that come with the planning and looking to the calling of a new pastor. I believe people are perhaps feeling a little anxious and probably excited about what God has in store for this "church", this community of faith. I know people are excited and looking forward to the possibilities that come with the energy and new ideas with the arrival of a new pastor. There can be and I think there is excitement about what ministries and outreach services we can provide to the community as we listen to God's call as we plan and look toward the future.

Transitions are a great time to ponder and maybe to reconsider what and who we are as "church." I believe "church" is not just about the four walls that we sit within or the activities that take place in a building. I believe it's more than that. I have been wondering what "church" means in a broader way. I'm looking at "church" the gathering of believers with new eyes. Eyes that are helping me to imagine "church" as not just about a building or being confined within four walls. But "church" as people proclaiming the good news of "Jesus resurrected" and reaching out in service. It's about showing hospitality and welcome to the neighbor and the stranger. We as the "church" reach out to the beloved children of God wherever that may be. "Church" is the people, the body of our Lord! People coming together to worship, to participate in the sacraments, to study scripture, and then people who go out into the world showing and sharing God's love maybe even when it means stepping outside our comfort zones. "Church" is the believers and followers of Christ inviting people to join us as we proclaim God's mercy and grace and forgiveness to people in need!

Composer Jay Beech writes, "The church it is the people, living out their lives; called, enlightened, sanctified, for the work of Jesus Christ. We are all God's children, and we have been restored." As the body of our Lord may we remember that "church" is about the people not the building located on a certain piece of land. The "church" is **us** the followers of Jesus who are proclaiming the good news, the good news that we have received new life through Jesus! Let us announce to the world that we are the church, the body of our Lord wherever we are! Thanks be to God!

God's peace. Pastor Janine

Notes From the Organ Bench by Ross Jallo, Director of Music Ministry

Among my personal heroes is Julia Child. I was just old enough to see some of her later baking shows on PBS when I was a child, and even then she inspired a kind of awe. (August 15th is her birthday, by the way, in case you need an excuse to cook something nice that day.) Later in life I discovered her first cooking program, *The French Chef*, which has provided all sorts of inspiration, both culinary and otherwise. In her episode on Gâteau in a Cage -- which is quite an intimidating recipe, as it happens -- she talks about how "this awful American syndrome of fear of failure" limits us. Ultimately, we have to accept that we *will* fail, if we want to improve:

"Cooking is one failure after another, and that's how you finally learn. You have to develop what the French call *je-m'en-foutisme*, or 'I don't care what happens'. The sky can fall, and omelets can go all over the stove... I'm gonna LEARN. I shall overcome. If you're not ready to fail, you're not gonna learn how to cook."

This advice is, of course, applicable to most of life. It also happens to be applicable to church, and to singing in church, particularly. I suspect that most people are afraid of singing audibly because our society has a tendency to shame people who sing badly. (Certainly this tendency has gained steam in the last twenty years, as TV shows like *American Idol* have taught us that bad singers somehow deserve to be ridiculed.) But we don't sing in church -- or in school, or during the national anthem at the baseball game -- to sound like Pavarotti (or Kelly Clarkson, for that matter). It's not about sounding good: it's because singing is something that makes us human, like dancing or storytelling. And in church, particularly, we sing because it is an expression of our faith. So I urge you: *be ready to fail*. Be ready to miss that high note. Be ready to be a beat behind everyone else. The worst thing that can happen is that people will notice you're singing, and there's no shame in that.

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY FOR JUNE:

June Weekly Offerings \$18,779

June Expenses \$25,130

INCOME FROM JANUARY-JUNE 2025:

Income Received Including Supplemental Sources \$141,447

Amount Expected to Maintain Budget \$188,588

Thank you to everyone that contributed to St Mark through Birdies for Charity. Please remember that our budget needs continue through the summer. Your gifts are needed even if you cannot attend services. Thank you for your giving.

From the Parish Nurse, Beth Claeys:

This month I wanted to give an update on the prayer shawl ministry at St. Mark. We have a very small group that makes prayer shawls.

A few months ago, our cupboards were overflowing so the group decided to donate some shawls to the MercyOne Genesis Spiritual Care Dept. This outreach has been very successful and has made a huge impact on the patients that receive the shawls. Please see the email below from the Spiritual Care Manager.

I wanted to let you know the difference the prayer shawl ministry from St. Mark has become as part of our Care Cart.

A few months ago, we had two prayer shawls on the Cart when we stopped by Infectious Disease in the Medical Office Building for a Care Cart rounding time. The staff noticed them and asked if they could keep them to give to patients in need. We were thrilled with this.

Yesterday, I stopped by Infectious Disease again with the Care Cart and they asked for more prayer shawls. "The two patients who received the prayer shawls were SO grateful for this." They are very selective in who they give them to; people who they think would really appreciate and need them. Yesterday I took the pocket prayer shawls with me and they took those too.

A colleague in the Center for Breast Health came out as I was about to leave, to ask if she could get a few of the pocket prayer shawls. She said that one of her colleagues lost a 26 year old daughter last week "and I know these would help her so much." So she took several of them.

The Care Cart always goes where it needs to go. We never know where it will take us or the lives it will touch. The prayer shawl ministry has become an unexpected blessing addition.

A special thanks to the ladies of St. Mark who make this possible and keep us so well-supplied. I hope these stories encourage them too.

Jim Hogg, MDiv, BCC

MercyOne, Spiritual Care Manager

Our next meeting is Sat Aug 16 at 10:00 in the lounge. We are looking for new members to join our group. Shawls can be knitted or crocheted. If you would like to learn, we would be happy to teach you. If you don't want to make a shawl but would like to support this ministry, yarn donations would be very much appreciated.

Thank you for considering this. Please contact Beth Claeys with questions.

Please join us!

This fall a new adult fellowship program will be starting. We are planning to meet once a month and have speakers from the community do a presentation.

Our first program is scheduled for Thursday, Sept 11th at 1:00 in the lounge. Shelley Noack, Stroke Coordinator for MercyOne Genesis, will do a presentation for us on stroke symptoms and treatment. It is critical that patients having stroke symptoms get to the hospital as soon as possible to have the best possible outcomes. Please mark your calendar and invite anyone who would be interested in this informative program.

Thanks!

Beth

Theology on Tap – Wednesday August 20th:

The next gathering of *Theology on Tap* for fellowship and book discussion will be Wednesday, August 20th at 6:00pm. The book to be discussed is, “The Prayer Box”, a novel by Lisa Wingate. (You are welcome for fellowship even if you did not finish or read the book.) The Bettendorf Barrel House (5141 Utica Ridge Road) will be the meeting place this month. We will order off the menu and purchase our own meal and beverages. All are welcome. If you plan to attend please utilize the sign-up sheet in the St. Mark lounge (or contact Beth or the church office) in order that appropriate group reservation can be made. Also if any unexpected changes would occur those signed up may be notified. Contact persons for any questions are Beth Claeys or Pr. Janine.

The Doors are Open: As you enjoy the days of summer remember that God is present in all that we are doing. I invite you to continue to participate in the life of the church through regular attendance and being faithful in your giving. During these days of summer take time to listen for and experience the love of God. ***God's peace. Pastor Janine***

Foot Clinic:

The bi-monthly foot care clinic will be held on the morning of Monday, August 4th. It is by appointment only. Please contact Nancy Beaderstadt if you are interested in this or future foot clinic dates. There is a \$35 fee and bringing a towel is suggested.

Social Ministry- Habitat for Humanity News:

Next planned lunch provider meal is Saturday August 30th. Look for details and menu item sign-up in the lounge.

On Saturday August 2nd there are two groundbreaking ceremonies where you can meet the partner families and share in their excitement as they embark on a new journey.

House #145 Katelyn & family
513 East Dover Court, Davenport
at 10AM

House #146 Destiny & family
424 East 15th Street, Davenport
at 11AM

On Saturday August 23rd from 2-5PM there is a Habitat Family Reunion (formerly known as volunteer appreciation picnic) at Veterans Memorial Park, 1645 23rd St. Bettendorf. There will be food, raffles, and live entertainment. An RSVP is required by Tuesday August 19th by calling 563-359-9066 or signing up on the Habitat website.

And looking further ahead.... save the date for the Build a Dream Fundraiser 2025 on Friday October 17th at Ballys Quad Cities

Social Ministry-St. Mark Food Pantry Report – June 2025:

There were 246 households/families comprised of 641 individuals served by the St. Mark Food Pantry during the month of June. The need in our community for this ministry continues to be significant. A total of 5,946 pounds of food was donated and purchased at a discount during June as follows:

261 pounds donated by St Mark members & friends

1,405 pounds of rescue food donated by businesses

633 pounds from Midwest Food Bank

3,647 pounds from River Bend Food Bank

Thank you to all who continue to donate food items, monetary gifts, and volunteer their time. All contributions to this ministry are greatly appreciated.

Social Ministry-GODS WORK OUR HANDS September 7th - LOOKING AHEAD!

We are reaching out to help Humility of Mary with much needed items for the cold winter months. They serve many individuals in the west end of Davenport with shelter, showers, clothing, job search and counseling. (This is a short list of what they do daily)! Listed below are the items they need for the fall/winter months. We will collect at church during August and distribute the week of September 7th. Any questions? Please contact Candy Nagel

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

Hebrews 13:16



Winter Needs List

The **Corner Closet Donation Center** provides essentials for emergency shelter and housing participants *free of charge*.

We only accept gently used or new items; we reserve the right to decline other donations. Donations are tax deductible.

- Hand/feet warmers
- Long Johns (men's/women's)
- Sweatshirts
- Sleeping bags
- Long sleeves
- Water
- Jeans
- Sturdy winter shoes
- Sweatpants (men's/women's)
- Underwear
- Blankets (not electric)
- Thick socks
- Small Tents
- Kid's, men's, and women's, winter coats

Stewardship Committee:

Many church people, when they hear the word “stewardship” automatically think of money. Money that the church wants (or needs), money that the council wants for a special project, money needed for this or that. But stewardship can be more than contributing money, stewardship is giving.

Within the walls of our church, giving happens in many ways:

1. helping out the services by being an usher, a counter or part of the altar guild.
2. taking on the responsibilities of an assisting minister or lector.
3. becoming a member of the choir or, in some churches, a praise band.
4. volunteering at the meal site, soup kitchen or food pantry.
5. using a dedicated gift envelope to celebrate the birthday or anniversary of a friend or a relative, or celebrate an achievement.

Outside of St. Mark, in our neighborhood and community, there are many opportunities to practice stewardship:

6. purchasing (and donating) food items, paper products and the like for the food pantry to hand out to their patrons.
7. join a group that works with or helps out in other ways. This could be the CROP Hunger Walk, Habitat for Humanity, Underwear Because We Care, the Souper Bowl of Caring, Lutheran Disaster Relief, or other worthwhile causes.
8. Invite a friend or relative to join you at our church services.

And, as always, your offerings and financial donations are always welcome and appreciated, Thank you for your continued support of St. Mark Lutheran Church.

- - - Your Stewardship committee

Job Opportunity - Hiring: Pray & Play Small Group Leader

Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Davenport is hiring a Small Group Leader for our Pray & Play program which offers a day of activities for kids ages 5-10 during Davenport Schools In-Service Days. The stipend is \$1000 for the Fall semester (four program days). You can find the job description on our website gracewelcomesyou.org or at this link: <https://gracewelcomesyou.org/docs/2025-FALL-Job-Description-Small-Group-Leader.pdf>. Information for applying is included with the job description. Please feel free to contact Pastor Kirsten Lee at pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org or call 563-322-0769.

Council Corner - The following was discussed at the July 17, 2025 meeting:

1. Our donation to Birdie's for Charity has been submitted. The contribution, plus a 5% addition to that amount, will be received by St. Mark in October.
2. We are still working on putting together an updated church directory.
3. Our distribution from the Endowment Fund for 2026 will be 7%. Of that, 5% will be used for various ministries of the church, and 2% will go into the General Fund.
4. Pr. Janine's contract for Sept 2025 – Sept 2026 will be signed soon. The Call Committee continues to await any word from the Synod on a pastoral candidate.
5. The Council approved the use of the Theilman room for a group needing a meeting area. A contract will be drawn up and the group will begin on July 23rd.

Our next Council meeting is Thursday, August 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Currently Serving as Church Council Members:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Nancy Beaderstadt, President | Diane Fellman | Doug Rowley |
| Beth Claeys, Vice President | Linda Ray | Tom Liebold |
| Robert Sherrod, Secretary | Julie Ginn | Mike Crews |
| Barb Jakubowski, Treasurer | Candy Nagel | Barb Ericksen |

Welcome Road to Recovery NA Group!

We are so excited to welcome Road to Recovery NA (Narcotics Anonymous) Group to St. Mark and they are so excited to be here. First, I want to share a little about the group. It is made up of people in recovery from addiction to narcotics. The group uses a 12-step model as part of their program. They have met for many years at Grace Methodist Church on Rockingham. After Grace was sold, the group was asked to move (they were given about two and a half weeks to find a new location). The leaders of Road to Recovery contacted us and asked if we would consider allowing them to rent space here at the church. They were requesting a space they could use 6 days a week for about 15 people. Road to Recovery is a West End group whose members mostly live in this part of town so it's easy for them to get to meetings. Thus, their request to St. Mark.

The initial response to the request was that this probably was something that wouldn't work right now. But after further consideration it was decided to take the request to the July 17th Council meeting. This was a challenging request for the Council. There were concerns and logistical questions that were discussed. After much discussion and deliberation, the Council approved the Road to Recovery request. The Road to Recovery Group is so thankful for our agreeing to let them use our facilities. And they have already begun holding meetings here. A side note: their last meeting at the former Grace Church was held in the parking lot.

What a gift we were able to give this group of people. Isn't this what our desire to reach out to the community is about? There was a need, and we had the ability to meet that need. On one of the documents Road to Recovery signed there was this statement I believe reflects the commitment of St. Mark to the community and to the West End. The statement reads, *"Stewardship is one of the most important principles found in the Bible. As a part of our effort to be good stewards of all that God gives to us, we (at St. Mark Ev. Lutheran Church) feel that it's God's will that we share our facilities with others of our community. Allowing others to use our facilities is one way that we can serve our community."* What a stunning way to look at outreach and sharing of space.

Let us welcome the people of Road to Recovery and keep them in our prayers. God's blessings to us and to them.

God peace. **Pr. Janine**





- 5 day 3 year old preschool
- 3 day 3 year old preschool
- 5 day 4 year old preschool
- 3 day 4 year old preschool

Preschool core day 9:00 am-1:30 pm

We offer kids crossing before/after care if needed

**We accept
childcare
assistance**

***Call to schedule a
tour today
(563)326-5060***

Kati Boyd
Preschool Director
kboydstmarkpreschool@gmail.com

Additional Calendar & Vacation Notes:

- Pr. Janine will be on vacation July 31st thru August 10th. If you have pastoral needs, please contact, Sue Geise, Beth Claeys, Nancy Baderstadt, or the church office and they will contact on-call pastor or ministry support staff as needed.
 - We will welcome Marcia Renuad as guest organist/pianist on Sundays August 24th and August 31st as Ross will be on vacation. A change in the liturgical setting will begin for fall on August 24th.
 - Sunday, September 14th – Jazz Worship service is scheduled for 9:30am. Mark your calendars!
 - Information *to be included in the September LIFE newsletter* is to be received in the office by Wednesday, August 27th. Sue will be working on it and sending it out upon her return from vacation. Please submit information by e-mail or to the office in person. E-mail: sgeise@stmarkcares.org During Sue's time off there will be volunteers during office hours assisting as needed.
 - Pastor Pilar will be utilizing vacation time starting July 28th and returning August 12th. During his absence, Pr. Josh Ebener will be leading the 3:00pm Sunday worship for Iglesia Camino de Emaus.
 - An updated weekly detailed calendar is available each week in the worship bulletin insert.
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Please consider sharing your time and/or talents

- Lectors to read lessons and Assisting Ministers to help with prayers and communion are needed for Sunday morning worship services – especially for August and September. Contact person is Nancy Baderstadt.
 - Ushers for Sunday morning worship services September thru December. Contact person is Candy Nagel.
 - Beginning in September, ushers, lectors, and other assistants as needed for 4:00pm service on the first and third Sundays of the month. Contact the church office if willing to serve.
 - Altar Guild for communion set-up/clean-up before and/or following worship services. Contact Candy Nagel or church office.
 - Food Pantry Volunteers – to assist clients, restocking, picking up donations, or receiving food deliveries.
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St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church,

2363 West Third Street, Davenport, IA 52802

Phone: 563-322-5318

E-mail: stmark@stmarkcares.org or sgeise@stmarkcares.org

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

(Monday by appointment only. Closed Fridays.)

Food Pantry Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00am to 2:00pm (Serving Iowa residents only)

Happening in the Neighborhood:



**Come join us at the
St. Alphonsus Parish
Festival!**

Saturday, August 23rd 5-8 PM
2626 Boies Ave. Davenport, IA

**CHILDREN'S GAMES!
SILENT AUCTION!
CASH RAFFLE!**

**PULLED PORK
DINNER FOR \$10!
ADULT
REFRESHMENTS!
CAKE AND WINE
WALK!**

**COUNTRY STORE!
(THURSDAY AUG. 21--
SATURDAY
AUG. 23, 8AM- 4PM)**

**For more
information or
to purchase
raffle tickets,
please call
563-322-0987**

