

# LIFE

A Publication of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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A total of 252 people were served at our food pantry in December 2020. Items were donated from: Grace United Methodist Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, Faith United Methodist Church, New Hope Presbyterian Church, Popcorn Charlie and Co., St Mark Preschool, Midwest Foodbank, and St Mark Church Members.

**Thank you!**

## Tech Support



In an effort to try and get our videos into member's homes, Rick Nagel is willing to help make it happen. There are many ways to do this with TV's already in homes without internet or wifi. Please let the church office, 563.322.5318, know if you would like to have the videos for your viewing.

This month we continue our reflection on the various seasons and important festival days of the liturgical church year by considering Ash Wednesday (February 17) and the season of Lent. Although the middle of February is typically reserved for feelings of love and romance, around that time this year the church is prepared to consider her unfaithfulness. Her members contemplate how they have not loved God and obeyed his will as they ought. We reflect on our mortality with the words from scripture: "from dust you came to dust you shall return." We reflect on the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf. Bring on the ashes!

We are not morbid people. We are not overly obsessed with chilling, ghastly thoughts of our transience. No, we spend necessary, beneficial time reflecting on the reality of our mortality. We do this so that we are prepared to receive the life that God has for us in Christ, and to receive it to its full meaning. And so during the time in between the day that the church remembers Jesus' transfiguration and the joyful festival day of Easter, we embark upon our forty day pilgrimage of Lent.

The word Lent comes from the old English word for "spring." As I once heard it put, Lent is "spring training" for the Christian as we are tutored in repentance, faith, and holy living. Beginning in the 4th century the observance of Lent originally became connected with a forty day fast prior to Easter.

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday and the imposition of ashes. In the Lutheran church the purpose of the imposition of the ashes is to call to mind the curse given to Adam by God after the Fall in Gen 3:19, "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." On Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 until 6PM you will have an opportunity to drive though the St. Mark East parking lot to pick up a Lenten packet, Bread/Body and Wine/Blood, and ashes what will be consecrated while video taping the Ash Wednesday Service. The service will then be released at 7PM that evening for you to participate with the packet(s) you picked up. To ensure that everyone gets a packet, and so we do not make up too many packets, we ask you to call the church 563.322.5318 to let us know how many packets you will be picking up.

This year our midweek Lenten theme will be, "Places of the Passion." The series will help us learn and grow to understand more deeply the hard road Jesus took so that heaven would be open for us. The series will feature different pastors from the community each week. An opportunity for conversation will be offered after each presentation. These will be offered the 5 Wednesdays after Ash Wednesday at 7PM via Zoom. I will also have the presentation available on FB to watch the next day along with music that Ross will provide. I hope you will plan to join us. Watch your email and FB for further information.

May our Lord richly bless your Lenten season even while you reflect on God's great love for you as we remember the passion journey through the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Pastor Travis M. Fisher-King



*From the Pastor*



## ANNUAL MEETING

**February 7<sup>th</sup> at 11AM**

Our Annual meeting this year can be attended in 3 ways:

First, and the preferred method for safety, is to zoom into the meeting. We realize some of you are not comfortable with or unable to participate via zoom on computer, smart phone or I-Pad.

The second way to participate is to dial in with a phone number. We will not be able to see you, but we can hear you and you can hear us.

The third way is to come to the church. We will have a TV set up so you can hear others and see some faces during the meeting. This is the most risky of the three.

- To Zoom use the following in your web browser  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82034154837?pwd=b2htbGtPWWTN2R0t0dW1qcnNxcj8yZz09>  
Meeting ID **820 3415 4837** Passcode **378489**
- To Call into the Zoom Meeting please call +1 312 626 6799 US (long distance rates apply if you don't have long distance as part of your plan)  
Meeting ID **820 3415 4837** Passcode **378489**
- To come to the church please use the Lounge Doors. If you are unable to use the stairs to the gym, please let us know. You may use the gym door off of the parking lot. Restricted use will help keep the gym warmer.

In order to best accommodate and plan accordingly please call the church office at 563.322.5318 or email [stmark@stmarkcares.org](mailto:stmark@stmarkcares.org) to indicate your participation and way you plan to participate.

If we have your email we will be sending this out electronically. Often we only have one email per household, so you can either forward it to another voting member of St. Mark or contact the church office (see above) to receive an email copy of instructions and electronic version of Annual Report. If you need a hard copy of the Annual Report it will be available in the church office. Please call ahead, so a copy can be printed and ready for you.

Thank you

### Notes from the Organ Bench by Ross Jallo



As Easter is early this year, Lent starts early too: Ash Wednesday is February 17th. The idea of a season of penitence in the midst of a pandemic seems a bit redundant, but it's always a good time to take stock and think about the ways we can draw nearer to God. To be honest, this can be difficult for me, sometimes -- if not most of the time. I generally find hymns to be an excellent starting point: good hymn-writers provide us with the words we can't necessarily find on our own.

One of my favorite hymns, and one of the best combinations of a great text with a great tune, is "Be thou my vision" (ELW #793), which we'll be singing on Ash Wednesday. In the context of Lent, it's a useful prayer for guidance. I'll quote the first stanza, which has obvious relevance for these difficult times:

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Are we truly able to believe these words as we sing them? Perhaps not, at all times. But part of the point of singing a prayer (as a hymn) is that we may, with God's help, come to believe the words more fully. May we come to realize, more and more, that God's presence is our light, no matter what happens to us.



We offer the Families of

*Betty Clark  
Betty Getzendaner  
Donna Munden  
Les Niemi  
Cheryl Prohaska  
Rhonda Tiemeyer*

words of love, support, and comfort. May they rest assured in the midst of their challenges and adjustments that God will sustain them in the loss of their loved one through faith in our Risen Lord.

*Because He lives, we too shall live.*



Thank you for the cards, emails and texts to acknowledge my 50th birthday.  
-With appreciation, Tom Fisher-King

*“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” John 17:17*

# Forty Days OF LENT



It certainly feels like we have given up so much over the last year due to covid-19. The truth is that we have given up a great deal of opportunities to be with others in person. We have lived into the truth that we did so to help protect ourselves and others. Through the pandemic, there have been wonderful heroes that have continued to serve this community and beyond in their vocations by facing, each day, the challenges of a virus that knows no bounds, as essential workers. From health care professionals to grocery store clerks and those in the classroom to sanitation engineers (garbage collectors), all have been on the frontlines working hard.

This Lenten Season will be different as we await enough people to receive the vaccine, so that it is safe to return to our regular way of life. The truth is, that there will be things that will never return to the state they were before the pandemic.

The temptation will be to go back to what was comfortable, familiar, and routine. I believe that God is calling us out of this experience to something new, exciting, and expressive. Jesus prayed and fasted in the wilderness for 40 days while being tempted by the devil. I do not know about you, but I have prayed more this last year than any other. Jesus fasted during that time; I believe we were thrust into fasting by giving up many things. The question is this: will we be able to come out of this time of trial stronger, better, and changed? By intentionally giving back during Lent, we journey with Jesus during the 40 days. It is a tangible reminder of the true sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross. If you can find it within your means, we encourage each person in the home to give a gift. For example, setting aside \$1 dollar a day adds up to \$40 dollars during Lent (not including Sundays).

If you receive envelopes for weekly giving, we encourage you to use those when sending or bringing your offering to the church office. If you do not receive envelopes, please use the form below and return it with your Lenten gift. We thank you for your generosity, and your encouragement for each member of the family to journey this Lent by giving back to God during this season.

In Resurrection Hope,

Pr. Travis M. Fisher-King

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*Please mail or bring to:*  
 St. Mark Lutheran Church  
 2363 W 3rd Street  
 Davenport, IA 52802

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (street)

\_\_\_\_\_ (City) (State) (ZIP)

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Lenten Gift Amount \_\_\_\_\_





ST. MARK LIFE  
 St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 2363 West Third Street,  
 Davenport, Iowa 52802

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 Davenport, Iowa**



### Souper Bowl of Caring

This will be our 15th Annual participation in this national event. Due to Covid-19, I am hoping you will participate in one of the following ways:

1. I will pick up food, cash or checks at homes or places of work beginning January 24th and ending February 7th. You may call or email me, and I can schedule a pick-up. The Lord has blessed me with plenty of free time. If you need my number please contact the church at 563.322.5318.
2. I can also pick-up items from St. Mark if folks want to drop them off there. We have set aside a place just for this event.
3. Since the St. Mark food pantry has received many donations this year, food collected will go to Monroe and Hayes food pantries. This is a small way to be part of our neighborhood community.
4. Donated money will go to Café on Vine, which continues to feed the hungry at lunchtime every day.



Thank you and may God continue to bless us all,  
 Rick Martin



- February 5 - Church Office Closed
- February 7 at 11 am  
 - Annual Meeting (see article on p.2)
- February 8 at 6pm-Finance
- February 9 at 6:30pm-Endowment
- February 10 - Church Office Closed
- February 16 - LIFE articles are due
- February 17 from 4:30pm-6:00pm  
 - Ash Wednesday pick-up  
 (see article on p.1)
- February 18 at 6pm - Council