



# Life

A Publication of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

September 2024  
Volume 57 Issue 9

August 2024

Greetings and Blessings to All.

I am excited to be joining all of you as your interim pastor. As I write this, I have not yet officially begun to serve among and with you but have had a few opportunities to meet some of you. And I have already met with two young couples who each are preparing to be married in the next few weeks in the beautiful sanctuary... what a joy it has been to meet and visit with them. I am eager for the many opportunities we will have to get to know each other and work together in service to God's beloved people and creation.

I look forward to being part of your discernment process as you plan for the calling of a new pastor. I see my role during this time of transition as one of a bridge between Pr. Travis' ministry with you and the call of a new pastor. This will be a time to look at who St. Mark Lutheran Church is and who God is calling it to be.

Now a little bit about who I am. I am Pr. Janine Johnson. I have been both the deacon and pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church in Buffalo, Iowa for the past 7 years. (If you have questions or are wondering about my transition from deacon to pastor, please feel free to talk to me.) I live in Bettendorf with my husband Dennis who is a retired welder. Our son Seth is a structural engineer presently working in Columbus, Ohio. Our daughter, Hannah, and her husband Jeff live in Clinton. Hannah works in the human resource department through the Rock Island Arsenal and Jeff works for a construction company. Dennis grew up in northwest Iowa and I grew up in northern Minnesota near Lake Superior. I was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran church and have many fond memories of Sunday school, youth group, church camp and canoe trips. I graduated from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa and Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque.

After graduation from college, I worked as a social worker. In my early career I worked with children and families around issues of family welfare. I then spent many years working with families and individuals experiencing homelessness and housing crises. The past 17 years I have worked at Zion Lutheran Church as their Director of Outreach. As part of my responsibilities at Zion I facilitated a monthly community dinner, the twice weekly food pantry and an emergency assistance program for people experiencing a rent or utility crisis. While working at Zion I completed my seminary education at Wartburg Theological Seminary receiving a Master of Arts degree in Diaconal Ministry and later completed their Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program which led to my ordination as a pastor. And if you have questions about my seminary experiences please don't hesitate to ask.

My ministry is strongly based in Jesus' words found in Mathew 25:31-45. In these passages Jesus says to the people, "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." The righteous ask him "when did we do these things." Jesus responds, "Truly I tell you just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." So, for me as a follower of Christ I am called to be of service to all my siblings in Christ as well as all of God's creation.

You now know a little about me, and I look forward to learning more about you and your vision for the future ministry of St. Mark as you plan for a new pastor. I am anxious to hear and plan with you the many ways God is calling this community of faith to minister to each other, to God's people outside the walls of St. Mark and to God's wonderful creation. As we move into "God's Work. Our Hands." activities we remember that what we do is God's work through our hands.

God's peace.

*Pr. Janine*


# September 2024

September 2024

October 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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		

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Sep 1</b> 9:30am Worship & Fellowship - Welcome Pr. Janine! 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 	<b>3</b> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am Office Open w/Volunteers 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	<b>4</b> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am Office Open w/Volunteers 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 9:30am Office Open w/Volunteers 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5:00pm Worship
<b>8</b> 9:10am Pre-service Jazz Music 9:30am Jazz Worship 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	<b>9</b> 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Finance Chapel	<b>10</b> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry POSSIBLE SPECIAL ELECTION (GYM) 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	<b>11</b> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 9:30am-1:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym	<b>13</b> 5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal 6:00pm Rehearsal Dinner - Luther Hall	<b>14</b> 2:00 pm Wedding - Sanctuary 10:00am Prayer Shawl 5:00pm Worship
<b>15</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am Social Ministry Committee 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	<b>16</b> 1:00pm Circle 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym	<b>17</b> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 12:00pm LIFE articles duel! 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	<b>18</b> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 9:30am-1:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:30pm Council	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:00pm Worship
<b>22</b> 9:30am Worship 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	<b>23</b> 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym	<b>24</b> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	<b>25</b> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 9:30am-1:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym	<b>27</b> 6:30pm Bunko	<b>28</b> 10:00am Habitat Lunch Prep 11:00am Habitat Lunch 5:00pm Worship
<b>29</b> 9:30am Worship 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym	<b>Oct 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

## Notes from the Organ Bench by Ross Jallo



I was having a conversation with one of St Mark's choir members a few weeks ago, and the issue of *ensemble* came up. (In laymen's terms, this refers simply to whether or not musicians are singing in time together. Even the most unmusical listener can tell when members of a musical group aren't moving at the same pace -- things don't quite line up right.) I offered the correct opinion that it's necessary to be aware of the people one is performing with: some singers rush, some lag, and some, sometimes, are all over the place. To successfully perform with others, one needs to slightly adjust to account for this. My tempo may be the right one, but if I insist on sticking to it, without paying attention to my fellow musicians, the performance will not be successful. That's all to say: one must offer *grace*. Choral singing is thus good practice for Christian living: we must always be aware of the weaknesses of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and be as patient as we can. (Even if we know we're right!)

Consider this my annual request that you ponder whether you, or anyone in your family, might be a good candidate to help provide special music at St Mark Lutheran. Whether it's singing in the choir, playing an instrument, or pressuring someone else to do so, there's always something you can do! If you have any questions, I try my best to be as approachable as possible. (Though it's probably best if you don't talk to me while I'm playing the prelude or postlude -- I simply don't have the brainpower to perform *and* have a conversation.) Choir rehearsals are open to everyone; they are on Wednesdays at 6:00pm. Feel free to drop in, even if you'd just like to join us for one anthem on one Sunday. And if you have other musical gifts to offer, let me know!



### JAZZ WORSHIP AT ST MARK LUTHERAN

On Sunday, September 8th the Edgar Crockett Quartet will provide jazz music for worship at St. Mark. Join us for a variety of jazz-inflected hymns, as well as special prelude and postlude music. The ensemble features Edgar Crockett on trumpet, with Corey Kendrick (piano), Ron Wilson (bass), and Manuel Lopez III (drums). Music will begin at 9:10am. All are welcome at this high-energy service to kick off the 2024-2025 program year.

### The St. Mark Church Council:

- Nancy Baderstadt, President
- Beth Claeys, Vice-President
- Barb Jakubowski, Treasurer
- Rob Sherrod, Secretary
- Cathy Barton
- Diane Fellman
- Tom Leibold
- Linda Ray
- Mike Crews
- Julie Ginn
- Candy Nagel
- Doug Rowley



Please pray for these members as they serve in these very important leadership positions.

There are now options online to give through Vanco and our Website [www.stmarkcares.org](http://www.stmarkcares.org) for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter designations. For those households who are using Vanco or another form of automatic giving through your financial institution and would like to opt-out for envelopes being mailed to you, please call the church office 563-322-5318. Any questions or if you want to sign up for Vanco please contact Jodee Williams or Barb Jakubowski through the church office.

## Finance Update

### General Fund Summary

### Regular Offerings 2024 Through July

July Offerings	\$ 16,170	Received	\$ 139,720
July Expenses	\$ 26,572	Budgeted Amount	\$ 145,833

# October

Fall is upon us! Typically on the September calendar or notes about activities and events you may see information about Sunday school for children, youth programming, adult education opportunities ( adult bible study, book club, discussion groups, additional fellowship opportunities), or other spiritual life opportunities. Due to this phase in St Mark’s pastoral transitional period, these types of programming in areas of educational and spiritual enrichment will be shared and starting in October. This will give Pr. Janine at least a brief opportunity to get to know St. Mark and be involved with moving forward with these aspects of pastoral care. Please be alert to forthcoming information in October LIFE, bulletins, announcements, e-mails. What an exciting time to be the church (admittedly challenging also!).



There were 154 households with a total of 481 individuals served by the St. Mark Food Pantry during the month of July.

If you are considering donating items, our most needed item presently is canned fruit. Also, the supply of plastic grocery bags is very low—please share extra you may have with us.

St. Mark Lutheran Church Food Pantry would like to thank the below members, friends, churches and groups for their generous donations during the month of July 2024:

- \*Faith United Methodist
- \*Rescue Bread from HyVee
- \*Midwest Food Bank
- \*JDC (Churches United)
- \*First Church of Nazarene
- \*Asbury Methodist
- \*Anonymous
- \*Joyce Hines
- \* Dawn Adrian



There will be a Social Ministry Meeting Sunday, September 15th at 10:45am following worship. Anyone interested in working with any of the projects or activities—even just one is invited to attend. Of course ongoing and new participation with the committee is always welcome!

Trunk or Treat discussion will take place at the Sept 15th meeting. *Tentative date of October 27th has been identified.* Some donations have already been received, but for this event to occur a coordinator (s) is needed. It may be on a more manageable scale than in the past with a few adjustments. Any one interested in helping with this popular event?

CROP Walk will be October 6th. Part of our “Season of Caring”. Watch for forthcoming registration details.

Contact person: Candy Nagel.

One month away! On **Sunday, Sept. 8**, congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, **“God’s work. Our hands.”** This day/time frame continues to be an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

This year we also celebrate [50 years of ELCA World Hunger](#). In commemoration of this milestone, the ELCA will be including ministries focused on **alleviating hunger and poverty** in our plans for our “season of service” for **“God’s work. Our hands.”** Here at St. Mark we will be highlighting our advocacy efforts, volunteer opportunities, and food drives until World Food Day on Oct. 16.

**God’s work. Our hands.**



September 8, 2024

**“God’s work. Our hands.” is an extension of the work you do every day to make your community a better place. We look forward to working together with others in our congregation and throughout the ELCA from Sept. 8th through October 16th for this season of service focused on highlighting efforts such as the St Mark food pantry and participation in the CROP Walk of providing food to those in need locally and beyond.**



*Because He lives,  
we too shall live.*

*In Memory*

We offer the Families of:

***Roxanne Ishmam***

and

***Leslie (Les) Schjelderup***

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.



## Habitat For Humanity Lunch: Ways To Be Involved

September 28th will be our next day to provide Habitat for Humanity volunteer lunch. Watch for sign-up/information sheet on the table in the lounge.

Two volunteers are needed each month to coordinate the Habitat lunch for October, November, and December. Involves designating the menu and items needed to be donated, and working with other volunteers to ensure lunches are assembled as well as delivered on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Questions or offers to volunteer be directed to Maureen Currier (or the office may be contacted).

**Would you like to join the St. Mark Circle?** They meet once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month in the church lounge at 1 PM. If you would like more information, please call the church or email and we will connect you to one of the current members.



**Camino de Emaus** continues to worship at 3:00pm on Sundays in the chapel. We are thankful for their partnership in ministry in providing Spanish speaking worship opportunities in the Quad Cities through this mission outreach program.

If you are not receiving the **weekly e-mail** containing the bulletin insert and the link to the Sunday worship service please provide the office, Rick Nagle, or Robert Sherrod your e-mail address so that we may add you to the list. You may also access the link and bulletin information/announcements from the posting on St. Mark Facebook account. Typically, information is e-mailed out on Thursdays (but occasionally there is a delay). Even if you do not routinely participate on-line, you may want to do so if ill or on vacation. It is also a way to keep in touch with announcements if there are weekends you do not attend church for any reason. Some weeks there is also opportunity (misfortune?) to also receive rambling from the office keyboard notes.

### **Change of Address / Nursing Home Visits / Home Communion / Prayer Concerns:**

If you, a family member, or St Mark friend would like to receive home visits, home communion, or be included in corporate prayers please contact the church office or Beth Claeys Volunteer Parish Nurse we will make appropriate arrangements for Pr. Janine, Interim Pastor or a parish visitor to contact you.

Beth Claeys, Volunteer, Parish Nurse, is working to update our list of members in nursing homes and senior living settings. If you know of any of our members who are residing in a nursing home or assisted living facility please contact Beth or the church office to ensure they are on the visitation list as the individual may not be able to contact us themselves. Please keep in mind also that hospitals no longer contact churches when members are hospitalized. If a member changes address, phone number, or e-mail we may not be able to contact if church office is not notified.

All the members of St. Mark are ministers. Please watch out and care for one another as best as we can. Continue to lift one another up in prayer. Send a note. Make a call.





**The next foot clinic is scheduled for Friday, October 11th. Note the different date.** Appointment is required. Cost is \$35. Sign-up sheet is in the lounge. Appointments are fill up quickly. If there are no open times on the sign-up sheet please contact Nancy Bederstadt as she may be able to arrange an additional earlier time.

## Bunco is Back!



**Friday, September 27th**  
at 6:30pm we will meet in the lounge for our first Bunco fellowship gathering following the summer break. Everyone is welcome! Feel free to invite a friend or two even if they are not St Mark members.

*Please bring a snack.*

## Cemetery plots at Memorial Park for sale— Please Contact Candy Nagel

St. Mark was gifted with several cemetery plots in Memorial Park some years ago. Several of these have not yet been sold. St Mark would very much like to sell the plots at market value. This was brought up several years ago, but we still have a several available. If you or any friends or family would be interested in purchasing any of the available plots please contact Candy Nagel or the office.

## Peace and greetings from Beth Claeys, Parish Nurse!



September is healthy aging month. Healthy Aging is recognized as a time to celebrate life and the positive aspects of growing older.

As we age, become aware that our physical and mental health, as well as dietary and social needs, change over time. However, that doesn't mean you have lost control. You can take charge of your well-being by taking steps to age with a healthy body and a healthy mind. Here are some ideas to help you -

### 1. Get Moving.

It is important to consult your Dr before exercising. Start slow, know your limitations, and modify activities if needed. Adults should aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity each week. Beginning physical activity can be as easy as walking for 10-15 minutes for 3-4 days per week and increasing as you go. Maintaining regular physical activity can help maintain a healthy weight, lower blood pressure, blood cholesterol, and blood sugar levels. Make physical activity fun and something you enjoy doing.

### 2. Maintain a healthy diet.

Eat proper portion sizes. Overeating can lead to obesity and increase the risk of diabetes and heart disease. Eat a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and have them made up ½ of your plate. Avoid excess processed foods. Stay hydrated – drink plenty of water.

### 3. Stay Social

Try something new. There are many opportunities in the community through the library, CASI, Plus 60, etc. You can also use technology like Zoom or Facetime to stay in touch with friends and family.

### 4. Balance your body and mind.

Keep a positive attitude. Keep your mind active by reading or doing puzzles. Keep your body active through stretches and yoga or other forms of exercise.

### 5. Be Proactive.

Receive regular check-ups, physicals and medical tests when needed as many diseases can be prevented when caught early. Don't forget appointments with the dentist and ophthalmologist or optometrist. Take medications, vitamins, and supplements as prescribed.

Source: District Health Dept #10

**Thanks  
for Your  
Help!**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the What Matters to You survey. We received many thoughtful responses that will help in determining qualifications for our new pastor. We appreciate your feedback and support as we move forward in this process.

The Call Committee

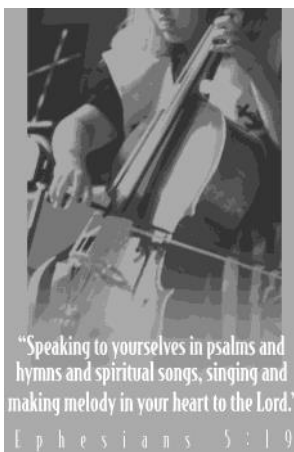
### **ELCA Good Gifts – Back-to-school Shopping with a Global Impact**

This back to school season, fill your shopping cart with ELCA Good Gifts that support students around the world. For just \$10 you can provide a child with school supplies or fill a backpack with nutritious food. With an ELCA Good Gift you have the power to introduce a child to a world of possibilities, grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. Your gifts help share God's love in Christ far and wide. Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry we share. Go shopping or find out more at [goodgifts@elca.org](mailto:goodgifts@elca.org)

Keep connected with all ELCA news & information, programs, Living Lutheran magazine, and church resources online at <http://elca.org>



### ***With Heart and Voice: A nice way to start your Sunday.***



WVIK Classical is now broadcasting *With Heart and Voice* on Sunday morning from 7:00am to 8:00am, making tuning in a nice way to start your Sunday. *With Heart and Voice* features one hour of sacred choral music, organ music, and hymns. The music selections each Sunday feature one of the following themes: praise, prayer, the Psalms, written by a group of composers, or music of the day's liturgical festival or season, making listening a nice way to prepare for worship.

First Lutheran Church of Moline underwrites this program, through an anonymous donor. The Rev. Dan Witkowski, son of St. Mark, is the pastor of First Lutheran Moline. You can find WVIK on your FM radio dial 98.3 FM or online at [WVIK.org](http://WVIK.org) (go to the blue ribbon at the top of home page, click the *All Streams* link, then choose WVIK classical).

### **Now accepting registrations for our Fall 24-25 Preschool Program.**

Summer Program has been in full swing and is now transitioning into fall. We offer 3– day and 5-day programs for ages 3-5. We also provide wrap around care for an additional cost. Our program offers incredible learning opportunities paired with a small intimate setting at a very affordable price.

For more information, please email Becky at [rdankertstmarkpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:rdankertstmarkpreschool@gmail.com). Spots are filling up quickly.



- ~Sunday Ushers: Contact Candy Nagel
- ~Sunday Worship Assistants/Lectors: Contact Nancy Baderstadt
- ~2025 Altar Guild Schedule: Contact Linda Wescom
- ~Musicians-Instrumentalists or vocalists: Contact Ross Jallo

## Back to ~~School~~ Church

It's August and just about everywhere your turn you see advertisements for Back to School sales. Save money on notebooks, pens, college dorm furnishings, even golf clubs and stand-alone mixers.



Year round stewardship

We can just as easily apply "back to church" specials to our church. September is a busy time at St. Mark. The choir is getting back together, we have Rally Day when the school year calendar begins, plans for Sunday school classes and junior high and senior high schoolers are in the works, activities beginning with "God's Work - Our Hands." kick off. So much to do and so many opportunities!

Put your Time and Talents to work. And this wouldn't be a Stewardship article without thanking you for sharing your Treasures with St. Mark. So, get ready to come on back to church, get involved, have fun and Praise the Lord,

Sincerely,

Your St. Mark Stewardship Team

*Did You Know?* Luther Properties is an ELCA founded organization providing safe and affordable housing for older adults. Through church and personal donations, we also provide fellowship events that enhance our resident's daily lives, such as therapy dog visits and holiday meals. And YOU can now donate to Luther Properties through Thrivent, using your Thrivent Choice Dollars!



To learn more about Luther Properties and our 5 local residences, go to [www.lutherproperties.org](http://www.lutherproperties.org)



### **Dedications in Honor or Memory**

Starting in November, there will be a change in the appearance of the altar. Instead of floral bouquets that have to be replaced every week, there will be live greenery arrangements that will last for an extended time. Memorial and In Honor or Appreciation dedications are still encouraged and will be noted in the weekly bulletin. Please sign up as always using an envelope and the notebook in the lounge. The \$25 dedication will go to the food pantry. This change will benefit the food pantry and save the church budget the increasing expense of weekly flowers.



Lutherans are imperfect, but we know we are loved and forgiven. We come from different backgrounds and identify in different ways, with a commonality in our conviction that our unconditionally loving Creator and Redeemer offers us mercy, forgiveness, an eternal life as a free gift - we call it God's grace.

We love Jesus, and we remember he told us to love ourselves, our neighbors, and our God.

We trust that the Holy Spirit is always at work within and around us, guiding us into joyfully expressing that love through service, justice, and worship.

We try to be welcoming,  
and we like to think our catch phrase is kinda cool:  
**God's work. Our hands.**





## September 2024 – Impact of In-Kind Donations

At LSI, in-kind gifts (non-monetary) are just as impactful as financial donations. Director of Philanthropy, Deb Whitford, was inspired by the song “If I Could Dream” by Elvis Presley. She wondered, “What would I dream about for our clients? What would our clients dream for?”

A Story by Deb Whitford:

When is a yardage not just pieces of fabric? In the hands of someone learning to sew, fabric becomes a blank canvas of possibilities. A nearly empty closet containing the few items a refugee could fit in their suitcase when traveling to the US turns into a place of pride when filled with hand-sewn clothes made from that fabric. If I could dream...I dream of curtains for bare windows and cloth to cover worn tables. I dream of the magic of small pieces of fabric fitting into beautiful patterns in quilts to brighten homes and become treasured wraps providing comfort and warmth. These dreams are becoming a reality thanks to the generosity of an LSI donor.

Connie Hansen from Audubon, Iowa, is no stranger to fabric and sewing. Connie has enjoyed sewing for much of her lifetime. In her younger years, she shared her passion for sewing, serving as a 4-H leader in Melville Township, sewing clothes for herself and daughter. Through the years, her love and passion for quilting has grown friendships with others who love the craft. Connie dreamed of keeping her newest neighbors warm with her remaining fabric and donated the yards to LSI. This fabric will be used by our newly resettled immigrant and refugee families to create quilts and clothing, helping them feel more comfortable in their new homes. We hear about dreams every day at LSI from our direct service providers, team members, and clients. Thanks to your generosity, these dreams can become reality.

Help our clients’ dreams become reality by donating in-kind gifts to LSI. To learn more, contact [philanthropy@LSIowa.org](mailto:philanthropy@LSIowa.org).

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI’s Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

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St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church  
2363 West 3rd Street  
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**Greetings from the church office...** Memories and associations of a congregation and church building rich in history can be so interesting as well as so individualized. Recently, Aron Sherrod and I were looking at the church directories back to 1997 (the 75th anniversary edition). Being a life long member who attended pre-school and has many family ties here, the pictures brought many valued memories bubbling up for Aron. Especially of his grandma, Nancy Sherrod, who was the long time Sunday School Superintendent and a special friend Miss Pam . St Mark is part of his life.

As a relatively new member (of only 25 years) who joined as an a mid-life adult transfer, my connections and emotions are rather different than those who grew-up in this building and congregation. I have belonged to and attended many different congregations. What are your memories and connections with St. Mark? How do we retain valued past memories and a sense of tradition while still moving forward in these current times?

One of pictures noted was the large church staff in 1997. There were thirteen people! A number of them full time. What an change over the past 25+ years! Have we all adjusted our expectations accordingly? St. Mark is blessed to have a group of core volunteers who cover many tasks previously done by staff, but is it sustainable to keep expecting the same group of volunteers to take on more and more? How might you fit into or contribute the future sustainability of St. Mark? Keep on keeping on. ~ Sue Geise, Administrative Assistant



**Saturday 5:00pm**

**Sunday 9:30am and**

**Camino de Emaus 3:00pm**



**Office  
Hours**

**Tuesday and Wednesday:**

9:30pm-2:30pm

**Thursday: 9:30pm—1:00pm**  
(or by appointment)

*Office: 563-322-5318*

Visit Us! St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church • 2363 West Third Street, Davenport IA 52802

E-mail: [stmark@stmarkcares.org](mailto:stmark@stmarkcares.org) Phone: 563-322-5318

Annual subscription of \$1.00 per year is included in payment of weekly pledge of members. Email: [stmark@stmarkcares.org](mailto:stmark@stmarkcares.org)