



Life

A Publication of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 2024
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Newsletter October 2024

“Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.” (Isaiah 40:1)

The last few months I have been wondering about the people in our families, communities and world, and where and how they are finding comfort, calm and care in their lives. Recently I was talking to a friend about how during these last few months all of us have experienced some degree of physical, emotional and spiritual pain, hurt and sadness over what has been happening in our community, nation and in the world. We talked about the many lives lost and affected by the fighting in Gaza, Ukraine and Iran. We talked about words that may have been spoken in anger and frustration during this election season. We talked about the many lives that have been impacted by gun violence and the names people have been called because they looked different, spoke a different language, dressed differently or worshiped God in a different way and how even in our own faith communities we have experienced pain, sadness and frustrations. We asked each other, “How do we comfort God’s people when this is going on?”

I keep hearing this verse from Isaiah ringing in my head, “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.” But what does that mean, “...O comfort my people...” and how do we do it when there is and has been so much hurt and pain and sadness. A while back I was at a conference with pastors and deacons of the South-eastern Iowa Synod and during that conference, we spent time talking about some of these very issues and wondered how we comfort each other and how do we stand up for and with our sisters and brothers who are suffering. We know in these challenging times there are no easy answers to how to provide or find comfort and peace. However, the group believed that comfort and peace come when we are willing to listen, truly listen to the stories told by our sisters and brothers. We shared with each how we have seen and experienced comfort coming in and through hands extended in peace and reconciliation. And I do know that people have and are finding comfort and peace in kind words spoken, in a hug or handshake from a friend or maybe even a stranger, and even a simple smile. Most importantly we are reminded that we experience comfort and peace in knowing and trusting the promise of God’s love and mercy.

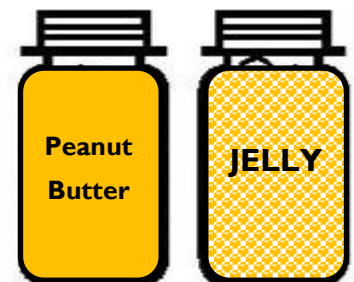
“Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.” How do we comfort God’s people? We comfort them in the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ who died and was raised for all people and by being present to God’s beloved children. Every day may you experience God’s comfort and may you be a source of that comfort for ALL of God’s beloved children and creation.

“Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.”

God’s Comfort. Pr. Janine

God’s Work. Our Hands: PB & J Challenge

Can we collect 53 containers of peanut butter and/or jelly before October 6th to honor the 53rd Annual Quad City Area CROP Walk and support our St. Mark Food Pantry? Check your pantry or add a jar to your shopping cart. (Monetary donations accepted to purchase if you aren’t up for shopping.) Items collected will be divided evenly between the CROP WALK PB & J collection and the St. Mark food pantry. A season of caring—celebrating GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS. Basket for PB & J items near narthex.



October 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		

November 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 29 8:30am 3rd-5th gr Bible Study 9:30am Worship 2:00pm QCA CROP Walk 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	30 Office by Appointment Only 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym	Oct 1 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	2 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	3 9:30am-1:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym	4 (Church Office Closed) (No Preschool - Inservice)	5 5:00pm Worship
6 8:30am 3rd-5th gr Bible Study 9:30am Worship 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	7 Office by Appointment Only 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym	8 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	9 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Jalen Basketball-gym 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm 6:00pm - Choir Rehearsal	10 9:30am-1:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym	11 (Church Office Closed) 9:00am Foot Clinic Preschool Picture Day	12 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Prayer Shawl 5:00pm Worship
13 8:30am 3rd-5th gr Bible Study 9:30am Worship 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	14 Office by Appointment Only 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Finance	15 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 12:00pm LIFE articles duel 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	16 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Jalen Basketball-gym 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm 6:00pm - Choir Rehearsal	17 9:30am-1:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:30pm Council	18 (Church Office Closed)	19 5:00pm Worship 6:00pm Bunko (3rd Saturday)
20 8:30am 3rd-5th gr Bible Study 9:30am Worship 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	21 Office by Appointment Only 1:00pm Circle 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym	22 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	23 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Jalen Basketball-gym 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm 6:00pm - Choir Rehearsal	24 9:30am-1:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:30pm Church Council	25 (Church Office Closed) Preschool Family Night	26 Luther Hall Reserved- Private Event -Shower 10:00am Habitat Lunch Prep 11:00am Habitat Lunch 5:00pm Worship
27 8:30am 3rd-5th gr Bible Study 9:30am Worship 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm TRUNK or TREAT (until 5:00pm) 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	28 Office by Appointment Only 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym	29 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym	30 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am -2:30pm Office Hours 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Jalen Basketball-gym 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm 6:00pm - Choir Rehearsal	31 9:30am-1:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym	Nov 1	2

Notes from the Organ Bench by Ross Jallo



Occasionally I like to provide a little context for hymns we sing at St Mark Lutheran -- our hymnal is so long and varied that it's easy to forget that each hymn has its own unique history. On October 5/6 the closing hymn will be the Lutheran standard "Now thank we all our God" (ELW #839), so for this month's column I'd like to give you some background for this hymn taken from *Then Sings My Soul*, a valuable book with information about 150 hymns from various Christian traditions.

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An old English preacher once said, "A grateful mind is a great mind," and the Bible agrees. There are 138 passages of Scripture on the subject of thanksgiving, and some of them are powerfully worded. Colossians 3:17 says: "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 adds, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Unfortunately, few hymns are devoted exclusively to thanking God. Among the small, rich handful we *do* have is "Now thank we all our God." It was written by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), a Lutheran pastor in the little village of Eilenberg, Saxony. He grew up as the son of a poor coppersmith, felt called to the ministry, and after his theological training began his pastoral work just as the Thirty Years' War was raging through Germany.

It was the most desperate of times. Enemies besieged Eilenberg, and inside the walls there was nothing but plague, famine, and fear. People began dying in increasing numbers, and there was a tremendous strain on the pastors, who expended all their strength in preaching the Gospel, caring for the sick and dying, and burying the dead. One after another, the pastors themselves took ill and perished until at last only Martin Rinkart was left. Some days he conducted as many as fifty funerals.

Finally the attacking army withdrew, and the period of suffering ended. Rinkart, knowing there is no healing without thanksgiving, composed this hymn for the survivors of Eilenberg. It has been sung around the world ever since:

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices.*

The St. Mark Church Council:

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

August Offerings \$ 14,778
August Expenses \$ 16,256

Regular Offerings 2024 Through August

Received \$ 154,498
Budgeted Amount \$ 166,666

The Social Ministry committee would like to thank all who supported our preschool clothing (for emergency) drive.

It is appreciated by our dedicated preschool team.

GODS WORK OUR HANDS.

QCA CROP WALK

has long been a part of what we do here at St. Mark to help care for others facing hunger/food insecurity issues both locally and globally. Please consider registering to be a part of the St Mark team or making a donation. The informational flyer is printed on page 5 with the online address and details. Our congregational contact is Rick Martin who is heading up the efforts to encourage a strong presence and participation from St. Mark. Support an individual or the St Mark team with a donation - either on line or via envelope (see information in the lounge or contact the church office).



Food Pantry August Update:

There were 120 households with a total of 353 individuals served by the St. Mark Food Pantry.

Thank you to friends, churches and groups for their generous donations during the month of August 2024:

- *Faith United Methodist
- *Rescue Bread from HyVee
- *Midwest Food Bank
- * Aron Sherrad
- *Amy French/ Sheri Blessing
- *First Church of Nazarene
- *Asbury Methodist
- *Anonymous
- *Rory Brown
- * Don Eisentrager
- * Becki Weise

God's Work. Our Hands. - Celebrating this year round ministry to address food insecurity.



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.

“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 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.

God’s work. Our hands.



Season of Serving: Sept 8 thru Oct 16th

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 are highlighting our advocacy efforts, volunteer opportunities, and food drives until World Food Day on Oct. 16. Additionally, we celebrate all the different social ministry programs and events St. Mark is a part of through out the year.

53rd Annual Quad City Area CROP Hunger Walk

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Caxton Building/Bethany for
Children & Families
1701 River Drive, Moline.
Parking available in building lot
or across River Drive at 17th
Street

Check-in from 1:00-2:00 pm

The walk will begin after announcements
and prayer @ 2:15pm.

Come Walk with Us!!!

Sunday October 6, 2024

Hello CROP Hunger Walkers!!

*This year is our 53rd year fighting hunger at home and across the globe.
Congratulations to you, who made this milestone possible!*

*Hunger remains a challenge globally and here within our own Quad Cities. In Scott
County, 8.2% (14,370 people) are food insecure. The figures for Rock Island County are
10.9% (15,750 people). Thank you for your efforts to feed those in need.*

*Last year, close to \$10,000 of money raised remained in the Quad Cities... what can you do
to increase that amount?*

*Let's step up in a grand way to make a difference in the world with the biggest CROP
Hunger Walk ever! Thank you.*

Your CROP Committee

In 2023 we raised \$33,973.37 with 24 Teams.

In 2024, can we raise \$45,000 with 40 Teams??

We will be collecting Peanut Butter and Jelly again this year!! Please donate!

For more information, contact:

Event Coordinator: Jennifer Robb jennarobb0430@yahoo.com 563-271-8872

Treasurer: Margie Froeschle malilfrog@mchsi.com 563-340-1169

www.crophungerwalk.org/quadcities

<https://www.facebook.com/qccropwalk/>

Trunk or Treat: Save the Date



Sunday Oct 27th 4-5pm.

Watch for sign up sheet for car/trunks in the lounge soon! Candy donations will be accepted also.

Questions: Contact Amber Sherrod.



Still accepting Fall registrations for the few remaining preschool slots for 3 to 5 year olds. Offer 3 and 5 day programs. We also provide wrap around care for an additional cost.

For more information, please email Becky at dankertstmarkpreschool@gmail.com.



Habitat For Humanity Lunch: Ways To Be Involved

Two volunteers are needed each month to coordinate the Habitat lunch for 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.

Watch for sign-up/information sheet on the table in the lounge. Questions or offers to volunteer be directed to Maureen Currier (or the office may be contacted).

Celebrating ongoing year round efforts of **GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS !**

Would you like to join the St. Mark Circle? They meet once a month on the 3rd 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.

Exploration of needs, interest, and preferences for children/youth education and/or activities is underway. If you as a parent or youth have some thoughts, ideas or interest please contact Pastor Janine. She would welcome the opportunity to talk with you either briefly or to arrange a time to meet together. Parents please introduce yourself and your children to Pastor Janine if you haven't yet had an opportunity to do so. (Input regarding potential adult education is also welcome.)



YOUTH & EDUCATION

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.

If you know of any of our members who are residing in a nursing home or assisted living facility please contact Beth, Pr. Janine, 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. Remember that 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 Baderstadt as she may be able to arrange an additional earlier time.

Bunko
Saturday,
October 19th
 at 6:00pm



We will meet in the lounge for our monthly Bunko fellowship gathering. Everyone is welcome! Feel free to invite a friend or two even if they are not St Mark members.

Questions: Contact Beth Claeys
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. There is still one plot available. St Mark would very much like to sell the remaining plot at market value. If you or any friends or family would be interested in purchasing the available plots please contact Barb Jakubowski, Nancy Baderstadt, or the office.

Peace and greetings from Beth Claeys, Parish Nurse!



October is breast cancer awareness month. Each year in the U.S., about 240,000 women develop breast cancer. Men also can get breast cancer, but it is uncommon. About 1 in every 100 breast cancers diagnosed in the U.S. is found in a man.

Most breast cancers are discovered in women age 50 or older.

Finding breast cancer early is key to successful treatment. Mammograms are low dose x-rays of the breast. Regular mammograms can help detect breast cancer at an early stage when treatment is most likely to be successful. Research shows that women who have regular mammograms are more likely to have breast cancer found earlier, less likely to need aggressive surgical treatment and chemotherapy, and are more likely to be cured. In recent years, a newer type of mammogram, 3D mammography is used and appears to find more breast cancer.

Symptoms of breast cancer include any change in the size or shape of the breast, pain in any area of the breast, discharge or a new lump in the breast or underarm. If you notice any of these symptoms, contact your doctor right away.

Some things to lower your breast cancer risk:

Keep a healthy weight

Exercise regularly

Choose not to drink alcohol or drink alcohol in moderation

If you are taking hormone replacement therapy or birth control pills, ask your doctor about the risks

Breastfeed your children, if possible.

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Prayer Shawl Group meets Saturday, October 12 from 10 – 11.

ST. MARK LIFE
St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church
2363 West 3rd Street
Davenport, Iowa 52802

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Greetings from the church office....

As was fitting with the second verse of the opening hymn (ELW# 526) this past weekend, we began having the baptismal font more significantly present during worship services. Remembering who and whose we are with this visual reminder, and optional opportunity to place blessed water on our foreheads, is something I personally value in my spiritual life to remember my baptism. It is not a practice I grew up with or have had at every congregation I have been a part of over the years, but once I overcame my initial hesitancy and learned it is rooted in Lutheran theology, found I very much appreciate it within the worship setting when available.

The time away spent with dear international friends Paul (Sweden/Greece) and Girjia (India) as well as local friends was extraordinary! A special thank you to all who volunteered in the office and/or extended me a bit of human grace before, during and after my vacation period. Still trying to “catch up”. Still begging the computer to be nice to me. It is so delightful to have Pr. Janine here on staff! Still transitioning into this new season both as a congregation and in the program year which takes a great deal of time and energy.



There is now a secured office mailbox available between the stain glass windows across from office. It meets new postal regulations. It can also be used by members to get items to the office. Keep on keeping on. ~ Sue Geise



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 on Mondays)

Office: 563-322-5318

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

E-mail: 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