



Life

A Publication of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

November 2024
Volume 57 Issue 11

November 2024

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 107:1 (NRSV)

As I began writing this today there was a definite chill in the air and the sun was shining. A few days ago, it was in the upper 70s. It's Iowa and you never know for sure what the weather might be like from day to day. Today I appreciate and am thankful to be able to enjoy this lovely fall day.

Here we are already in November and the time of year when we begin to prepare for the holidays. By the time you receive this mailing Halloween will have come and gone. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year are on their way. This is the time of year when we all get busy with holiday shopping, planning dinners, baking and other festivities. But in the hustle and bustle we forget to take a moment to slow down, take a breath, "Pause" and thank God for all we have been given!

In a few short weeks Thanksgiving will be here! A time to express our gratitude to God for the many gifts and blessings we have and to think about what it is that we are truly thankful for. Is it family and friends? Good health? Jobs? Enough to eat and a warm safe home? Our faith community? For each of us it is probably something different. But on that list do we include God? This verse from Psalm 107 is simple, but very powerful. The Psalmist tells us to give thanks to God for God is good and God's love surrounds us and is constant never wavering! WOW! What a powerful message to hear, especially when life can feel so stressful and hectic. In and through God's love we are blessed with so many gifts. Gifts that include families and friends, health, food, warm places to live, jobs and the people of this congregation. But do we remember to thank God for all these gifts? Sometimes we do, but maybe not as often as we would like. Sometimes in the busyness of day-to-day activities we don't always take time to be with God.

Today I would like to suggest, that as we live in and through this holiday season and especially during this time focused on giving thanks may we remember to thank God for the many gifts and blessings that have been given us. And let's thank God for the best gift of all. The gift of Jesus Christ, who died and was resurrected to take away our sins and to give us eternal life. During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season let's slow down. Let's take some breathes, let's "Pause" and give thanks to the One who has given us the best gift all, the gift of our Savior Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for the many gifts we have been given!

I thank God for all of you and the many ways you share the gift of God's love with one another and the community.

"O give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever."

God's peace. Pastor Janine



Sunday, November 24th 5:00pm at St Mark Lutheran Church

Let us join to GIVE THANKS TO GOD with our brothers and sisters of Grace Lutheran for Thanksgiving worship. The service will take the form of lessons/readings, a message, and Music/Hymns giving thanks to God for the abundance of what God has provided for us and for us to share with others. There will be a joint choir which will sing (Contact Ross Jallo or office if you would like to be part of the choir.) A fellowship time with light refreshments will follow the service in the lounge. (Contact office if willing to assist or host fellowship.)

November 2024

November 2024

December 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	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	31				

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
Oct 27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship - All Saints 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 6:15pm Pickleball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am (Office by appointment only) 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry GENERAL ELECTION (GYM) 9:30am-2:30pm Office Hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am-2:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-1:30pm Office Hours No Preschool - Conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Preschool - Conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daylight Savings - "Fall Back" Your Clocks 1:00pm Special Olympics - Gym 5:00pm Worship - All Saints
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 6:15pm Pickleball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am (Office by appointment only) 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am-2:30pm Office Hours 4:30pm Special Olympics-Gym 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am-2:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-1:30pm Office Hours 4:30pm Special Olympics-Gym 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Prayer Shawl 1:00pm Special Olympics - Gym 5:00pm Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lounge Reserved 2p-5p No Sat Eve Worship per Council 1:00pm Special Olympics - Gym
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 6:15pm Pickleball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am (Office by appointment only) 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am-2:30pm Office Hours 4:30pm Special Olympics-Gym 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am-2:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-1:30pm Office Hours 4:30pm Special Olympics-Gym 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Bunco 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Prayer Shawl 1:00pm Special Olympics - Gym 5:00pm Worship
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 6:15pm Pickleball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am (Office by appointment only) 1:00pm Circle 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am-2:30pm Office Hours 12:00pm LIFE articles duel 4:30pm Special Olympics Gym 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am-2:30pm Office Hours 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am-1:30pm Office Hours 4:30pm Special Olympics-Gym 6:30pm Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Habitat Lunch Prep 11:00am Habitat Lunch 1:00pm Special Olympics - Gym 5:00pm Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Habitat Lunch Prep 11:00am Habitat Lunch 1:00pm Special Olympics - Gym 5:00pm Worship
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 3:00pm Emmaus Worship - Chapel 4:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 5:00pm Joint Thanksgiving Worship with Grace Lutheran 6:15pm Pickleball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am (Office by appointment only) 11:00am Preschool Thanksgiving Feast 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry 9:30am-2:30pm Office Hours 4:30pm Special Olympics-Gym 6:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am-2:00pm Food Pantry No Preschool-Thanksgiving Break 9:30am-2:30pm Office Hrs/LIFE Mailing 6:00pm Jalen Basketball - Gym 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Preschool-Thanksgiving Break Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday 4:30pm Special Olympics-Gym 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Preschool-Thanksgiving Break 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Church Christmas Decorating 1:00pm Special Olympics - Gym 5:00pm Worship

Notes from the Organ Bench by Ross Jallo



As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving towards the end of this month, it's perhaps worth pointing out that the holiday very much originated as a religious observance. Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation, after listing a multitude of things to be grateful for, points out that:

No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It would be good for us to remember this, even in 2024. To that end, I encourage you all to attend St Mark's Thanksgiving service, to be held at 5pm on Sunday, November 24th. (It almost certainly won't conflict with any family gatherings you have planned, so that's one less excuse not to come.) And if you're feeling particularly thankful, you might consider joining with the choirs of St Mark Lutheran and Grace Lutheran as we present an easy anthem to beautify the liturgy. There will be so many people in the choir that even the most nervous singer can find somewhere to hide! We'll rehearse shortly beforehand, at 4:30 that same evening; if you'd like to look at the anthem in advance, just let me know, and I'll get you a copy and a recording to practice with. Thanksgiving is more than just a vague feeling of gratitude: it is an action, taken deliberately, to thank our Creator for all the blessings we enjoy.

Finance Update

General Fund Summary

Regular Offerings 2024 Through September

September Offerings	\$ 18,528	Received	\$ 173,026
September Expenses	\$ 26,770	Budgeted Amount	\$ 187,499

COUNCIL CORNER from Nancy Beaderstadt, President of St Mark Council

~Pr. Janine is getting to know everyone (name tags are helping) and is settling in. She has performed 2 weddings and has attended various committee meetings.

~The Property Committee has plans for much-needed roofing and brick work for the upcoming months into 2025. Also, outside door lock will be rekeyed for security, with new keys being given out on an as-needed basis only.

~Our partnership with the "downstairs" food pantry has ended and items have been removed at our request. This does not affect our Food Pantry, which continues to serve a larger clientele in need.

~Our offerings in September were at 92.7% of anticipated budget. We currently have a \$80,000 (plus) deficit in our 2024 budget in regards to expected income. Planning for the 2025 budget will begin in November. Commitment forms are available and the voice and pledge of each St. Mark member is important.

The St. Mark Church Council:

Nancy Beaderstadt, President
 Beth Claey's, Vice-President
 Barb Jakubowski, Treasurer
 Rob Sherrod, Secretary
 Diane Fellman




Tom Leibold Candy Nagel
 Linda Ray Doug Rowley

Mike Crews
 Julie Ginn

Please continue to 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.



Social Ministry Outreach - November


We will be collecting small canned hams for our food pantry to distribute the month of December. These can be found at Walmart and Sam's club. 2pk for \$7.98 DAK 16 ounce fully cooked. \$15.00 will provide 4 families a ham. Baskets will be in the narthex entry and lounge. Let's give our customers something extra during the month of December! Questions: Linda Ray or Candy Nagel



Sanctuary Decorating
Saturday, November 30th

Christmas season starts early this year—December 1st is the first Sunday in Advent - we are in much need of help decorating for the season. The church is unavailable on Dec 7th so would like to decorate on November 30th, Saturday 9am—1pm. Donuts and coffee provided. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Hanging of the Greens



Food Pantry September Update: There were 130 households with a total of 371 individuals served by the St. Mark Food Pantry.

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

- *Faith United Methodist
- *Rescue Bread from HyVee
- *Anonymous
- *Midwest Food Bank
- *Lois Vasquez

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, In Honor, or In 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.


December Calendar Notes:

New Liturgical Year Begins on December 1st. You will see the blue paraments up in the chancel area and the wreath placed. This year the Four Sundays of Advent are December 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd. A time of preparation.

As a church family, along with our guests, we will celebrate Christ's birth with two worship services on Christmas Eve. **The services on December 24th will be at 5:00pm and 9:00pm.** The choir will be singing at the 9:00pm service. Hopefully that information helps in making personal/family holiday plans. If you are interested in reading, assisting, ushering, or singing please contact the office to have a team leader contact you.



God's work. Our hands.



2024 Season of Serving

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Another successful Crop walk thanks to our 10 walkers (one of the largest groups). Over \$800.00 along with 30 jars of peanut butter and 27 jars of jelly were collected from St Mark members!

ST MARK CARES! GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS!

Social Ministry Holiday Note: We are thankful for a gift of over 50 hats and 50 mittens from an anonymous donor! This means we will not have a mitten tree this year. There will be an Angel Tree as an option for holiday giving as well as the November project of collecting canned hams for the food pantry. Information on the Angel Tree will be in the December LIFE. Also, ELCA Good Gift information is available in the church office or at [ELCA.org/good gifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts). More than 60 different gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives.

Trunk or Treat: Thank you to all who donated candy / treats for this year's Trunk or Treat !
Special thanks to those who hosted a trunk or car.



Habitat For Humanity Lunch: Ways To Be Involved

Two volunteers are needed for both November and December to coordinate the Habitat lunch. 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. Soon time to start thinking about 2025 as well...

Watch for sign-up/information sheet on the table in the lounge forthcoming for November. 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 !**



“ Our preschool session is now in full swing. The kiddos have been working hard and are already showing so much progress. It's not too late to join the fun.

We still have a few openings left. For more info email rdankertstmarkpreschool@gmail.com.”

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.

Christmas at Augustana will be Saturday, December 7th at 2:00pm and Sunday, 8th at 2:00pm in Centennial Hall. Tickets available at augustana.edu/tickets or by calling 309-794-7306. Augustana College in Rock Island, IL is our local ELCA affiliated college which offers many opportunities and resources to our community.



Pastor Janine is available and willing to visit. St Mark members are encouraged to visit either just to get acquainted or regarding questions or concerns - personal or church related. She would welcome the opportunity to talk with you either briefly or to arrange a time to meet together. Please call or stop in during office hours on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursdays if you are around the church or call to make an appointment to ensure you do not miss her. She is available to meet Mondays or other times by appointment also.

Parents please introduce yourself and your children to Pastor Janine if you haven't yet had an opportunity to do so. She is still trying to identify the children / youth of the congregation and what the needs and opportunities for ministry may be.

Our parish visitor team members will continue reaching out and visiting folks on a regular basis who are unable to attend in person church services or activities. Pastor Janine is continuing to try to meet those homebound members who desire a pastoral visit as well. She has also been making hospital calls as the office is notified of hospitalized members who desire a visit. Please remember the hospital no longer informs us of members hospitalized or placed in nursing center - family must do so or the church does not know. If an individual would like to be included in the corporate prayers of the church or has personal prayer concerns please contact Pr. Janine, Parish Nurse Beth Claeys, or the church office. If any member moves occur please notify the church office of new addresses.



The next foot clinic is scheduled for Monday, December 2nd. 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.



Bunco

**Friday,
Nov. 15th
at 6:30pm**

We will meet in the lounge for our monthly Bunco fellowship gathering. Everyone is welcome! Feel free to invite a friend or two even if they are not St Mark members. Will have sign-up sheet in case of weather.

Questions: Contact Beth Claeys

Please bring a snack.



Prayer Shawl Group

Prayer Shawl Ministry

**meets Saturday,
November 16th at 10am**
.....

Thank you to the prayer shawl group and Beth for remembering my parents this past month. The prayers and the shawls were appreciated. Sincerely, Sue Geise

Peace and greetings from Beth Claeys, Parish Nurse!



Steps to Stay Healthy this Winter

While a cold, flu, or Covid-19 can strike at any time, you're more likely to pick up a virus during the winter than other times of the year. The cold, dry air in the winter months provides perfect conditions for viruses to spread. People are also more likely to gather indoors to avoid the cold weather, making it easier for viruses to spread.

The best way to protect yourself from a virus is to get vaccinated, if one is available.

Here are some tips to help prevent illness in the winter –

- Wear a mask in crowded public areas where viruses can spread quickly
- Wash your hands frequently. Washing with soap and warm water is still the best way to keep clean, but hand sanitizer can also be helpful.
- Disinfect surfaces. Consider using disinfectants like bleach or antibacterial wipes when cleaning surfaces. Some high touch surfaces to focus on include counters, doorknobs, faucets, toilet handles, light switches, remotes, phones, and toys.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If someone you live with comes down with a virus, try to stay in different rooms as much as possible. Wipe down shared surfaces such as bathrooms.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose and mouth.

Should you come down with a cold, the flu, or Covid, there are some tips to help you recover

- Avoid close contact with people
- Get tested. Knowing what's causing the infection can help inform treatment decisions. Older individuals and those with existing medical conditions should contact their Dr if they test positive for Covid.
- Rest, drink lots of fluids and take pain relievers as needed for aches and pains. If you have a high fever, contact your health care provider.
- Ask your Dr about prescription antiviral drugs.
- Try using a humidifier to relieve congestion
- Gargling with salt water can help get rid of mucus
- Cough drops and hard candy can help a cough or sore throat
- If symptoms worsen, contact your healthcare provider.

Source: NIH Medline Plus



Recently our Call Committee had each of us fill in a survey as we prepare to search for a new pastor. I was very intrigued by the second question on the sheet. It read simply "Why are you here?" I realize that the question was meant to get a response to why we are at St. Mark, why we attend worship. But, the question strikes me as one that we might regularly ask ourselves as we go about our daily lives. God has a purpose for each of us. He's given us TIME to be

His hands and feet, unique TALENTS to share with others, and TREASURES to be put to use in our community and in the world. So, tomorrow when you wake up, even before you've put a foot on the floor, ask yourself "Why am I here?" God is just waiting for you to ask!

Your Stewardship Committee

Thank You For Your Commitment!

In this time of transition for St. Mark, you may have pause about declaring a pledge, but your finance committee would encourage you that now is the perfect time to stand up and claim your priorities. Now is the time to say, this is my community of faith, and it is an ultimate priority. It is where I receive my spiritual nourishment. So please pledge generously for 2025 and promise yourself to participate in all and any ways possible in the daily life of St. Mark.

Please return your pledge to the church during November. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Giving Pledge to St. Mark for 2025



Name(s) (print please): _____

Telephone _____ (cell or landline ?)

Email _____

Address _____

My/Our estimate of giving to St. Mark for 2025 is:

\$ _____ Weekly Monthly As follows: _____

Envelopes will be sent to you throughout the year unless office is otherwise notified.

I am/We are unable to make an estimate of giving for 2025...for the following reason (optional) _____

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 I walked up to the church entrance from the East parking lot this morning, a friendly “Hello” and a welcoming “Good Morning” greeted me. Surprisingly, it was not St Mark members before worship or a fellowship event. My warm greeting came from two individuals in the morning chill following the first hard frost of the season as they were waiting for our St. Mark food pantry to open. This was about 30 minutes before the food pantry opened and I do not know how long they had waited in the cold already to utilize the resources we provide to persons experiencing food insecurity. As I settled into the work day at my desk, more folks arrived and the volunteers were in for a busy morning—which is the point of the food pantry—serving those needing assistance and tangibly showing that people care. A number of times today my mind went back to the positive greeting and affirmation I received upon entering the church and how good that felt. It got me to wondering...how can I help people feel more welcomed and affirmed here either when attending worship as a member or as a staff person in the office - whether it be by phone, e-mail or in person? Wouldn't it be nifty (old person language) if St Mark became known as the “welcome church”? Thankful to be part of a congregation that supports an important and welcoming ministry such as our food pantry. Did you know that the majority of telephone calls received in the office are regarding the food pantry? The need is significant. Keep on keeping on and welcoming people.



~ 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 on Mondays)

Office: 563-322-5318

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