
From the Pastor

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

Recently I’ve been pondering a lot about “church” and what “church” is and what it means to me and to us the community of faith. For many, “church” is about being together in a building with people we know and maybe sometimes with people we don’t know. Many times, “church” is defined by the physical structure and space and the activities that take place within its four walls—a beautiful building with stained-glass windows, or an amazing organ, or the musicians or the preaching or the feeling of welcome one gets or even a specific group of people who attend. Lately I’ve pondered even more my/our understanding of “church.” Has our understanding changed over the last few months as we consider pastoral and congregational leadership changes, maybe program changes, and maybe even expanded building use by groups within the Quad City community. I believe all of us are wondering what the future holds for St. Mark Lutheran Church. I’m hopeful and excited about the new possibilities God has in store for this community of faith. The truth is, I see God planting new ideas for ministry and new and different ways to reach out to one another and to our neighbors. We need to remember that the “church” is a living breathing place that reforms and changes as it addresses the needs of the beloved people of God. How exciting and fun! Okay and maybe a little scary but think of the possibilities!

So, I continue to ponder and consider what and who is the “church”. I believe it’s not just about what happens in this building. I believe it’s more than that. I’ve wondered what “church” means in a broader way. I have been seeing “church” with new eyes. Eyes that are helping me to imagine “church” as not about a building or being confined to the structure of the four walls. But “church” as people proclaiming the good news of “Jesus resurrected.” About how as followers of the resurrected Christ we reach out to the world around us showing God’s compassion, care, and love. Reaching out to the beloved people of God wherever that may be. “Church” is people! People coming together to worship, to participate in the sacraments, to study scripture, and then to go out into the world showing God’s love. “Church” is the believers and followers of Christ, proclaiming God’s love to a world in need! As one church puts it, “Growing in faith to reach out in love.”

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 we move into the future may we develop new and maybe not so new ways to come together as the “church” and show the world who and what the “church” is and can do. As the hands and feet of the living loving Lord let’s 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 moving in the world 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:

It's my belief that we're entering a new era in inter-church participation. While the primary reason for this -- declining church attendance everywhere -- is not a positive one, the effects can still be a good thing. (After all, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.") In this case, I think we will gain a greater awareness of our sisters and brothers in Christ who happen to attend other congregations.

If you attended either our Maundy Thursday or Good Friday service this year, I hope you were struck, as I was, by how well our congregation complements that of Zion Lutheran. Both services were more effective for being shared. And certainly, our two choirs meshed together very well. If you have a strong opinion, one way or the other, I'd love to hear your thoughts sometime.

It's my hope that we can worship together with our friends at Zion again in the future, perhaps even as soon as this summer. Stay tuned for updates about when that may happen!

Greetings From Beth Claeys, Lay Minister:

Several of us attended the training from Community Health Care staff on Narcan administration.

We have Narcan doses in each of our AED units and there is a dose in the lounge in the cabinet by the first aid kit.

Opioid overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the U;S. There were an estimated 80,391 drug overdose deaths in the U.S. during 2024.

Opioids can be used to treat pain and may be prescribed by a doctor often after an injury or surgery. Some common opioids are morphine, codeine, oxycotin, oxycodone, tramadol, buprenorphine, methadone, vicodin, heroin, and fentanyl.

Naloxone, the active ingredient in Narcan Nasal Spray competes with opioids to bind with the same receptors in the brain, reversing the effects of opioid overdose in 2-3 minutes. It's safe to use even if opioids are not present. Narcan does not work for benzodiazepines (Xanax, Klonopin, and Valium), cocaine and methamphetamines, or alcohol.

Signs and symptoms of opioid emergencies may include -

- unusual sleepiness or unresponsiveness
- breathing slow or no breathing
- slow heartbeat or low blood pressure
- pinpoint pupils
- skin feels cold and clammy
- nails and lips are blue

(continued next page)

(from Parish Nurse continued)

In suspected opioid emergency

Check for slow breathing or unresponsiveness

To administer nasal spray, lay the person on their back and tilt their head up

Steps to follow if you suspect an overdose -

1. If you suspect an overdose: the person will not wake up, is very sleepy or not breathing well

Yell wake up

Shake the person gently

If the person does not wake up, go to step 2

2. Give 1st dose of Narcan nasal spray in the nose

Hold the nasal spray with your thumb on the plunger

Insert the nozzle into either nostril

Press the plunger firmly to give the first dose

3. Call 911

4. Wait 2-3 minutes after first dose to give medication time to work

If the person wakes up, go to step 5

if the person does not wake up, continue to give a dose every 2-3 minutes until the person wakes up

it is safe to keep giving doses

5. Stay with the person until the ambulance arrives even if the person wakes up.

For more information go to www.Narcan.com

Bunco – Friday, May 1st:

Next bunco gathering will be Friday, May 1st at 6:30. Please bring a snack to share. Everyone is welcome. (You can still come even if you are not an experienced Bunco player.) Contact person: Beth Claeys.

Joy Fellowship - Thursday, May 14th

Please consider joining us for *Joy Fellowship* on Thursday, May 14th at 1:00. Speaker will be from the Third Place in Rock Island. Nice opportunity to learn about community organizations/services and spend some time with church friends during an afternoon. We meet in the lounge. Contact person: Beth Claeys.

Social Ministry- Habitat for Humanity News:

Please look for a signup sheet in the lounge; our next date to be hosting and providing a simple lunch to construction volunteers is May 30th. Something new we will be adding to this ministry is IF we have more lunches than volunteers we will be delivering these extra lunches to elderly members of our congregation. If you or someone you know may enjoy getting a lunch and short visit please let the church office or Maureen Currier (940-8744) know and we will add the name (and phone number please) to our rotating list. Also, please see thank you letter from Habitat elsewhere in this newsletter.

Foot Clinic – June 1st:

The next foot clinic is the morning of Monday, June 1st – by appointment only. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Baderstadt. The cost is \$35. Suggest bringing a towel.

2026 Prayer Garden:

To remember loved ones, honor special people, and rejoice in the beauty of God's creation, the prayer garden will once again be springing to life. If you would like to participate in the beautification of the courtyard gardens for the coming season you may make a monetary contribution towards the purchase of flowers and plants in memory (or honor) of someone by using the envelopes in the lounge (\$15 per couple/person suggested). You may also mail your information/donation to the church office. To be included in the the bulletin, must be received in the office before May 19th. A dedication will take place Memorial Day weekend. If you would prefer to contribute flowering plants or supplies directly or have any other questions, please contact courtyard coordinator, Julie Ginn at 563-320-0735.

Birdies For Charity:

At the recommendation of the finance committee, St. Mark will once again be participating in the John Deere Classic Birdies for Charity program which provides fundraising opportunities for non-profits in the Quad City area. There is a percentage match by Birdies for Charity that returns to St. Mark in addition to the full amount of the pledge/donation. Forms are available on the lounge table, in the church office or here in the newsletter. Contact person for any questions is Barb Jakubowski.

Theology on Tap (a.k.a. Book Group) – Wednesday, June 3rd:

The next group gathering will be June 3rd after the rush of Memorial Day holiday and most graduation events. We will not be meeting in May. Note we are meeting on a WEDNESDAY rather than a Tuesday. Gathering time will be the usual 6:00pm and we will be at Rudy's in the East Village of Davenport. Individual may order as they wish off of the menu. Book Discussion: *The Choice* by author Karen Kingsbury. *All are welcome for fellowship, regardless of if you have read/ finished the book or not.* Please use the lounge sign-up sheet, or contact the office, so that reservations can be arranged for size of the group. Contact person: Beth Claeys.

Financial Report:

General Fund Summary for March

Weekly Offerings \$32,022

Expenses \$29,471

Income through March 2026

Income Received Including Supplemental Resources \$82,666

Amount Expected to Maintain Budget \$100,430

Iglesia Camino de Emaus (Spanish speaking congregation) meets Sunday afternoons at 5:30pm where they share space in the St. Mark building. Pastor Pilar may be reached by e-mail at pastor@caminodeemaus.org or by call/text at 563-296.0166 for further information.

Pastoral Needs When Pr. Janine is off:

On her three-fourths schedule, *Pastor will be off the week of Monday, May 4th thru Sunday, May 10th. Worship leadership on Sunday, May 10th will be by Beth Claeys, Lay Minister, so there will not be communion.*

Please be aware if any new or urgent pastoral needs (death, serious illness or accident, hospitalization, etc.) occur when pastor is off, Beth Claeys, Lay Minister, is to be notified. You may also contact Sue Geise, Administrative Assistant, if you are unable to reach Beth.

Council Corner: The following was discussed at the April 16, 2026 meeting:

The Finance committee reported that our income in March was quite good, due to 2 large donations to the general fund; however, we are still at 82% of our projected 2026 budget. Also, our monthly budgeted payment to Mid-American will increase next month from \$699 to \$1499 due to increasing energy costs.

Pastor Janine and Beth Claeys recently met with Bishop Current. As a result of their conversation, Beth will forego S.A.M. training and will be recognized as a Lay Minister and will be compensated through a budgeted account.

Pastor reported that our Holy Week worship partnership with Zion was well received by all and that perhaps in the future we can find other ways to worship or celebrate together.

Beth Claeys and Sue Geise will represent St. Mark at the upcoming Synod Assembly, May 15-16.

The new printer is up and running in the church office. This is an equipment improvement as well as a money-saver for St. Mark. We thank Rob Sherrod for all the work he did to find the new printer and the new company we are now working with!

Linda Cook and Kathy Sparbel will be meeting again with our Augustana Web Guild management team to refine some of the ideas they have come up to improve our church website.

The council and Pastor Janine will be working together to establish criteria for the continuation of the 4:00pm Sunday worship service. At this time, there are no volunteers to help with opening up the church, setting up for the service, acting as a lector, or closing up after the service. If you are interested in assisting in any way, please contact the church office.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 21, at 6:30 pm in the conference room. Any member of St. Mark is always welcome to attend the council meetings as a guest.

Sympathy:

To the family and friends of Ron Smeltzer, we offer our sympathy and prayers in their loss. Ron was a 60-year member of St. Mark where he served in many capacities. Ron died April 7th, 2026. A private family celebration of life was held.

St Mark Directory – For nearly a year now a new St. Mark directory has been in the works. As easy as this sounds, it is a multi-layer process made more challenging with the changes in long-term staff several years ago and their depth of knowledge. At the direction of the pastor and church council, the review and updating of the membership records has occurred according to constitutional guidelines. Letters were sent out or contacts made to those who have been inactive. A direction to utilize the current database software with the available personal resources (staff and volunteer) has been more clearly discerned. That is a long way of saying that we are ready to have folks start checking the information on a rough draft of the directory for incorrect or omitted items (name, address, phone number, and e-mail). To clarify, this will not be a vendor produced pictorial directory, but an in-house printed informational only directory. In order to build and maintain our St. Mark community and rely increasingly on volunteers, it is essential that we are being able to be communicate effectively with one another. As people enter or work with our St. Mark community, they need to know how to reach people and have assistance with learning names.

On Sundays, May 17th and May 24th there will be a table to review the information we currently have for you and notify us of any corrections or updates needed. The plan is to have a printed directory available for each household by the end of June. If you will not be able to attend in person church either of those days, please contact the church office by e-mail, phone, note, or stopping sometime prior to May 31st to review your information.

Preschool: Graduation is upon us, and our little graduates are “One Smart Cookie”! We’re so excited to celebrate with our graduates and their families at the end of the month. As we wind down this school year, we’re already preparing for the next. If you know anyone interested in touring our facility or registering, please have them contact us at dgstmarkpreschool@hotmail.com or call 563-326-5060 and leave a message. We have some very exciting things in the works for next school year!

In the Lounge: As this issue of Life is being prepared the lounge flooring project is happening. If all goes according to plan the next few days, we will be using the new floor on Sunday morning! The ramp to the narthex / sanctuary and north part of the room is complete and looks good. It is a improvement both visually and functionally. That previous stained and worn carpet had no useful life remaining after many years of use.

Also, in the spirit of a refresh, the lounge chairs are being steam cleaned. Donations of a few gallon jugs of distilled water for the steamer to assist with this project are being accepted. Additional items that would be welcomed for use in the lounge area are rolls of paper towels for the kitchen area and boxes of tissues (for several areas). Any of these items donated may be left in the lounge kitchen area or the office.

Humane Society – Thank you

Thank you to all who donated items needed for the Humane Society of Scott County during April. A good number of items were collected to help care for furry friends with paws who do not have humans able to do so.

2026 Graduates: If you have any 2026 graduates in your household or family please let the office know so that we may recognize them in the June issue of LIFE newsletter. High school, college, military – we wish to recognize the accomplishments of those in our St. Mark community.

Pickleball: Time to get together for enjoyment of the out-of-doors and the company of friends! We are going to resume gathering to play pickleball after our winter hiatus on Wednesdays at 4:00pm, beginning May 6th. We will meet at Northwest Park. All are welcome regardless of skill level. It is a group-led activity, but if you do have any questions, you may contact Linda Ray.

Easter Egg Hunt – Thank you

Our appreciation to all who donated candy, volunteered your time, or encouraged folks to come participate. The 2026 Easter Egg Hunt for children of our community was a success (despite the weather). Always good to kids in our church building. Again, thank you.



Building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

April 21, 2026

St. Marks Lutheran Church
2363 West 3rd Street
Davenport, IA 52802

Dear Friends,

We are writing to express our sincere gratitude for your recent donation to Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities. Your support means the world to us and plays a vital role in our mission to provide strength, stability, self-reliance, and shelter to those in need.

Thank you for your generous in-kind donation of \$160.00 Jersey Mike's GC ! Your support helps us continue in our mission and assist those in our community.

With your generous contribution, we are able to bring people together to build and renovate homes, revitalize our community, and restore hope. Your kindness is making a tangible difference in the lives of individuals and families in the Quad Cities and empowering them with safe, accessible, and affordable homes. Together, we are building a brighter future for our community.

Thank you, once again, for believing in our cause and for choosing to honor us with this gift. We are deeply grateful for your support.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom".

Tom Fisher-King
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Erwin".

Cassandra Erwin
Director of Development

A large, stylized handwritten message in black ink that says "Thank You, Friends!".

To qualify as a deduction for charitable giving, the Internal Revenue Service requires that we affirm that you have received nothing tangible or material in return for your contribution, and we do so affirm.

thrivent

Shred Event



Secure Your Documents. Support Your Community.

Come to **Redeemer Lutheran Church** for a secure document Shred Event and support our community partner, **One Eighty!**

Bring a donation of toilet paper or a monetary gift, and help One Eighty equip people facing crisis, poverty and addiction to invest in healthy relationships, overcome barriers to freedom, and encounter a life of hope in Christ.

Your participation helps protect your identity and supports those in need within your community.

The next upcoming Shred Event:

- Sat, September 19



Event Details

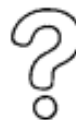
Sat, May 30, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Location

Redeemer Lutheran Church

1107 Tanglefoot Lane,
Bettendorf, IA 52722



Questions?

Call Julie Schumann at
563-345-6424 or
email julie.schumann@thrivent.com

No products will be sold.

St. Mark Worship Schedule:

- **9:30am Every Sunday Morning (also streamed for online church opportunity)**
- **4:00pm 1st & 3rd Sundays –**
(Upcoming: May 3rd & 17th)

A Stewardship Moment: “Thy Will be done”...familiar words to us all. We speak them often; some of daily. But what do those words mean to us in our lives? What is God’s will for us? Is it attending church regularly? Showing others what a “good Christian” looks like? God tells us we are his hands and feet and He has provided us with the time, talents, and treasures to do His work. But His Will is for us to use ALL He has given us in every way needed. If God’s church struggles to pay its bills, if no one signs up for Bible Study, if a visitor doesn’t feel welcomed, that’s on all of us. Each of us has been given God’s grace in so many ways. The next time you speak “Thy Will be done”, truly listen to what God calls you to do.

In Christ’s Service, Your Stewardship Committee

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. Closed Fridays.)

Food Pantry Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00am to 1:00pm
(Serving Iowa residents only)

St. Mark is a member of the Southeastern Iowa Synod – ELCA



St Mark Lutheran Church

CHARITY SOLICITED FOR

1612

BIRD NUMBER



I PLEDGE TO DONATE:

\$ _____ to the charity noted above. (one time, flat donation amount) All pledges due by July 1, 2026.

GUESS THE BIRDIES TO WIN A TWO YEAR LEASE ON A 2026 LEXUS!

I guess that _____ birdies will be made.

Only one grand prize will be awarded. Void where prohibited by law. Guesses due to BFC office by July 1.

BIRDIES SCORED BY YEAR

1,918 (2017)	N/A (2020)	1,929 (2023)
2,355 (2018)	1,905 (2021)	2,315 (2024)
2,091 (2019)	2,041 (2022)	2,102 (2025)

WAKE MORE MAGIC with the BONUS FUND

YES, I would like to make an additional donation to the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund in the amount of \$ _____ to help provide the minimum 5% match to all participating charities.

PLEDGE & DONOR INFORMATION (please print)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE AND/OR EMAIL _____

*By providing an email, you are opting in to email updates from Birdies for Charity.

Please include payment & make checks payable to: BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

WHY BIRDIES FOR CHARITY?

- Every cent you donate goes directly to your chosen charity!
- We will match your contribution by at least 5% and up to 10% from our Bonus Fund!
- For your tax records, we are recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization!
- By participating in the contest, YOU have the opportunity to win!

Simply make a one-time flat donation and mail with payment to the Birdies for Charity office at:

15623 Coaltown Road, East Moline, IL 61244

OR



BIRDIESFORCHARITY.COM/DONATE

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I pledged \$ _____ one-time donation.

I guessed _____ birdies would be made.

Payment was included with pledge

YES \$ _____ NO

CASH CHECK NO. _____

Please make checks payable to:

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY
15623 COALTOWN ROAD
EAST MOLINE, IL 61244

Quad Cities Golf Classic Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, EIN #93-832421, doing business as John Deere Classic & Birdies for Charity.

Chip in for your chance to win!

When you chip in to support local charities, you could win big! But the real champs? Your beloved charities! They score 100% of every donation you make through this program, plus a sweet bonus from the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund, which guarantees a 5% match. Talk about a win-win!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

To enter the contest, guess the number of birdies that will actually be made by PGA TOUR Pros during the tournament, Wednesday through Sunday.



GRAND PRIZE: 2 YEAR LEASE ON A 2026 LEXUS!

One lucky supporter of the John Deere Classic's Birdies SMART LEXUS OF QUAD CITIES

for Charity program will win a 2 year lease on a 2026 Lexus, courtesy of Smart Lexus of Quad Cities.

CONTEST RULES

- Only 1 grand prize awarded. Ties determined by random drawing
- Open to all participants 21 years or older & a U.S. licensed driver
- The grand prize shall only be delivered within or around the Quad Cities metropolitan area
- All guesses must be on an official pledge card & received at the tournament office by July 1.
- No pledge or purchase required. Need not be present to win.
- Winner responsible for all sales taxes, registration fees, license plate fees, & income taxes on all prizes, including local, state, & federal taxes
- Full list of official rules & details found at birdiesforcharity.com/about/contest