

Witness in Faith - As Christians we are called to witness about our faith – to each other, to our neighbors, to our community. All of us have a story to share where God was with us on occasions of joy, sadness, loneliness, or grief. BUT – no matter the circumstance, He was THERE! We could feel His presence surrounding us. This is MY witness of Joy....



Most everyone knows that I have been struggling with my left ankle since March. Several surgeries, multiple casts, and the inability to do the things I most love. In May, after my second surgery, I was especially upset that I was not going to be able to work in my gardens. No weeding, no planting of beautiful annual flowers, no vegetable planting. I was depressed!

But God gave me a miracle! One day, I was in the driveway in a wheelchair, pouting about my situation, when Dave came over and said he would pull a few weeds for me. Not his thing.... but he would do it for me. I was watching carefully to make sure he didn't pull up any perennials, when we spotted a small marigold that was peaking up from the thistles. Marigolds rarely come up by themselves. But this little seed had somehow survived the winter. I was thrilled. And as Dave continued to remove weeds, we saw another, and another, and another.... close to 30 little marigolds in my flowerbed! And all are bright and colorful and thriving today. I felt that God knew I wasn't going to be able to plant this year, and He brought me my marigold miracle!

I'm sharing this simple story as a witness of how God knows our every moment. We are never alone. His love embraces us even when we are so consumed in our own life that we forget for a bit that His arms are always around us.

Do you have a Witness in Faith story that you would like to share? Please consider submitting something to our monthly LIFE. You can sign your name to it, or it can be anonymous. By witnessing to each other, we find common chords in our lives of faith and service to God.

Act 4:20 says "For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

In Christ's Service - Nancy Beaderstadt

St Mark August Worship Schedule and Notes:

9:30am Sunday Worship in the sanctuary. There is a schedule of worship leaders through the first four Sundays of August. Beth Claeys, Lay Minister, will lead worship August 2nd & 16th (no communion). Pr. Randy Willers will be the worship leader on August 9th and 23rd with communion.

Fifth Sunday opportunity: On Sunday, August 30th at 9:30am we will be worshiping with Zion Lutheran Church at 1216 W 8th Street, Davenport, IA 52802. Rev. Clark Olson-Smith will be presiding and preaching. (There will be no service at St. Mark that day.)

Online Church – Weekly online link available per e-mail or Facebook or per YouTube search. The 9:30am service will be streamed live or may be viewed at a later time/day. On August 30th Online church will be available via the Zion website. More details to follow in weekly e-mails.

5:00pm Saturday Worship in the chapel on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays (August 1st and 15th). Beth Claeys, Lay Minister, will lead and preach. There will not be communion. All are welcome!

Volunteers for Worship:

If you have any questions or are interested in filling any volunteer schedule vacancies, these are the coordinators for the various areas: Lector & Assisting Minister for 9:30am services – Nancy Beaderstadt; Altar Guild-Barb Erickson; 9:30am Ushers-Julie Ginn; 5:00pm Lector Saturday services – Beth Claeys.

St. Mark Cares:

If you are experiencing a need for spiritual care, have prayer requests, a hospitalization, receiving hospice care, or experienced a death in your family, please notify Beth Claeys, Lay Minister (563-940-0899). For non-emergency matters you may also call the church office at 563-322-5318 which is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays when messages will be checked. You may also e-mail Sue Geise, sgeise@stmarkcares.org which will be monitored on days the office is open. There are also parish visitors available for home visits and/or communion as needed. Thank you to all of you who are ministering to each other with cards, calls, prayers, and visits.

Greetings From Beth Claeys, Lay Minister:

Embrace the Gift of Summer.

Summer is a season that invites us to slow down, enjoy God's creation, and spend meaningful time with family, friends, and neighbors. The longer days and warm weather remind us of the beauty and abundance of God's blessings all around us.

Whether your summer is filled with vacations, family gatherings, community events, or quiet moments at home, remember that God goes with you wherever you are. Even as our routines change, His love remains constant. Summer offers opportunities to rest, reflect, and renew our faith through prayer, worship, and acts of kindness.

Scripture reminds us, This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

May this summer bring you peace, joy, and renewed strength. May you find moments to appreciate the beauty of God's creation, cherish time with loved ones, and grow deeper in your relationship with Him.

Wherever your summer journey takes you, may God bless you, keep you safe, and fill you with His hope and grace.

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Prayer shawls are available on the quilt rack in the Narthex. If you know of someone who would like one, please take one for them.

Prayer Shawl group will meet Sat Aug 15 at 10:00 in the lounge. All are welcome! Thank you to all who are active in this ministry and also those who support it in any way.

Bunco – Friday, July 31st:

Bunco will meet Friday, July 31st at 6:30. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a snack to share. If any questions, the contact person is Beth Claeys.

Theology on Tap (a.k.a. Book Group):

Theology on Tap will meet Tues August 11th at 5:30 at Granite City. Note the earlier time to be able to order happy hour appetizer specials. Daily menu specials are available as well. We are reading “Saint Maybe” by Anne Tyler. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the lounge if you plan to attend. 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.

Foot Clinic – August 3rd:

The next foot clinic is the morning of Monday, August 3rd - by appointment only. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Baderstadt. The cost is \$35. Suggest bringing a towel.

Social Ministry - Habitat for Humanity:

Thank you to those who provided casseroles and cookies to restock the Habitat for Humanity resource freezer in July so that they have items on hand to provide lunches and/or treats to volunteers as needed on days not assigned to a group to do so. Plans for August are pending. Information will be put out on the lounge table when their needs are known. Contact person: Maureen Currier

Social Ministry Committee-God’s Work. Our Hands:

The Social Ministry Committee has chosen our project for the ELCA annual day of service. We will be collecting items for *The Third Place QC* in Rock Island. It is a day shelter for people experiencing homelessness. They serve on average 100+ people every day. We will be taking donations from August 16th through September 13th.

The following is a list of items needed: Clean, gently used clothing and footwear. Bookbags, blankets, sleeping bags, winter coats. Hygiene products (small sized soap, shampoo, deodorant and feminine products). Prepackaged, individually wrapped snacks. Questions? Contact Gretchen Flynn.

Social Ministry – Food Pantry Report:

During the month of June our St. Mark food bank continued to see and serve a great need in our community in the most economical ways possibly. During June, the total number of households served was 237. Those households were comprised of a total of 728 individuals that were served.

Donations and rescue food totaling 2,405 in June was provided by:

- St. Mark Members and Friends
- Starbucks, Wal-Mart, Kwik Star
- Midwest Food Bank
- Churches United

An additional 3,733 pounds of food was obtained from River Bend Food while spending only \$212.82. Combined total for June was 6,138 pounds of food moving through the St. Mark Food Pantry and on to those with food insecurity. Thank you to all who support this ministry with donations, volunteering with the clients, volunteering with transporting food and restocking, and keeping all of the statistics required. All contributions are important and valued! Thank you.

The supply of plastic grocery bags is getting low. Please consider saving any extra grocery bags and donating them to the food pantry.

Iglesia Camino de Emaus: The Southeastern Iowa Synod Hispanic speaking congregation, Iglesia Camino de Emaus will no longer meet at St. Mark or continue to exist. It will transition to joining Iglesia San Jose Obrero, which is part of the Northern Illinois Synod-ELCA. There will be one combined ELCA congregation serving the entire IA/IL QCA instead of the two distinct congregations Pr. Pilar now serves. They have expanded from one Sunday service to two (1:00pm and 5:30pm), meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline. After August 13th, Pastor Pilar may be reached by e-mail at pastor@caminodeemaus.org or by call/text at 563-296.0166 for further information. It has been a privilege to partner in ministry with this outreach congregation the past several years and we wish them God's continued blessings in their ministry as a combined congregation.

St. Mark Financial Report:

General Fund Summary for June

Weekly Offerings	\$17,906
Expenses	\$22,977
Income through June 2026	
Income Received Including Supplemental Resources	\$147,320
Amount Needed to Maintain Budget	\$200,860
Total Expenses Through June 2026	\$171,968

Financial statements for the first half of 2026 are available upon request.

SEIA Synod News -Ordination Anniversary:

On August 1, Rev. Dr. Sandra Orsen Daily celebrates the 50th anniversary of her ordination into ministry, which took place at St. Mark Lutheran in Davenport. Pastor Sandra's first call was to Our Saviour's Lutheran in East Boston, MA, in 1976. From 1979 until her retirement in 2004, she served in several churches and ministries in the state of Michigan. In 2011, Pastor Sandra briefly served the people of St. James Lutheran in Bettendorf before returning to retirement. Pastor Sandra's favorite part of ministry was “praising God with the people in all walks of life,” and her hope for the church is for it to experience "growth and joy and peace together." In retirement, Pastor Sandra enjoys the "freedom to be as a child of God with all of the other children of God on the planet Earth." We give thanks for Pastor Sandra's ministry and faithful service to God's people.

Pickleball: Hopefully the word got out that Wednesday pickleball has resumed! The construction at Northwest Park where we typically met to play has finally been completed and the courts are open once again. It is a group-led activity, but if you do have any questions, you may contact Linda Ray.

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

Barb reported that giving continues to drop. Our high Mid-American “budget” payment will be reassessed in the Fall, and we are hoping to see a bit of a decrease at that time. Our Preschool is struggling financially. Their current Fall enrollment is only 5 children. St. Mark pays the Preschool Director, but other employees are paid from their own funds, and they pay St. Mark for rent of the space. The Endowment Committee received a grant request from the Preschool to assist with rent, supplies, and scholarship dollars and Council accepted Endowment’s approval.

Thanks go out to a number of members who braved the heat and recently spruced up our garden areas around the church. Nancy will contact the 1-80 group to get clarification on what type of work, beyond mowing, that they are responsible for.

Mike reported that there are a few tile planks in the lounge that need to be re-glued. He has contacted Northwest Flooring. We do have a 1-year guarantee on the new floor.

Nancy and Beth will meet soon with a possible long-term pulpit supply candidate, Pr. Maddy Tyler. Pr. Tyler has been working with St. Paul for the past year. While our Call Committee continues their search for a permanent pastor, the SEIA Synod continues to help in our endeavors.

There will be a Celebration of Life in Luther Hall on July 31, a bridal shower in the lounge on August 1, a wedding in the Sanctuary on August 8th, and a baby shower in the lounge on September 12. Pr. Stephanie from Grace Lutheran will be presiding at the wedding ceremony. Rob is working on obtaining the technology to allow Bluetooth music to be played through our sound system.

Pastor Pilar will be ending his ministry at St. Mark and will be joining the Iglesia San Jose Obrero congregation at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moline. We wish Pr. Pilar and his worshippers God’s grace as they begin anew in their Moline home.

A draft of our new St. Mark website will be put together soon. Linda and Kathy are working with the Augustana Web Guild to make our site more interesting, accessible, and informative.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, August 20, at 6:30 pm in the conference room. Any member of St. Mark is always welcome to attend the council meetings as a guest.

September LIFE:

All information for the September issue of the LIFE newsletter is to be submitted to the office no later than Monday, August 24th to be included. Please direct any questions to Sue Geise, Admin. Assistant.

“Witness in Faith” Submissions to be included in one of the upcoming fall issues of LIFE newsletter may be submitted to Sue Geise in the office in any format you choose: email, handwritten, dictated over the phone or in person. Sue will gladly type it up for you. It may be brief or detailed. Anonymous or signed. Sharing our stories with each other is a way to witness our Christian faith as well help build community. We hope you will accept this invitation (as appears on page one) to share one of your stories or some of your thoughts.

Preschool and Kids Crossing:

The summer program is underway, and the kids are thoroughly enjoying the engaging activities planned by Ms. Hannah. For a glimpse of all the fun, be sure to visit our Facebook page.

We are now accepting fall enrollment for children ages 3 to 5. Flexible options are available, including three-day or five-day programming, with before and aftercare offered as needed. For more information or to reserve a spot, please call 563-326-5060 or email Desiree at dgstmarkpreschool@hotmail.com.

From the Organ Bench, Ross Jallo:

Mark your calendars: our annual jazz worship service will be on Sunday, September 13th. We'll kick off the 2026-27 program year at St Mark Lutheran by once again hosting the talented Edgar Crockett Quartet. Plan to be there by 9:15am that Sunday, if you'd like to hear special jazz prelude music. The Edgar Crockett Quartet will also lead the hymns and liturgical music that day, as well as collaborate with St Mark's choir for one of our favorite gospel anthems, "He never failed me yet". I like to think every Sunday is a good opportunity to invite friends and family to worship with us -- but this one is special.

August Social Ministry: Caring for Our Preschool:

Through the end of August, we are collecting items needed by the preschool to help them out while enrollment is low. At this time, school supplies for the students are not needed, but the items listed below would be very helpful to keep our costs as low as possible.

- Tissues (quite a bit)
- Paper towels (A LOT 🌀)
- Printer paper (quite a bit)
- 13 gallon trash bags-heavy duty
- Mr. Clean mop soap

If you would like to contribute any of these needed items listed, we will collect them in the church office or contact Barb Jakubowski or Sue Geise.

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.
(Closed Mondays and Fridays.)

Food Pantry Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00am to 12:45pm
(Serving Iowa residents only)

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



Southeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



ST. MARK PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

OPEN NOW!

Our center has proudly been a premier institution since 1978, and we eagerly anticipate the opportunity to meet your little one!

- ✓ Specializing in ages 3 through 5
- ✓ Outdoor Activities
- ✓ Snacks & Lunch Provided
- ✓ Engaging, hands on curriculum
- ✓ Accepts Childcare Assistance

CALL OR EMAIL TODAY FOR A
TOUR OR ANSWER ANY
QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE!

 (563) 326-5060

 dgstmarkpreschool@hotmail.com

