

Witness In Faith -

Psalms 4:4-5: I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I shall fear no evil. Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.

Psalms 46:10 Be still and know that I am God

Verses that were and are a comfort to me while grieving.

Thursday October 9, 2025 was a beautiful crisp fall day. Lisa, Tracy our friend and neighbor took us to the W. Kimberly Mercy One Clinic. Lisa got her flu shot. Our family doctor of 20 plus years had decided not to see Lisa and said Christy (her nurse) could give her the shot. **Strange for a doctor to cancel an appointment** made by me at the suggestion of Lisas endocrinologist because her sugar readings remained higher than normal even when I increased the insulin.

After the shot Tracy suggested that we stop at Urgent care on the first floor because Lisa was breathing differently. She could see Lisa's chest movement as she was sitting in the front seat with her.. Lisa was not complaining of pain. The nurse PC ran a CT scan and brought Lisa back and said they could not focus on Lisa because when was a type 1 diabetic with a heart issue. We should go directly to the hospital either by car or ambulance. Of course, Lisa wanted us to ride with Tracy. *The Nurse PC said she would call to let them know we were on the way.

We got to the hospital, and they knew nothing. Ran another CT. One of the ladies took the tape off the machine and said she had to talk with the doctor but "nothing it wasn't bad" **Strange. Then we were sent back to the waiting area for approximately 4 to 5 hours.** I went up to the window 3 or 4 times asking that Lisa be seen. Lisa had a bag of Gardettos from the vending machine, a drink from the water fountain and went to the bathroom. Then she came back to her seat only to wait. No complaint of any kind just apologized because we couldn't go to lunch and shop a little. I told her it was more important to find out what was wrong.

A chaplain by the name of Carol came to sit with us shortly before Lisa was called to see the doctor. She said a prayer and walked with the 3 of us through the doors and to the room. Tracy was with us. She and Lisa were close. It was cold in the room, Lisa laid down on the bed. The nurse fumbled around taking the sugar reading after she hooked up the IV. The ER doctor diagnosed fluid around the heart and lungs and lack of oxygen. The hospital physician confirmed the diagnosis. They were professional, speaking directly to Lisa. They told her she was going to have a dose of Lasix to draw the fluid away, that she was going to be admitted for observation for 2 days and nights. Lisa said "I can do that" She was happy to be in the

hospital. Shortly after the Lasix she uttered a big gut groan and her head fell over on the pillow. I never saw her eyes again. She had just called her dad and gave him the news and said goodbye to him.

I pushed the buzzer and the ER doctor came running with nurses and performed CPR breaking Lisas rib which is common they said. I went into shock and required a wheelchair so I could go to the brightly lit room where they told me they were doing all they could, but she wasn't responding as she should. They had put a vent in her throat and would be putting in another the next day.

The chaplain went with us to the family room. I called Nancy who notified Pastor. Pastor Janine and Beth called to see if they should come to the hospital. I told them no, to wait until the next day and Lisa would love to see them. I said no only because of the doctor having told me the plan for the next day. I thought everything would be okay at that point.

Hours later we were finally in the ICU waiting. The ICU Doctor looked me in the eyes and said it did not look good. I told him I wanted to sit with her. He had no objection. Hours sitting there I felt great respect for life, death and the Lord. I felt the Holy Spirit, warmth and peace. It was a very holy time that I will never forget. When I had to let Lisa go, I kissed her and told her to go ahead, and I would follow soon. She was used to following me through the 59 years she lived with us.

During the first six months of grieving, I had a lot of hate for others and a lot of love for Lisa. I prayed for God's help to overcome and I did. I still have questions in my heart.

The Advocate Department ran a review at my request and found no neglect. *The RN had been called, but for some reason no action was taken. I asked and received a complete list of procedures for the day. The doctors did their best. They were just too late. I pray the angels led Lisa to her Heavenly Home, that she is happy and doesn't remember her life on earth. If she does remember us, I pray she knows how much she was loved by family and friends.

I realize it was "by the grace of God" I was able to overcome the pure hatred and lack of respect that I felt at the beginning of this journey. I was so broken for months. My soul is at peace, but I have a hole in my heart. I miss my daughter and I always will because I am human and loved her more than myself. God took care of me.

Shared by Linda Wescom

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, and Special Music/Choir; Ross Jallo.

From the Organ Bench, by Ross Jallo, Minister of Music:

Patience is not a virtue we are encouraged to cultivate, nowadays. *Act now*, advertisers tell us: *Don't delay!* Purchase this product to avoid waiting, to avoid work, to avoid thinking too hard. Don't bother with the long, slow labor of building skills or knowledge: AI can do it for you, anyway.

Our society wants everything immediately, and easily. But God doesn't work this way, if the Bible is any indication. Scripture is full of people who have to wait, who have to struggle, who see their dreams realized in different ways than they'd planned. Even Jesus, before his suffering and death, asks God the Father if there's another way: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done." (This, by the way, is the scene depicted on the window behind our altar at St Mark Lutheran.) But sometimes the way forward is not *around* suffering, but *through* it. And in a culture that prizes the quick, the easy, and the painless, this is very countercultural indeed.

"Work on your own salvation with fear and trembling", Paul writes in Philippians. That is to say: *put in the work*. Be patient. Wait for God to reveal his plan for you. Fortunately, we can trust that our crucified-and-resurrected Lord knows exactly what we're going through. And, though it's difficult, we can even find joy in the waiting:

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Prayer Shawl group will meet Monday, October 19th at 10:00 in the lounge. All are welcome!

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. Contact person: Beth Claeys

Bunco:

Bunco will meet Friday, October 9th at 6:30 in the St. Mark lounge. Everyone is welcome and we will teach you how to play if you do not know. Free will offering appreciated. Please bring a snack to share. If any questions, the contact person is Diane Fellman.

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

Theology on Tap will meet Thursday, October 22nd at 5:30 at Granite City. (Note the change in day of the week to Thursdays.) We will be discussing the book “When Crickets Cry” by Charles Martin. 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.

Social Ministry - Habitat for Humanity:

Please watch for information regarding the work/ministry of Habitat for Humanity on the lounge table. St. Mark provides simple lunches for volunteer workers on projects as needed (usually once per month at housing job sites). As needs are known there will be information and sign-up sheets in the lounge. Some of the job site work is weather dependent so there can be changes which are typically communicated by text message to those signed-up. All who participate in this flexible ministry are appreciated! Contact person: Maureen Currier

JOY Fellowship:

Thursday, October 8th at 1:00pm, J.O.Y. Fellowship will gather in the lounge. The program will be “My Body, My Temple; Focusing on Healthy Eating & Nutrition”. Speaker will be Marli Apt, Manager of Community Engagement for Unity Point. Everyone is welcome!

Greetings From Beth Claeys, Lay Minister:*Finding God in the Routine*

Our faith is not meant to be lived only during the big moments when our prayers are answered or we are celebrating a special event. Faithfulness is often found in the small, repeated choices we make each day - praying, reading scripture, encouraging someone, showing kindness, forgiving, and simply trusting God one more day.

Sometimes our routines become so familiar that we stop noticing the blessings within them. This October consider slowing down and looking for God in the ordinary. Look for Him during morning coffee, a conversation with a friend, a beautiful autumn sunset, or a quiet moment of prayer.

God is not only present in the extraordinary, He is present in the routine. May our October routines become opportunities to draw closer to Him and to remember that every day is a gift from a faithful God.

Social Ministry – Food Pantry Report:

During August, the total number of households served was 187. Those households were comprised of a total of 601 individuals that were served.

Donations and rescue food in August were provided by:

- St. Mark members and friends
- Asbury Farms
- Starbucks, Wal-Mart, Kwik Star (Rescued Food)
- Midwest Food Bank
- Zion Lutheran
- HyVee bread
- Living Hope Church

River Bend Food Bank: 3,639 pounds of food were obtained at the low cost of \$559.30

Thank you to the volunteers and for all of the support of the St. Mark Food Pantry.

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. If you are interested in a parish visitor and/or home communion, please contact Maureen Currier, Beth Claeys, or the church office. Thank you to all of you who are ministering to each other with cards, calls, prayers, and visits.

St. Mark Financial Report:

General Fund Summary for August

Weekly Offerings	\$16,445
Expenses	\$25,763

Income through August 2026

Income Received Including Supplemental Resources	\$208,264
Amount Needed to Maintain Budget	\$267,814
Total Expenses Through August 2026	\$224,403

Sanctuary Pew Racks: Please note there are two sided laminated inserts in the sanctuary pew racks with information on the “St. Mark Playground” and vanco giving options.

The Playground is located on the front left side of the sanctuary and designed for children 8 months to 6 years and an accompanying parent. Near the entry to the sanctuary there are activities for older children and the young at heart of any age.

Vanco makes online tithing easy! Consider setting up an account. Offering envelopes are both mailed out and available in the pew racks. Only three months remaining in 2026. Is your giving up to date?

Looking Ahead – November LIFE:

All information for the November issue of the LIFE newsletter is preferred to be submitted to the office by end of Monday, October 26. 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 given 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 extended last month to share one of your stories or some of your thoughts.

Foot Clinic – October 5th:

The next foot clinic is the morning of Monday, October 5th - by appointment only. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Baderstadt. The cost is \$35. Suggest bringing a towel.

Keys & Doors: Any one with exterior/interior keys to the church that you do not use routinely, please return them for security reasons. And if keys are used, please take extra time to be sure all interior and exterior doors are locked before leaving and all lights are turned off. Church is being left unlocked too often. Thank you. (Door lock does not always catch when it closes, please check it.) Any questions, please contact the office.

Looking Ahead – 2026 All Saints Sunday will be November 1st:

Worship at 9:30am in the sanctuary. Those members of St. Mark who have died since All Saint Sunday last year will be remembered and honored with a candle lit and bell rung as their name is read. Their family members will receive an invitation to join us in worship. Anyone is welcome to bring photos or mementos of anyone important to you that you will be remembering and/or wish to honor from any time frame and place them in the windowsills around the sanctuary. There will also be an opportunity for those attending to light a candle to remember those gone before us.

Council Corner - The following was discussed at the September 17, 2026 meeting:

The Finance Committee will begin working on the 2027 budget. The draft budget will be presented to Council in January and the final budget will be made available to the congregation at our February annual meeting. A raise is being considered for our 3 St. Mark staff members.

Pastor Maddy Tyler will complete her worship leadership role on September 27. She has accepted a call. Nancy will contact Pastor Randy Willers to return for the 2nd and 4th Sundays in October and November. Pastor Randy has indicated that he will also assist at one Saturday evening service per month to distribute communion. It was also mentioned that perhaps the Saturday evening services could be moved to the Sanctuary. The attendance has increased and there may be a need for more space.

JOY Fellowship will be held October 8th in the lounge. The theme will be “my body, my temple” and will address healthy eating and living habits.

Our sanctuary air conditioning unit is living on borrowed time. Thankfully, the need for AC is coming to an end for the year, but this is a subject that will need to be addressed in the coming year. Also, we have been having problems with being able to open or shut the arched Narthex exterior door. Mike will have someone look at it.

A split in the laminate on one vinyl strip of the new flooring has been found. Nancy will contact Northwest Flooring. This is not an installation issue but may be a manufacturer’s problem. We will know more when we have someone from Northwest take a look at it.

St. Mark received a nuisance violation from the city of Davenport. There was an abandoned vehicle found in the west parking lot. Because it was on our property, the responsibility was ours to remove it. Fred’s Towing was called and they took the vehicle at no charge to the church.

Pastor Dan Witkowski has offered to lead a Christmas Eve service at St. Mark at 5:00 pm. This would be an additional worship option – the regular candlelight service at 9:30 would still be offered as well.

Kathy and Linda C. have presented a working draft of the new website for council review and comment. The Augustana Web Guild, working with Linda and Kathy, have come up with some great ideas to update our website.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 15th at 6:30 pm in the conference room. Any member of St. Mark is always welcome to attend the council meetings as a guest.

Extending Our Sympathy:

- Beverly Rohm, a long time St. Mark member, died on Monday, September 21st. A Celebration of Life gathering will be held at the church on Saturday, October 3rd beginning at 2:00pm. Please keep Bev's family in prayer.
- Mick Carstens and his family with the death of his brother Ernest "Skip" Carstens.

October Worship Schedule:

- 5:00pm Saturday, October 3rd Worship Communion- Beth Claey's, Lay Minister, Leading/Preaching and Pr. Randy Willers, Presiding for Communion.
- 9:30am Sunday, October 4th Worship (no communion) – Beth Claey's, Lay Minister.
- 9:30am Sunday, October 11th Worship with Communion – Pr. Randy Willers.
- 5:00pm Saturday, October 17th Worship (no communion) – Beth Claey's, Lay Minister.
- 9:30am Sunday, October 18th Worship (no communion) – Beth Claey's, Lay Minister.
- 9:30am Sunday, October 25th Reformation Sunday Worship – Pr. Randy Willers.
(Celebratory Sunday of the founding of Lutheranism - Wear some RED!)

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.

Trunk or Treat

The St. Mark annual Trunk or Treat event will be held
in our East parking lot on

Sunday, October 18th from 1pm to 3pm.

Hot dogs, chips, and water will be served in the gym. Join us
and invite friends and family.

Please Consider These Opportunities:

- Donations of candy and/or small items to be given out during the truck or treating. They may be left in the lounge or in the office.
- Individuals, families, or businesses willing to sponsor a decorated “trunk” /vehicle for the children to trunk or treat are needed. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lounge.
- Volunteering to assist with the food or



The social ministry committee appreciates all assistance with hosting this outreach event for the children & families of our community. Please direct any questions or offers of assistance to Amber Sherrod, Event Coordinator.