

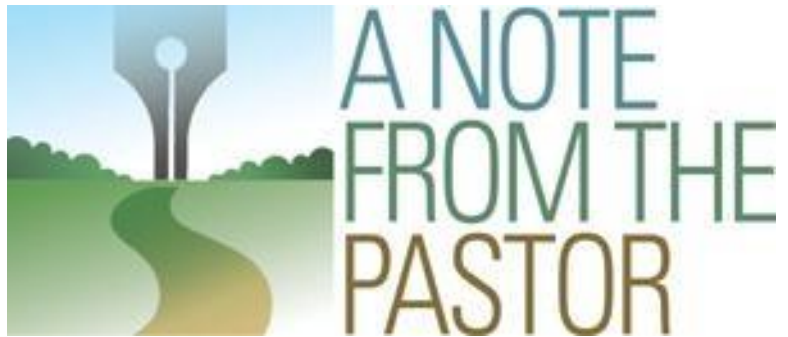


# Life

A Publication of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2023  
Volume 56 Issue 1

*I am deeply convinced that the Christian leader of the future is called to be completely irrelevant and to stand in this world with nothing to offer but his or her own vulnerable self. That is the way Jesus came to reveal God's Love. – Henri Nouwen.*



Cuddled up in front of the fire, several feet of beautiful snow has blanketed the ground outside.

Pouring the hot chocolate into a large mug, I snuggle in for yet another long string of quiet evenings. Well, the hot chocolate part might be true, anyway. Without that layer of snow covering the trees and the grass, it's easy to see why this is called the "dead" of winter, and here we are right in the middle of it. How are things with your soul this time of year? Do you find yourself feeling like things look outside?

In 1987, Stephen Covey wrote "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People". One of the concepts that he relies heavily upon deals with where one is to concentrate one's focus. He calls it the "Circle of Influence" versus the "Circle of Concern." We should only focus on things which we can actually have an effect upon. This is our "Circle of Influence." This circle starts with ourselves. First, we must take a good look at who we are and the extremely high value that we, as God's children, have, no matter what our station in life happens to be. Secondly, we can influence ourselves through the actions we take and the attitudes we foster. Aristotle said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." In addition, there is a maxim that goes, "Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny". So lastly, if you are feeling "dead" like things look outside, see if you can influence yourself by creating new actions and attitudes. If habits are learned, they can be unlearned; perhaps it has been a habit to be down at this time of year. I have heard that if you tell yourself something enough times, your brain will think it to be reality. Concentrate on the words from John 3:16. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

My dear friends, the "world" and the "whoever" in this familiar verse includes each and every one of you. That's how I know the tremendous worth of each and every one of you.

I pray for God's continued blessings upon you this winter and throughout 2023. Remember this, God's season of love does not pass like the seasons but is eternal in the heavens.

Grace and Peace,  
Pr. Travis

## ***Finance Update***

### **General Fund Summary**

November Offerings \$ 18,526  
November Expenses \$ 39,630

### **Regular Offerings Year to Date**

Received \$ 213,730  
Budgeted Amount \$ 242,916



Thank you to everyone who brought seasonal goodies in for the staff to share during the holidays and sent cards to us! Your thoughtfulness is appreciated!

-Your St. Mark Staff

A huge "Thank YOU" to everyone who participated in this year's Angel Tree and Mitten Tree ministries.

All of the "Angels" on the tree were sponsored and many, many gloves, hats, etc. were donated for use at Buchanan and Truman Schools.

St. Mark wouldn't be able to participate in these ministries without:

**YOU!**



The dedication of the St. Mark Prayground will take place on Sunday January 29th at the 9:30am service. This new prayground will offer children a place to play during our worship services so all families can worship together. Please make sure to invite your family and friends! Questions about the new prayground area? Please speak to Amber Sherrod.



A total of 397 people were served at our food pantry in November 2022. Items were donated from: Midwest Food Bank, HyVee, Faith United Methodist Church, and St. Mark Friends and Members.

**Thank you!**

*The Food Pantry is in need of canned vegetables for the months of January and February.*



# B.I.G. YOUTH GROUP

★ News ★

We would like to thank everyone who bought items at our Bake Sale in December. We were able to raise \$273. The funds raised will support the Youth this summer as the volunteer within the community.

BIG Saturday Night will not be held in January. Please make sure to mark your calendars for our February BIG Saturday Night on February 11th. We will meet for worship at 5pm and then head to Bowlmor for dinner and bowl a couple games. More info on this event will be sent out via email.

Make sure to save the date for our Pizza Ranch Community Impact Night coming up on March 27th from 5pm-8pm.



Happy New Year! Over Christmas break the preschool staff were busy replacing furniture in 3 of our classrooms, and moving our smallest classroom to a bigger room. The classrooms received new tables and chairs, as well as cubbies. We are excited to welcome everyone back and get back to learning.

-Rebecca Dankert, St. Mark Preschool Director



We offer the Family of:  
*William Eye, Jr.*  
words of love, support, and comfort. May they rest assured in the midst of their challenges and adjustments that God will sustain them in the loss of their loved one through faith in our Risen Lord.

*Because He lives, we too shall live.*

*Notes from  
the Organ  
Bench*  
by Ross Jallo



We all know the feeling of receiving a gift we don't really want or need. "You shouldn't have!", we say, as we try to look pleased about receiving that hideous garment, or that book we know we'll never read, or (worst of all) that gag gift we don't even find amusing. It feels like a waste, like a missed opportunity. But only an ingrate would refuse a gift, no matter how wrongheaded it may be, so we feel compelled to accept it, and to pretend we like it.

At Epiphany -- which we will observe this year on Sunday, January 8th -- we celebrate the giving of what may be the most impractical presents ever given: the gold, frankincense, and myrrh presented to the child Jesus by the Magi. Now, whether Jesus was the infant pictured in most art, or whether (as seems more likely) he was a toddler by the time the wise men arrived, these are not terribly useful things to have around the house. The gold, it is true, could at least be used to purchase more practical things, but one wonders whether Mary found any use at all for the incense and myrrh. (As you no doubt are aware, incense and myrrh were used in the preparation of dead bodies for burial -- a foreshadowing of Christ's sacrificial death some thirty years later. But that didn't make them any more useful at the time the Magi presented them!) Nevertheless, the giving of these gifts is the focus of one of the major feasts of the Christian calendar.

It is not recorded whether Jesus (or Mary, on his behalf) actually *accepted* the outlandish gifts of the Magi. And yet we assume he must have. After all, this is the same Jesus who preached with approval about the poor widow who offered all she had, though it was but a few coins. It is the same Jesus who graciously accepted the offering of the woman with the alabaster box, who anointed his feet with ointment, moistened them with her tears, and wiped them with her own hair. God accepts our gifts, no matter how small or strange.

As a church musician, it is my job to offer the gift of music to adorn the worship of God, and to make it easier for others to do so as well. Music, on the face of it, is not a terribly practical gift. And yet Scripture exhorts us, again and again, to offer it up to God. An appalling number of Christians -- even regular churchgoers -- think that music should be performed only by trained musicians, and that people with poor singing voices (or people who *think* they have poor voices) should remain silent during congregational song. This is, to put it bluntly, absurd. God accepts our gift of song, no matter how bad it is (or how bad you *think* it is). If you're still looking for a New Year's resolution, I humbly suggest you consider making an effort to sing out more in church. It's not about sounding like Pavarotti! It's about offering to God the entirely appropriate -- and scripturally sound -- gift of sung worship.

*Let us Welcome Beth Claeys as our Volunteer Parish Nurse. Beth will help Pr. Travis with after-hospitalization visits and educational programming. The following is a letter from Beth.*

I have recently completed the Parish Nurse training program and have offered to do Parish Nursing at St Mark's on a volunteer basis starting in January. I have 40 years of nursing experience, with a background in Oncology and Hospice nursing. I currently am a clinic manager at the Genesis Moline Healthplex. I also have a master's degree in Chaplaincy from Liberty University.

The focus of faith community nurses is the intentional care of the spirit as they assist church members to maintain or regain their health. They blend nursing and ministry to serve as agents of hope and healing. I look forward to serving at St Mark's in this ministry.

Beth Claeys





# Christmas Decorations 2022

## The Christmas Flowers for 2022 have been dedicated:

- in memory of Mike Jakubowski by Barb Jakubowski and Family.
- in memory of Elizabeth & Chet Lagoni by Barb Jakubowski and Family.
- in memory of Fritz & Millie Kittlaus and Carolyn Kittlaus by Lloyd & Janet Kittlaus.
- in memory of Jim Cozad Jr (husband, dad, and grandpa) by Carolyn Cozad.
- in memory of Stephen & Marjorie Bates (parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents) by Carolyn Cozad.
- in memory of Ethel Cozad (mom, grandma, and great-grandma) by Carolyn Cozad.
- in memory of James Cozad Sr (dad, grandpa, great-grandpa) by Carolyn Cozad.
- in memory of Papa, Dad Wayne, Grandma & Grandpa Tippy, Grandma and Grandpa Tony, Louis Goldensoh, Brandon, and Joe Mechem and Grandma Phyllis; in honor of Mom, Lyle, Timmy, Granny, and Grandma Phyllis Goldensoh, by Mandy Schlueter.
- in memory Ken & Florence Ruefer by the Atkins Family.
- in memory of Joe and Brandon Mechem, William & Florence Dunsworth, Dort & Harry Seligman, Jan & Wendel Peiffer, Ira Dunsworth, Barb and Bob Dunsworth, and Brad Roelandt by Sally Mechem.
- in memory of Marcella Scheel and John Kroeger by Sally Mechem.
- in honor of the William Dunsworth Family, the Ira Dunsworth Family, and Pastor Travis by Sally Mechem.
- in memory of beloved husband, Ira Dunsworth, by Dolly Dunsworth.
- in memory of parents, William & Florence Dunsworth; parents, Anthony & Mildred Lakers; sisters, Dorothy Seligman and Janice Peiffer; Joe Mechem and Barb Dunsworth by Dolly Dunsworth.
- in honor of children and grandchildren - Konnie, Lyle, Tim, Mandy, Greg, Huda, Kody, Zain, Matt, Tad, Lynette, Talori, Maleesa, Sam, and Audrey, and sister, Sally Mechem, by Dolly Dunsworth.
- in memory of Keith Benjamin by Karen Benjamin.
- in memory of Randy Smith (We miss and love you) by Ginny Smith, Randy Smith Jr and Family.
- in memory of Harvey, Margaret, Sonny, Tim, and Terry Christenson, and Harold & Verta Smith by Ginny Smith, Randy Smith and Family.
- in memory of Dennis Bass by Pam Bass, Jodee Williams, and Cody Williams.
- in memory of Mel & Dee Misfeldt by Pam Bass, Jodee Williams, and Cody Williams.
- in memory of Virgil & Genevieve Bass by Pam Bass, Jodee Williams, and Cody Williams.
- in memory of my mom, Ingrid Kroening, my husband, Paul Lensmeyer, and my brother, Mike Kroening, by Debbie Lensmeyer. They are all loved and missed so much this holiday season.
- in memory of Doris Ricketts by Rich Ricketts.
- in memory of my husband, Allan Hoffmann, by Jeanette Hoffmann.
- in memory of our parents, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Bohnsack and Mr. & Mrs. Henry Hoffmann by Jeanette Hoffmann.
- in memory of Larry, Brad, and Evelyn Roelandt (Gast) by Patti Roelandt.
- in memory of parents, Art and Audrey Hines, by Sue, Jay, Steve, Sara, and Joyce.

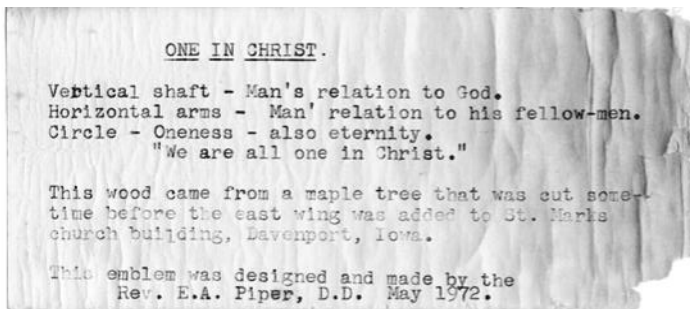
## **The Christmas Flowers for 2022 have been dedicated:**

- in memory of our friends, Art & Miriam Baehnk, by Sue, Jay, Steve, Sara, and Joyce.
- in appreciation of our St. Mark Food Pantry Volunteers by David & Nancy Baderstadt.
- in memory of dad and mom, Gordon & Velma Flynn; my grand-parents; extended family; friends, Enrico Canceres, Dan Schiel, and Ira Dunsworth, by Mike Flynn.
- in honor of all of my family and in appreciation of family pets everywhere that give homes a loving heart, by Mike Flynn.
- in memory of Bill VanHoorebeck by Kirk & Carol VanHoorebeck.
- in memory of Rose Deffenbaugh by Kirk & Carol VanHoorebeck
- in honor of our military that is far from home at Christmas time, by Pat Henderkott.
- in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Mosher, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Muhlhausen Sr, and Phyllis Carmichael (sister) by Mr. & Mrs. John Muhlhausen.
- in memory of Cheryl Peel by Rick & Candy Nagel.
- in memory of Ralph & Jean Nagel by Rick & Candy Nagel.
- in memory of Marilyn & Denny Moore by Rick & Candy Nagel.
- in memory of Mart & Dorothy Harksen by Chris & Becky Pieper.
- in memory of Jim & Cheryl Harksen by Chris & Becky Pieper.
- in memory of George & Helen Paustian by Jim & Dianna Paustian.
- in honor of Barbara Jakubowski for all she does for the church, by Jim & Dianna Paustian.
- in memory of my mother, Nancy Ross, by Linda Folland.
- In memory of Frank & Jan Dumerauf and Tom Claeys, by John & Beth Claeys.
- in memory of my mother and father by Pella Fisher.
- in memory of Ernie & Jean Hill (mom & dad) by Sandy Hill.
- in memory of Skip Hill (brother) by Sandy Hill.
- in memory of Andrew J. Hill Knight (son) by Sandy Hill.
- in memory of parents, Denzil & Allein Kinney and sister, Debbie Reid, by Jackie Kinney and Cathey Keegan.
- in memory of Henry & Dorothy Henderkott by Dorothy Godbey.
- in honor of Emil Rathjen by Dorothy Godbey.
- in memory of John Kroeger and Jeff Zelnio by Shirley Kroeger.
- in memory of Raylynn, Glenn, Jane, and Dave by Jim & Ileen Landhauser.
- in memory of loved ones by John & June Olds.
- in memory of Annetta & Jack Berger, missing you everyday. Love you always, Mom & Dad, by Trema & Virgil Lund.
- In memory of beloved Husband Robert H. Peters, Herbert & Katherine Peters, Ora W. Landon, Jennie McElroy, sister, Janice VanHouten, and many other Peters and Landon families by Barbara Ann Peters.
- in appreciation for our family (immediate and extended), those still with us and those whose memories we cherish, by Jerry & Maureen Currier.
- in appreciation of our church family by Jerry & Maureen Currier.
- in memory of Ira Dunsworth, our first Christmas without you. Love you and miss you, by Lyle & Konnie Golden-soph.
- in appreciation of Rick Martin's years of leadership in the QC CROP Walk by Janet Martin.
- in memory of Kellie Elizabeth Zogg. All our love, your family.
- in memory of parents, Dick & Marjorie Heath by children Ron & Charlene Smeltzer.
- in appreciation of Rick Determan - You are our rock! Love, Traci, Beth, Josh, Tim and Landon.
- in memory of Jo Ann Determan - We miss you so much! Love, Traci, Beth, Josh, Tim and Landon.
- in memory of Les Niemi by Barb Niemi.

## A 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary miracle!

Mid-December, a package from a woman from a little town in Oregon, called McMinnville, was delivered to the church office. She had received a Celtic Cross from a dear friend for Christmas 8 years ago. Her friend had purchased it at a Good Will store in Lincoln City on the Oregon Coast. The Cross had been hanging on the receiver's wall in Coos Bay, Oregon, until 2019, when her husband died. It was then packed and moved to storage until December 1, 2022. The sender noticed a paper scroll rolled up in the back of the cross for the first time. This Maple Cross has made quite a journey over the 50 years.

Here is a copy of the paper:



This may sound somewhat familiar as Pr. Prinz presented St. Mark with a cross made of the same tree on Pentecost Sunday, May 11, 1997, during the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. The tree was planted by Pr. Getzendaner and was cut down 35 years after it was planted. Both crosses will always be the age of this congregation. God works in mysterious ways!



## Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

*Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.*

**FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH FIFTH SIXTH**

- God made wild animals and livestock. ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God said, "Let there be light." \_ \_ \_ \_ ○
- God gathered the waters under the sky into one place. ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God made a vault to separate the waters and called it "sky." \_ \_ \_ \_ ○
- God created plants and trees. \_ \_ \_ \_ ○
- God separated the light from the darkness. ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God made the water teem with living creatures. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God made the sun and moon. \_ \_ \_ \_ ○
- God made birds fly above the earth. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God made stars. ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God created mankind in his own image. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

God \_aw all tha\_ he \_ad ma\_e, an\_ t was ve\_y\_g\_od.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

Answer sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fifth, fourth, fourth, sixth, God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.



January 2023

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				

February 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

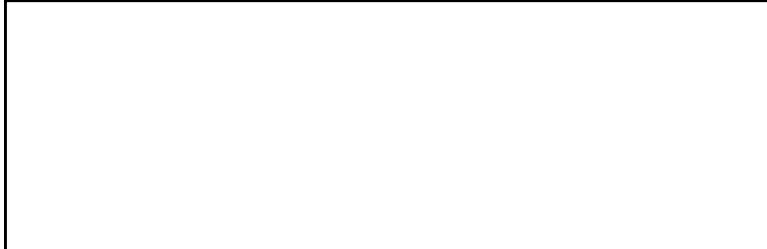
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Jan 1, 23</b> New Year's Day (United States) 9:30am Worship 12:00pm Ryan Lantiau-Private Event (Lounge)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 4:00pm Special Olympics	<b>4</b> 10:00am Morning Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation Classes 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 4:00pm Special Olympics 6:00pm Finance	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 1:00pm Special Olympics - Westenders 5:00pm Worship
<b>8</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 4:00pm Special Olympics	<b>11</b> 5:30pm Confirmation Classes 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 4:00pm Special Olympics	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 11:00am Private Event - Ramirez 1:00pm Special Olympics - Westenders 5:00pm Worship
<b>15</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>16</b> 1:00pm Circle	<b>17</b> 12:00pm LIFE articles due! 4:00pm Special Olympics	<b>18</b> 10:00am Morning Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation Classes 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 4:00pm Special Olympics 6:00pm Council	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 1:00pm Special Olympics - Westenders 5:00pm Worship
<b>22</b> Annual Reports from Committees are due. 9:30am Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4:00pm Special Olympics	<b>25</b> 10:00am Morning Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation Classes 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 4:00pm Special Olympics	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 1:00pm Special Olympics - Westenders 5:00pm Worship
<b>29</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 4:00pm Special Olympics	Feb 1	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>



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

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**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Saturday**  
 5:00pm  
**Sunday**  
 9:30am

 **Office Hours**

**Tuesday-Friday:**  
 9:30am-2:30pm,  
 or by  
 appointment.



**ANNUAL MEETING**

The St. Mark Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on February 12, 2023 - immediately following the 9:30 AM worship service. Please plan to join us as we look at the mission and ministry plan for 2023.

If you have a report to submit, please have it to Lisa Willey by January 22, 2023. The best way to send your report is via Email.

The full report will be available by January 29. If you would like a hard copy of the full report or would like it sent via email, please call the church office, 563.322.5318 or contact the office at [stmark@stmarkcares.org](mailto:stmark@stmarkcares.org), to request the report.