



# Life

March 2023  
Volume 56 Issue 3

A Publication of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church



*Palm*  
SUNDAY

**Sunday, April 2, 2023**

**Breakfast in the Gym**

8:00-9:30am

**Worship**

9:30am

## Holy Week



*Maundy*  
THURSDAY

**Thursday, April 6, 2023**

**Worship**

7:00pm



*Good*  
FRIDAY

**Friday, April 7, 2023**

**Worship**

7:00pm



*Easter*  
BAPTISMS

**Saturday, April 8, 2023**

**Worship**

5:00pm



*Easter*  
SUNDAY

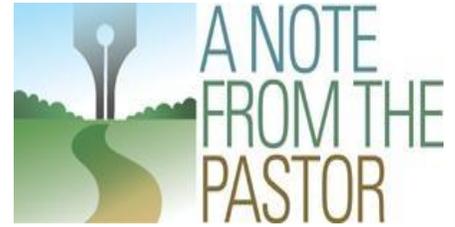
**Sunday, April 9, 2023**

**Worship**

9:30am

### "Lent" One More Time

The word Lent comes from the Old English word "lenten" or "lengthen," meaning "Spring," when the days lengthen. For those in farm country, it's a time for doing all the things we need to do to prepare the ground to bring a bountiful harvest. The ground is cleared of debris from last year's crop; the ground is tilled, problems dealt with, and seeds are planted, all awaiting the arising of new crops and new life.



It's not a great leap to go from agriculture to using the Lenten season to prepare the hard ground of our hearts for the new life we celebrate at Easter. Therefore, during Lent, we pray, examine, repent, and plant new seeds! This last part is often forgotten, but if we want to see growth, something has to die (seeds and Jesus on the cross), so there can be new life.

What kind of seeds, if any, are you planting? They can be seeds of love placed in the heart of a hurting person. They can be seeds of service, involving ourselves in a worthy project (and if we can't find any, then we need to develop some leadership and get something going!) They can be seeds of personal spiritual growth, reading a devotional calendar or a book, or getting involved in a Bible study. These seeds can be deliberately starting and maintaining a new friendship.

Seeds of many kinds can produce wonderful fruit, bringing real joy to our lives and carrying a witness of God's presence and love into the world. That's a great way to think of the daily life of the church, I think.

A seed planted over 100 years ago, which continues to bring wonderful fruit, is St. Mark Lutheran Church and its members, our witness, our outreach, and our preschool. Lives continue to be touched every day! The Good News and Lord's Supper continue to be shared. The message of love is shared. We are brought closer to Christ. Seeds are planted, and a harvest is brought in.

We also celebrate to rejoice because God has called us to be the church, and God blesses us to be the people to do the planting and harvesting.

So, during this Lenten season, we can prepare, plant, and be mindful of what has been planted within us as individuals and as the church.

Lenten Blessings,

Pastor Travis



## **B.I.G.** **YOUTH GROUP** ★ *News* ★

March 11th is our next BIG Saturday Night. We will be meeting for worship at 5pm and then meeting in the lounge for dinner. We are still making plans for what we will be doing so make sure to check your emails.

March 24th-25th, the Youth Group will be having a lock-in from 7pm (March 24th)-7pm (March 25th). We are asking the Youth to bring snacks to share and their own drinks and/or water bottles. We will have a variety of activities planned. Youth are welcome to bring a friend, but everyone must RSVP by March 17th. More information about the the lock in will be sent out closer to the event.

Our Pizza Ranch Community Impact Night will be held on Monday March 27th from 5pm-9pm. Youth will be serving pizzas, bussing tables, and refilling drinks while earning 10% of the profits for the night as well as tips. Please invite your family and friends! All proceeds will benefit the Youth Group.

Save the date for our annual Palm Sunday Breakfast on Sunday April 2nd from 8am-9:30am in the Gym. We will be serving scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, fruit, and pastries. Free will offerings will be accepted to benefit the Youth Group.



## Preschool News

We have officially opened registration for our Summer Program for ages 3-10. Our summer program is a more relaxed program that involves lots of crafts and fun hands on activities with some structured learning time still involved. If you or anyone you know is interested, please have them email [rdankertstmarkpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:rdankertstmarkpreschool@gmail.com) for more information.

### *Accidents Happen!*

Sometimes accidents happen and we send kids home in clothes we have on hand in the office. Most of the time we do not get the clothing items returned.

The preschool is in need of donated boy's jackets or sweatshirts, sizes 5t-8. We are in desperate need of girl's clothing sizes 5t-8. We could also use socks and underwear for girls and boys, size 6-10.

New or used (freshly washed) donations can be dropped off at either the preschool or the church office.

*Thank you!*



## **New Bible Study at St Mark for youth in 3rd-5th grade Beginning March 12 at 8:30am in the Library**

If you have a child that is in 3rd-5th grade, please consider having them join us for a 45 minute Bible Study on Sunday mornings, 8:30am-9:15am, beginning March 12.

All children in this age group are welcome to join us!



## **Save the Date:**

### *MAD Camp 2023: Heroes of the Faith*

You are invited to experience our St. Mark Museum's unique exhibit featuring the adventures of some of our favorite biblical heroes. Their stories will take us from being ordinary people and empowering us to become extraordinary heroes. Campers are invited to join us July 24th-28th. We will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Snacks and drinks will be provided. However, a lunch will need to be brought each day. During our

time together we will be working on sets, props, art projects, games, music and drama. Please register early. Be on the lookout for registration forms in the next LIFE and in the narthex and/or lounge. You may also contact the church office or Kate Carstens at (563)271-8634. We look forward to sharing our adventures with you! Our exhibit will open up to the public during Saturday night service on July 29th.



**Save the Date**  
**Saturday**  
**March 25th**  
**11:30am**

We are excited to announce a new outreach ministry. We will be serving lunch to volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity houses being built. St Mark will serve the 4th Saturday of each month. Currently they are serving 21 volunteers on the weekend.

Menu suggestions were, sandwiches, soups/chili, pizza, burgers, casseroles. A side dish such as chips/fruit/pasta salad. Desserts.

This is an opportunity to meet the volunteers who give tirelessly of their time to build these homes AND a chance to meet the people who will occupy them.

We could use your time and talents! The menu for March will be announced in Sunday bulletins.

Contact Candy Nagel for more info.



We offer the Family of: Helena "Ellie" Dearborn 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.*



**The Prayer shawl ministry**  
**March 11 at 10 am**  
 We will meet in the lounge.

Please join us for faith and fellowship. We have people who can help you learn how to knit or crochet. All are welcome!



A total of 457 people were served at our food pantry in January 2023. 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 plastic grocery bags.*



*A Stewardship Moment*

Recently, Gary, one of our great food pantry volunteers, experienced a "stewardship moment" while at a local Hy-Vee. He was speaking to the manager, asking for a donation of paper bags for

food distribution. Not only did the manager decide to help, but he generously donated over 400 bags to St. Mark! BUT - the story doesn't end there.... As Gary was moving the heavy box of sacks into his car, a curious customer asked him what was in the big box. Gary replied that he was taking donated grocery bags to St. Mark for the food pantry. After giving the woman more information about our food ministry, she handed him \$30 for pantry needs!

What a story of stewardship and generosity!! Gary has been giving his time and talents to our food pantry mission for many years, and, because of his willingness to share our story, God opened the hearts of 2 generous strangers to share their treasures with us.

We all know that stewardship is about money (giving to "keep the lights on" per se), but it is also so much more! How can YOU share the gifts God has given you?

In Christ's Service - your Stewardship Team



Since it has been a while since St Mark has had a Parish nurse, I wanted to share a brief overview of the role.

**Parish Nurse** Faith Community Nurses are RN's whose focus is the intentional care of the spirit as they assist members of the faith community to maintain and/or regain their health. They blend nursing and ministry to serve as agents of hope and healing. Specialized education is received in preparation to serve in this role.

Faith Community Nurses complement spiritual and pastoral care teams by sharing their unique skills and gifts in providing whole person care in congregations and communities.

If you are experiencing a health concern or situation and would like spiritual support from the church, please contact the church office.

Blood Pressure checks will be offered after the 9:30 service on Sunday, March 12th.

*Notes from  
the Organ  
Bench*  
by Ross Jallo



It's all too easy to focus on the things (and people) we lost due to COVID-19, but there are of course things we gained, too: different ways of doing and thinking about things. Chief among these is the convenience of live-streaming services, which has now become something that most churches continue to do. It's easier than ever before to take part in church services -- at least to some extent. Even if you're feeling unwell, or are out of town, or simply don't feel like getting out of bed on Sunday morning, it is now possible to tune in to services at St Mark Lutheran. We should be grateful that it is now possible to reach more people than ever before, especially shut-ins.

But live-streaming is a double-edged sword. The easier it is to miss church ("I'll just watch it later"), the more people will do so. And I can attest that this has a very real impact on church services at St Mark. To put it bluntly: the fewer people there are that show up in person, the less it feels like a proper church service.

A church service, just like a sporting event, can be an energizing experience – *but only if there are people there*. A big crowd feeds off its own energy, leading to a better experience for everyone. But when the bleachers (or pews) are empty, it's hard to get excited and play one's best. Worse, it can become a vicious cycle: people are disappointed by the lack of energy at church, so they come less often, leading to even less energy. And visitors notice this, too. I urge every member of St Mark Lutheran simply to *attend*, in person, as often as you can. Twice a month would be an excellent first goal; three times a month would be even better. Tuning in on a screen in the last two years was a necessity because of an unprecedented global emergency, and it is certainly a blessing for those who cannot otherwise attend. But it is no substitute for real corporate worship. So please: when you can, show up. This is perhaps the most important thing you can do to make our church feel like a vibrant, welcoming place.

**Finance  
Update**

General Fund Summary

Regular Offerings 2023  
Through January

January Offerings	\$16,747	Received	\$16,747
January Expenses	\$31,926	Budgeted Amount	\$20,833



If you would like to honor or remember a loved one by sponsoring our Easter decorations, please use this form and include it and **\$15.00** in an envelope and mail it to church. We will include all the names of the loved ones honored and/or memorialized in the May edition of LIFE.

**Thank you!**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Offering Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**-or-**

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

**The forms are due in the office by March 27.**



March 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	29	30	31	

April 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	2	3	4	5	6	7
	9	10	11	12	13	14
	16	17	18	19	20	21
	23	24	25	26	27	28
	30					29

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>5</p> <p>9:30am Worship 3:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym</p>	<p>6</p> <p> <b>Spring Forward</b> March 12</p>	<p>7</p> <p>4:00pm Special Olympics</p>	<p>Mar 1</p> <p>10:00am Morning Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation Classes 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4:00pm Special Olympics 6:30pm Lenten Bible Study with Beth Claeys</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1:00pm Special Olympics - Westenders 5:00pm Worship</p>
<p>12</p> <p><b>Don't forget to Spring Forward 1 hour!</b> 8:30am 3rd grade- 5th grade Bible study 9:30am Worship 3:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>4:00pm Special Olympics 7:00pm Finance</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00am Morning Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation Classes 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4:00pm Special Olympics 6:30pm Lenten Bible Study with Beth Claeys</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:00pm Special Olympics - Westenders 5:00pm BIG Youth Group 5:00pm Worship</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:30am 3rd grade- 5th grade Bible study 9:30am Worship 3:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1:00pm Circle</p>	<p>21</p> <p>12:00pm LIFE articles due! 4:00pm Special Olympics 6:30pm Council</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00am Morning Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4:00pm Special Olympics 6:30pm Lenten Bible Study with Beth Claeys</p>	<p>17</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day (United States)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1:00pm Special Olympics - Westenders 5:00pm Worship</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8:30am 3rd grade- 5th grade Bible study 9:30am Worship 3:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:00pm-9:00pm <b>Pizza Ranch</b> Impact Fundraiser Night for St. Mark Youth</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4:00pm Special Olympics</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00am Morning Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation Classes 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4:00pm Special Olympics 6:30pm Lenten Bible Study with Beth Claeys</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00pm Youth Lock-in</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1:00pm Special Olympics - Westenders 5:00pm Worship</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8:30am 3rd grade- 5th grade Bible study 9:30am Worship 3:00pm A. Kyle Basketball - Gym</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:00pm-9:00pm <b>Pizza Ranch</b> Impact Fundraiser Night for St. Mark Youth</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4:00pm Special Olympics</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00am Morning Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation Classes 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p> <p>4:00pm Special Olympics 6:30pm Lenten Bible Study with Beth Claeys</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Apr 1</p>



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

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



**Office  
 Hours**

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

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
 At St. Mark  
**Saturday, April 8, 2023**  
**10:00am**  
**Ages Crawling to 11yrs**

Please arrive early to sign children up for prizes, in the gym. Names will be drawn while kids hunt for eggs.



Lunch will be provided in the gym.

If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Sherrod-Hensler, 563-322-4369.

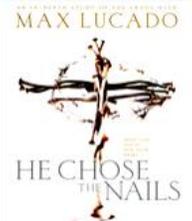
Candy donations are being accepted.  
 A basket will be set up in the Lounge.

**Lenten Bible Study**  
**Thursday Nights**  
**Beginning March 2 thru**  
**March 30**  
**6:30pm-7:30pm**

“He Chose the Nails” is a 5 week video Bible study by Max Lucado. The study explores the gifts Christ gave at his crucifixion.

Beth Claeys will lead these sessions. You do not need to attend every session if you would like to participate.

Please add your name on the sign-up sheet in the lounge or call the church office if you are planning to attend.



St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church • 2363 West Third Street, Davenport IA 52802

Phone: 563-322-5318 Pastor Travis Fisher-King: 563-676-8160

Annual subscription of \$1.00 per year is included in payment of weekly pledge of members. Email: [stmark@stmarkcares.org](mailto:stmark@stmarkcares.org)