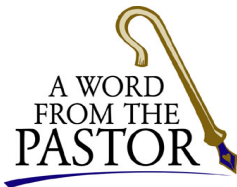


ST MARK'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

January 2023
Valley, Nebraska
www.StMarksValleyNE.com
402.359.2315

from the Pastor...



Happy New Year, dear church! Bob and I both send you greetings and wishes for a blessed year!

It has been a difficult year for us, here at St. Mark's. A year of loss, with many deaths. We are a bit less, without all of those loved ones. We miss them, and all they added to our congregation. Yet they all, in some way, have shed light to guide us on the path ahead.

It has been a cold holiday season, with crazy cold, and cancelled flights and some disappointments...but our worship was warm and full of life as we gathered.

But even in devastating loss and cold, we are held in the hands of God. He has sent his beloved son to us and in him is our faith and our hope. He it is who travels every step of this life with us, who will be with us in every burst of laughter, in tears of sorrow and tears of joy. This new year holds surprises and mysteries ahead. We know not what we will face in this coming year, but...

Our hope is *not* in the new year...but, in the
ONE who makes all things new!

For those who are cold, we wish them warm drinks and cozy firesides. For those who need more—we hope we can guide you to help and warmth.

For those who are grieving—we too grieve the loss of your loved one—not as you do, but our ears and hearts are open and we want to assure you of a patient, listening ear when you need to talk. We are your brothers and sisters in Christ, and we will hug and hold you and speak the name of your loved one. They

are not forgotten. Nor are you. You are welcome here, even if you are sad.

May our Lord bless us in this new year, with love and grace, with blessings we need and blessings we can never deserve. Stay warm friends, and let's make sure everyone who comes to St. Mark's will get a warm greeting—no matter the weather or situation!

May you and yours be blessed in 2023,
Pastor Barbara

from the PMA...

NEED vs. WANT

In the weeks before Christmas we often get asked what we **want** for Christmas. Well meaning questions are posed so that those asking may have a clue as to what they might give us as a gift. For the most part, if I have anything on my Christmas list, it is more of a **need** than a **want**. I may feel a **need** for winter gloves and maybe only a **want** for something decorative.

Since this is written before Christmas, I can't tell you what I received. What I can tell you is that what I **need**...what I really **need** is that my children and grandchildren **need** Jesus in their life. **Wanting** him would be good, but recognizing the **need** would be even better. As the weather is making Christmas plans unpredictable, so unpredictable is this the greatest **need** on my Christmas list...that all may know and **need** Jesus in their life.

Christmas blessings,
Karen



QUILTING Dates for January are Jan. 9 and Jan. 26.

Thank You

It is with incredible gratitude that we say "THANK YOU" so much for the many acts of kindness, get well greetings, prayers, visits, meals, and so many more gestures of friendship and love shown during Denny's months of rehab and finally, at the time of our loss. The memorials and kindnesses, cards, concern, flowers and plants at the time of his memorial service and since, has been phenomenal and we can't thank you enough. Special thanks to those who visited, cared for our family, and to Pastor Barbara for her wonderfully personal sermon and service. Thanks to the Prayer Team and to those who visited wherever Denny was residing during those challenging weeks. Thank you, too, to the ladies of St. Mark's for their delicious lunch following the service. The kindness and concern shown by all of you, our dear friends at St. Mark's, has been so appreciated and memorable. God bless you all in the New Year.

Carmen Dau, Jill & Jeff Richmond, Todd & Stacie Dau, Becky & Clay Sheets, Preston & Sheena Dau and Families.

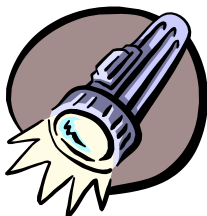
St, Mark's Family - Dave and I want to thank all of you that sent a card, attended the visitation or funeral, said a prayer, sent a text during Dave's dad's illness and funeral. The kindness you have shown is second to none. We love our Church Family. Special thanks, to Pastor Barbara for her kindness and everything she did.

Dave and Debbie Mumm

My recent surgery has placed me at the opposite end of parish care. I now am the receiver and not the giver. It is a humbling and emotional place for me to be. Your cards, phone calls, texts and emails have all served to bolster me in my recovery. Rob shares that you have expressed concern to and through him as he has talked to you at church. I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful extended "family" at St. Mark's that looks out not only for me but for Rob as well. For now, it's baby steps but I hope to be back with you all soon.

Karen

Visit our website at www.stmarksvalley.com
Cell Numbers: Pastor Barbara Oshlo – 202-5495
Jan Reis – 490-2330



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council did not meet in December.

A PRAYER FOR ST MARK'S COUNCIL

Lord, by your Spirit, build our council together around a common mission to expand faith in all the communities touched by St. Mark's. Amen.

JANUARY NEWS FOR WOMEN OF ST. MARK'S

FAITH CIRCLE NEWS

FAITH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 3 at St. Mark's Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m. with Carmen leading the study, and hostess will be Karen Authier. Study will be from the *GATHER* magazine. Quilting dates in January are Jan. 9 and Jan. 26.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

JOY/PEACE CIRCLE NEWS

Birthdays in January



It has been requested to have personal birthdates put in the newsletter. If we are going to do this we need you to be sure that we have your birth date. Please let the church office know your date if you have not already done so.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING"

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 – Joyce Lewis | 18 – Ameri Ueckert |
| 2 – Danette Samson | 21 – Robert Oshlo |
| 2 – Lane Wittgren | 21 – Paul Glidden |
| 3 – Kami Herrington | 21 – Kristi Trost |
| 5 – Douglas Larson | 22 – Pam Cherny |
| 5 – Lane Eggen | 22 – Easton Hurt |
| 6 – Jennifer Kerwin | 23 – Lily Pryor |
| 8 – Emily Kahlandt | 24 – Isaiah Gutierrez |
| 9 – Renee Bonacci | 25 – Debbie Mumm |
| 10 – Tyson Lewis | 25 – Amber Bakken |
| 11 – Melaney Franklin | 26 – Kenzie Trost |
| 14 – Sarah Hayden | 27 – Donna Hovendick |
| 14 – Amy Lewis | 27 – Michele Hemphill |
| 16 – Nicole Karloff | 30 – Kris Pryor |
| 16 – Erin Mahaffey | 31 – Bailey Lathrop |
| 18 – Vicki Boardman | |

SCRIPTURES FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY 2023

January 1

Name of Jesus

First Reading	Numbers 6:22-27
Responsive Reading	Psalm 8
Second Reading	Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel Reading	Luke 2:15-21

January 8

Baptism of Our Lord

First Reading	Isaiah 43:1-7
Responsive Reading	Psalm 29
Second Reading	Acts 10:34+43
Gospel Reading	Matthew 3:13-17

January 15

Second Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading	Isaiah 49:1-7
Responsive Reading	Psalm 40:1-11
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Gospel Reading	John 1:29-42

January 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading	Isaiah 9:1-4
Responsive Reading	Psalm 27:1, 4-9
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Gospel Reading	Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading	Micah 6:1-8
Responsive Reading	15
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Gospel Reading	Matthew 5:1-12



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From Laughing with Lutherans

"About the charity auction - does 'Dinner with the Pastor' include a sermon? People are asking."

A child having a talk with *God* said, "My dad just told me the facts of life, and I can't believe you'd create such a weird system."