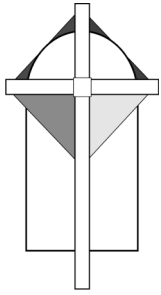




*Happy Valentine's
Day*



ST MARK'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

February 2023
Valley, Nebraska
www.StMarksValleyNE.com
402.359.2315

from the Pastor...



Pastor Barbara and Bob are on vacation, getting some much needed rest. Watch for Pastor's article in the March Messenger.

From the PMA

LIGHT TO DARK

The month of February usually signals the observance of Ash Wednesday as the beginning of the Lenten season. On that day, we say farewell to the gaiety of Mardi Gras and enter into a more solemn behavior. We also leave the season of Epiphany which was centered around light and focus on the darker aspects of our scriptures. Even the music becomes more somber, utilizing more of the black keys on a piano than the white resulting in minor melodies. But, light is not eliminated during Lent. It is merely dimmed and the lights of distraction give way to the true light...that of God. This true light accompanies us through Lent and all the dark times of our lives. We endure the dark because this true light will reveal itself in glory and majesty on Easter morning. Look for the true light this month.

Karen



The Quilters of St Mark's thank all those who have so generously donated to our quilting efforts with materials, thread, etc. At this time we have ample supplies and we are requesting no more donations at this time. Thanks again for helping us meet our LWR

goals. New sets of hands at our quilting sessions are still welcome, however.

Joy and Peace Circle members wish to thank the St. Mark's family for the outpouring of contributions and prayers that benefited infants and family members of our community. Your generosity and support of this wonderful outreach was able to provide baby items of clothing, blankets, socks, disposable diapers, and baby care items. Much needed family care items of shampoo, laundry soap, paper products, personal care items, etc. were also donated. Donations are jointly shared with COPE, DC West Schools and the local community.

*"May the God of hope fill you with **joy** and **peace** as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Romans 15:13NIV

SMILE



Universal Church Directories will be at the church April 14 and 15 to take pictures for a new pictorial directory. Families (and/ or individuals) photographed will receive a free 8x10 portrait and a free Directory. More information regarding signup and other details will be forthcoming soon. Sharon Wilson



ASH WEDNESDAY

LENT

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd

The Season of Lent

The season of Lent is upon us! Lent officially begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. We will observe this with a worship service that includes imposition of ashes and communion. For the five Wednesdays following, we will have Mid-Week Lenten worship at 7:00 p.m. Holy Week Services on Palm Sunday, April 10; Maundy Thursday, April 14, Good Friday April 15, and Easter, April 17.

All services will also be livestreamed.

FEBRUARY NEWS FOR WOMEN OF ST. MARK'S

FAITH CIRCLE NEWS

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 6th at 6:30 with Linda Ryan leading our "Gather Magazine" study and Barb Kahlandt serving as Hostess.

JOY/PEACE CIRCLE NEWS

Listed below are the organizations & people The Women of St. Marks chose to receive our Charitable Giving for the 2022/23 Fiscal year and the amount given.

We want to thank the members of St. Marks for their continued support, of the Soup Supper and Raffle to help make these donations possible.

Charitable Giving for 2022/23

	<u>Amount</u>
Campus Ministries	\$300.00
Care-A-Van, Inc.	700.00
COPE	500.00
Lutheran Family Services	300.00
NE Children's Home Society	100.00
NE Lutheran Outdoor Ministries	200.00
Pastors Discretionary Fund	400.00
Followers of Christ-Prison Ministries	100.00
Table Grace Café	200.00
Women of ELCA-Human Trafficking	<u>200.00</u>
Total	\$3000.00

NOVEMBER MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

November Budget = \$22,406

November Expenses = \$21730

November Giving = \$19,880

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL REPORT

January - November Budget = \$246,471

January - November Expenses = \$242,960

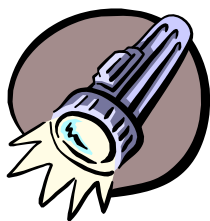
January - November Giving = \$364856

End of year 2021 Balance in Savings = \$64,589

End of November 2021 Balance in Savings = \$64,321

End of November 2021 Balance in Checking = \$13,188

End of November 2021 Worship Enhancement Total = \$6,584



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

**This is a synopsis of the Council meeting held on
January 10th, 2023.**

- Matthew Allen is going to build the Food Pantry for St. Mark's that will be located outside for people to drop off canned food and for other people to pick up.
- Men In Mission has begun meeting on the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. All men are invited to come for Bible study and fellowship.
- Pastor was given an extra week of vacation this year due to the fact that she has not had a day off during the last couple of months because of the many funerals.
- Stewardship Report – As of January 10, 2023, 33 Commitment Cards have been turned; \$131,960 was pledged to the General Fund; \$25,660 was pledged to the Worship Enhancement Fund; and \$5,060 was pledged to the Furnace Fund.
- Pastor Barbara, PMA Karen King, Secretary/Treasurer, President and all committees will be asked to turn in written reports prior to the Annual Meeting. The reports are to be a snapshot of what they have done the past year.
- Election of Council Officers – President, Debbie Hascall;
- Vice President, Sharon Renshaw;
- Secretary/Treasurer, Jan Reis.
- Committee Liaisons from Council –
- Stewardship, Kirsten Kurtz;
- Evangelism – Sharon Wilson, Sharon Renshaw;
- Administrative Working Group – Chris Bonacci;
- Music and Worship – Joyce Snide, Matthew Allen;
- Discipleship Recognition Fund – Debbie Hascall;
- Property – Jeff Richmond;
- Christian Education – Lori Dyas

A PRAYER FOR ST MARK'S COUNCIL

Gracious God, help the council see with increasing clarity the gifts you have given our congregation for serving you by serving others. Amen.

Birthdays in February



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 – Carly Welding | 19 – Shawn MacDonald |
| 2 – Kristi Eggen | 20 – Bryon Ueckert |
| 3 – Austyn Dye | 20 – Deanna Melton |
| 6 - MaryLou Finn | 20 – Bailey Josoff |
| 7 – Chad Karloff | 22 – Raygan Mitchell |
| 8 – Glenyce Opfer | 23 – Marla Peterson |
| 8 – Dave Mumm | 23 – Jeff Richmond |
| 9 – Jill Richmond | 24 – Dee Christiansen |
| 9 – McKinley Josoff | 26 – Dick Critel |
| 9 – Reece Royuk | 26 – Jill Lamprecht |
| 14 – Jean Krahmer | 27 – Kelly Hamsa |
| 16 – Ryan Hardman | 27 – Jade Lewis |
| 16 – Lisa Nielsen | 28 – Linda Ryan |
| 17 – Stacie Winkler | 28 – Daniel Josoff, Jr. |
| 19 – Michelle Grasmick | 29 – Teri Lehmkuhl |

SCRIPTURES FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY 2023

February 5

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading	Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-2]
Responsive Reading	Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Gospel Reading	Matthew 5:13-20

February 12

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading	Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Responsive Reading	Psalm 119:1-8
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 3:1-5
Gospel Reading	Matthew 5:21-37

February 19

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading	Exodus 24:12-18
Responsive Reading	Psalm 2
Second Reading	2 Peter 1:16-21
Gospel Reading	Matthew 17:1-9

February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday

First Reading	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Responsive Reading	Psalm 53:1-17
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
Gospel Reading	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 27

First Sunday in Lent

First Reading	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Responsive Reading	Psalm 32
Second Reading	Romans 5:12-19
Gospel Reading	Matthew 4:1-11



*Sunday School Kids
are collecting new
children's undies
Sundays during the
month of February
for COPE! Look for
Snoopy and his
basket!*

Valley Community



American Red Cross

**BLOOD
DRIVE**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Saturday, February 18, 2023

7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: VALLEY to
schedule an appointment

Questions...

Contact Sharon at (402) 669-3588



TITHE.LY



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

MANAGE YOUR GIVING ELECTRONICALLY

St. Mark's would like to remind you announce that you can manage your giving electronically! It's **EASY**, **SECURE** and **AUTOMATED**! Giving electronically is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions or make one-time contributions anytime. It's completely **FREE** – download the free App (**Tithe.ly, Finance green leaf app**) to your mobile phone and get started. You can visit the Tithe.ly website at <https://get.tithe.ly/>

PRAYER CONCERNS

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Lisa Olson | John & Lorrie Denker | Bev Griffin |
| Gwen Rittgarn | Mary Lou Finn | Rick & Janae |
| Larry Laughlin | Dan & Sharon Josoff | Gregg |
| Dallas Musgrave | Ruth | Lori Dyas |
| Marla Peterson | Karen Frost | Gary |
| Caroline Chaffin | Sandy Critel | Maxine Nash |
| Lawrence Bonacci | Fred Fogle | Sadie |
| Howard Renshaw | Ann Crabtree | Covid Patients |
| Care Center Residents | Caregivers Among Us | All Those Grieving |
| Care Center Staff | | |

ALL OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Chet Ryan | Donna Fintel |
| Joan Kahlandt | Carl Seieroe |
| Dee Christiansen | Annie Hurt |
| Millie Richards | Donna Hovendick |
| Jean Krahmer | |

For all military serving at home and around the world. We include prayers for their families as they hold things together in their absence.



From Laughing with Lutherans

I was getting accurate answers as I asked the children about Old Testament stories we'd studied: "Samson was...?" "A Judge!" "David was...?" "A king!" To "Jeremiah was...?" a quick witted fifth grader offered: "A bullfrog!"

Thank You

The family of Harvey Soll would like to thank all of the St. Mark's family for the love and support shown to Dad through the years and appreciate everything that was done to help us get through his final days and the funeral. A special thanks goes out to Pastor Barbara, Jan R, 100 Voices, Barb K and the women of St. Mark's who donated food, helped serve and did kitchen help, and the AV team. God bless you all!

Gene, Jeri, Rick and families

The Family of Robert D. "Pete" Brummels wishes to Thank You for your many prayers, visits, cards and acts of kindness during his illness, his time in the Hospital and his stay at Brookstone. Many thanks to Pastor Barbara for her visits with Pete and bringing him communion. After our loss, a special Thank You for the Wonderful Service by Pastor Barbara, for the many contributions that were given to St. Mark's Church, in Memory of Pete, and other Memorials, too. A BIG thank you to the Ladies from St. Mark's for the many delicious bars that were brought in for his luncheon, too!. How wonderful to have a Church family, that was so gracious to us all, during this time of our loss.

May God's Grace embrace you all.

Darlene Brummels, Tamela and Ted Xavier, Tim and Danette Brummels. Cindy and Dick Marr, Jr. and Melanie Egger.