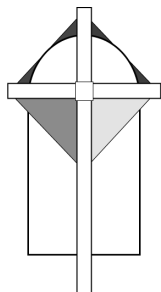




## **TRAITS OF HEALTHY FAMILIES:**

Dolores Curran

1. Communicates and listens.
2. Affirms and supports one another.
3. Teaches respect for one another.
4. Develops a sense of trust.
5. Has a sense of play and humor.
6. Exhibits a sense of shared responsibility.
7. Teaches a sense of right and wrong.
8. Has a strong sense of family – honors rituals and traditions.
9. Has a balance of interaction among members.
10. Has a shared religious core.
11. Respects each other's privacy.
12. Values service to others.
13. Foster family table time and conversation.
14. Shares leisure time.
15. Admits to/seek help with problems.



ST MARK'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

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October 2024  
Valley, Nebraska  
[www.StMarksValleyNE.com](http://www.StMarksValleyNE.com)  
402.359.2315

*from the Pastor...*

*Lord, teach us to pray...Luke 11:1*

I was surprised last week when I asked our Confirmands what they wanted to learn especially this year and 3 out of 4 responded that they wanted to learn to pray, or they wanted to learn more about praying, even specific prayers. I am so glad to see this from our Confirmands—there is really **nothing** that is more important than pursuing a closer relationship with our Lord in prayer!

There is no perfect or correct way to pray—there are many different ways, many different prayers and many who would teach us. But, to me, the best way to pray is the way that is **most natural to you**. In the movie *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye, a dairyman and the father and main character generally keeps up a running conversation with God all day long, while he delivers milk. He asks why he isn't rich; he talks to God about what that would be like. He talks about his wife, his daughters, his troubles, his joys, and his dreams.

I think God would be very pleased with prayers like that—why? Because that means we see our God as our friend, our God yes, but also one who is with us, is on our side, and **wants to hear from us**—is **always** listening. I'm afraid that we don't pray because we are intimidated by speaking to God. We put on a more proper persona—even a formal language we don't normally use. I think that God would rather have more time with us—our hearts outpoured, rather than fancy, stilted language. **He knows us!** He loves us and he knows how we talk! We should just talk to him more! So, if one wants to learn to pray—simply do it...more!! Talk to God...about everyday things—more! Bring God into your everyday life! That, I think, is the lesson on prayer from Tevye

When his disciples asked him to teach them to pray—Jesus never said—“Ok, hang on, I'll make flyers, we'll get people and hold a seminar! Instead, Jesus began by just praying. The Lord's Prayer is a very good prayer. We can study it and dissect it and learn a lot. But I

really do think the Lord would simply have us pray—make time, and then talk to him—about everything!

Do you have a place where you like to pray? If you do not, what if you made a nice little inviting nook for yourself? Or perhaps you might try praying while you are walking. Changing one's location can help to keep things from getting stale and rote. You might pray for your neighbors, your neighborhood, or your city as you walk—or, you can be like Tevye and simply talk to God while walking, as if Jesus is walking with you—because...he is!

Another thing you might try is to engage your imagination while you are praying to change it up sometimes. Imagine as clearly as you can, a favorite spot outdoors. Perhaps it is under a favorite tree, or sitting on a beach in a favorite spot, or maybe it is on your grandparent's old tire swing...whatever place you are imagining in your mind, invite the Lord to be there with you. I don't do this all the time, but I find it comforting when I do, to imagine the Lord there with me in a special place. Perhaps you may find it so as well. *Whatever* encourages you to pray, try.

But, really the very most important thing is **to pray**—to truly pray—as often as needed. Pray like Tevye—talk about your day—about all your concerns, your questions...all of it! God, as our parent, loves to hear from us as much **or more** than we love hearing from our children.

Pray, and expect to be heard, and loved.

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Barbara

*Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. James 4:8*

Happy  
Halloween



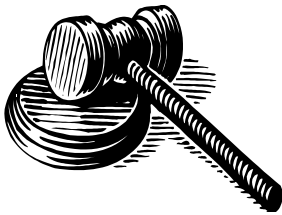
*from the PMA...*

## **SON-LIGHT**

I first noticed it last Sunday morning. My routine allows me to come to the church about 7:00 am on Sunday mornings. One of the tasks that I do is to open doors and turn on lights in preparation for Sunday School and worship. When I opened the doors to the fellowship hall I was met with a glorious sight. The morning sun was streaming in from the east and the rays of light were striking almost every crystal cross centered on the round tables. The light caught the facets of the crosses resulting in a multicolored glow. I literally caught my breath at the sight. When I recovered, I thought about how light from Jesus, God's son, breaks through to us and we in turn have the opportunity to provide a glow of faith as an example for others.

Let the light of Jesus penetrate your heart allowing you to shine.

Karen



## **CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING**

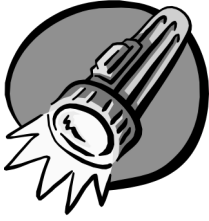
**Sunday**

**October 15, 2023**

**Following 9:30 a.m.**

**Worship Service**

On the agenda will be the approval of the 2024 Financial Plan, electing 3 Council members, approving delegates (voting members) to the 2024 Annual Nebraska Synod Assembly, and electing a Nominating Committee for 2024.



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

**This is a synopsis of the Council meeting held  
on September 12 2023.**

- St. Mark's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be celebrated on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, with a potluck meal for the congregation following Sunday church service.
- Pastor Barbara and Bob will be taking vacation in October-November to visit both of their sons and grandchildren.
- Stewardship Sunday will be October 8, 2023.
- Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, December 24, 2023. That is also the last day of Advent. Therefore the 9:30 a.m. service will be an Advent Service and the Christmas Eve Service will be at 4:00 p.m.
- The Pictorial Directory has been sent back to the company with correction, etc. When they are done the directory will come back for a final look and then go to the printers.
- From the proceeds of the Valley Days Pancake Feed, \$300 will go to the VFW and out of the net balance after the bills are paid ½ will go COPE specified for electrical work and ½ will go to School and Community Support.
- The Fall Clean Up Date for inside and outside will be Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- Mary Enloe, our custodial person, will be have back surgery on October 4. The congregation will be asked to help clean while she is recuperating. Flower will be sent.
- The Annual Meeting date is Sunday, October 15 following worship.
- Yearly reports from committees are due by September 25. Please email them to Jan.

## **AUGUST MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

August Budget = \$20,045  
August Expenses = \$26,714  
August Giving = \$19,586

## **YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL REPORT**

January – August Budget = \$192,361  
January – August Expenses = \$192,244  
January – August Giving = \$169,633

End of year 2022 Balance in Savings = \$64,404  
End of August 2023 Balance in Savings = \$44,616  
End of August 2023 Balance in Checking = \$1,362  
End of August 2023 Worship Enhancement Total = \$17,801

## **Birthdays in October**



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 – Jason Foster     | 20 – Jason Lehmkuhl    |
| 1 – Justin Foster    | 22 – Hannah Camenzind  |
| 1 – Alan Kreager     | 22 – Lauren Camenzind  |
| 2 – Payton Dau       | 22 – Rayna Mitchell    |
| 3 – Lisa Johnson     | 23 – Jacob Schulz      |
| 5 – Liberty Josoff   | 24 – Lisa Glidden      |
| 6 – Connie Bottger   | 26 – Jake Foutch       |
| 7 – Cally Franklin   | 27 – Brian Newill      |
| 10 – Barb Kahlandt   | 27 – Brett Winkler     |
| 13 – Brent Saathoff  | 28 – Russ Shuey        |
| 15 – Millie Richards | 29 – Dennis Beers      |
| 17 – Dan Josoff, Sr. | 29 – Niccole Kennec    |
| 18 – Peyton Lewis    | 29 – Judy Stubblefield |
| 19 – Paige Flynn     | 30 – Lucille King      |
| 19 – Deborah Hascall |                        |

## A PRAYER FOR ST MARK'S COUNCIL

God, who leads, guide the congregation as we vote for a new group of leaders. Inspire us to live more and more in faith. Amen.



Happy Halloween

## OCTOBER NEWS FOR WOMEN OF ST. MARK'S

### FAITH CIRCLE NEWS

### FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

### JOY/PEACE CIRCLE NEWS

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Kari	John & Lorrie Denker	Shari
Gwen Rittgarn	Steve Whitley	Rick & Janae
Janet Pennington	Chris	Gregg
Kelsey & Stefan	Ruth	Jean Krahmer
Charlotte	Maxine Nash	Eryn Hamke
Cindy	Lawrence Bonacci	Julie Dunn
Lois Schaefer	Paula O'Brien	All Those Grieving
Sharon Wilson	Care Center Residents	Care Center Staff
Caregivers Among Us		

### ALL OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Chet Ryan	Donna Fintel
Joan Kahlandt	MaryLou Finn
Dee Christiansen	Annie Hurt
Millie Richards	Donna Hovendick

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

## **SOUP & PIE SUPPER**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
115 West Meigs St. Valley, NE

Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
From 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

Soups: Chili, Chicken Noodle, Ham-Potato-Cheese,  
Beef Barley, Minestrone

Pies: Apple, Cherry, Peach, Strawberry/Rhubarb &  
Pumpkin

\$10.00 for adults \$5.00 for children 8 & under

*To Go Meals available*

***We need your help! Please watch for soup, pie and  
volunteer sign-up sheets***

### ***Fall Raffle***

*Tickets: \$1.00 each or \$10 book of 10*

***1<sup>st</sup> prize: 72" x 90" (Queen) Cotton Daisies Quilt  
made by Sharon Renshaw***

***Other prizes include Gift Certificate/Cards from:  
El Bee's ❖ Farmer Brown's ❖ Pulled BBQ ❖ Simply  
Delicious ❖ Tavern 180***

Drawing will be held following the Soup & Pie Supper  
Need not be present to win

*Proceeds to support Women of St.  
Mark's Charitable Giving*





## SCRIPTURES FOR SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER 2023

October 1

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Old Testament Reading	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Responsive Reading	Psalms 25:1-9
Epistle Reading	Philippians 2:1-13
Gospel Reading	Matthew 21:23-32

October 8

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 5:1-7
Responsive Reading	Psalms 80:7-15
Epistle Reading	Philippians 3:4b-14
Gospel Reading	Matthew 21:33-46

October 15

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 25:1-9
Responsive Reading	Psalms 23
Epistle Reading	Philippians 4:1-9
Gospel Reading	Matthew 22:1-14

October 22

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 45:1-7
Responsive Reading	Psalms 96:1-9 [10-13]
Epistle Reading	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Gospel Reading	Matthew 22:15-22

October 29

Reformation Day

Old Testament Reading	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Responsive Reading	Psalms 46
Epistle Reading	Romans 3:19-28
Gospel Reading	John 8:31-36



CREATED BY YOLKONPORTAL.COM

## From Laughing with Lutherans

As the new pastor's stole was presented during a recent ordination service, the worship booklet reprinted Matthew 11:20-30 to be read:

"Take my yolk upon you...For my yolk is easy and my burden is light." Some of us found it fitting that this passage was read after the laying on of "hens."

## *Thank You*

Thank you to the many friends who offered their prayers at the time of my surgery. Special thanks to Pastor Barbara for being there for support and God's blessing. My prayer shawl was always at my side giving me comfort. Thanks to God for leading us to this wonderful and caring congregation, we're so blessed

Sandy Gunnerson

A promotional flyer for Panera Fundraising. The top section features a photograph of a Panera sandwich, a salad, and a drink on a green table. The text is primarily white and pink on a dark green background. The event details are centered, and a yellow circle highlights the 40% donation offer. The bottom section contains the code and promotional instructions.

**Panera**  
**FUNDRAISING**

*Help support us!*

**COPE**

**Christian Outreach Program -  
Elkhorn**

**40%**

**OF SALES  
WILL BE  
DONATED**

**October 3, 2023**

**4:00 pm to 8:00 pm CDT**

**17730 W Center Rd, Omaha, NE**

Use code FUND4U at online checkout, in the Panera App,  
or at the kiosk in-cafe.\*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe or enter the promo code FUND4U at checkout on Panerabread.com or the Panera App to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.\*\*

Learn more at [fundraising.panerabread.com](http://fundraising.panerabread.com)

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\*Gift card and catering order placed on Panerabread.com, and delivery orders placed through third-party sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: <http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>. \*\*Services vary by café.