

ST MARK'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

August 2026
Valley, Nebraska
www.StMarksValleyNE.com
402.359.2315

from the Pastor...

*To the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God,
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. 1Timothy 1:17*



When you read these words from Paul to Timothy, the words of the hymn *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* by Walter Chalmers Smith might come to your mind. It is a great

hymn, and it is in our Lutheran Hymnal, number 834.

The reason I bring it up is that I've been thinking about blessings—like the backpack blessing that we will do on the 16th of August in worship. We are happy and anxious to bless our kids, who are going off to school, and our adults who work in the schools—as teachers, or paras, coaches, or as cafeteria cooks, or helpers, or bus drivers. We want to ask God to bless each of them—for each is essential to our kids learning, their safety, and their days in general.

And, as I think about blessing our kids, I also think about how **we** may pronounce a blessing on a child—a teen, a college kid, or even our spouse! Blessings are happy and holy to give, and I think we ought not be so shy about putting our hand on a forehead and asking God to bless the person under our hand—our child, or parent(!), grandchild, or Sunday School kid. Perhaps we get shy because we don't know what to say, or exactly whom to invoke?

Whoever you ask for blessing—the Father, the Son or the Holy Spirit—you may be addressing just one—but I believe that you get all Three, *everytime*! And there are so many names for God! Lord, Son, Holy One, Savior, Bread of Life, Good Shepherd, Yahweh, Word, Refuge, Healer...the list just goes on and on. Perhaps one name, one certain description of God fits best with what you are asking—like, *‘May our Good Shepherd lead you today and keep you safe.’* Or, *‘may the one who created you and your mind, help you as you take your English test today.’* Perhaps you understand what I am saying? We can be creative, or we can just say... *‘may our good Lord protect and defend you today, and may you remember that He is always with you’*. It could become a more normal thing for you to do—to bless.

This might be a good habit to begin for this school year—this blessing of one another. It is a gracious act—one of care and love and faith! Take some time to think about all the names of God, and which ones speak deeply to you. And bless your spouse, your child or your friend...I wonder if it might become a blessing that each kid or parent looks forward to every day! What is your strongest wish or hope for each other? See if you can find ways to give each other a blessing and see what might happen!

Happy back to school, and happy blessing!

Pastor Barbara

from the PMA...

Getting the Swing of Things

I don’t remember the first time I sat on a playground swing. It was probably at the coaxing of a parent or older brother. The first time on a swing involves just hanging on tightly and being either pushed from behind or pulled from the front. It’s not difficult, just a major trust issue. As I got older and grew bigger, I could touch the ground and push start the swinging process. I also learned to

engage my core muscles as well as arms and legs to propel the movement. There was a certain amount of satisfaction in knowing I could do it myself.

When it comes to religion, we may experience a similar process. At first we are pushed from behind or pulled from the front with little power of our own. Our engagement becomes hanging on tight and trusting. Eventually we learn to navigate our faith life just as we learned how to swing. We engage our core and the muscles God gave us. We rely on God more than those behind or in front of us.

As we swing through the transitions and stages of our life, may we always exhibit trust in the God who created us, who supports us from all sides and moves us in a faith filled way.

PMA Karen



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

**This is a synopsis of the Council meeting held on
July 28, 2026**

- Lori Dyas is asking for things/ideas to put on the outside electronic sign. Contact Lori with your suggestions, or requests or if you have questions. (loridyas@gmail.com)
- Scriptures will be put on the Little Pantry Food items.
- A 'Friendsgiving' Potluck will be held on Sunday, November 8, from 11 am. To 1 p.m. after worship.
- Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 13
- Backpack blessing on August 16

- Due to the problem with the water in Valley, Out Of Order signs will be placed on the drinking fountains.
- The phones in the office have been replaced.
- A Fall Outside workday will be scheduled in October. Watch for more details
- St. Mark's street number will be put on the mailbox for clarity.

A PRAYER FOR ST MARK'S COUNCIL

Lord of All, bring our leaders to a deeper understanding of your life-giving work through St. Mark's. Amen.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Valley Community

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Saturday, August 22, 2026

7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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

Questions...

Contact Sharon at (402) 669-3588

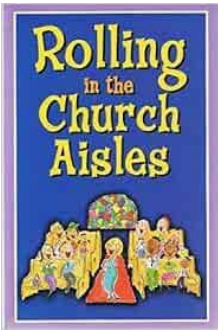
See flyers for more information!

**Pastor Barbara Oshlo
Cell 202-5495**

**Jan Reis
Cell 490-2330
for newsletter or bulletin into.**

**St. Mark's Website:
StMarksValleyNe.com**

**St. Mark's Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/StMarksValley**



from
Rolling in the Church Aisles

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him money now, will he let us go?"

**Nothing pleases Jesus as much as being
audaciously trusted.**

Max Lucado

PRAYER CONCERNS

	D.J.	
Bill & Louise	Smith	Charlotte
Gwen Rittgarn	Jake	Mitzi
Ruth	Lynda	Donovan
Cindy	Lawrence Bonacci	Patti Regan
Sandy Gunnerson	Kari	Teresa Oshlo
Caregivers Among	Care Center	
Us	Residents	
All Those Grieving	Care Center Staff	Carol Bills

ALL OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Jean Krahmer	Lorrie Denker
Donna Hovendick	Julie Dunn
Joan Kahlandt	MaryLou Finn
Annie Hurt	Vernabelle Adams

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

**All our homebound are hungry for a call, card or visit!
God bless you, as you bless them!**



QUILTING DATES FOR AUGUST

August 10 (Monday),
August 19 (Wednesday)
August 27 (Thursday).

Many hands make light work.



Collection for School Supplies 2026 Grade 4
Pay attention to the **boldfaced** brands.
(July 1st – August 16th)

Project Completed!!
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



Baptized on July 26, 2026 was Lila Lynn Johnson, daughter of Braden and Madison Johnson. Lila's baptismal sponsors are Heather Page and Josh Grabbe.

Birthdays in August



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:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 – Courtney Allen | 18 – Devin Lopeman |
| 2 – Barrett Hinrichs | 19 – Nickolas Kahlandt |
| 2 – Susan Hinrichs | 19 – Toni Peacock |
| 3 – Aubrey Page | 23 – Sandy Critel |
| 7 – Elton Peterson | 25 – Kelly Hinrichs |
| 11 – Madison Burkholder | 25 – Nicholas Josoff |
| 11 – Donald Shunk | 26 – Hadley Peters |
| 13 – Bob Scholz | 27 – Cheryl MacDonald |
| 14 – Mike Dye | 28 – Melinda Kahlandt |
| 16 – Thomas Smith, Jr. | 28 – Jim Sake, Jr. |
| 16 – Brynley Chvatal | 29 – Kris King |
| 17 – Charlie Sake | 30 – Melissa Welding |



If and when you come to St. Mark's during the week, please be sure to let someone know you are in the building! There are times when someone comes in and the staff is not aware of it and then is startled when they run into the person in the building! If you come in the evening and Sam, our

cleaning person, is unaware that you are here, she is frightened. So, be kind, and alert us to your presence.

SCRIPTURES FOR SUNDAYS IN AUGUST 2026

August 2

Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 55:1-5
Responsive Reading	Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21
Epistle Reading	Romans 9:1-5
Gospel Reading	Matthew 14:13-21

August 9

Old Testament Reading	1 Kings 19:9-18
Responsive Reading	Psalms 85:8-13
Epistle Reading	Romans 10:5-15
Gospel Reading	Matthew 14:22-33

August 16

Backpack Blessing

Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Responsive Reading	Psalms 67
Epistle Reading	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Gospel Reading	Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28

August 23

Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 51:1-6
Responsive Reading	Psalms 138
Epistle Reading	Romans 12:1-8
Gospel Reading	Matthew 16:13-20

August 30

Old Testament Reading	Jeremiah 15:15-21
Responsive Psalm	Psalms 26:1-8
Epistle Reading	Romans 12:9-21
Gospel Reading	Matthew 16:21-28



Back to School Blessing
Don't forget to bring your backpack
to church on August 16th and have it
blessed for the school year.

Students, Staff, Parents

Sunday, August 16th

***Bring backpacks!**

AUGUST NEWS FOR WOMEN OF ST. MARK'S

FAITH CIRCLE NEWS

FAITH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 8 at church. Carmen will lead the study of the GATHER magazine Bible Study.. Hostess will be Karen Authier. We will meet at Karen Authier's home for lunch at 11:30 am. Please feel free to join our group . Normally we meet the first Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m.

RIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

JOY/PEACE CIRCLE NEWS

If summer takes you away from St. Mark's on Sundays, don't forget your offering is still very important. Thanks!!



JULY MONTHLY FINANCIAL AS OF 7/31/2026

July Budget - \$27,191

July as of 7/31/2026 Expenses - \$19,327

July as of 7/31/2026 Undesignated Giving - \$20,683

***July as of 7/31/26 Designated Giving - \$5,997**

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL AS OF 7/31/2026

January – December Budget - \$290,287

January – December as of 7/31/26 Expenses - \$188,927

January – December as of 7/31/26 Undesignated Giving -
\$141,227

***January – December as of 7/31/26 Designated Giving -
\$30,802**

Summer attendance is slower but St. Mark's missions keep moving. Your continued giving during the summer months has helped St. Mark's sustain church operations, support local community outreach and maintain steady facility care as attendance fluctuates. Your continued support ensures that weekly ministries, youth programs and utility needs are met without interruption.

WE ARE BLESSED – THANK YOU!!!

Thank You

The family of Douglas Ohm thanks the members of St. Mark's for their prayers and support at the time of Doug's illness and passing. Special thanks to the Prayer Tower prayers and friends of the family for their concerns and prayers, cards and phone calls. Your love and friendship is much appreciated.

Carmen Dau
Jill and Jeff Richmond

JULY 19 TOTAL - \$267.57



THIRD SUNDAY
Noisy
OFFERING

BENEFITTING
ST. MARK'S
Little Free
Pantry



Studies reveal 55% of young people say they are moderately or extremely anxious. If these figures alarm you, learn how you can make a difference. Reach out to our congregation's AdvoCare Team or check out the resource posters on bulletin boards and in restrooms in the building.

August 2026

August 2026						
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				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Jul 26	27	28	29	30	31
2	3	4	5	6	
8:30am Joy/Peace Circle 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	1:00pm Worship at Valley Lakes 6:30pm Friendship Circle			4:00pm Bible Study	
9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30am Worship/Puppets 10:30am Fellowship	10:30am Worship at Valhagen 1:00pm Quilters			4:00pm Bible Study	1
16	17	18	19	20	
9:30am Worship/Backpack Blessing/Voisy 10:30am Fellowship		6:30pm Church Council	1:00pm Quilters	4:00pm Bible Study	
23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:30am First Communion Class w				1:00pm Quilters 4:00pm Bible Study	
30	31	Sep 1	2	3	4
9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	6:30pm Friendship Circle				

Jan Reis

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