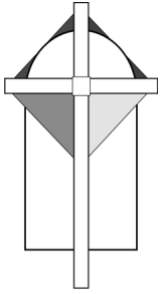




*Happy Valentine's Day*



**ST MARK'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

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February 2026

Valley, Nebraska

[www.StMarksValleyNE.com](http://www.StMarksValleyNE.com)

402.359.2315

*from the Pastor...*



*Pastor Barbara and Bob are taking a vacation to celebrate Bob's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Please pray for their safe travel and good health while they are away.*

*from the PMA...*

## **Doing the Impossible**

We believe in a God, THE God that can and will do impossible things. Move mountains, create the living and raise the dead. We simply can't wrap our heads around the miraculous acts that He is capable of. But what about the actions that He asks of us? Can we remain steadfast when hardships linger...financial distress, broken relationships, health concerns? How can we do the impossible by forgiving the person(s) responsible for an 'unforgivable' act? Why does He ask that of us? How can we comply? Where do we get the 'power' to do that? Are we capable?

In order for us to do the impossible, we need to put our control in God and not ourselves. Forgiveness, caring for those we judge unworthy, remaining steadfast in our faith. Literally all of our actions and thoughts are built on God's plan for us. And yes, sometimes it is very hard to do. But, with Him, ALL things are possible.

PMA Karen



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**LENT**

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

**The Season of Lent**

The season of Lent is upon us! Lent officially begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. 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, March 29; Maundy Thursday, April 2; Good Friday April 3; and Easter, April 5.

All services will also be livestreamed.

**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.

**AdvoCare Nugget**

Members of LGBTQ+ community are almost three times more likely to experience a mental health condition such as major depression or generalized anxiety disorder. If you struggle you may feel alone, but you are not. Reach out to our congregation's AdvoCare Team.

## **FEBRUARY NEWS FOR WOMEN OF ST. MARK'S**

### **FAITH CIRCLE NEWS**

FAITH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, February 3 to study Chapter 3 of our book and enjoy fellowship in the Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m. Sharon Renshaw will lead the study and Desiree Katsampes will serve refreshments. Feel free to join us.

### **FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS**

### **JOY/PEACE CIRCLE NEWS**

We met on Sunday, January 4, with two members present. Illness was an issue this month. We discussed Chapters 7 & 8. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, February 1, with Susie as our leader on Chapters 9 & 10.

## **BLOOD DRIVE**

Valley Community  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
115 West Meigs Street



Saturday, February 21. 2026  
7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

*Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: VALLEY  
to schedule an appointment*



The **quilters** will meet in February on Monday, Feb. 9 and on Thursday, Feb. 26. If you can tie a knot, please join us making quilts for the Lutheran World Relief project..



## From Laughing with Lutherans

### VOW REMOVAL

Notice of a Valentine's Day service was described this way - "...those married 70 years or more will come forward; those who have been married 50 years or more will come forward; then all married couples who wish to have their marriage vows removed may follow."

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN MEALS

*If your group would like to serve one of the Lenten meals, please let Jan know so she can keep the schedule updated.*

DATE	SERVING GROUP	MENU
February 18 Ash Wednesday	No Meal	
February 25	Council	Fried Chicken
March 4		
March 11	WELCA	Soups
March 18	Chris. Ed.	
March 25		

## PRAYER CONCERNS

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Bill & Louise	D.J.Smith	Charlotte
Gwen Rittgarn	Jake	Mitzi
Ruth	Lorrie Denker	Madison Laughlin
Cindy	Lawrence Bonacci	Eryn Hamke
M. Richards Family	Kari	Pastor Harold Schmidt
Travis Hayes	Donovan	Pastor Jay
Care Center Staff	All Those Grieving	Caregivers Among Us
Care Center Residents		

### ALL OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Donna Fintel	Jean Krahmer
Joan Kahlandt	MaryLou Finn
Annie Hurt	Vernabelle
Donna Hovendick	Julie Dunn

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!**

### PRAYER BOX REQUEST

- For all who labor outside in the cold.



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

This is a synopsis of the Council meeting held on  
January 20, 2026.

## Election Officers:

President –Kirsten Kurtz  
Vice President –Shawn MacDonald  
Secretary –Jan Reis  
Treasurer –Kim Shunk

## Council Liaisons:

Stewardship – Kirsten Kurtz  
Music and Worship – Matthew Allen  
HR – Bert Harrifeld  
Chris. Ed. – Lori Dyas  
Property – Chris Bonacci  
Administrative Working Group – Mick Nielsen and Bert  
Harrifeld  
COPE- Malinda Jepsen  
Discipleship Recognition Fund – Deb Hascall and Joyce Snide  
Men In Mission – Chris Bonacci  
Sherron Fund – Debbie Hascall

**PLEASE** remember to check your mailboxes. Thank You  
notes, End of year financials, plus several other items are in  
the boxes.

## 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    |
| 7 – Mary Peters        | 23 – Marla Peterson     |
| 8 – Glenyce Opfer      | 23 – Jeff Richmond      |
| 8 – Dave Mumm          | 26 – Dick Critel        |
| 9 – Jill Richmond      | 26 – Jill Lamprecht     |
| 9 – McKinley Josoff    | 27 – Kelly Hamsa        |
| 9 – Reece Royuk        | 27 – Jade Lewis         |
| 14 – Jean Krahmer      | 28 – Linda Ryan         |
| 16 – Ryan Hardman      | 28 – Daniel Josoff, Jr. |
| 16 – Lisa Nielsen      | 29 – Teri Lehmkuhl      |
| 19 – Michelle Grasmick |                         |



## SCRIPTURES FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY 2026

### February 1

#### Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

### February 8

#### Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading	Isaiah 58:1-8a [9b-12]
Responsive Reading	Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Gospel Reading	Matthew 5:13-20

### February 15

#### Transfiguration of Our Lord

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

### February 18

#### Ash Wednesday

First Reading	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Responsive Reading	Psalm 51:1-17
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
Gospel Reading	Luke 6:27-38

### February 22

#### 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

Listed below are the organizations & causes The Women of St. Marks WELCA chose to receive our Charitable Giving for the 2025/26 Fiscal year and the amount given.

We want to thank the members of St. Marks for their continued generous support of the Salad Luncheon, Soup Supper Silent Auction and Sale of Raffle Tickets that make these donations possible.

**Charitable Giving for 2025/26**

	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Campus Ministries</b>	\$300.00
<b>Care-A-Van, Inc.</b>	500.00
<b>COPE</b>	<b>600.00</b>
<b>Girl Scouts of NE-Troop 48853</b>	300.00
<b>Least of My Brethren</b>	500.00
<b>Lutheran Family Services</b>	500.00
<b>LFS for Dana Village</b>	250.00
<b>NE Children’s Home Society</b>	200.00
<b>Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries</b>	200.00
<b>Pastors Discretionary Fund</b>	500.00
<b>Prison Ministries</b>	200.00
<b>Release</b>	200.00
<b>Table Grace Café</b>	400.00
<b>Salvation Army-Human Trafficking</b>	<u>400.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5050.00</b>

YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS AVAILABLE! CHECK  
YOUR MAILBOX AT CHURCH OR POST OFFICE.  
IF YOU DON’T RECEIVE, PLEASE CONTACT  
KIM SHUNK. THANK YOU.

# February 2026

February 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Feb 1</b> 8:00am HolyEucharist Church 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	<b>2</b> 1:00pm Meeting at Valley Lakes	<b>3</b> 1:00pm Faith Circle	<b>4</b> 6:15pm Confirmation 8:30am Bible 7:00pm Choir	<b>5</b> 5:30pm Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8:00pm Men in Ministry
<b>8</b> 8:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	<b>9</b> 1:30pm Meeting at Valparaiso	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:15pm Confirmation 8:30am Bible 7:00pm Choir	<b>12</b> 5:30pm Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Church Council	<b>18</b> ASH-WEDNESDAY 6:15pm Confirmation 8:30am Bible 7:00pm Adult Fellowship Worship 7:45pm Choir	<b>19</b> 5:30pm Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:30pm Lenten Meal 6:15pm Confirmation 8:30am Bible 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Office	<b>26</b> 5:30pm Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>