



ST MARK'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

June/July 2026

Valley, Nebraska

www.StMarksValleyNE.com

402.359.2315

from the Pastor...



All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. -2Tim.3:16-17

Our Confirmands spent this past year learning about the Bible—I thought that I would share some of their learning with you as well, since it forms the basis of our Lutheran faith and Christian teachings. I wanted to write you about our Scriptures, the Bible—which is the bedrock of our faith. The Bible is one book, but it is more like a library inside of one book. It is made up of 66 books that were written over 1600 years from approximately 1500 BC to 100 AD. It was written by more than 40 authors; some who were kings, some who were prophets, some were leaders and some were followers and/or disciples of Jesus.

The Old Testament has 39 books that comprise it (written approximately 1500 BC-400 BC). The New Testament is comprised of 27 books (written from approximately 45 AD-100 AD). The Hebrew Bible has the same books in it as ours, but they are arranged in a different order than our Old Testament. The Old Testament was mainly written only in Hebrew—with a couple books containing some in the Aramaic language. The New Testament was written completely in Greek.

The books of the Bible were collected and arranged and recognized as inspired sacred authority by councils of rabbis and councils of church leaders based on careful guidelines. Not all books that were written about God or Jesus were considered sacred and inspired. Those books did not make it into the canon. The canon is now considered to be closed.

The Old Testament was written on stone, or on clay tablets, or on leather. Later, these texts were copied onto leather or later, papyrus rolled into scrolls. A papyrus codex is a bound volume made from sheets that were folded and

sewn together-sometimes with a cover made of wood. These codex's were used more after 100 AD.

Fine quality animal skins from calves or antelope skins (vellum) and sheep or goats were used for over 1,000 years to make copies of the Bible from about 300 AD-1400 AD. Two of the oldest vellum copies of the Bible (AD 325-350) are the Vatican Codex and the Codex Sinaiticus. Codex Sinaiticus, a copy of the New Testament, was copied in approximately 350 A.D. and was found in St. Catherine's Monastery near Mt. Sinai.

Bibles used to be chained to pillars in a church or monastery because the books were so incredibly expensive to purchase-since they were all hand printed at that time in history.

Wycliffe Bibles were inscribed by hand on vellum in the 1300's -1400's. They were artistically and beautifully done, some copies taking 10 months to two years to produce and were extremely expensive—costing a year's wage. In 1455 the printing press was invented by Johann Gutenberg and the first book to be printed by Gutenberg was the Bible!

The Bible really ran into trouble getting translated into the English language. John Wycliffe had wanted the Bible to be translated into English. He was a priest and a scholar at Oxford. But because he had criticized the church in some ways,(yes, even before Luther!) the English Bible that was translated and called the Wycliffe Bible in his honor was banned and burned. 40 years after he died, **his bones** were exhumed and burned for heresy!

Luther translated the New Testament from the Greek to the German language in 1522. He wanted everyone to be able to read the Bible. The Church did not, as they didn't think that average people could understand it without a priest to interpret it. Luther wanted girls schooled so that they too, could learn to read the Bible for themselves. This was radical for the time!

William Tyndale is called the 'Father of the English Bible' because his translation from the Greek in 1525 of the New Testament eventually formed the basis of the King James Version of the Bible. However, he could not get approval to publish his Bible in England. So, he moved to Germany and printed Bibles, having them smuggled into England in sacks of corn and flour! He was strangled and burned at the stake for heresy. His final words were, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes."

How blessed we are to have our Bibles today—written in many different languages, and even now they are available in digital formats on our phones—we can carry the Bible with us anywhere we go! But...do we read it much?

By 1900 the Bible had been translated into 537 languages, and by 1980-1,100 languages. Yet, even today, there are still 2,000 groups of people with no Bible in their language.

One last bit of history for you—regarding the Dead Sea Scrolls which were found in Israel, in large clay jars in caves near the Dead Sea in Qumran in 1947 by Bedouin shepherds. Here is why they are so very important. Until these scrolls were found, the oldest complete books of scripture we had were from about 1,000 A.D. This was a scroll of the book of Isaiah. A complete scroll of the same book of Isaiah was found among the Dead Sea Scrolls but was from the year 100 BC—from before Jesus was born! Now, we could compare the text of Isaiah that we have in our modern Bibles with this ancient text.

Most people would think that like the game of ‘telephone’ where the message gets changed as it goes from person to person—that the ancient text would be *very* different from our modern one! But—NOT SO! All those people who copied and copied the text over the thousand years since the Dead Sea Scroll copy had made so few mistakes! What was actually discovered is how very reliable it is! Some 96% with no mistakes or misspellings even! Though some Hebrew names had been misspelled. Why is this? It is because the copyists believed they were doing Holy work—the work of God—so that great respect was given to the text always. We have overwhelming confirmation of the reliability of the ancient texts compared to our Biblical texts today from those scrolls!!

We don’t know how many people died protecting and hiding our Scriptures from invaders to make sure that we would even be able to have these ancient scrolls, codexes and books today! We can only give thanks to God for the Jewish people who treasured them as holy and preserved them, and later to the Christians who also did the same with the New Testament books and letters. What riches we have at our fingertips!

I hope it helps to know the history and importance of our whole Bible, so that we too would continue to treasure it—and perhaps the best way is simply by **reading** it and treasuring it in our hearts! Thanks be to God!

Happy reading!

Pastor Barbara

For those of you who read this whole article—Good for you! You get a gold star!!

And, for those who couldn’t slog through this history, I get it! Not everybody can...or is interested. 😊

The Great Isaiah Scroll from the Dead Sea Scrolls



Codex Sinaiticus



from the PMA...

Notes of Praise and Thanks

During the month of May, the St. Mark's Praise Ringers (bell choir) and the choir both had their finale for the season. We are blessed to have so many dedicated musicians in our congregation. This past music season, September through May, included the talents of many members. St. Marks hosted a community cantata on Palm Sunday that featured voices from several congregations. We are blessed to have two experienced organists as well as keyboard player with 100 Voices praise group. The choir had musical offerings at least two times each month with extra presentations during festival and special Sundays. The Praise Ringers played a chime selection once a month as the offering was received. 100 Voices offers their special contemporary music once a month throughout the year.

We welcome the addition to any of these musical ministries! Choir and Praise Ringers will rest during the summer and regroup in the fall. If you are moved to provide occasional music during the summer, please contact Cal Peacock our music director. He would love to help you share your gifts!

PMA Karen



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

**This is the synopsis of the Council meeting held on
May 19, 2026**

(WATCH FOR SYNOPSIS IN BULLETIN)

A PRAYER FOR ST MARK'S COUNCIL

**Creator God, give our leaders fresh inspiration to
discover new ways to reach our communities with your
message of grace. Amen.**



Confirmation

Prayers and congratulations to Tristan Jurgensen, Hadley Peters and Nora Wittgren on their Confirmation on May 3rd and to Forrest Goff on his Confirmation on May 10th.. As they have Affirmed their Baptisms, may the Lord accompany them and strengthen their faith and may the Church be strengthened by these newest members!!



Baptized on Sunday, May 10, 2026 is Hadley Mae Johnson. Hadley is the daughter of Dalton and Courtney Johnson. Her grandparents are Jeff and Louise Allen. Hadley's baptismal

sponsors are Braden and Morgan Johnson and Jeff and Matthew Allen.

JUNE NEWS FOR WOMEN OF ST. MARK'S

FAITH CIRCLE NEWS

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

June 1, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.

JOY/PEACE CIRCLE NEWS

JULY NEWS FOR WOMEN OF ST. MARK'S

FAITH CIRCLE NEWS

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

July 6, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.

JOY/PEACE CIRCLE NEWS



From Rolling in the Church Aisles

While bringing communion to a member at a residential care facility, I was greeted by one of the nursing staff who recognized me as the pastor of the congregation where she'd recently brought some residents to worship. She remarked, "Pastor, you look much different in your clothes!"

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



Birthdays in June



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 – Charley Chvatal | 16 – Pat Stiefel |
| 3 – Desiree Katsampes | 20 – Michael Stanzel |
| 3 – Dillon Saathoff | 20 – Sonny Johnson |
| 3 – Samantha Hemphill | 21 – Donna Fintel |
| 3 – Chase Fesit | 21 – Tim Hackworth |
| 3 – Samantha Hemphill | 21 – Kahlan Mouse |
| 5 – Gary Franklin | 22 – James Kinstler |
| 5 – Jerron Oltjenbruns | 23 – Joe Lathrop |
| 6 – Jeffrey Allen | 23 – Kim Shunk |
| 6 – Michael Hamsa | 24 – Haley Foutch |
| 9 – Matalyn Royuk | 25 – Jerry Gunnerson |
| 11 – Abby Kennec | 25 – Angela Birkes |
| 13 – Wanda Prososki | 27 – Ashlyn Du |
| 16 – Mickey Dyas | 29 – Michaela Larsen |
| 16 – Cal Peacock | |



Valley Community VBS

Location: St. John's Church
307 E. Meigs Street, Valley, NE

June 22nd – 26th, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Registration Fee \$15/child

(Includes T-shirt)

3yr old – 5th grade

MAY MONTHLY FINANCIAL AS OF 5/31/2026

May Budget - \$27,191

May as of 5/31/2026 Expenses - \$57,131*

May as of 5/31/2026 Giving - \$17,712**

*May expenses included payments of \$32,042.38 for new windows & siding (which had already been paid by generous donors for the specific expense)

**Giving amount only reflects donations to the Regular Fund

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL AS OF 5/31/2026

January – December Budget - \$290,287

January – December as of 5/31/26 Expenses - \$146,467

January – December as of 5/31/26 Giving - \$101,396

2026 GRADUATES

Listed below are the students who have graduated this year of 2026.

CONGRATULATIONS on a job well done! If we have inadvertently omitted a name, we apologize.



DC WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Barrett Hinrichs

Certified Fire Fighter and Landscaper

Reece Royuk

Colton Trost

Will be attending Southeast Community College

Millard

Non-Destructive Testing

MILLARD NORTH

Georgia Goff

Business/Theater Production

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY-NEBRASKA

Jacob Richmond

Bachelor of Science Business Administration

Begins work with Kiewit as Financial Analyst in June

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Evan Tomlinson

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

*Certified Agent with American Family Insurance

LIFE UNIVERSITY

Madelyn Hinrichs

Graduated 6/20/25

Bachelor of Science

Doctor of Chiropractic

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Victims of domestic violence often leave their homes in haste, with no more than the clothes on their backs. These personal items help aid in the transitioning into a safer environment.



Suggested items that can be used:

- Toothpaste/toothbrush
- Deodorant
- Tampons
- Magazines or books
- Shampoo/conditioners
(hotel samples are great)
- Small stuffed animals – new or slightly used
- Tote bag or grocery-type recycle bags
- Old cell phones (used for 911 only)
- Comb and brush
- Body wash/body lotions
- diapers
- Gently used suit cases

Please begin collecting these items and donate them to the church. The collections dates are from May 1 to June 30.

Birthdays in July



It has been requested to have personal birth dates 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 – Mitchell Lopeman | 17 – Lavender Gutierrez |
| 2 - Jerry Authier | 17 – Alyssum Janke |
| 2 – Lesley Chvatal | 17 – Lily Janke |
| 6 – Amanda Mace | 17 – Jaxon Lewis |
| 7 – Jaina Hemphill | 17 – Brett Welding |
| 7 – Carson Stanzel | 19 – Lorrie Denker |
| 8 – Sandy Trofholz | 19 – Timothy Petersen |
| 12 – Dick McKie | 19 – Jeannie Scholz |
| 12 – Jessie Richmond | 21 – Marilyn Bengston |
| 12 – Greg Snide | 24 – Gillian Goff |
| 14 – Brinley Gotch | 25 – Sharon Josoff |
| 14 - Pam Lathrop | 27 – Dawn Hackworth |
| 14 – Abigail Magdanz | 28 – Bill Kennec |
| 14 – Tine Petersen | 28 – Kurt Lehmkuhl |
| 15 – Jennifer McKie | 30 – Shelby Archer |
| 16 - Karen King | 30 – Dan Trost |
| | 31 – Andrew Sake |

AdvoCare Nugget

More than 25% of adults with serious mental illnesses also struggle with an alcohol/drug disorder and they often feel alone. 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 for a handy post-it-note for contact information.



American Red Cross

**BLOOD
DRIVE**

Valley Community

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Saturday, June 20, 2026

7:30 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

SCRIPTURES FOR SUNDAYS IN June 2026

June 7

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:26—2:3

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:16-20

June 14

First Reading

Exodus 19:2-8a

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 100

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-8

Gospel Reading

Matthew 9:35—10:8 (9-23)

June 21

Father's Day

First Reading

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Responsive Reading

Psalm 66:7-10 [11-15] 16-18

Second Reading

Romans 6:1b-11

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:24-39

June 28

First Reading

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Responsive Reading

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Second Reading

Romans 6:12-23

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:40-42

SCRIPTURES FOR SUNDAYS IN July 2026

July 5

First Reading	Zechariah 9:9-12
Responsive Reading	Psalms 145:8-14
Second Reading	Romans 7:15-25a
Gospel Reading	Matthew 11:15-19, 25-30

July 12

First Reading	Deuteronomy 30:9-14
Responsive Reading	Psalms 65 [1-8] 9-13
Second Reading	Romans 8:1-11
Gospel Reading	Matthew 13:1—9, 18-33

July 19

First Reading	Isaiah 44:6-8
Responsive Reading	Psalms 86;11-17
Second Reading	Romans 8:12-25
Gospel Reading	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26

First Reading	1 Kings 3:5-12
Responsive Reading	Psalms 119:129-136
Second Reading	Romans 8:26-39
Gospel Reading	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bill & Louise	D.J.Smith	Charlotte
Gwen Rittgarn	Jake	Mitzi
Ruth	Lynda	Donovan
Cindy	Lawrence Bonacci	Marla
Sandy Gunnerson	Kari	Pastor Harold Schmidt
	Family of Donna	
Teresa Oshlo	Fintel	Care Center Residents
All Those Grieving	Care Center Staff	Caregivers Among Us

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!**

PRAYER BOX REQUEST

June 2026

June 2026							Su	Mo
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	1	2
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	8	9
28	29	30					15	16

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
May 31	Jun 1	2	3	4	5
	1:00pm Friendship Circle 1:00pm Worship at Valley Lakes	1:00pm Faith Circle - Ladies Day Out		4:00pm Bible Study	
7	8	9	10	11	12
8:30am Joy/Peace Circle 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	1:00pm Quilting			4:00pm Bible Study	
14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship/Puppets 25th Anniversary		6:30pm Church Council	3:00pm Quilting	4:00pm Bible Study	
21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	9:00am Vacation Bible School @ St. Johns	9:00am Vacation Bible School @ St. Johns	9:00am Vacation Bible School St. Johns	9:00am Vacation Bible School @ St. Johns 1:00pm Quilting 4:00pm Bible Study	
28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3
9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship					

Jan Reis

July 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo
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
Jun 28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10
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	
12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	10:30am Worship at Valhøven 1:00pm Quilters			4:00pm Bible Study	
19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship		NO Church Council	12:30pm Quilting	4:00pm Bible Study	
26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship				4:00pm Bible Study	

Jan Reis