

ST MARK'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

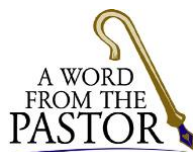
November 2025

Valley, Nebraska

www.StMarksValleyNE.com

402.359.2315

from the Pastor...



As we come around to the beginning of November we come upon a church holiday that is fairly significant. It is All Saints Day. You may think that this is for people who've lived exemplary lives, but that isn't necessarily it. A lot

of meaning is packed into All Saints Day. We remember, of course, those everyday saints from our congregation who have 'fallen asleep' in the Lord during the past year. I say 'fallen asleep' because that is how Jesus often characterized death—as falling asleep. So, we remember those we have lost among us from the 'Church Militant', who have now been transferred, by God, to the 'Church Triumphant' in heaven. Their names will be spoken and a chime rung, and for each family there will be a rose on the altar that is given in remembrance of their loved one to the family at the end of the service.

It is also a day where we remember the new brothers and sisters among us who we were blessed to baptize and who have joined the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism. There are little tea lights representing each one of these new Christians on the baptismal font. Of course, there is no way that on this day we each do not remember our own loved ones, friends or family whom we miss. We remember their lives, their influence on our faith lives, and how much we learned from and loved them. We give thanks for all the 'saints' whose lives have intersected ours and had an impact on our faith; whether grandparents, parents, siblings, friends, teachers, pastors—whomever God has used to influence us and teach us faith.

Luther would remind us that we are all, simultaneously both saint and sinner. There's no saint who's not a sinner, no sinner who is not also a saint. On All Saints Day we give thanks to all those who

have kept the faith, who have enlarged it, and exemplified faith in their lives. And we realize that we too are part of the body of Christ and will one day be reunited with our loved ones who have gone before us and make up the 'great crowd of witnesses' before whom we live out our lives of faith.

May each of us consider, in this month of Thanksgiving, who all the 'saints' are that have taught us, gathered us, encouraged us and somehow touched us with the love of Christ. I believe if you actually sit down with a pen and paper, you might be surprised at all the ways that the Lord has found to touch you and draw you to himself through others.

May our hearts be thankful for the wonderful saints in our lives, and may we be truly thankful for all our many blessings.
All glory to God.

With gratitude and thanks to God for you,

Pastor Barbara
Dear Congregation,

from the PMA...

Bloom

As this is written toward the end of October, we are experiencing unusually mild weather. Lilac bushes are blooming as are the iris. It is surprising to see, but also reassuring to me. Though our weather is not harsh, the climate of our relationships around the world, in our nation, and locally are suffering from words and actions that are a cause of concern. Could it be that God has given us a second bloom? Has He provided the gentle, pleasant sights in the midst of our social turmoil to remind us that He is still with us? The earth continues to follow God's plan of growth and rebirth even when we as humans fail to acknowledge that He has a plan. Enjoy the blooms and praise God for all that He has given us.

PMA Karen

A PRAYER FOR ST MARK'S COUNCIL

God of plenty, we thank you for those who have led this year.
Bless them. Amen.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

**This is a synopsis of the Council meeting
held on October 21st, 2025\.**

- If money is in the Furnace Fund, the Treasurer will be asked to pay off the furnace bill.
- Anyone who donates to St. Mark's, will have their name shared only with their approval.
- Drive-up donations for Operation Christmas Child will be collected on Saturday, October 25 from 9 a.m. to noon.
- The Brownies will pack the items for Omaha Christmas Child on Saturday, November 8 beginning at 9 am.
- Fire alarm testing will be done by Continental Alarm and Fire at a cost of \$1550.
- Three trees will be taken down on November 8, 2025. Members of the congregation will be doing the work.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



With the beginning of Advent on November 30th, we will be “decking the halls” the previous Sunday, November 23rd following the worship service. Join us for the fun preparation! We will be decorating the narthex (entry), the sanctuary (worship space) and probably anything that doesn’t move! Decorations will be brought in from storage. Please join us for ladder climbing, bulb testing, garland stringing, wreath hanging, fellowship and refreshments!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 2nd, 2025



Roses were provided by Joy/Peace Circle in loving memory of God’s Saints: Frank Kirchmann, Keit Ramsey, Roberta Samson, Karen Frost and Dee Christiansen who went home to be with Christ this year. Please pray for their families and friends.

A **Votive Candle** was lit in honor of these children who were baptized this past year: Aubrey Jodeen Page , daughter of Phillip and Heather Page; Beau Weeks Katsampes and Grant Birkes Katsampes, twins of Stefan and Kelsey Katsampes; and Saylor Jean Ida, daughter of Kevin and Samantha Ida, Please pray for these Saints and their families.

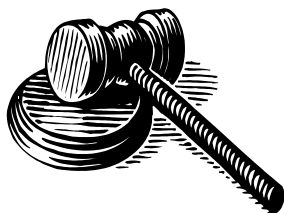




**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME ENDS**
Remember to fall back on
November 2nd!



If DC West Public Schools
cancel due to winter
weather, St Mark's
will be closed.
For Sunday morning closures,
please check our website,
Facebook, TV or radio.



**CONGREGATIONAL
ANNUAL MEETING
UPDATE**
October 19, 2025
Following 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service

The 2026 Proposed Financial Plan was unanimously approved. **Matthew Allen, Sharon Elske and Kirsten Kurtz** were elected to serve 3 year terms each on the Church Council. **Desiree Katsampes, Rob King and Bob Oshlo** volunteered to serve as delegates representing St. Mark's at the Nebraska Synod Assembly in Kearney on May 29 through May 31, 2026. **Chris Bonacci, Cal Peacock, Rob King, Harlan Dreessen and Dean Harrifeld** will serve as the Nominating Committee for 2026.

Name: _____ Date: _____

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

COLONY
CORNUCOPIA
CRANBERRIES
FALL
FAMILY
FEAST
GOBBLE
GRATITUDE
GRAVY
HARVEST
HOLIDAY
MAIZE
MAYFLOWER
MILES STANDISH
NEW WORLD
NOVEMBER
PILGRIMS
PLYMOUTH
PUMPKIN PIE
PURITANS
SQUASH
STUFFING
THANKSGIVING
THURSDAY
TURKEY
WAMPANOAG
YAMS

Thanksgiving Day

Word Search

U	G	B	S	H	M	U	S	D	J	B	O	L	V	H	K	C	T	E
P	U	R	I	T	A	N	S	G	N	I	F	F	U	T	S	E	S	I
P	A	T	X	E	C	K	M	A	Y	F	L	O	W	E	R	G	E	P
E	I	H	H	R	I	M	I	Q	B	H	A	J	I	E	P	J	V	N
L	P	R	N	P	T	Y	E	Y	B	Y	N	V	O	J	Q	C	R	I
B	O	N	L	F	A	M	I	L	Y	H	I	F	X	K	J	O	A	K
B	C	V	D	G	N	I	V	I	G	S	K	N	A	H	T	L	H	P
O	U	S	L	U	H	W	O	D	T	I	F	C	B	S	T	O	P	M
G	N	B	R	L	G	K	O	B	D	D	B	M	Q	B	H	N	A	U
B	R	D	O	K	H	E	K	D	G	N	W	A	W	G	U	Y	I	P
T	O	L	W	A	A	Z	D	C	R	A	N	B	E	R	R	I	E	S
K	C	M	W	V	V	I	W	N	Z	T	R	Y	Z	A	S	E	Q	A
V	W	W	E	I	M	A	O	M	Y	S	E	E	W	V	D	U	W	Y
G	A	O	N	A	P	M	A	W	T	S	B	K	D	Y	A	L	W	O
O	O	S	M	I	R	G	L	I	P	E	M	R	O	S	Y	O	B	K
X	K	G	M	W	Z	O	F	A	L	L	E	U	H	Y	Y	J	I	J
U	Q	O	R	A	K	E	F	B	U	I	V	T	S	A	E	F	H	B
H	T	U	O	M	Y	L	P	P	X	M	O	R	C	D	B	Q	M	X
G	R	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	J	U	N	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y



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See solution elsewhere in the Newsletter!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bill & Louise	D.J.Smith	Charlotte
Gwen Rittgarn	Royce	Mitzi
Ruth	Leslie	Madison Laughlin
Cindy	Lawrence Bonacci	Eryn Hamke
Lois Schaefer	Kari	Steve Hirsh
Travis Hayes	Donovan	All Those Grieving
Care Center Residents	Caregivers Among Us	Care Center Staff

ALL OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Donna Fintel	Jean Krahmer
Joan Kahlandt	MaryLou Finn
Annie Hurt	Larry Laughlin
Millie Richards	Donna Hovendick
Julie Dunn	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!

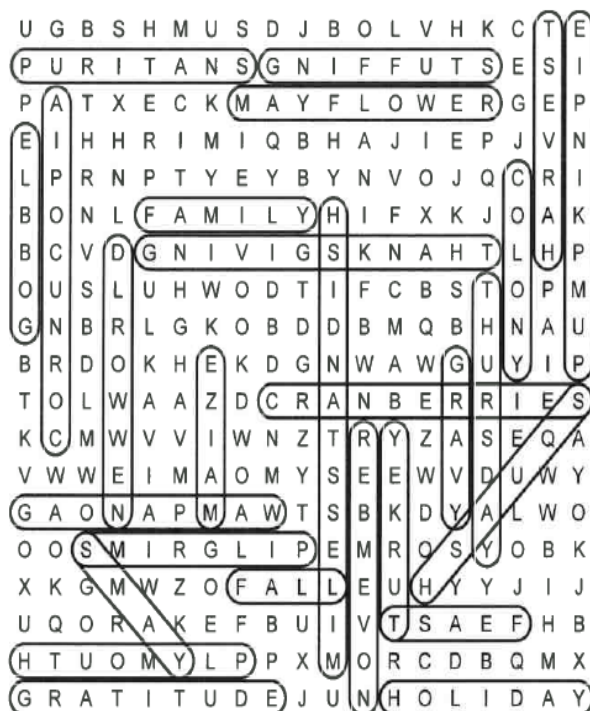
PRAYER BOX REQUEST

for those approaching the end of earthly life.



QUILTERS: The quilts for LWR and the Personal Care Kits were blessed on October 26. 41 quilts will be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Thanks so much to all who have donated time, materials and many hours in making these quilts.

SOLUTION



Find more printable Thanksgiving puzzles:

<https://www.puzzles-to-print.com/thanksgiving-puzzles/index.shtml>

SCRIPTURES FOR SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER,2025

November 2

All Saints Sunday

First Reading	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Responsive Reading	Psalms 149
Second Reading	Ephesians 1:11-23
Gospel Reading	Luke 6:20-31

November 9

First Reading	Job 19:23-27a
Responsive Reading	Psalms 17:1-9
Second Reading	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-19
Gospel Reading	Luke 20:27-38

November 16

First Reading	Malachi 4:1-2a
Responsive Reading	Psalms 98
Second Reading	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Gospel Reading	Luke 21:5-19

November 23

Christ the King

First Reading	Jeremiah 23:1-6
Responsive Reading	Psalms 146
Second Reading	Colossians 1:11-20
Gospel Reading	Luke 23:33-43

November 30

First Sunday of Advent

First Reading	Isaiah 2:1-5
Responsive Reading	Psalms 122
Second Reading	Romans 13:11-14
Gospel Reading	Matthew 24:36-44

AdvoCare Nugget

Alcohol/drug dependence and mental illness are equal opportunity destroyers. They do not care about age, race, religion or income. In that respect they are like other medical conditions. If you struggle you may feel alone, but you are not. Reach out to our congregation's AdvoCare Team.

NOVEMBER NEWS FOR WOMEN OF ST. MARK'S

FAITH CIRCLE NEWS

Faith Circle will meet on **Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 1 p.m.** Bible Study leader is Pat Stiefel (Chapter 1) and Mary DeGoie will serve refreshments. Please come join us.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

JOY/PEACE CIRCLE NEWS

WELCA Circle Board meets on Nov. 4 at 3:30 p.m.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD DRIVE ***A Small Gift Makes a Big Difference***

We will be collecting donations/items for Operation Christmas Child through November 4. The Girl Scouts collected \$192 and several bags of gifts on Saturday, October 25. The girls will each purchase \$20 of gifts. They will also help in packing the shoeboxes on November 8.

THANK YOU, LORD, FOR EVERYTHING

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the breath to say
Thank you for another day

Thank you for the eyes to see the world of beauty
surrounding me

Thank you for the ears to hear your message of hope loud
and clear

Thank you for the hands to serve and far more blessings
than I deserve

Thank you for the legs to run the race of life until it's won

Thank you for the voice to sing
Thank, you Lord, for everything



From Laughing with Lutherans

My 3-year-old granddaughter was helping me get the nativity figures ready to put out. When I handed her the first one, I said, "This is the Baby Jesus." She said, "We don't say Jesus/ We say GOSH/"

Phyllis Johnson
Reno, NV



PROJECT WARMTH

You can help!!! As you are cleaning closets and adjusting wardrobes for the changing seasons, please consider donating for those less fortunate. Donations of winter outerwear and accessories help individuals and families keep warm during the months when temperatures

are dipping. Suggested donation items:

- . Jackets and Sweatshirts
- . Sweaters and Scarves
- . Mittens and Hats

New or clean gently-used outerwear or accessories welcome. Please no underwear or socks. Please leave the items in the Fellowship Hall in the receptacle provided.

Thank you, Faith Circle



Happy Thanksgiving

BREAD OF EARTH, BREAD OF HEAVEN

Man does not live by bread alone, but he also does not live long without it. To eat is to acknowledge our dependence – both on food and on each other. It also reminds us of other kinds of emptiness that not even the ‘Blue Plate Special’ can reach.

-Frederick Buechner



Many Americans mistakenly believe that Veterans Day is the day America sets aside to honor American military personnel who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained from combat. That's not quite true. Memorial Day is the day set aside to honor American's war dead.

Veterans Day, on the other hand, honors ALL American veterans, both living and dead. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for dedicated and loyal service to their country.

November 11 of each year is the day that we ensure veterans know that we deeply appreciate the sacrifices they have made in their lives to keep our country free.

Veterans Day is a U.S. legal holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars. In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as the "the Great War." Commemorated in many countries as Armistice Day the following year, November 11th became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became legally known as Veterans Day.

November 2025

November 2025

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				

December 2025

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	SATURDAY
Oct 26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1 8:00am Men in Mission
2 ALL SAINTS DAY 8:30am Joy/Peace Circle 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	3 1:00pm Worship at Valley Lakes 6:30pm Friendship Circle	4 1:00pm Faith Circle 3:30pm Circle Board	5 6:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	6 5:30pm Bible Study	7	8
9 CONSECRATION SUNDAY 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	10	11	12 6:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	13 5:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AdvoCare	14	15
16 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	17	18 6:30pm Church Council	19 6:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	20 5:30pm Bible Study	21	22
23 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:30am Hanging of the Greens	24	25	26 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	27 THANKSGIVING	28	29
30 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6

Birthdays in November



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 - Jerry Caffey | 16 - Hanna Johnson |
| 1 - Nathan MacDonald | 16 - Judith Munger |
| 3 - Dean Harrifeld | 17 - V.J. Goff |
| 3 - Benjamin Kahlandt | 17 - Aaron Ueckert |
| 3 - Taylor Arp | 18 - Blake Cherny |
| 6 - Amanda Camenzind | 19 - Wayne Kahlandt |
| 7 - Jeff Hayden | 20 - Raymond Sheibal |
| 8 - Ryan King | 20 - Jill Herrington |
| 9 - Renee Bonacci | 22 - Malinda Jepsen |
| 11 - Sara Peacock | 22 - Cassidy Arp |
| 13 - Claire Floody | 22 - Billie Gotch |
| 13 - Jason Calek | 23 - Robert Jepsen |
| 14 - Nealie Josoff | 24 - Sydnee Hamsa |
| 15 - Connie Stewart | 25 - Jeremy Mayer |
| 16 - Carol Bills | |