



ST MARK'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

September 2025

Valley, Nebraska

www.StMarksValleyNE.com

402.359.2315

from the Pastor...



Oh my gosh, what a flurry of activity is associated with the end of August and the beginning of September! It has been very busy here, and yet we have been blessed in so very many ways in these last days of summer in the midst of all the seemingly manic activity! There are therefore, many things for which to be thankful in this end of August and early September-let's give God thanks for some of them!

- Though we lost some big trees in a nasty storm in mid-August, we had SO many come to church to help cut up the large trees and to haul them away to the city dump site. This was the work of many, many people and we are thankful to God for each of them, the time they took to help, and the equipment they brought with them! Thank you, God, for these generous hardworking people!
- Our building is finally complete from an accidental incursion we had through the Sunday School wall area this past Lent! Thanking God that no one was hurt, we are also thankful for all of the guys who have lent their time, care and guidance to get us through this, dealing with insurance companies, and city inspectors, and construction, paint and carpet folks who have been

watched over lovingly by many here. I hate to name names in case I miss someone but, I need to mention; Jeff Richmond, Dean Harrifeld, Rob King, Bob Jepsen, and any others who have helped shepherd this reconstruction of our building. Thank you, Lord, for such helpful and faithful people!

- Every time we have a funeral, I am always amazed at all the hands, time and folks that it takes to pull one off. We usually have to make room for it and put other things we may have planned 'on hold'—and it isn't just the Pastor who has to do that. We have guys who come cut the grass to make sure the church is 'standing tall' for the guests. We have SO many women who bake and make bars at a moment's notice, we have folks who do the sound and video for the funeral who also make time and use their gifts for the benefit of the bereaved. Teri Dreessen and Pat Stiefel are always willing to lend their gifts and to play the organ, or there are soloists who sing-like Mike Sip often has—who need to get off of work to do so. Barb Kahlandt is **so** crucial to the whole process of overseeing all the kitchen work for the great funeral lunches we are famous for. She does all the figuring out for how much food is needed, she orders, often picks it all up from her various favorite places, and serves, boxes up leftovers for the family and sees to clean up! She's amazing! Karen King is the busy bee behind the scenes who moves furniture in the Narthex, usually gets out the pall, helps with arranging display items, helps with flowers, gets here early and helps gather things for the family and often helps clean up. It is the work of love that we do here, for our beloved members who pass into eternity—and we do it willingly—but not without a great deal of effort for which I and the

families are so thankful—thank you Lord God for your good and faithful people who lovingly serve at funerals in so many and various ways, for our members. It is a last kindness that we are blessed to do for them.

- We have Sunday School and Confirmation teachers who will be installed for the year, and whom we will be trusting to help teach our children the faith. We are blessed to have each and every one who teaches here. Dear Lord, we are grateful for and ask you to bless our teachers and children. Sink seeds of faith deep into all our hearts.
- We have had faithful members who have continued contributions throughout the Summer. Thank you so much for this! May God bless each of you—those who faithfully gave and those who have made remarkably generous contributions in response to an early summer plea because of unexpected expenses! God moved each of your hearts to do this faithful giving and I pray that God will bless each of our families and individuals for your faithful, generous hearts. Thank you!
- At the end of August, amongst many other unexpected things, our dear secretary Jan took a fall while outside and broke her one wrist and cut the other. She is out of commission for a while. We pray for her healing and patience as she heals (it's tough to do anything one handed!) But, as in other ways folks have stepped up to help, so I must mention the excellent help we have had from Kim Shunk while Jan heals. Kim has had many odd and extra things thrown at her in Jan's absence. She's had her usual duties as our Treasurer and end-of-fiscal year stuff, along with doing Sunday service bulletins which isn't as easy as one might think. We use different settings every week, we've gone back to a full Sunday

schedule-and there have been funeral bulletins, a baptism, new members joined, and the installation of teachers! All more than the usual things! Yet Kim has seemed like a duck on the water—gliding through it all while paddling like crazy underneath! We are ALL so grateful for the wonderful help and can't say enough for the ways that God continually provides just exactly what is needed! Thank you Lord, for Jan, and thank you so much for Kim!

How do we thank our Lord for this amazing community of gifted and giving people? We simply get on our knees and thank our God of perfect supply for all the help and kindness of all his people who are called St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Valley. Please hear me offer my thanks to each of you and to our wonderful God whom we attempt to serve and follow! How very blessed I am, how very blessed we all are! All glory be to God for our many blessings!

Grateful to be in Christ's service with you,

+Pastor Barbara

P.S. And thank you all for your cards or expressions of sympathy and prayers for our family as we have lived through the death of Bob's brother, Tom in these past days. We are so grateful for your kindness.

From the PMA...

Snuggle With God

Do you remember the feelings you had as a child when an adult held you in their arms? It may have been a parent or grandparent. You felt safe, protected, loved and valued as you

pressed your body against their shoulders and chest. Perhaps it came about as a way to comfort you from a hurt or take away fear. Maybe it was reassurance that you mattered. As adults we have offered this safe haven to the little children in our lives. Rocking, soothing and whispering reassurance until they are at peace.

This image is one I experience in my 'prayer chair' each time I talk to God. I feel so very close to Him and tell Him everything...the joys and the sorrows. If I'm smart, I quiet myself long enough to listen for His reply. Unfortunately, there are times my mind has other ideas and I get distracted and my thoughts scatter in every direction. But, He knows that about me and He holds me just the same, patiently waiting for me to redirect my thoughts to Him.

Find time to snuggle with God. I think you may find it valuable.

PMA Karen

A PRAYER FOR ST MARK'S COUNCIL

God who provides, speak to those you are calling to leadership.
Guide them in the way you wish St. Mark's to go.. Amen.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

9/21/25

Council is asking for approval to purchase the final (3) high efficiency furnace/ac units (out of 10) and these are located in the education wing. Total bid from Getzschman is \$25,436. Designated giving totals \$13,865 (\$4,251 in 2024 & \$9,714 in 2025). \$7,000 is in our 2025 budget approved by the congregation at our last annual meeting. Downpayment to Getzschman will be \$13,436 with the remaining \$12,000 to be paid in three monthly installments.

AUGUST MONTHLY AS OF 08/31/2025

August Budget - \$23,763

August as of 08/31/2025 Expenses - \$29,637

August as of 08/31/2025 Giving - \$19,542

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL AS OF 08/31/2025

January – December Budget - \$291,174

January – December as of 08/31/2025 Expenses - \$192,716

January – December as of 08/31/2025 Giving - \$217,293



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

This is a synopsis of the Council meeting held on August 19, 2025

- Discipleship Recognition Fund received one request for a gift card to honor a member who has gone above and beyond for St. Marks.
- Budget Preparation starting with letters being sent to Committees. Budget requests to be returned to Kim Shunk by Sept. 10th.
- Stewardship meeting in September to review items on Time & Talent Sheets.
- HR completed HR Policy & Procedure Handbook and will submit to Council to review.
- St. Mark's Insurance Company, Brotherhood Mutual, is requesting background checks on all who interact with children, youth or vulnerable adults.
- The Puppet Ministry cleaned & organized current storage unit and will move to a smaller unit (10 x 10) soon. This rent will incur a cost of \$89 per month.
- Building repair nearing completion. City Inspector is scheduled this week. Special order bricks left over and

will be used on another project. One suggestion is as a base for the Bell Tower.

- Fertilizer expense discussed. Price checking now and church members would make the necessary applications.
- Several trees lost in recent storm. Thank you to all the volunteers who showed up in force to clean up.



CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

We welcome Aubrey Jodene Page into St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Aubrey's parents are Philip & Heather Page and her Godparents are Braden & Madison Johnson.



GROWING IN FAITH WITH BIBLE STUDY

Bible study is on Thursdays. We meet in the fellowship hall at 5:30 pm. We are currently studying Exodus. You don't have to come every Thursday, just come when you can!

NOTE: We've changed the time so that those who work might be able to come.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Phillip & Heather Page

Phillip (Phil) and **Heather Page** were married at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on May 13, 2023 and are grateful to call this their church home. **Phil** grew up in Valley and is self-employed as the owner of Page Land and Water Works, while **Heather** grew up in Arlington and works as a registered nurse at Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Associates. They have been blessed with their daughter, **Aubrey**, who celebrated her first birthday on August 30th and continues to bring them great joy. As a family, they enjoy cheering on the Nebraska Cornhuskers, spending time on the golf course, and being together.



Toller Hofer & Abby Magdanz

Toller Hofer grew up in Fremont, Nebraska, in a busy, active household with two brothers and two sisters. He graduated from Southeast Community College in Beatrice with a degree in Horticulture and now works as a landscape manager for Heartland Lawns. **Abby Magdanz** grew up in Falls City, Nebraska in a sport-loving family alongside her three sisters. She graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha with a degree in accounting and now works from home as a senior accountant for Yahoo. **Toller & Abby** are looking forward to their upcoming marriage at the end of the year.



Braden & Madison Johnson

We both grew up in Arlington, Nebraska and moved to Valley in 2021. **Braden** has taken over his dad's trim carpentry and home remodeling business, working in the surrounding communities. **Maddie** is a dental hygienist in Elkhorn. We have two labrador retrievers and house renovation projects that keep us busy, but our most exciting news is we are expecting our first child in October!



From Rolling in the Church Aisles
and Laugh and the Whole Church
Laughs with You!

Words of wisdom: "There's a fine line between a long,
drawn-out sermon and a hostage situation."



Image licensed thru stock.adobe.com

This Wise Owl says...Save the Date

St. Mark's Fall Soup & Pie Supper

**Quilt Raffle &
(new this year) Silent Auction**

**Sunday, October 26
4:30-6:30 p.m.**

**More information and volunteer
opportunities coming soon!**

Upcoming Dates:

Confirmation – Sept. 10

Endowment Charitable Giving during fellowship – Sept 14

Special Congregational Meeting – Sept. 21

Nominating Committee Nominees for Council Due – Oct. 1

Synod on the Road – Oct. 11 @ Bethlehem Lutheran (Wahoo)

Annual Meeting – Oct. 19

Fall Soup & Salad Supper – Oct. 26

Stewardship Talk – Oct. 26

Consecration Sunday – Nov. 9

Honor Veterans – Nov. 9



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2025 - 2026

Starts - September 7th - Rally Sunday

8:30-9:15

Registration:

Child's Name _____

Address _____

Parent's Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

DOB _____ Grade _____ Age _____

Food allergies _____

Allow photographs of my children to be taken and
shared on social media or the church's website.

YES _____ NO _____

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING"

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 – Jerry Bills | 15 – Bob Stiefel |
| 2 – Jacie Calek | 16 – Louise Allen |
| 2 – Rob King | 16 – Allison Goff |
| 2 – Georgia Goff | 16 – Ashley Foutch |
| 3 – Heather Page | 16 – William Mayer |
| 3 – Nate Wittgren | 18 – Sara Gotch |
| 4 – Daniel McGaughey | 18 – Sandra Gunnerson |
| 4 – Matthew Petersen | 18 – Kurt Saathoff |
| 5 – Tom Melton | 18 – Eric Lopeman |
| 7 – Cody Feist | 18 – Colton Leal |
| 8 – Ryan Gochanour | 20 – Donna Foutch |
| 9 – Bonnie TenEyck | 20 – Robert King |
| 10 – Ed Barnes | 21 – Bryce Larsen |
| 10 – Brennen Lopeman | 24 – Reagan Gurzick |
| 10 – Chloe Saathoff | 24 – Wyatt Hamsa |
| 11 – Chris Bonacci | 26 – Pastor Barbara Oshlo |
| 11 – Sue Steckelberg | 26 – Joyce Snide |
| 11 – Dean Slader | 27 – Karen Authier |
| 11 – Sharon Wilson | 28 – Bob Stubblefield |
| 12 – Eli Hurt | 29 – Rod Marshall |
| 13 – Colton Trost | 29 – Shane Bakken |
| 14 – Harlan Dreessen | 30 – David Hackworth |

MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGE:

Vernabelle Adams
c/o Saunders House
1313 N Hackberry St.
Wahoo, NE 68066

SCRIPTURES FOR SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER 2025

September 7

Rally Sunday

Old Testament Reading	Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Responsive Reading	Psalms 1
Epistle Reading	Philemon 1-21
Gospel Reading	Luke 14:25-33

September 14

Old Testament Reading	Exodus 32:7-14
Responsive Reading	Psalms 51:1-10
Epistle Reading	1 Timothy 1:12-17
Gospel Reading	Luke 15:1-10

September 21

Old Testament Reading	Amos 8:4-7
Responsive Reading	Psalms 113
Epistle Reading	1 Timothy 2:1-7
Gospel Reading	Luke 16:1-13

September 28

Old Testament Reading	Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Responsive Reading	Psalms 146
Epistle Reading	1 Timothy 6:6-19
Gospel Reading	Luke 16:19-31



The Ties That Bind Quilting Group
will meet Sept. 8, Sept. 18 and Sept.
25 . October dates are Oct. 13, Oct.
23, and Oct. 30

Time: 1 – 3:30 pm

"Many hands make light work!"

SEPTEMBER NEWS FOR WOMEN OF ST. MARK'S

FAITH CIRCLE NEWS

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 1 pm in Church Fellowship Hall. We will discuss the introduction of our new book, Real Faith For Real Life. Please join us.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

JOY/PEACE CIRCLE NEWS



ADULT CHOIR BEGINS

St. Mark's Music Ministry will resume on **Sept. 3** with Bells at 6:30 pm & Choir rehearsal at 7:00 pm every Wednesday. If you like to play bells and/or sing and "Make a Joyful Noise", you are welcome to join the group. Teens and adults are urged to take part! Choir normally sings the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.



CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday
October 19 2025
Following 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service**

On the agenda will be the approval of the 2026 Financial Plan, electing 3 Council members, approving delegates (voting members) to the 2026 Annual Nebraska Synod Assembly, and electing a Nominating Committee for 2025.

PERSONAL CARE KITS

Friendship Circle is coordinating the collection and packing of Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Items are being collected now through **October 1**. Please place your items in the Narthex.

Each kit includes the items shown at right.

Take-home sheets are also available in the Narthex.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

*Thank you for
your generosity!*



x1

BATH TOWEL

Dark-colored,
light-weight

20"x40" up to 27"x52"

2-3 BARS of SOAP

totaling
9-10 oz

Any brand in
original packaging



x1

ADULT TOOTHBRUSH

in original packaging

STURDY COMB

Wide Tooth Preferred



x1



x1

METAL CLIPPERS

Finger Nail or Toe Nail

PRAYER GARDEN BRICKS

**New bricks will be installed in the
Prayer Garden
in October.**

**Deadline to order a brick is
September 30.**

**Order forms are available at
the front desk.**

Please turn order form(s) in to Jan.



STEWARDSHIP OF OUR HEALTH



SURVIVING A HEART ATTACK

*Shared with Country Lanes as
useful information.*

Author Unknown

*When you are alone and have a heart attack.
"What are you going to do?"*

Let's say it's 5:25 pm and you're driving home after an unusually hard day's work. You are really tired and frustrated.

All of a sudden your chest pains. It's starting to radiate in the arm and jaw. It feels like being stabbed in the chest and heart. You're only a few miles away from the nearest hospital or home. Unfortunately, you don't know if you can make it.

Maybe you've taken CPR training, but the person running the course hasn't told you how to help yourself. So how do you survive a heart attack when you're alone when it happens? A person who is feeling weak and whose heart is beating hard has only about 10 seconds before losing consciousness. But you can help yourself by coughing repeatedly and very strongly! Deep breath before every cough. Coughing should be repeated every second until you arrive at the hospital or until your heart starts to beat normally.

Deep breathing gives oxygen to your lungs and coughing movements boost the heart and blood circulation. Heart pressure also helps to restore a normal heartbeat. This is how cardiac arrest victims can make it to the hospital for the right treatment.

FOR WOMEN: You should know that women have additional and different symptoms. Rarely do women have crushing chest pain or pain in the arms. Often a heart attack is accompanied with indigestion and tightness across the back at the bra line, plus sudden fatigue.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bill & Louise	D.J. Smith	Wylie James
Gwen Rittgarn	Jan Reis	Eli
Ruth	Leslie	Family of Dee Christiansen
Cindy	Lawrence Bonacci	Eryn Hamke
Lois Schaefer	Kari	Steve Hirsh
Travis Hayes	Donovan	Charlotte
Mitzi	All Those Grieving Care Center	Care Center Staff
Caregivers Among Us	Residents	

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.

PRAYER BOX REQUEST

Maggie

THE CURE FOR INGRATITUDE?

LOOK UP!....

Lift up your eyes! Look what God has done! The snake is defeated. **Look up!** The Son of Man has come. **Look up.** You have a savior.

.....

CHRISTIAN WORD SEARCH

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



WORD LIST

AMEN	HOPE
BIBLE	JESUS
CHURCH	LOVE
FORGIVE	PEACE
GRACE	PRAYER

September 2025

September 2025							October 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5	6
			6:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	5:30pm Bible Study		8:00am Men In Mission
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	1:00pm Quilting		6:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	5:30pm Bible Study		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	3:30pm Circle Board	6:30pm Church Council 6:30pm Church Council	6:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	1:00pm Quilting 5:30pm Bible Study		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:30am Special Congregational Meeting (Furnace/AC			6:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	1:00pm Quilting 5:30pm Bible Study		
28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4
9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship						