
LIFE—May 2025 From the Pastor's Desk:

We have just moved out of the penitential days of Lent where we have been more intentional about spiritual practices. I know I've been more deliberate about my time in prayer. So, before we get out of the habit of using the practices we began during Lent I would like to encourage all of us to continue those practices. And one of those practices may have been prayer. Prayer is one of those spiritual practices we could all use reminders and encouragement about from time to time. Prayer is such an important part of our life with God. For some of us prayer seems complicated and scary. Many times, we think that somehow others know how to do it better, or we don't know how to pray the right way. I'm going to paraphrase what I think Martin Luther might say to us. He might say, "Stop it! Stop that kind of thinking. God has commanded us to pray. God wants us to pray. It is how we communicate with God! And there is no right or wrong way to do it!"

In Matthew 7 Jesus says, "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." Thus, the way we ask, seek, and knock is in prayer. Prayer is talking to God; being in conversation. When you talk to your friends or your children or your significant other do you worry about whether you are doing it right or wrong? No! Sometimes we worry we might be misunderstood, but when we are truly talking and listening, we ask for clarification if we don't understand. It's the same with God. God wants to talk with us and answer our questions. And the way that happens is in prayer and reading scripture and through conversation with others.

But there are those times we don't know how or what to pray just like the disciples. So, the disciples asked for help. In Matthew 6 Jesus instructs his followers how to pray. Jesus says: "Pray then in this way:

'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial but rescue us from the evil one.'" (Matthew 6:9-13 NRSV)

This is the prayer Jesus taught his disciples and teaches us. This prayer is our prayer. It addresses all that we need. In this prayer we greet our heavenly Father. We ask for grace to be shown us through the Holy Spirit here now and in eternity. We pray that God's will be done, and that graciousness and love be shown to all. And we pray God will provide "our daily bread" and all the things we need every day to survive. We trust that when we ask God to provide God will do just that. Then we ask God to forgive our sins as we forgive others. Luther said, "we ask that God would give us all things by grace, for we sin daily and indeed earn only punishment. So, on the other hand, we, too, truly want to forgive heartily and do good gladly to those who sin against us." And we ask that God keep us safe and be with us to the end when by God's good grace we will be united with God and all the saints in heaven.

What Luther says about the "Lord's Prayer" is this, "Jesus gave us the way and the words to pray." And Jesus did. On those days when you feel like you just can't pray or you don't feel like you know how to start remember that you have been given this wonderful gift, this prayer that has come directly from Jesus. You don't have to

worry about knowing how to pray or having the right words because you already have all that you need in this the "Lord's Prayer". So, continue those conversations with God! God is listening.

Peace. Pr. Janine

Notes From the Organ Bench by Ross Jallo, Director of Music Ministry

Attentive churchgoers at St Mark Lutheran will notice, as we progress into May, that we're still singing Easter hymns. "But Easter was on April 20th!", you might say. In fact, Easter is not a single day, but a feast of fifty days -- which means we're still in the Easter season all the way through June 8th, this year. (The situation is a little like Christmas, which only *starts* on December 25th, and is a twelve-day celebration.) On Sunday, June 8th we celebrate Pentecost, the name of which comes from the Greek for "fiftieth". Pentecost is both the culmination of the fifty days of Easter and the feast of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The problem of a fifty-day Easter feast, if you can call it a problem, is that it can be difficult to keep the sense of festivity going. The fifty days feel merely like down-time between the high points of Resurrection Sunday and Pentecost Sunday. But in fact this whole season is the high point of the Christian liturgical year -- "the queen of seasons" and "the royal feast of feasts", as ELW hymn #363 puts it. Saint Augustine, in one of his sermons, says: "These holy days which are celebrated after the Resurrection of the Lord signify the life that is to come after our resurrection." The joy of these fifty days is a foretaste of eternity; our song of Easter praise here on earth is a rehearsal for the song we will join in singing in heaven. Augustine continues: "Let us praise God; let us say, 'Alleluia'. During these days let us symbolize the unending day; let us symbolize the place of our immortality, the time of our immortality; let us hasten to our eternal home."

Easter, then, is not just the celebration of a single occurrence roughly two thousand years ago, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a celebration of the final victory of God, when all things will be brought to fulfillment. And, in case you needed an excuse to keep enjoying those Easter chocolates, now you know that Easter is not just one day, but seven weeks of celebration

FINANCE:

General Fund Summary for March

March Weekly Offerings: \$21,363

March Expenses: \$31,221

Regular Offerings through March 2025

Weekly Offerings Received: \$53,516

Amount Expected to Maintain 2025 Budget: \$62,499

Giving through March is 85% of what is expected to maintain the current budget.

Please share your, time, talents, and treasures at St. Mark.

Thought to Ponder from the Stewardship Committee: When financial blessings come our way, our first instinct is often to protect and preserve it - for a rainy day, vacation, retirement. But stewardship isn't about accumulation or self-reliance - it's about trusting God and using our resources for His Kingdom. Wealth must never replace God as our source of security. Rick Martin and Nancy Beaderstadt

Any Graduations? If there are any high school graduations, training program completions, college graduations, or military milestones to celebrate in your family please notify Sue in the church office so that we may recognize them in the June issue of LIFE and share our member accomplishments with the St. Mark congregation.

From the Parish Nurse – Beth Claeys:

May is mental health awareness month. Prioritizing your mental health is crucial for overall well-being. It's not about the absence of illness but about actively nurturing your emotional and mental health. Just like we take care of our physical health, regular self-care practices can significantly impact mental health.

Here are some practical tips to incorporate into your daily routine -

- *Engage in regular physical activity. Even a short walk or workout can boost your mood and reduce stress.
- *Practice mindfulness and relaxation techniques - meditation, deep breathing, and spending time in nature can help calm your mind and body.
- *Prioritize sleep - Aim for 7-9 hours of quality sleep each night to support your mental and physical health.
- *Connect with others - Social interaction and strong relationships are vital for mental well-being.
- *Eat a balanced diet - Nourishing your body with healthy foods can positively impact your mood and energy levels.
- *Set realistic goals and celebrate achievements. Achieving goals, no matter how small, can boost your sense of accomplishment and self-worth.
- *Practice gratitude - Taking time to appreciate the good things in your life can shift your perspective and foster positivity.
- *Don't hesitate to seek support. If you are struggling, reach out to a friend, family member, or mental health professional.

Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Saturday, May 10th at 10:00am.

Bunco – Will meet on Friday, May 16 at 6:30pm

Theology on Tap - Will next meet on Tuesday, June 3rd at 6:00pm at Mo Brady's (not meeting in May due to many events and festivities). Watch for sign up sheet and book information.

Foot Clinic will next be held next on Monday June 2nd from 9 to 11:00am (Appointment required). Cost is \$35. To sign up please use sign-up sheet or contact Nancy Beaderstadt. Limited appointments are available.

Please Update the Church: The church is not notified of hospitalizations. Many obituaries are no longer listed in the newspaper. Also, we do not receive address changes or forwarding information from the postal service. Please let the church office, parish nurse/visitor, or pastor know if you experience any of these or other changes. Also, please let Pastor Janine or Parish Nurse Beth know of any persons unable to attend services in person who may like home communion and/or parish visitor to contact them.

Social Ministry:

May Project – We are collecting cleaning supplies for our food pantry patrons. Here is list of needs:

- Laundry soap
- Dishwashing liquid
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Disinfectant wipes
- Paper Towels
- Any household cleaners

June Project - Providing supplies to MAD Camp. With MAD Camp being the week of June 16th, we need to start collecting in May. Please watch for forthcoming specific information in the lounge and/or narthex as to the items which are needed.

Easter Egg Hunt Update – We had 43 kids and beautiful weather. They all had a wonderful time. I would like to thank the congregation for all your candy donations. **GREATLY APPRECIATED.** I would like to give a BIG thank you to all the volunteers, that too is **GREATLY APPRECIATED.** We look forward to seeing you all again next year. Mark your calendars: April 4th, 2026 - 10:00am – Egg Hunt. Easter Sunday is April 5th, 2026.

Thank you all again! Kim Sherrod-Hensler

Habitat for Humanity – Saturday, May 31st is scheduled to be the next date for St Mark to provide lunch for Habitat for Humanity volunteers. Watch for sign-up and menu information to be posted in the lounge. The April lunch was cancelled, so we will utilize that same menu and sign-up which was already in place. Any questions or changes contact Maureen Currier. Consider following “Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities” on Facebook for all the latest local news and information.

Thrivent Sponsored Shred Event: Saturday, May 17th, 2025 from 9:00am to 12:00pm at Thrivent, 884 Tanglefoot, Ln., Bettendorf, IA. All are welcome, no registration necessary. Please bring confidential documents you would like to share as well as a donation of school supplies for children at our local schools. (Save the date for our next shred event on September 20th.)

Regarding Calendar Items: *The detailed calendar for the week is listed in the worship bulletin insert. This is available both at in-person worship as well as e-mailed out with the weekly worship link (typically on Thursdays). It is also usually posted on the St. Mark Facebook page.*

~If you do not get the weekly Thursday e-mail, this monthly LIFE, or others and would like to, please contact Sue Geise in the office or Rick Nagel or Candy Nagel. The e-mail list will be updated over the next several months as we move to more efficient and less expensive methods of communication. Also, your patience is appreciated while we are experimenting with various calendar formats to determine which is the most effective – both for time and function to meet the needs. Only the basic events are noted rather than an entirely additional time-consuming calendar section. The monthly calendar published often had changes by the end of the month anyway.

~ If you would like meetings or events listed in LIFE and/or the weekly bulletin, please contact Sue Geise in the office or write the information on the wall calendar. Do not assume the office and/or custodial staff know about it or any changes that may be needed (seasonal, holidays, rentals, etc.) just because it has always been that way. Remember most of us are still fairly “new” and often do not know what has been done (or known) as previous staff and/or volunteers may have. Set schedules for the year may be submitted to the office if this is easier for you. Appreciate everyone who puts in a lot of effort to communicate with our St Mark community!

M.A.D. Camp 2025

Explores

The Fruits of the Spirit

Mark your calendars! Join us this summer for our Music, Art, and Drama camp as we will explore how the God plants the seeds we need to live our strongest and most fruitful lives. During the week of June 16th through the 20th from 9am to 3pm, campers will help bring the strength of the holy spirit to life! Campers will be encouraged to explore and create a variety of their artistic talents. We will celebrate by showcasing their talents during the Saturday evening service at 4 or 5:00pm on June 21st. Any kiddo that can read a script and feels comfortable performing in front of an audience is welcome to join us. Please register ASAP (\$25 per camper). We hope to see you then!

In God's Blessing,
Katie and Amanda Carstens

(For further registration information or other questions, please contact Katie. Her contact information is available in the lounge or by contacting the church office.)

THE EASTER DECORATIONS for 2025 HAVE BEEN DEDICATED:

- *In Memory of:* My parents, John & June Olds. By Diane Fellman
- *In Memory of:* Jim, Jane, Dave, Glenn, and Raylynn. By Ileen Landhauser.
- *In Memory of:* Friends and Family. By Doug, Linda, & Lisa Wescom.
- *In Memory of:* Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Mosher, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Muhlhausen Sr, and Phyllis Carmichael. By Mr. & Mrs. John Muhlhausen.
- *In Memory of:* Joe & Brandon Mechem, Wm. & Florence Dunsworth, Dort & Harry Seligman, Jan & Wendel Peifer, Cork and Barb Dunsworth, Ira Dunsworth, Brad Roelandt, Dick Dunsworth, Ellen Griggs, and Bob Dunsworth. By Sally Mechem.
- *In Memory of:* Marcella Scheel and John Kroeger. By Sally Mechem.
- *In Honor of:* The Cork Dunsworth Family, The Ira Dunsworth Family, and St Mark Staff. By Sally Mechem.
- *In Memory of:* My Dad, Papa, Grandma & Grandpa Tony, Grandma and Grandpa Tippy, Joe and Brandon Mechem, Grandma Phyllis, Louis Goldensoph, and Dick. By Mandy Matzen-Schlueter.
- *In Honor of:* My Mom, Lyle, Timmy, Granny, Grandma Phyllis Goldensoph,. By Mandy Matzen-Schlueter.
- *In Memory of:* Mike Jakubowski. By Barb Jakubowski and Family.
- *In Memory of:* Elizabeth and Chet Lagoni. By Barb Jakubowski and Family.
- *In Memory of:* Les Niemi. By Barb Niemi.
- *In Memory of:* sister and sister-in-law, Kathie and Glenda. By Barb Niemi.
- *In Memory of:* Parents, Mart & Dorothy Harksen and Brusce & Norma Pieper. By Becky & Christ Pieper.
- *In Honor of:* Our kids and grandkids. By Becky & Chris Pieper.
- *In Honor of:* Phyllis Wilford. By Becky & Chris Pieper.
- *In Memory of:* Randy Smith and Harold & Verta Smith. By Ginny Smith, Randy Smith Jr and Family.
- *In Memory of:* Harvey, Margaret, Harv, Tim, and Terry Christenson. By Ginny Smith, Randy Smith Jr and Family.
- *In Honor of:* Leibold Family and Darland Family. By Tom Leibold.
- *In Memory of:* Claus Benning Loven and Edward & Bonnie Bovee`. By Michael & Joanne Bovee`
- *In Memory of:* parents Genevieve & Harvey Serrine and Marilyn, Cheryl, Jack, and Jim. By Pella Fisher.
- *In Memory of:* Melvin Lee, son and parents, brothers and sisters. By Melvin & Delores Grubbs.
- *In Memory of:* Husband, Ira Dunsworth, his siblings, and our parents. By Dolly Dunsworth.
- *In Honor of:* Konnie, & Lyle, Mandy & Matt, Tim, Greg & Huda, Kody, Zain, Ashlyn, Tad & Lynette, Maleesa & Sam, Audrey & Wynnie, Dyllon, Talori, and sister, Sally Mechem. By Dolly Dunsworth.
- *In Memory of:* Dad - John Kroeger. By Julie & Cliff Ginn
- *In Memory of:* My Beloved Husband, Larry and our son, Bradley. By Patti Roelandt.
- *In memory of:* Frank & Jan Dumerauf and Tom Claeys. By John & Beth Claeys.
- *In Memory of:* My Mother, Doris Ricketts. By Richard B. Ricketts.
- *In Memory of:* Dennis Bass. By Pam Bass, Jodee and Cody Williams.

(Easter Decorations – Continued)

- *In Memory of:* Mel & Dee Misfeldt. By Pam Bass, Jodee and Cody Williams.
- *In Memory of:* Virgil & Genevieve Bass. By Pam Bass, Jodee and Cody Williams.
- *In Memory of:* In loving memory of husband Robert G. Peters, O.W. Landon, Jennie McElroy, Herbert & Katherine Peters, Jim Peters, and other Peters family. By Barbara Ann Peters and family.
- *In Memory of:* My dad, love & miss you ~ your favorite daughter. By Konnie Goldensoph.
- *In Memory of:* Dorothy & Henry Henderkott and Emil Rathjen. By Dorothy Godbey.
- *In Appreciation of:* The people of St. Mark. By Pr. Janine Johnson.
- *In Appreciation of:* All those who volunteer at St. Mark. By Dave & Nancy Beaderstadt.
- *In Appreciation of:* St. Mark Staff. By Rick & Candy Nagel.
- *In Appreciation of:* Musicians of St. Mark.
- *In Memory of:* loved ones and *in appreciation of* our St. Mark family. By Maureen & Jerry Currier
- *In Memory of:* Loving family members who are no longer with us, Paul Lensmeyer, Mike Kroening, Juergen & Ingrid Kroening, Ruth Staudt and Ron Knuth. By Debbie Lensmeyer.

The Easter Lily Holiday Tradition

Each holiday is marked by cherished traditions that bring joy, comfort, warmth, and provide continuity from one generation to the next. Easter has its share of traditions: egg decorations and hunts, gift baskets and chocolate bunnies, sunrise church services, parades, and of course, the Easter Lily. For many, the beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope, and life – the spiritual essence of Easter. History, mythology, literature, poetry and the world of art are rife with stories and images that speak of the beauty and majesty of the elegant white flowers. Dating back to Biblical lore, the lily is mentioned numerous times in the Bible. One of the most famous Biblical references is in the Sermon on the Mount, when Christ told his listeners: “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet.....Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

Often called the “white-robed apostles of hope,” lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ’s agony. Tradition has it that the beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ’s sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow and deep distress. Churches continue this tradition at Easter time by banking their altars and surrounding their crosses with masses of Easter Lilies, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.

Prayer Garden : Spring is starting to really bloom and come alive in God’s creation! This has brought the memorial prayer garden in the courtyard to mind. If you would like to remember or honor someone special with a donation to the prayer garden there is information and envelopes on the lounge table. You may also send donations with a note to the church office if you prefer. The suggested amount is \$15.00. A dedication will be forthcoming in June. We appreciate Julie Ginn continuing to coordinate beautifying and maintaining this courtyard area. Any questions please contact Julie or leave a message for her in the church office.



Earth Day was recently celebrated on April 22nd. It is our duty, as God's stewards of the beautiful world He has given us, to do all we can to care for it. As you begin to create your gardens and flower beds, please take a moment to remember our wonderful pollinators. Below are lists of the types of flowers that are best for these special little "keepers of nature."

FLOWERS FOR OUR BEES

ANISE HYSSOP ANNUAL HONESTY ASTER BEE BALM BLACK-EYED SUSAN BLAZING STAR BORAGE
CALIFORNIA POPPY CHIVES CONEFLOWER FLOWERING THYME GOLDENROD HONEYSUCKLE ICE PLANT
LANTANA LUPINE MARIGOLD MINT NASTURTIUM PANSY PEONY PHLOX PRIMROSE
RED VALERIAN SNOWDROPS SUNFLOWERS SWEET SCABIOUS YARROW ZINNIA

FLOWERS FOR OUR BUTTERFLIES

BUTTERFLY BUSH BUTTON BUSH CLOVE PINK CORNFLOWER FALSE INDIGO FLOSS
GOLDENROD MARIGOLD MILKWEED SALVIA SUNFLOWERS

FLOWERS FOR OUR HUMMINGBIRDS

BEARD TONGUE BEE BALM BLEEDING HEART BUTTERFLY BUSH CANNA LILY CARDINAL CLIMBER
CARDINAL FLOWER CAT MINT COLUMBINE CORAL BELL CUPHEA DELPHINIUM FOX GLOVE
FUSHIA HUMMINGBIRD MINT LANTANA LUPINE MORNING GLORY PETUNIA PHLOX ROSE OF SHARON
SALVIA TORENIA TRUMPET HONEYSUCKLE TRUMPET VINE ZINNIA

The Bonus Fund promise.

By participating in Birdies for Charity, all charities are guaranteed a 5% bonus on the pledges they receive.* This means that your donation has the potential to go even further and make a greater impact.

The John Deere Classic, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, created the Bonus Fund to support the ongoing efforts of participating charities. This fund is fueled by tournament revenues, direct donations, special events, and a generous matching grant from John Deere.

A trusted & proven option.

In 2024, Birdies for Charity achieved its highest charitable contribution to date, raising an impressive \$15.9 million for more than 470 charities. All charities received an 8% bonus on what they raised through the program.

2024's record-breaking campaign brings the tournament's overall charitable giving since 1971 to over \$189 million.

The fine print.

To participate, charities must be publicly supported and recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. All charitable contributions must come from a designated donor, not be part of a capital campaign. The Birdies for Charity program is intended to support charitable organizations, services, operations and programs. It is not intended to be used for endowment or brick and mortar charitable purposes.

By making a donation to Birdies for Charity you understand and accept that your donation can only be delivered as directed if the designated organization completes all required documentation to participate.

*All charities will be guaranteed a 5% bonus on amounts up to their prior year pledge total, or \$100,000, whichever is greater.



JULY 2-6, 2025

Sponsored by:



Grand Prize Sponsor:



Media Sponsor:



Birdies for Charity
15623 Coaltown Road
East Moline, IL 61244

birdiesforcharity.com



CHIP IN
for charity!
OFFICIAL PLEDGE CARD **2025**



2025 Birdies for Charity Participation is Encouraged

Upon the recommendation of the finance committee, St. Mark is participating once again in “Birdies for Charity”, a local fundraiser with matching funds provided in conjunction with the John Deere Classic PGA tournament. The brochure information is above. Pledge/donation forms are available in the St. Mark lounge or there is one on the following page. Any Birdies form may be utilized, but it must have the Bird Number: 1612 and Charity Solicited For: St Mark Lutheran Church designated. All funds routed through this program for St. Mark, whether an amount for a birdies pledge or a straight donation, will be matched at 5%. There is a possibility of additional bonus funds that may increase the match up to 10%. With strong participation this program is beneficial to St. Mark when every dollar counts. Contact person for St. Mark is Barb Jakubowski if you have any questions. You may also contact the office with a message for Barb.

St. Mark Lutheran Church

CHARITY SOLICITED FOR

1612

BIRD NUMBER



I PLEDGE TO DONATE:

\$ to the charity noted above.
(one time, flat donation amount)

GUESS THE BIRDIES TO WIN A TWO YEAR LEASE ON A 2025 LEXUS!

I guess that birdies will be made.

Only one grand prize will be awarded.
Void where prohibited by law. Guesses due by June 27.

BIRDIES SCORED BY YEAR

1,982 (2016)	2,091 (2019)	2,041 (2022)
1,918 (2017)	N/A (2020)	1,929 (2023)
2,355 (2018)	1,905 (2021)	2,315 (2024)

MAKE MORE MAGIC with the BONUS FUND

YES, I would like to make an additional donation to the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund in the amount of \$, to help provide the minimum 5% match to all participating charities.

PLEDGE & DONOR INFORMATION (please print)

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP
PHONE AND/OR EMAIL

Please include payment & make checks payable to:
BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

WHY BIRDIES FOR CHARITY?

- Your charity receives every penny you donate to them!
- We will match your donation to that charity by a minimum of 5%, and up to 10% from our Bonus Fund!
- For tax purposes, we are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization!
- By entering the contest, YOU have a chance to win!

Simply make a one-time flat donation and mail with payment to the Birdies for Charity office at:

15623 Coaltown Road, East Moline, IL 61244

OR



BIRDIESFORCHARITY.COM/DONATE

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I pledged \$ one-time donation.
I guessed birdies would be made.
Payment was included with pledge
YES \$ NO
CASH CHECK NO

Please make checks payable to:

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY
15623 COALTOWN ROAD
EAST MOLINE, IL 61244

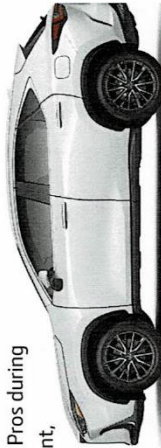
Quad Cities Golf Classic Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, EIN #93-1332421, doing business as John Deere Classic & Birdies for Charity.

Chip in for your chance to win!

When you chip in to support local charities, you could win big! But the real champs? Your beloved charities! They score 100% of every donation you make through this program, plus a sweet bonus from the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund, which guarantees a 5% match. Talk about a win-win!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

To enter the contest, guess the number of birdies that will actually be made by PGA TOUR Pros during the tournament, Wednesday through Sunday.



GRAND PRIZE:
2 YEAR LEASE ON A 2025 LEXUS!

One lucky supporter of the John Deere Classic's Birdies SMART LEXUS OF QUAD CITIES

for Charity program will win a 2 year lease on a 2025 Lexus, courtesy of Smart Lexus of Quad Cities.

CONTEST RULES

- Only 1 grand prize awarded. Ties determined by random drawing
- Open to all participants 21 years or older & a U.S. licensed driver
- The grand prize shall only be delivered within or around the Quad Cities metropolitan area
- All guesses must be on an official pledge card & received at the tournament office by June 27
- No pledge or purchase required. Need not be present to win.
- Winner responsible for all sales taxes, registration fees, license plate fees, & income taxes on all prizes, including local, state, & federal taxes
- Full list of official rules & details found at birdiesforcharity.com/about/contest

Mary anointed Jesus' feet with pure nard, this incredibly costly, precious substance. Then she dried his feet with her hair.

In the Gospel story in the last Sunday in Lent, we hear about Jesus visiting with his dear friends, Martha, Mary and Lazarus. This happened just after Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. And Mary was anointing Jesus' feet with pure nard, this incredibly costly, precious substance. And then she dried his feet with her hair. Nard is a very powerful, pungent substance, and the Gospel says the room was filled with the fragrance.

Now I did a little research on nard, and some people would describe the smell as being pungent or earthy, or musty, or musky or like feet. So it was an interesting choice that people had in those days. And they did two things with nard. One, they would use nard to anoint the bodies of the dead in order to offset the stench of death, which Jesus had only encountered with his friend Lazarus a few days before. And it was also used for kings as a sign of royalty because of the luxury of this whole thing.

Well, Jesus was himself, like us, like the first Adam, an earth creature — pungent and full of life, dense in this sense. And this earth creature was obedient to death, reversing the work of the first Adam, who disobeyed and brought sin into the world. And we've suffered the consequences. The chief consequence is death, separation from God.

And now Jesus, the new Adam, the new earth creature, he's anointed, he says to Mary, for his burial and so that he will be using this incredibly pungent substance, while at the same time being very clear that he is, in fact, part of this incarnation, this earth creature. But instead of it being oil put on him to remove the stench of death, it became the anointing of a royal king. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the usual cycle of life and death has been disrupted forever. Jesus' death and resurrection promises new life and brings us new life.

Happy Easter, dear church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Grateful for Grounds Beautification: A special thank you to volunteers Candy and Rick Nagel for all of their work and contributions to the grounds beautification along the north (Third Street) side of the church. It is appreciated.

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church,
2363 West Third Street, Davenport, IA 52802

Phone: 563-322-5318

E-mail: stmark@stmarkcares.org or sgeise@stmarkcares.org

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30am to 2:30pm and Thursday 9:30am to 1:30pm.
(Monday by appointment only. Closed Fridays.)

Food Pantry Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00am to 2:00pm (Serving Iowa residents only)