
From the Pastor's Desk:

“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to be free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me;
I lift my torch beside the golden door.”

The last few days I've been thinking about these words written on the base of the Statue of Liberty. What prophetic and profound words for this Independence Day. Many of us will be celebrating this day with family and friends at parades, picnics, and fireworks. On the 4th of July we remember all who have fought and worked to bring us our freedoms. On this day we remember all those people who have come before us to create this country of immigrants and indigenous people. The farmers, the laborers in the factories, the people who built our roads and continue to build our roads and railroads, the builders, the teachers, the dreamers, and the people who believed in a safe place for all people. All those people from Europe, Asia, Africa, South and Central America looking for freedom and better lives. And hopefully we will also remember all the people who lived on this land before any of our ancestors came. I also think of all those people who today are wanting to come to this country in hopes of providing for themselves and their families safer and better lives.

These are tumultuous times in our country. The place we call home. And it is hard to feel welcoming to strangers and even to our neighbors sometimes. But as I think about these words found on the Statue of Liberty, I also think about the words found in Matthew 25:31-40 where Jesus answers the question, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, in prison? And he answers, you saw me when you provided and cared for those in these situations. I believe that is what the poet who wrote these words believed the United States was to the world and to each of us. I hope on this July 4th and every day we remember that we are a people called to care for and love our neighbors and those we don't know.

There is this beautiful hymn (ELW #887) titled “This is My Song.” The words of the first verse are: “This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine; this is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine: but other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.” These words as well as the words found on the base of the Statue of Liberty speak truths to nations, communities, and leaders of countries to remember who we are as people of compassion care, and justice. May we remember as beloved children of God we are called to open our arms and doors to all of God's beloved children.

God's Peace. Pastor Janine

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

A few St Mark members may be aware that one of my side jobs is at a gym: it's a nice change of pace from a career in music, and the free membership is a plus. It's also given me the opportunity to observe the similarities between church and gym. Both gyms and churches are -- I think it's fair to say -- *aspirational* places: we go to both to improve ourselves. Both are generally respected as a force for good, even by people who don't attend. Both form a community of sorts, comprised of all the regulars one sees there. Studies have shown that attending both gyms and/or churches makes for longer, happier lives.

It's also worth noting that *neither gym nor church is easy*. To make any real physical or spiritual improvement, it's necessary to push yourself out of your comfort zone. Obviously you don't make progress at the gym if you never attend. Even if you get into the building, it's not enough to just stand there: you need to tire out your muscles to make improvements. In the same way, mere membership in a church is not enough. Church is not a place where you go to turn off your brain, to go through the motions, to be a passive observer of other people exercising their faith. The whole liturgy -- from the confession of sins through the dismissal -- requires full, conscious, and active participation, if you want to get something out of it. To grow your muscles, or to grow in faith, you need to show up consistently and put in the work. Trust the process, be patient, and there *will* be results.

Worship Adjustments for July 4th Holiday Weekend: *Due the long holiday weekend of July 4th/5th/6th (Friday thru Sunday) and the many holiday and travel plans during that time, there will be two adjustments with worship that weekend:*

- (1.) There will be NOT be Saturday 5:00pm worship on July 5th (1st Saturday of the month). The next Saturday 5:00pm service will be on July 19th (3rd Saturday of the month).*
- (2.) Online church will NOT be available on Sunday, July 6th, only in person church that day. Our volunteer videographer and the back-up will both be out of town.*

Finance Report as of May 2025:

General Fund summary for May 2025:

May weekly offerings \$14,563

May expenses \$25,923

Regular offerings January through May 2025:

Weekly offerings received \$121,334

Amount expected to maintain 2025 budget \$157,157

Please remember that our budget needs continue through the summer. Your gifts are needed even if you cannot attend services. Thank you for your giving.

From the Parish Nurse, Beth Claeys:

This month, I wanted to take some time to share some thoughts about Advance Directives.

Patients all have the right to accept or decline treatment as they see fit. A doctor or nurse cannot treat you or do a procedure unless you give them permission first. This applies to competent adults only. When someone cannot make their own decisions due to a temporary or long-term condition, someone else must make all decisions related to that person's health care.

To make sure you are treated exactly the way you wish, consider filling out an Advance Directive. There are two types of Advance Directives. A Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care allows you to appoint someone to represent you and direct these decisions. You should make sure you have a conversation with your appointed person to make sure they are comfortable with that role. You should also discuss your wishes in the event you are not able to make health care decisions for yourself.

A Living will outlines your wishes but does not name someone to make them for you.

The types of issues you will list should include all or at least some of the following -

- Use of breathing machines or dialysis
- Tube feedings
- Resuscitation if your heart or breathing stops
- Life support if there is little or no hope of recovery
- Organ donation

A Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare can only make decisions when the patient is unable to make them himself. Whoever is chosen for this role must agree to this responsibility.

Putting your health care requests in writing has many positive aspects. This act makes you think through many important issues. Also, it lets your family and doctor know what your wishes are. It's a good time to bring these issues up by discussing them with family or friends. You should not assume everyone knows what you are thinking or feeling. Your written wishes can help ease some of the emotional turmoil a family feels when serious decisions need to be made.

Once you have completed an Advance Directive, give a copy to your family and your doctor. You can update this document if needed but would need to get an updated copy to your physician.

To get an Advance Directive, ask your physician or you can look at Mercyone.org or other websites.

Theology on Tap – Tuesday, July 15th:

The next gathering for *Theology on Tap* for fellowship and book discussion will be at the *11th Preceinct Bar & Grill* which is located at 2108 East 11th Street in Downtown Davenport. Those attending are asked to meet at *11th Preceinct* at 6:00pm. Each person may order off the menu at their own expense. The book that will be discussed is, “A Man Called Ove”, a novel by Swedish author Fredrik Backman. The book has been adapted into two films: “A Man Called Ove” which premeired in Sweden in 2015 and the 2022 american film version, “A Man Called Otto” starring Tom Hanks. All are welcome. If you plan to attend please utilize the sign-up sheet in the St. Mark lounge (or contact Beth or the church office) in order that appropriate group reservation can be made. Also if any unexpected changes would occure those signed up may be notified. Contact person for any questions is Beth Claves.

Sincere Sympathy to family and friends of long time St. Mark member, Loris Resnick, we offer our sincere sympathy following the loss of your loved one. Loris died on May 26th. May your memories and faith provide you with a sense of peace and comfort.

Thank You Notes received by our congregation for vararious outreach and social ministry projects have been posted on the large bulletin board in the lounge. There are also pictures added periodically. (Pictures or notes for the board should be given or e-mailed to Julie Ginn or the office can forward them to here.) Keep an eye out for any new additions on the board.

A sincere thank you to the ladies who hosted the refreshment time following the installation of Pr. Pillar to the Iglesia Camino de Emaus congregation by Bishop Amy Current of the Southeastern Iowa Synod-ELCA here at St. Mark on June 8th. It was great to have St. Mark members attending also.

St. Mark Food Pantry Report – May 2025:

Despite the 3rd street road construction, another very busy month! The St. Mark Food Pantry served 221 households comprised of 706 individual during the month of May. Many thanks to the individuals and groups donating food items during May. Groups and businesse donations included: HyVee bread rescue; rescued food from Starbucks, Kwick Star, and WalMart; and Midwest Food Bank. Additionally food was purchased in bulk at a discounted rate from Riverbend Food Bank. The individual food and monetary donations as well as designated gifts by St. Mark members are all very much appreciated. Dedicated volunteers who keep things going, both from within the St Mark congregation and those who are friends of St. Mark, are highly valued! Without the volunteers there would be no food pantry which is a significant community outreach ministry. The need continues to grow with increasing food instability in our community. Summer finds many families needing to try find meals for children who are fed through school programs fall through spring.

Social Ministry: Time to restock the regular rolls of paper towels used in the lounge serving area for fellowship and events as well as the kitchen in Luther Hall. Last restock was over a year ago and is just now getting low! If you would like to donate any rolls of kitchen paper toweling, please leave on the counter in the lounge, in the grocery cart in the narthex or in the church office and we will refill our storage area. No other paper products are needed at this time. Thank you in advance! Contact Candy Nagel with any questions.

Habitat for Humanity Luncheon – July 26th The sign-up sheet is out in the lounge. Thank you to all who participate in providing lunches to the volunteers working to help build homes in the QCA. Typically St. Mark provides lunches on the fourth Saturday of the month, however it does vary occasionally based on the needs of the Habitat volunteers on specific days. Any changes are communicated to the group signed up for that month by text/phone. Thank you to all who participate in or support this outreach ministry in any way – either occasionally or routinely.

St Mark Preschool:

- I would like to introduce myself, Kati Boyd as the new preschool director. I am excited to take on this new role. I have worked in early childhood education for about 15 years or so. I've worked here at St. Mark Preschool for three and a half years as the 5 day 3-year-old teacher.

We are currently taking enrollment for 2025-2026 school year for 3 and 4 years olds. Call and schedule a tour now at (563)326-5060 or you can email me at kboydstmarkpreschool@gmail.com

- Recently there was an article in the Quad-City Times recognizing Iowa STEM Scale-Up Award recipients for the 2025-26 school year. There were five programs recognized in Quad-City school sites. One of those is the St. Mark Preschool: "All About Balance" program. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math education. For 2025-26 the state of Iowa granted more than \$3 million in STEM materials, curriculum and trainings. More than 1,000 educators are signed up to deliver one of 13 selected STEM Scale-Up programs in school, afterschool and in other educational settings. "Through the Scale-Up Program, the STEM Council is proud to have a hand in expanding student learning in STEM and connecting it with key industries in Iowa like agriculture, advanced manufacturing, medical science and more," Justin Lewis, Iowa Stem Bureau Chief, said.
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An Announcement

The Doors are Open: As you enjoy the days of summer remember that God is present in all that we are doing. I invite you to continue to participate in the life of the church through regular attendance and being faithful in your giving. During these days of summer take time to listen for and experience the love of God. ***God's peace. Pastor Janine***

2025 Prayer Garden Gifts

The prayer garden and the gifts listed below to sponsor it were dedicated following the Sunday morning service on June 29th. Those who gave gifts and those who tend the prayer garden are all greatly appreciated.

God's creation is so amazingly beautiful!

- ✦ In memory of our moms, Vonnie Flynn, and Dorothy Erickson by Barb and Mark Erickson.
 - ✦ In memory of John and June Olds, my parents, by Diane Fellman.
 - ✦ In memory of loved ones by Carolyn Schjelderup.
 - ✦ In memory of loved ones by Dolly Dunsworth.
 - ✦ In memory of loved ones by Sally Mechem.
 - ✦ In memory of my grandparents and great aunts & uncles by Sue Geise.
 - ✦ In memory of John Kroeger and Jeff Zelnio by Shirley Kroeger.
 - ✦ In memory of Jim, Jane, Dave, Glenna, and Raylynn by Ileen Landhauser.
 - ✦ In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Mosher and Mr. & Mrs. Carl Muhlhausen, Sr. by Mr. & Mrs. John Muhlhausen.
 - ✦ In memory of John Kroeger, my father, by Linda Ray.
 - ✦ In appreciation of all the dedication Julie Ginn has for our beautiful garden by Dave & Nancy Beaderstadt.
 - ✦ In appreciation of Pastor Janine and staff by Linda Wescom.
 - ✦ In memory of Doris Ricketts, mother, by Richard Ricketts.
 - ✦ In memory of Paul Lensmeyer by Debbie Lensmeyer.
 - ✦ In memory of Ingrid & Juergen and Mike Kroenig by Debbie Lensmeyer.
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Calendar Notes:

- The evenings of July 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th the sanctuary and lounge has been reserved for a series of musical recitals and receptions. Those spaces will not be available for other purposes during those those times.
- The lounge has been rented for a private gathering on Sunday, July 20th from noon to 3:00pm. That day the Iglesia Camiino de Emaus congregation will meet in the chapel with the door by the elevator open.
- *July Council Packet submissions* should be to the office prior to the end of the day, Monday, July 14th (sooner if available) for the Thursday, July 17th meeting. If you will be gone in July please plan ahead with submissions to the office.
- *The August LIFE newsletter deadline* is Tuesday, July 22nd. Information must be received in the office by the deadline to ensure inclusion in the next newsletter. Any questions, contact Sue Geise in the church office. E-mail: sgeise@stmarkcares.org
- Sunday, September 14th – Jazz Worship service is scheduled for 9:30am. Mark your calendars!
- An updated weekly detailed calendar is available each week in the worship bulletin insert.

From the Church Council:

Following a review of the congregational survey, and a long and heartfelt discussion, the council made a decision at the June meeting that **beginning in September, the Saturday 5:00pm worship opportunity will be changing to a Sunday 4:00pm worship on the first and third Sundays of each month.** This does not replace the Sunday morning 9:30am worship which continues to be available each week. It is an additional option for both St Mark members and others in the QCA. It is also the hope that it will be a more efficient use of staff and building resources.

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)