

All Saint's Worship Service, 9:30am Sunday, November 2nd.

Remembering all those who have gone before us, especially those this past year. Deacon Jodi Schuman will be presiding/preaching at the one service. There will not be communion. Anyone is welcome to place photos of loved ones they are remembering in the windows sills of the sanctuary during the service so that we are surrounded by saints.

Pictures should be taken with you after the service.



Blessings to you beloved children of God for yours is the kingdom of heaven. It's November and we move into that hectic Holiday season when I think we lose track of the blessings that we have received and the blessings we are. The last few weeks I've been thinking a lot about all that I have been blessed with. So, as part of that reflecting, I reread Matthew 5:1-12. This is the passage we call the Sermon on the Mount. Here Jesus looks at the people and proclaims they are blessed; they will be called children of God, and theirs IS the kingdom of heaven! Who are the blessed? The blessed are each of us in our sorrow and joys, in the challenges of school and jobs. The blessed are those struggling with depression or addiction. Those who are unhoused. The blessed are all who try to make ends meet as they lose health benefits, are furloughed from jobs and struggling to feed their families. Each of us is blessed simply because we are beloved children of God who experience and feel Jesus' compassion and love through the kindness and care of family, friends, and strangers. During this month when we give thanks for all the bounty we have received let's consider sharing some of our bounty with our sisters and brothers who may be struggling.

In the faith found in Jesus risen, we also find the blessings of God. The blessedness of food pantry volunteers and congregation members working to keep shelves full so people may be fed. The blessedness of those working to provide safe affordable housing for our neighbors. The blessedness of the men and women who work for peace and justice around the world. And we find blessing in the comfort shared by the people of God with those who mourn.

I think as we move into the holiday season we can forget how blessed we are and how we are blessings to others. Some people would say that the Beatitudes (the Sermon of the Mount) are about "Attitudes", but I think they are more about the lives of all God's people and the promises of eternal life that we experience as people saved through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus blesses all people in all situations of life and lets them know that they will not be left alone.

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I like Eugene Peterson's interpretation of Matthew 5 found in the Message Bible. It reads as follows:

"You're blessed when you are at the end of your rope. With less of you, there is more of God and his rule.

You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you will ever eat.

You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being care-full you find yourselves cared for.

You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me [Jesus]. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble."

In the busyness of the holidays, we tend to forget that we are blessed and beloved of God. So, today and in the days ahead remember these words, "Blessed are you beloved Children of God." Please know this and share it with those beloved children of God who live with you and around you. Blessed are all of you in everything that makes you who you are because you are much beloved children of God.

God's peace. Pr. Janine

Spirit, Open Our Hearts-Afternoon with Bishop Current

Join Bishop Current for an afternoon of fellowship, conversation, and worship on Sunday, November 16th from 2:00 to 4:00 at Faith Lutheran in Eldridge. Bishop Current will share stories of the impact of mission support over the last year with words of gratitude. This gathering is for anyone interested in gathering with people from other area congregations and hearing more about the ministry we do together as the Southeastern Iowa Synod.

2025 Holiday worship schedule

Thanksgiving service at Grace Lutheran – November 23 @ 5:30pm

Invitation: Join us at Grace as we worship together with St. Mark members for a service of thanksgiving with music, readings, scripture, reflections, and prayers. Location: 1140 E. High St, Davenport, IA 52803

No mid-week Advent

Advent Sunday services-

Nov. 30th – 1 Advent Service 9:30

Dec. 7th – 2 Advent Service 9:30; 4:00

Dec. 14th – 3 Advent Service 9:30

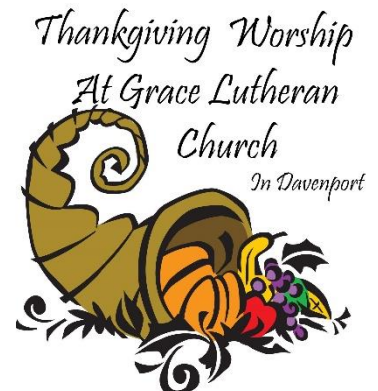
Dec. 21st – 4 Advent Service 9:30; 4:00

Christmas Eve – Dec. 24th (Wed.) One service 7:30

Christmas Day – Dec. 25th (Thurs.) no worship

Epiphany – Jan. 2, 2026 – celebrate arrival of the Magi (Jan. 6)

Baptism of Our Lord – Jan. 11, 2026



The decoration of the church sanctuary for Advent/Christmas will be done on Sunday, November 23 following worship. All are welcome and encouraged to participate. Many hands make light work. For those of you who enjoy décor and decorating, or welcoming the Christmas season as soon as possible, this is a great opportunity. Any questions, contact Maureen Currier.

Financial Report:

General Fund Summary for September

September Weekly Offerings	\$13,568
September Expenses	\$29,465

Income from January-September 2025

Income Received Including Supplemental Resources:	\$206,997
Amount Expected to Maintain Budget:	\$282,883

The pledge commitment forms for 2026 are available in the lounge, the office and LIFE. Thank you so much to the people that have already submitted their forms. The Finance Committee has started working on the 2026 budget. Knowing the offerings that will be coming are a tremendous help as we plan for the mission and operation of St. Mark for 2026.

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

As we progress through November this year, our lectionary readings become more and more apocalyptic. (The word *apocalypse*, in the Christian tradition, means "revelation" or "disclosure". The popular definition of the word as "world-ending disaster" is a much more recent understanding.) On November 9th, Job proclaims, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth", and Paul advises the Thessalonians not to be alarmed as they await the second coming of Christ. On November 16th the prophet Malachi foretells the punishment of evildoers and the salvation of the righteous, and Jesus warns of the false prophets, wars, and natural disasters that will come in the last days. On November 23rd we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, which emphasizes the coming kingdom of Christ. And finally, on November 30th, we begin the season of Advent, which is all about preparation -- preparation both for Christmas, and for the second coming.

These days it is all too easy to believe that we are living in the times Jesus speaks about in Luke 21:

"Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify."

We live in a world that is becoming more and more opposed to the message Jesus taught -- to love our enemies, to care for the vulnerable, to proclaim the good news of salvation to all people. It is not an easy time to be a Christian, especially when the mantle of "Christianity" is claimed by some who pervert the teachings of Jesus to serve their own ends. But we trust that God is there for us in these difficult times, as we sing in "How firm a foundation" (ELW #796):

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.

Now is our opportunity to testify, to remind the world that the ways of God are mercy, humility, and justice, not violence, pride, and revenge. Now is the time to work towards the coming kingdom of God, when all creation will live together in peace, and "the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

Pastoral Needs When Pr. Janine is off :

Please be aware if any new or urgent pastoral needs (death, serious illness or accident, hospitalization, etc.) occur when Pastor is on vacation the first week in November, or off the first week of any other month, Beth Claeys, Parish Nurse is to be notified. You may also contact Sue Geise, Administrative Assistant.

Thank you – from Lisa Wescom Family:

The family of Lisa Wescom would like to thank everyone who shared our deep loss. Lisa loved her church family and always looked forward to every Sunday when she would get hugs and smiles. Of course, coffee hour was a highlight of the morning. She was more comfortable hearing the service in the lounge where she could get up and move around, due to anxiety issue.

Thank you – from Phyllis Wilford:

To My St Mark Family,

Thank you for all the thinking of you, get well, and birthday cards and messages. I miss all of you, but I see you on You-Tube every Sunday. Thanks to Sue and Robert and his helpers.

Phyllis Wilford *(Apologies for the delay-mail arrived about an hour after Oct issue was sent-Sue)*

Thank you – from LaVerna Benzhofer:

To Candy and St Mark Congregation: Well, I was able to find kids clothes again this year so I am sending these two boxes as usual. I am a bargain hunter /buyer as a single person, disabled and unemployed since 1995, but I still remember wet mittens (one pair only) in -20 degree weather and six feet snow drifts. I don't think I could live in Davenport again due to the weather. Hope your winter isn't too harsh. Can't promise clothes next year, but these should help this year.

(She is one of the various former members and individuals with connections who continue to stay in touch and support the ministries of St. Mark. Thank you to Candy for being her point of contact for her donations and correspondence.)

Council Corner – The following was discussed at the October 16, 2025 meeting:

1. The Birdie's for Charity check will be arriving this week. We made a 9% return on our donation. While that will help, our year-to-date income is at 73.17% of our budget needs, and operating expenses are going up. The Committee has approved a 3% raise for staff for 2026.
2. A directory of active/regular worshipers is being put together. Letters have been sent out to folks on our roster who have not attended or given within 2 years.
3. St. Mark will participate in the Freight House Fall Festival, November 1-2. We and other ELCA churches will share a booth, showing our presence in the community. Stop by and check it out!
4. Pledge forms are available. It is so very important that members fill in a form so that our Budget Committee can put together our 2026 budget proposal. We are operating on a shoestring, and that string is beginning to fray. Budget cuts will affect us all. Please take a moment to prayerfully fill in your form.
5. Synod Deacon Jodi Schumann will lead Sunday

(continued) morning worship on November 2. She will also be meeting with Council after the service. There will be no 4:00pm worship service that day.

6. Our Thanksgiving celebration service will be held on Sunday, November 23rd. Grace Lutheran will host this year. More information will be coming.

7. Social Ministry will be gathering items for Christmas once again for 25 foster children. The Angel Tree will be up in the lounge, and gifts need to be returned by November 30th.

8. The next JOY Fellowship will be Thursday, November 13th at 1:00pm. Our guest speaker will be from Humility of Mary. Please plan to join us.

Our next Council meeting is Thursday, November 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Currently Serving as Church Council Members:

Nancy Beaderstadt, President

Diane Fellman

Barb Ericksen

Beth Claeys, Vice President

Linda Ray

Tom Liebold

Robert Sherrod, Secretary

Julie Ginn

Mike Crews

Barb Jakubowski, Treasurer

Candy Nagel

Foot Clinic:

The next bi-monthly foot care clinic will be held on the morning of Monday, December 1st. It is by appointment only. Please contact Nancy Beaderstadt if you are interested in this or future foot clinic dates. There is a \$35 fee and bringing a towel is suggested.

Iglesia Camino de Emaus (Spanish speaking congregation) meets Sunday afternoons at 4:00pm where they share space in the St. Mark building. Pastor Pilar may be reached by e-mail at pastor@caminodeemaus.org for further information. For those who may be interested, Pr. Pilar's Spanish congregation on the Illinois side of the Quad Cities is inviting all to attend their 1:00pm worship service at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moline which will include the Day of the Dead or Dia de los Muertos. This is a lively and vibrant cultural celebration of life and a way to honor deceased loved ones, remembering them with joy and affection.

Informational Article: "Why is it taking so long to get a pastor?" by Pr. Dan Kuckuck, Assistant to the Bishop. Check it out Southeastern Iowa Synod website: seiasynod.org

From the Parish Nurse, Beth Claeys:

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, I wanted to take an opportunity to focus on gratitude.

Being Thankful for What We Do Have: A Christian Perspective

In a world that often encourages us to focus on what is missing, it is easy to overlook the blessings we have. As Christians, gratitude isn't just an attitude - it's a spiritual practice and a profound acknowledgement of God's provision and sovereignty. The Bible continually calls us to be thankful, not just in moments of abundance, but in all circumstances.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.: This verse challenges us to adopt an attitude of gratitude even in trials. Thankfulness aligns our hearts with God's will and reminds us of His ultimate control over our lives.

It's natural to focus on our unmet desires, but when we pause to reflect, we see God's faithfulness in our lives. The roof over our heads, the food on the table, the friends who support us are all evidence of his goodness.

When we choose to be thankful, we shift our focus from what we don't have to what we do. Gratitude helps us see life through the lens of abundance rather than scarcity.

Thankfulness is a form of worship. when we express gratitude, we acknowledge God as the source of every good thing. James 1:17 reminds us "every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.: When we praise God for what we have, we deepen our relationship with Him, recognizing His hand in every aspect of our lives.

How to Cultivate a Thankful Heart

- 1. Start each day with gratitude. Begin your day by thanking God for three things.
- 2. Keep a gratitude journal. Write down blessings every day. Over time you will see a pattern of God's provision and faithfulness.
- 3. Express gratitude to others. Thank those around you - family, friends, and coworkers. A kind word of appreciation not only lifts others, but also reinforces a thankful mindset.
- 4. Pray with Thanksgiving. When bringing requests to God, start by thanking Him for what he has already done.
- 5. Choose contentment. In Philippians 4:11-12 Paul writes about learning to be content in all circumstances. Contentment isn't about denying desires but about trusting God's provision for today while holding hope for tomorrow.

Even in difficult seasons, we can find reasons to give thanks. Trials refine our character, draw us closer to God and reveal His sustaining grace.

(continued) When we focus on the blessings God has already given us, we cultivate joy, peace, and a stronger faith. Let us thank Him for the big things, the small things, and even the things we may not fully understand.

Source: churchletters.org

Social Ministry – Angel Tree for Foster Kids

You will again have the opportunity to choose a tag off our Angel Tree. That tag includes the child's age and their wish list for Christmas. The tree will be up soon since all gifts need to be delivered by November 30.

Prayer Shawl:

We continue to work on the shawls at home. As always, yarn donations are very much appreciated. Thank you to everyone who is making shawls and donating yarn. They are much appreciated by the individuals that receive them – members & friends of our congregation and hospital patients through their chaplaincy program. Any questions, contact Beth Claeys.

JOY Fellowship – November 13th :

Our next gathering time will be Thursday, November 13th at 1:00pm in the lounge. All are welcome. Our guest speaker will be Megan Brown-Seldana with a presentation about The Humility Homes & Services Organization (formerly known as Humility of Mary). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Beth Claeys, Volunteer Parish Nurse.

Theology on Tap – December 2nd :

The next “Theology on Tap” gathering will be on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:00pm. The book that will be discussed is “Two From Galilee: The Story Of Mary And Joseph” by Marjorie Holmes. Amidst the noisy busy holiday season in the community, we will be utilizing our lounge space at the church building and also supporting our food pantry in this season of giving. Those attending are asked to make a donation of \$10 (\$5.00 for meal cost + \$5.00 toward group food pantry gift). A pasta meal with green salad, and bread will be provided. There will be beverages available, but you are free to bring your own specific favorite as well. All are welcome (regardless of whether you read/complete the book or not). If you plan to attend please utilize the sign-up sheet in the St. Mark lounge in order that appropriate group reservation can be made. Also if any unexpected changes would occur those signed up may be notified. This will be the only remaining gathering for 2025. We will resume again in 2026. Contact persons: Beth Claeys or Sue Geise.

Social Ministry- Habitat for Humanity News:

The next Saturday that St. Mark is scheduled for Habitat Lunch provider Day is Saturday, November 22nd. Look for forthcoming menu and signup sheet in the lounge. Thank you for your participation in this social ministry project.

At 10:00 am that same day, November 22nd, the next dedication of a house will occur at 4th and Oak Street. All are welcome to attend.

Grief Support Opportunity:

MercyOne Genesis has started a grief support group. It meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the Genesis East in Conference Room A. The group is led by hospital chaplains and all are welcome.

Social Ministry-St. Mark Food Pantry Sept. Report and Current Update:

- During the month of September there were 257 households/families comprised of 750 individuals served by the St. Mark Food Pantry. This is another increase from the previous month. A total of 2939 pounds of food was donated by businesses (including food rescue program) and individuals. September's purchase from River Bend Food Bank at a discount totalled 2183.
- The need in our community for this ministry continues to be significant and has grown throughout October with projections for November even higher. On Tuesday 10/28 and Wednesday 10/29 alone, over 100 individuals, made up of approximately 400 individuals, were served. The highest days ever. The extra generous donations and trips to the store to restock the empty shelves were significant in the feeding of these many people. (There have been additional inquiries outside of food pantry hours as well.)
- Effective November 15th, the food pantry hours will be adjusted to 10:00 am – 1:00pm. This redistribution of volunteer time will better allow us to have an adequate number of volunteers available during the busiest of the times we are open. There will be one set of 3 hour shifts instead of four sets of 2 hour shift. If you are not available for the full 3 hour shifts any time available is welcome. There are opportunities for persons to restock and pick up food as well. Several long time volunteers are no longer available so if you are interested and/or available please let Linda Ray, Pantry Coordinator, or the office know.
- Thank you to all who continue to donate food items, monetary gifts, and volunteer their time. All contributions to this ministry are greatly appreciated! The food pantry is only one of the ministries of our congregation, but it is a very functional one that uses us as tools/facilitators to share God's love and care with many people.

Thank You – CROP HUNGER WALK: Thank you to all that donated money, PB & jelly and of course those walkers that made the trek across I-74 bridge! We raised \$525. We collected 145 jars of peanut butter & jelly for our St. Mark Food Pantry. Thank you again for your generosity! Social Ministry Committee & Volunteers

Preschool Notes:

We had such a fun time participating in both St. Mark church's annual Trunk or Treat and the Trunk or Treat at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds! A big thank-you to everyone who donated candy and helped make these events such a success — your support was truly appreciated. We also enjoyed hosting a special Family Night for our preschool families. It's always wonderful to come together for fun and memories!

Be sure to follow our Facebook page for more photos and updates.

Evangelical Event:

We will be reaching out to those in our community on November 1 & 2nd. We are one of five Lutheran churches that will share our faith at the Freight House in Davenport. There will be volunteers at tables to give out inspirational bookmarks and information about church locations and service times. *(Thanks to Social Ministry folks who are expanding their calling and doing double duty as an Evangelism team. Pretty much interchangeable in purpose. Invite to learn about and show people God's love and grace.)*

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 1:00pm
(Serving Iowa residents only)

(St. Mark is a member of the Southeastern Iowa Synod - ELCA)

Thank You For Your Commitment!

It is time to start planning for 2026. Please consider your commitment to the future of St. Mark.

You may use this pledge form to express your financial support for 2026. Printed forms are available in the lounge and church office if needed. Also, consider your support by giving your time and talents. Your completed form can be returned to the church office.

Giving Pledge to St. Mark for 2026



Name(s) (print please: _____)

Telephone _____ (cell or landline ?)

Email _____

Address _____

My/Our estimate of giving to St. Mark for 2025 is:

\$ _____ ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ As follows: _____

My/Our planned giving of Time/Talents is:

Envelopes will be sent to you throughout the year unless the office is otherwise notified.
We are unable to make an estimate of giving for 2026...for the following reason (optional)
