

From the Pastor

June 2026

“The Lord is my Shepherd...” Psalm 23:1

This is a Psalm that many of us know by heart or at least we remember parts of it. It is also a piece of scripture that for many brings much comfort and peace. This is a Psalm that seems to touch people throughout the many stages of their lives. We seem to go to this Psalm during times of joy, times of sorrow and grief, times when we need reassurance and when we simply need to hear something that brings hope and comfort.

I know I have shared this before but I'm feeling moved to share it again. When I ponder this Psalm, I remember a woman whose funeral I presided at many years ago. After she died her family was going through papers and found the devotional book she used every day and wanted to share with me one of the pages. It is a paraphrased version of Psalm 23. Her version helped me to hear and think about this Psalm in a new way. I had always looked to it for comfort but now I also look at it as a guide that speaks to the whole of my life.

Psalm 23 always seems to give comfort and strength, but I think this paraphrased version may also provide some new understandings into a scripture that we know so well and sometimes maybe even take for granted. It's simple but it gives some new insights to think about. I am not sure where my friend found this, but I hope it will bring you comfort and may it be helpful in your devotions.

Psalm 23 a paraphrase:

“The Lord is my Shepherd; that's relationship. I shall not want; that's supply. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; that's rest. He leads me beside still waters; that's refreshment. He restores my soul; that's healing. He leads me in the paths of righteousness; that's guidance. For His namesake; that's purpose. Yea, though I walk through the shadow of death; that's testing. I will fear no evil; that's protection. For thou art with me; that's faithfulness. Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me; that's discipline. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; that's hope. Thou anointest my head with oil; that's consecration. My cup runneth over; that's abundance. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; that's blessing. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord; that's security. Forever; that's eternity. God loves us! God cares for us! God saves us!”

Thanks be to God!

God's peace and blessings. Pastor Janine

End of Interim Call Letter:

Dear Good People of St. Mark,

I share with you this letter as I retire and continue to discern where God is leading me.

The past two years I have experienced many changes both personally and professionally. There has been joy and fun, but it has also been emotionally draining and challenging for me with little time spent on processing all that has taken place. It began with the energy and emotions involved in participating in the Holy Closure of Calvary Lutheran Church's ministry. Soon after I began my interim time with you here at St. Mark, which has been a true blessing to me. Less than six months later my husband Dennis died, and I didn't take time off to simply be in my grief. (I came back to work about three weeks later.) And now in April my sister, Grechen, died and I have not been able to process all the feelings and emotions connected to that. Needless to say, all of these events have left me very weary.

So, after prayerful thought and conversation with my children and respected beloved friends and Bishop Current, I have decided I need some time away to discern where and what God might be calling me to next. Thus, at this time, I will be completing my ministry here at St. Mark's on June 1, 2026.

I truly have enjoyed my time with you and the relationships that we have developed with each other. I have learned much in my time among you. You, as beloved people of God, have much to offer our community. God has and will continue to use each of you and the gifts you bring to ministry. Know that I keep you in prayer as you move forward in the calling of a new pastor and your ministry to each other and the community.

God's blessings and peace to all of you. Pr. Janine

Greetings From Beth Claeys, Lay Minister:

This month I would like to share a little about my background. The majority of my nursing career was spent in oncology nursing and hospice. I have always had an interest in Pastoral Care, and working with oncology and hospice patients, I saw how important spiritual care was during their illness. While I was working at hospice, I took CPE (clinical pastoral education) and completed my masters degree in chaplaincy. I did chaplain visits and bereavement support for hospice patients and their families. After I retired, I worked at the hospital as a chaplain.

During this time of transition, I will be available for pastoral care. Please know that the hospitals no longer notify churches of patient admissions. If you would like the church to be notified of a hospital admission or health concern, please call the church office. If there is an emergency pastoral care need, please call me directly on my personal cell # 563-940-0899. If you would like to meet with me, I will not have regularly scheduled office hours, but I am glad to be available by appointment.

There are prayer shawls on the rack in the Narthex. If you know of someone who would like one, please take one for them.

Bunco – Friday, June 5th:

Bunco will meet Friday, June 5th at 6:30. Everyone is welcome. If you don't know how to play, we will teach you. Please bring a snack to share. A freewill offering will be collected. If any questions, the contact person is Beth Claeys.

Joy Fellowship Picnic – Noon on Thursday, June 11th

Please consider joining us for *Joy Fellowship* on Thursday, June 11th at Noon. The group decided to have a picnic lunch as summer has arrived. Nice opportunity to spend some time with church friends over lunch and enjoy the prayer garden (weather permitting). In the event of undesirable weather, we will picnic in the lounge. A freewill offering will be collected. Contact person: Beth Claeys.

Social Ministry- Habitat for Humanity News:

The next date and sign-up for providing lunch for volunteer workers at Habitat for Humanity worksites will be available on the information table in the lounge in early June. If you are interested in following the project update news it is posted on the Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities Facebook page. There has recently been a house dedication and several ramps completed in the community. Any questions, contact Maureen Currier.

Foot Clinic – June 1st:

The next foot clinic is the morning of Monday, June 1st – by appointment only. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Baderstadt. The cost is \$35. Suggest bringing a towel.

Theology on Tap (a.k.a. Book Group) – Wednesday, June 3rd:

The next group gathering will be June 3rd after the rush of Memorial Day holiday and most graduation events. We will not be meeting in May. Note we are meeting on a WEDNESDAY rather than a Tuesday. Gathering time will be the usual 6:00pm and we will be at Rudy's in the East Village of Davenport. Individual may order as they wish off of the menu. Book Discussion: *The Choice* by author Karen Kingsbury. *All are welcome for fellowship, regardless of if you have read/ finished the book or not.* Please use the lounge sign-up sheet, or contact the office, so that reservations can be arranged for size of the group. Contact person: Beth Claeys.

Financial Report:

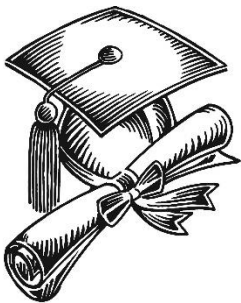
General Fund Summary for April
Weekly Offerings \$21,626
Expenses \$24,294

Income through April 2026
Income Received Including Supplemental Resources \$107,597
Amount Expected to Maintain Budget \$133,907

Birdies For Charity:

At the recommendation of the finance committee, St. Mark will once again be participating in the John Deere Classic Birdies for Charity program which provides fundraising opportunities for non-profits in the Quad City area. There is a percentage match by Birdies for Charity that returns to St. Mark in addition to the full amount of the pledge/donation. Forms are available on the lounge table, in the church office or here in the newsletter. Contact person for any questions is Barb Jakubowski.

Iglesia Camino de Emaus (Spanish speaking congregation) meets Sunday afternoons at 5:30pm where they share space in the St. Mark building. Pastor Pilar may be reached by e-mail at pastor@caminodeemaus.org or by call/text at 563-296.0166 for further information.

Congratulations Graduates!

James Schumann graduated from Eastern Iowa Community College with an Associate of Science degree. James is planning to study mechanical engineering at the University of Northern Iowa this fall.

Jacob Schumann graduated from Eastern Iowa Community College with an Associate of Arts degree. Jacob will also be a graduate from Davenport North. Both boys plan to attend the. Jacob will be studying at the University of Northern Iowa in the fall to be a science teacher.

Both James and Jacob are the sons of Julie and Chip Schumann.

2026 Prayer Garden:

Below is the list of gifts that were honored during the Memorial Weekend dedication on May 24th. Thank you to Julie and her helpers for nurturing nature's beauty. If you would still like to contribute flowering plants or supplies going forward please contact courtyard coordinator, Julie Ginn at 563-320-0735.

2026 Prayer Garden Dedications

These gifts have been given for the prayer garden.

- ❖ In loving memory of Dennis Bass by Pam Bass, Jodee & Cody Williams
 - ❖ In loving memory of Mel & Dee Misfeldt by Pam Bass, Jodee & Cody Williams
 - ❖ In loving memory of Virgil & Genevieve Bass by Pam Bass, Jodee & Cody Williams
 - ❖ In memory of Ira and his green thumb by Dolly Dunsworth
 - ❖ In memory and honor of John Kroeger by Shirley Kroeger
 - ❖ In appreciation of the beauty God has given us by Dave & Nancy Beaderstadt
 - ❖ In memory of beloved husband Larry and our son, Brad by Patti Roelandt
 - ❖ In memory of Louise Goodale by Cheryl, Bailey and Brenda Hampton
 - ❖ In memory of my parents, John & June Olds by Diane Fellman
 - ❖ In appreciation of volunteers that serve our community of faith by Maureen Currier
 - ❖ In memory of Art & Audrey Hines by Sue, Steve and Joyce
 - ❖ In memory of Lisa Wescom by her Bunco friends
 - ❖ In memory of Jim, Jane, Dave, Glenn & Raylynn by Ileen Landhauser
 - ❖ In memory of Lisa by the Wescom Family
 - ❖ In appreciation of Pastor Janine and her ministry with St. Mark by Sue Geise
 - ❖ In memory of my dad John Kroeger by Teresa Johnson
 - ❖ In memory of husband Jim by Kathy Sparbel
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June Worship Schedule and Notes:

9:30am Sunday Worship In person each week in the sanctuary. There is a schedule of worship leaders through August with Beth Claeys, Lay Minister and Pr. Randy Willers. Schedule of services with and without communion will vary but typically will be communicated in advance.

Online Church – Weekly online link available per e-mail or Facebook or per YouTube search. The 9:30am service will be streamed live or may be viewed at a later time/day.

4:00pm Sunday Worship will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of June and July in the chapel (June 7th & 21st and July 5th & 19th). Beth Claeys, Lay Minister, will lead these worships. At least for June, there will not be communion.

Social Ministry Committee:

Social Ministry does not have any special projects planned for June and July. We will continue to provide lunches for Habitat for Humanity volunteers. We will of course continue to take care of the ever-growing needs of our food pantry. Near the end of July we will meet to finalize project plans discussed at our April meeting. Thank you to all that continue to give of themselves in the service of others.

Preschool:

Looking forward to our summer programming beginning June 8th. As we have celebrated graduation for this school year, we are already preparing for the next. If you know anyone interested in touring our facility or registering, please have them contact us at dgstmarkpreschool@hotmail.com or call 563-326-5060 and leave a message. We have some very exciting things in the works for next school year!

July LIFE: All information for the July issue of the LIFE newsletter is to be submitted to the office by noon on Tuesday, June 23rd to be included. Any questions contact Sue Geise.

St. Mark Directory:

Thank you to the many whom have already done so, but you have not yet completed a form or verified your current contact information for the forthcoming St. Mark membership directory, please contact the church office by e-mail, phone, note, or stopping in to review your information. Contact person: Sue Geise

For nearly a year now a new St. Mark directory has been in the works. As easy as this sounds, it is a multi-layer process made more challenging with the changes in long-term staff several years ago and their depth of knowledge. To clarify, this will not be a vendor produced pictorial directory, but an in-house printed informational only directory.

In order to build and maintain our St. Mark community and rely increasingly on volunteers, it is essential that we are being able to be communicate effectively with one another. As people enter or work with our St. Mark community, they need to know how to reach people and have assistance with learning names.

Pickleball:

Time to get together for enjoyment of the out-of-doors and the company of friends! We have resume gathering to play pickleball on Wednesdays at 4:00pm . We will meet at Northwest Park. All are welcome regardless of skill level. It is a group-led activity, but if you do have any questions, you may contact Linda Ray.

Lounge:

The lounge chairs have recently been steam-cleaned thanks to Kyle Crews and Barb Jakubowski. Thank you for the donation of time and materials to complete this needed task!

Donations of items that would be welcomed for use in the lounge area are rolls of paper towels for the kitchen area and boxes of tissues (for several areas). Any of these items donated may be left in the lounge kitchen area or the office.

Polling Site – June 2nd

The St Mark Gym will once again be a polling site for the primary elections on Tuesday, June 2nd. The gym will be reserved for set up Monday, June 3rd as well. (No youth basketball those evenings.)

Humane Society-

Thank you Received:



Thank you all for the amazing donation drive you did for the Humane Society of Scott County. It means so much to us to be able to restock on vital supplies and provide the pets that need help with what they need! You're all amazing!

- Erika

2802 W Central Park Ave, Davenport, IA 52804 | 563.388.6655

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.
(Closed Mondays and 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

Council Corner – The following was discussed at the May 21, 2026 meeting:

With Pastor Janine's retirement effective 1 June, Beth Claeys and Pastor Randy Willers will cover services through August. Beth will continue to lead worship at our 4pm Sunday services. Pastoral care will be provided by Beth, and if she is unavailable, Pastor Dan Witkowski will help. For now, funerals will be taken care of, but weddings and baptisms will be placed on hold.

Pastor reported that the Synod Assembly went well. She, Sue Geise, and Beth Claeys attended. Bishop Current was re-elected for another 6 years.

Conversations will continue between St. Mark and Zion (Pastor Clark) about how we can partner again in the future with our neighbors at Zion.

June 11th is Faith & Family Night at the Ballpark. Tickets can be purchased for a Bandits game, and will include voucher for a hot dog, chips, and a soda. Information will be posted in the lounge with a sign up sheet. If you have questions, please see Nancy Beaderstadt for more details.

Linda Cook and Kathy Sparbel continue to work with our Augustana Web Guild management team to refine our church website. The plan is to have about 8 pages reflecting who we are, what we have to offer, and to highlight the outreach and various programs we have.

We continue to discuss the 1st and 3rd Sunday worship service. Beth will lead the services in June and July, but they will be moved to the chapel. In August, it was decided after much discussion, to hold this service once a month, remaining in the chapel. Beth is looking into how communion can be continued.

The council will meet Wednesday, May 27th, to review and update our current St. Mark constitution. All recommendations will be sent to the Synod to make sure our changes are acceptable.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 18, at 6:30 pm in the conference room. Any member of St. Mark is always welcome to attend the council meetings as a guest.

LUTHERAN SUMMER DAY CAMP

LOCATED AT:
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
18137 CRISWELL ST.
BETTENDORF, IA.

COST: \$50
SCHOLARSHIPS &
FAMILY DISCOUNTS
AVAILABLE!

**JUNE
15TH -19TH
9AM-3PM**
**BUS TRANSPORTATION
AVAILABLE**

Bus Schedule:

From Zion
Lutheran Church
1216 W.8th St.

Departs: 8AM
Returns: 4PM

From Grace
Lutheran Church
1140 E. High St.

Departs: 8:15AM
Returns: 3:45PM

ACTIVITIES:

ARTS & CRAFTS / FUN SPORTS
BIBLE STUDY / GAMES / WORSHIP

Scan QR code
to register



**AGES
4 years - 6th grade**

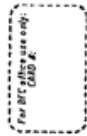
QUESTIONS:
CONTACT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 563-322-0769

St Mark Lutheran Church

CHARITY SOLICITED FOR

1612

BIRD NUMBER



I PLEDGE TO DONATE:

\$ _____ to the charity noted above. (one time, flat donation amount) All pledges due by July 1, 2026.

GUESS THE BIRDIES TO WIN A TWO YEAR LEASE ON A 2026 LEXUS!

I guess that _____ birdies will be made.

Only one grand prize will be awarded. Void where prohibited by law. Guesses due to BFC office by July 1.

BIRDIES SCORED BY YEAR

1,918 (2017)	N/A (2020)	1,929 (2023)
2,355 (2018)	1,905 (2021)	2,315 (2024)
2,091 (2019)	2,041 (2022)	2,102 (2025)

WAKE 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 _____

*By providing an email, you are opting in to email updates from Birdies for Charity.

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

WHY BIRDIES FOR CHARITY?

- Every cent you donate goes directly to your chosen charity!
- We will match your contribution by at least 5%, and up to 10% from our Bonus Fund!
- For your tax records, we are recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization!
- By participating in the contest, YOU have the opportunity 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 2026 LEXUS!

One lucky supporter of the SMART LEXUS OF QUAD CITIES John Deere Classic's Birdies for Charity program will win a 2 year lease on a 2026 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 July 1.
- 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