

SAINT MARK'S EPISTLE

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Ponderings

Brothers and Sisters, fellow disciples in Christ,

“What are you looking for,” Jesus asks of his future disciples in John 1:38. This was asked of Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, and another disciple, after Jesus had been baptized and John pointed them to the “Lamb of God.” This was the beginning of Christ's calling of his disciples.

Many people will come to Jesus looking for something. Physical needs, Spiritual needs, love, hope, assurance, forgiveness, reconciliation... We read all about *those* people and *their* answers but how often do we hear Jesus posing that question to us? If we ever have, our response might well be different. If we haven't, why not? The bible is the living word, not just a history of long ago. How often do you or I put ourselves in to the place of those with questions, problems, or needs?

We can certainly go through life without asking the question, it won't change Jesus' love steadfast for us. But not asking, “What are you looking for?” may make it harder to see where the answer to the question has been or is now. If we don't know what we are seeking, how will we know when we find it?

Often our answers will be a what answer, but his first disciples, Andrew and the other, asked where Jesus was staying in order that they might go there, too. What does that answer, mean to you, fellow disciples? Your sister in Christ, *Pr. Karen*

Visit our page on
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We welcomed Natalie Quinn Gutzmann to St. Mark's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on July 14th. Her parents are Quinn & Nathan Gutzmann.

God's Blessings to Natalie and her family .

On July 21st, we welcomed Randy & Kiley Camden as new members of St. Mark's and also their daughter Scottie Rae Camden through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. God's Blessings to their family.

Congratulations to Christy and Brad Glissman who were united in marriage at St Mark's on July 7, 2024.

May the Lord bless your marriage and keep you forever in His love.

WORDS OF THANKS AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS



We said goodbye to Leonard Janke on June 17th. Our sympathies go out to Leonard's family and friends.

Thank you Pr. Priscilla for your leadership during this difficult time.

The funeral service for Fern Kramer was held at St. Mark's on July 26th.

Our sympathy to her family and friends.

Thank You!

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Helping Hands, for your generous donation to our quilting group. We appreciate the helping hands of Karen Westerhold and Traudel Reppert who have joined our quilting group.

Thank you to everyone who planned and helped with this year's Pender Community VBS! It was a great success and fun was had by all!



Treasurer's Report for the Month of June 2024

GENERAL FUND

Balance on hand 05/31/24	\$	359,054.73
Income	\$	7,697.60
Expenses	\$	(48,401.30)
Balance on hand 06/30/24	\$	318,351.03

The time has come for the children to return to school, and with school returning to session, so too does Sunday School resume. Rally Sunday will be September 8th with Sunday School starting at 9:00 AM ****Blessing of the packs will be at the service on August 18th.**** **We encourage your child to bring their backpacks to the service to be blessed by Pastor Karen.**

To help with communication of Sunday School updates we will use the remind app. If interested in being added to remind the app to get text alerts select <https://www.remind.com/join/hhamart> and we will add you to the St Mark's remind list.

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

We are looking at options for sending out the monthly newsletters. The cost of postage and paper /toner along with the time it takes to prepare it for mailing has increased, and many recipients say they do not even look at it. In order to receive the bulk mailing rate we are required to mail at least 200 copies— many that go in the trash. Ideally, we would like to email it to those that have this capability but will certainly accommodate those that do not have access to email.

If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter— please do one of the following:

Email saintmarkspender@abbnebraska.com and send us your email address or put your name & address on the sheet at the entrance to church.

If you want to continue with a mailed copy.....please put your name on the sign-up sheet at the entrance to church call the church office (402-385-3340) or text/call Jane Tonjes (402-922-3946) and leave a message with your name.

IF WE GET NO RESPONSE, YOU WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE NEWSLETTER LIST.

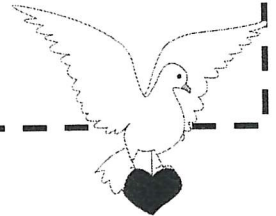
CHURCH REDEDICATION / RALLY SUNDAY

Mark your calendars for September 8th, when we will have a Rededication Service to celebrate the completion of the fire damage restoration. The last rededication service was held in 1999 to commemorate 50 years since the construction of the church. This fall will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the construction of our church.

We are so thankful to the fire department volunteers for saving our church, to our church council for their leadership in dealing with the insurance and construction, to Pastor for her guidance and adapting to the service changes, and to the many hands that have helped throughout the project. We will enjoy worshipping together in our beautiful church and education unit for many years to come..

Sunday School Rally Day will also be held on the 8th. Sunday School will be at 9:00 A.M. that morning with the service following at 10:00 A.M. The Sunday School bell choir and the St. Mark's choir will participate in this special service.

A meal will be served following the church service.



Confirmation will return on Wednesday, Sept 4th, immediately after school for the 2024-25 school year. Students from St. Peter and St. Mark entering 6th grade will join 7th graders for the new year. The program is for two years, but students are confirmed in their academic year. The second year is to learn about being the church and is intended to help young people to put their faith into action. Students whose academic year is their first are asked to promise to attend the second. The students will be confirmed on Reformation Sunday, 2025.

Camp Carol Joy Holling held their 36th Annual Quilt Auction July 27th.

Thanks to Jenny Tyrrell who donated and stitched our quilt and to Connie Schnier who quilted and bound it.

