

# SAINT MARK'S EPISTLE

## St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

302 S. Norris Ave. POB 580

Pender, NE 68047

E-mail: saintmarkspender@abbnebraska.com

Church Office: 402-385-3340

Pastor Karen McNeill- Utecht

Cell Phone: (402) 385-8825

Council President : Jaima Geisert

Church Secretary: Jane Tonjes

(402) 922-3946

JANUARY 2025

## INSIDE

January 2025 Calendar

Pastor's Ponderings

Financial Report

Birthdays

Anniversaries

2025 Annual Meeting

2024 Reports Due



## *Pastor's Ponderings*

*“Que sera, sera, whatever will be, will be. The future's not ours to see. Que sera, sera.”*(Lyrics: Raymond B. Evans, Jay Livingston )

### **Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,**

New Year's is almost universally a time to look forward. The year to come has not been experienced yet. It is full of possibilities. Yet, the future doesn't happen in a vacuum. What we look forward to in the future depends on what we have experienced in the past. For some the future is full of hopes and for others fears. They are hallmarks of expectation.

As Christians, we too are captive to “hopes and fears” when we look to the future. The bible tells stories of terrible things that happen to good people, of things that are unfair and unjust. We also hear stories of human sinfulness and with a sigh, we can't help but be reminded of our own. We hear the promises of God to watch out for us and save us. Yet we also see that often things don't get better as fast as we would like and sometimes it takes years and even generations before we can see God's hand at work in making things right. No wonder we have hopes and fears!

In his Christmas hymn, “O, Little Town of Bethlehem”, Father Phillips Brooks aptly observed, “the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” However our experience of life shapes our predictions for 2025, we understand there is nothing new under the sun. There will be both bad and good as there has always been.

But that is all the more reason for hope! In spite of, and perhaps because of, our recollection of the past, we can rest assured that God is at work in our future. Jesus arrived when it was the right time, the faithful hoped for the best and took comfort in God's loving intention, even when times were hard. They chose to remain faithful.

For the next 365 days, Jesus will enter into our highs and lows, abiding with us, forgiving us, renewing us, and leading us, so that we may delight in God's will and by his grace, walk in his ways.

“Whatever will be, will be,” is for sure. Still, we can help bring about the peace and good will the world craves, by living into our baptisms and remaining faithful. And so we pray, “O come to us, abide with us our Lord Emmanuel.”, to the source of all hope and calmer of all fears, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Blessed New Year, my friends,

*Dr. Karen*

## ANNUAL MEETING

St. Mark's Annual meeting will be held on Sunday **January 19th @ 11:00am** following church. \*\*\*\*\* Please get your reports and yearly statement into the office as soon as possible so they can be audited and printed. We are in need of two people to serve on the church council. If this is something you would be willing to do, please let Pastor Karen or a church council member know.



Thank you to Rhonda Heise for preparing the delicious soups, and for everyone who helped with the dinner, quilt auction and bazaar. With your support \$ 1,089.00 was raised to support our quilting projects and \$493.00 for the Sunday School.

Thank You to Christine Dregalla, Kira Swinton and Haley Haymart for all of their hard work on the Children's Christmas Program this year! The program was wonderful and the kids were amazing.

***Thank You!***



### GENERAL FUND

Balance on hand 11/01/24	\$ 40,193.95
Income	\$ 16,389.79
Expense	\$ (14,875.94)
Balance on hand 11/30/24	\$ 41,707.80

### JANUARY

#### ACOLYTES/READERS

Jan 5— Tia Hansen  
 Jan 12— Liberty Swinton  
 Jan 19— Chloe Ferris  
 Jan 26th— St. Peter's  
                   Eli Harrell


#### HS TECH STUDENT

Jan 5— Zander Welsh  
 Jan 12— Marcus Dregalla  
 Jan 19— Grant Geisert



# January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! 	2 5-7 pm Food Pantry @ Christ United Church	3	4
5 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am—St. Mark's  Facebook Service 1:2pm CH98	6 Epiphany of Our Lord Pastor's Day Off	7 Clergy Text Study	8 Quilting 2:30 Confirmation 5pm Council St Peter's	9	10	11
12 Baptism of our Lord 9-00 am Sunday School 10:00 .AM—ST. Mark's w/ Choir  Facebook Service 1:2pm CH 98	13 Pastor's Day Off	14 Clergy Text Study	15 2:30 Confirmation 6:00 PM St. Mark's Council Meeting	16 10:30 am Prairie Breeze Service	17	18 10am-12pm Food Pantry @ Christ United Church
19 9-00 am Sunday School 10:00 am—at St. Mark's 11:00 am .Annual Meeting  Facebook Service 1:2pm CH 98	20 Pastor's Day Off NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 Clergy Text Study	22 Quilting 2:30 Confirmation	23	24	25
26 9am Sunday School St. Mark's 9am Pancake Breakfast St. Peter's 10:00 am—at St. Peter's .Annual meeting after church	27 Pastor's Day Off	28 Clergy Text Study	29 2:30 Confirmation	30	31	

**ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
302 S. Norris Avenue  
P.O. Box 580  
Pender, NE 68047

US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT # 12  
PENDER NE 68047

**Forwarding Service Requested**

**To this believer in God's love:**



## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

Jan 1: **Matt & Jamie Torczon**

Jan 4: Doug Johnson  
**Lee & Jane Tonjes**

Jan 5: Mercede Roberts

Jan 6: Kerrie Renter

Jan 7: Alan Doht  
Todd VonSeggern

Jan 9: Marty Prokop  
Bennett Lamplot

Jan 11: Colin Ross

Jan 12: Travis Dunn  
Rodney Zvacek

Jan 13: Karen Hamm  
Carla Urbanec

Jan 15: **Bob & Nancy Beckman**  
Jan 17: Matthew Dolezal

Jan 19: **Harlan & Judy Gathje**

Jan 21: Christy Glissman

Jan 23: Lorraine Lander

**William & Lisa Reppert**

Jan 24: Mandy Johnson

Jan 25: Lincoln Johnson

Jan 27: Mikki Schellpeper

Jan 29: Sarah Sebade

Jan 30: Gene Kai

Jan 31: Michelle Hallstrom

