



<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103:11-12

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Hello Saints of St. Mark!

I have been and continue to be filled with humble praise and thanks to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for His faithfulness to us in working His miraculous grace over, above, and even through the endless array of novel challenges that have arisen in every day ministry over the past eight months or so. The success of our ministry here together despite all of the obstacles presented by this pandemic is also due to the tireless and faithful efforts of the wonderful staff here at St. Mark who have persevered and gone above and beyond for our Lord and for you. On top of it all, they have to put up with me everyday, and that is deserving of the highest praise!

Beginning with this St. Mark Spirit Newsletter, I am excited to start a monthly Staff and Ministry Updates section where you will hear from our staff and a bit of what they have been up to.

Remember also, that The Spirit Newsletter will now be published every other week. Incidental update emails will be sent out on the off-weeks as needed.

Wonderful ministry is happening here! Would you pray and seek how the Lord would have you get more involved? We are called to serve our God together!"

Your Servant in Christ,  
 Pastor Jay



Connecting People to Jesus

StMarkOmaha.org



facebook.com/stmarkomaha  
 twitter.com/stmarkomaha  
 instagram.com/stmarkomaha  
 youtube.com/c/StMarkOmahaLCMS

## Water & the WORD...we have SIX Baptisms coming up!



“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” Acts 2:38-39. Please pray for all who are preparing for baptism!

# STAFF AND MINISTRY UPDATES

## “So, what have you been up to?”



### PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE

The Lord has been so good to us! Despite all of the difficulties surrounding the launch and initial start of a brand new Childcare Center in the midst of a pandemic, the Lord has provided 50 wonderful children in our Preschool and Childcare (with more tours and inquiries coming in every week). Preschool classes run from 8:30-11:30 daily and we have 11 children that take part in before and after Preschool care. School started on September 1st and the children have been busy making new friends, learning the rules, and enjoying the playground, in addition to learning all about our awesome God and Savior Jesus! In August, the former youth room was remodeled for the Pre-K 5 class. It is great to have two classrooms side by side! Stop by and check out the great window coverings that Chip Thompson designed for the windows and doors that connect the room to the gym. If you haven't yet done so, like and follow our Facebook Page where we post pictures of all the exciting things going on every day!

Julie Kyriess, *Preschool & Childcare Center Director*



### CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

We are excited to see so many new faces and families at St. Mark! Due to the COVID-19 shutdowns, many events under the umbrella of Children and Family ministry were abruptly postponed during the spring and summer months. However, Summer Sunday School continued in two forms: in-person learning and a packet pick-up option for at-home learning.

In recent weeks, Sunday morning learning for kids has expanded to include two multi-age classrooms. Additionally, staffed childcare has reopened during the 10:30 service and the Parents' Room has been freshened-up for infants and toddlers who remain with their parents during the service.

It is important to note that safety procedures are in place within each area to promote health and wellness for team members, kids, and parents. Kingdom Kids leaders are excited to meet children and share Jesus with them!

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!** If you have a heart for families, children, and the growth of St. Mark, please contact me to find out how you might get involved in family ministry in ways that support and celebrate your God-given gifts and passions.

Kirsten Suhr, *Director of Children and Family Ministry*





## ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

As the Lord continues to bless the work of His saints here at St. Mark and we continue to grow and expand in our ministry, the need

for updates and refurbishments to some of our outdated operational systems and administrative operations has proven to be a priority. Thanks to the efforts and contributions of many in our congregation, we have been able to meet our needs and ensure our ability to successfully manage the demands of ministry success into the future.

We recently completed an extensive project during which we installed a new/expanded door buzzer system with video, a new phone system, and an upgraded network. These changes were part of a much-needed security and technology update as we expand and increase enrollment in our Preschool and Childcare, as well as to replace obsolete technology and equipment that proved a hindrance to efficient communication.

The Echo/IMMPACT House (College and Immigrant ministry) located on 90th and Pacific has undergone a significant facelift thanks to numerous volunteers who helped with cleaning out, painting, repairs, gardening, and many other tasks that are too numerous to mention. Thanks to all who helped us to prepare to kick off these two new important ministries for our church! We are already seeing the fruit of our labors as both Impact Immigrant Ministries and ECHO College Ministry are well underway thanks to the accessibility and usability of this ministry space.

Kelly Thompson, *Director of Administrative Operations*    Daren Clark, *Facility Technician*



## MORE MINISTRY UPDATES ON THE NEXT PAGE (CHIP GOT A LITTLE WORDY)



**The Omaha World Herald has changed the "From the Pulpit" feature to Sundays.**

Pastor Jay's article will appear this Sunday, October 18th. Watch for it!

## The time for Parish Leadership Council (PLC) elections is fast approaching.

The PLC consists of up to nine voting members, elected at large by the Voters' Assembly. In accordance with Bylaw 11, a nominating committee is being formed to develop a slate of candidates for the positions to be elected this year.

Congregation members may recommend candidates. The nominating form is available in the Church office and on the St. Mark website. Please return the completed nomination forms to me via the Church office or send to the email address included on the form. **Nominations will close next week (October 18, 2020), four weeks prior to the Annual Voters' Meeting, scheduled in November.**

Sincerely, *Chuck Kuntz, PLC Vice President*



**Download the Form Here!**



## CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

In all the right ways, my first year working here at St. Mark has been a whirlwind! Though, Pastor Jay did warn me, “Buckle up! We’re trying to keep up with the Lord.” I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the staff and congregation to improve the way we get the Word out about all the great ministries here at St. Mark, and connect people to Jesus.

The past 10 months of pandemic-proclamation of the Gospel have made improving and stabilizing our online streaming the most critical need early on. You’ve all been patient with us through all the blips and glitches along the way; and because it is technology, it’ll always have its gremlins. Better equipment, updating design/display of the visuals (a weekly activity), and a new software program for projecting in the sanctuary and online have hopefully provided you with an ever-improving worship experience.

**A BIG thanks to our Worship Tech and A/V volunteers** who work so hard behind the scenes to make all of this come together so well! (We’re still looking for more volunteers by the way).

We are currently working on making similar improvements to the streaming of Pastor Jay’s 9:15 Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings. Which brings me to a bit of a tangent...forgive me. **If you haven’t watched and/or attended this class, I cannot encourage or exhort you enough!** This is where we really dig in to God’s Word together (usually directly within the context of what’s being preached that Sunday). I’m encouraged by how it’s grown again now that we can be there in person (socially-distanced of course). In my opinion, if you aren’t attending, online or otherwise, you are really missing out on an opportunity to learn, share and grow deeper in your understanding. Oh, and donuts!

Website management is also one of my weekly, and often daily, responsibilities. Did you know we have 5 ministry websites right now in ADDITION to our Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter media channels?

1. [www.stmarkomaha.org](http://www.stmarkomaha.org) – St Mark Home Website
2. [www.daycareomaha.org](http://www.daycareomaha.org) – Preschool & Childcare Website
3. [www.echojc.com](http://www.echojc.com) – ECHO College Ministry Website
4. [www.immpactomaha.com](http://www.immpactomaha.com) – IMMPACT Immigrant Ministry Website
5. [www.jly.life](http://www.jly.life) – Jesus Loves You Campaign Website

Of course, working on the St. Mark Spirit Newsletter has been an ongoing effort as well. Updating the format and doing the visual layout and design has been a rewarding process. I hope it’s a useful tool in staying connected to your church.

One of my favorite “jobs,” if I dare call it that, is having the privilege of being on our weekly radio broadcast ministry with Pastor Jay, **The Eternal Connection!** I am amazed that I even get to be a part of this. If you would have asked me a year ago if I was going to be actually “on” the radio weekly, I think I may have fallen off my chair laughing. God has a way of pushing you places you never even thought of, doesn’t He? It’s been a privilege to serve with Pastor Jay, and as I get more comfortable behind the microphone (it’s quite intimidating at first), I pray it’s a useful tool in sharing Jesus to folks that may have never considered stepping foot in a physical church before. God willing it’s transforming hearts through His Word.

**JLY** was a thrill to launch this year as well; inspired by something Pastor Jay said during a Bible class last year. Pastor and I have been working on creating an annual campaign that we hope to share with other congregations in the next few years (every JuLY). It’s a simple message, but I think it resonates well, the truth that His Truth really is simple to share. I hope you’ve been blessed by it, and I hope you’ll come along as we try to expand it in the future.



I could keep going, but I think I’ll save some for the next edition. I am truly blessed to be able to serve the people of St. Mark. If you have questions, comments, or ideas please send me a note (or stop in and bring cookies!). God’s richest blessings to you!

Chip Thompson, *Director of Creative Communications*

# NEW MEMBERSHIP

Are you thinking about becoming a member of St. Mark?

We'd love to welcome you into our church family! Installation Sunday is coming up in a few weeks, so if you're interested (even if not attending in person), please contact Pastor Jay at [ejay@stmarkomaha.org](mailto:ejay@stmarkomaha.org).



# AHRRRRRRRRRRR YOU READY FOR SOME TRUNK OR TREAT FUN?!

There be treasure in the St. Mark parking lot for the kids from 3:30pm - 4:45pm on Saturday, October 31st (yep, Halloween!)

Bring the family by, see the pirate ship and grab yourselves some handfuls of pirate's loot!

If you'd like to help out, that be mighty kind of ya matey! Join our swashbucklin' crew by contacting Julie, Kirsten or Mr. Chip. **Decorate a trunk, hand out candy, run the corn-hole game OR donate some candy for the Jolly Roger!**

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS** by Pastor Jay - **Subscribe to get these by email here!**

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



**OCTOBER 24TH**  
**3PM • FELLOWSHIP HALL**

(You can also sign-up for the Nov 7th **Box PACKING Party**-- the form is on the OCC Table in the Gathering Space)

# 'ÉXHO COLLEGE MINISTRY

Every Tuesday starting next week, Oct 20th at the Echo Base Ministry House (90th and Pacific)... **TACO TUESDAYS!** If you're a college student and want to join in on some great food, fun and fellowship, contact Regan Burke at [echo@stmarkomaha.org](mailto:echo@stmarkomaha.org) or (402) 769-9495.



## The 2020-2021 Confirmation for 7th and 8th Grade is Underway!

If you are interested in having your 7th or 8th grader join the class, please contact Pastor Jay at

[ejay@stmarkomaha.org](mailto:ejay@stmarkomaha.org).

*"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." --Proverbs 22:6*



CONFIRMATION

# With SO MUCH Going on at St Mark... We REALLY Need People to Help Make Things Happen!

We need volunteers for:



**Sunday School**



**Sunday Worship  
Childcare & Nursery**



**Worship Tech**



**Greeters & Ushers**



**Preschool/Childcare  
Volunteer**



**Altar Guild**

**Contact Pastor Jay or one of the church staff to help!**

## For week of 10/12

We are now meeting at church in the new youth room. Use the lower southwest door #9 to enter.

If you can't join us in person, look for the Zoom link in your reminder email. If you are not on the email list, contact Jack Swanda at [jswanda@cox.net](mailto:jswanda@cox.net).

This week we follow up with last week's episode 24 of The Eternal Connection, the last in the series on "Essential Faith". Pastor Jay and Chip discussed Eschatology - The End Times. What is truth and what is myth? When did the End Times begin? If you missed it, you can find here: <https://subspla.sh/dgmq8xm>

**Verse of the Week:** Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Quote of the Week:** Paul David Tripp: Every human relationship is marked by broken promises, weakness and failure, but God's promises are sure; He is never weak and will never fail us.

**Fun Fact of the Week:** Spelling bees are common only in countries where English is spoken because, in most other languages, spelling is too predictable.



**PROJECT  
HOPE FOOD  
DRIVE**



The Executive Director of Project Hope, Veda Keebler, has asked the members of St. Mark to collect canned yams, miniature marshmallows, and tubs of cream cheese frosting. She set a goal of 200 of each item for their Thanksgiving Meal Program! **Bring your items to the Gathering Space by Sunday, Nov 1st.**

This Week on  
**The Eternal Connection:**  
**"Christianese"**  
**The Language of Salvation**

**ON AIR**

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## Oct 1

Lisa Jones

## Oct 2

Denise Duvall  
Kay Rasmussen  
Harold Willis II

## Oct 3

Jordan Boetcher

## Oct 4

Tonya Isaac

## Oct 6

Alexander Nichols  
Henry Taft  
John Waller

## Oct 7

Johnnie Dunn  
George Harper  
Mildred Walenz

## Oct 8

Korey Collins

## Oct 10

Leo Venteicher

## Oct 11

Leighton Graalfs  
Betty Koppit  
Nathan Platt  
Deanna Ringler  
Kinslee Watson

## Oct 12

Robert Boetcher  
Kenneth Gieselmann  
Alex Houser  
Kaia Musgjerd  
Kimberly Ostermeyer  
Shirley Rettig

## Oct 13

Deeann Goeser  
Avery Kesar  
Tiffany Martaindale  
Judy Nekonchuk  
Jacquelyn Platt

## Oct 15

Jone Garabrandt  
Mitchel McGill

## Oct 16

Valinda Crnkovich  
Sandy Rolles  
Jarod Suhr  
Ryan Suhr

## Oct 17

Diana Likes  
Anna Wilkins

## Oct 18

Regan Burke  
Glenda Hallberg

## Oct 20

Cooper Westerlin  
Cindy Kammerer  
Alexis Liebsack  
Riley Meyer

## Oct 21

Logan Deckard

## Oct 22

Tanya Hanson  
Charlette Oldenburg

## Oct 23

Karla Rusie

## Oct 26

Alexi Lovett-Ledwich  
Meghan Murray  
Steve Swale

## Oct 27

Carol Greim  
Caroline Hill  
Nathan Wragge

## Oct 28

Lily Harper  
Matt Hill  
Brayden Kloster  
Shawn Parker

## Oct 29

Kristina Corry  
Marian Fiscus  
Bradley Glass  
Jason Liebsack

## Oct 30

Susan Baker  
Mary Birkel  
Michael Bunch  
Mae Cannon

## Oct 31

Emilee Kammerer  
Nathan Steinbach  
Hazel Winchell

## Anniversaries

### Oct 3

Peggy & Andy Groothuis  
\*28 Years

### Oct 8

Beth & Roger Zacharias  
\*37 Years

### Oct 9

Ann & Kim Burger  
\*38 Years

### Oct 14

Nancy & Scott Holder  
\*31 Years

Kelly & Jason Leach  
\*20 Years

### Oct 19

Fran & Bob Grabbert  
\*63 Years

Susan & David Thonen  
\*18 Years

### Oct 26

Liz & Kevin Messel  
\*24 Years

### Oct 30

Jana & Rod Howe  
\*44 Years

# WEEKLY PRAYERS

**Cancer:** Cindy Kuntz, Linda Hedges, Johnnie Dunn, Pastor Jon Meraz

**Health & Healing:** Pete Pederson

**Special:** Shut-ins, homebound, and those isolated in care facilities

**Military:** Jordan Hammond, Meghan Murry, Andrew Toman, Zach Karels, Scott Lewis, Quenten Oldenkamp, Amber Phipps, Jarod Suhr

To request public Prayers of the Church e-mail Kelly Thompson at [kthompson@stmarkomaha.org](mailto:kthompson@stmarkomaha.org). For Prayer Chain requests please contact Katrina Muganyizi at 402-238-6844 or email [evelkat@yahoo.com](mailto:evelkat@yahoo.com).



## GET THE ST. MARK APP TODAY!

The things you have access to now in the St. Mark app are getting better all the time (you really need to check it out if you haven't already).

It's available for both Apple and Android devices. You can download either version at [StMarkOmaha.org/media](http://StMarkOmaha.org/media)

## CHURCH STAFF & LEADERSHIP

Rev. Eric Jay, **Pastor**  
Julie Kyriss, **Preschool & Childcare Director**  
Kelly Thompson, **Director of Administrative Operations**  
Kirsten Suhr, **Director of Children and Family Ministry**  
Chip Thompson, **Director of Creative Communications**  
Daren Clark, **Facility Technician**  
Glenda Bock, **Organist**

**Elders:** Steve Barry, Doug Doerr, Andy Groothuis, Peter Oldenburg, Mike Ringler, Jack Swanda

**Parish Leadership Council:** TBA – President; Chuck Kuntz – Vice President; Mike Munderloh – Treasurer; Jolene Scalzo – Secretary; Lisa Buchele, Lisa Hayes, Bruce Sharp, Gale Suhr

## YOUR MINISTRY SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL!

[stmarkomaha.org/giving](http://stmarkomaha.org/giving)

**Setting Up Your Online Giving is Easy!**