



<sup>20</sup>giving thanks always  
and for everything to  
God the Father in the  
name of our Lord Jesus  
Christ <sup>21</sup>submitting to one  
another out of reverence  
for Christ.  
*Ephesians 5:20-21*

## IN THIS ISSUE

Voter's Meeting Minutes ..... 2  
 From the Pastor's Desk ..... 2  
 Giving Thanks ..... 3  
 Free Advent Calendars ..... 3  
 New Website for Eternal  
 Connection Radio Ministry ..... 4  
 Echo College Ministry ..... 4  
 Band of Brothers ..... 4  
 Birthdays & Anniversaries ..... 5  
 Weekly Prayers ..... 5

HAPPY  
*Thanksgiving*

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE**  
**Wednesday, Nov 25 • 7PM**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
 his love endures forever.  
*Psalm 118:1*

## ADVENT SERIES

Single Service Each Wednesday Starting December 2nd • 7PM

## "A DREAM COME TRUE" CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Thursday, December 24 • 4PM & 6PM

## CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Friday, December 25 • 10AM



Connecting People to Jesus

StMarkOmaha.org



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 youtube.com/c/StMarkOmahaLCMS



**We Need Volunteers to Help Decorate the Sanctuary &  
 Gathering Space for the Advent/Christmas Season  
 on Saturday, Nov 28th at 9am!**

We especially need a few strong folks (and maybe a few people who don't mind being on a ladder) to help assemble and put up the tree. Please contact Kelly Thompson at [kthompson@stmarkomaha.org](mailto:kthompson@stmarkomaha.org) or Belva Licht at [bslicht@gmail.com](mailto:bslicht@gmail.com) to let them know you'll be there to help out. You can also call the church and ask for Kelly. Thank you!



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Greetings Saints of St. Mark!

In our voter's meeting this past Sunday, we learned that we have so much to be thankful for and every reason to lift our hands in praise to God for His faithfulness and work He has done in our midst. A thriving Preschool and Childcare, our new ECHO college ministry, our new IMMPACT Immigrant ministry, a growing radio broadcast ministry through The Eternal Connection, 10 baptisms so far this year, 20 new members joined our family of faith with more yet to be installed, an incredible staff who works tirelessly yet with so much joy, an incredible Parish Leadership Council and Board of Elders, countless lay volunteers and ministry leaders who have sacrificed so much time and effort to ensure the Gospel continues to be proclaimed, services held safely, and God's people cared for in their faith, and the truly inspiring faithfulness of our St. Mark members who have remained steadfast in their tithing to the Lord that has resulted in a very healthy position of stewardship going into next year.

Phew! The list could continue on for pages. How God has shown us the power of His promises to us, His presence with us, and His sovereign power over this world, no matter what chaos may come. Only the True God and Creator could work such blessings for us in the midst of such confusing and troubling times. Our Lord Jesus who promised and who did bring life through death, is working that same love and power right here at St. Mark.

In a year when we have been reminded yet again, and in a powerful way, that we should never seek our blessings from

*“Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe!”*  
Hebrews 12:15

a world that has nothing to give but disappointment and destruction, let us instead look to Christ and to His Church here at St. Mark and say along with Hebrews 12:15, “Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe!”

Your Grateful Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Jay

# VOTER'S MEETING MINUTES FROM SUN, NOV 15TH

[Download the Voter's Meeting Minutes Here »](#)

## The Eternal Connection

# ON AIR

Tune in This Week for Part 2

**A Conversation with an Atheist**

**Sunday at 9:30AM on Boomer and 10:00 PM on KCRO**

## Luther on Giving God Thanks

A national day of Thanksgiving wasn't part of Martin Luther's life. Thanksgiving Day is an American phenomenon. Although Americans were celebrating Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday in November since the first presidential proclamation in 1863, it wasn't official until congressional legislation in 1941 made Thanksgiving Day a national holiday.

Martin Luther recognized God's blessings to every living thing when he wrote about the First Article of the Apostles' Creed in the Large Catechism. There he wrote, "Hence, since everything we possess, and everything in heaven and on earth besides, is daily given and sustained by God, it inevitably follows that we are in duty bound to love, praise, and thank Him without ceasing, and, in short, to devote all these things to his service." (*The Book of Concord, Fortress Press, 1959, page 412*)

In a world that thinks it can give God something, either by the way a person lives and by what a person does, Luther would remind us that God doesn't need anything from us. Luther goes on to say that God wants us to be grateful and to honor him as God. "We cannot give God anything; for everything is already His, and all we have comes from Him. We can only give Him praise, thanks, and honor." (*What Luther Says, Concordia Publishing House, 1959, page 1353*). And in a prayer at the end of his treatise on keeping children in school, Luther prayed, "God grant that we follow His Word to praise and thank our dear Lord for His precious blood, which He so freely offered for us. And may God keep us from the terrible vice of ingratitude and the forgetfulness of His blessings. Amen." (*What Luther Says, Concordia Publishing House, 1959, page 1354*).

Source: Excerpt from November 1, 2017 letter by Rev. Ken Hennings, President, Texas District, LCMS



**THANK-YOU TO ALL THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COLLECTION. WE WERE ABLE TO PACK 202 REALLY GREAT BOXES.**

Our prayer should be that each boy and girl receiving a box will be filled with joy. They will also receive a Bible Story book and be invited to a class to hear the stories.

Thank-you also to the great helpers on Saturday who spent many long hours sorting and packing.

Thank-you,

*Rhonda Zebolsky and Helen Oldenkamp*



**Project Hope, Inc.**  
6201 N 60<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha NE 68104  
(402) 453-7649  
www.projecthopeomaha.org

**PROJECT HOPE**

We are called to feed and clothe God's people in need. We believe nutritious food contributes to good health. We value people with love, hope, compassion and dignity.

**Helping Neighbors - Improving Lives - Spreading Blessings**

November 12, 2020

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
1821 N 90<sup>th</sup> St  
Omaha, NE 68114

Dear St. Mark members,

*It is with great appreciation that I write to thank you for your support with Thanksgiving program donations delivered to Project Hope, Inc. on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. You helped us by donating canned yams, marshmallows, and cream cheese frosting which helped us provide 400 families who come to us for assistance and hope with a Thanksgiving meal. Thank you also for the miscellaneous food items you donated with each delivery.*

*Project Hope is proud that we are able to offer our clients food, clothing, and personal care items at no cost and that is because of the donations such as yours.*

*Your generosity allows us to serve the hungry and those in need during difficult times.*

Blessings to you,

Veda Keebler  
Executive Director



**FREE ADVENT CALENDAR FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE**

For those families with children ages 2-12 years who would like to have an Advent Countdown experience at home, we have **15 copies to give away**—first come, first serve.

The format is a 5-minute “devotion a day”. They come with an advent calendar on the back cover and can be used every year. If you would like one, please contact Kirsten Suhr at [ksuhr@stmarkomaha.org](mailto:ksuhr@stmarkomaha.org).



**A Big Thank You to Andy Rygol for his quick assistance repairing a portion of the exterior sheathing that came off during a wind storm last week. Also for help repairing the sidewalk!**



## THIS WEEK WE LAUNCHED A NEW WEBSITE FOR ETERNAL CONNECTION

[EternalConnectionRadio.com](http://EternalConnectionRadio.com)

Thank you to all of you who have listened to St. Mark's weekly radio ministry! Your support and encouragement are greatly appreciated.

We've been approached by a number of stations outside the Omaha market to add our program to their lineup. As we consider these opportunities to share the Gospel even beyond our local community, each requires additional financial support in order to broadcast on the expanded stations. We ask God to guide us in planning and lead us where He wants this ministry to grow.

We are excited for 2021 as we begin to line up some guests that we know you will enjoy. One of the best ways you can help us (besides listening) is to share it with others! Remember, we are on Boomer Radio Sundays at 9:30am and again on KCRO Sundays at 10pm. You can also listen to the show on our new site and on [our St. Mark app](#).



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

### For week of 11/16

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



### Looking Ahead: No Band of Brothers Thanksgiving Weekend.

We all encounter or have encountered atheists. How did you do? This week we will skip ahead to episode 33 in our listening and discussion of the Eternal Connection. In this episode, Pastor Jay and Chip host a discussion with a guest to the EC studio, Jason. Jason is an atheist. There will be much to discuss! I hope you can join us.

**Verse of the Week:** Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law

**Quote of the Week:** Paul David Tripp: The sovereignty of God means that since I don't have to be in control, I can focus on being a servant.

**Fun Fact of the Week:** Bees can be trained to detect explosives, illegal drugs, and even various diseases that affect humans.

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).

## YOUR MINISTRY SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL!

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



## Setting Up Your Online Giving is Easy!



## COLLEGE MINISTRY

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.

## 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)

## BIRTHDAYS

### Nov 1

Jayden Swale

### Nov 2

Emmeline Barry  
Nancy Holder

### Nov 3

Justin Shockley

### Nov 4

Dillon Nelson  
Raymond Thompson

### Nov 5

Judy Peil

### Nov 6

Cameron Higgins  
Lorraine Juul  
Dee McGill  
Katrina Muganyizi  
Matt Pistillo

### Nov 7

Michelle Anderson  
Becky Niemack  
Woodensky Senechal  
Bruce Sharp

### Nov 8

Lilly Wacker-Munderloh

### Nov 9

Connor Groothuis  
Cindy Shockley

### Nov 10

Jayne Dunn  
Liz Messel  
Cathy Munderloh

### Nov 11

Lynsey Crnkovich  
Tony Jaynes  
Milton Warner

### Nov 13

Ryan Nelson

### Nov 14

Lisa Hayes  
Nicholas Leach

### Nov 15

Andy Pistillo  
Debra Sales

### Nov 16

Nancy McAlpin

### Nov 18

Zachary Krichau

### Nov 19

David Watson

### Nov 20

Denise Wessels

### Nov 21

Judith Ketcham  
Dana Mathiasen

### Nov 23

Scott Camenzind  
London Dahlquist

### Nov 24

Seth Hallberg  
Ruthie Peters  
Dan Platt  
Gene Wahl

### Nov 25

Jason Groothuis  
Anah Moe  
Heather Westerlin

### Nov 26

Paul Boyer  
Donna Rundlett

### Nov 27

Amanda Collins  
Pauline Peyton

### Nov 28

Stephanie Glass  
Brianna Munderloh  
Marion Oetter  
Barbara Stout  
Jessica Vanderloo

### Nov 29

Rylan Howe  
John Peyton  
Robert Pistillo



## ANNIVERSARIES

### Nov 1

Fantaye Girma & Eddie Mekasha  
\*24 Years

### Nov 7

Lisa & Nathan Steinbach  
\*17 Years

### Nov 12

Karen & Bob Rosse  
\*37 Years

### Nov 13

Kym & Kevin Abraham  
\*15 Years

### Nov 15

Marjorie & Gary  
Garabrandt  
\*40 Years

### Nov 18

Sandy & Bill Rolles  
\*58 Years

### Nov 23

Cindy & Chuck Kuntz  
\*29 Years

Donna & Orville Leu  
\*64 Years

### Nov 29

Kiley & Brandon Awender  
\*6 Years

### Nov 30

Dee & Patrick McGill  
\*35 Years

## 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

## WEEKLY PRAYERS

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

**Health & Healing:** Angie Stone, Matthew P

**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) or call the church and ask for Kelly.*