



**“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
John 10:11**

St Mark
Spirit
Newsletter

A Publication of St Mark Lutheran Church • Omaha, NE

April 22, 2021 Edition

IN THIS ISSUE

- Meet Your PLC: Andy Rygol 2
- Devotional Bite 3
- First Wednesday Kingdom Kids Club (FWKCC)..... 3
- Leave St. Mark a Review! 3
- eGiving 3
- Amazon Smile donations 4
- MayHIM is coming 4
- Worship Media Ministry 4
- Looking for More Musicians 4
- Blood Drive..... 5
- A Big Thank You! 5
- Co-Ed Golf League 5
- Band of Brothers..... 5
- Birthdays & Anniversaries 6
- Weekly Prayers 6



Published in *The Omaha World Herald* newspaper on April 18, 2021 by Rev. Eric Jay

One of the most powerful questions in the world is the question “why?” Police detectives know that discovering “why?” a crime was committed provides the key to solving a case. “Why?” is what drives the highest levels of learning just as it fuels our continued discovery of the endless knowledge God has put in His created universe. “Why?” also has the amazing power to lighten the spirit and brighten a day with laughter. For example, why do feet “smell” and noses “run”? Why do we think pressing harder on a tv remote might charge its dying batteries? Why is the word abbreviated so long?

Asking “why?” can also lead to harm if not held in check, especially when it comes to knowing the eternal God and Creator of all things whose ways are above those of sinful, finite humans. A Creator must be above and beyond His created. Any being worthy of being called God must be, as David says in Psalm 139, “O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.”

David is celebrating not what he understands about God, but rather, what God knows of him. David is not celebrating an answer to the question “why?” but “who?” More important than our knowledge of God is His perfect knowledge of us. Why? Well, let’s be honest. We don’t understand ourselves very well. We too often fail to live in accordance with our own expectations, doing what we don’t want to do. As the prophet Jeremiah said, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”

The women who came with the intent to prepare the physical and dead body of our Lord for permanent burial on Easter morning were asked by the angels who had rolled away the tombstone, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” If we want to see Jesus, if we want to see our Holy God, we will not see Him by looking with the sinful eyes in our head and we will not see Him by looking according to the broken understanding of human intellect. We must look with the eyes of faith, trusting like a little child, not in our understanding but in who it is we are asking. So, Jesus says, praying to God in Luke 10, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.”



Connecting People to Jesus

StMarkOmaha.org



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



Get to
KNOW
you!

MEET YOUR PLC MEMBERS: ANDY RYGOL

What about your family?

I was born in Omaha and have lived most my life in Nebraska with the exception of living in Olympia, WA from the age of 13-20. I moved back to Nebraska to attend UNL where I met my wife, Sara. Sara grew up on her parent's farm in Wakefield, NE. We were married in Sara's hometown church, St. John's Lutheran Church in June of 2000. We have two children: Zander(13) and Avery(9).

What do you do for a living?

I currently work for a local commercial construction company as a construction superintendent where I plan and coordinate the construction trades and schedule of building projects. I began in the construction trade in 1998 cutting my teeth as a laborer and quickly moved into carpentry, learning from a very meticulous boss/owner. I was presented with an opportunity by another local contracting company in 2006 to begin coordinating work as a superintendent and continue this work today.

What is something that most folks don't know about you?

I am a big Cornhusker sports fan and try to watch as many of the football, basketball, baseball and volleyball games I can. When I am not helping coach Zander's football or baseball teams, or watching both kid's basketball games, I like to try to find time to golf, hunt, or have family over for BBQ's.

How long have you been a member at St Mark?

Sara and I became members of St. Mark in 2003.

What does being a member on the PLC here at St Mark mean to you?

I was nominated for the opportunity to begin serving St. Mark on the PLC late last year and feel extremely blessed to be trusted by our members to serve in this position. I pray that while I serve in this position, I am able to utilize God's talents and blessings to be able to give more of myself for His work.

Do you have a favorite Bible verse and/or story?

I don't necessarily have a favorite bible verse; however, I enjoy the books of Samuel and Kings. Reading and learning of the obedience or lack of towards God by the kings of Israel has been interesting to me. The messages in these books of trusting in God's word gives me comfort. As the kings in the books of Samuel and Kings received favor when they obeyed God, I strive to increase my faith by putting my trust in God's word as well. Not to receive the worldly blessings as the kings in these books did (not saying that is why they became kings of Israel), but to receive the promise of Jesus' salvation through His death and resurrection.



DEVOTIONAL BITE

from Pastor Jay's April 20, 2021 Devotional "The Cross or the Crab?"

Scripture: Matthew 13:53-58

And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

Jesus received no honor in His hometown because for His friends and family and neighbors to honor Him would be a blow to their ego. He was just a regular guy at best to them, if not less than that by way of His occupation. What did it say about them that this common, seemingly insignificant boy Jesus was now a Rabbi who taught the Rabbis and fulfilled God's Prophecy and performed miracles and had His own following?! Whenever we search for our significance by looking for praises from other sinful people, or by putting any value in the virtues of a wicked world, or when we estimate our own self-esteem and self-worth by what we accomplish in comparison to the person next to us, the result is always disappointment and death. I think if we are honest, we have all at one time or another been guilty of treating others poorly for the sake of saving face or winning over someone else, whether that be in our workplace, social circles, or in the church.

This account of Jesus' rejection in His hometown reminds me of something fascinating I once learned about crabs. Any experienced crab fisherman knows and will tell you that there is no need to put a lid on their crab buckets out of fear that they might escape. Here is why: if one crab tries to climb out, the others will instinctively pull it back down. The crab mentality says "if I can't have it, neither can you." Crabby people seek to pull other people down in an effort to lift themselves up. The people of Nazareth were crabby people...

[READ THE FULL DEVOTIONAL HERE](#)



Who: For kids currently in grades 3 to grade 6

When: Wednesday, May 5th 6:45-8:00

Activities: Short bible study; assembling and painting bird houses; dessert

Drop-off/Pick-up will be doors between gym and the Fellowship Hall.

PLEASE RSVP TO KSUHR@STMARKOMAHA.ORG

Would you kindly leave a Google Review for St. Mark?



[Click to Leave a Review](#)



YOUR MINISTRY SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL!

Setting Up Your Online Giving is Easy!

stmarkomaha.org/giving

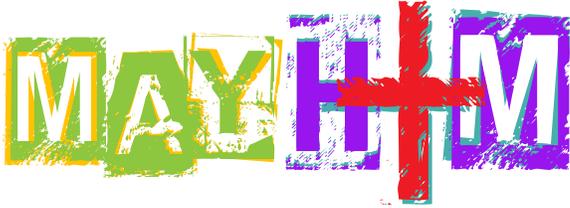


smile

DO YOU SHOP AT AMAZON.COM?

Did you know you can earn a donation for the church with **every single purchase at no cost to you?** It's super easy!

Anytime you go to make a purchase, type in smile.amazon.com instead of just amazon.com. Your first time, make sure you click on the **Supporting link** right under their logo and designate "Saint Mark Lutheran Church" in Omaha, NE as the non-profit you'd like to support.



Ministry MayHIM starts Sunday, May 9th!

Each Sunday, we will be featuring the different ministries here at St. Mark as we celebrate the Lord's work through our church family to reach the community with His Good News!



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND!

JESUS: THE GOOD SHEPHERD JOHN 10:11-21

HELP NEEDED!

VIDEO | SOUND | LIGHTING

WORSHIP MEDIA MINISTRY WANTS YOU!

As our online ministry continues to grow, so does the demand for hands to help us ensure all that we do with technology is the best it can be in faithfully proclaiming the Gospel.

**No Experience Necessary...
Just a Servant's Heart**

Whether you have experience or not, you can contribute in significant ways to our media ministry both on campus and online.

Here's how you can get involved:

- Screen Operator
- Video Streaming
- Audio Mixing
- Audio Tech
- Lighting

If you have a middle school or high school age student, or if you yourself (regardless of age) have ever been interested in dipping your toe into learning multi-media, this is a great opportunity. We have professional training dates coming up, and our equipment is fantastic. [Contact Chip Thompson](#) to talk more and volunteer.

The Eternal Connection

9:30 AM BOOMER • 10 PM KCRO
ANYTIME ON ETERNALCONNECTIONRADIO.COM

Join Pastor Jay, Chip and Jason as
We Explore John Chapter 4

[Click Here to Listen!](#)



DO YOU HAVE MUSICAL TALENT?

Our Worship Team is looking for more musicians!

- Vocalists
- Bass Guitar
- Piano
- Drums
- Guitar
- Any instrument!

If you can serve your church with your musical talent, please contact the church office and let us know!



Blood Drive Sunday, May 2nd 8am - 2pm in the St. Mark Gym

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!

A BIG
thank you
♥

A big thank you to all who have taken a tag from our wish tree and purchased the items. It is very helpful for us to have these items in place early in the year. We will add more soon, so we ask that you please continue your generosity.

We have asked for soccer balls and even when deflated those are hard to fit into the smaller shoeboxes so if you have any large shoeboxes we would gladly take those.

Of course we want to have the usual jump ropes that are created from T-shirts. So please bring in any older t-shirts you are ready to donate – any condition. Let us know if you would be interested in learning how to turn the t-shirts into jumpropes (YouTube and Pinterest have some videos also). Items brought in can be placed in the large marked bin off of the gathering space.

Thank-you! *Rhonda Zebolsky and Helen Oldenkamp*

BAND OF BROTHERS



MEN OF ST. MARK - LET'S FELLOWSHIP IN THE WORD!

Join us on Saturday mornings at 9am in the Youth Room (Just off the fellowship hall) for a time of fellowship and studying God's Word together.

We are currently using St. Mark's Radio Ministry, *The Eternal Connection*, as the foundation for our Bible studies.

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.



ATTENTION ALL ST. MARK GOLFERS, IT IS TIME TO LOCATE YOUR GOLF CLUBS!

The co-ed league would like to invite golfers of all skill levels to join your St. Mark members and guests to play a little golf and enjoy fellowship with others. The league will start on Saturday April 24th at 7am and will run thru every Saturday and will end on Saturday August 7th. League cost: \$20.00 one time fee + weekly green fees.

**Location: Warren Swigert Golf Course
99th and Maple**

**Please contact Matt Tilford 402-399-9446
if you have any questions.**



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

April 2

Abigail Fisher
Tucker Herber
Morgan Messel
Jesse Taylor

April 10

Hame Hamearbane
Aaron Isaac
Kinsey Munderloh

April 22

Kelly Leach
Chelsea Lurvey
Christina Parkhurst

April 3

Paige Bailey

April 11

Nathan Garabrandt

April 23

Rachel Papera

April 4

Kaitlyn Farnsworth
Juliana Godden
Gladys Hamaker
Brandon Paustian

April 13

Tammy Bailey
Duane Lipelt

April 24

Jacob Robinson

April 6

Duane Ward

April 14

Beverly Hilburn
Jason Leach
Keira Niemack

April 25

Trish Fiscus

April 26

Alexis Chapman

April 7

Emory Likes

April 16

Deanna Dahlkoetter

April 28

Diann Allen
Ethan Blair
Halie Gill
Skyler McClusky
Ashlyn Oldenburg
Laurie Porter

April 8

Frank Arnason
Bob Wacker

April 18

Ryan Dahlquist
Sandy James

April 29

Tyler Morgan

April 9

Brittani Fisher
Jens Petersen Jr
Martin Peyton

April 19

Mel Buchele
Aaron Thernes

April 20

Bernetta Johnson
Evan Johnson
Joscelyne Thompson

April 3

Kristal & Dan Platt *28 Years

April 5

Lisa & Bruce Hayes *35 Years
Denise & Curtis Ossenkop *46 Years

April 6

Carol & Christopher Beber *30 Years

April 7

Janet & Mark Flemmer *37 Years

April 10

Christy & Kevin Leu *39 Years

April 12

Laura & Mike Haley *24 Years
Cheryl & Donald Vincent *46 Years

April 15

Sue & Pete Pedersen *60 Years

April 22

Jessica & Jason Maas *15 Years
Connie & Kenneth Weiss *33 Years

April 23

Sheila & Scott Murray *32 Years

April 27

Mary & Gerry Burke *30 Years

April 29

Lee Ann & Frank Caracciolo *32 Years

CHURCH STAFF & LEADERSHIP

Rev. Eric Jay, **Pastor**
Julie Kyriess, **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: Doug Doerr, Andy Groothuis, Mike Ringler, Jack Swanda, Greg Zebolsky

Parish Leadership Council: Gerry Burke – President; Bruce Sharp – Vice President; Mike Munderloh – Treasurer; Jolene Scalzo – Secretary; Lisa Buchele, Lisa Hayes, Chuck Kuntz, Gale Suhr, and Andy Rygol

WEEKLY PRAYERS

Cancer: Michele Brase, Cindy Kuntz, Dale Harmon, Levi Rundlett, Bill Rolles, Pastor Aaron Staub, Brian Burke

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 or call the church and ask for Kelly.