

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Psalm 46:1-3

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Greetings of grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord!

The season of Fall is not only beautiful in its appearance, but it also reminds us of the beautiful work God is doing in our hearts. Watching the green canopy of leaves slowly change into a beautiful array of colors reminds me that God has made everything beautiful in its time (Eccl. 3:11). His time is perfect because only He can see all things at once. We can trust His timing because, “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.” (Romans 5:6)

Knowing why the autumn leaves change color also bears witness to the Holy Spirit’s ongoing work of sanctification in our hearts. As deciduous trees prepare to survive the winter, they shed their leaves to preserve energy. Contrary to how it appears to our eyes, the beautiful color changes in the leaves are the signs of death; a necessary dying that preserve life. A testimony and reminder of not only our Lord’s death that was necessary to bring us salvation, but also of the daily dying we must undergo that allows the beauty of the life and salvation God has given us in Christ to be seen. “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” (John 12:23-25)



Once the leaves have fallen and the trees are left barren, we may find it hard to see the beauty, but it is exactly what we cannot see that is the beauty and that reminds us of what it means to believe and have faith in our unseen Lord.



Connecting People to Jesus

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Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." 2 Corinthians 4:18 says, "We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." Romans 5:24 says, "Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." Our resurrected Lord Jesus told Thomas after revealing His scars to him in John 20:29, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

As you enjoy yet another terrestrial testimony of our Creator's beauty and power this fall, look with the eyes of faith as you watch the leaves change color as they die, and be reminded of the beauty of the cross where our Lord died to change the grave from death to life. May the cool autumn breeze remind you of the Spirit of God that is at work in you, remembering Jesus' words to Nicodemus in John 3:8, "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know

where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Yield to the loving cuts of the Vinedresser (John 15:1) and allow Him to bring death to what must die that the life He has given you in baptism might be lived in full. Once the leaves have fallen and been blown away, may the barren trees remind you of God's promise of what is to come. "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever." (Revelation 22:1-5)

JLY,
Pastor Jay



Thanks St. Mark for your support of youth ministry!

We washed over 40 vehicles last Sunday morning and had a lot of fun doing it.

We had an anonymous donor step forward and match the funds we raised at the car wash and another donor who capped it off with a big donation. Through your generous giving, we were able to raise a total of a bit over \$3500 for the 2022 National Youth Gathering in Houston, Tx.

Thanks for all of your help and God Bless! *Dan Conell*



BAPTIZED INTO LIFE!

Ryan and Harper Bickford

"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!" - Acts 2:38

NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION



We are excited to welcome the Stewart Family, Kois Family, Bickford Family, Stephen Cornett, and Boetcher Family to our family of faith at St. Mark.



LUTHER

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE GERMAN REFORMER

Reformation month is a great time to watch this new FREE movie: Luther: The Life and Legacy of the German Reformer

[WATCH IT RIGHT HERE!](#)

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!

CONNECT³
CHURCH • CHRIST • COMMUNITY



Connect 3 Groups are now meeting!

We are watching The Bible video series with curriculum by Pastor Jay. Get Connected! Contact the church office if you have not signed up to be in a Connect 3 group yet!

SAVE THE DATE: SAT, OCT 30TH 4:30PM - 6:30PM



PLEASE CLICK HERE TO LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER/DONATE

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

**GAMES • TRUNK OR TREAT • MUSIC • SONIC CORNDOGS
BOUNCE HOUSES • BUNGEE RUN • CANDY
PHOTOS WITH OBI-WAN CHIPNOBI • FUN & FELLOWSHIP!**

NO SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ON OCT 30TH

STAFF AND MINISTRY UPDATES



PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE



I am sure many of you have noticed our new outdoor play space right outside the Fellowship Hall by our Childcare entrance. This will be a great place for the children to go after lunch to blow bubbles, play with balls or in the winter to have quick romp in the snow. A big thank you to Chip Thompson, Doug Doerr and Daren Clark for digging all the holes for the fence posts!

We had so much fun at our first Family Event the end of September. There was a craft station in the Fellowship Hall with supplies to make a family poster to hang in the classrooms, Jungle bounce house and slide in the gym along with some delicious donuts!

Parent Teachers Conferences are schedule for the week of October 18th, we are all looking forward updating parents on their child's progress. The Preschool will be closed on October 22nd; our Center will be open from 7:00am-5:30pm for those families that need childcare.

The children will celebrate fall with a Harvest/Pajama Party the last week of October. Each class will have games, crafts and a special snack.

Thank you to everyone that has volunteered to Adopt a Preschooler. Several parents have commented on how excited their children were to receive their welcome postcard.

Julie Kyriss,
Preschool & Childcare Center Director





ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

September was a month of getting things done here at St. Mark!

There are always projects and repairs and other things going on behind the scenes, but it is nice to occasionally have something to show when a project is completed. Probably the most obvious project completion (on full display!) is the refurbishment of the old monument sign on 90th Street, as well as the addition of the St. Mark logo cross and lighting added to the bell tower. We now have visible evidence that this is a church building! We are also nearly finished with the replacement of the old east entry doors which, combined with the monument and bell tower updates, has really changed the face of our building.

One other project which had been on hold for months (due to well-known shipping issues around the world) was the completion of a small, fenced area by the Preschool entrance. (Thanks especially to Daren Clark, Chip Thompson, and Doug Doerr for jumping in and getting the fence installed last weekend.) This will be a nice extra outdoor space for the children to use (and a great place to corral them during preschool pick-up time!). All-in-all, it was an exciting, productive month and it was nice to be able to check some things off the list.

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



CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

FALL IS HERE! You know what that means? We are planning an AMAZING Fall Family Festival!



On Saturday, Oct 30th from 4:30 to 6:30 pm we are going to transform the lower parking lot by the Preschool/Fellowship Hall entrance (weather permitting) into a family fun extravaganza. We will have plenty of fun for the whole family including: bounce houses, slides and a bungee run, Sonic corndogs and other snacks, Trunk or Treat decor and candy to hand out to the kids, live music, tons of games, puppet glow theater, candy, candy and more candy! WOOT!

This is the part where I tell you what we really, really need here:

- 1) **DONATIONS:** we need candy to hand out, individual bagged potato chips, cases of your favorite soda
- 2) **VOLUNTEERS:** to help run the games, hand out candy, watch the bounce houses, setup and tear down before and after the event
- 3) **DECORATED TRUNKS:** the more the merrier, any theme, any decor, have fun!

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER/DONATE](#)

Until next time, God's richest blessings to you!

Chip Thompson, *Director of Creative Communications*

Get to **KNOW** you!

MEET YOUR PLC: BRUCE SHARP



Introduce you and your family!

Hello, St. Mark. My name is Bruce Sharp. I have been married to my wife Sue for 26 years. Our son Michael is a full time student at UNO.

What do you do for a living?

I have been employed at a super regional bank for 25 years where my job is in the managerial finance department. I get to work with people all over the United States in four different time zones.

What is something (a hobby, an interest, an achievement) that most folks don't know about you?

I enjoy reading books and magazines pertaining to business, history and sports. I also attend numerous sporting events during the year. I am a big Husker fan and since Michael plays trumpet in the UNO pep band, I now follow the Mavs at Baxter Arena.

How long have you been a member at St. Mark?

I have been a member at St. Mark for 33 years, right after I moved to Omaha after graduating from UNL.

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

Being a member of the PLC means serving the needs of St. Mark by participating on a team of fellow believers who help manage the administrative needs of the Congregation. The Congregation shares the Gospel through its different Ministries. The PLC gives me an opportunity to learn about and participate in those Ministries.

Do you have a favorite Bible verse and/or story (and maybe why?)

My favorite Bible verse is "Then Said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, 'If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'" John 8:31,32. KJV This is my Confirmation verse. It is one of the Reformation Day Gospel Lessons. Pastor Jay occasionally references this Bible verse.

Do you have a "St. Mark" story for us (anything stand out that you want to share)?

One of my favorite things as a member of St. Mark was to help load a semi trailer full of used medical equipment bound for Riga, Latvia. This happened in the parking lot of St. Mark on warm July Saturday afternoon. The shipment was provided by the Orphan Grain Train when it was initially getting started.



A big thank you to all the people who came to the workshop on the 29th. We were able to accomplish a great deal of small but time-consuming tasks with all of your help.

Now we are looking ahead to November 6th.

We will sort and set up the items we have accumulated this year. Following that we will pack the boxes. Work will begin at 9 and continue until complete. Last year we were done at 3. So please give us another hour or two or three to help with this fun task of building an exciting and life-changing shoebox for a child somewhere in the world.

We will have lunch and other items to snack on!

If you cannot for some reason help on this day – **please continue to return items requested on the Giving Tree or used T-shirts (for jump-ropes)**. Also, it costs \$9 to send each box, so a monetary gift is another way to participate in this wonderful mission work.

Thank-you for all the contributions and assistance this year,

Rhonda Zebolsky and Helen Oldenkamp



LYDIA AND REBEKAH CIRCLE

October 26 at 10:00 am at 10:00am

Gathering Space

We will be talking about Hannah.



**MAGNETIC
THE NEW
JLY PINS
ARE IN!**

Now Open for PARISH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL.

NOMINATIONS!

Nominations close on
October 17, 2021.



**YOUR MINISTRY
SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL!**

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

stmarkomaha.org/giving



**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. Join us for a great time of brothers sharing with one another in the Word!

If you are not on the email list, contact Jack Swanda at jswanda@cox.net.



DEVOTIONAL BITE

from Pastor Jay's October 5, 2021 Devotional "Legit to Quit"

Scripture: Luke 9:57-62

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."⁵⁹ To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."⁶⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."⁶¹ Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home."⁶² Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Last month in September, Kurt Hines, the football coach at Coronado High School in Coronado, Ca, posted a video on social media that immediately went viral. In the video, coach Hines did something that I would assume most high school football coaches wouldn't do, and that assumption is proved correct by the response the video got.

Newsweek[1] first reported on the video. In the video coach Hines says, "I just had a young man come in and quit—and I truly could not be happier. This young man was struggling all season with making it to practice, with committing. Never looked happy. [He has] some stuff going on. He came in, things washed, shook my hand and I said 'sit down for a minute.' He started to explain how his family has always been a football family. 'They've always loved it, my father, my brother.' I stopped him and asked him, 'Do you love it?'" The player then looked at Hines and breathed a huge sigh of relief, before admitting: "No." Hines told the teenager he was proud of him, adding: "I saw his whole countenance change. He was smiling from ear to ear. I said, 'You're doing the right thing.'"

**NOW at
8AM on
Boomer!**

READ THE FULL DEVOTIONAL HERE

The Eternal Connection

St. Mark's Radio Broadcast Ministry

NEW TIME!
Every Sunday morning
at 8:00am on Boomer

Omaha: 1420 AM / 94.5 FM

Blair: 97.3 FM

Council Bluffs: 1490 AM / 106.5 FM

Every Sunday night
at 10:00pm on KCRO

Omaha: 660 AM

Lincoln: 106.7 FM

Anytime online:

EternalConnectionRadio.com

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Cancer: Lori Garabrandt (daughter in law of member Marj Garabrandt); Dale Harmon (friend of Pastor Jay); Bill Rolles (member); Larry Rolles (brother of member Bill Rolles); Pastor Aaron Staub; Samuel Varner (father-in-law of member Jordan Boetcher); Brian Burke; Kenneth Oetter (nephew of Marion Oetter); Cheryl Bretta (mother of Chip's friend Mike)

Health & Healing: Kirk (brother of Greg Zebolsky); Jackie (sister of Deb Kois); Mykal Charter, Greg Zebolsky & Concordia

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.



October 2

Denise Duvall
Kay Rasmussen
Harold Willis II

October 3

Jordan Boetcher

October 4

Lauren Fleharty
Tonya Isaac

October 6

Alexander Nichols
Henry Taft
John Waller

October 7

Johnnie Dunn
George Harper
Millie Walenz

October 8

Korey Collins
Kelly Goelz

October 10

Leo Venteicher

October 11

Leighton Graalfs
Betty Koppit
Nathan Platt
Deanna Ringler
Kinslee Watson

October 12

Bob Boetcher
Kenneth Gieselmann
Alex Houser
Kaia Musgjerd
Kim Ostermeyer
Shirley Rettig

October 13

Melissa Buman
Deeann Goeser
Avery Kesar
Tiffany Martaindale
Judy Nekonchuk
Jacquelyn Platt

October 15

Jone Garabrandt
Mitchel McGill

October 16

Valinda Crnkovich
Eden Hoppmann
Sandy Rolles
Jarod Suhr
Ryan Suhr

October 17

Diana Likes
Anna Wilkins

October 18

Regan Burke
Glenda Hallberg

October 19

Cooper Westerlin

October 20

Cindy Kammerer
Alexis Liebsack
Riley Meyer

October 21

Logan Deckard

October 22

Tanya Hanson
Charlette Oldenburg

October 23

Chelsea Burr
Karla Rusie

October 26

Alexi Lovett-Ledwich
Meghan Murray
Steve Swale

October 27

Carol Greim
Caroline Hill
Nathan Wragge

October 28

Lily Harper
Matt Hill
Brayden Kloster
Darrel Kois
Shawn Parker

October 29

Kristina Corry
Marian Fiscus
Bradley Glass
Jason Liebsack

October 30

Sue Baker
Mary Birkel
Michael Bunch
Mae Cannon

October 31

Dan Buman
Emilee Kammerer
Nathan Steinbach
Hazel Winchell

HAPPY Anniversary

October 3

Andy & Peggy Groothuis: 29 Years
Joshua & Alma Hugen: 1 Year

October 8

Roger & Beth Zacharias: 38 Years

October 9

Kim & Ann Burger: 39 Years

October 14

Scott & Nancy Holder: 32 Years
Jason & Kelly Leach: 21 Years

October 19

Bob & Fran Grabbert: 64 Years
David & Susan Thonen: 19 Years

October 26

Kevin & Liz Messel: 25 Years

October 30

Rod & Jana Howe: 45 Years



This Month in Lutheran History

Oct 31, 1517

was the day German monk Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the All Saints' Church in Wittenberg.

CHURCH STAFF & LEADERSHIP

Rev. Eric Jay, Senior Pastor
Rev. Eddie Mekasha, Outreach Pastor
Julie Kyriss, Preschool & Childcare Director
Kelly Thompson, Director of Administrative Operations
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

Would you kindly leave a Google Review for St. Mark?
(it helps us get the Word out!)



[Click to Leave a Review](#)