

While the earth remains,
seedtime and harvest, cold and
heat, summer and winter, day
and night, shall not cease.

Genesis 8:22

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

In her autobiography entitled “The Hiding Place”, Corrie ten Boom shares a story of humiliation at the hands of her Nazi captors at Ravensbruck Concentration Camp that drove her not to a point of despair, but to thanksgiving and praise.

“Fridays brought the recurrent humiliation of medical inspection. The hospital corridor in which we waited was unheated, and a fall chill had settled into the walls. Still, we were forbidden even to wrap ourselves in our own arms, but had to maintain our erect, hands-at-sides position as we filed slowly past a phalanx of grinning guards. How there could have been any pleasure in the sight of these stick-thin legs and hunger-bloated stomachs I could not imagine. Surely there is no more wretched sight than the human body unloved and uncared for. Nor could I see the necessity for the complete undressing: when we finally reached the examining room a doctor looked down each throat, another--a dentist presumably--at our teeth, a third looked in between each finger. And that was all. We trooped again down the long, cold corridor and picked up our X-marked dresses at the door.

But it was on one of these mornings while we were waiting, shivering, in the corridor, that yet another page in the Bible leapt into life for me. He hung naked on the cross. The paintings, the carved crucifixes showed at the least a scrap of cloth. But this, I suddenly knew, was the respect and reverence of the artist. But oh--at the time itself, on that other Friday morning--there had been no reverence. No more than I saw in the faces around us now. I leaned toward Betsie, ahead of me in line. Her shoulder blades stood out sharp and thin beneath her blue-mottled skin. ‘Betsie, they took His clothes, too.’ Ahead of me I heard a little gasp. ‘Oh Corrie! And I never thanked Him.’”

We need not respect, nor honor, nor comfort, nor plenty, nor an abundance of earthly blessings to have our lives filled with the joy of gratitude and

Continued Page 2

thankfulness. We need only to remember what Christ has done on our behalf.

“And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:8).

Christ’s death for our sin and His resurrection in which we too have also been raised in baptism has brought the Kingdom of God into our hearts. As we read this past Sunday during our Reformation service, Jesus promised in Matthew 16:18 that, “I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” If hell itself is powerless against the Kingdom into which you and I have been called and already raised into with Christ, then there is no lack or need, no pain or sorrow, that could prevail over our joy and praise of thanksgiving given to God each day. As Hebrews 12:28 says, “Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.”

In joyful thankfulness to God for all of you,
Pastor Jay



HAPPY
Thanksgiving
+
THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, NOV 24 • 7PM



THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP FEAST!
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST
AFTER 10:30 SERVICE
Our middle and high school youth will be preparing and serving.

TOPICS:

- BUDGET
- PARISH LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS
- ST. MARK SCHOOL STUDY

ANNUAL VOTER'S MEETING
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH
AFTER 10:30 SERVICE

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS ON SUNDAY!

SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR!

S MARK

PROJECT HOPE DONATIONS

This is the last weekend to donate for the Project Hope Thanksgiving meals and we need your help! Our goal was 100 of each of these items and so far we have: 18 boxes of spice cake mix, 20 tubs of cream cheese frosting, and 30 cans of pumpkin (15 oz). Please drop off your donations no later than Sunday, November 7th!

STAFF AND MINISTRY UPDATES



PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE



We had so much fun celebrating fall at our Harvest Pajama Parties on October 27th! The staff and children were all very comfy in our pajamas as we played games, made crafts, and enjoyed caramel apples.

This month we will have an all-school Thanksgiving Feast on Monday, November 22nd. Our families can join us in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30am for some tasty treats and fellowship.

We are already looking ahead to our Birthday Parties for Jesus. Each class is learning new songs and creating beautiful table decorations. The 4-year-old and Pre-K 5 class will celebrate Jesus' Birthday on Monday, December 6th and the 3-year-old class on Tuesday, December 7th. Both parties are at 10:30am in the sanctuary followed by birthday cake in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to come celebrate with us!

We have recently added 4 children to our Childcare, we currently have 72 children enrolled! There are lots of ways that the congregations can participate in this growing ministry:

- **Volunteering** to help with lunch from 11:00am-12:00pm
- **Volunteering** in our classrooms to read books, or help with art projects
- **Donating supplies**- we currently need 5 oz Dixie Cups and sandwich or snack size Ziplock bags

Julie Kyriss,
Preschool & Childcare Center Director



**WE NEED
5 OZ. DIXIE CUPS**



COOKIE WALK

Right after service
Saturday, Dec 11th
AND
Sunday, Dec 12th
in the
Gathering Space!



Advent Midweek Services



Begin on
Wednesday,
Dec 1st @ 7pm

*Advent Preparations
& Decorations*



Mark your calendar!
Help decorate for Advent
Sat, Nov. 27th @ 9am



ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

The heat is on! This is only my second fall on staff here at St. Mark, but whenever the weather starts changing to either hot or cold, the predictions and decisions start to be made behind the scenes of “when should we turn on/off the boiler?” It’s a decision made more difficult with the unusual highs and lows we have seen (remember the 80 degree Easter day last year?). While most of the building is heated and cooled by heat pumps, the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are still on the old boiler system, so we have to wait until we are fairly certain the temperatures are not going to jump again before turning on the boiler (or turning it off in the spring). It’s not the simple flip of a switch that we are used to in our homes, so we like to be fairly certain that we don’t have to reverse the process once we have switched it over for the season.

As far as projects around the building in October: We have had a recurring theme over the past several months of various stages of lighting being repaired and added around the property, but this is one that I had hoped to get done for a very long time: If you haven’t noticed, the large, non-functioning globe lights at our east/main entry have been replaced with sleek, energy-efficient, non-invasive wedge fixtures. The globe lights, which I believe were original to the church, were obsolete in that the manufacturer had discontinued the parts that were needed to make them work again. Rather than a costly attempt to retrofit, the decision was made to update them with a classic and more efficient fixture which has already made a difference as the days are getting shorter as we move into fall.

And with the growth of our preschool, it was determined that we needed more teeny tiny toilets for our ever-expanding group of 3-year-olds! Two child-sized toilets were installed in the bathrooms near the Fellowship Hall (so be sure to check before you select your stall!)

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



CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Fall Family Festival was a great success...I’ll let the pictures tell the story here. Thanks to all the volunteers, donors, and to Travis Charter for getting the photos!

God’s richest blessings to you! Chip Thompson, *Director of Creative Communications*



Get to **KNOW** you!



MEET YOUR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS: BRITTANY MURRAY

Introduce you and your family!

Hello, St. Mark. My name is Brittany Murray. I've been coming to St. Mark with my parents, Scott and Sheila for two years, and have been working at St. Mark Preschool and Childcare for just over 3 months.

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

I'm also a singer/songwriter and I perform regularly at local venues. I've been singing for three years and playing guitar for two years (you may have seen me play on Sunday mornings in the worship band). When I play on my own I typically play country music (I prefer the older style, but I do mix it up with newer as well). I began singing in a bit of a different path than most... it started when I began acting in local television commercials. I wanted to pursue voiceover work (where I voice a character on the screen like they do in animated movies such as Disney). Most films (particularly Disney films) have great soundtracks...music that enhances the visuals so much. So, I started singing more, then decided to pick up the guitar...this naturally led me to more of a singer/songwriter path.

What should people know about your songwriter interest?

Many people ask me if I want to be famous. I always tell them "no", that isn't my motivation. I want to tell great stories through song--that's what it's about for me.

What is your favorite part of teaching our preschoolers?

Seeing our kids learn and grow. Seeing their faces light up when they finally "get it" when working with them on a particular activity... the excitement, that makes my job rewarding!

What is something funny that happened that you like to tell people?

I love to draw and color with them! Any crafts where we get to sit there and be creative. Or when I can teach them to draw animals and shapes. Reading stories is also a personal favorite!

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

My favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Life is confusing enough...this verse helps remind me that I don't have to have everything "figured out", that it's in God's hands at the end of the day. I also love the story of Esther.



DEVOTIONAL BITE

from Pastor Jay's November 3, 2021
Devotional "From No to Go"

Scripture: John 14:12-14

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

I am not sure who originally said this about God's answering prayer, but it is certainly true and worth remembering. "If our prayer request isn't the right request, God says "no." If our prayer request is right, but the time is not, God says "slow." If the request and the time is right, but we are not ready, God says "grow"...

[READ THE FULL DEVOTIONAL HERE](#)



YOUR MINISTRY SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL!

Setting Up Your Online Giving is Easy!

stmarkomaha.org/giving

Young Mother's Fellowship

New Devotional Series
Tues, Nov 17th @ 6:30pm
in the Gathering Space.



Contact Caitlyn Baumann caitlyn_bleich@hotmail.com or
Kayla Lawton jameskayla2018@gmail.com for details.



LYDIA AND REBEKAH CIRCLE

November 9th at 6:30pm
Gathering Space

We will begin "Be Still & Know" by Deb Burma

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

NEW TIME!
Every Sunday morning
at 8:00am & 10:00pm on
KCRO

Omaha: 660 AM

Lincoln: 106.7 FM

Anytime online:

EternalConnectionRadio.com

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. 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.



November 1

Jayden Swale

November 2

Emmeline Barry
Nancy Holder

November 3

Justin Shockley

November 4

Dolores Glasser
Dillon Nelson
Raymond Thompson

November 5

Judy Peil

November 6

Cameron Higgins
Lorraine Juul
Dee McGill
Katrina Muganyizi
Matt Pistillo

November 7

Michelle Anderson
Becky Niemack
Woodensky Senechal
Bruce Sharp

November 8

Lilly Wacker-Munderloh

November 9

Connor Groothuis
Cindy Shockley

November 10

Jayne Dunn
Liz Messel
Cathy Munderloh

November 11

Lynsey Crnkovich
Ruby Goelz
Tony Jaynes
Milton Warner

November 12

Debra Kois

November 13

Ryan Nelson

November 14

Lisa Hayes
Nicholas Leach

November 15

Andy Pistillo
Debra Sales

November 16

Jennifer Henry
Nancy McAlpin

November 18

Zachary Krichau

November 19

Zachary Krichau

November 20

John Pflug
Denise Wessels

November 21

Judith Ketcham
Dana Mathiasen

November 23

Scott Camenzind

November 24

Seth Hallberg
Ruthie Peters
Dan Platt
Gene Wahl

November 25

Jason Groothuis
Anah Moe
Heather Westerlin

November 26

Paul Boyer
Donna Rundlett

November 27

Amanda Collins
Pauline Peyton

November 28

Stephanie Glass
Brianna Munderloh
Marion Oetter
Barbara Stout
Jessica Vanderloo

November 29

Rylan Howe
John Peyton
Robert Pistillo

November 1

Eddie Mekasha & Fantaye Girma: 24 Years

November 7

Nathan & Lisa Steinbach: 18 Years
Mike & Mitzi Tillwick: 40 Years

November 12

Bob & Karen Rosse: 38 Years

November 13

Kevin & Kym Abraham: 16 Years

November 15

Gary & Marj Garabrandt: 41 Years

November 18

Bill & Sandy Rolles: 59 Years

November 23

Orville & Donna Leu: 65 Years

November 29

Brandon & Kiley Awender: 7 Years

November 30

Patrick & Dee McGill: 36 Years

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Health & Healing: Lori Garabrandt, Bill Rolles, Larry Rolles, Samuel Varner, Brian Burke, Kenneth Oetter, Cheryl Bretta, Bill Howell, Pete Pedersen, Pat Hofer

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.

**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



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