



JUNE 2022 Edition

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”

Psalm 19:1

IN THIS ISSUE

STAFF MINISTRY UPDATES

From the Pastor’s Desk	1
Meet the New Staff	2
Preschool & Childcare	3
Administration & Operations....	4
Creative Communications	5
•••••	
DCE Call Update.....	2
Birth of Natalie Jae Collins	2
VBS Needs Lots of Volunteers	5
Top Golf Youth Photo.....	5
LWML Events.....	6
OCC Thank You	6
Mother’s Fellowship	6
Connect 3 Curriculum	6
Band of Brothers.....	6
Meet New Member Jerry Moss...7	
Portals of Prayer	7
Eternal Connection	8
Birthdays & Anniversaries	8
Prayers of the Church	8
Download the St. Mark App	8

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

– Jesus Christ



“Do I have to go back to the lake?” Those are words never spoken by an avid fisherman. “Do I have to keep practicing?” Those are words never spoken by a professional musician. “How many games do I have to watch?” Those are words never spoken by a sports fan. “How often do I have to hold my baby?” Those are words never spoken by a loving mother.

“Do I have to volunteer?” “Someone else will surely step up to help.” “I have more important things to do.” “It should be enough that I attend when I do.” These are words never spoken by a heart that knows the love and joy of our Lord and Savior Jesus, our Suffering Servant.

There are countless ways to serve at St. Mark, and your servitude is needed to continue this blessed privilege we have to serve our Lord and proclaim His life-saving Gospel through all of our ministries. VBS is one of them!

Through His perfect sacrifice and righteous blood shed for us, the Good News is that we can now please our God through even the smallest of humble sacrifices of time and effort.

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Hebrews 13:16.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Jay



DCE CALL UPDATE

We give thanks to the LORD that Miss Lydia Woods has accepted the call to be our new Director of Christian and Family Ministry! She will be joining us in August.



We look forward to welcoming her into the St. Mark family and pray the Lord would bless her and our congregation in her new role here at St. Mark.



We had also extended a call to DCE Ben Venteicher of Hays, Kansas. After visiting St. Mark and prayerful consideration, he has decided to decline our call and stay with his home congregation in Hays. We appreciate having the opportunity to meet Ben and his family and pray the LORD would continue to use Ben to His glory in Hays.

"I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15



*Fearfully
and
Wonderfully
made.*
Psalm 139:14

We praise God for the healthy birth of Natalie Jae Collins, born May 23rd, to St. Mark members Korey and Amanda Collins!

WELCOME NEW PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE STAFF!



Shannon Schlabs
Assistant Director



Sarah Jay
Teacher



Delanie Donohue
Support Staff



Deanna Ringler
Summer Support Staff



Abby Flough
Summer Support Staff



James Flough
Summer Support Staff



STAFF AND MINISTRY UPDATES



PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE

We are already into our 3rd week of our Summer Program! All summer long the children will have fun exploring a new theme each week.

So far this summer the children have learned about animals that live in a zoo and who takes care of them. One morning they made Monkey Chow and then enjoyed it for snack! Next week the children are going to plant a garden and hopefully next month they will be able to try some fresh vegetables!

During the summer the children will be making wind chimes, building birdhouses, spending time doing various cooking projects and enjoying the sunshine with water play and bubbles. We can always use more hands to help with some of these special projects. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering.

Julie Kyriss, *Preschool & Childcare Center Director*



MEET OUR NEW ASSISTANT PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR: SHANNON SCHLABS

Introduce yourself and tell us your background.

Hello everyone! My name is Shannon Schlabs and I'm very excited to be the new assistant childcare director here at St Mark. I have been working in childcare since I was 16 and it's been my passion ever since. I have a degree from metro community college and have my CDA as well.

I have been married to my husband Ronnie for 14 years and we have 4 children.

What is something most folks do not know about me?

Something that most people don't know about me is that I love to bake and decorate cookies.

What do you like most about working with children?

What I love most about working with children is seeing their enthusiasm to learn and watching them grow. There is nothing like watching young children explore and discover.

What is your favorite Bible story?

My favorite bible story is the story of Jesus and the children from Mark. It's a short passage but is so incredibly true in that children are so the best form of humanity, and we must encourage their journey and show them the way.





ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

I would say the most notable item for Admin and Operations in the month of May has been the project to replace the HVAC condensing unit that was damaged by vandals. In a presumed attempt to steal the refrigerant and copper from the large chiller that sat just south of the main entrance, the unit that is an integral part of cooling the Sanctuary was damaged beyond repair on the evening of May 12. With the continuing supply chain issues throughout the nation, we initially expected that we may be without even a temporary solution for some time due to the obsolescence of our current system (R-22 refrigerant systems were rendered obsolete in January 2020). This expectation was soon changed to amazement when we were told that not only was a temporary solution found that would work with our existing system (in Kansas City, available for delivery the following Monday!), but it also could be our permanent solution due to its capability of being converted to the new technology equipment that is planned to replace our old air handler and boiler system. Additionally, because the damage was due to vandalism, we are working with our insurance company to cover the cost of the replacement. As the project nears its completion, we can look back and realize that God truly does work all together for good!

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



Showing a closeup of some the damage.



VBS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!!!

CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

We are looking forward to a fun-filled Vacation Bible School the end of June. This year's theme is Mission HIMpossible, where the kids will learn all about God's revealed secret plan to send us His Son, Jesus to save the world from the archvillain, Satan.

The next couple weeks will have our team putting the final touches on all the props, craft supplies, storylines, scripts, volunteer assignments, snack planning, and on and on. A LOT of effort goes into making this engaging and fun for the kids, and I want to give a big PRE-Thank You to everyone who is/will be involved. Which is a great segue into... **WE STILL NEED HELP.**

WE HAVE 80 KIDS SIGNED UP! E-I-G-H-T-Y!
EVEN AT 80, WE STILL NEED AT LEAST 12 MORE VOLUNTEERS TO STEP UP AND MAKE THIS A SUCCESS.

What will these 12 wonderful volunteers be doing? I'm so glad you asked!

WE NEED:

- 6 Group Leaders to simply make sure the kids get from one activity to the other
- 4 assistants during free-time in the Gym and Playground to make sure everyone is playing safely
- 2 people to help check the little ones in and out.



For nothing will be impossible WITH God. LK 1:37

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022
MON JUN 27TH TO FRI JUL 1

See? These are REALLY EASY positions to fill... but they HAVE to happen, or we'll have to start trimming that awesome 80 number down....and nobody wants that to happen.

Please sign up on a sheet in the Gathering Space or contact me or Julie or Kelly directly! Thanks again.

God's richest blessings to you! He is STILL risen! Chip Thompson, *Director of Creative Communications*



The Youth gathered for their final event of the year at Top Golf.

Great to see so many youth participating!



LWML 80TH ANNIVERSARY LYDIA HOUSE PROJECT

In celebration of 80 years, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League will be raising funds and donations to bless the women of The Lydia House in Omaha.

Please contact Jolene Scalzo for more information: jscalzo@cox.net



LWML Joint Circle Meeting
on Sunday, June 12th at 11:45am
in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies
of the congregation are invited to
join the group for lunch followed
by a business meeting.



Martha/Mary Bible Study
Tuesday June 21st at 6:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall.



Lydia and Rebekah Circle
will meet on June 28 at 10:00am
in the Gathering Space.
We will be doing the lesson on
the Shunammite Woman.

THANK YOU FROM OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD!

Thank you for all the donations with the pill bottles and the coffee time on the third Sunday of the month. All of the money will be used to send the shoeboxes. It cost \$9.00 to ship a box around the world. Have you mailed a package to someone recently and were shocked by the cost?

Thank you also to all for taking a tag from the Wishing Tree, purchasing, and donating the items. The Wishing Tree has been retired for a while but will appear again for more wishes. Do you have shoe boxes? We can use them; the larger boxes are used to pack the soccer balls and other large items.

Is anyone interested in sewing? Let me know! Many may have wondered "where do the shoeboxes go?" Some that were packed last fall were sent to the hill country of Mexico to the orphanages. Each child receives a booklet in their language, "THE GREATEST STORY EVERY TOLD." The boys and girls hear the story of Jesus' love and many of them become Christians.

Thank you to all, and please keep the shoebox ministry in your prayers.
Helen Oldenkamp and Rhonda Zebolsky

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!



June Curriculum will be posted Mon, June 6th
<https://stmarkomaha.org/congregational-resources/>
CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD

Mother's Fellowship
Tuesday June 14th & June 28th
at 6:30pm
in the Gathering Space.

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

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.

Get to **KNOW** you!



MEET NEW MEMBER: JERRY MOSS

Introduce yourself and tell us your background.

I grew up on a farm in NE South Dakota as the seventh child of a family of eight children. I completed my undergraduate education in Ottawa, Kansas and my graduate education at UNO. I have worked as the Director of Respiratory Services at the University of South Dakota Medical Center, established and led the pulmonary rehabilitation program for Immanuel Medical Center in Omaha, and served as the Director of the Respiratory Therapy Program at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha for 34 years. I am the father of three adult children: Sarah (nurse anesthetist in MN), David (Supervisor at Douglas County Corrections) and Micah (employed by Waldingers in Omaha). I am also the proud grandfather of ten grandchildren.

What do you do for a living?

Prior to retirement I was employed as a respiratory therapist and a college educator.

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

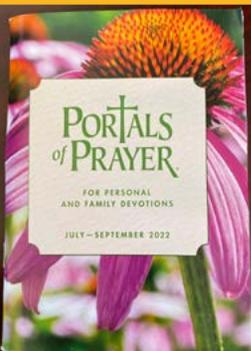
I enjoy antiquing and have a large collection of carnival glass. I also enjoy doing cross stitching for relaxation and have completed numerous projects for my children and grandchildren.

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

My favorite Bible verse is John 3:16. I think it summarizes the Bible in just a few words. I think it is a verse which summarizes God's relationship with all of us and provides us with the way of salvation. It gives us the glorious hope of eternal life in heaven through our love of God and death of Jesus Christ.

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

After observing online streaming services from St. Mark I made the decision to attend in person. I was very impressed with the warmth of the church and the manner in which the Gospel was being shared. That led me to contact Pastor Jay and the rest is history.



**THE NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER
NOW AVAILABLE IN THE GATHERING SPACE!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

June 1
Mary Kay Swale

June 2
Samuel Muganyizi
Avery Rygol

June 3
Ollie Weber

June 4
Mckenzie Deckard
Denise Steckelberg

June 6
Raedee Nelson
Audrey Vanosdall

June 7
Ashley Huesers
Allison Nelson

June 10
Christen Colwell
Karlie Hallberg
Evan Papera
Richard Urbatch

June 11
Nina Peters
Marissa Rawson
Marilyn Valentine

June 12
Tom Hicks
Jeremy Liebsack
Paul Shellabarger

June 13
Bonnie Bredin
Karrin Lovett-Ledwich
Bob Rosse

June 14
Chad Meyer
Carina Niemack

June 15
Judith McPheeters
Karen Meyer

June 17
Brianna Lovett
Susan Thonen

June 18
Robert Chapman
Lisa Monter
Matt Tilford

June 19
Mark Vanderloo Jr
John Withhart
Justin Zebolsky

June 20
Jessica Codr
Cora Hoppmann
Louie James

June 21
Kimberly Liebsack
Ed Neumann

June 23
Debra Knop
Carolyn Worrell
Karen Zacharias

June 25
Marj Garabrandt
Doug Isaac

June 26
Morgan Bailey
Jacob Garabrandt

June 27
Laura Haley
Katherine Hilburn
Mark Hilburn
Lizzy Jay
Sue Meyer
Carolyn Ryan

June 28
Kathryn Mathiasen

June 29
Quinn Methe
Angela Weaver

June 30
E. J. Kemnitz
Rian Taylor

The Eternal Connection



St. Mark's Radio Broadcast Ministry

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 morning at 8:00am & 10:00pm on KCRO

Omaha: 660 AM

Lincoln: 106.7 FM

Anytime online:

EternalConnectionRadio.com

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

June 01
Louie & Sandy James: 31 Years
Evan & Carissa Johnson: 9 Years
Bernie & Kayla Lawton: 3 Years

June 03
Chad & Riley Meyer: 22 Years

June 04
Andrew & Miranda Iwen: 6 Years

June 05
Daniel & Caitlyn Baumann: 6 Years

June 06
Cole & Stephanie Pearson: 2 Years

June 07
Glen & Deanna Dahlkoetter: 47 Years
Mike & Cathy Munderloh: 36 Years
John & Carol Withhart: 52 Years

June 08
Todd & Kristie Bockelmann: 26 Years

June 11
Nick & Chelsea Burr: 6 Years

June 13
Bill & Carol Liebsack: 57 Years

June 16
Richard & Beverly Hilburn: 43 Years

June 17
John & Rachel Papera: 22 Years
Andy & Sara Rygol: 22 Years

June 18
Hosea & Phyllis Austin: 28 Years

June 20
Harry & Marlene Gavin: 63 Years
Kevin Ludwig & Melissa Olson-Ludwig: 2 Years

June 21
John & Judy Peil: 36 Years

June 22
Jeff & Trudy Johnson: 31 Years
Tim & Christy Smith: 33 Years

June 27
Derek & Christen Colwell: 7 Years

June 29
Robert & Debra Sales: 41 Years

June 30
Timothy & Glenda Hallberg: 48 Years
Tyler & Bethany Cannon: 10 Years

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Health & Healing: Macaela Happel

Military: Jordan Hammond; Meghan Murray; Andrew Toman; 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: Irv Dana, President; Dan Buman, Vice President ; Mike Munderloh, Treasurer; Jolene Scalzo, Secretary; Lisa Buchele, Mark Cherney, Lisa Hayes, Chuck Kuntz, Andy Rygol

Download Our App



Available on the **App Store**

GET IT ON **Google Play**