

JANUARY 2023

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**SEE I AM DOING
A NEW THING!**

Isaiah 43:19



**FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK**

Greetings St. Mark!

I pray the joy of God's love for you in Christ!

"See, I am doing a new thing." When God spoke those words through Isaiah, He was talking about His New Covenant; the new life He was *going* to give us in Jesus, His Son, who would surrender His perfect life as the seed that would bring forth the eternal fruit of salvation for all who trust and follow Him. The Lord is faithful! We in fact do have salvation in Christ our risen Lord who says in Revelation 21:5, "Behold I am making all things new." Boy...is He ever?!

We saw a lot of new things happening at St. Mark in 2022, and the Lord isn't slowing down in 2023. A bustling new (2020) childcare center, pre-registrations flowing in for our new K5 school opening this fall, a new vicar, new staff, new members, new babies and baptisms...phew! The Lord is good. Enjoy reading about all our Lord is doing at St. Mark!

Pastor Jay




**KINGDOM KIDS
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

9:15am - 10:00am:
During Adult Bible Study.
Childcare for ages 3 - Kindergarten.
Sunday School for 1st - 5th grade.

10:30am Worship Service:
All children in service to start.
Children's message for all ages.
Ages 3 - Kindergarten Sunday School
Room 205 (opposite sanctuary).
1st grade & up stay in service.



ST. MARK'S BRAND NEW K-5 SCHOOL!

**"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight."**

Proverbs 9:10

We could not be more excited for our opening year! Since the congregation voted unanimously to open a new K-5 school, we have been working furiously to get all things in order and ready to bring the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to children through a most excellent education.

Pre-registration is now open and we encourage you to visit the school webpage to read about everything from our philosophy and curriculum to our enrollment schedule and tuition.

www.stmarkomaha.org/k5-home-page

Much more information will be published very soon, including our Student Handbook that will include all the finer details we are in the process of finalizing. Please pray for our staff and leadership as we humbly work to carry out this Gospel mission that the Lord has called us to.



Meet our new St. Mark staff!



AARON KRATZ **HEAD TEACHER**

I graduated from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA with a Bachelors' Degree in Elementary Education, and a Reading Endorsement.

My wife Tina and I live in Omaha and have been married for 20 years. We have two daughters, Kayla and Chloe, who are currently attending Concordia Omaha Jr./Sr. High School.

My first teaching job was in the West Harrison Community School District in Mondamin, IA, as a Title One Reading teacher and coach. I then met my wife and moved to Southern California and was a seventh-grade teacher, coach, and athletic director at Hephatha Lutheran School in Anaheim Hills, CA for two years. We then decided to move up the coast to Paso Robles, CA where I was a 1st grade teacher and coach at Trinity Lutheran School for eighteen years. We then decided to back to the Midwest, and I was a 1st / 2nd grade teacher at East Mills Community School in Malvern, IA. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family and attending my daughters' sporting events.



BETH KELLY **CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR**

Beth was born and raised in Canton, IL where she lived until moving to Omaha a year ago. Her son and daughter-in-law, Seth and Ashley, settled in Omaha after Seth left the Navy a few years ago. She wanted to be out here before any grandchildren arrived! In Canton Beth worked as the church office manager at First Baptist Church. Beth worked as a Legal Assistant upon first arriving in Omaha, but started at St. Mark's at the first of the year. She has been involved with children and youth ministry since she was in

high school and most other areas at her former church. In her spare time Beth enjoys spending time with Seth and Ashley, gardening, walking – anything that gets her outdoors!



2022 GIVING E-STATEMENTS

Giving statements for 2022 will be sent out by the end of January. If you have not already signed up for e-statements, or are unsure if you have signed up, please email giving@stmarkomaha.org. This will help us save a good amount of money on postage, printing, and paper!

The Eternal Connection

Radio Show

OMAHA: 1490 AM / 660 AM / 94.5 FM

LINCOLN: 106.7 FM

COUNCIL BLUFFS: 1420 AM / 106.5 FM

A RADIO BROADCAST MINISTRY OF



LISTEN AND SHARE!

ETERNALCONNECTIONRADIO.COM



YOUR CHURCH IS **ON AIR!**

Did you know that Pastor Jay teaches on the radio right here in Omaha, Lincoln, and the surrounding area every Sunday? Joined by friends Chip Thompson and Jason Eisenman, Pastor Jay is currently teaching through the Gospel of John.

[LISTEN ON THE ST. MARK MOBILE APP - CLICK HERE!](#)

JOIN AN

Eternal Connection
Radio Show

BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Jay is currently teaching through the Gospel of John on the Eternal Connection, and there is a complete archive of his teaching, verse by verse, which makes for a great small group or Bible study curriculum. We currently have both a men and women's Eternal Connection Bible Study group meeting at St. Mark each week. Join us!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays @ 9:00am

Meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact: Jack Swanda

jswanda@cox.net

Enter through door 7 from south parking lot along Decatur St.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

Meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

Allison Bickford

allison.bickford@gmail.com

Enter through door 7 from south parking lot along Decatur St.

BEGINS JAN. 25TH

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE



LYDIA WOODS
DCE



In the land of children's ministry, we have seen major growth since the beginning of the school year. It has been a wonderful joy to see new smiling faces! Below you can see some of the fun had at 9:15 Sunday school for kindergarten – 5th grade. Everything from puppet shows to amazing crafts that assist the kids in exploring the Bible and their relationship with God. As for our youth, we are excited to announce we will be serving in Alamosa Colorado this Summer for our servant event. In preparation we get together with the high school every Sunday at 4:30-6:30pm and the middle schoolers 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Thank you to all the volunteers that make this possible! Want to be part of the excitement? See Miss Lydia or email her at lwoods@stmarkomaha.org.



VOLUNTEER AS A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER!

"Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." - Matt. 18:3

On many occasions, Jesus taught His disciples the importance of not only having child-like faith, but also actively ministering to children. "Let the little children come to me!" That's what Jesus said, and He expected His disciples to receive those and minister to those that came to them for Jesus.

SERVE THE LORD & HELP US SERVE HIS LITTLE ONES!

Contact Miss Lydia - lwoods@stmarkomaha.org

PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE UPDATE



JULIE KYRISS
DIRECTOR



ST. MARK
**PRESCHOOL
& CHILDCARE**

Our children are happy to be back in school after a wonderful Christmas Vacation. The first week of January is always exciting as the children reconnect with their friends and teachers! Now that we are officially in winter, we will explore how animals survive the winter, the children will make snow to play in, try ice painting, and have lots of snowball fights with special “inside” snowballs.

Each class starts the week with Chapel to introduce the weekly bible story. This month’s bible stories start with Jesus as a young boy in the temple, then moves to Jesus performing several miracles by saving Jairus’ daughter, healing a blind man, and feeding 5,000 people.

Registration for the 2023-24 school year begins on February 1st for our current families and members of St. Mark. Open enrollment begins on February 15th. For more information regarding registration on our website www.daycareomaha.org.

Our Center will celebrate Lutheran School Week January 22nd-27th. To kick off this special week we have invited all our families to attend the **10:30 worship service on January 22nd**. The children are going to sing two songs and after the Children’s Message they are invited to attend Sunday School with Miss Lydia.

As our Preschool and Childcare continues to grow, I would love to have volunteers to help with meal preparation, help with sanitizing toys, and spending time in our classrooms reading to the children. Please email me directly if you are able to help out! jkyriss@stmarkomaha.org

WE'RE HIRING! CLICK THE IMAGE BELOW. DOWNLOAD IMAGE AND SHARE IT!



TEACHERS & CARE GIVERS

Full-time & Part-time. Signing Bonuses!

We are
HIRING!

Care Givers (Floaters & Assistants)

We are looking for care givers who love children and love sharing Jesus with them through their care! No certification required for care givers. Must be 18 y.o.

Preschool Teachers (3s, 4s, & 5s)

We are also looking for preschool teachers who have experience with preschool curriculum and early childhood education and development.

Benefits: \$16-\$23/hr • Full benefits • 401K
Signing Bonus • Flexible hours • paid holidays
and snow days • positive and supportive
workplace.



daycareomaha.org/jobs

MUSICIANS NEEDED!

Bring eternal purpose to the talents God has blessed you with and join the worship team at St. Mark! Singers, pianists, guitarists, strings, brass, drums, any and all musicians wanted.

All talent levels welcome.

music@stmarkomaha.org



DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Pastor Jay will resume his daily devotionals in February 2023



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who contributed to the collection of items for the boxes and postage funds for sending them. Thank you for braiding jump ropes, filling pencil cases sewn lovingly by Helen and a big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with the Saturday activity of sorting all the items and filling the boxes. **We packed 244** great boxes this year and were able to send along several extras for use at the facilities that send them on. At those facilities a booklet of Bible stories in their language is added and the child is invited to classes to study them and learn more about Jesus. We pray that the children who receive these gifts will feel the love that is sent from all of you and that they and their families will learn of the true love of our Lord and Savior.

FACILITY & OPERATIONS UPDATE



JASON CONELL
MANAGER



DAREN CLARK
TECHNICIAN

Wow! The holidays have come and gone, and it is already a new year. We are excited to be back from our break and are ready for all the challenges and opportunities 2023 will bring.

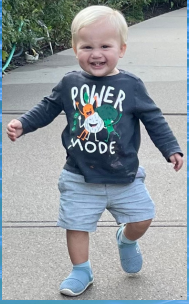
We are thankful for the addition of Beth Kelly our new Church Administrator; she will take a huge load off the Operations Team helping us to do our various tasks more efficiently.

December was a busy time, helping the Alter Guild with decorating, preparing for Advent and Christmas Services, while keeping up with janitorial.

We are working closely with Concordia as they begin their "move-out" and we are looking forward to the setup of our own school. This spring will be a busy time for us all here at St. Mark, there will be no shortage of things to do, but with God's faithful promise to lead us and equip us for the ministry He has called us to, I'm confident that all things are indeed possible.

Jason - Operation Manager
jconell@stmarkomaha.org

Celebrating Baptism



CEDRIC CHERNEY

Baptized
November 12, 2022



LANA MATASOVSKY

Baptized
December 18, 2022



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



THE CHERNEYS

David, Krystal, Quinn, & Cedric
Installed November 12, 2022

Support **St. Mark** while you shop
...for free!

amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

1

Go to:
smile.amazon.com

2

Log into
your account

3

Select/Search
St. Mark
Lutheran Church

*Make sure you select
St. Mark in "Omaha, NE"*

BLESSINGS ON YOUR MARIAGE!



JOSH AND SHELBY PFEIFER (BREMER)

Married December 17, 2022

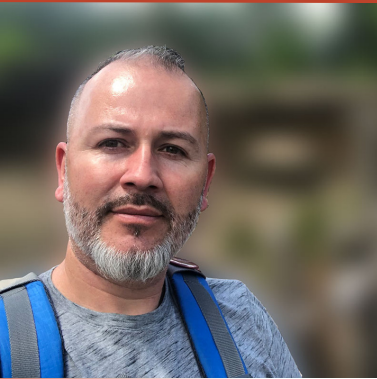
WELCOME OUR NEW VICAR!

Sergio Puente has completed his theological training through the LC-MS Hispanic Ministries and pastor certification program. He will be completing his pastoral training and vicarage with Pastor Jay through May of 2023. Welcome Sergio when you see him!

INSTALLATION SERVICE: JANUARY 29, 2023
10:30am Worship Service

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

High School : Every Sunday 4:30pm - 6:30pm
Middle School : 2nd and 4th Sundays 4:30pm - 6:30pm
CLUB 56 : 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 6:00pm - 7:00pm



WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 5pm (Traditional)
Sunday 9:15 Adult Bible Study
(Childcare and Sunday School Available)
Sunday 10:30am (Blended)

Tithes & Offering



Mobile App

StMarkOmaha.Org/Giving



SUPER SERVICE! Jan 22nd

Join us for a super
Sunday of worship!
Baptism, new members
installed, & preschool
kiddos singing!

10:30am Worship Service



DECEMBER

Cindy Barry
 Evelyn Boetcher
 Ann Chapman
 Brody Clark
 Jane Conell
 Irving Dana III
 Nancy Davidson
 Catherine Dickerson
 Abby Flaugh
 Laura Flaugh
 Louise Flaugh
 Brandon Fleharty
 Joshua Hugen
 Lois Jorgensen
 Cory Keilig
 Stephanie Krijan
 Cheryl Lawson
 Donna Leu
 Kevin Messel
 Rachel Messel
 Lisa Methe
 Brittany Minor
 Kristen Poster
 Sheryl Radcliff
 Deborah Ritsch
 Brenda Siffring
 Audrey Stewart
 Hazel Stewart
 Kevin Thernes
 Christine Tilford

JANUARY

Len Adams
 Marvin Baumann
 Sarah Boetcher
 Tiffany Chapman
 Krystal Cherney
 Emersyn Colwell
 Mary Damon-Burke
 William Erickson
 Waldine Harris
 Kayla Holder
 Scott Holder
 Andrew Iwen
 Kathryn Johnson
 Julie Kyriss
 Jaxon Leu
 Justin Leu
 Colbie Methe
 John Parkert
 Michael Ringler
 Marvin Rosenthal
 Christopher Scalzo
 Robert Sprague
 Jeffery Stewart
 Cheryl Vincent



DECEMBER: Mel & Lisa Buchele • Rod & Gloria Dahlquist • Irv & Anne Dana • Paul & Jessica Hoppmann • Amon & Katrina Muganyizi, Peter & Wendy Oldenburg • Kathy & Jim Stokes • Eugene & Sharon Wahl • Greg & Rhonda Zebolsky

JANUARY: Roger & Kathy Johnson • Eric & Sarah Jay • Robert II & Amanda Tamisiea

PRAYER Request

Can we pray for you?

<https://stmarkomaha.org/prayer-requests/>

prayer@stmarkomaha.org

(Indicate public, email prayer chain, or both in email)



Download Our App



CHURCH STAFF & LEADERSHIP

Rev. Eric Jay, Senior Pastor
 Rev. Eddie Mekasha, Outreach Pastor
 Lydia Woods, DCE
 Julie Kyriss, Preschool & Childcare Director
 Aaron Kratz, Head K5 Teacher

Beth Kelly, Church Administrator
 Jason Conell, Facility & Operations Manager
 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; Aaron Flaugh, Secretary; Lisa Buchele, Mark Cherney, Lisa Hayes, Chuck Kuntz, Andy Rygol



ST. MARK
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Connecting People to Jesus