

SEPTEMBER 2023

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**ST MARK**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
[StMarkOmaha.org](http://StMarkOmaha.org)



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Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### Greetings St. Mark!

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

“Therefore, **since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” – Hebrews 12:1-2

When you arrive at St. Mark Lutheran Church and walk through the front doors, into the new gathering space to grab your coffee, and into our beautiful and newly refurbished sanctuary, you are walking through a cloud of witnesses. When you sit in the fellowship hall for Bible study, drop your kids off at one of our classrooms for Sunday school, or enjoy our gym and playground during one of our many events throughout the year, you do so because of a cloud of faithful witnesses who came before us. That is too easily forgotten, and we must be intentional about remembering.

The church you know and love as St. Mark is here because faithful Christians like you followed our Lord's call to be good stewards with the blessings He provided, to sacrifice earthly

gain for the sake of His eternal kingdom, and to be generous for the sake of generations they would never meet – at least on earth. It's so important we remember what God has so graciously given us through His faithful saints of the past so that we ourselves are able to walk faithfully after our Lord and have His will fulfilled among us, which will be the fulfillment and satisfaction our hearts and souls long for. The sober realization that we are all beneficiaries of the generosity of generations before us is what will help us endure in our generosity to generations after us. I know you see as clearly as I do how desperately our younger generations are not only going to need to benefit from our faithfulness to Christ, but our generosity that will propel the Gospel forward.

We hear a lot about “changing the world”, especially as we enter another election year. As those whom Christ has called to Himself, you and I know that there is only one hope for this world: the truth of Jesus Christ and the proclamation of His Gospel. This starts in our own homes, in our own church, and in our own ministry together.

As the author of Hebrews said above, it was for the joy set before Him that Christ endured the cross. Jesus found joy in the sacrifice of the cross because His eyes were focused beyond the sacrifice, to the Father, to His will, and to His love for you and me. This joyous and sacrificial Lord has promised us the same. We will find eternal joy in sacrifice, and many times only in sacrifice, because it forces our eyes off ourselves and onto Jesus who is the “founder and perfecter of our faith”, to the eternal inheritance we have already received in His blood that has paid our debt of death to God, and to His resurrection that gives us the riches of His presence in heaven forever.

This weekend, September 16th and 17th, we are launching our **Generous 2 Generations** campaign, and I pray it is a campaign you will walk through with me over the next three years. The cloud of witnesses before us have helped to make our campaign goals very manageable and easily attainable with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Included in the newsletter below, you will find a link to a page on our website explaining the details of our **Generous 2 Generations** campaign and how you can commit to blessing generations long after us with the knowledge of the truth of Jesus Christ and the everlasting hope of salvation that is found only through faith in Him. I ask you to prayerfully, seriously, and intentionally consider how you will come to know the joy that the Lord has set before us at St. Mark, in the blessed ministry we have together, and in the eternal satisfaction of faithful sacrifice for the sake of our Lord Jesus, His glory, and His kingdom.

Your Servant in Christ,  
**Pastor Jay**





**CLICK THE IMAGE ABOVE TO LEARN MORE**

**BE A PART OF OUR CAMPAIGN!**

“He established a testimony which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, **that the next generation might know them**; the children yet unborn.”

Psalm 78:5-6



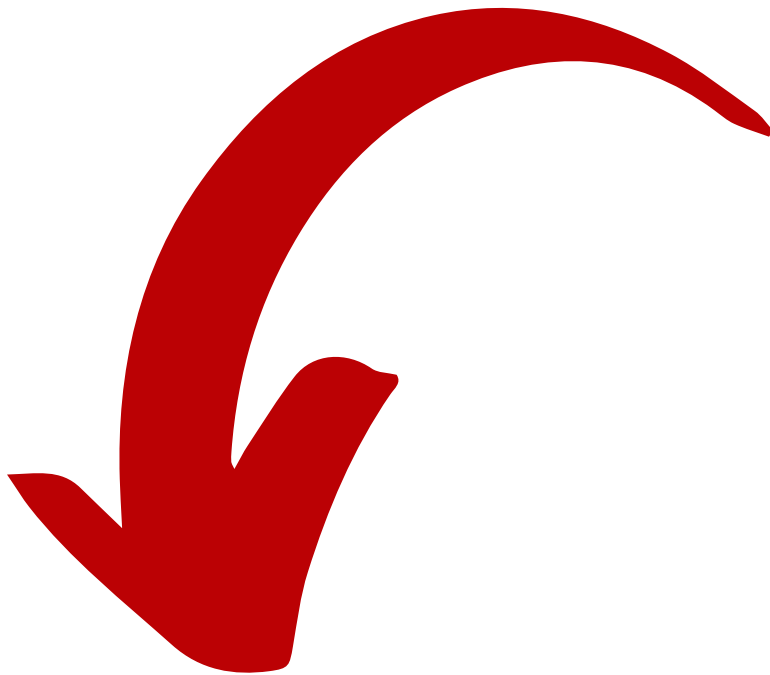
**NOW OPEN!**

**K-5  
Lutheran  
School**



**Click here for details**

# **SPEAKING OF THE NEXT GENERATION...**





# Saved through Baptism 2023



## BAPTISMS SINCE MAY OF 2023



**MICHAEL  
BAUMANN**



**ANDREW  
BELTER**



**HEZEKIAH  
JAY**

## EARLIER BAPTISMS IN 2023



**NORA  
GARDELS**



**KEIRA  
JACKSON**



**RAMONA  
LAWTON**



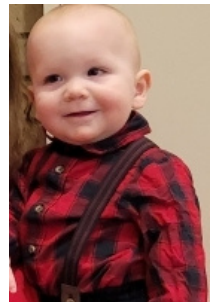
**ISAIAH  
LING**



**NURKO  
LING**



**CALEB  
SCALZO**



**ROBERT  
TAMISIEA III**

**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 2:38-39**



# *Welcome, New Members!*



Zach Justus &  
Brooke Stephens



**The Anderls**  
Richard & Mo



**The Pflug Family**  
Jake & Janey  
Aurora, Mariner, & Freddie



**The Rosse Family**  
Andrew & Amanda  
Chloe, Leah, Selah,  
Naomi & Elijah.



**The Waggoners**  
Don & Diana



# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## LEARNING THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP!

And some other awesome crafts and activities!!



## 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 and minister to those little ones that came to them for Jesus.

**SERVE THE LORD & HELP US SERVE HIS LITTLE ONES!**

**Contact Miss Lydia - [lwoods@stmarkomaha.org](mailto:lwoods@stmarkomaha.org)**



# First day of School



## ST. MARK PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE

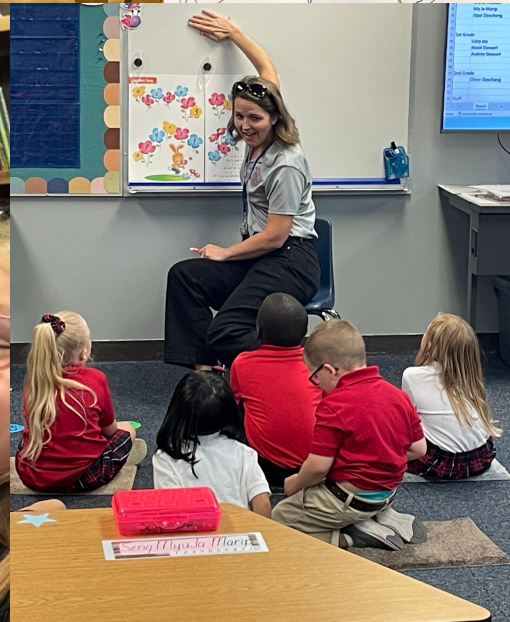
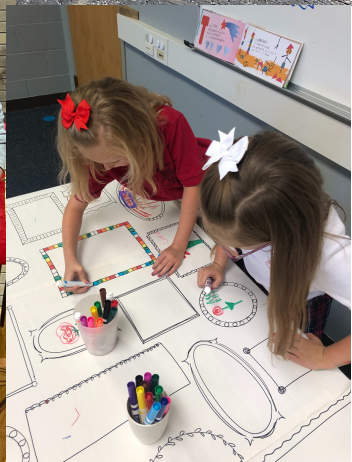




First DAY  
OF  
School



St. Mark  
Lutheran School





# YOUTH GROUP



**BEGINS 9-24-2023**  
**Sundays @ 4:30pm**

High School  
Every Sunday

Middle School  
2nd & 4th Sundays

# YOUTH PARENT Meeting

**Sunday, Sept. 17th**  
**Immediately following 10:30am service.**



## YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

**SUNDAYS @ 9:15AM**  
**YOUTH ROOM #110**



Students entering  
grades 6 through 8  
**You are invited!**

2023 Nebraska District  
Middle School Youth Gathering

**November 4-5, 2023**

**Registration September 3rd - 24th**

Contact Ms. Lydia - [lwoods@stmarkomaha.org](mailto:lwoods@stmarkomaha.org)



**9:15am Every Sunday!**

**Adults in Fellowship Hall**  
**Jr. & Sr. High in Room 120**  
**1st (6 y.o.) - 5th Grade in Room 103**  
**3 - 5 years old in Room 134**



All children are invited up  
for the children's message.  
After, ages 3 through 6 can  
head to Sunday School  
with teachers! Room 205.  
7+ stay in service.



## IT'S OK LITTLE FELLA, WE HAVE A PARENT'S ROOM!

**We love the sound of children in worship!**

Never feel you have to leave because  
of a fussy little one, but if you need  
some privacy, please use our Parent's  
Room outside the west sanctuary doors  
(to the right). The window and audio  
system ensure you can still be a part  
of our service!



## NEW ITEMS ON THE GIVING TREE



School Supplies Needed:

Pencils, pens, crayons, colored  
pencils, markers, sharpeners,  
rulers, small notebooks, etc.

# The Eternal Connection

## Radio Show

**BROADCAST THROUGHOUT NEBRASKA!**

**CLICK HERE FOR LISTING.**

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 and all over Nebraska and Council Bluffs every Sunday? Joined by friends Chip Thompson and Jason Eisenman, Pastor Jay is currently teaching a series called "People of the Book."

**LISTEN ON THE ST. MARK MOBILE APP - CLICK HERE!**

**JOIN AN**

**Eternal Connection**  
Radio Show

**BIBLE STUDY**

Pastor Jay is currently teaching through a series studying major characters in the Bible. Visit **eternalconnectionradio.com** for a complete archive of his teaching, 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](mailto:jswanda@cox.net)

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

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

**Fall Schedule TBA**

For information contact

Allison Bickford

[allison.bickford@gmail.com](mailto:allison.bickford@gmail.com)



# Get Involved in the Many Ministries at St Mark!



- Men's Fellowship/Study
- Women's Fellowship/Study
- Connect 3 Small Groups
- IMMPACT Immigrant Ministry
- Youth Ministries
- Children's Ministry
- Vacation Bible School
- Preschool & Childcare

**Contact the church office!**

## *"Follow Me" ~ Jesus*

**Here are the ways you can get involved in your Lord's work at St. Mark.**

**Worship Music & Tech:** From playing an instrument or singing, to helping with the on-screen media and sound. All experience levels welcome.

**Ushering:** Help Pastor prepare and execute worship service logistics and be a smiling face to welcome folks to worship.

**Sunday School Teachers:** As young families continue to join St. Mark, we really need help with our 9:15am and 10:30am Sunday School classes. We do all the prep and provide all materials. An easy and impactful way to serve the Lord.

**IMMPACT:** Serve the immigrants and refugees among us by simply having conversations in English with them as part of our IMMPACT Immigrant Ministry citizenship and English classes.

**Musicians Needed!** We are always looking for more talented musicians to help us glorify God through excellent and reverent worship. Contemporary band, traditional choir, handbells, it's all here!

**EMAIL [CONTACT@STMARKOMAHA.ORG](mailto:CONTACT@STMARKOMAHA.ORG) TO SERVE!**





# TEACHERS & CARE GIVERS

Full-time & Part-time. Signing Bonuses!

We are  
**HIRING!**

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



[daycareomaha.org/jobs](http://daycareomaha.org/jobs)

## **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.



## WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

**Saturday** 5pm (Traditional)

**Sunday** 9:15 Adult Bible Study  
(Childcare and Sunday School Available)

**Sunday** 10:30am (Blended)

## ***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](mailto:music@stmarkomaha.org)



Download Our App



**CONNECT**  
CHURCH • CHRIST • COMMUNITY

3

It all started with 12.  
Big things happen in small groups.  
Join one today!



[connect3@stmarkomaha.org](mailto:connect3@stmarkomaha.org)

**Can we pray for you?**

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

or

[prayer@stmarkomaha.org](mailto:prayer@stmarkomaha.org)

(Indicate public, email prayer chain, or both)

# 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



**ST. MARK**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Connecting People to **Jesus**



# ST. MARK

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Connecting People to **Jesus**