

SAINT MARK'S EPISTLE

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

302 S. Norris Ave. POB 580

Pender, NE 68047

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Phone: 402-385-3340

Pastor Karen McNeill-Utecht

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Council President : Max Cochran

Church Secretary: Jane Tonjes

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May 2026

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As May arrives, the church stands in that bright space between seasons—still warmed by the glow of Easter, yet already leaning toward Pentecost. Acts 2:17 reminds us of God's promise: "*I will pour out my Spirit on all people.*" It's a verse that bursts with color and movement, much like the red paraments that will surround us in worship.

Pentecost marks the birth of the Church, the moment when God's Spirit moved beyond boundaries of age, gender, and status and settled on *everyone*. The Spirit speaks through young and old, dreamers and doers, the bold and the quiet alike. That outpouring didn't end in the first century, it continues in us.

At the same time, May brings its own familiar rhythms. Schools let out. Vacations are planned. Schedules loosen. Life shifts gears. And shortly after Pentecost, the church calendar shifts too, returning us to what we call "Ordinary Time." It is easy to hear that word and imagine something unimportant or spiritually quiet, as though the real action of the church year has already happened.

But Ordinary Time is anything but ordinary.

It is the long stretch of days where we live out what Christmas proclaimed and Easter confirmed. It's where the Spirit's fire settles into daily life—into conversations, decisions, relationships, and routines. It's where faith becomes practice, not just celebration. If Christmas reveals God-with-us and Easter reveals God-for-us, then Ordinary Time is where we learn to live God-through-us.

So as the season shifts, I invite you to pay attention to the Spirit's movement in the everyday. In the unpronounceable words of Pentecost, in the laughter of children freed from school schedules, in the planning of trips and the returning home again—God is still pouring out vision, wisdom, and courage.

May we enter this season ready to listen, ready to notice, and ready to live the truth of Christmas and Easter in the ordinary days ahead. *PK*

ST. MARK'S
WORSHIP
SERVICES ARE
LIVE ON FACE-
BOOK



Pastor Karen will be at the Synod Assembly in Kearney May 29—31. If you need Pastoral assistance, please leave a message at church 402-385-3340; contact Jane Tonjes @ 402-922-3946 or any church council member



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATING SENIORS!

The following students will be graduating from high school May 10th. We would like to recognize them for their achievement and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Carter Hansen

Reece Heineman

Addilynn Johnson

Farris Swinton

Hadley Walsh

The students will be recognized at the service on Sunday, May 3th. Please join us prior to the service for coffee and rolls between 9:00—9:45 in the church basement.

General Fund March

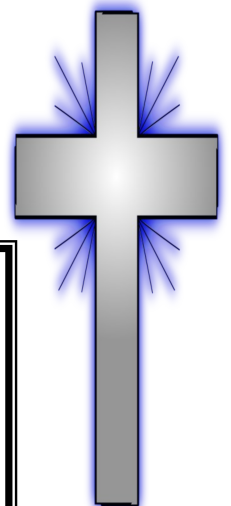
Balance on hand 3/1/26	\$ 54,453.23
Income	11,177.44
Expenses	(13,718.59)
Balance 3/31/26	\$ 51,912.08

FUNERAL SERVICES

Lois Lueders on April 7, 2026

Charlotte Roth on April 10 2026.

Our sympathy and prayers are with their families and friends.



WORDS OF THANKS AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who helped with church spring cleanup!! We appreciate your help keeping our church grounds looking nice.

We rejoice that Brooklynn Claire Sebade was baptized on April 12th and we welcome her as a new member of our church family. Brooklynn is the daughter of Cory and Savannah Sebade. Blessings to their family.



Thank you to the brass musicians - Matt, Christine, Marcus and Colby Dregalla, Devaney Hansen and to our choir, bell choir and organists for providing special music for our Easter Service!

THANK YOU
To the members of
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
3362
from the
Nebraska Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
In grateful appreciation for giving
\$15,000.00
for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and
churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

.Suggested By-Laws for St. Mark's Cemetery

- 1. St Mark's Cemetery is and remains the property of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pender.**
- 2. Only members of St. Mark's are entitled to purchase burial space in the cemetery for a sum set by the Cemetery Board. All monies received for sale of lots to be paid to treasurer of the Cemetery Board, and to be kept in the Cemetery Fund.**
- 3. All memorials and good-will offerings to St. Mark's Cemetery will be put in the Cemetery Fund to be used for maintenance of the Cemetery property.**
- 4. one set of maps of the cemetery to be kept at St. Mark's Lutheran Church office, and one set by the secretary of St. Mark's Cemetery Board.**
- 5. Only the pastor of St. Mark's or a pastor of the ELCA faith invited by the pastor of St. Mark's, will be allowed to officiate at an open grave. In the absence or vacancy in St. Mark's pastorate, any designated Lutheran minister or ministers of the faiths, with the approval of St. Mark's Church Council, may conduct the burial service.**
- 6. All corner markers to be placed even with the ground.**
- 7. There shall be no rails or fences put around graves, no permanent flowers, shrubs, or trees planted, unless approved by the Cemetery Board.**
- 8. Only the American flag, Veteran's flags and the Lutheran Church flags to be flown and only on special occasions. No other flags, wind socks, or banners should be flown.**
- 9. The St. Mark's Church Council and the Cemetery Board will be responsible for the care and maintenance of St. Mark's Cemetery, it being the property of the Church.**
- 10. All grave decorations are to be removed two weeks after Memorial Day each year or they will be removed by the Cemetery Board. All flowers in permanent vases attached to the grave markers may be left.**



MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	
3 9—9:45 am Graduate Coffee 10am Worship @ St. Mark's	4	5 10 am Clergy Text Study @ St. Mark's	6	7 10:30 am Prairie Breeze 5:00 pm Food Pantry	8 9	9
Facebook						
10 Mother's Day 10am Worship @ St. Mark's	11 Pastor's Day Off	12 10 am Clergy Text Study 12:00pm—5:30 pm Blood Drive at Pender Fire Hall	13 Quilting	14	15	16 10 am Food Pantry
17 10am Worship @ St. Mark's	18 Pastor's Day Off NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19 10 am Clergy Text Study	20	21 10:30 PB Worship	22	23
Facebook						
24 PENTECOST 10am Worship @ St. Mark's	25 MEMORIAL DAY Pastor's Day Off	26 10 am Clergy Text Study	27 Quilting	28	29	30
Facebook					Synod Assembly in Kearney	
31 HOLY TRINITY 10am Worship @ St. Peter's						



**ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
302 S. Norris Avenue
P.O. Box 580
Pender, NE 68047**

Forwarding Service Requested

To this believer in God's love:

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May 1: Carter Hansen
Dennis Zvacek
Cameron Buderus

May 2: Crystal Dickelman
Connie Schnier

May 3: Pat Haskin

May 4: Marilyn Kubik
Bonny Suhr

May 8: Carter Oswald
David Bressler

May 9: Shirley Clausen
Alexis Kubik
Diane Randall

May 12: Julie Christiansen
Grayson Fillipi

**Ron & Nancy
Greve**

May 13: Cynthia Baker

May 14: **Keith & Jane Thomsen**

May 15: Dawson Anderson
Matt & Krista Heineman

May 16: Broderick Brader
Cayleb Brader

Jaime Ostrand

Susan Urbanec

May 18: Mason Leonard
Faye Ross

May 19: Dana Beckman

May 20: Caitlyn Heise

May 21: Barb Wingett
Owen Widders

Luke & Kayla Hart

Joe & Kristy Schmidt

Randy & Karen Tietz

May 22: Marvin Kubik

May 24: Robert Dunn

Joshua VonSeggern

May 25: Trent Hansen

May 26: Kelly Ballinger

Kim Simonsen

May 27: Angie Elrod

May 28: Ron Greve

Jordan McKay

Chris Meyer

May 29: Pam Buchholz

Cameron & Jaima Geisert

May 30: Morgan Kroger

Butch & Nancy Suhr

