

SAINT MARK'S EPISTLE

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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FEBRUARY 2026

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**ST. MARK'S
WORSHIP
SERVICES
ARE LIVE ON
FACEBOOK**



Pastor's Ponderings

Psalm 90:12 — "So teach us to number our days, that we may present a heart of wisdom."

Lent has a way of bringing life's fragility into sharper focus. Not to frighten us, but to wake us. These forty days invite us to notice what we often rush past: how delicate, unpredictable, and precious our lives truly are.

We know this in our bones. A diagnosis, a sudden loss, a change we didn't choose, or even the quiet ache of uncertainty can remind us how little we actually control. Our instinct is often to tighten our grip—to manage, to predict, to shield ourselves from anything that might hurt. Fear convinces us that if we hold on hard enough, we can keep life from slipping through our fingers.

But Psalm 90 offers a different way. "Teach us to number our days," the psalmist prays—not so we can fear them, but so we can live them wisely. To number our days is to recognize that each one is a gift, not a guarantee. It is to see our lives not as something to control, but as something to receive.

When we approach life this way, something shifts. Gratitude grows where anxiety once lived. Compassion deepens. We begin to cherish the small, ordinary moments—the morning light on the kitchen table, the laughter of a friend, the quiet breath we didn't know we needed. Wisdom takes root not in certainty, but in trust: trust that God is present in every fragile moment, and that our lives are held in hands far steadier than our own.

Lent doesn't ask us to ignore our fears. It invites us to bring them into the open, to name them honestly, and to let God meet us there. In doing so, we discover that wisdom is not about mastering life, but about opening ourselves to its beauty, its brevity, and its sacredness.

May this season teach us to live gently, to love generously, and to walk with a heart that knows its days are precious. And may God, who numbers every hair on our heads, guide us into a deeper trust that frees us to live fully—one fragile, beautiful day at a time. Your sister in Christ, **Pr. Karen**

Happy Valentine's Day

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday school students will be playing bells for the service on February 15th!



February HS Tech Students

Febr. 1— Kobe Frey
Febr. 8— Ryker Hansen
Febr. 15— Talen Beckman

February Acolytes/Readers

Febr. 1	Devaney Hansen
Febr. 8	Kolin Schrunk
Febr. 15	Liberty Swinton
Febr. 23	Ivy Moeller



St. Mark's Annual Meeting was held following the service on January 11th. The council presented the financial and committee reports for review and approval.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2025 ARE:

Max Cochran—president
Eric Beckman—Vice president
Andrea Hansen—Secretary
Dana Beckman—Treasurer
Todd VonSeggern
Joanne VonSeggern
Kira Swinton
Rhonda Heise

Thank you to Jaima Geisert and Joel Lamplot who have completed their terms on council.

Thank You!

In 2026, the council will be forming a committee to begin a review of the church constitution and bylaws. *If you would be willing to serve on this committee, please let one of the council members know.*



WORDS OF THANKS AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance	\$ 24,382.85
Income	\$ 82,988.01
Expenses	(\$18,094.75)
Balance 12/31/25	\$ 89,276.11

Thank you for your generous

Thank you!

*Lorraine Lander and Bob Beckman-
for auditing the bank statements for
2025*

FEBRUARY 27TH @ 10:00 AM *St. Mark's will be hosting a Chrism Mass for the Synod. This is a time for lay and rostered leaders to gather for the renewal of their commitment to ministry in the context of worship and fellowship. The worship leader will be Bishop Scott Alan Johnson*



Lenten services will be held at St. Mark's on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 18th and continuing until March 25th.

Our theme will be: Making room for lament.

Please join us as we gather for prayer, reflection and worship.

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:

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 3: Kellie Fillipi
Callie Rink
Feb 2: Natalie Gutzman
Feb 4: Alex Doht
Feb 5: Diann Ballard
Paul & Teresa Powley
Feb 6: Callie Janke
Feb 9: Karen Tietz
Feb 10: Jeanne Hansen
Feb 11 Cindy Janke
Jeff Mathis
Bennett Lamplot



Feb 12: Amy Leonard
Josh Hansen
Steve & Jill Smith
Feb 14: Mark Dolezal Jr.
Feb 15: Bev Novak
William & Sharlene Krusemark
Feb 16: Chris Buchholz
Rich Suhr
Feb 17: Taylor Buchholz
Jase Johnson
Navy Swanson
Richard & Donna Smith
Feb 20: Marcus Dregalla
Marvin & Marilyn Kubik
Feb 21: Vicky Case

Feb 22: Marika VonSeggern
Feb 23:
Matt Buchholz
Cory Heise
LaVonne Nilges
Evan Schrieber
Feb 24: Jonathan Darling
Feb 25: Jeff Kai
Feb 27: Courtney Montgomery
Melanie Leonard
Eric & Dana Beckman
Feb 28: Colby Dregalla
John Doht

