

SAINT MARK'S EPISTLE

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

302 S. Norris Ave. POB 580

Pender, NE 68047

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Council President : Max Cochran

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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, *Dr. 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!

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

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 fellow-
ship. 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

