

SAINT MARK'S EPISTLE

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pender, NE 68047

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August 2025



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Brothers and Sisters, fellow disciples in Christ,
First off, as hard as it is to believe, we are closer to next Christmas than to last. Just puttin' that out there.

Second, the last two weeks with my family has helped me put time in perspective. I'm talking about the quick passage of time, I'm not talking about plans for leaving exactly. I am recognizing the fact that I intended to stay here for 10 years and it always seemed far off. However, 10 years is the end of May, 2028, two and three quarters years from now. Time is moving too fast to ignore that fact.

Why bring this up now? Because we have an opportunity to use the time we have together to move our congregations to a place where you will feel confident that whatever the future holds, you will be prepared to carry out Christ's ministry, regardless. That is not something to put off until later. With Covid, a change of pastors, floods, fires, and the joining of two ministries, we have not spent the time we need focusing on where Christ is leading us. We see less people on Sunday and general giving is down. This is not just happening here, but still, it is happening HERE. Looking forward, interim periods tend to make that worse. It is something we need to pay attention to sooner rather than later.

My goal has always been in my mission statement, now smudged with soot, on the door of my office. "As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and with his help, I will: enable, encourage, empower, and equip, God's people for ministry and mission." It is always about God's work through you.

Pastor's are here for a while and we are blessed to be able love you through the best and worst times in a congregation's life— doubly blessed for two- but the church is you, the priesthood of believers called through the Holy Spirit to this place. I am invigorated by the possibilities for the next two+ years. If the last 8 months is an indicator, it will go quickly. I hope the possibilities reminds each of us that we aren't called to wait and see what happens, but to be Christ's hands and feet in this place for generations to come.

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Karen

Visit our page on
facebook

Treasurer's Report for the May, 2025**GENERAL FUND**

Balance on hand	\$	57,655.63
Income	\$	9,276.84
Expenses	\$	16,858.12
Balance on hand 5/31/25	\$	50,074.35

Treasurer's Report for the June 2025**GENERAL FUND**

Balance on hand	\$	50,074.35
Income	\$	4,200.54
Expenses	\$	12,192.57
Balance on hand 6/30/25	\$	42,082.32

Adult Bible Study this September.

I am planning to start a bible study during the time before church. We can change it if we can get a time when more people would be able to come.

It will begin with questions you have about our Holy Book, and we will start in earnest with background, versions, and translations, and then a survey of the books. We will have actual text study and how to read the bible as a believer. More information to come.

Lutheran Disaster Response—On the ground within 12 hours of the Texas flood. **How to help:** Scan the bar code or go to the ELCA homepage and look for Lutheran Disaster Response.



WORDS OF THANKS AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Memorial funds have been used to furnish the conference room, which is across the hall from the offices. Please be sure and take a look at this beautiful room . Thank you memorial committee!

We said goodbye to Janet Frederickson on July 7, 2025. Our sympathies to Janet's family and friends.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the scholarship that you awarded me. I plan on attending Wayne State College and majoring in elementary education. The money will be used for books, tuitions and fees. Thanks again for awarding me with this generous gift.

Anastin Geisert

During Pender Alumni Days, we joined our community in worship led by Pastor Karen at the Community Center.

The offering collected that morning was donated to the Community Cares fund.

Thank You!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We're looking for a few volunteers to help out with Sunday School— no teaching experience needed, just a willing heart! Whether you can help every week or just once in a while, we'd love to have you on the team. If interested talk to Haley Haymart or Christine Dregalla.

Children are returning to school, so it is time for Sunday School to resume. Rally Sunday will be September 7th with Sunday School starting at 9:00 AM ****Blessing of the packs will be at the service on August 17th.**** We encourage your child to bring their backpacks to the service to be blessed by Pastor Karen.

To help with communication of **Sunday** School updates we will use the remind app. If interested in being added to remind the app to get text alerts select <https://www.remind.com/join/hhamart> and we will add you to the **St Mark's** remind list.

Confirmation Class for the 2025-26 year will start on Wednesday, September 3rd, immediately after school. Students from St. Peter's and St. Mark's entering 6th grade will join the 7th graders for their Church year. This is one of two years in the Confirmation process and is about learning to be the church to help *young people to put their faith into action*. It is intended be part of a two year program with Confirmation taking place after their academic year. *Students whose academic year is their first* are asked to promise to attend the second. Students from the previous class will be confirmed this year on October 19th, 2025. Students who have finished their two years do not need to attend until contacted to prepare for Confirmation Day. Any required assignments that have not been finished must be turned in prior to being confirmed.

Camp Carol Joy Holling held their annual quilt auction on July 26th.

Thanks to Connie Schnier who sewed, quilted and bound this beautiful quilt and donated it for the auction!!



SAVE THE DATE

Morning Star Lutheran Church
is honoring Pastor Glenn Schacht's 50 years of ordained ministry on

Sunday, August 31st!

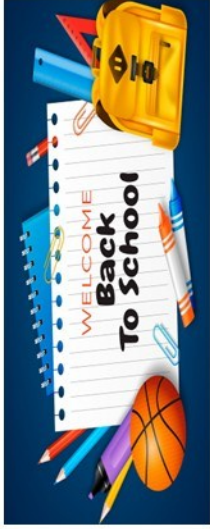
The celebration begins at 11:30 with a catered, three course meal catered by TABLE GRACE CAFÉ.. At 1:00 PM musicians from Morning Star, Table Grace and the community will offer a music presentation and reflection of Pastor Glenn's ministry.

If interested, worship begins at 10 AM

Please RSVP for the optional meal (cost is\$36) by Sunday August 24th,
by contacting the Church Office.

402-393-5553 or Office@MorningStarOmaha.org





AUGUST 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 10am Worship— St. Mark's Facebook 12 pm Ch 98	4 Pastor's Day Off	5 10am Clergy Text Study	6	7 5-7pm Food Pantry	8	9
10 10am Worship— St. Mark's 11 am—Worship & Music Meeting Facebook 12 pm Ch 98	11 Pastor's Day Off	12 10am Clergy Text Study	13 1pm Quilting	14 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL @ PHS	15	16 10-12pm Food Pantry
17 10am Worship— St. Mark's BACKPACK SUNDAY Facebook 12 pm Ch 98	18 Pastor's Day Off DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER	19 10am Clergy Text Study	20	21	22	23
24 10am Worship— St. Mark's Facebook 12 pm Ch 98	25 Pastor's Day Off	26 10am Clergy Text Study	27 1pm Quilting	28	29	30
31 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:



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 1 ~ Diane Kai

Aug 2 ~ Bentley Miller
Nancy Greve

Aug 3 ~ Aiden Beckman
Kevin & Julie Christiansen

Aug 4 ~ Lois Fillipi
Pheobe Glissman

Aug 5 ~ **Lanny & Connie Schnier**

Aug 6 ~ Doug Schrieber

Aug 7 ~ Scott Schmeckpeper
Jase Sorenson

Aug 9 ~ BreAnn Hingst
Blake Reppert
Matt & Christine Dregalla
Phil & Sara Sorenson

Aug 10 ~ Denise Anderson
Lori Bentjen
Kathi Siebrandt

Aug 11 ~ Mark Jahde

Aug 12 ~ Ryker Hansen
Martin & Candice Gardea

Aug 13 ~ **Harold & Cindy Janke**

Aug 14 ~ Maxine Dolezal
Louis Mostek
Richard Urbanec
Chris & Tina Brader

Aug 15 ~ Haylie Roberts

Aug 16 ~ Robert Simonsen
Clint & Courtney Frey

Aug 17 ~ **Nicholas & Andrea Hansen**

Aug 18 ~ Shelby Anderson
Jared Schmeckpeper
Wes & Charlene Dunn
Troy & Candice Jewell

Aug 19 ~ **Mark & Maxine Dolezal**

Aug 20 ~ Keith Thomsen

Aug 22 ~ Mark Dolezal
Liam Fillipi

Aug 23 ~ Vern Dahlman
Gene & Vicky Case

Aug 24 ~ Brian Baker
Derwin & Betty Roberts

Aug 27 ~ Robert Urbanec
Ardyce Surber
Jensyn Kroeger

Aug 28 ~ Carissa Hansen

Aug 29 ~ Cameron Geisert
Jenna Kubik

Aug 31 ~ Jane Tonjes
Ross & Courtney Montgomery

