

SAINT MARK'S EPISTLE

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

302 S. Norris Ave. POB 580

Pender, NE 68047

E-mail: saintmarkspender@abbnebraska.com

Church Office: 402-385-3340

Pastor Karen McNeill- Utecht

Cell Phone: (402) 385-8825

Council President: Jaima Geisert

Church Secretary: Jane Tonjes

402-922-3946

December 2025

INSIDE

Pastor's Ponderings

Sunday School Program
and Soup Dinner/Bazaar
& Quilt Raffle

Treasurer's Report

Food Pantry

Poinsettias Order Form

Christmas Services for
St. Mark's and St. Peter's

Annual Meeting Info.

December Calendar



Pastor's Ponderings

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is in December each year that we experience our longest nights. We wake up in darkness, and the sun starts to set by the time we get home from work. No wonder that it is into the darkest season that we are reminded the appropriately named "SAD", Seasonal Affective Disorder, is an internal manifestation of the lack of light in our lives.

Just as darkness is not confined to the tilt of the earth, but affects us on the inside, the darkness of sin, grief, and pain is not confined to our hearts and minds. The brokenness on the inside casts long shadows over our shared experience of this world.

Which is why we look forward to Advent and Christmas in the darkest time of the year, to be reminded that in our darkest times, the Light of the world is our true relief. Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life"* (John 8:12).

As we celebrate the Christmas season, we are reminded that we are called not only to receive this light but to reflect it. Jesus said, *"let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"* (Matthew 5:16).

Let's begin 2026 shining Christ's light into this often sad and dark world, Have a blessed Christmas. *Pr. Karen*

Quilt Raffle/ Silent Auction

The quilting group is once again having a quilt raffle. Raffle tickets are available for \$5.00 ea. or 3 for \$10.00 and the drawing will be held at the soup dinner, December 7th. The funds are used to defray the costs of the Quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

In addition to the raffle there will be a silent auction at the dinner. Please consider donating an item for the auction, baked and canned goods , holiday items and crafts are always popular items. Please have your items to church by December 6th. (The Sunday School entrance will be open.)

Thank you for your support.

St. Mark's Soup Dinner – December 7th

Our soup dinner will be held on Sunday, December 7th, following worship, in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you,
St. Mark's Church Council



December Students to help with AV-Power Point

7th— *Carter Hansen*
14th— *Grant Geisert*
21st— *Hadley Walsh*
24th — *Council*

Acolytes / Readers

7th— *Colby Dregalla*
14th— *Ramsey Hansen*
21st — *Cameron Buderus*



Treasurer's Report—October 2025

Balance Forward	\$ 21,822.53
Income	7,846.54
Interest deposit	10,354.04
Expenses	14,098.06
Balance 11/30/24	\$ 25,925.05

WORDS OF THANKS AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The following students received First Communion on
Sunday, Nov. 16th:*

*Braxton Dunn; Lydia Engel; Emmett Harrall; Harper Haymart;
Lincoln Johnson; Max Lamprecht; Kennedy McWilliams;
Ivy Moeller; Hayden Torczon; Wyatt Welsh*

*May you be filled with the light of His presence and guided by
His love throughout your life.*



ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

LAUNDRY DETERGENT

HAMBURGER HELPER

MEN'S & WOMEN'S DEODORANT

CANNED FRUIT

TOOTHBRUSHES & TOOTHPASTE

PEANUT BUTTER

The deadline for donations is December 6th. The door to the Sunday School unit will be unlocked, and items can be dropped off anytime, or you can bring them to church on Thanksgiving Eve, and leave them in the box at the entrance.

Would you like to share a poinsettia with the church for the Christmas Holidays? This year you may order through church by December 7th. **The price is \$16.50, make your check payable to St. Mark's.** Fill out the enclosed order form and bring it and a check to church or bring it to the office or mail if you would like. The orders will be given to Puckett's and they will deliver them with your name attached. You may still bring your own if you desire. Poinsettias may be picked up following the Christmas Eve service or any day following. Order forms will also be available at church.

Poinsettia Order Form

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS (red only)

I would like to order _____ plants at \$16.50 each

In Memory of _____

or In Honor of _____

From (your name) _____

Phone _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (check _____ cash _____)

Checks payable to "St. Mark's Lutheran Church"
Orders & Payment due by Dec. 7th



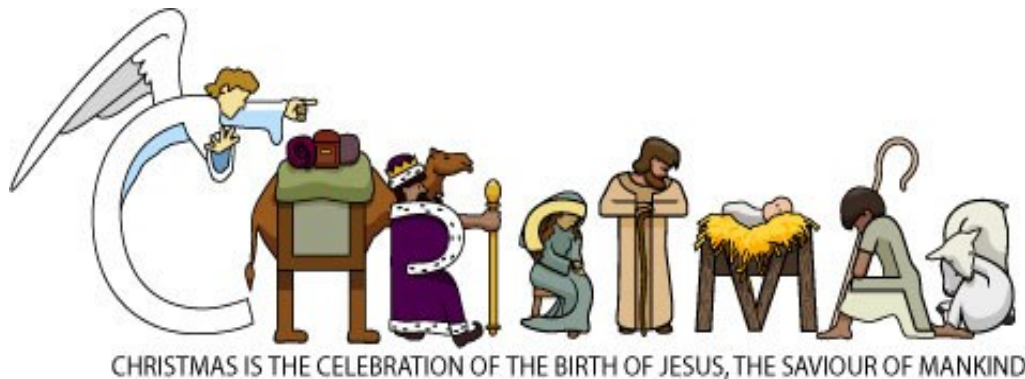
ST. MARK'S CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 10:00am CHILDREN'S PROGRAM
Come, everyone, to enjoy Christmas through the children's eyes

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 4:30 pm CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
AT ST. PETER'S

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 6:30 pm CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE AT ST. MARKS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH, 10:00AM SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
AT ST. PETER'S




St. Mark's Annual Meeting will be held January 11th

Please, committee members get your reports into the office by December 30th so they can be printed and ready to hand out . We need the Church Council, Christian Education Committee, Property, Worship and Music Committee, Altar Committee and Memorial Committee. We also need the financial statement and books of the Cemetery Fund so they can be audited along with the church's. Thank You!



MEERRY CHRISTMAS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pastor's Day Off 9 am—Church Decorating for Christmas	2 10am Clergy Text Study	3 2:30 Confirmation	4	5	6 Deadline for Christmas Love items
7 9 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:00 am Worship @ St. Mark's w/ Sunday School Program Soup dinner/bazaar following the service	8 Pastor's Day Off Deadline for Poinsettias 5pm SP Council	9 10am Clergy Text Study	10 Quilting 2:30 Confirmation	11	12	13
14 No Sunday School 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 am Worship at St. Mark's— Choir	15 Pastor's Day Off	16 10am Clergy Text Study	17 2:30 Confirmation	18 10:30 PB Worship	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 10am Food Pantry
21 No Sunday School 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship at St. Mark's	22 Pastor's Day Off	23 10am Clergy Text Study	24 Christmas Eve 4:30 pm family service @ St. Peter's 6:30 pm Candlelight Service @ St. Mark's With Choir	25 	26	27
28 No Sunday School 10 am Service of Lessons & Carols @ St. Peter's	29 Pastor's Day Off	30 10am Clergy Text Study	31 New Year's Eve			
MERRY CHRISTMAS						

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

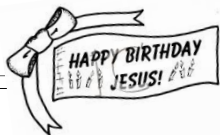
US POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT # 12

PENDER NE 68047

Forwarding Service Requested

To this believer in God's love:



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 2 ~ Scott Krusemark
Dec. 4 ~ **Vern & Gayle Dahlman**
Dec. 6 ~ Reanna Hallstrom
Delwin Suhr
Dec. 7 ~ Dylan Brader
Randy Tietz
Dec. 9 ~ **Rod & Ellen Lander**
Dec. 10 Sally Allen
Connie Felber
Emily Glissman
Jordyn Nilges



Dec. 11 ~ Jake Buchholz
Dec. 15 ~ Anastin Geisert
Myra Hansen
Dec. 16 ~ Hayley Hallstrom
Justin Buchholz
Josh & Melissa Hansen
Dec. 17 ~ Wesley Dunn
Dec. 19 ~ Dustin Evans
Becky Mostek
Blake Leonard
Dec. 20 ~ Cole Christiansen
Shelley Buchholz
MacKenzie Smith
Dec. 21 ~ Deb Leonard
Dec. 23 ~ Kristy Schmidt
Joel & Teri Lamplot
Dec. 24 ~ Lauren Ostrand
Russ Tonjes

Dec. 26 ~ Maggie Zvacek
Dec. 27 ~ Mark Anderson
Mark & Lorraine Lander
Dec. 28 ~ Bryan Gatzemeyer
Ken Siebrandt
Dec. 29 ~
Milon & Dawn Fillipi
Dec. 30 ~ Paul Powley
Dec. 31 ~ Lynda Suhr
Charles Urbanec
Peggy Nelson
Henry Smith

