

SAINT MARK'S EPISTLE

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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JANUARY 2026

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Pastor's Ponderings

"With God, all things are possible." Mt. 19:26

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, many of us feel the weight of uncertainty. The world around us seems loud with predictions, anxieties, and opinions. Headlines shift, circumstances change, and it can feel as though forces beyond our control are shaping our future.

But Jesus speaks a better word.

In Matthew 19:26, He reminds us, *"With God, all things are possible."* Not some things. Not only the easy things. **All things.** This is not wishful thinking or spiritual optimism — it is the bedrock truth of the Kingdom of God.

The world does not have the final say. Fear does not have the final say. Circumstances do not have the final say. God does. And the God who holds the future is the same God who has carried us this far.

As we enter this new year, we do so not as isolated individuals trying to survive whatever comes next, but as a people united in Christ. When we follow Him together — when we pray together, serve together, and trust together — we discover that challenges become opportunities, obstacles become testimonies, and uncertainty becomes the very place where God's power is revealed.

This year will bring its share of trials, but it will also bring moments of grace we could never have imagined. It will bring open doors, renewed callings, and fresh ways for our church to shine the light of Christ in our community. Not because we are strong, but because **He is faithful.**

So let's step into the coming year with courage. Let's expect God to move in ways that surprise us. Let us commit ourselves to Christ and to one another, trusting that the One who makes all things possible will make this year fruitful for His glory.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May He fill your heart with hope. And may His power be made perfect in our weakness, today and always. Blessed New Year everybody. In Christ's love and strength, **Pr. Karen**

ANNUAL MEETING

St. Mark's Annual meeting will be held on Sunday **January 11th @ 11:00am** following church.
 ***** Please submit your reports and yearly statements to the office, as soon as possible , so they can be audited and printed.



Thank you to Rhonda Heise for preparing the delicious soups, and for everyone who helped with the dinner, quilt auction and bazaar. With your support \$ 1170.00 was raised to support our quilting projects and \$598.00 for our Sunday School.

Thank you to our choir, Nancy Suhr, the Lamplot family, Kim Roeber, Nancy Beckman & Janice Smith for their beautiful music . We are so grateful that you shared your musical gifts for our Christmas Service

Thank you to our Sunday School teachers and helpers—Christine Dregalla, Haley Haymart, Paige Swanson, Melissa Hansen, Karissa Johnson & Kenzie Smith for all of their hard work on the children's Christmas Program this year! The program was wonderful and the kids were amazing.

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance	\$ 25,925.05
Income	\$ 17,633.74
Expenses	\$ 19,175.94
Balance 11/30/25	\$ 24,382.85

The St. Mark's Quilting Group would like to say thank you to all of you for supporting us by contributing to the quilt raffle and silent auction. We use these monies to purchase fabric, batting and backing for the 105 Lutheran World Relief quilts we contributed and for 8 donated to Community Cares of Pender. Each quilt costs app. \$20.00 to create with wholesale fabrics, batting and donated or purchased sheets for the backing. Again, we sincerely thank you for your support of this mission!

JANUARY ACOLYTES AND READERS

Jan 4— Devaney Hansen
Jan 11— Weston Wallin
Jan 18— Dyllon Fillipi
Jan 25th— St. Peter's

HS TECH STUDENT

Jan 4— Kaddo Schrunk
Jan 11— Addi Johnson
Jan 18— Farris Swinton


With extend our heartfelt thanks to the family of Phyllis Thomsen for their donation of the nativity stable, and to Keith and Jane Thomsen for donating the beautiful nativity set to St. Mark's. And thank you Chris and Grant Lander for helping to transport and set it up. This nativity reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas and will be a blessing for many seasons to come.



Our St. Mark's family offer our deepest condolences to the loved ones of Karen Dahlman and Judy Chaney whose services were at St. Mark's in December.

January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year! 	2	3
4 10:00 am—St. Mark's Worship Facebook Service	5 Pastor's Day Off	6 Epiphany Clergy Text Study	7 5pm St. Peter's Council	8	9	10
11 Baptism of our Lord 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 AM—ST. Mark's Worship w/ Choir 11:00 am ANNUAL MEETING Facebook Service	12 Pastor's Day Off	13 Clergy Text Study	14 Quilting 2:30 Confirmation	15 10:30 am Prairie Breeze Service	16	17 10am-12pm Food Pantry @ United
18 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am—St. Mark's Worship 11:00 am—Worship & Music Meeting Facebook Service	19 Pastor's Day Off NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 Clergy Text Study	21 2:30 Confirmation	22	23	24
25 9:00 am Sunday School @ St. Mark's St. Peter's annual meeting and pancake breakfast 10:00 am—St. Peter's Worship	26 Pastor's Day Off	27 Clergy Text Study	28 Quilting 2:30 Confirmation	29	30	31

**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:



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 1: **Matt & Jamie Torczon**

Jan 4: Doug Johnson
Lee & Jane Tonjes

Jan 5: Mercede Roberts

Jan 6: Kerrie Renter

Jan 7: Alan Doht
Todd VonSeggern

Jan 9: Marty Prokop
Bennett Lamplot

Jan 12: Travis Dunn
Rodney Zvacek

Jan 13 Karen Hamm
Carla Urbanec

Jan 15: **Bob & Nancy Beckman**
Jan 17: Matthew Dolezal

Jan 19: **Harlan & Judy Gathje**

Jan 21: Christy Glissman



Jan 23: Lorraine Lander

William & Lisa Reppert

Jan 24: Mandy Johnson

Jan 25: Lincoln Johnson

Jan 27: Mikki Schellpeper

Jan 29: Sarah Sebade

Jan 30: Gene Kai

Jan 31: Michelle Hallstrom