

# SAINT MARK'S EPISTLE

## St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

302 S. Norris Ave. POB 580

Pender, NE 68047

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December 2024

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## Sunday School Kids:

We have begun our Christmas program practices. Our program will be on December 8th during the church service.



## Pastor's Ponderings

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Fast away the old year passes. Yes, that is right, December 1st is the first day of the new year! Hopefully that does not come as a surprise to anyone over the age of (pick a number), but if you

haven't figured it out yet, Advent, the first day of the church year, comes mere days after Thanksgiving this year.

However, the New year of the church is fundamentally different than the New Year on the calendar. For one begins the new year running, the other, Advent, begins the new year waiting. One builds on the past and the other, prepares for something new, a new thing.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43:19

I don't know about you, but I know, sometimes, it seems that I am just putting one foot in front of the other. Same news, different day. The excitement of New Year's Eve gives way to the reality that the world is the same on January 2nd as it was on December 30th. That is the blindness of the worldly calendar. "But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him"

1 Corinthians 2:9

There is an inconceivable reality heralded by the Advent new year, A savior is born again as, if for the first time, in our hearts. He is perpetually offering a different reality to those who are preparing this church New Year and every New Year. We begin our year knowing that God is doing a new thing and so, while we wait, we do not sit idly by, we put one foot in front of the other, anticipating for the one who will make this day, and every day, different. Blessed New Year and Christmas and that other New Year my friends!

Your sister in Christ, **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 8th. 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 7th. (The Sunday School entrance will be open.)

Thank you for your support.

#### St. Mark's Soup Dinner – December 8th, 2024

Our soup dinner will be held on Sunday, December 8th following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Soup and cake/cookies will be served.

Thank you,  
St. Mark's Church Council



#### *December Students to help with AV-Power Point*

*1st— Reece Heineman  
8th— Lydia Felber  
15th— Allie Rutar  
22nd— Carter Hansen*

#### *Acolytes / Readers*

*1st— Marcus Dregalla  
8th— Ryker Hansen  
15th— Liberty Swinton  
22nd— Kyson Walsh*



#### Treasurer's Report—November 2024

Balance 11/1/24	\$ 51,399.66
Income	4,355.94
Expenses	15,561.65
Balance 11/30/24	\$ 40,193.95

# WORDS OF THANKS AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Thank you to Richard Suhr for the use of his pickup to deliver our quilts and to Jodie Green at Cubby's for saving the banana boxes for us to pack them in. The quilts are on their journey to provide comfort and warmth for people in need. Thanks to everyone who has helped with this project.*

*God's Blessings, St. Mark's Quilters*

## POINSETTIAS

Would you like to share a poinsettia with the church for the Christmas Holidays? This year you may order through church by December 8th. **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. 8th

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## ST. MARK'S CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 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, 7:00 pm** CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE AT ST. MARKS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH, 10:00AM** SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS  
AT ST. PETER'S



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

### St. Mark's Annual Meeting will be held January 19th

Please, please, committee members get your reports into the office by January 3rd 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!



# DECEMBER 2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 ADVENT 1</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00am Worship @ St. Mark's 12pm channel 98	<b>2</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>3</b> 10am Clergy Text Study	<b>4</b> Bible Study 2:30 Confirmation	<b>5</b> 5-7 pm Food Pantry	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 ADVENT 2</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship @ St. Mark's -SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM SOUP DINNER/ QUILT RAFFLE	<b>9</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>10</b> 10am Clergy Text Study	<b>11</b> Quilting 2:30 Confirmation	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>MEMORIAL SERVICE 10:30</b> Followed by meal	<b>14</b>
<b>15 ADVENT 3</b> No Sunday School 10:00 am Worship @ St. Mark's w' choir 12pm channel 98	<b>16</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>17</b> 10am Clergy Text Study	<b>18</b> 2:30 Confirmation Christmas Party <b>DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER</b>	<b>19</b> 10:30 Prairie Breeze Service	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10am Food Pantry
<b>22 ADVENT 4</b> No Sunday School 10:00 am Worship @ St. Mark's Baptism 12pm channel 98	<b>23</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES</b> 4:30 @ St. Peter's 7:00 @ St. Mark's	<b>25</b> <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b>	 <b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> No Sunday School 10 am Worship @ St. Peter's— Service of Lessons And Carols	<b>30</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>31</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>	Jan 1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Reminder!!!</b> <b>All</b> <b>Committee</b> <b>Reports are</b> <b>Due</b>	<b>4</b>

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

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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. 8 ~ Jason Urbanec  
  
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

