

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Church Mouse

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Date
March 2025

Upcoming Events

Wed., March 5th – Ash Wednesday –
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – imposition of ashes
by Pastor Dave

Wed., March 12th – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner
at OLV Catholic Church

Sat., Mar. 15th – 5:00 p.m. Movie Night

Sun., March 16th – 12:00 p.m. – Church
Council Meeting

Wed., March 19th – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner
at the Reformed Church

Wed., March 26th – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner
at St. Mark's Church



Communion Bread for February

Prayers and Concerns for Feb.

Ruth Palmer
Robin Gordon
Karen Berkheimer
Bessie Korth
John Palmatier
Andreanna Blesser
Michael Harrison
Darcy Gray
Dave Goslin
Willow Dudley
Gail Woods
Dean and Lori Roney
Deb Donohue
Nick, Autumn and Holly Roney

Bible Verse for March:

*Let all that you do be done in love.
- 1 Corinthians 16:14*

Thought for the Day:

*People only see the decisions you
made - not the choices you had.*



St. Mark's Church Information

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for March

March 2nd

Reader – Lori
Prayer – Ron
Ushers – Lori / Dean
Counter – Diane

March 9th

Reader – Marie
Prayer – Carolyn
Ushers – Cathy / Barb C.
Counter – Carrie

March 16th

Reader – Eric
Prayer – Ron
Ushers – Doug / Dan
Counter – Deb P.

March 23rd

Reader – Alyssa
Prayer – Cheryl
Ushers – Tom / Dylan
Counter – Sharon

March 30th

Reader – Dennis Foland
Prayer – Ron
Ushers – Dennis / Diane
Counter – Diane



March Birthdays:

Carrie Foland	Mar. 1
Mark Beeler	Mar. 6
Mike Sharkey	Mar. 8
Jim Brigadier	Mar. 14
Dylan Hillicoss	Mar. 14
Cheryl Cater	Mar. 19
Dean Roney	Mar. 22
Linda Amond	Mar. 26
Ginny Tinney	Mar. 27

March Anniversaries:

Pastor Dave / Melody Houck Mar. 24

St. Mark's Income vs Expenses


Below is the financial information for the month of **January**.

Income	\$12,104.97
Expenses	4,912.43
Balance	\$7,192.54



It was the bottom of the ninth and the bassists were loaded.

The Age of Aquarius

Recently I was listening to some music from what some today would call 'the oldies', a collection of songs from the 1960's. In 1969 a group called The Fifth Dimension released a song titled 'The Age of Aquarius'. Aquarius is one of the 12 signs on the astrological zodiac and is also one of the 88 officially recognized groups of stars called constellations in astronomy. Astrology and the signs of the Zodiac are considered pseudo-science for there has not been any consistent evidence to support the accuracy of their predictions or the personality traits associated with individuals born during the assigned times of year for each of the astrological signs. The symbol for Aquarius though is , which represents water. Aquarius is represented by the water bearer, a mystical healer who gives water or life to the land. Aquarius is the Latin genitive of Aquarii, which literally means water carrier.

Regarding astronomy, these lights or stars in the sky: *Genesis 1:14* Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; ¹⁵ and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth'; and it was so. ¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. I do not believe that God did anything randomly, everything was created and placed specifically for a purpose. Water is essential to life. It is the primary component of every human making up approximately 60% of our physical being. When asking for some physical water to drink Jesus said: "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." - *John 4:14* What Jesus has to offer is special, it is life changing. We are approaching Easter and Holy Week. As Jesus' mission was about to come to fulfillment, He sent His disciples to prepare for the Passover Feast in Jerusalem. *In Luke 22:10* the disciples ask how will they know where to go. Jesus tells them there will be a man with a pitcher of water follow him into the house. Some versions of this verse translate as "a man with a pitcher of water on his shoulder" There are some who feel this may be referencing to the Houses of the Zodiac, and specifically Aquarius. In astrology traits associated with Aquarians are: humanitarian, assertive, confident, being innovative, original, and for challenging norms. In the Book of Revelation, Aquarius is often symbolically represented through the imagery of "living water" being poured out, signifying the Holy Spirit being given to believers, which aligns with the astrological symbol of Aquarius as the "water bearer.". This is particularly seen in Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman where he speaks of "living water" that will well up within those who believe in him, which some interpretations link to the Aquarian age representing a new era of spiritual awakening.

There are different theories regarding when the 'age of aquarius' will take place. Some suggest it began in 2024 when the movement of the planets took us into an extended period of aquarius. The Age of Aquarius is an astrological age associated with hope, innovation, and humanitarianism. Some believe that the Age of Aquarius is a time for revolution and dismantling unjust systems. Characteristics attributed to the Age of Aquarius: increased focus on global unity, technological advancement, humanitarianism, collaborative thinking, and a desire for social justice.

I am not a follower of astrology, but I am fascinated by astronomy and what God has created in the heavens. This all brings me back to the words of the Fifth Dimension song-The Age of Aquarius: When the moon is in the Seventh House, and Jupiter aligns with Mars, Then peace will guide the planets, And love will steer the stars, This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius, Harmony and understanding, Sympathy and trust abounding, No more falsehoods or derisions.

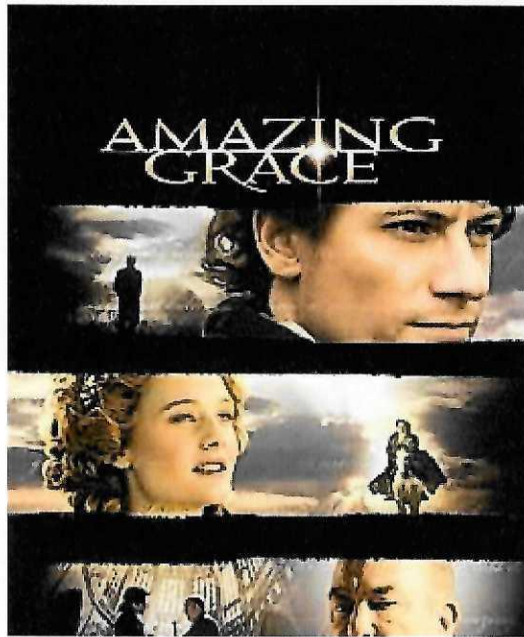
Whatever the age be that we are currently experiencing, I pray that the peace of the Lord will guide us and the love of God will steer us into a new age of awakening where harmony, understanding, sympathy and trust abound.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave and Melody

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

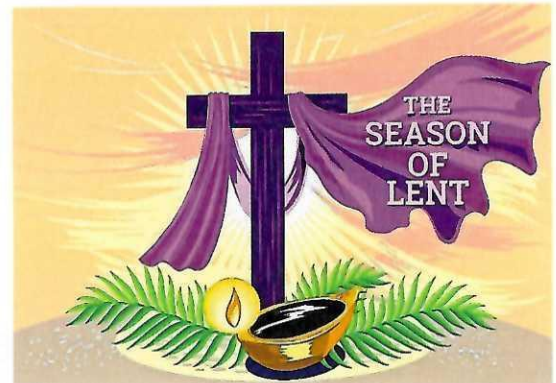
Movie Night

Movie night in February was cancelled due to a winter weather storm; however, we look forward to our March 15th feature when we will see the movie "Amazing Grace".



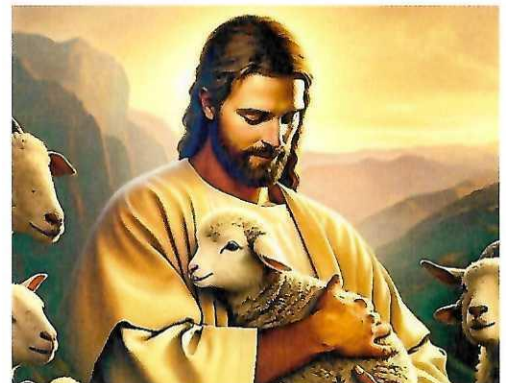
Set in 18th-century England, this is a story about how House of Commons member William Wilberforce and his close friend and a future prime minister, William Pitt, begin a lengthy battle to abolish Great Britain's slave trade.

See you on **March 15th** at **5:00 p.m.**



Lent is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. Lenten season is a time when many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ, his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection.

Ash Wednesday in 2025 is on March 5th. During that day Pastor Dave will be sharing a devotion and imposition of ashes in St. Mark's sanctuary. Please feel free to stop by any time on **March 5th, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.** to spend some quiet moments with our Lord.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

NET Dinner

February 19th we participated in the chili cookoff at the NET dinner hosted by the Reformed Church. For the second year in a row, St. Mark's won the award for Best Church chili. Yeah!!!



On February 26th, St. Mark's will host their monthly NET dinner when we serve macaroni and cheese, bread and desserts. (Sorry, Cheryl.....no chips.



Our **March 26th** dinner will be at **5:00 p.m.** when we are planning to serve baked chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, bread and dessert.

Please join us for a delicious dinner.

Installation of Council Members

At our worship service on Sunday, February 23rd, we held the installation of our 2025 Council members.

Members include:

- Ron Lower, President
- Deb Roberts
- Deb Palmatier
- Dennis Foland
- Eric Mattson
- Nanette Amendola
- Dolores Wenzel



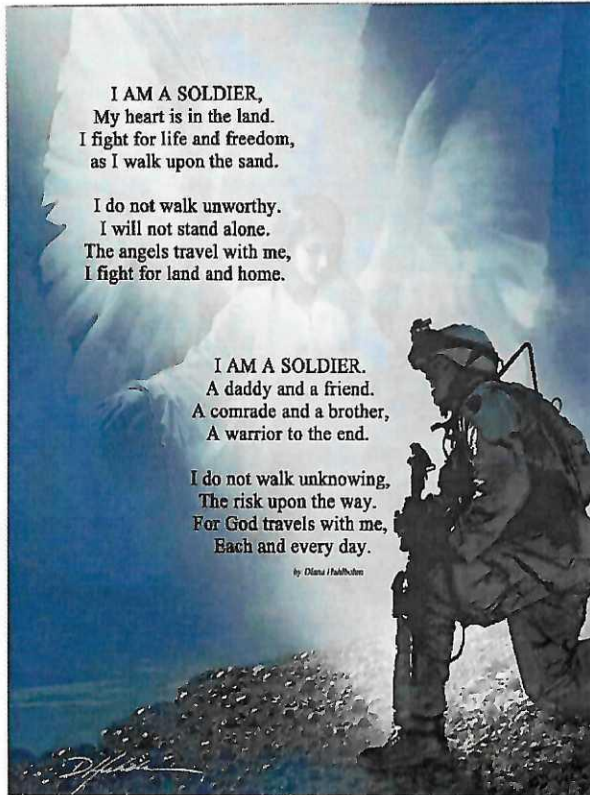
Pr. Dave, Nanette, Deb P., Dennis, Ron, Deb R., Eric. Missing: Dolores

Did you notice???



On one of the coldest days this winter, Dennis France and Dennis Foland installed this new handrail. Thank you Dennis and Dennis for helping to keep us safe.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



***Please pray for all who
serve in our armed forces.***



Operation Christmas Child

Reminder -- we are collecting items for our OCC shoeboxes and are seeking donations of WOW gifts such as stuffed animals, games, dolls, soccer balls, books, small kit Legos, art supplies, and match box cars. More detailed lists of WOW gifts are on the following pages. Please place your gifts on the table in the front of the sanctuary.

Also, please continue to lift our OCC coordinator, Ruth Palmer, in your prayers. We look forward to her return and her enthusiastic, heart-felt weekly updates. We love you, Ruth! ❤️

“SOUPer Bowl” Thank You!

Even though we had a “delay of game” for our SOUPer Bowl due to inclement weather, we received generous donations of soup for our food pantry. Thank you to all who blessed those who are the recipients of the delicious soups. God bless you!





Girl Shoebox Gift Suggestions

A gift-filled shoebox can be the first present a child ever receives, so it is important to uniquely pack each gift and make it **FUN, FULL, and PERSONALIZED**—praying for the child and adding a photo and personal note.

A "WOW" ITEM

- Small backpack or purse
- Doll
- Soccer ball and pump
- Stuffed animal
- Jewelry making or hobby kit
- Large toy



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Comb and brush
- Nail clipper and file
- Water bottle
- Flashlight



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pencils, sharpener, and erasers
- Pencil container
- Pens
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Index cards
- Calculator
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue stick
- Small adhesive tape
- Drawstring bag



CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

- Flip-flops or shoes
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Wristwatch
- Costume jewelry
- Hair accessories
- Clothing and undergarments
- Winter cap, scarf, and mittens



GAMES & ACTIVITIES

- Puzzles
- Coloring books or pads
- Dry watercolor set
- Binoculars and compass
- Musical instruments
- Chalkboard and chalk
- Jump rope
- Stickers
- Games



TOYS

- Small ball
- Building blocks or LEGO™ sets
- Slinky™ or yo-yo
- Plastic animals
- Magnets
- Finger puppets
- Interactive toys
- Other small toys and figures



DO NOT INCLUDE

- Food, candy, or gum
- Toothpaste
- Used or damaged items
- Scary or war-related items
- Wearable traditional camouflage
- Seeds or organic matter
- Liquids
- Medication
- Money
- Breakable items
- Matches, fire starters, or aerosols
- Knives, saws, or razor blades

Wondering if an item will fit in an Operation Christmas Child preprinted shoebox?

Cardboard dimensions: 12 x 7 x 4.38 inches

Plastic dimensions: 13 x 7.5 x 4.7 inches



Boy Shoebox Gift Suggestions

A gift-filled shoebox can be the first present a child ever receives, so it is important to uniquely pack each gift and make it **FUN, FULL, and PERSONALIZED**—praying for the child and adding a photo and personal note.

A "WOW" ITEM

- Small backpack
- Soccer ball and pump
- Stuffed animal
- Hobby kit
- Large toy truck or car
- Other large toy



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Comb and brush
- Nail clipper and file
- Water bottle
- Flashlight



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pencils, sharpener, and erasers
- Pencil container
- Pens
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Index cards
- Calculator
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue stick
- Small adhesive tape
- Drawstring bag



CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

- Flip-flops or shoes
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Wristwatch
- Clothing and undergarments
- Winter cap, scarf, and mittens



GAMES & ACTIVITIES

- Puzzles
- Coloring books or pads
- Dry watercolor set
- Binoculars and compass
- Musical instruments
- Chalkboard and chalk
- Jump rope
- Stickers
- Games



TOYS

- Small ball
- Building blocks or LEGO® sets
- Slinky® or yo-yo
- Toy cars
- Plastic animals
- Magnets
- Interactive toys
- Other small toys and figures



DO NOT INCLUDE

- Food, candy, or gum
- Toothpaste
- Used or damaged items
- Scary or war-related items
- Wearable traditional camouflage
- Seeds or organic matter
- Liquids
- Medication
- Money
- Breakable items
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