



St. Mark's United Methodist Church

March 2024

We live to embrace and serve all with the courage of Jesus Christ to heal and reconcile ourselves and the world.

Dearly Beloved,

The weather outside's delightful
And we are so insightful
So since we all like to eat
Let us meet, let us meet, let us meet.

Well, I tried. Exactly one week from today shall be the **first Saturday in March** and the valiant men and equally valiant, interested women of St. Mark's shall meet for their monthly breakfast program featuring good vibes, good fellowship and (womanship?) good food, ~~good~~ bad Dad jokes, good devotions, and a good program by Nancy Krutzfield who will speak about her volunteer work with Fur Fun dog rescue program. See you all there.

Love and stuff,
Gene Matthews
mamoksa@outlook.com

Plants for Easter Service 2024

Plants this year will be colorful and assorted in variety. 😊
Pastor Alberta is allergic to Easter Lilies so we are excited about having a colorful variety of plants. We will display mums, begonias, kalanchoe and assorted bulb plants. *Unfortunately you will be unable to choose which kind to order.*
You will be able to choose one from the display to take home the Sunday after Easter.

Please fill out each line on the form at the Welcome Center and give it to the office along with your payment by **March 15th**. \$15 – per plant.
Contact Sarah Pringle with any questions. Thank you!



Daylight Savings time is Sunday March 10th.
Don't forget to spring forward!

EASTER BASKETS!! We will need about 65 Easter Baskets to supply: Catholic Worker House, United Action for Youth, Shelter House, and Domestic Violence Shelter. In the spring, we like to provide:

Item	Goal	Have	Need			
Toothbrushes - adult	40	22	18			
Toothbrushes - child	25	10	15			
Washcloth	65	4	61			
Handtowel	65	0	65			
Comb Adult	40	0	40			
Comb Child	25	0	25			
Stuffie	65	30	35			
Books (2 ea) Board	20	4	16			
Books (2 ea) ages 3-5	30	13	17			
Books (2 ea) ages 6-8	30	15	15			
Books (2 ea) ages 9-12	30	20	10			
Books (2 ea) ages YA	20	15	5			
Bubbles	65	0	65			
Sidewalk Chalk ages 3-8	30	5	25			
Chocolate Bunny	65	0	65			
Need bags candy for 100 plastic eggs			3-4 bags wrapped candy			

There will be a container in Fellowship Hall for donations. Please prayerfully consider how you might donate/participate in this Outreach.

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS WORK DAYS: We will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month. This project includes working on Easter Baskets (Goal: ~65) and Ingathering. For Easter Baskets, we really need some help with the tags for the bags! Our goal for Christmas Stockings is 510. We filled 466 in 2023 so this is completely doable! We will be cutting stockings and the outer decorations, decorating, tags for each stocking. There will be more information coming as to what is needed to fill the stockings but please know, we are always accepting donations of good used and new books for all ages. It is also a great time of fellowship together! Join us 1-4 p.m. the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR SUMMER CAMPS! There is a camp for everyone – Grandchild-Grandparent (kids ages 3-17), Family Camps, Horse Camp, Fishing – everyone can find a camp for them! Enjoy time in nature and deepening your relationship with God.

Church Council Summary

Church Council met February 20, 2024. The following is a summary of the meeting.

Loving: We open with prayers, joys, concerns and Glory Sightings.

Learning: David Bywater shared the first Focused Forward retreat experience. This is the SLI group that has been renamed Focused Forward. They are focusing on personal and spiritual growth, learning how to see from different perspectives, and starting the team building process. The goal is to have different Focused Forward team members take over the "Learning" portion of our meeting to teach what they are learning.

Leading: In other Church business, some areas of conversation were focused on:

Trustees: Checking on the cost of security cameras for inside the building,

Finance: Beginning plans for a restart of the Chicken Barbeque (on a smaller scale.) Reviewing the copier lease and options for the future.

Worship: We will have Holy Week services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Instead of Easter Lilies (Pastor is allergic to Lilies) we will have another kind of colorful flower. April 7th will be a Holy Hilarity Sunday in worship followed by a Pancake Breakfast. We need help with ushers, communion stewards, and to learn the tech to assist Sam and help with us through the week for funerals, etc. Recorded services will be available on our website.

Outreach: Reported that a garage sale may happen in June. Question was raised if there was an interested in St. Mark's participating in the summer festivals downtown. At this time, no interest was given for this year.

Missions: Dennis reported that District Askings (dollars that go to help our District do ministries. St. Mark's portion is \$840 for the year). Pans for the Free Lunch Program have been purchased with money from the 52 club. Money remaining from inactive accounts was put into the Backpack program. Money has been designated to purchase a loom from Jefferson.

Pastor's Report: Pastor shared that we are working on a care team to visit shut-ins and take them communion.

SPPRC: Currently all staff needs are met. Staff evaluations are coming up.

Next SPRC meeting - March 18th at 7:00 PM.

2023 Statistical Report

As your Finance Team we love NUMBERS! The 2023 Conference Statistical Report was just completed, and we thought you might find some of St. Mark's numbers as interesting as we did!

- ☑ St. Mark's currently has 224 members of which 127 are female and 97 are male
- ☑ Average in-person weekly worship attendance during 2023 was 68 (up 58%)
- ☑ Number of ongoing small groups other than Sunday School include:
 - ☑ United Methodist Men
 - ☑ United Women in Faith
 - ☑ Women's Book Group (Graye Matters)
 - ☑ Men's Book Group
 - ☑ Sign-Language
- ☑ Short-term opportunities in 2023 included: Bishop Kennetha's Advent Book Study and Grinch Book Study
- ☑ 29 members were engaged in mission/community ministries such as:
 - ☑ Free Lunch
 - ☑ Christmas Stockings
 - ☑ Easter Baskets
 - ☑ Ingathering
 - ☑ Warm Winter-Wear Distribution

Your involvement in St. Mark's is truly a BLESSING!

OLD CAPITOL KIWANIS
27TH ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER BREAKFAST
Friday, March 29th, 2024
Breakfast 6:30 a.m. Program 7:00 a.m.
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
2301 East Court Street
\$10.00 DONATION
Book of 5 Tickets \$45.⁰⁰ / Book of 10 Tickets \$90.⁰⁰
All Proceeds Support the Philip L. Holland Kiwanis Pediatric Chaplaincy
Fund for the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

These tickets are for purchase in the office – we appreciate your support in this important event!

Lent Bible Study – Sundays 11:30pm in the Wesley Room and **Wednesdays 10:00am** in the Youth Room

March 3rd and 6th – Mark 14:10-25

March 10th and 13th – Mark 14:26-42

March 17th and 20th – Mark 14:66-72

March 24th and 27th – Matthew 21:10



Come join us for a weekend away filled with solid teaching from God's word, rest from responsibility, and fun with your friends! You won't have to lift a finger! Delicious food, encouraging worship, and a dynamic speaker, Pastor Lana Williams from Ankeny 1st UMC, who will leave you ready to return to your home, families and work feeling refreshed. This annual spring retreat is for women ages 16 and older. Learn more and register at www.wesleywoodsia.org/women's-retreat

Wesley Woods Camp + Retreat Center

10896 Nixon Street, Indianola, Iowa 50125

O.515.961.4523 | C.515.729.9761

March Special Offerings

March 3 – Women at the Well – 1st Offering
March 10 – UMCOR Sunday

March 17 – District Asking
March 24 – Palm Sunday
March 31 - Easter



1st – Brian Pringle **7th** – Nancy Krutzfield, Dennis Preslicka, Jerine Strommer
8th – Brenda Mayer **12th** – Kay Seagren **25th** – David Lake **26th** – Sarah Pringle
27th – Steve Paulsen **28th** – Jeanne Phillips **29th** – Jeremy Showers

More Events on the Calendar:

March 10th – Daylight Savings Time
March 17th – Happy St. Patrick's Day
March 19th – First day of Spring, yay!
March 24th – Palm Sunday
March 28th – Maundy Thursday – 7pm Service
March 29th – Good Friday – 7pm Service
March 31st – Easter

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
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Worship Sunday morning 9:30am