

# Welcome 2021

## St. Mark's Epistle

January 2021  
volume 32 • number 1



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### *Pastor's Ponderings*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have never appreciated 2020 hindsight as much as I do at this moment.

As with every New Year, the last one held such promise. People around the world counted the moments until midnight for an anticipated fresh start. Out with the old and in with the new, we always say. Yet, as the ball dropped, no one imagined what would happen in a matter of weeks or the turmoil that would become the world's new normal.

I will not miss 2020, still I recognize and appreciate that not everything that the year brought was bad and somethings that happened will hopefully impact the future in meaningful ways.

We are all connected. (Genesis 1:26-28) God created humanity in the divine image and the world was filled with the people God created. With an "us and them" mentality, we often forget that. Whether it happens in Wuhan or Pender, our choices have effects that we cannot anticipate, which can be felt around the world. We need to make them good ones.

We need each other. (Genesis 2) As independent and free as we like to think of ourselves, God created us to be together and care for one another. Having something as tiny as virus disrupt the world's economies, destabilize countries, and disrupt travel, we recognize that we are dependent on others for food, housing, utilities, health care, medicines, schooling, communication, protection—virtually everything that we do not produce ourselves.

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## A BIG Thank You!

To: Bill Backman for replacing our sanctuary camera when our old one was apparently stolen.

To: Janice Smith, Nancy Beckman, Bob Beckman, Gene Kai, Vanessa Von Seggern, Joel, Teri, and Sadie Lamplot and Myra Hansen for their contributions of music and readings for Christmas Eve.

To; Altar Guild and Worship and Music for continuing your mission to keep the worship space and services cared for, Special thanks to Nancy Suhr and Butch who help out wherever needed!

To: Charlene Dunn for your gift of cleaning the church and offices for Christ's sake.

To: Council for your leadership during a challenging time and ongoing support of God's work at St. Mark's.

To: Rod Heise for clearing the branches after the ice storm!

## General Fund November

Balance on hand 10/30/20	\$ 58,904.97
Income	\$ 10,817.64
Total	\$ 69,722.61
Expenses	\$ (10,475.97)
Balance on hand 11/30/20	\$ 59,246.64
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b>\$59,246.64</b>

## December OFFERINGS/ ATTENDANCE

<u>DATE</u>	<u># IN ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>OFFERINGS</u>
Sun 12/06	36	3,839.00
Sun 12/13	40	1,455.00
Sun 12/20	48	2,559.00
Fri 12/25	149	28,031.00
Sun 12/27	22	260.00



**ELCA Youth Gathering postponed**

**Until July 24-28, 2022 in Minneapolis.**

## Contact Us

**St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
302 S. Norris Avenue, PO Box 580  
Pender, Nebraska 68047

Church Secretary: Melissa Hansen  
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E-mail: [saintmarkspender@abbnebraksa.com](mailto:saintmarkspender@abbnebraksa.com)  
Website: [saintmarkspender.org](http://saintmarkspender.org)



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## Symptoms of Covid-19

Most common symptoms include:

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Tiredness

Less common symptoms:

- Aches and pains
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea
- Conjunctivitis
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- a rash on skin, or discoloration of fingers or toes

Serious symptoms:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Chest pain or pressure
- Loss of speech or movement

Seek immediate medical attention if you have serious symptoms. Always call before visiting your doctor or health facility.

On average it takes 5–6 days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show, however it can take up to 14 days

(<https://www.cdc.gov>)

## The Church Triumphant

*St. Mark's said goodbye to Vivian Hartwig just before Christmas.*

*Per her request, there will be a celebration of life when it is safe to gather.*

### OPPORTUNITY

In addition to our website and Facebook, newsletter, and local ch. 98 offerings, we now have online services and in-service needs.

If you would be interested in helping in any aspect of this growing ministry, call Pastor Karen: (402)385-8825



## Martha's Circle

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world.

### All ladies are invited to participate

The **MARTHA CIRCLE** meets the first Wednesday of the month in the church parish hall. We will **not** meet in January.

**LEADER:**

**HOSTESS:**

### 2020 Officers:

President ~ Carolyn VonSeggern

Secretary ~ Janice Smith

Treasurer ~ Margaret Reppert

### Continued from p1

We need each other and perhaps we will learn new respect for those who we have traditionally undervalued because they have been vital to getting through this time.

It is easy to blame others. (Genesis 3:19-13) This year there has been a lot of bad stuff happening on a lot of fronts. We blame people in other countries, people in other parties, people who disagree with us, instead of saying we all have responsibility for some share of the mess the world is in, either by intention (what we have done) or omission (what we have not done.) God isn't interested in our excuses. In Christ, we come together and try to make life better for everyone. We can disagree and still love one another.

We aren't helpless. (Titus 3:4-7) As we were reminded Christmas Eve, Christ is making us a people for himself, now. That means we are not helpless victims of a challenging time, but that Christ is enfleshed in us. We are the salt and light that can make a difference, because the child who was born for us is reflected into the world through us.

We aren't hopeless (Matthew 28:20) We can have confidence that he is with us now and always, whether through gifted people developing vaccines or gifted people like you, showing God's love in your little corner of the world. No matter what happens we will get through it because we have a God who never gives up on us and never abandons us. How do we know this, because he told us he would be, now and until the end of the age. Plagues, wars, disagreements all end, but Christ never does.

A happy, hopeful, New Year to you all,

Your sister in Christ, **Pr. Karen**



## Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve like everything else, was different this year. That didn't stop it from being a meaningful and joyous evening.

For the church's part, we did everything we could to make the service as safe as possible. All of the guests and participants did the rest. Thank you!

An online and TV program was available for those who worshipped remotely. The Singers and musicians generously prerecorded music and altar guild decorated the sanctuary so some of the atmosphere of the in person service could be enjoyed at home.

Christmas Bells rang out in some areas of town to the excitement of little ones and pastor apparently made the dogs around the church excited for Christmas, too!

## Annual reports requested by January 1, 2021.

If I have all reports and yearly statements in the office early enough to get audited and printed. I will try to have the booklet ready for you to pick up as soon as possible, but I need everyone's help in getting this done.

*Melissa*

## Annual Congregational Meeting

When: After church on January 17th, 2020.

Election of three congregational members to church council. We will attempt to have Zoom available for members who cannot attend in person. *Pastor, Karen*

Thank you to Mark Lander, Norman Bihr and David Bressler for your years of service with the council. We look forward to seeing your gifts continue to bless the church's ministries.

## IS GOD CALLING YOU FOR *CHURCH COUNCIL?*

We have three members of council finishing their terms this year, which means we have three opportunities to serve on the council starting in January.

We invite you to ask God to open your heart to the possibility of serving St. Mark's through this ministry. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please contact a current member of

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02-06-2015

SIRI ... SAY GRACE

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS WERE GIVEN**  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

---

Faye and Family

Kay & Bruce Meierdierks

Gene & Vicky Case

Matt & Krista Heineman and Family

Marilyn Rink

Kai's, Kot's & Families

Lynda and Family

Larry & Janice Smith

Steve & Jeanne Hansen and Family

Their Family

Kenneth Christiansen

Robert & Eunice Miller

Todd Benjamin

John & Norma Meierdierks

Byron Meierdierks

Earl & Edna Case and  
Eldon & Gerry Stewart

Sharon Heineman,  
Helen Heineman &  
Marsha Heineman-Hanly

Harold and all my loved ones

Lester & Mickey Oberg,  
Arnold Ellyson and brothers,  
Fred and Bob Oberg

Roger Suhr

Mike and our loved ones

Our loved ones

Marvin & Babe Meyer and  
Jill Johnson

**Additionally, three beautiful, permanent, poinsettia altar arrangements  
were donated in memory of Kathleen Gralheer..**

**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

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A publication of St. Mark's Lutheran Church - Pender, Nebraska

## St. Mark's Epistle



Jan 1:  
**Matt & Jamie Torczon**

Jan 3: Fawn Smith  
**Dale & Peggy Krusemark**

Jan 4: Doug Johnson  
**Lee & Jane Tonjes**

Jan 5: Mercede Roberts

Jan 6: Kerrie Renter

Jan 7: Alan Doht  
Todd VonSeggern  
Jayne Bihr

Jan 9: Marty Prokop

Jan 11: Kristen Bressler  
Colin Ross

Jan 12: Travis Dunn  
Rodney Zvacek

Jan 13: Karen Hamm  
L.G. Norman  
Carla Urbanec

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

Jan 19: **Harlan & Judy Gathje**

Jan 21: Christy Glissman

Jan 23: Lorraine Lander  
Rebecca VonSeggern  
**William & Lisa Reppert**  
**Verne & Jennifer Tyrrell**

Jan 24: Mandy Johnson

Jan 25: Paul Urbanec  
Lincoln Johnson

Jan 27: Michaela Buchholz  
Ashley Smith  
Amber Smith

Jan 29: Sarah Sebade

Jan 30: Gene Kai

Jan 31: Michelle Hallstrom  
**Charles & Margaret Reppert**

