

## St. Mark Lutheran Church and School

3930 S. 19th Street, Lincoln, NE 68502 [www.stmarklincoln.org](http://www.stmarklincoln.org)

School website—[www.stmarkles.org](http://www.stmarkles.org) (phone) 402-423-1497

### Pastor

Joel Vogel

Cell (740) 350-3261

### Teachers

Jeremiah Drews (4-8, Principal)

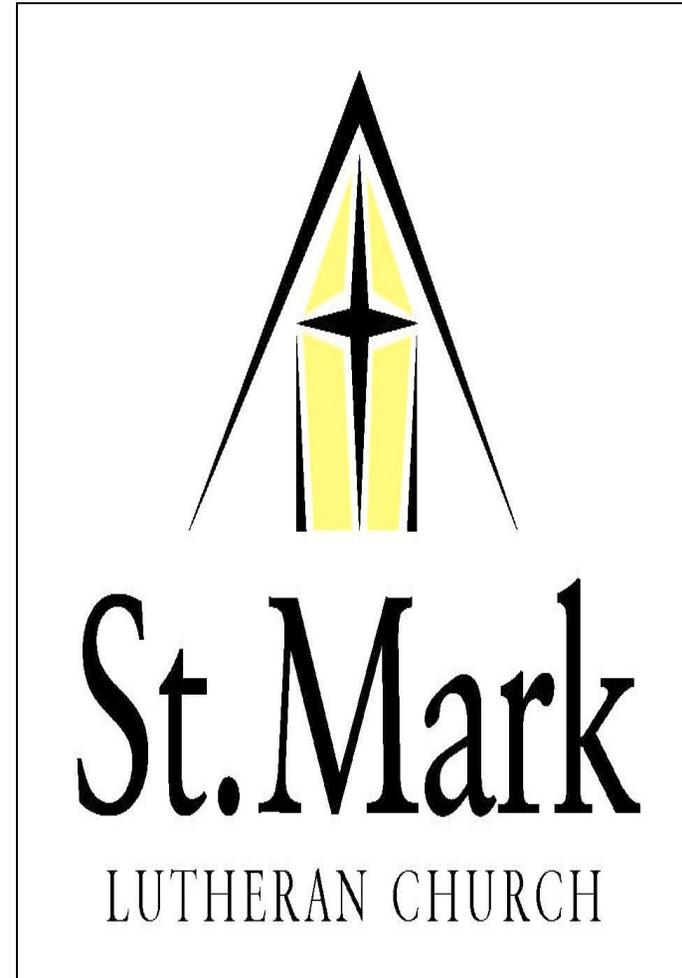
Cell (402) 480-1940

Eva Van Egmond (K-3)

Cell (920) 210-9813

### This Week at St. Mark

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Sunday    | - NELHS Christmas Concert 4:00 pm                                 |
| Monday    | - Worship Service 7:00 pm   |
| Wednesday | - Bible Class Lexington Assisted Living Center 3:30 pm            |
|           | - Choir 6:30 pm   |
|           | - Advent Service 7:00 pm  |
| Thursday  | - Bible Study 6:30 am   |
| Friday    | - Snow Removal—Dave Remmers                                       |
| Saturday  | - Children's Christmas practice 9—10:30 am                        |
|           | - Church Cleaning: Sec. 1 N. Flood Sec. 2 Hoefler<br>Sec. 3 Green |



Reach, Teach, Rejoice!

*'Gathering Joy'*

HYMN: CW 14 (verses 1-3)

**Arise, O Christian People**

Please stand.

## OPENING DIALOGUE

*(Based on Psalm 14)*

M: The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

C: **They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.**

M: The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men

C: **to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.**

M: All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt;

C: **there is no one who does good, not even one.**

M: There they are, overwhelmed with dread, for God is present in the company of the righteous.

C: **You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge.**

M: Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!

C: **When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: As believers in Christ we are called to repent of our sins and forgive one another. In the book of James we are told, "Confess your sins to each other and pray for one another so that you may be healed." As the body of Christ we unite our hearts in prayer:

C: **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I repent of my sins and beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

**Forward in Christ:** It is time once again to renew our bulk subscription for the Forward in Christ magazine. Anyone interested in receiving this Biblically-based magazine put out by Northwestern Publishing House is asked to contribute \$11.00 in a specially marked envelope with their name on the envelope. This subscription is good for a year. Please place the money in the offering and mark it "Forward in Christ". There is a sign up sheet on the table in the entryway.

## Coming Events:

December 13 — NELHS Christmas Concert 4:00 pm

December 16 — Advent Service 7:00 pm

December 20 — Children's Christmas Worship Service 10:30 am

December 24 — Christmas Eve Worship Service 7:00 pm

December 25 — Christmas Day Worship Service 10:00 am

December 27 — No Sunday School

December 31 — New Year's Eve Worship 7:00 pm

**Basketball** - Nebraska Lutheran plays at Parkview Christian Tuesday Dec. 15. Game times are: 4:30 pm Boys' JV, 6:00 pm Girls' Varsity and 7:30 pm Boys' Varsity. Go Knights!

### St. Mark News and Notes

**Nursery** At St. Mark, we love children and encourage their worship, too! In the foyer, we have some children’s busy bags hanging from hooks that you are most welcome to use in church. If your child becomes restless during the service and you feel you both could just use a little break, you’re welcome to use our nursery. Ask an usher to lead you to the nursery. If you need a private place to feed your baby, there is a chair downstairs in the women’s restroom along with a changing table. Most of us have or have had young children, so you’re with caring people who understand what it’s like to have little ones.

**Birthdays**— Tyson Wathor 12/13, Sharon Klein 12/15, Aaron Remmers 12/15, Isaac Cepek 12/19 **Anniversary**—Dwayne & Dorothy Burianek 12/19

### THANK YOU FOR SERVING

**Elders:** Jarod Wilkinson, Jeff Schmidt  
**Ushers:** Dwayne Burianek, Mark Schwede (E), Noel Lee, Tyson Martin (L)  
**Greeters:** Nathan & Katie Flood (E) , Mark Nelson (L)  
**Organist:** Eva Van Egmond

**Stewardship** Time and Talent Sheets are on the usher’s table. Please fill them out when you have time. Please give them to an usher or place them on the secretary’s desk.

**Children’s Christmas Service practice** will be held on Saturday, Dec. 19 from 9-10:30 am. If your child is not able to attend please let their teacher know.

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### Please remember in your prayers...

- Oriah Uecker, Tracy & Curt Jamison’s Niece
- Sarah Brauer, Margaret Booth’s daughter
- Jacob Kander, Jean & Denny Riegsecker’s nephew
- Alida Freese, Julie Nelson’s mother



### *Silence for meditation.*

- M:** Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.
- C:** **Cleanse me from my sins.  
Release me from my guilt.  
Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

### WORD OF FORGIVENESS

- M:** The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C:** **Amen.**

*After a brief introduction, the congregation sings...*

**Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;  
Turn not from me aside,  
And help me to receive you  
This blessed Advent-tide.  
From stall and manger low  
Come now to dwell within me;  
I'll sing your praises gladly  
And forth your glory show.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M:** Let us pray.
- C:** **Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Please be seated.**

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Nehemiah 8:9-18

### HYMN: CW 703 (bulletin pg. 9) **My Soul In Stillness Waits**

*Choir sings first refrain; Congregation sings all subsequent refrains.*

*Choir sings verses 1-4; Congregation sings verses 5-6.*

### SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*As the Acolyte comes forward to light the candle the congregation sings the following hymn verse to the tune of "Away In A Manger."*

**The flame of these candles  
Brings peace to our night,  
Reminds us of Jesus  
The world's only Light.  
The darkness is ending,  
Our fears fade away,  
For God, his Son sending,  
Will dawn Christmas Day.**

**M:** We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the light of the world. He came to cast out the prince of darkness.

**C:** **We remember Jesus who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

**M:** We hear his call to see the light.

**C:** **We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

**M:** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C:** **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

## 703 **My Soul in Stillness Waits**

*Refrain*

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits,

tru - ly my hope is in you.

*Choir sings first refrain; Congregation sings all subsequent refrains.*

*Choir sings verses 1-4; Congregation sings verses 5-6.*

1 O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,  
Your radiance shines in all who look to you.  
Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.

*Refrain*

2 O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits.  
Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word.  
Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.

*Refrain*

3 O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,  
And in your advent draw us all to you,  
Our hope reborn in dying and in rising.

*Refrain*

4 O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage,  
We ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain.  
Open to us the pathway of your peace.

*Refrain*

5 Come, let us bow before the God made us,  
Let ev'ry heart be opened to the Lord,  
For we are all the people of his hand.

*Refrain*

6 Here we shall meet the Maker of the heavens,  
Creator of the mountains and the seas,  
Lord of the stars, and present to us now.

*Refrain*

## THE BLESSING

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

HYMN: CW 12

**Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes**

## GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

HYMN: CW 11

**Comfort, Comfort All My People**

## SERMON

*After a brief introduction, the congregation sings...*

**Before the dawning Day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.**

**All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.**

## OFFERING

*Please stand.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M:** Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**C:** **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

**M:** As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**C:** **Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

**M:** You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**C:** **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

**M:** Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**C:** **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

**M:** Hear us Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**C:** **Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**M:** O Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...

**C:** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**HYMN:** CW 15

**Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**

**Confession of Faith:**

**The Apostles' Creed**

**M:** When the difficulties of life seem overwhelming, many people turn to their own strength to get them through. What do you believe about God, and why would you turn to him?

**C:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**M:** Many people in this world say that God is not willing to help us when we are in need of comfort or in need of his help. Most don't see him as their only way to heaven. What do you believe about God and what he's done for you?

**C:** **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**M:** What do you say to those who don't know what will happen to them when they die? What comfort can you give to them that would help them face death and all the troubles of this earthly life?

**C:** **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### CLOSING DIALOGUE

**M:** We leave God's house strengthened once again to worship him throughout the week until we meet here again. Through faith in Jesus the Holy Spirit has prepared your heart for Christ's coming.

Now live for him, awaiting his coming at Bethlehem and his coming again on the clouds of heaven.

**C:** **We recommit ourselves to our mission: We are dedicated... to REACH all the world with the Gospel of Jesus. to TEACH all according to His saving Word, and to REJOICE in the salvation that Christ has won for us all.**