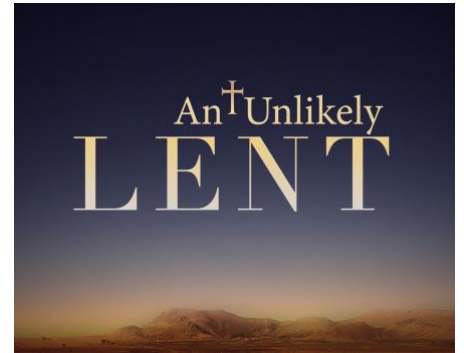


St Mark Lutheran Church

First Sunday in Lent

March 1st, 2026, 9:00 AM



Welcome to worship! We are grateful you have chosen to gather with the St Mark community for worship today. Many of us will be worshipping in the sanctuary, while others will be joining from their homes via [Facebook Live](#), and [video](#) later on. The text in **Bold print** in this service outline indicates responses all persons are invited to speak together.

Holy Communion will be celebrated during this service. The Lord's Table is open to all believers in Jesus Christ. The songs may be found in the books located in the backs of the pews: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), All Creation Sings (ACS), and With One Voice (WOV). Protective masks and hand sanitizer are available at the entrances to the building.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"What Wondrous Love is This"

ELW 666

- 1 What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

- 2 When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

3 To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING- Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

A reading from the book of Genesis

¹ The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Here ends the reading

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes¹ to the hills;
from where is my¹ help to come?

² **My help comes¹ from the Lord,
the maker of heav-¹en and earth.**

³ The Lord will not let your¹ foot be moved

nor will the one who watches over you¹ fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keep-¹er of Israel
will neither slum-¹ber nor sleep; R**

⁵ the Lord watches¹ over you;
the Lord is your shade at¹ your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike¹ you by day,
nor the¹ moon by night.**

⁷ The Lord will preserve you¹ from all evil
and will¹ keep your life.

⁸ **The Lord will watch over your going out and your¹ coming in,
from this time forth for-¹ evermore. R**

Second Reading- Romans 4:13-17

A reading from the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Rome

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Here ends the reading

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW page 142



GOSPEL- John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

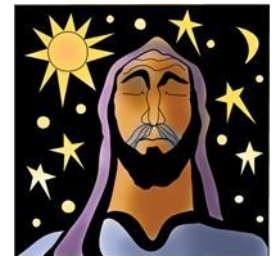
¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of our Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O God, You Search Me"

ACS 1082 vs 1,4,5

- 1 O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.

- 4 Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

- 5 For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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CREED

Remembering together the words of Apostles Creed, containing the central statements of faith of the early church, we say:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to

creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly (*especially*) and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions will be offered.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERING

We want to thank everyone who shares a financial gift to support the ministries of St Mark Lutheran Church. Your gifts support the many activities that take place in our church building as well as reaches out to many in this area and around the world. If you have a financial gift to share today, please place it in one of the offering boxes located at the Welcome Center. You can also mail it in; drop it off during the week and say HI; and go to our website www.stmarkstormlake.org and click on the [GIVE button](#). You can also use the QR code located near these words. It is really easy to use, all that you have to do is open the camera app on your phone, point it towards the QR code, and follow the instructions. Myamplify.io is the service we use for online gifts.



Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

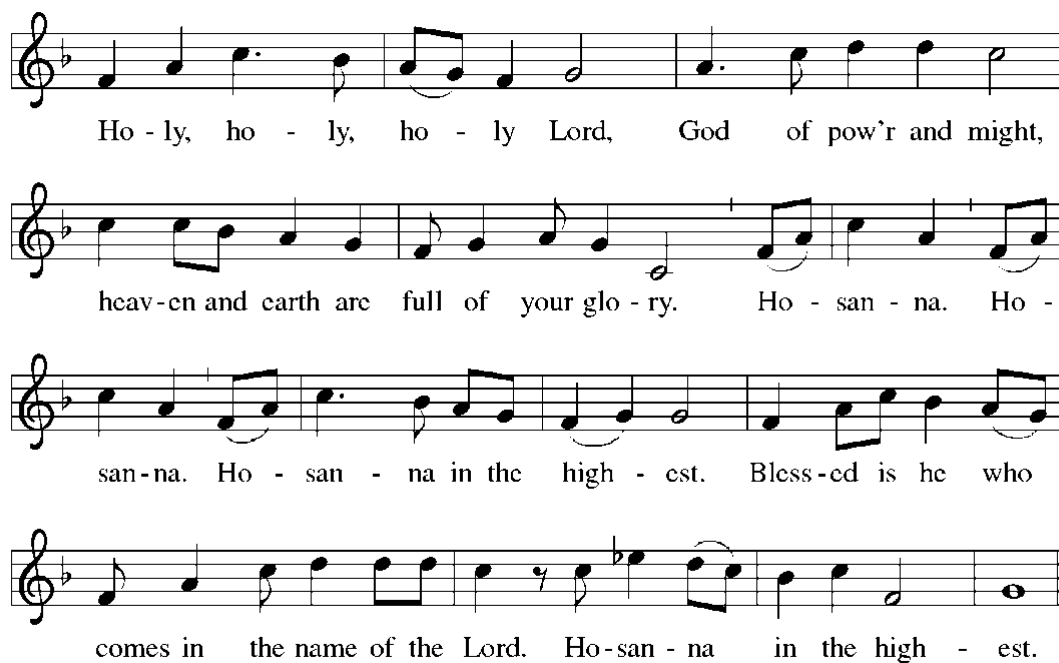
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW PAGE 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

With confidence, we pray the prayer you taught us to pray, saying:

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

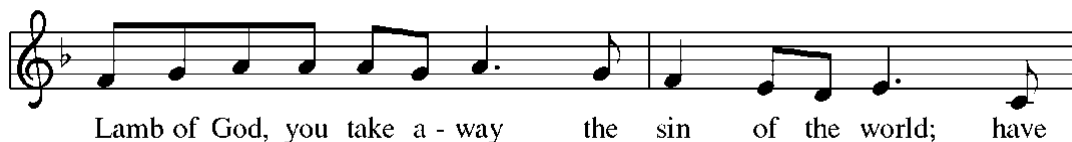
DISTRIBUTION

The Lord's Supper will be distributed at this time. All followers of Jesus are welcome to receive this gift of grace. An usher will guide those who would like to receive, up the center aisle. You are invited to place your hands with palms up to receive the bread, wine or grape juice. After receiving the elements, you may kneel at the altar rail for a time of reflection if you desire. Please depart via the outside aisles and place your empty cup in the basket located along the outside wall. Thank you.

COMMUNION SONG

"Lamb of God"

ELW PAGE 146



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION SONG

“In this feast of love”

ACS 962

- 1 In this feast of love,
 in this feast of love,
 Lord, you share your blood and your body,
 Jesus, Lamb of God.

- 2 In this bread and wine,
 in this bread and wine,
 you have promised, Lord, to be with us,
 Lamb of God divine.

- 3 Grant us peace, O Lord,
 grant us peace, O Lord;
 fill us with the joy of your Spirit,
 ever-living Word.

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954. Text © 2017, 2020 Jarkko Maukonen, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation,
 we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
 reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
 Through the body and blood of your Son,
 may we become Christ’s body in the world,
 bearing witness to your love for all creation,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN-

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

ELW 815 vs 1,2

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

- 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Presider and Preacher-
Worship Techs-Mick Polich
Piano- Linda Glienke

Pastor Dave Kebschull

Reader- Kolloh Nimley
Communion Servers- Kolloh Nimley
Altar Guild- Norma Williams



Life Together at St Mark

ST MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

1614 West 5th Street, Storm Lake, Iowa 50588

Phone- 712-732-5255 Email- hello@stmarkstormlake.com

Website- www.stmarkstormlake.com

Facebook- www.facebook.com/stmarkstormlake/

You may log into Saint Mark Wi-Fi by using the password **devotion**.

WORSHIP- We gather for worship each Sunday morning at 9:00. You can join us in-person in the Sanctuary, or via livestream on our [Facebook page](#). Recordings of services may be also found on the [St Mark Website](#).

PROCLAIM RADIO MINISTRY- Proclaim is a radio ministry of St Mark and is broadcast every Sunday morning at 7:30 AM via FM 101.7 KAYL. The message and music are from the previous weekend. This ministry is one of the ways St Mark reaches out to Storm Lake and Western Iowa with the love of Jesus. If you would like to support this ministry, in addition to your regular financial support of St Mark, the cost is \$75 per week and can be given online, or by check in the church office.

PRAYERS- We are all invited to keep the following persons in our prayers:

Prayers for Healing and wholeness

Brian Jackson, Glenda Hauser, Jenny Walsh, Jean Owen, Randy Rohlfesen, Nathan Weathers, Libby Ortmann, Tammy Norgaard, Cindy Bosley, John Brostad, Mark Jackson, Carolyn Kies, Joan Hamilton, Steve Berg, Mark Johnson, Carolyn Stille, Donna Schulz, Steve Korner, Alex Kron, Dick Mooney, Caleb Vander Broek, Kristine Taylor, Julie Eglund, Cheryl Lustgraaf, Cheryl Crampton, Greg Kruse, all persons seeking healing and wholeness.

Prayers for persons on active duty in the US Military Service

Aiden Deitering, SLPD Officer Gerardo Bravo, Ed Bochtler, Ashton Pranschke



HEAD START PRESCHOOL- Now accepting 2026-2027 school year applications for pregnant moms & children from 0-5 years old. You can apply by stopping into 525 Oates Street, Storm Lake Monday through Friday, Call 712-732-1358, or Apply online at www.udmo.com. Head Start will be hosting two recruitment application day on March 3rd from 1PM to 6:30PM and March 13th from 8AM to 1:00PM at 525 Oates Street here in Storm Lake. NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!

FRIENDS WITH FOOD

We want to extend a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped out with packing bags and delivering food on Thursday (2/19) It is impressive how quickly 30+ persons come together every month Food to see that @100 households, consisting of seniors, other adults, and children receive enough food to help them meet their nutritional needs. Thank you to everyone who



comes from across the Storm Lake community to help. Friends with Food began in the fall of 2019 as a partnership of St Mark, Service Navigators of BV County, , Western Iowa Synod- ELCA, Food Bank of Iowa, and other persons from the Storm Lake area who work together to deliver a monthly food distribution to those who are permanently or temporarily homebound and with no easy access to transportation. If you know of someone who needs food, or you would like to help, contact Di Daniels 712-299-9863, Julie Cook 712-732-4968.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

During Lent, St. Mark is partnering with SHP to offer an opportunity to be involved. The SHP Lenten giving tree will be in the Welcome Center. Eggs on the tree have items listing the needs of the organization. Inside the egg is a note explaining what that item is used for. There are a variety of items including *pillows, bedding, gift cards, monetary donations, etc.* All donated items can be left at the church office and will be used to help build beds and fulfill the Sleep in Heavenly Peace mission of "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town." Your support of this mission continues to provide comfort to children in need in our community – thank you!

LIFE SERVE BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you so much for donating at the Storm Lake Community Blood Drive that took place on February 20! Your willingness to give your time to donate truly makes the difference. We are incredibly grateful for your support and for being a part of a community that steps up to care for neighbors in need.

The Blood Drive Impact at a Glance

- 19 heroes stepped up to donate
- 16 were eligible to give
- 19 units of lifesaving blood collected
- Up to 57 lives saved or sustained

THIS WEEK AT ST MARK

Sunday, March 1

7:30AM	Proclaim Radio broadcast on FM 101.7
8:30AM	St. Mark Singers (Fellowship Hall)
9:00AM	Worship Service in person and streamed live on Facebook. (Sanctuary)
10:00AM	Fellowship Coffee (Fellowship Hall)
10:00AM	Sunday School

Monday, March 2

9:00AM

Sew & Do

6:30PM

Stephen Ministry

Tuesday, March 3

8:00AM

Storm Lake High School Baking Class

12:30PM

Life Serve Blood Drive

Wednesday, March 4

8:00AM

Storm Lake High School Baking Class

5:30PM

Lenten Soup Supper

6:30PM

Lent Service

Thursday, March 5

8:00AM

Storm Lake High School Baking Class

12:00PM

Alcoholics Anonymous (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, March 6

8:00AM

Storm Lake High School Baking Class

Saturday, March 7

9:00AM

Quilt Sewciety

Sunday, March 8

7:30AM

Proclaim Radio broadcast on FM 101.7

8:30AM

St. Mark Singers (Fellowship Hall)

9:00AM

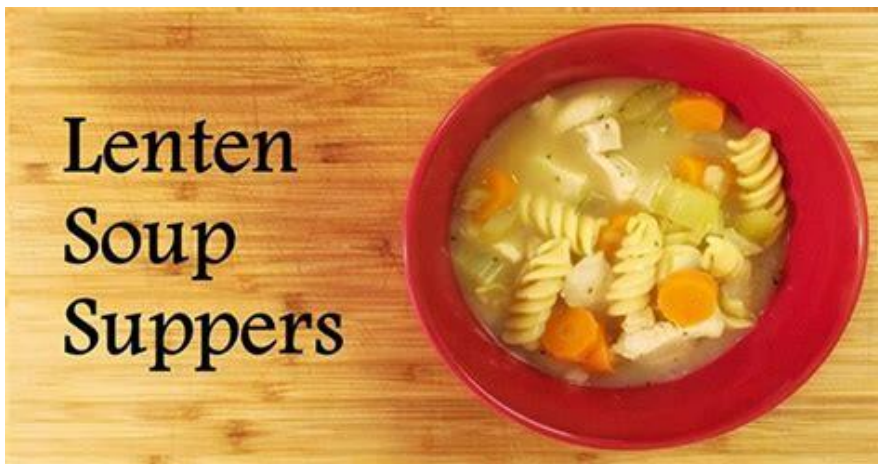
Worship Service in person and streamed live on Facebook. (Sanctuary)

10:00AM

Fellowship Coffee (Fellowship Hall)

10:00AM

Sunday School



LENT SOUP SUPPER

It is Lent and time for Wednesday Soup Suppers (with Cinnamon Rolls)

We need people to show up every Wednesday (2/25-3/25) at 5:30 to enjoy a good bowl of soup with friends. No cost for the meal, a basket for donations will be set out. Worship follows at 6:30 PM