



July 2021 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



21 S. Baird Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501 (715-362-2470)

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From the Pastor

On June 20th, I celebrated 50 years in active pastoral ministry. The following are some of the things I have learned along the way.

- * Scripture spoke new messages to me throughout my ministry. The Biblical truths remain the same, but the applications change as I get older.
- * Working together is the best way to build a church family. I have seen it time and time again, most notably here at St. Mark.
- * Our seminaries are great places to learn Biblical theology. Their expertise lessens when it comes to practical applications, where congregations are the best teachers.
- * Common sense is underrated. It is also rarer than it should be. Common sense can often stop a molehill from becoming a mountain.
- * God is more loving and patient than we will ever fully understand until we get to heaven.

Pastor Miller



Business Old & New



HOLY COMMUNION

If you need to have Holy Communion brought to you in the pew, please let an usher know. Pastor will be happy to accommodate you.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The new Ladies Bible study will be on July 7th, the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm. All ladies are welcome. Please join us. Question, call Barb Scott. 715-401-1670.

COFFEE AND ...

St. Mark will be having fellowship after each service all year long. It feels so good to connect with fellow members again. Please consider hosting the fellowship after one of the services. You can do it as an individual, as a family, as a group, or any other way that you choose. Please sign up on the calendar in the fellowship hall. With all of the wonderful cooks that we have here at St. Mark it will be such fun tasting all of the fun snacks that each provide.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The board is currently looking for adults that would consider teaching Sunday School on a rotational basis. The meaning of this is that two adults would teach the class for two Sundays in a row. Then the next two Sundays would be taught by the next pair of adults and it would continue on like this until each of the teaching pairs had taught their two weeks in a row. It would then start the cycle again. It would be great to have 5 to 6 pairs to work with. The lessons would be provided to you prior to your Sundays of teaching and this process would also be open to trading with other teachers when you are not available like the volunteers of ushers, Elders, lay readers, etc.. Please pray about this and call the church office if you would be willing to help our Sunday School children this fall. Sunday school runs the same time as the school year. Summers are free.

LADIES PRAYER LUNCH

The Ladies Prayer Lunch lands on Tuesday, July 6th this year. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month. The lunch is held at the Rhinelander Family Restaurant at 12:00PM. All ladies are welcome to join us. If you have any questions please call the church office at 715-362-2470.

VOTERS ASSEMBLY MEETING

There is a Voters Assembly meeting scheduled on **July 25, 2021**, at 10:00am following the Sunday morning service. Come to see what is happening at your church. Please mark your calendars to attend.

ASSEMBLY MINUTES

We are now adding a copy of the Congregational Assembly meeting minutes to the newsletter the month before the next Congregational Assembly meeting so that everyone has the opportunity to read them and if you notice anything that needs correcting or if there is anything that you question, you will be able to bring it up at the upcoming Congregational Assembly meeting.

FOOD PANTRY

The next time that St. Mark volunteers at the food pantry is August 30th. Please consider giving a little of your time to help distribute food to those less fortunate. The pantry is open from 3-6pm, so we should be there by 2:45pm. There will be a signup sheet in the fellowship room. Please consider helping out at this event. The next time that we work is November 29th.



MORE NEWS AND NOTES



Wyss Adoption Update

If it seems like you have not heard anything about the adoption status lately, it's simply because there has been nothing to share. We have been in the adoption-ready waiting period for about 2.5 years now. During the waiting period, we don't hear anything unless we have been picked by the birth parent(s). We don't even know if, or how many, have looked at our book. It goes from zero to 100 with just a phone call. Unfortunately, that phone call has not come during this time. We first began the process when Rowyn was a baby. This past March he turned 4 years old. As a family, we are now in a different place. We are still open to bringing an infant into our family, but we are now also open to bringing older child(ren) into our family now as well. We have begun the process of becoming licensed for public adoption, which is adopting from the foster care system. During the next (roughly 6) months that it will take to become licensed, we are able to stay in the domestic infant program. We are unable to hold 2 licenses at the same time though, so in order to activate the public adoption one, we will have to make the decision to give up our current license and drop out of our current program. However God desires to grow our family, it will soon be determined in the next several months while we prepare to switch programs.

Public adoption is not a foster care program. The intention is to end with adoption. Counties determine which children are most likely going to be moving towards TPR instead of reunification (the #1 goal in the foster care system), and then the counties will pick which family to place the child(ren) with. The current foster family gets first choice. The vast majority of child(ren) in the foster system are actually temporary and are reunited with their families. Relatives can also choose to take custody. Once these options are exhausted, then the counties will turn to the public adoption route.

While both programs are a "legal risk" upon initial placement until TPR (Termination of Parental Rights), with the foster care system, that placement time before TPR occurs is typically longer. Legal risk means that there is a chance that the child(ren) will not stay with us.

There is a lot for a county to consider when deciding if we would be a good candidate to become the child(ren)'s "no matter what" family. The ages of our current children, the extent of behavioral issues of the foster child(ren) (most often stemming from trauma), and even our location are all factors. Upon initial placement, there will most likely be parental visitations to still drive the child(ren) to, as well as therapy for a long time.

We are also open to a sibling set (most likely a limit of 2 or else we would need to upgrade our vehicle size). This could also be a short or long wait, to ensure that there is a good match. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue our journey to growing our family through adoption. We are trying to be patient and trust God's timing and be open to His desire for our lives. Please pray for the children in need of safe, loving homes to be matched with families to care for them.

Thanks,

The Wyss Family

2021 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

11-Jun-21

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Actual \$ Received	8467	15922	11541	13330
Budget	11545	11545	11545	11545

