



April 2023 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

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From the Pastor

I'd like you to think about an observation made by Dr. James Spencer. He wrote that "Christians in the West are being controlled not so much by external forces - but by being lulled into accepting ideas that are counter to God, not by conscious choice but by slow "reorientation of one's beliefs."

Reflect on that for a moment. Is it possible that Biblical Christian faith is being diminished in many quarters slowly but surely through what he calls "reorientation of one's beliefs?"

What does he mean by that? As I was writing this, the word "erosion" comes to mind. Erosion happens slowly at first. Sal and I have a small boat house very close to the shoreline on Alva Lake. It's been there at least since the 1930's. A few years ago Alva Lake's water level rose, slowly at first. It had happened before, so we really didn't think anything of it.

The lake rose higher still, and the wave action continued to eat away at the shoreline until the water was closer to the boat house. A few people around the lake spent a lot of money protecting the shoreline, but lakes naturally go up and down so most of the cabins just waited. We did too. The lake went down a little, but the erosion continued. Left alone without protection the boat house could easily fall into the lake and be ruined.

Go back to that quote that I have at the beginning. A "reorientation of one's beliefs" sounds a lot like erosion to me. It starts slowly and we've seen it before but it's easier to do nothing. Spiritual erosion is the same way.

As we find ourselves at the end of Lent, this is a good time to look at our own spiritual life. Compare the present to twenty years ago. Is your spiritual life stronger or weaker? Are there tell-tale signs that there is a "reorientation" of your own faith? Are there ways to protect your faith from the devil's attacks?

We will soon celebrate Holy Week and Easter reminding us that our salvation was won for us on the cross. Protect that gift. Guard it from erosion. It's the most precious thing that you have.





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.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

“Thank you” to all members continuing to participate in the “Choice Dollars” donation to St. Mark Church. We received \$112.00 for the month of March.

ST. MARK QUILTERS

St. Mark quilters meet on 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am and sewing until noon. We would love to have some new people who may be interested come and join us.

UPCOMING RAFFLE

The quilting ladies and the Board of Evangelism will be holding a raffle for a quilt that was made by the St. Mark Quilters. The proceeds of this raffle will be for a very worthy cause. Please watch for your opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket or two.

FUNDRAISER RAFFLE



LWML

Our April Women's Guild meeting will be April 11 at 10:00. We can celebrate together the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. God bless you as you prepare for Holy Week and our Easter celebration. He is risen!! All ladies are welcome to join us for fellowship and Bible study.

LADIES PRAYER LUNCH

The St. Mark Ladies Luncheon is held the first Tuesday of every month. We meet at the Rhinelander Family Restaurant across from the American Inn at 12:00pm. It is a great chance to spend some time with your fellow members. Everyone is welcome to come.

NEW DIRECTORY

St. Mark is looking to create a new and up-to-date directory for our members. The plan is to do it inhouse just like was done before. This saves you money and there are no pressure sales talk to buy bigger packages. This worked very well for us on the previous directory and everyone seemed very happy with the results. Watch your upcoming bulletin for when the committee is ready to start with picture taking. We look forward to the success of this project. Please know that every effort will be made to include all of our members in this directory.





MORE NEWS AND NOTES



Getting to Know Our Members

The Board of Evangelism would like to let you know about some of our new members. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, we have gotten behind on introducing some of our newest members and they wanted to change all that. Each new monthly newsletter will feature information retrieved by an interview with our newer members giving you the chance to know a little about them. Some have been here for a while and some are brand new. When we are able, we will formally introduce them to the congregation with an installation service and a fellowship after the service. Read on for the introduction of one of our newest members....

NEW MEMBER WELCOME!

The St. Mark Congregation would like to welcome

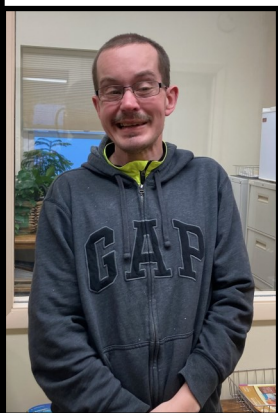
David and Janice Krueger

David; and Janice are from Illinois but have worked in Wisconsin for 30 years. They have been married for 41 years, have three children and seven grandchildren. Janice worked in the school system in food service for 23 years. She now enjoys being a homemaker. David owned his own carpentry business for 33 years and now works part-time at Menard's in Rhinelander. In their retirement the David and Janice enjoy walking at the Dome, fishing, and spending time with family. We would like to welcome you both to our St. Mark family.

Submitted by Lucille Kinney

The St. Mark Congregation would like to welcome

Nikolas Buntrock



You have probably seen Nik here at church before but he has recently decided to become a member here at St. Mark. He lives in Port Washington but is up here quite frequently spending time with his parents Gary and Heidi Buntrock. He works cleaning a church in Port Washington. He likes to dance and enjoys watching romantic movies like what you see on the Hallmark channel with his mom. He also likes to go to the casino for lunch and gambling. Welcome to our St. Mark family Nik.



2023 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

22-Mar-23

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

Actual \$
Received
Budget

13429
12995

14765
12995

2023 Budget vs Actual

