

August 2022 Newsletter St. Mark Lutheran Church



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From the Pastor

When I was at our seminary in St. Louis, I did field work at a small inner-city congregation. One of the ordained pastors there and I were having a discussion about evangelism.

I was surprised by what he shared confidentially, saying, "I am intimidated by the whole process. When the head pastor asks me to make a call, I put it off until he asks again. Then I reluctantly go to the house, knock on the door as quietly as possible, and leave when no one answers." He didn't know that person, and that person didn't know him. Granted, the church was in one of the toughest parts of St. Louis, but I was still surprised by his comment.

As I thought about that conversation over the years, I can understand his reluctance.. Two strangers don't normally discuss serious issues. Relationships have to grow until there is a comfort level and trust that enables more serious discussions.

Witnessing to ones faith and discussing someone else's faith are most natural when a trusting relationship already exists. As you sense God's call for you to share your faith, look first to those who already know you. Your relationship with them is a blessing the Holy Spirit gives you. There is an opportunity there that not only makes your witness more natural, but also is fertile ground for the message that you share.

While we are called to witness whenever God calls us, why not begin with those who already know you. Make your witness personal and positive. Share how having Jesus Christ as your Savior has been the foundation of your confidence and the reason for your hope. Witnessing isn't arguing with someone, nor is its purpose to criticize. Witnessing is always a sincere confession of faith that tells the listener that you want that person to have the same blessing that you enjoy.



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.

FELLOWSHIP

Now that we are having fellowship after each service we find that we need members to look at the calendar and decide when they might take a turn at hosting. Please check the open dates to see if any of them would be a great day for you to host this wonderful fellowship. You may host it alone, with a partner or as a board, whatever works the best.

LADIES PRAYER LUNCH

The Ladies Prayer Lunch is attended on the first Tuesday of each month. Our August Ladies Prayer Luncheon is on Tuesday, August 1st 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.

FOOD PANTRY

It is our turn to work at the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry this month on Monday, July 31st, 2023. Workers are asked to be there at 2:45PM. There will be a signup sheet in the fellowship hall. If you have any questions please call Anne Anderson at 715-362-5810.



ATTENDANCE

Thank you to all that set the example by signing the attendance book at every service that they attend. Those records help our Elders out a great deal and also lets Pastor Miller know of visitors that visit us. Any information that you can share such as address, telephone number, etc. also helps the office to keep our records up to date.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

"Thank you" to all members continuing to participate in the "Choice Dollars" donation to St. Mark Church. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by St. Mark Lutheran Church.

ST. MARK QUILTERS

The ladies are being so productive and having so much fun doing it. If you enjoy sewing, you are welcome to come and join in on these worthy projects. The joy these quilts bring to people all over the world and how grateful they are to receive them will bring comfort to your own heart knowing that this work is for the good of people less fortunate than you or I.





MORE NEWS AND NOTES



School Supplies

It's that time of the year. St. Mark is asking for members to donate school supplies to help the children in our community to get off to a good start regardless of economic situations they may have. Please consider donating anything from the list below. There will be a table set up in the fellowship hall for you to leave your items. We will be collecting school supply items until Sunday, August 27th. Thank you for your donation.

Single subject folders Rulers

Wide lined notebooks Scissors

Wide lined paper Erasers

Crayons Kleenex

Colored pencils Pencil boxes or cases

Markers #2 pencils

Elmer's glue

Sunday School

St. Mark is happy to announce that Sunday school will begin on September 10th. We have teachers with experience ready to teach the lessons of God to your child. Please encourage your child to attend and learn more about the Word of God through prayers, parables, and the lessons from the bible. This is going to be an exciting year!!! Watch your bulletin for further information.



2023 BUDGET VS ACTUAL



