



# December 2023 Newsletter

## St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

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## From the Pastor

If you are a relatively new member, you might not know how much the worship area has changed in the last ten years. Not only have we added air conditioning and multiple cameras for live streaming the service, but the altar area has been remodeled substantially, as well. The



picture of St.

Mark's original altar area was taken from an old church directory.



The altar area now focuses on the Risen Christ with the empty cross. This cross was designed by Ron Roe, and was manufactured locally. Moving the cross and affixing it to the wall took many men and a lot of effort. The interior walls of the church were insulated,

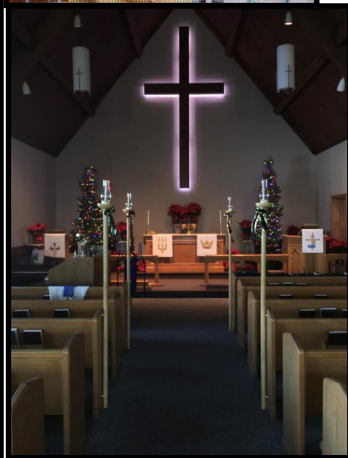


drywalled and painted. The windows on the south wall had been previously removed when the fellowship hall was added, which was shortly before working on the sanctuary. The statue of Jesus now hangs above the



sanctuary on the west wall. When you enter the church, you view the empty cross. As you leave, you see the reminder of the Risen Christ.

God has blessed His Church with a wonderful place to worship. As we approach Christmas, take a moment to reflect on His grace, as we soon celebrate Christ's birth to this earth.





# ***Business Old & New***



## **CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICE TIMES**

Services for the 20223Christmas season are as follows:

**Sunday Service (Dec. 21) : 6:00 PM**  
**Sunday service (Dec. 24) 9:00 AM**  
**Christmas Eve: (Dec. 24) 6:00 PM**  
**Christmas Day: (Dec. 25) 9:00 AM**

## **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. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

## **ST. MARK QUILTERS**

The quilters have been meeting every Tuesday morning at 9:00 am in the lower level. All ladies are welcome to join us.

## **LWML**

Ladies, we still have bag’s that we can cut and prepare to be made into sleeping mats for the Orphan Grain Train project. You are welcome to come and join us to help. Let’s bring some Christmas treats share and make a party of it. I hope to see you Tuesday, December 12 at 10:00. All ladies are welcome.

## **LADIES PRAYER LUNCH**

The ladies' monthly lunch meet at the Rhineland Family restaurant on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 12:00pm. All ladies are welcome to join us.

## **NEW MEMBERS AT ST. MARK**

We are happy to announce that we have had 14 new members join us in our pews in the year 2022. Welcome them when you see them. They are:

Jan Krueger joined 1/15/2023  
Dave Krueger joined 1/15/2023  
Jacci Hauser joined 1/15/2023  
Deborah Valstad-Lund joined 3/24/2023  
Debra Vought joined 3/27/2023  
Gary Vought joined 3/27/2023  
Kristie Smutzer joined 5/28/2023  
Brian Smutzer joined 5/28/2023  
Emma Smutzer joined 5/28/2023  
Terry Bucheger joined 8/14/2023  
Michael Bucheger joined 8/14/2023  
Robyn Willey joined 9/13/2023  
Oliver Ocana Willey joined 9/13/2023  
Rowan Willey joined 10/29/2023

We welcome you all and look forward to meeting each of you in the future.

## **In Memory . . .**

Three of our members and church friends are celebrating their first Christmas in Heaven with our Lord and Savior. What a glorious Christmas that must be! Please remember them in prayer.

Lola Peroutka	January 11, 2023
Barb Kelley	January 18, 2023
Selma Sommers	May 18, 2023

## **Advent Dinners**

St. Mark will once again be serving a dinner prior to the Thursday evening service during the Advent season. Serving will start at 4:330pm. All are welcome to join. Please sign up in the fellowship hall so that we have an idea for food needs. The quilting ladies are also having a free drawing at each of the meals for a beautiful hand sewn Christmas quilt to be given away. Good luck to everyone!

## EVANGELISM

The year 2023 has been a very giving year for St. Mark as well as individual members of our congregation. You can see the benevolence of this church in the list below.

### Local Missions Money

\$1,150.00 Domestic Violence Shelter  
\$1,200.00 Veterans Tiny Homes Project  
\$650.00 Back Pack program food pantry  
\$650.00 Boys and Girls Club  
\$220.00 Shipping-Operation Shoebox Project  
\$500.00 Aces Program  
\$4,370.00

### Personal Member Donations

\$1,425.00 Peru Mission Donations  
\$900.00 N.A.T.H Homeless Shelter  
\$2,000.00 Rhinelander Food Pantry  
\$250.00 Adopt-a-student donation  
\$4,575.00 Member donations

The Aces program which is a city-wide program that handles all needs of each applicant based on their need. They track all who have used the program and what they have received so that there is no abuse of the applicants going from church to church asking for the same donations over and over. This has been very helpful in getting more help to people when it is needed. The personal member donations are funds that members have given to be forwarded to the entities that they have listed to receive those funds. Thank you to everyone for making this a very giving year!



### Let Us Not Forget

St. Mark has members that are unable to get out, especially in the winter, and they do not get a lot of visitors. Winter can be very hard on folks. Sending a card or making a call can make a real difference in someone's day.

Maybe volunteering is your thing. There are a lot of opportunities to volunteer in our area. You could drive for Meals on Wheels, help with meals at the Senior Center, help at the food pantry distributing food for those in need. They accept help any day that they are open. It doesn't just have to be when our church works there. Sometimes people just need help with their shopping or snow removal or a ride to church.

Be that Christian that is present and ready to help where it is needed. Let's go into the 2024 year making this world a better place to be.



# A New Project For 2023

This year The Board of Evangelism and the LWML got involved in the “Operation Christmas Child Shoebox” project. This program has been going on since 1993 and in that time has collected and delivered over 200 million gift-filled shoeboxes to boys and girls ages 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14, never to the same place twice. For many children, this is the first gift they have ever received. The shoebox presents the opportunity for children to know they are cared about and that God loves them. What a wonderful way to show our love for them. A box was put in the Fellowship hall in the hopes of filling 11 shoeboxes. The generous members of St. Mark provided enough items that we were able to fill 23 boxes. That is double what we were hoping for. Thank you all so much for donating.

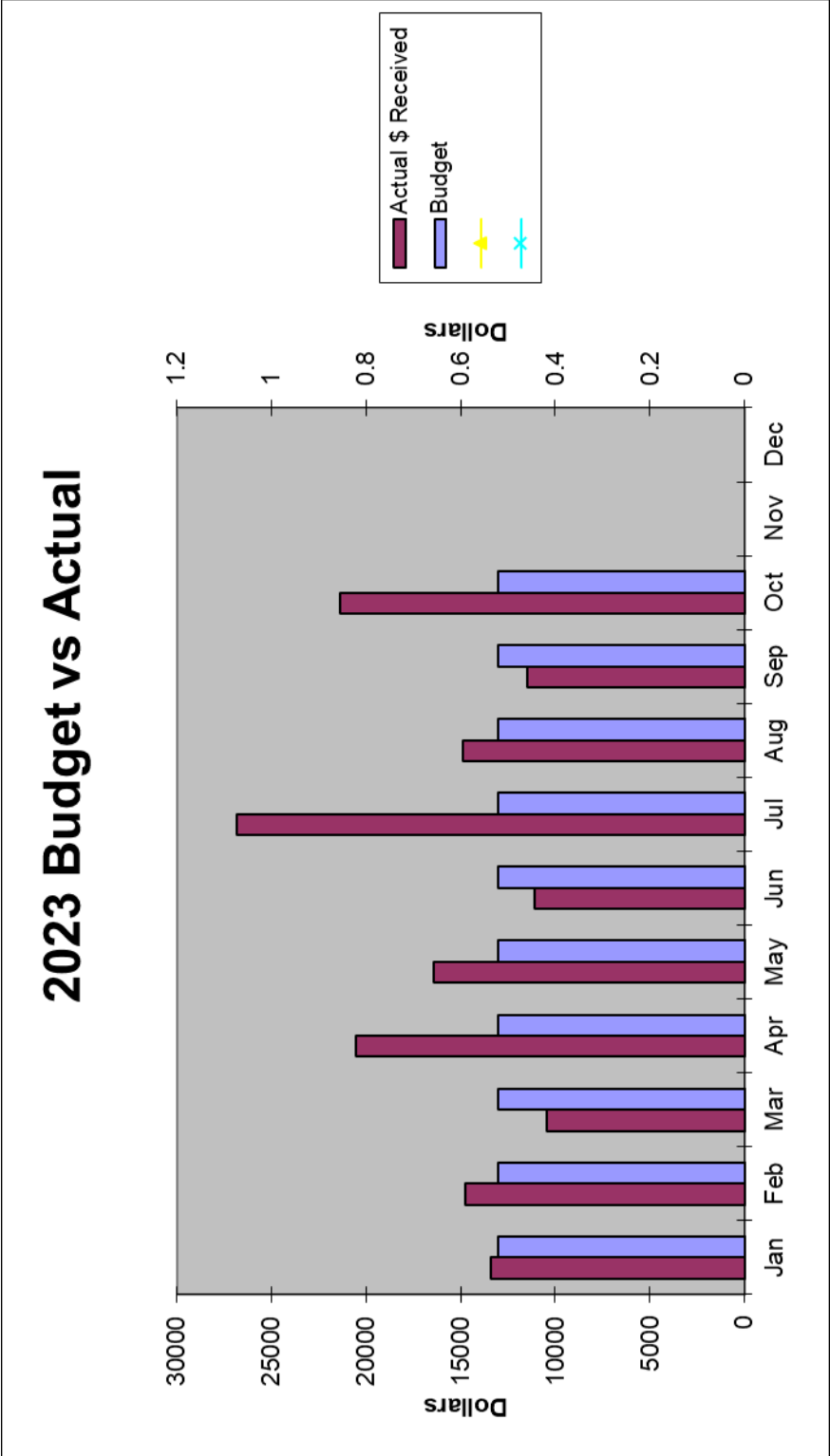
On Sunday, November 19th, after the morning service the Sunday School children came down to learn about mission work and about how good it feels to help others in need. They then, along with their teachers and parents set about filling the boxes. The smiles on their faces and the enthusiasm that they had picking out items and filling each of the boxes was a joy to see. When finished, they were very proud to show off their accomplishment in the photos below. Thank you Dave and Jan Krueger, the Sunday School teachers and thank you to the parents that helped with this project and thank you to St. Mark members for donating to this teaching lesson for us all. We will be doing this again next year and we hope it is as successful or better than it was this year.



# 2023 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

22-Nov-23

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Actual \$ Received	13429	14765	10449	20503	16405	11119	26847	14884	11464	21334		
Budget	12995	12995	12995	12995	12995	12995	12995	12995	12995	12995		



## ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

21 S. Baird Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501  
(715-362-2470)  
(stmarkchurch@outlook.com)

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

THURSDAY WORSHIP 6:00 PM  
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 am

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM—1:00 PM

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

### January 2024 Newsletter

deadline is:

**December 15, 2023**



## BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ed Bauer	12/1
Patricia Sparks	12/3
Breyden Luebke	12/6
Terri Lammert	12/10
Shane Dornfeld	12/10
Gary Vought	12/11
James Gerdes	12/14
Tim Sprink	12/14
Heidi Buntrock	12/15
David Melvin	12/15
Dallas Kelley	12/17
Gerald Boynton	12/19
Tom Davis	12/22
Bruce Vanzo	12/23
Angela Lorenzen	12/24
Dan Baumann	12/31

### DECEMBER

### ANNIVERSARIES

Gene & Ginny Belmas	12/22
David & Nancy Funk	12/26
Rev. Richard & Sally Miller	12/28
Nancy & Kenneth Newman	12/31