



September 2023 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

In this issue:

- Pastoral Letter
- Holy Communion
- Ladies Prayer Lunch
- September Birthdays
- Scrip News
- Monthly Group Gatherings
- Sept. Volunteer Schedule
- Sept. Altar Guild, Trustee, and Counters Schedule
- Officers and Boards for 2023
- September Calendar
- Worship Schedule and Office Hours

From the Pastor

Labor Day Weekend is a reminder of how work has changed over the past decades. Work at one time meant primarily manual labor. My grandfather never knew the modern technology found on almost every dairy farm. For instance, the manure wasn't automatically washed away into a huge underground storage area. My grandmother started the day by starting a fire in the cookstove.

Almost every occupation today has less manual labor and has been replaced by a different type of work that inevitably puts more exertion on the brain and less on the muscles. When the third commandment is explained by Martin Luther in his Large Catechism, he says that we should "abstain from hard work and to rest, so that man and beast might be refreshed and not be exhausted by constant labor." Luther went on to say that for Christians, the commandment warns us that "where the heart stands idle and the Word is not heard, the devil breaks in and does his damage before we realize it." What Luther would suggest to us in our world today is that we are subjected to almost constant emotional stress that our modern technology has caused. While our physical muscles aren't as exhausted, our mental muscles have become increasingly under stress. We need to replace the stress of our everyday existence with the comfort that comes from God's Word.

As we begin our fall schedule, Luther's words in the Large Catechism suggest that we look again at how we use our weekends. Will our children's hearts stand "idle and the Word is not heard?" Will our own hearts receive the holy nourishment of God's Word and Sacrament? Would joining in the adult Bible study help our faith to mature?

Sabbath Day is a time for spiritual refreshment through the hearing of God's Word. His Word washes away the less than holy words we hear throughout the week.



Business Old & New



ST. MARK QUILTERS

St. Mark quilters will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 9:00am and sewing until noon so that they can attend the Ladies Luncheon. We would love to have some new people who may be interested come and join us.

LADIES PRAYER LUNCH

Ladies Prayer Lunch will be at noon at the Rhinelander Family Restaurant across from AmericanInn. It will be on September 5th, 2023 for lunch and fellowship. All women of the congregation are invited to join the ladies in prayer and fellowship.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

“Thank you” to all members continuing to participate in the “Choice Dollars” donation to St. Mark Church.

FOOD PANTRY

The next time that St. Mark will work at the Food Pantry work at the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry is October 30th 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.

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.

LWML

Attending the 40th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in Milwaukee in June was the opportunity for me to again "fill my cup". I was able to connect with friends, both old and new, do lots of singing, Bible study and see some of Milwaukee. The delegates voted on many important things. One is the new mite goal for the 2023-2025 biennium. The new goal is \$2,350,000. It will be amazing to see how God blesses it. 31 new Mission Grant Recipients were voted on. The top 2 were Orphan Grain Train's new service center being built and A Healing Space for At-Risk Children, part of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in North Dakota. Anyone can contribute mites for the projects. There are boxes available to use and return them to a guild member.

Our September meeting will be held on the 12th at 10:00 We would like to do some special project related to ways the Orphan Grain Train helps people all over the world. Please keep watch for ways that all can help. There's so much need everywhere. All ladies are welcome to join us for fellowship and Bible study.

The annual retreat for our area will be held at beautiful Camp Luther September 7-9. If you might be interested in some refilling of your own cup, talk to me about coming along. Any questions you may have please call Barb Scott at 612-803-5694.

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.



More Business Old & New



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

A BIG THANK YOU to all who brought school supplies. You probably noticed that the table was overflowing with them. You've blessed many children and families with your gifts. So thank you to the many that participated in our annual "School Supply" program.

We're Going Back To School



PLANNING FOR THE NEW YEAR

Fall is the time of year when the council starts working on plans for the new year. As of right now they are working on the budget for next year. Each board comes to the table with what they feel they will need for the following year and then it is all discussed, tweaked, and an agreement is reached. When the council feels that it is complete the budget will be brought to the congregation for approval. This will take place at the Congregational Assembly on October 29, 2023. Please mark this on your calendar as your input is very important and all recommendations will be looked at. This is your church and it is important to stay informed.



New Member Welcome

We have been showing you pictures and articles about some of our new members. These new members were welcomed in to St. Mark Church as new members on May 28, 2023. We are very blessed to have such a big group of new members. Please introduce yourselves to anyone that you notice attending our services. They may be one of our new members or you may be introducing your church to a potential new member. We have heard from many new members that they liked how friendly and warm our members were and how they made them feel welcome. With thoughts and feelings like this, we will continue to grow. We have a lot to offer here at St. Mark and our





WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



One of the interesting aspects of being on the Evangelism committee is that you get to spend some time visiting with new members and getting some insight into their life story. That was definitely the case when I spend some time with Leo and Heidi Marie Berna. Leo and Heidi Marie moved into their Hazlehurst family home in 2010.

Leo was raised in the Wausau area having graduated from Wausau High School in 1963, subsequently he served in Viet Nam from 1967 to 1968. He continued living in the Wausau area until moving to his current home. Heidi Marie was raised in the Beloit area subsequently moving to the Wausau area where she met Leo and married in 2013. Leo's career was at the Pepsi facility in Wausau. Heidi Marie has had some interesting employment experiences as an EMT in Wabeno and a long-distance truck driver. Both Leo and Heidi Marie keep extremely busy making and selling crafts on ESTSY and local festivals. To date the Berna's Craft Company has sold over 2300 items on ESTY. Please welcome Leo and Heidi Marie to the St Mark community.



Meet Deborah Valstad-Lund

Deborah and her husband Gary moved to Rhinelander from Naperville, IL. Deborah had a long career as a Register Nurse in the Naperville area. She joined St. Mark Church in 2023 as she found that the congregation was friendly, and the service was more like what she was accustomed to in her many years as a Lutheran.



Deborah and her husband have two grown children, one in the Northwoods area and one still in Illinois area.

When Deborah is not busy with gardening, she is creating lovely paintings. She also finds the time to teach painting in Rhinelander. Her creativity with her gardens and art is amazing.

Deborah is very much interested in joining the Bible study sessions. Welcome Deborah to St. Mark Lutheran Church. Stop and say "hi" to Deborah and her husband Gary when you see them.



MORE NEWS MEMBERS



Meet Tim, Natalie, Tyler, and Allie Sprink

Welcome to St. Mark Lutheran Church. Their move from Missouri has made for an interesting time in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. They relocated to Crandon.



Both Tim and Natalie feel they are semi empty nesters as Tyler is off to college in Stevens Point and Allie is working in NY.

Tim and Natalie both work together in the logging business which is what brought them to the Northwoods. Tim was commuting from Missouri to Wisconsin which he found to be a little more time consuming than he would like, so together they decided to move to Crandon.

Natalie enjoys doing 1 to 2 pod casts per week along with reading and enjoys realty shows. Tim likes to watch western movies, hunting and some farming in the Antigo area. Give them a warm welcome when you introduce yourself to Tim and Natalie.



Time for Sunday School

Sunday school will begin on Sunday, September 10th

Sunday school will resume as of September 10, 2023. Giving your children a good religious background by learning bible lessons together with fellow children is one of the best gifts that you can give your children as a parent. The bulletin that they receive at each service gives them pictures and activities to learn about the Gospel each week. Here are just some of my favorite benefits of Sunday School.

- 1) Kids learn church is a fun, safe place.
- 2) Children develop relationships with other trusted Christian adults.
- 3) Kids connect with other Christian kids.
- 4) Kids can learn from others' creativity and perspective, not just mama's.
- 5) Parents build relationships that can provide resources for helping minister to our kids at home.
- 6) It reinforces lessons kids learn at home.
- 7) It provides a safe place for kids to practice having faith discussions outside of the home.
- 8) It provides a safe place for older children, teens, and adults to express their gifts and serve God and his people.

We look forward to seeing your children at Sunday School this year. Parents are welcome.

2023 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

09-Aug-23

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

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

