



January 2024 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

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From Pastor Miller

There are many dates listed in the church year that churches, including ours, don't recognize. By my count there are 34 Feasts and Festivals. One of those festivals is *"The Holy Innocents"* to be celebrated on December 28. We are told in the reading appointed for that day that soon after Jesus' birth Herod decided "to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under". (Matt 2:16) Herod had decided that his own interests were more important than the lives of the small children. We are tempted to wonder how a terrible decision like that could even stand in the world of his time. Innocent lives were not his to do with as he pleased.

Yet, we live in a current society where the same type of decision is made every day. Unborn children are killed through abortion. Their lives are determined to be less important, and thus disposable.

While our church body and our congregations oppose such an ungodly attitude, I have always felt that our real Calling is to support the alternatives to abortion rather than simply condemning the act. I am working with our Elders to explore the possibility of continuing the work we did during the Wyss adoption process where we provided financial support. I hope to see if there is any interest among our sister congregations in the area and even in our district to establish an ongoing fund that would support families who wish to adopt a child. That process is very expensive, and is born by the adoptive family throughout the process.

I have also had initial contact with *New Dawn - Pregnancy Resource Center*, a pro-life agency that will begin work here in Rhinelander and our surrounding area. There is a good chance that we could work with them, too.

As the Elders and I explore these potential opportunities, we will present our findings to the church council and then the congregation. As Jesus Himself said, *"I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."* Matt 25:45

MORE NEWS AND NOTES



Angels Among Us

Have you seen the new addition to our church lawn this Christmas Season? A wonderful member of our church noticed that we had a Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus statues in our garage and asked if he could make a nativity scene for in front of our church for this Christmas season. What a wonderful job he did! We are so blessed with the giving members of this church! It looks so nice at night when it is all lit p. Take a ride in the evening and take a look at the beauty of it. Thank you so much for the time and talents that you put into this.

Be someone else's angel this winter season and let them know that you are thinking of them. Winter can get long and lonely when you are stuck inside the house.

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.

ST. MARK QUILTERS

The quilters meet Tuesdays mornings at 9:00 am in the lower level. They are a fun bunch of ladies. All ladies are welcome to join us.

LADIES PRAYER LUNCH

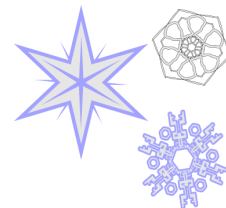
The ladies' prayer lunch will be held on January 9th and the 23rd for a lunch with prayer and fellowship at the Rhinelander Family Restaurant at 12:00pm. The restaurant is closed from December 25th through January 4th for cleaning. That is why we are meeting different dates this month. We look forward to seeing you.

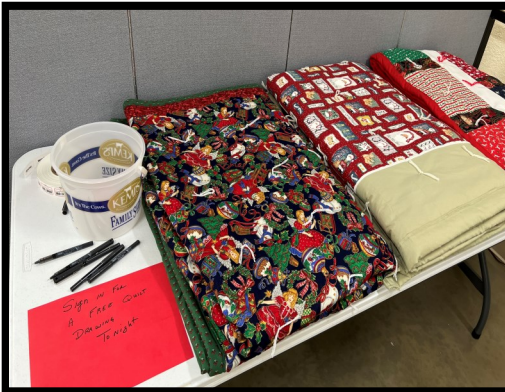
LWML

There will be no LWML meeting/Ladies Guild in January. We look forward to getting together on February 13th, 2024, for fellowship and Bible study. Keep warm and safe.

FOOD PANTRY

Part of the ministry at St. Mark is to help others that are in need. We are very blessed and thankful to all the people who help distribute food at the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry. The many people that volunteer make the work easy and very rewarding. The next opportunity to volunteer at the food pantry is Monday, **January 29, 2024**. Please sign up on the list in the fellowship hall if you are available to help this month. Ten people are needed. You are asked to be there at 2:45pm and will work until 6:00pm. If you are interested in doing this kind of work please contact Anne Anderson at 715-362-5810.





2023 Advent Dinners

The members of St. Mark enjoyed Advent dinners on Thursday evenings before service again this year. This year the quilting ladies decided to add something new to the dinner hour. They made 4 Christmas quilts gave one away in a drawing held each week at the dinner. This idea has been well received and has been a nice addition to this event. At time of print we have had three winners and fourth will be drawn Thursday December 21st. The first winner of a beautiful Christmas quilt was Sue Komp. The second winner was Dennis Scott and the third winner was Al Peterson. Good Luck on the next drawing!

A Year in Review



2023 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

19-Dec-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	14047	
Budget	12995	12995	12995	12995	12995	12995	12995	12995	12995	12995	12995	12995

