



August 2025 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

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From the Pastor

This month Andy Wyss and I will be traveling to Saint Louis to begin the SMP (Specific Ministry Pastor) Program. While we have attempted to share as much information as possible leading up to this time, it still might be good to review the basic reasons for the program and our participation in it.

It has been a reality for some time that we have had a pastoral shortage in our synod. While the reasons for that are many, the reality is not. The reality is also evident that a congregation of our size would struggle to maintain a full time pastor. Like any other position, the cost for a full time person includes not only salary but also the skyrocketing cost of health care insurance and retirement benefits.

St. Mark has a proactive approach rather than possibly waiting for the eventuality of finding a new pastor. We as a congregation will be actively engaged in a four year SMP program where we are directly involved in partnership with a Concordia Seminary. The course work will be done through the seminary, while I will serve as a mentor/vicarage supervisor. Under God's blessing and guidance we have positively responded to the challenge.

All of us will be involved in the pastoral formation of Vicar Andy Wyss. I ask for your prayers and support as we begin.



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.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

The Ladies Prayer Lunch is now known as the **Fellowship Lunch** and is attended on the first and third Tuesday of each month. We meet at a different restaurant each time at 12:00PM. The upcoming restaurant will be published in the bulletin under the Opportunities area. All members 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 next month on Monday, September 29h 2025. 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 the church office at 715-362-2470



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, that they meet nearly every Tuesday morning. If you enjoy sewing or tying knots, 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



2025 CHURCH PICNIC

Mark your calendars to attend the 2025 St. Mark Church Picnic that will be held on Sunday, August 24th, 2025, right after the Sunday service. It will be an fantastic time of fellowship , food, fun and games. There will even be a bouncy house for the kids. The meat, buns, and beverages will be provided. We ask that everyone brings a dish or item to pass. And please feel free to bring the recipe to share if you like. Our members love that. You may want to bring a lawn chair along if the weather is nice. (we are making arrangements with Devin on that, ha!ha!)

It would really be nice to see our Thursday church service members join us on Sunday also. Be prepared to have a great time!



BOARD OF EDUCATION

July 7-11th kicked off St. Mark's first Vacation Bible School in years! True North was a wonderful success and it was hard to tell who was having more fun, the kids or our awesome volunteers. A great time was had by all and the Holy Spirit was definitely working in the hearts of these little lambs. We had a total of 14 kids, 11 members of St. Mark and 3 kids from the community. We can't wait to begin plans for VBS 2026!

Sunday School will start up again after our summer break on September 7th. We are blessed to announce that Robyn Willy will be joining our staff. We are deeply thankful for the parents of our Sunday School children who faithfully bring them each week and recognize the importance of growing their faith.



Many Hands ...

The Lord has blessed our congregation with many willing and able hands offering their time and talents in service. We are grateful for this blessing, but there is so much opportunity. Please prayerfully consider the opportunities join in the Lord's work, or to use your talents and time in new ways here at St Mark.

Opportunities to become involved and to serve at St Mark:

Have you thought about participating with one of the Boards or the Church Council? The Board of Trustees and the Board of Evangelism can always use more members. Contact any member of these boards or the church office to learn more.

Looking to serve? St Mark has a wide variety of opportunities for you to become more involved with our service and activities. There is something for everyone!

Serve as an usher, a reader, or operate the projector.

Host a fellowship, sponsor alter flowers or sponsor the eternal candle.

Assist the alter guild.

Help with an outreach activity organized through the Evangelism Committee.

Participate in Youth Education by assisting with Vacation Bible School or Sunday School.

Join us for seasonal activities such as clean-up days and Christmas decorating.

Serve with St Mark at the Food Pantry.

Work with the quilters.

Assist with food preparation and meals for funerals.

Additional notices for opportunities to serve are posted in the bulletin and newsletter.

Council President Chuck Komp

Supporting our Missionaries and Seminary Students.

St Mark provides financial support for LCMS missions and for the development of pastors at Concordia Seminary. This support is planned and budgeted annually by the congregation. We currently are supporting Rev. Jordon Andreassen and his family in Romania, Vicar Andrew Vought (Adopt a Student program at Concordia), and Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Student Andy Wyss.

In addition to our planned support, our missionaries and seminary students encounter additional needs. Our members have supported our Missionaries and Seminary students through prayer, encouragement, and financial gifts. Over the years we have provided computers and bells to mission churches in Africa, assisted with the cost of travel to St Mark for those we support, and provided small birthday or Christmas gifts for missionaries and seminary students and their families.

The congregation has established accounts for support of our missionaries and seminary students. Members may contribute to these by simply designating the name of the account with their gift.

Foreign Mission – Gifts will be used to support special or unique needs of our foreign missionary and to provide small gifts on special occasions for his family.

Adopt A Student – Gifts will be used to support the cost of travel of the seminary student we support to visit St Mark, and to provide small gifts on special occasions for his family.

Ministry Development; SMP (Specific Ministry Pastor) – Gifts will be used to offset the costs of the SMP program (tuition, books, travel), to build resources supporting the SMP candidate (library resources, subscriptions, conferences), or to support items related to his work as SMP student and Vicar. Items directly related to duties at St Mark will be handled through the church fund. Members may offer other gifts directly to Andy if they wish to do so.

Council President Chuck Komp



VBS 2025





2025 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

15-Jul-25

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Actual \$ Received	13365	11560	16213	16507	20093	15487						
Budget	14712	14712	14712	15878	15878	15878						

(Figures reflect \$15K added to budget for SMIP program)

