



December 2025 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

In this issue:

- Pastoral Letter
- Holy Communion
- Scrip Program
- December Birthdays
- Dec. Altar Guild, Trustee, and Counters Schedule
- Officers and Boards for 2025
- December Calendar
- Worship Schedule and Office Hours

From the Pastor

Gifts

Have you seen the latest pictures on the screen in our fellowship hall? Many of you provided a large assortment of gifts that went into "shoe boxes." Our congregation also supplied that cost of shipping them throughout the world. We were part of a larger effort that last year supplied 11,927,439 boxes throughout the world. It's amazing to think that the hair brushes and combs that Sal and I bought will end up somewhere in the hands of a child who might not otherwise have a Christmas present. I hope you share the same joy.



Our congregation has sent other gifts as well. This last year over 400 quilts were sent to someone in need of not only physical but also emotional warmth. Some sewed the quilts together, others transported them to a central location. You supplied the necessary money through our congregation so that the gifts could be stored and then sent somewhere in the world where needed.



You have gifted an untold number of people with the message of the Gospel sent through our livestream. Some are lonely and unable to attend church. Others are perhaps drawn by the Holy Spirit to be a part of our worship through your contributions here at St. Mark.

Other people are hearing the Gospel through the religious program By the Way, led by Pastor Paul Devantier. Our congregation recently sent a donation of \$500 to this program.

Throughout the year, St. Mark has contributed to our food pantry and to Frederick House for those who are temporarily homeless. May God continue to bless us with the necessary resources here at St. Mark in order that those blessings we receive can be a blessing here in our community and throughout the world.



Business Old & New



CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICE TIMES

Services for the 2024 Christmas season are as follows:

Sunday Service (Dec. 21)	9:00 AM
Christmas Eve: (Dec. 24)	6:00 PM
Christmas Day: (Dec. 25)	9:00 AM
Sunday Service (Dec. 29)	9:00 AM

In Memory . . .

Five 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.

Joyce Alsteen	January 8, 2025
Anne Anderson	April 4, 2025
Donna Baker	May 14, 2025
Dean Kuckkahn	July 14, 2025
Jerry Baker	July 18, 2025

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.

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 4:30pm. The first Advent Dinner will be on Thursday, December 4th. All are welcome to join. Please sign up in the fellowship hall so that we have an idea for food needs. There will be a free will offering to help offset the cost of food. The quilting ladies are also having a free drawing at each of the meals for beautiful hand sewn goods to be given away. Good luck to everyone!

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Everyone is welcome. We get together on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month to have lunch together at a local restaurant. It is a chance to join in fellowship and an opportunity for some to spend some time with fellow members rather than eating all alone. The restaurant will be posted in the bulletin the week prior to going out and I hope to get it in the newsletter each month. Please let the office know if you would like to attend. 715-362-2470.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

“Thank you” to all members continuing to participate in the “Choice Dollars” donation to St. Mark Church. We received \$62.00 for the month of November. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

ST. MARK QUILTERS

The ladies continue working on making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They meet on Tuesdays at 9:00am and work until 12:00pm in the lower level of the church. If you have some time to spend with these ladies for a great cause, we would love to see you. If you can tie a knot, you can tie a quilt. It is a wonderful time to get to know other members of St. Mark. They do a beautiful job. It truly is a labor of love!



EVANGELISM

The year 2025 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

\$1,500.00 New Dawn Pregnancy Center
\$1,500.00 Domestic Violence Center
\$1,170.00 Camp Luther
\$ 500.00 “By the Way” radio program
\$4,670.00

Personal Member Donations

\$400.00 Domestic Violence Shelter
\$1,100.00 N.A.T.H Homeless Shelter
\$500.00 Rhinelander Food Pantry
\$1,200.00 SMP Student Donations
\$3,200.00 Member donations

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!



SMP Update

Greetings, St. Mark family! As I write this, I’m putting the finishing touches on the final project for my first Seminary course, *PRA411: Introduction to Pastoral Ministry*. It was a 15-page paper on using a “practical theological framework” to address an issue or opportunity in ministry here at St. Mark. I want to thank those of you in the congregation that let me ask them questions. It was most helpful for the project. I’m not sure how soon the final grades will be posted, but I feel pretty good about it.

By December 1st, I’ll be officially on to the second course, which goes through a detailed look at worship. The second course is a little different than the first, and requires a week on campus in St. Louis in January. I’ll learn more about the format in the upcoming weeks.

On a personal note, I have been so appreciative of the congregation asking questions and offering prayers. We’ve had offers to kids or make a meal. And those kind gestures are so unbelievably helpful as my family navigates this new season. I hope everyone at St. Mark has a blessed Advent season and is able to spend holidays with family and friends. It is truly the most wonderful time of the year!

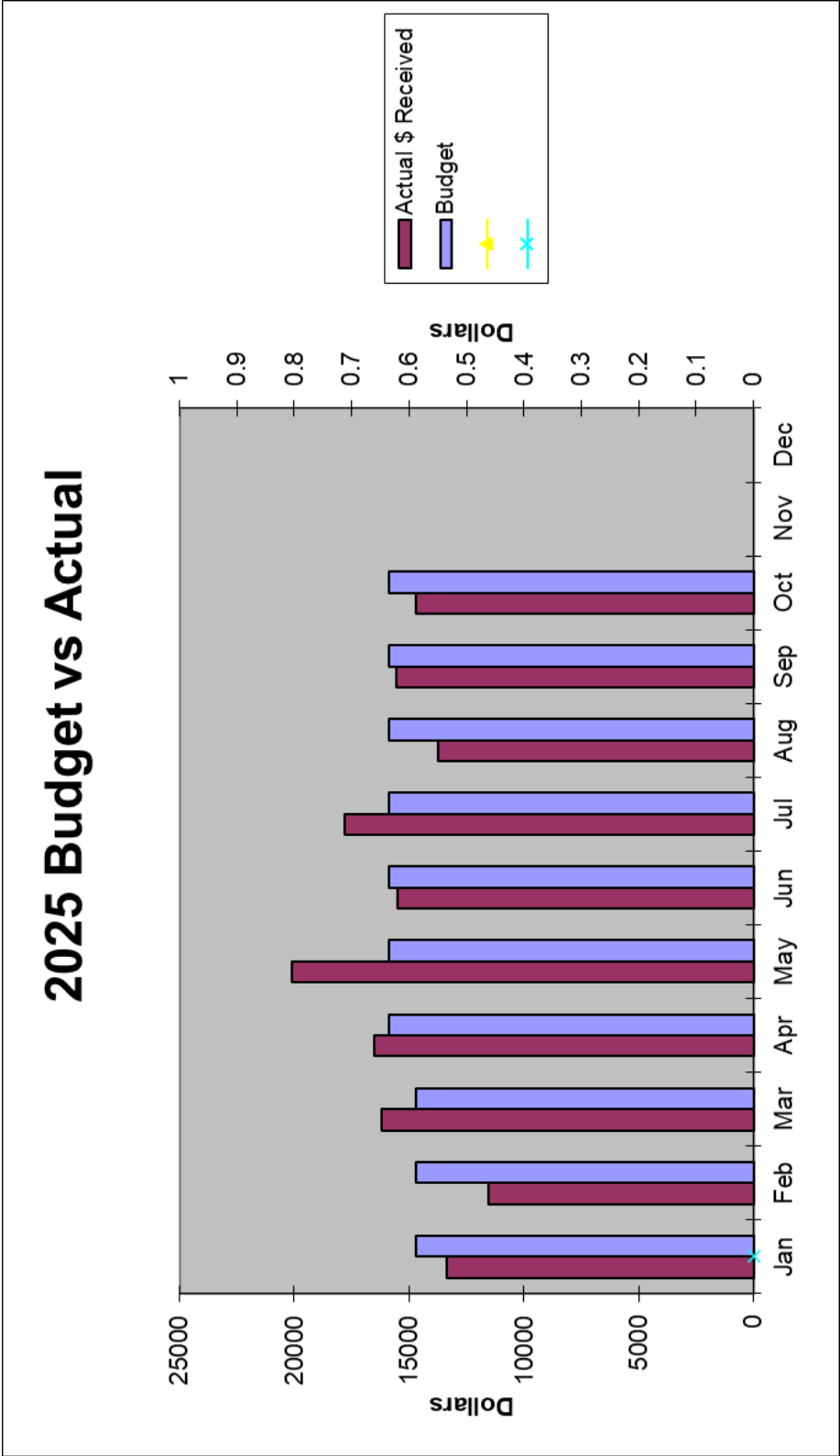
Vicar Wyss

2025 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

19-Nov-25

Actual \$ Received Budget	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	13365 14712	11560 14712	16213 14712	16507 15878	20093 15878	15487 15878	17808 15878	13739 15878	15532 15878	14714 15878		

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



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 2026 Newsletter

deadline is:

December 15, 2025

BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ed Bauer	12/1
Patricia Sparks	12/3
Breyden Luebke	12/6
Dallas Kelley	12/7
Terri Lammert	12/10
Shane Dornfeld	12/10
Gary Vought	12/11
Tim Sprink	12/14
Heidi Buntrock	12/15
David Melvin	12/15
Gerald Boynton	12/19
Tom Davis	12/22
Bruce Vanzo	12/23
Angela Lorenzen	12/24
Dan Baumann	12/31

DECEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

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