



November 2025 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

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From the Pastor

**“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.” Psalm 46**

Look again at the verse above. Do you notice the faith expressed there? What does our faith depend on? Someone outside the faith might wonder why we can experience faith even though there is what the Psalmist calls “trouble.” If we read further in the Psalm the writer makes it even clearer that our faith is not dependent on God removing the obstacles from our life.

Luther would later express the faith of Psalm 46 in the words of his hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God.” God does not remove the obstacles in our life, He overcomes them. The Psalmist admits that “the nations rage, and the Kingdoms totter,” a history that continues yet today, our faith is not based on the belief that the world will heal itself and that people will all be at peace with one another. Our faith is based on what the Psalmist declares: “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”

Thanksgiving leads us to pause to thank God for all the blessings bestowed upon us, and then transitions to the season of Advent. Advent prepares us to welcome into our hearts again what the Psalmist already proclaimed long ago, “The Lord of hosts,” our Savior Jesus Christ, our refuge and our strength.



News and Notes



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 Rhinelander Area Food Pantry will be December 29th, 2025, which is a Monday. Workers are asked to be there at 2:45PM. There will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. If you have any questions please call the church office at 715-362-2470

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.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

There will be a service for Thanksgiving on Wednesday, **November 26th at 6:00pm**. This is in addition to our scheduled Sunday service for that week. There is no service on Thursday evening.

A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which said: “I am blind, please help.”

There were only a few coins in the hat.

A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new words.

Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy. That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were.

The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, “Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?”

The man said, “I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way.” I wrote: “Today is a beautiful day but I cannot see it.”

Both signs told people that the boy was blind. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind. The second sign told people that they were so lucky that they were not blind. Should we be surprised that the second sign was more effective?

Moral of the Story: Be thankful for what you have. Be creative. Be innovative. Think differently and positively. When life gives you a 100 reasons to cry, show life that you have 1000 reasons to smile. Face your past without regret. Handle your present with confidence. Prepare for the future without fear. Keep the faith and drop the fear.

The most beautiful thing is to see a person smiling. And even more beautiful, is knowing that you are the reason behind it!

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Author unknown

More News and Notes

SMP Update

Greetings, St. Mark family! Over the last month, I've continued my first Seminary course, *PRA411: Introduction to Pastoral Ministry*. I'm currently on Week 8, which will be followed by a couple more weeks of online classes, and then by a final project due around Thanksgiving. We've been studying the functions of a pastor, how a pastor grows, and guiding frameworks for pastoral ministry. I want to thank everyone who has offered up prayers and support. I am honestly finding it difficult to manage the courseload on top of everything else. My professor and the materials have been great, as well as my mentorship conversations with Pastor Miller, but the time commitment is still by far the hardest thing to manage. Last month, the SMP coursework increased at the same time that my full-time job at Lutheran Family Service was requiring me to put together most of our end-of-year fundraising materials, plus Jayme was entering playoffs for the Hodag Volleyball team, the boys were starting Hockey and Swimming, and we were in the middle of putting on the Three Eagle Half Marathon that Jayme and I still organize up in Three Lakes. Over the last couple weeks, that has meant consistently turning in assignments around 2AM. So please keep the prayers coming! I have felt very supported by all the encouragement I have received at St. Mark on a weekly basis. And seeing all the things that God is moving (like busy Sunday School rooms, shipping off 300+ quilts, building improvement discussions, watching young acolytes and students starting confirmation, etc.) makes me very optimistic for the future at St. Mark. There are great things happening here.

Vicar Wyss

Happy Thanksgiving

As we gather around the table today to share what we are GRATEFUL for with one another, we must remember that we are called not just to SPEAK words of gratitude, but to LIVE and WALK by them! Because it's not what we say about our BLESSINGS, but how we USE THEM, this is the TRUE measure of our THANKSGIVING!!



2025 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

20-Oct-25

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

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

