



September 2025 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 2025**
- **September Calendar**
- **Worship Schedule and Office Hours**

From the Pastor

We returned home from a week of training at our St. Louis seminary, and many of you asked, "How did it go?" Let me share a few of my experiences there.

The seminary looked amazingly the same as when I was first there in the late 1960's. The buildings reflect a sense of permanence-the seminary is there

to educate the next generation of pastors and other church workers in the Scriptural truths that will never change. While methodology

will take advantage of new forms of communication, the message remains the same. I also noted the great spirit of the students. Their excitement is contagious.

It was a joy to be with my fellow pastors who will also be involved in the formation of new pastors. Our conversations during the week reflected a common belief that more church workers are needed where "the fields are ripe for harvest but the workers

are few."

As I looked around at the various professors, I couldn't help but notice that they were all younger than I am! It was a reminder that it is time for a transition here at St. Mark. What a blessing God has given us that He was sent Andy Wyss to us as our future pastor. God has answered our prayers. You and I will be privileged to be a part of his journey into pastoral ministry.



September Newsletter SMP Update

By Andy Wyss

Pastor Miller and I spent the week of August 18th on the Concordia Seminary campus in St. Louis for SMP (Specific Ministry Pastor) orientation. It was a phenomenal week, even better than I was expecting! I had a great time getting to know Pastor Miller, learning more about the campus, meeting other men in my program, and building excitement for my calling moving forward.

To take in as much of the week as we could, and to keep expenses to a minimum, Pastor Miller and I stayed on campus in the dormitory. We shared a room together and got a really good opportunity to bond. Pastor Miller shared stories about his time at the Seminary in St. Louis some 55 years ago. We commiserated on how much we missed our wives. But most of all, it was a great opportunity for Pastor and I to get our mentorship off to a solid start. I had a great



week together with him, and I'm really looking forward to working with Pastor Miller in my formation as a pastor at St. Mark.

The campus itself was beautiful. The chapel, tower, library, grounds, and classrooms were awesome. During the week, I attended ministerial formation sessions, received valuable information for my specific program, learned about various Seminary organizations and offices, met Seminary professors, and much more. I also had the first official class for my Fall course, PRA411: Introduction To Pastoral Ministry.



September Newsletter SMP Update

Andy Wyss SMP Article Cont.

The best part of the week was meeting the other men in my program. They all had stories just like mine. Some were in the program to be associate/assistant pastors at larger churches, some where there to be church planters for new churches, but most were filling the need of vacant pulpits and retired pastors in small churches. Of the 20 men in my program, I was the only one from Wisconsin. We had guys from Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, New Jersey, Florida, Idaho, Virginia, and more. They all had families and jobs that they were going to be balancing with

school, like me. It's going to be great working together with those guys in this program. And it was great to meet all their mentors, too.

At the Opening Service on Friday (the chapel service that officially started the 187th academic year at Concordia Seminary) I received my vicarage placement at St. Mark in Rhinelander. I am officially a vicar at our congregation, working toward becoming a pastor. There will be a lot of schoolwork and on-the-job training over the next four years to make that happen. I am expected to find 20 hours a week to devote to my SMP coursework, which will be rigorous on top of my full-time job, family, and coaching. But I'm excited for the opportunity to learn, grow, and become more involved with the leadership of St. Mark.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to flag me down and ask. I'm an open book.

Thank you all for your prayers and support.

Vicar Andy Wyss





Business Old & New



ST. MARK QUILTERS

St. Mark quilters will be meet every Tuesday of the month at 9:00am and sew until about noon. They seem to be on a mission to make more than they did last year. We would love to have some new people who may be interested come and join us.

PRAYER LUNCH

The Prayer Lunch is attended on the first and third Tuesday of each month. We meet at different restaurants in the area. Which restaurant will be listed in the bulletin that week. They meet at 12:00pm. Anyone is welcome to join them. If you have any questions please call the church office at 715-362-2470. It is a great time for 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 Monday, September 29th 2025. 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 office at 715-362-2470.

THANK YOU

Thank you to my church family for the phone calls checking on me, the cards that I received and your prayers during the last couple of months. I wasn't feeling well. Thank you again. My prayers to all of you.

Lucille Kinney

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.

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.

2025 CHURCH PICNIC

Thank you to everyone that joined us for the 2025 church picnic. The food was delicious as always and the fellowship was amazing! Many members of the congregation joined in the fun of the early afternoon. Thanks again.

TRUNK OR TREAT

The Board of Evangelism will once again be participating in the Trunk or Treat event at the end of October. If you would like to contribute a bag of candy for handing out to the children, it would be greatly appreciated. It is a fun event and we do have a lot of fun. Join us if you would like to. We will give you particulars as the date gets closer.



MORE NEWS MEMBERS



Altar Guild

I saw a notice in The Reporter, a publication of the LCMS, that someone was looking for green paraments. Since we had an unused set in the basement storage room after being gifted with a new set, I reached out. A church in North Carolina was searching for paraments for a mission church in Cambodia. After several emails back and forth, the paraments were shipped for use in Cambodia. The missionary family happened to be in the states so the paraments were shipped to them in Virginia. The church in North Carolina reimbursed for postage so there was no cost involved to St. Mark. How wonderful that our paraments will be put to good use rather than collecting dust. God provides.

Kathy Lueck

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 26, 2025. Please mark this on your calendar as your input is very important and all recommendations will be looked at.



Time for Sunday School

Sunday school will begin on Sunday, September 7th

Sunday school will resume as of September 7, 2025 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.
- 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.

2025 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

18-Aug-25

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

Actual \$
Received
Budget

13365	11560	16213	16507	20093	15487	17808					
14712	14712	14712	15878	15878	15878	15878					

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

