



August 2026 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

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From the Pastor

Created in Christ

It's not unusual for someone to ask me why they are still here. All of us know that we are only temporarily on earth and that God Himself is building a place for us in heaven. So why are we here? Why not take us to our everlasting joy which Christ has won for us?

Scripture answers that question in Ephesians 2:10. *"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* Put another way, the reason you and I are still on this earth is that God intends to use us to accomplish some godly work. I like the New English Bible's translation of this verse, *"We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to devote ourselves to the good deeds for which God has designed us."*

While some of the good deeds God has planned for us can be accomplished as individuals, some need to be done together as a Communion of Saints. Here at St. Mark, God has joined us together for His holy purpose. I am thinking specifically now that we have **added** to our 2025 and 2026 budgets the expense of training St. Mark's next pastor, Andy Wyss, but we haven't removed any other budget items. For this reason, for the first time in many years we are currently facing a deficit through the first half of this year. I am asking everyone to review their giving. I am confident that God will lead us to a faithful response as each of us asks the question I posed above, "Why am I here?" We are here at St. Mark because God has placed us here, and we have a ministry worthy of our support.

Letter from the Vicar



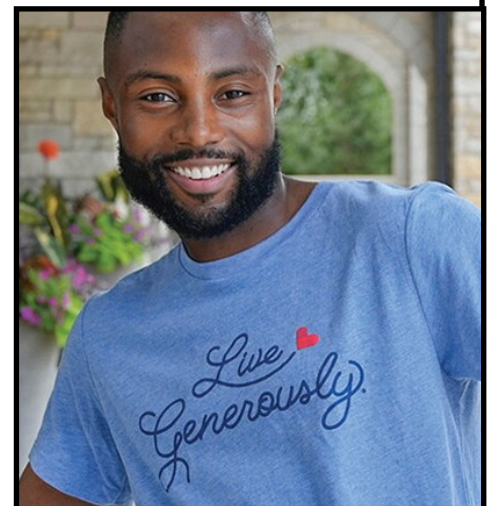
A short note from our Vicar...

In July, I wrapped up my summer intensive class, *Systematics 412: Creedal Themes*. That class required a week on campus at the Seminary in St. Louis. The class explored how the Scriptures teach, and how the church confesses, the doctrine truths that form our creeds. The drive to and from St. Louis was a nice reminder to give thanks to the Lord for His many gifts — especially the beauty of the place we are blessed to call home. We get to live where others vacation. When I returned to Rhinelander, I had a very large research paper to write on a portion of the Nicene Creed. I got that all turned in, and I am now officially one full year into the SMP program! Thankfully, I have a few weeks off before my fifth class starts. As much as I enjoy learning, my brain needs a break! Toward the end of August, the director of the SMP program at the Seminary, Dr. Mart Thompson, will come to Rhinelander for a Vicarage visit. He will meet with me, Jayme, and Pastor to recap the first year of the program, and look ahead to year two.



Did You Know.....

Anyone that holds a Thrivent account is eligible to open an **Action Team** for a fundraiser/promotion of any kind. We have had members do this for quilting materials, education ordered items (small put-together kits for children) that promote St. Mark and God to the community. These will be given out at the Oneida County Fair. Thrivent has been very open to many different types of fundraisers and promotions ideas and we have never had anyone turned down. You apply on Thrivent.com and fill in a little information like your name, address and what kind of fundraiser that you would like to spend \$250 on. They send you a gift card filled with the \$250 and you can use it to purchase items that would be helpful with a fundraiser or promoting a worthy cause. After your purchase, you send a little blurb on their site letting them know how and for what the money was spent. Each member can do this up to twice a year. It is their way of giving back to their customers and helping out worthy causes.





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

Our next opportunity to work at the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry is Monday, August 31st. We are looking for 10-12 volunteers to help with the distribution of food item. Also needed is someone to work the computer/scale position. This is very easy to learn (no special computer skills required) and you get to sit down the whole time! The hours that are needing to fill are between 2:45pm until 5:00pm. Many hands make light work and your time and support can make a real difference for families in our community. Please consider volunteering for the important cause.

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 quilting ladies are coming back to work at St. Mark on Tuesday, August 18th. They meet from 9:00am until 12:00pm every Tuesday. They have had a great summer break and are looking forward to getting back to work. There are special skills required to join the ladies at any time. If you can tie a knot, they have plenty for you to do. It is really quite rewarding to see these quilts when they are finished and that you know that someone in this world will have a beautiful quilt from a wonderful group of caring and dedicated ladies. Remember that on the first and third Tuesdays we all enjoy the Fellowship Luncheon at a local restaurant and everyone is welcome to join them for great fellowship.

Footnote: The ladies have informed me that if anyone has any flannel sheets in good shape that they are no longer using, they could use them for making their quilts. Any color or design.



MORE NEWS AND NOTES



2026 CHURCH PICNIC

Mark your calendars to attend the 2026 St. Mark Church Picnic that will be held on Sunday, September 13th, 2026, right after the Sunday service. It will be a fantastic time of fellowship, food, fun and games. 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

Updates from the Board of Education! Don't miss St. Mark Lutheran at the Oneida County Fair this year July 30th-Aug.2nd! VBS is calling! Join us for bunches of fun exploring the Nature of God! August 10-14th 9a-12p. Sign up via the QR code on the bulletin insert or the link here. <https://forms.gle/Aagdqkb1poSvRJsT7>

We are excited to welcome our children back to Sunday School on Sunday, September 13th! After our summer break, we look forward to gathering again for games, crafts, Bible stories and learning about God's wonderful love for each one of us. We hope all of our Sunday School families will join us as we begin another joyful year of growing in faith together. The celebration will continue with our Church picnic immediately following Sunday School. There will be delicious food and plenty of fun and games for everyone. Please invite your family and friends and come enjoy this special day of faith, fellowship, and fun!

