



January 2026 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

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From Pastor Miller

Our church body designates a Sunday in January to affirm the sanctity of life. Since I am always gone during that time, here are some thoughts that I would like to share.

Any discussion that is meaningful needs an agreed upon *source of truth*. Without it, little, if anything, is accomplished. Our source of truth is *Holy Scripture*. The God who knows all things speaks to us there. God clearly tells us that He values all life, from the point of conception, through life in this world, and then in everlasting life in heaven through our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. God tells us in Exodus 20:13 in the Sixth Commandment that we shall not kill. The Hebrew word for *kill* is *ratsach*, and *murder* is a more accurate translation. God has spoken clearly.

We know that intact families are a crucial part of God's plan for children, and St. Mark's educational ministry needs our complete support as it teaches God's plan. Every child is precious to God. When children are baptized, the question I ask is whether the congregation, along with the parents, will take spiritual responsibility for that child.

Agencies like *New Dawn Pregnancy Resource Center* here in Rhinelander deserve our support, as well as any agency that promotes a pro-life position. Adoption is a wonderful alternative to abortion, and something that we should continue to support.

At St. Mark, we are privileged to be God's instrument in doing everything we can for every child in the name of Jesus Christ. Your continued support of our ministry here enables us to do just that.

MORE NEWS AND NOTES

If you were wondering, there are more opportunities to join in making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you have the ability to tie knots, we certainly could use the help. Venture down to the lower level fellowship room on Tuesday mornings at 9:00am and you could cut blocks, lay out blocks, sew blocks together or attach binding. Stop by for some fun and fellowship. We'll put the coffee on.

Also, the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month we meet for lunch at noon with other members of St. Mark. All members are welcome to join us for lunch. Please just let the office know if you would like to attend so we can make sure to reserve enough tables. The venue is printed on the monthly calendar of the Newsletter and you can also find it in the back of the bulletin under the "Opportunities" area.

*article submitted by
Cathy Ziolkowski*



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.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

"Thank you" to all members continuing to participate in the "Choice Dollars" donation to St. Mark Church.

ST. MARK QUILTERS

The quilters meet Tuesdays mornings at 9:00 am in the lower level. They are a fun bunch of ladies. All ladies are welcome to join us.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

The dates for the Fellowship Lunch are January 13th at Bucketheads and January 27th at Twin Pines. We meet at the restaurant at 12:00pm on these dates. Everyone is welcome. Give the office a call if you are coming so reservations can be made. We look forward to seeing you.

FOOD PANTRY

Part of the ministry at St. Mark is to help others that are in need. We are very blessed and thankful to all the people who help distribute food at the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry. The many people that volunteer make the work easy and very rewarding. The next opportunity to volunteer at the food pantry is Monday, **March 3, 2026**. Please sign up on the list in the fellowship hall if you are available to help in March. Ten people are needed. You are asked to be there at 2:45pm and will work until 5:00pm. If you are interested in doing this kind of work please contact the church office at 715-362-2470.



More Church News

Movie Night

The movie “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!” was enjoyed by the youth of St. Mark on Friday evening, December 19th. It was a great film! Yes, snacks were involved! After the movie they enjoyed making Christmas ornaments that they could take home for their tree. By the pictures, I would say that everyone had a great time! Thank you to the group that put this together for the kids. What a fantastic idea! I hear there are plans to another movie around the Easter season. Can’t Wait!





Life Sunday 2026

“Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” is Lutherans For Life’s theme for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, which is set for **January 18, 2026**. Your congregation can observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on that date or at any time during the year.

Our Life Sunday 2026 theme is based on Psalm 139:13-14: **“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”**

This Word of God reveals the care and intention that God takes in the creation of each and every human being. It teaches us that from the very first moments of our conception, God’s hands are upon us, carefully and lovingly crafting each one of us through our fathers and mothers. And while each person is created by God with their own unique characteristics and personalities, the care that God takes in creating each person shows us that every person, from the moment of fertilization on, is precious to God regardless of their age, size, condition, or ability.

Use our Life Sunday resources to help unpack this theme and what it means for the For Life movement, both nationally and in your congregation and community. Our prayer is that these materials will provide valuable information and encouragement to you, your community, and the life-affirming work you are engaged in.

Lutherans For Life has, since 1979, upheld the value of life affirmed by the resurrected Christ. We educate congregations on life issues with a Gospel perspective, equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Lutherans For Life also offers help, healing, and forgiveness for anyone who bears the burden of overwhelming guilt through our 24-hour **Word of Hope** hotline (888-217-8679). This free service is available to men, women, and youths for information, referrals, and Scripture-based spiritual care to address life issues such as surprise pregnancy, abortion recovery, suicide, doubting salvation, and physician-assisted suicide.

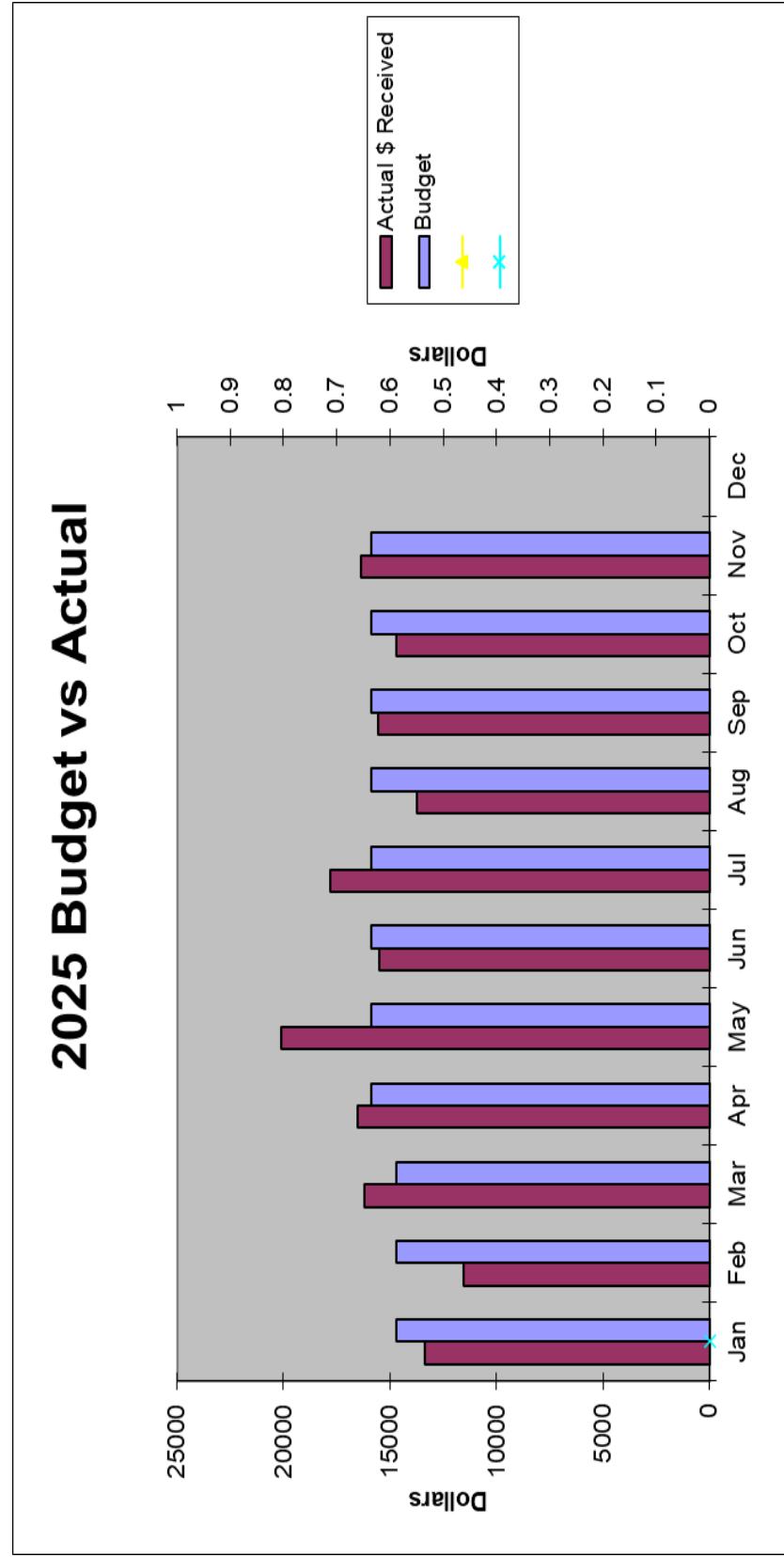
2025 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

18-Dec-25

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Actual \$ Received	13365	11560	16213	16507	20093	15487	17808	13739	15532	14714	16343	
Budget	14712	14712	14712	15878	15878	15878	15878	15878	15878	15878	15878	

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

2025 Budget vs Actual



21 S. Baird Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501
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ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

(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

February 2026 Newsletter

deadline is:

January 15, 2026

View our service online at

stmarkrhinelander.org

BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Gary Buntrock	1/4
Henry Schienebeck	1/4
Lucas Knoeck	1/5
Judith Armell	1/5
Allen Gerdes	1/10
Sally Miller	1/12
Jack Chmiel	1/19
Sue Kuckkahn	1/22
Cathy Kuczmarski	1/25
Braxton Bolkema	1/26
Virginia Stefanez	1/30
Laurie Lenten	1/30

JANUARY	
ANNIVERSARIES	
Gene & Inge VanKampen	1/14