



March 2026 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

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From the Pastor

As we continue in the season of Lent, there are several customs whose meanings may have been lost.

The ashes that are used on Ash Wednesday were traditionally ashes left after burning the prior year's palm branches. Ashes symbolize repentance. They can remind us that we have all been created by God from *the dust of the earth* (Genesis 2:7), and that *from dust you are and to dust you will return* (Genesis 3:19).

The church uses different paraments on the altar, pulpit, lectern and pastor's stole to remind us of the season of the church year we are in. Violet is the color for Lent.

The hymns of Lent reflect the sacrificial cost that Jesus paid for our sins. The hymns reflect our desire to grow in our own sanctification. During Lent, we omit the normal Hymns of Praise, and all hymns using the word *Alleluia*.

You might wonder why we occasionally stand on the last verse of a hymn. We stand for *Trinity stanzas*, indicated in the hymnal with a triangle before the verse. We stand when the final verse affirms our belief in the **Triune God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit**.

From the Vicar

During the month of February, we got our grades back from our *Introduction To Worship* class, and I ended up doing really well on my final projects. In the last week of February, I officially started my third course at the Seminary. It's a Systematic Theology class called *The Master Narrative*, which explores how the Gospel shapes the way Christians understand the world and live within it. We're going to look at contemporary culture, the biblical story, and the church's historic confession, and learn how these elements form Christian worship, pastoral care, and witness. The class will focus on seeing our own lives within God's larger story and serving others with a deeper sense of clarity, purpose, and faith. I'm looking forward to it. I was hoping to get a lot more personal things done during the couple weeks we had off between classes, but it always feels like it's never enough (both in time off and in the amount of stuff I could get done). I anticipate the next few months being really difficult. It'll be the first time balancing Seminary coursework, my full-time job, family responsibilities, kids' commitments (we have a teenager in the house now, by the way), AND now also adding in the Track & Field season with practice planning and meets. So keep the prayers a'comin'!



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.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

“Thank you” to all members continuing to participate in the “Choice Dollars” donation to St. Mark Church. The Thrivent deposit for February was \$165.00.

ST. MARK QUILTERS

The St. Mark Quilters are always happy to welcome new members to their group. They have plenty of work to keep them busy. There is really no special skill to learn and the ladies are always happy to show how things are done. If you stop by the church on Tuesday mornings you will hear the hum of sewing machines and the cheerful chatter of the women. You will see some tying, some ironing and ladies that do the cutting that goes into the quilt-making process. You may even catch them sharing fellowship with coffee and doughnuts. Why not stop by?

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

The dates for the Fellowship lunch are March 3rd at the Dinky Diner and March 17th at the Rhinelander Family Restaurant. 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.

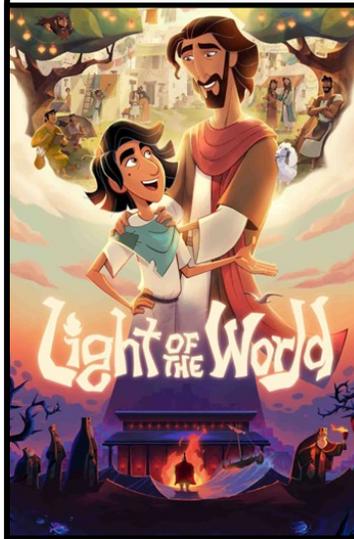
LENTEN DINNERS

St. Mark members are invited to the Lenten dinners that will be served at 4:30pm before the Thursday services. All members are welcome. Please sign up in the fellowship hall so that we can plan food amounts.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

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 30, 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.

MOVIE NIGHT



The Board of Education and Evangelism invites the congregation to join us for a fun filled evening watching “Light Of The World” Friday March 27th, 6:00pm-8:00pm. Parents are welcome to stay or can drop off their children and return to pick them up at 8:00pm.

VBS NEWS

Get ready for more VBS fun this summer! Board of Education is hosting VBS at St. Mark, August 10-14th! We are looking for volunteers to help us make this the best experience for the children. If you’re interested in helping or would like to know more please contact Robyn Willey via email at: stmarklutheraneducation21@outlook.com