



# May 2026 Newsletter

## St. Mark Lutheran Church

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### In this issue:

- Pastoral Letter
- Holy Communion
- Ladies Prayer Lunch
- Scrip Program
- May Birthdays
- Monthly Group Gatherings
- May Volunteer Schedule
- May Altar Guild, Trustee, and Counters Schedule
- Officers and Boards for 2026
- May Calendar
- Worship Schedule and Office Hours

## From the Pastor

### Worship Life

As many of you know, my younger brother Jim lived a difficult life. A combination of a failed marriage, dependence on alcohol, and eventual job loss eventually led him to attempt *suicide by cop*. He was saved by a brave Sheriff who convinced him to drop his gun. He was sentenced to one year in jail.

It was the only time I experienced what it was like to visit a prisoner without identifying myself as a pastor. At one particular visit, I watched as another person signed in and showed proof of identity. There was a lull, while the deputy checked his identity, and then several other deputies came in and surrounded him. It turned out that the visitor had a warrant for his arrest. While he tried in vain to say that it was all a mistake, they had heard that before and escorted him to a jail cell. It may have been a surprise to the visitor, and yet I can't believe he was completely shocked. He certainly knew he had done the crime, and now he was about to pay for it.

Where am I going with an application to our worship life? We come into church and begin our worship knowing we have sinned, just as the visitor to the jail did. We begin our worship with a confession, "Yes, I have sinned", knowing God has a record of our sins. We continue, "I have sinned in thought, word and deed", and again God hears what He already knows. Yet the end is so graciously different than the jail visitor's experience. The Judge declares we have an undeserved and total forgiveness. We can continue our worship as freed people, through the suffering and death of our risen Lord and Savior.

## From the Vicar

Over the past several weeks in my current SMP course, we've been exploring what we've been calling God's "Master Narrative." That's the grand story that runs from Creation, through Redemption, and ultimately to New Creation. It's the story Scripture tells from beginning to end, and it's bigger, richer, and more connected than we often realize.

*Continued on pages 2...*



# MORE NEWS AND NOTES



*Continued from page 1...*

The Bible isn't just a collection of individual stories or teachings. It's one unified story about what God is doing in the world. From the goodness of creation, to the brokenness of sin, to God's ongoing work to restore all things, Scripture invites us to see the world, and our own lives, through that lens.

Now, in this season after Easter, that story comes into even sharper focus. The resurrection of Jesus isn't just something we celebrate once a year. It changes how we see everything! It reminds us that sin and death don't have the final say, and it gives us a real reason for hope in our everyday lives.

That also means we're not just *reading* about this story, we're *living* in it. As Easter people, we carry that hope with us into our homes, our work, and our relationships. Even in ordinary moments, we live knowing that Jesus is alive and that His promises are true.

So as you open your Bible, try to look for the bigger picture. Ask how each passage, from Old Testament to New, connects to God's saving work in Christ. And as you do, remember: this isn't just a story from long ago. It's the story you're part of right now. A story grounded in the life we have because Jesus is Risen! Alleluia!

## Car Show

This is a busy month for the Board of Evangelism. We will once again be handing our popcorn and snocones for the 2025 car show. The car show is being held on Saturday, June 14th and will take place on Brown Street this year because of the roadwork taking place around the courthouse. We would love to get some volunteers to help us with this project.. There will be a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall for any amount of time that you can volunteer. This a very fun day to volunteer. No experience is necessary. We would love to see you.



**you'll go bananas  
for all this fun!**

August 10th-14th,  
9am-12pm

Scan the Code or  
Grab a form from the  
Fellowship Hall to register!  
Registration is required.





# 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 Choice deposit for the month of April was \$73.00.

## ST. MARK QUILTERS

St. Mark Quilters will meet every Tuesday at 9:00am and sew until noon until June 1, 2026. They have decided to take a break during the summer. They will be right back at it in September. The fellowship luncheons will continue throughout the summer on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at noon at the specified restaurant you will find on the newsletter calendar. If you collect any extra or leftover fabric during the summer please think of the quilters for the fall.

## LEFTOVER COTTON FABRIC

Do you have leftover pieces of cotton fabric at home with no projects in mind? The quilting ladies at St. Mark could sure put them to good use. They also accept cotton flat sheets with no stains that are in good shape. They come in real handy for making quilts. Please let the office or Heidi Buntrock (715-282-2127) know if you have any of these items that you would like to donate.

## FOOD PANTRY

Our next date to work the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry in Monday, June 29th. We will need 10-12 people to volunteer for helping with the distribution of food items. The hours needed are 2:45pm until 5:00 pm. Many hands make light work. Please consider donation some of your time to help at the food pantry.

## MEMBERS OF ST. MARK

Hello Congregation!

Wonderful news from the Board of Education! We are hosting Vacation Bible School again this summer August 10<sup>th</sup> - August 14<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12pm. We are inviting all children from ages 3-12 (fully potty trained) on a wild adventure learning about the Psalms on our journey through Rainforest Falls! We are looking for volunteers to help run this as well. Registration will be released soon. Please reach out to Robyn Willey with any questions at 302-531-8402.

We can't wait to go on this adventure with all of you!

## SPRING CLEAN UP

The church will be having their Spring clean up on Tuesday, May 13th from 3:30pm to 5:30 pm. We are asking for volunteers to help with this project. Many hands make light work. Anyone can help. There will be jobs for all abilities, so we hope to see you there. Pizza and beverages will be provided to all that help out.

