

# November 2026 Newsletter

## St. Mark Lutheran Church

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



### In this issue:

- Pastoral Letter
- Vicar Letter
- Holy Communion
- November Birthdays
- Missionary News
- Monthly Group Gatherings
- Nov. Volunteer Schedule
- Nov. Altar Guild, Trustee Schedule
- Officers and Boards for 2026
- November Calendar
- Worship Schedule and Office Hours

## From the Pastor

It's amazing how summer can turn into fall so quickly. Those of us who live in the North know that we have to prepare ourselves for winter even when the temperature seems mild. Some of our fall preparation can remind us of the spiritual preparations that we need to do on a regular basis, as well.

The falling leaves and the dead flowers remind us to remove them and other clutter around our homes. If we don't tend to this chore, we run the risk of harboring disease or unwanted animals and insects. The same is true of our *spiritual home*. Is there anything cluttering your family's spiritual home, for instance, a schedule filled with so much clutter that it is affecting spiritual growth and threatening your regular worship?

Those of us who have boats and motors know that fall is the time for seeing that they are protected for the winter. Motors need to be winterized in case water has gotten into the lower unit. And fuel for boats, as well as lawn mowers, needs to be stabilized. Old fuel doesn't last forever. It becomes stale. It is also true that our knowledge of God's Word, the fuel for a healthy spiritual life, can become diluted by false doctrines coming from sources other than Holy Scripture. Our spiritual lives need to be stabilized, too, by hearing God's Word on a regular basis.

Winter can be a challenging time if we aren't prepared. Checking the furnace and replacing filters, putting the storm windows on, making sure we have shovels, salt and sand are all fall preparations. We know Wisconsin's winter will come. We don't know when *spiritual winters* will test our faith, but we need to be prepared before they happen. A strong prayer life, a regular discipline to hear God's Word, a faithful use of God's gift to us in Holy Communion are among our spiritual preparations. God's blessings as you prepare for winter.

# From our Vicar

The busyness is really ramping up... although, has it ever really slowed down?

I'm currently halfway through my latest seminary course, *SYS413: Lutheran Distinctions*. The class explores some of the key principles that have shaped Lutheran theology since the Reformation, especially how we distinguish between law and gospel, theology of the cross versus theology of glory, two kinds of righteousness, two kingdoms, etc. and apply God's Word faithfully to people's everyday lives. At its heart, the course is about keeping Christ and the Gospel at the center of everything we teach, preach, and do.

Beyond classes, I've been preaching at St. Mark every three to four weeks since July, with several more dates coming up. I'm also continuing to offer Children's Sermons on non-Communion Sundays, helping get the Technology Committee off the ground, and co-leading Adult Education and Bible Study with Pastor Miller as we explore some of the foundational teachings of the Christian faith.

On October 18, I had the opportunity to organize and lead our Readers' Workshop. I thought it went very well, and I'm grateful to everyone who participated. If you're interested in serving as a reader during worship, I'd love to visit with you.

Of course, seminary coursework continues as well, and this unit has certainly increased in difficulty. At the same time, life at home remains wonderfully busy. As I write this, Jayme is on her way to a Hodag varsity volleyball playoff game in Mauston. Rowyn wrapped up flag football and cross country and has moved right into youth hockey. Myles has finished cross country and already started Swim Club. Baya recently finished volleyball and is considering joining the school's Nordic ski team.

Last month, Jayme and I also helped organize the 13th annual Three Eagle Half Marathon & 5K. It was great to see familiar faces there, including Manfred, lots of Camp Luther friends, and former District President Lueck and his wife, Cheryl, who has participated in the race for many years.

Speaking of races, many of you may remember that St. Mark used to host the Rhinelander Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning for a few years. Hosting it was a lot of work for me and for our church, and we haven't done it since 2021. Beginning this year, the event will be taken over by the Rhinelander High School Key Club, with proceeds benefiting the Rhinelander Food Pantry. I'm helping with that transition and am excited to see the event continue serving our community.

As if that weren't enough, I'm still working full-time with Lutheran Family Service. We recently began preparations for our year-end fundraising efforts, which includes producing a dozen videos and creating a 32-page commemorative booklet for the organization's 125th anniversary. Founded in 1901 as a Lutheran orphanage and children's home-finding society, Lutheran Family Service continues today through Christian adoption services, support for unplanned pregnancies, counseling, church worker wellness, and congregational outreach. Looking back through 125 years of history has been both humbling and inspiring.

And, of course, St. Mark is preparing to celebrate a milestone anniversary of its own. There will be plenty of opportunities to help as we begin planning for that celebration. If you'd like to be involved, please talk to me or Mark Lammert.

When I look at that list, I'll admit it's quite overwhelming. Some days it feels like I'm barely keeping my head above water. At the same time, I can't help but recognize how blessed I am. God has filled my life with meaningful work, opportunities to serve, supportive friends, and a wonderful church family. The pace may be exhausting, but it is also deeply rewarding.

Thank you for your continued encouragement, your prayers, and your support. Keep the prayers coming. Lord knows I need 'em!

In Christ,  
Andy



# News and Notes



## THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

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

## FOOD PANTRY

Our last opportunity of 2026 to work at the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry is Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for 10-12 volunteers to help with the distribution of food items. 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 we are needed are 2:45pm until 5:00pm. Many hands make light work, and your time can make a real difference for families in our community. Please consider volunteering for this important cause.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Evangelism Committee and our Sunday School children are again participating in the Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child project. Shoeboxes are filled with fun toys, school supplies, and personal care items and then delivered to children in need around the world to demonstrate God’s love for them in a tangible way. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world’s largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 244 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 175 countries and territories. Our Sunday School children will be packing boxes during class on November 15<sup>th</sup>. We are praying that the congregation of St. Mark’s will again open their generous hearts to fulfill God’s work in this project. There will be a table set up in the Fellowship room to collect gift items up until Nov. 15. If you would just like to give a cash gift or write a check, that will also be accepted. (Please make checks payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church with “Operation Christmas Child” in the “For” section. There will also be a list of suggested gift ideas for 5–9-year-olds and also what not to include at the table. Thank you in advance for your prayerful donation!

## 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.

## THANKSGIVING SERVICES

There will be a service for Thanksgiving on Wednesday, **November 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**. This is in addition to our scheduled Sunday service for that week. There is no service on Thursday evening.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming dates as we begin to celebrate the Birth of our Lord! The children will be packing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes during Sunday School on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. This is such a fun day and a wonderful opportunity for the kids to witness God’s Love to all His children. Donations will be accepted up until Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> is the First Sunday in Advent, and the children will be receiving their 2026 ornaments (with their names on them) to hang on the tree. This will be done during the church service, and Pastor will announce when the children should come up. On Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> the children will be performing a short Christmas puppet show for the congregation during the church service, which promises to be lots of fun! We know this is a very busy time for all but let us remember that “Jesus is the REASON for the season!”

## FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

The Fellowship Luncheon is attended on the first and third Tuesday of each month. We meet at different restaurants in the area. The restaurant for each outing is listed in the bulletin. Luncheons for November are November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Dinky Diner and November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Rhinelander Family Restaurant. Anyone is welcome to join us. Please call the office if you plan to come at 715-362-2470. It is great to spend time together and get to know each other better. See you there.

## **They did it again!!!**

The ladies of the quilting group are phenomenal! When I started reporting their efforts in 2002 the ladies made 42 quilts for the year. In 2023 they followed that effort up by putting out over 150 quilts and the 2024 year with a total of over 300 quilts. This year they decided to take the summer off from quilting but got right back at it in September ending 2026 by sending over 243 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. What an amazing group of women! They thank every person that has helped them with their projects, from the people that donated fabric, to the Thrivent members that used the Action Team for buying material to sew, to the fellow members that donated the boxes that were needed to ship them in. Everyone has been very supportive of these ladies. They are very dedicated in making these quilts and it shows by how hard they work at it. Congratulations ladies on another productive year!



# NOVEMBER 2026 VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

(CS = Communion Service)

**(CS)SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1:** Carrie Jane D-Vozka, Lay Reader; Dennis Scott & Dave Krueger, Ushers; Ed Bauer, Elder; Lucas Knoeck, Acolyte; Asher Melvin, Projector

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5:** Kathy Lueck, Lay Reader; Richard Hlavka & Gary Buntrock, Ushers; Richard Hlavka, Elder, Carol Tabaka, Projector

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8:** Chad Bolkema, Lay Reader; Henry Schienebeck & Dan Jesse, Ushers; Henry Schienebeck Elder; Braxton Bolkema, Acolyte; Devin Biggs, Projector

**(CS)THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12:** Pearl Johnson, Lay Reader; Al Peterson & John Robinson, Ushers; Shane Dornfeld, Elder; Stacie Robinson, Projector

**(CS)SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15:** Robyn Willey, Lay Reader; Baird Cook & Korey Badeau, Ushers; Dave Krueger, Elder; Rowyn Wyss, Acolyte; Brighton Walkowski, Projector

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19:** Gary Buntrock, Lay Reader; Tom Davis & Richard Hlavka, Ushers; Richard Hlavka, Elder; Terri Lammert, Projector

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22:** Carrie Jane D-Vozka, Lay Reader; Ethan Willey & Asher Melvin, Ushers; Mike Bucheger, Elder; Oliver Ocana-Willey, Acolyte; Devin Biggs, Projector

**(CS)WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25:** Tammy Schultz-Lemmer, Lay Reader; John Lemmer & Ken Elsner, Ushers; Al Peterson, Elder; Carol Tabaka, Projector

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29:** Robyn Willey, Lay Reader; Ed Bauer & Dennis Scott, Ushers; Ed Bauer, Elder; Dylan Knoeck, Acolyte; Devin Biggs, Projector

## \*Trustee of the Week

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>November 1:</b>  | <b>Baird Cook</b>    |
| <b>November 8:</b>  | <b>Dan Jesse</b>     |
| <b>November 15:</b> | <b>Tom Davis</b>     |
| <b>November 22:</b> | <b>Korey Badeau</b>  |
| <b>November 29:</b> | <b>Gary Buntrock</b> |

**\*\*\*REMINDER:** If you are not available to serve your scheduled service, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. If you need assistance with this, please call the church office at 715-362-2470. Please allow enough time to find a replacement if possible. Thank you.

# NOVEMBER 2026

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                           | MONDAY                                                | TUESDAY                                                                                                                   | WEDNESDAY                                                                                         | THURSDAY                                                                                           | FRIDAY           | SATURDAY         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b><u>1</u></b><br><b><u>9:00am</u></b> Worship with Communion<br><b><u>10:00am</u></b> Fellowship<br><b><u>10:00am</u></b> Sunday school class  | <b><u>2</u></b>                                       | <b><u>3</u></b><br><b><u>9:00am</u></b> Quilting<br><b><u>12:00pm</u></b> Fellowship Luncheon (Dinky Diner)               | <b><u>4</u></b><br><b><u>2:30pm</u></b> Evangelism meeting                                        | <b><u>5</u></b><br><b><u>6:00pm</u></b> Worship service<br><b><u>7:00pm</u></b> Fellowship         | <b><u>6</u></b>  | <b><u>7</u></b>  |
| <b><u>8</u></b><br><b><u>9:00am</u></b> Worship Service<br><b><u>10:00am</u></b> Fellowship<br><b><u>10:00am</u></b> Sunday school class         | <b><u>9</u></b><br><b><u>6:00pm</u></b> Elder meeting | <b><u>10</u></b><br><b><u>9:00am</u></b> Quilting                                                                         | <b><u>11</u></b><br><b><u>4:30pm</u></b> Trustee Meeting<br><b><u>6:00 pm</u></b> Council meeting | <b><u>12</u></b><br><b><u>6:00pm</u></b> Worship with Communion<br><b><u>7:00pm</u></b> Fellowship | <b><u>13</u></b> | <b><u>14</u></b> |
| <b><u>15</u></b><br><b><u>9:00am</u></b> Worship with Communion<br><b><u>10:00am</u></b> Fellowship<br><b><u>10:00am</u></b> Sunday school class | <b><u>16</u></b>                                      | <b><u>17</u></b><br><b><u>9:00am</u></b> Quilting<br><b><u>12:00pm</u></b> Fellowship Luncheon (Rhldr. Family Restaurant) | <b><u>18</u></b>                                                                                  | <b><u>19</u></b><br><b><u>6:00pm</u></b> Worship service<br><b><u>7:00pm</u></b> Fellowship        | <b><u>20</u></b> | <b><u>21</u></b> |
| <b><u>22</u></b><br><b><u>9:00am</u></b> Worship Service<br><b><u>10:00am</u></b> Fellowship<br><b><u>10:00am</u></b> Sunday school class        | <b><u>23</u></b>                                      | <b><u>24</u></b><br><b><u>9:00am</u></b> Quilting                                                                         | <b><u>25</u></b><br><b><u>6:00pm</u></b> Worship with Communion                                   | <b><u>26</u></b><br><b>No Service</b>                                                              | <b><u>27</u></b> | <b><u>28</u></b> |
| <b><u>29</u></b><br><b><u>9:00am</u></b> Worship Service<br><b><u>10:00am</u></b> Fellowship<br><b><u>10:00am</u></b> Sunday school class        | <b><u>30</u></b>                                      |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                    |                  |                  |

**ALTAR GUILD:** TAMMY SCHULTZ-LEMMER AND  
CARRIE JANE DANNER-VOZKA

|                  |                    |               |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <b>TRUSTEES:</b> | <b>NOVEMBER 1</b>  | BAIRD COOK    |
|                  | <b>NOVEMBER 8</b>  | DANIEL JESSE  |
|                  | <b>NOVEMBER 15</b> | TOM DAVIS     |
|                  | <b>NOVEMBER 22</b> | KOREY BADEAU  |
|                  | <b>NOVEMBER 29</b> | GARY BUNTROCK |

|                |                    |                            |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>ELDERS:</b> | <b>NOVEMBER 1</b>  | ED BAUER (Communion)       |
|                | <b>NOVEMBER 5</b>  | RICHARD HLAVKA             |
|                | <b>NOVEMBER 8</b>  | HENRY SCHIENEBECK          |
|                | <b>NOVEMBER 12</b> | SHANE DORNFELD (Communion) |
|                | <b>NOVEMBER 15</b> | DAVE KRUEGER (Communion)   |
|                | <b>NOVEMBER 19</b> | RICHARD HLAVKA             |
|                | <b>NOVEMBER 22</b> | MIKE BUCHEGER              |
|                | <b>NOVEMBER 25</b> | AL PETERSON (Communion)    |
|                | <b>NOVEMBER 29</b> | ED BAUER                   |

|                  |                                    |                                        |
|------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>COUNTERS:</b> | <b>NOVEMBER 1, 5, 8</b>            | AL PETERSON &<br>STACIE ROBINSON       |
|                  | <b>NOVEMBER 12, 15,<br/>19, 22</b> | JOHN & KATHY LUECK                     |
|                  | <b>NOVEMBER 25, 29,</b>            | TRISTA ALSTEEN &<br>BRIGHTON WALKOWSKI |

**COMMUNION: NOVEMBER 1, NOVEMBER 12, NOVEMBER 15,  
NOVEMBER 25**

# ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

## OFFICERS AND BOARDS 2026

**PRESIDENT**  
**SECRETARY**  
**FINANCE. SEC.**  
**TREASURER**  
**FINANCIAL ADMIN.**

Mark Lammert  
Stacie Robinson  
Kathy Lueck  
Debbie Kinney  
Carrie Jane Danner-Vozka

**BOARD OF**  
**EDUCATION**

Robyn Willey  
Britney Bolkema  
Jan Krueger

**ELDERS**

Al Peterson  
Shane Dornfeld  
Richard Hlavka  
Ed Bauer  
Dave Kreuger  
Mike Bucheger  
Henry Schienebeck

**EVANGELISM**

Sarah Melvin  
Lucille Kinney  
Jean Cook  
Charlie Cook  
Terry Bucheger  
Debra Vought

**TRUSTEES**

Dan Jesse  
Baird Cook  
Gary Buntrock  
Dennis Scott  
Tom Davis  
Korey Badeau

**STEWARDSHIP**

Inge VanKampen  
Manfred Rauer  
Carrie Jane D-Vozka

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# ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

21 S. Baird Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501 (715-362-2470)  
(Church email address: [stmarkchurch@outlook.com](mailto:stmarkchurch@outlook.com))

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**THURSDAY WORSHIP 6:00 PM**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 AM**

View our service online at [stmarkrhinelander.org](http://stmarkrhinelander.org) (church website)

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### Church office hours

9:00 am—1:00 PM

Monday through Friday

**December 2026 Newsletter deadline is November 15, 2026**

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