



October 2026 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

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From the Pastor

I am currently using a book entitled *Treasury of Daily Prayer* for my own devotions. These last months have featured Scripture readings from the Apostle Paul. As I read them it has occurred to me that Paul never saw the results of his ministry. Passages from Holy Scripture tell us of his great devotion, his many hardships, and at times, his frustrations, but he never saw the results of his work. It would only be after his own suffering and death that the churches he began would be part of God's plan to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The same is true today for much of the work in the church at large and also here at St. Mark. We support the work of Pastor Andreasen in Romania, but his work might only see fruit in years or decades to come. Our support of seminary students at St. Louis will see God's blessings on their work, but that too, will be in the future. Work done in the Christian church is usually seen most clearly by the generations that follow.

This coming year in 2027 we will celebrate the work of prior generations as we celebrate our 75th anniversary at St. Mark. The people of northern Wisconsin had invested in mission work in this area of the state. Our spiritual forefathers were empowered by the Holy Spirit to begin here in Rhinelander, first in rented facilities, then in their own building, our present facility. They couldn't see into the future and needed to trust that God had a plan for ministry in this area. As the Apostle Paul said, "We plant and God will send future generations to build upon their work."

As we look back on the blessings of the past, may it remind us that we too are building for the future. God is using us to prepare for future generations yet to come.



Business Old & New



Board of Evangelism

Church Picnic

The Board of Evangelism wishes to thank the members of St. Mark that attended the picnic and contributed food. It was a great day for fun and fellowship!

Trunk or Treat

The Board of Evangelism is again participating in Trunk or Treat at the end of October for the children of Rhinelander. We are asking for candy contributions for this event. We invite you to join in the fun by bringing your candy to hand out at this event. What a joy to see the children's excitement when they receive a treat and it also shows that the members of St. Mark are a friendly, caring group of people. We will be putting out a container for donations. Thank you for your support!

Shoebox Project

We will be participating in the Shoebox Project again this year. Please watch the bulletin for a list of items that we will be collecting for this very important project. Once again, thank you for supporting this project!

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 received \$25.00 from the Choice program for September.

PRAYER LUNCH

The Prayer Lunch is attended on the first and third Tuesday of each month. We meet at different restaurants in the area. Which restaurant will be listed in the bulletin that week. The luncheons for October 6th will be at Friendship House and the luncheon scheduled for October 13th will be at CT's Deli. They meet at 12:00pm. Anyone is welcome to join them. If you have any questions please call the church office at 715-362-2470. It is a great time for fellowship.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mark your calendars for the October Congregational Assembly meeting on **Sunday, October 25th**, right after the service. There will be a lot of important information shared including the proposed operational budget for the 2027 year.

2026 BUDGET NEWS

A copy of the church council's 2027 proposed budget will be on a table in the fellowship hall 2 weeks prior to the Congregational Assembly. Please take a copy and bring your questions and suggestions to the assembly meeting scheduled for October 26th right after the 9:00am service.



From Our Vicar



Greetings, St. Mark family!

I'm off and running with my 5th class, *SYS413 Lutheran Distinctions*. So far, it's been a tougher one for me. A little more cerebral. We're looking at themes and concepts in Lutheran theology and learning how to apply them directly to teaching and pastoral care. Through it all, we keep the Christian story centered where it belongs: on the Gospel.

Pastor Miller and I are also off and running with our 12-week adult education course, *God Connects*, which meets every Sunday during fellowship and Sunday School. I know some of you have Sunday routines that get you out the door pretty quickly after the service. But I'd encourage you to stick around! As a church family, we should make Christian education a habit. You can never spend too much time digging into God's Word.

During my short summer break, I was able to attend more meetings here at church (and we have a lot of them!). I want to thank all of our boards and the Council for the work they put in behind the scenes. A healthy congregation depends on faithful boards, volunteers, and people willing to serve others and make things happen. As long as our boards remain healthy and active, we'll be in good shape by God's grace.

October will bring another voters' assembly, new board nominations, continued discussion about things like the endowment fund, and plenty more. As those opportunities arise, I encourage you to keep an open mind about where you might serve. Using the gifts God has given you to serve your church and your neighbors helps strengthen St. Mark for the future.

Oh, and one more thing: invite a friend to church!

OPPORTUNITIES HERE AT ST. MARK

This is a little information article to let our newer members know some of the opportunities at St. Mark. After every service we have what we call a "fellowship" in the attached hall of the church. It is a chance for members to visit and catch up on the last week's happenings. There is a calendar on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall where you can volunteer (sign up) to bring a dessert of your choosing to serve at this fellowship. Some members serve it as husband and wife, others will team up with another member and serve together. Coffee, juice, bottled water, plates cups and silverware is provided by the church for use during the fellowship.

There is also a sheet on the bulletin board where you may offer to sponsor flowers in memory, celebration or honor of someone for that week. The cost for the altar flowers is \$28.00 for the week. You may also sign up to sponsor the Eternal candle for the month. That can also be in memory, honor, or celebration of someone of your choosing. The cost for the month is \$10.00. You may include these payments with your offering when it is collected. Please mark clearly what the payment is for on the envelope or check and write on the sign up sheet your wishes for which week and a message as to why you are sponsoring for that week. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office at 715-362-2470 .

2026 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

22-Sep-26

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Actual \$ Received	13092	13125	18194	17852	17045	12415	21879	26969				
Budget	17770	17770	17770	17770	17770	17770	17770	17770				

