



September 2026 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

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From the Pastor

One of the great blessings God has given us here at St. Mark is the ongoing blessing of being a close spiritual family. Our communications before and after church are great signs that we care about one another. That being said, it does not mean that I also know everything, for instance, that someone is sick or even has passed away.

Recently, we did get word that a member had died, but no one from the family had contacted St. Mark or me. It's possible that our member was sick or hospitalized, but no one called. We would much rather have several people call us, rather than miss an opportunity to reach out to someone in need. We can't count, anymore, on members of the family contacting us, especially if they have no religious affiliation. We live in different times.

It's also true that hospitals, nursing homes and rehab centers are prohibited by law from contacting us with the names of our members. Unless someone contacts the church office, (715) 362-2470, or me at home, (715) 420-0076, we do not know. If you know of a member's hospitalization, extended illness, or death, please contact us. As I wrote earlier, there's no such thing as too much information. Pastor Miller



From the Vicar



As I gear up for my next class, *Lutheran Distinctions*, it feels like I'm always preparing for what's ahead. No matter the task, I'm checking schedules, making plans, setting meetings, and coordinating with family. At home, the talk is all about back-to-school season. Jayme is coaching Hodag Volleyball again this fall, two of our kids will be in the Middle School, fall activities are starting, we're picking courses and band instruments, doing back-to-school shopping — the list goes on.

I've heard the saying, "If you're not moving forward, you're standing still." In some ways, that kind of thinking can apply here at St. Mark. Whether it's planning for the future of our congregation or tending to your own walk with Christ, growth and change are simply part of life in this world. But as Lutherans, we also remember that growth in faith is God's work — He strengthens us through His Word and Sacraments, not through our own task lists and busyness.

So I'd encourage everyone in a few ways. First, continue spending time in Scripture, where God speaks His promises and forms us as His people. Second, continue thinking about the future of St. Mark and what we hope it will look like for our children and grandchildren — this is why we're discussing things like the Endowment Fund and estate planning with programs like Transfer The Blessings. These are potential ways of faithfully stewarding God's gifts for generations to come.

Vicar Andy Wyss

ST. MARK QUILTERS

St. Mark quilters are now meeting every Tuesday of the month at 9:00am and sew until about noon. We would love to have some new people who may be interested. Come and join us. There are no special qualifications needed and everyone has a great time putting together quilts for people all over the world who are less fortunate.

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. 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.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

"Thank you" to all members continuing to participate in the "Choice Dollars" donation to St. Mark Church. We received \$157 for the month of August.

SCRIP NEWS

Did you know that your regular, everyday shopping and dining can also provide extra income to the church? Yes, That's right! You may wonder, "How can that be?" Well, with a little pre-planning on your part to order gift cards for your favorite shopping and dining venues through the SCRIP program here at St. Mark, you can do just that! Each gift card purchase provides a rebate from the Raise Right fundraising company directly to St. Mark. Isn't that exciting news? Orders can be placed with Carrie Jane Danner-Vozka and the gift cards will be provided to you the following Thursday or Sunday at church. Alternatively, by setting up your own account on the Raise Right platform, electronic gift cards are available as well as physical gift cards that can be delivered directly to your address. This is helpful to the snowbirds or out-of-town members. Order forms and information are on the table in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Carrie Jane Danner-Vozka.



MORE NEWS MEMBERS



BOARD OF EVANGELISM

We are hosting the Church Picnic on **September 13th** right after Sunday School. Please join us for food, fellowship, games and a bounce house for the kids! The entrée and drinks will be provided. If you are able, please bring a dish to share. A signup sheet will be up in the fellowship hall soon.

We will be taking donations for the Tri-County Domestic Violence Shelter. A tote with a sample of what we are requesting will be set up in the fellowship hall. As the bags are collected, a bracelet and church pen will be added for extra inspiration for women receiving them. If you do not like to shop, monetary donations are accepted as well and we will be happy to do the shopping. Thank you for your support.

Also coming up: We will again be having the Trunk or Treat event and will be collecting items for the Operation Shoebox program that we have successfully done in the past years.

PLANNING FOR THE NEW YEAR

Fall is the time of year when the council starts working on plans for the new year. As of right now they are working on the budget for next year. Each board comes to the table with what they feel they will need for the following year and then it is all discussed, tweaked, and an agreement is reached. When the council feels that it is complete, the budget will be brought to the congregation for approval. This will take place at the Congregational Assembly on October 25, 2026. Please mark this on your calendar as your input is very important and all recommendations will be looked at.



Time for Sunday School

BOARD OF EDUCATION

We are excited to welcome our children back to Sunday School on Sunday, September 13th! After our summer break, we look forward to gathering again for games, crafts Bible stories and learning about God's wonderful love for each one of us. We hope all of our Sunday School families will join us as we begin another joyful year of growing in faith together. The celebration will continue with our Church picnic immediately following Sunday School. The meat, buns, and beverages will be provided. We ask that everyone brings a dish or item to pass. There will be delicious food and plenty of fun and games for everyone! Please invite your family and friends and come enjoy this special day of faith, fellowship, and fun!

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to all the Rainforest Fall VBS Volunteers! We had a blast with the children exploring the nature of God in Rainforest Falls! VBS isn't possible without volunteers, you all made this a great success! Thank you for blessing VBS with your help.

2026 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

17-Aug-26

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

