



March 2020 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 first lessons that I learned during vicarage was the importance of hospital visits. Pastor Stein, my vicarage supervisor, understood that hospitalization was both a difficult time and also a time during which one could grow in their faith. I'd like to share some of the lessons with any of you who might visit someone in the hospital.

Just being there, making the personal visit, is in itself the most important part. It shows that you care, because they know it took time and effort to make the visit. It's important for them to know they're not alone during their illness. Short of a physical visit, a phone call or card can also help.

This next point is very important. The person who's hospitalized needs *rest*. A hospital visit is different than a normal visit, and should be relatively brief. The focus should be on the person being visited. Listening rather than talking is important. Focusing on the individual rather than our own prior illnesses or troubles is key.

Another goal is to share the Christian faith. If we do share our past experience with illness, it should be to explain how God used it to strengthen our faith. Please avoid any discussion about *negative* experiences.

Assure the person that they will continue to be in your prayers. If you offer help, be specific. Can you bring a meal to the home after the person leaves the hospital? Can you shovel the snow, mow the lawn, or do some shopping for the person? Be specific in your offer.

Being in the hospital is hard, but it can be an opportunity to grow in ones faith and experience God's blessings. You can be a part of that blessing. You're the *messenger* that reminds the person the God always cares.



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.

ST. MARK QUILTERS

St. Mark quilters meet on 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am and sewing until noon so that the ladies may attend the Ladies Prayer Lunch. We would love to have some new people who may be interested come and join us.

SCRIP PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone that participates in the Scrip Program at St. Mark. Any questions see Carrie Jane Danner-Vozka after service and she would be more than happy to explain the program to you. You already visit and spend money at a lot of these businesses, why not use the Scrip Program and earn “free” money for St. Mark.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible study group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm in the fellowship hall They will be meeting on March ? All ladies are welcome. Please join us. Questions, call Barb Scott at 715-401-1670.

LWML

Ladies Guild will again be meeting on Tuesday, March 10th at 10:00. We will be having a Bible study this month, which will be the first of the year for us. Barb Scott is serving. All ladies are welcome. Please come and join us for fellowship and the opportunity for Bible study.

LADIES PRAYER LUNCH

If you haven't already done so, be sure to mark your calendar for Tuesday, March 3rd, for the Ladies' Prayer Lunch. We meet at noon at Tula's Restaurant. It has really been a great time for all. All ladies are welcome to join us. We meet on the first Tuesday every month. See you there! If you have any questions you may call Mickey Steil at 715-362-2282.

FOOD PANTRY

The next time that St Mark will be working at the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry will be on March 30th. Please mark your calendars for that date. We will need 12-15 people to volunteer for helping with the distribution of food items. The hours needed are 2:45pm until 6:00pm. Many hands make light work. Please consider donation some of your time to help at the food pantry. Questions: Mickey Steil-715-362-2282.



MORE NEWS AND NOTES



ST. MARK SUNDAY SCHOOL

Just wanted to spread a little news about our Sunday School program. They meet every Sunday in the church's lower level in a sectioned off corner of the room that is just for them. We have worked on it being a nice, cozy place for them to learn by adding carpeting and we are looking forward to getting them a cabinet to store all of their supplies. Jayme is a wonderful and enthusiastic teacher to our young children. The kids really seem to enjoy the class. Right now they are all working on learning "The Lord's Prayer". They learn about different stories in the bible. They learn songs and also enjoy doing crafts that correspond with their lessons. We are asking for some members of our congregation to step forward to help with the activities that they work on as it can be quite difficult for one person to help the many ages of children with their projects or craft activities. They meet for a short time after the service and you would likely have as much fun as the children do when you are helping out. Our Sunday School Children are the "future" of our church and it could be very rewarding helping them out from time to time. Consider helping out.

"Family Dinner and Game Night"

Mark your calendars for our third annual "Family Potluck and Game Night" on Saturday, March 7th, from 5-8pm. We will have a family potluck and then enjoy an evening of bingo, cards, and board games. Sounds fun! The Evangelism board would like to break this winter up a little to enjoy an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass and your favorite game. Hope to see you there!

Season of Lent Begins

Lent is a season of preparation, a time of reflection, a time of seeking a deeper relationship with Christ as we get ready for that moment of Easter. It is a season of penitence, confession, taking an honest authentic look at our faith and seeking ways of removing those obstacles that we have placed in our relationship with Christ. Asking God to help us to remove those obstacles so that we come prepared for that great moment of Easter. Lent is a time for spiritual renewal. Ashes symbolize two things. It's a sign of repentance that we all need to repent of things that are not worthy of God in our lives and it is also a reminder that we are mortal. Our time on earth is limited. We should remember that, and keep our eyes set on the things that are eternal. On Ash Wednesday the pastor says "You are from dust and to dust you shall return" as he places the ashes on your forehead. It is not meant to be sad or morbid. It is meant to be a realistic reminder that our life in this world is limited and that we should make the most of it. We get consumed by other things in life and forget the bigger purpose of our life with God. Lent encourages us to take a deeper look inside ourselves. A lot of people focus on giving up something for Lent, but you can also take on extra practices, practices of service, of giving to the poor, of being in ministry with others, additional prayer time and additional bible study. We should see this as a time of taking on something we know we should be doing that maybe we haven't been. Doing acts of kindness for others, thoughtfulness for the poor, hungry and those in need, remembering people who may need a visit. Those are things for Lent too. These are the things that we should always be doing and sometimes we forget that. Lent is also a time for us all who claim Christ as our Lord and Savior to come together to seek ways of reconciliation through peace and love. Now we have these 40 days set aside to re-focus our lives spiritually. The season of Lent is beautiful, if you take advantage.

2020 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

24-Feb-20

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Actual \$
Received
Budget

13112
11545

