



# November 2020 Newsletter St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

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## From the Pastor

### Maps

As I write this, I have just come back from a meeting with the fellow pastors from our sister congregations. Sometimes we have a formal study and a Biblical presentation from one of us, but this time we simply sat together and shared how our congregations are dealing with the present pandemic. We all wished we had a map. Such an ideal map would tell us what to do and how to do it. It would show us in detail where to go and how to get there. The consensus? There is no map. The best advice from district and synod was to do the best that we can given our unique situations. The routes taken by other congregations might work well for them but not necessarily for another church.

As this pandemic continues now for over the better part of this year, I am grateful that our council and boards have done the best we could attempting to continue the ministry here during these difficult times. We are in uncharted waters, and sometimes feel that we are attempting to draw new maps as we go along. Trial and error are not the easiest way to get to where we want to go.

While we travel from day to day not knowing where the step next will be, we do know where we are going. God has charted those waters already. Jesus has already cleared the path. He has paved the way. He is there waiting for us. And He has promised never to leave us alone. If we keep our eyes on our destination, He will guide us. Whenever we lose our way, He will bring us back.

While the pathway may seem narrow, He will guide us. I ask you to join me in the daily prayer that God will continue to guide us here at St. Mark, that He will bless our leadership and myself with wisdom, and our membership with a continued commitment to ministry here.



# Business Old & New



## “Quilts for Lutheran World Relief”

The ladies of the St. Mark quilting group made and shipped out 73 quilts this last year. That is quite a few seeing that they have been unable to meet for most of the year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Now you may ask:

Where do these quilts go?

To 24 countries as you can see on the poster in the fellowship hall.

581,456 people are beneficiaries of these quilts.

Last year alone 333,405 were shipped to 24 countries.

The cost of shipping per quilt is \$2.25 each. Because of the generosity of St. Mark congregation, we were able to send \$100.00 to defray some of the cost. The quilts we sew are “God’s love wrapped around a refugee’s shoulders.” Lutheran World Relief quilts brings us closer to our global neighbors and it serves as a reminder to “families in crisis” that they are not alone.

Thank you St. Mark for enabling us ladies to continue this worthwhile project.

God Bless You, Elly Rogers

### HOLY COMMUNION

During the Covid-19 virus we will be taking communion from our pew. Please pick up your communion packet upon entering the church.

### 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 have begun meeting again. They meet in the church basement on the first and third Tuesdays at 9:00am. As always all ladies are invited to join them in the making of quilts and the fellowship that goes along with the pleasure of doing good for others less fortunate.

### LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 1:00PM until 2:00PM in the basement. All women of the congregation are welcome to join them. Please remember to wear your mask so that we can all stay healthy.

### LWML

While practicing social distancing the LWML will be meeting in the church basement on Tuesday, November 10th. They generally meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. They will sharing fellowship and discussing their plans for the future. All women in the congregation are welcome to join them. If you have further questions contact Barb Scott at 715-401-1670.

Barb Scott

### FOOD PANTRY

We will be working at the Food Pantry on November 30th from 2:30pm until 6:00pm. Please consider helping us to hand out food for our neighbors less fortunate.

### THANKSGIVING SERVICES

There will be a service for Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 25th, at 6:00pm. This is in addition to our scheduled Sunday service for that week. Please call the church office if you would like to attend. The church office phone is 715-362-2470 from 9:am until 1:00pm.



# MORE NEWS AND NOTES



## *A Parent's Blessing*

One of the most memorable gifts I ever received was given to me in the summer of 2007. Having just commended my mom to Christ's eternal care, my family and I ventured into the wilds of Colorado for a reunion on my wife's side of the family. One evening, under the setting sun, one by one, Gerhard and Betty, Miriam's parents, called each family forward. Placing their hands upon us, they spoke their blessing. I eagerly desire someday to do the same with my own children.

How blessed we are to be in relationship. Modeled by the intimacy shared within the Holy Trinity, God gives us into the hearts of family and friends, both to be blessed and to be a blessing. God cherishes us and brings us into His family by faith; He now grants us the grace to both give love and to receive the love of others.

How have you been blessed by another? How might you bless someone today? It is only out of the grace of God that we know what it means to be truly blessed. It is only by that same grace that we become a blessing to others.

### *From the editor:*

In this time of Covid-19 we find ourselves with the perfect opportunity for being a blessing to others by making that phone call to say "hi" or send a cute card letting them know that you are thinking of them. A friend, family member, or a stranger would all be thankful for the blessings that you could bestow on each other. Let this pandemic be what draws us together and not allow it to pull us apart. I miss all of my fellow members smiles and conversations also but a phone call could mean the world to someone that has no contact with others. Be that blessing.

## TURKEY TROT

We have decided to offer the Trot as an informal event this year due to Covid-19. Since it has usually been very cold on Thanksgiving Day race morning, we feel that we have to offer indoor space for our participants. However, there is not enough space for everyone to be inside without having crowding issues. So we are forgoing registration, bibs, shirts, timing company, etc. However, anyone is welcome to show up at 8am at the parking lot of St. Mark Lutheran Church if they would like to run "together" on Thanksgiving morning. We will set out a donation box, and 100% of donations will still be given away to the Rhinelander, Food Pantry. We hope to return in full swing in 2021. Thank you for your past and future support.

## WYSS ADOPTION

Many months have gone by without an update. And, honestly, there is not much to report. We are still waiting for a birth mother to choose us for adoption. We've now been waiting in the system for two full years. As such, we had to re-submit all our paperwork and re-apply for our home study. Everything sent smoothly with the reapplication, so we're back to waiting again. We've appreciated the prayer, support, and monetary donations from St. Mark over the years, and we continue to thank you. We have learned that many adoptions occur simply due to word of mouth. These can also be known as private adoptions, where the adoptive parents may be friends, relatives, or someone else whom the birth family already knows. So, if any of you know or hear about a pregnancy where the mother may be considering an adoption plan, please pass our name along. Thank you.



# 2020 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

13-Oct-20

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Actual \$ Received	13112	13165	13993	16190	14275	9790	14265	12035	8655			
Budget	11545	11545	11545	11545	11545	11545	11545	11545	11545			

