



February 2019 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

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From the Pastor

“Listen”

One way to study Holy Scripture is to do a “word study”. That’s a fancy expression that simply means taking one word and looking at all the places in Scripture where that word is found. I have several books that help me do this, but if you have a Bible with an index Concordance at the end, you could do it, too.

The word that I am looking at is “listen”.

After going through the passages, the first thing that struck me was how hard it is to listen. While listening is essential, most of us aren’t very good at it, especially if what someone is saying doesn’t agree with us. Acts 7 tells us that the people who killed Stephen, the first martyr, “covered their ears, and yelling at the top of their voices, that all rushed at him.”

In polite society we tend to listen without the words having any effect. Hebrews 4:2 describes that possibility when it says, “the message they (non-believers) heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.”

Listening is hard! When Simon Peter preached his Pentecost sermon, he began by saying “let me explain this to you’ listen carefully to what I say.” Even when we try, we don’t understand without the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus asks the disciples to “listen carefully to what I am about to tell you” but the next verse records “they did not understand.” (Luke 9:45)

What did I learn from my study? Listening is hard. We would much rather be listened to than do the listening. That is true in general, but also when it comes to listening to God. We tend to put words in His mouth at times. Other times our ears become deaf. Thank God that the Holy Spirit comes to us in our deafness and enables us to hear the voice of our loving God. As Luther would express it in the Small Catechism, “the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.” Thank God that He is willing to open our ears!



Business Old & New



Wild Rice and Ham Soup

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1/4 c. butter | 2 cups cooked wild rice |
| 1/2 c. chopped onion | 2 c. cubed ham |
| 2 sm. Cans mushrooms | 1/2 c. flour |
| 2 sm. Cans chicken broth | 1/2 c. shredded carrots |
| 1/2 c. Sherry cooking wine or wine vinegar | 1 c. half and half |

1/2 cup uncooked rice plus 4 cups water, bring to a hard boil then simmer 30 minutes covered. Then remove from heat and sit for 30 minutes. Draining excess. Should equal 2 cups of cooked rice. Wash all rice before cooking.

Melt butter. Cook onion, mushrooms, and grated carrots until tender. Stir in flour. Cook 1 minute stirring constantly. Add wine and chicken broth. Bring to a boil (1 minute). Add rice and ham. Simmer 5 minutes. Stir in half and half. Cook until heated. Do not boil.

Submitted by Carrie Jane Danner-Vozka

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. Our deposit from Thrivent Choice for the month of January was \$150.00. **FYI:** You have the opportunity to designate 2018 Choice Dollars to St. Mark Church until March 31, 2019 per Thrivent Representative Mike Cornelius.

ST. MARK QUILTERS

St. Mark quilters next quilting day will be February 5th at 9:00 am in the church basement. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 9:00am. You are welcome to join us. We always have a great time quilting and visiting. Our quilts are for a good cause. Come join us.



LWML

The LWML will not be meeting in February per our schedule change for the year of 2019. We will, however, be taking all of the donations given to the Souper/Super Bowl event to the Rhinelander, Area Food Pantry. All women of St. Mark are welcome to the LWML meetings. They are held on the second Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be March 6th which is actually a Wednesday, to prepare the chili for the chili supper on Ash which is that same evening from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. The service for Ash Wednesday will be at 6:00pm.

LADIES PRAYER LUNCH

Ladies Prayer Lunch will be at noon at the Hodag Bowling Lanes on February 5th, 2018. Any questions, just call Mickey Steil at 715-362-2282. Please come and join us.

When we pray, God hears more than we say, answers more than we ask, gives more than we can imagine, in His own time, and in His own way.



MORE NEWS AND NOTES



Food Pantry

Thank you so much to all of the people that helped at the food pantry on December 31st. It was short notice that they were going to indeed be open and many people volunteered to be there. The next time that St. Mark will work at the food pantry will be on April 29th. All workers are asked to be there by 2:45pm and the evening ends at 6:00pm. We need about 12 people to help out with all of the stations that people come to. Watch for the signup sheet in the fellowship hall.

What is the significance of Lent?

Early in the Church's history, the major events in Christ's life were observed with special observances, such as His birth, baptism, death, resurrection and ascension. As these observances developed, a period of time was set aside prior to the major events of Jesus' birth and resurrection as a time of preparation.

During Lent, the Church's worship assumes a more penitential character. The color for the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence. The "Hymn of Praise" is omitted from the liturgy. The word "Alleluia" is usually omitted as well. By not using the alleluia--a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord"--until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly set apart as a distinct time from the rest of the year. Additionally, it forms a powerful contrast with the festive celebration of Jesus' resurrection when our alleluias ring loud and clear.

Finally, the penitential character of Lent is not its sole purpose. In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday. This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for Baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in Holy Baptism (see Romans 6:1-11). This focus would suggest that the season of Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect upon our own Baptism and what it means to live as a child of God.

Ash Wednesday Chili Supper

Please join us for a hearty chili supper with all the fixings hosted by the LWML prior to the service on Ash Wednesday. It will start at 4:30pm and will be held in the lower level multi-purpose room. There will be a free will offering collected at this event. The ladies hope to see you there and bring your appetites.

Upcoming Summer Projects

Please watch your bulletins for some of the upcoming projects here at St. Mark. We try to do a Spring Clean-up Day in May that requires some helping hands. The date will be posted in the bulletin. Many hands make short work and the help is always appreciated. A lunch will be served for the workers. At the end of May, the Evangelism board always hands out bottled water at the Memorial Day ceremony and we could use a few people to help out with that. Our Veterans are always very appreciative of this. Art in the Park is scheduled for June 8th on the Court House lawn. For those of you that do not know, the Evangelism board has a clown that walks around the crowds handing out tickets for a free bag of popcorn or snow cone to all of the children attending this event. We put up a canopy on the church lawn and spend the day making the treats to hand out to all of the families that come to enjoy the event. It is a good way to get our name out there to people and also to people that are new to the area and looking for a spiritual home. Prayerfully consider helping out at some or all of these upcoming events. It is a great chance to get some things done and to have a lot of fun with fellow members doing it.



2018 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

09-Jan-19

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Actual \$ Received | 13634 | 8510 | 10347 | 12333 | 9470 | 10056 | 12304 | 10330 | 16671 | 8869 | 11441 | 16674 |
| Budget | 10075 | 10075 | 10075 | 10075 | 10075 | 10075 | 10075 | 10075 | 10075 | 10075 | 10075 | 10075 |

