



December 2024 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

In this issue:

- Pastoral Letter
- Holy Communion
- Scrip Program
- December Birthdays
- Dec. Altar Guild, Trustee, and Counters Schedule
- Officers and Boards for 2024
- December Calendar
- Worship Schedule and Office Hours

From the Pastor

As I am writing this, our Sunday School kids have just finished packing the shoe boxes with toys and other gifts to be sent around the world. They will be distributed to some of the poorest children in the world.

What did it take to accomplish this project? First of all, we needed the Evangelism Board to adopt the project. They had to get the boxes from Samaritan's Purse, promote the items to be collected, organize the kids, supervise the packing, and ship the boxes to the Distribution Center. It took the generosity of the congregation to provide the items and the work of the board members to see it through.

Any project that is worthwhile takes work. As we close the calendar year, I want to thank the many people who have volunteered during this past year. Some work is very public so we can easily see who makes it possible. For other things, their work is not noticed. The reason we can do as much as we do is only possible because so many members care. The Apostle Paul would write to the congregation at Ephesus, "Be very careful, then, how you live...making the most of every opportunity." The Apostle would have been glad to serve St. Mark. So am I.





Business Old & New



CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICE TIMES

Services for the 2024 Christmas season are as follows:

Sunday Service (Dec. 22) 9:00 AM

Christmas Eve: (Dec. 24) 6:00 PM

Christmas Day: (Dec. 25) 9:00 AM

No Service on Thursday, December 26th

Sunday Service (Dec. 29) 9:00 AM

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. We received &18.00 for the month of October. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Advent Dinners

St. Mark will once again be serving a dinner prior to the Thursday evening service during the Advent season. Serving will start at 4:30pm. The first Advent Dinner will be on Wednesday, November 27th prior to the Thanksgiving service. All are welcome to join. Please sign up in the fellowship hall so that we have an idea for food needs. There will be a free will offering to help offset the cost of food. The quilting ladies are also having a free drawing at each of the meals for beautiful hand sewn goods to be given away. Good luck to everyone!

In Memory . . .

Four of our members and church friends are celebrating their first Christmas in Heaven with our Lord and Savior. What a glorious Christmas that must be! Please remember them in prayer.

Clifford Zimbler	February 25, 2024
Gene Belmas	July 8, 2024
Barb Scott	July 19, 2024
Ron Gerdes	October 6, 2024

LADIES PRAYER LUNCH

The ladies' monthly lunch meet at the Rhinelander Family restaurant on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 12:00pm. All ladies are welcome to join us.

ST. MARK QUILTERS

The picture might make you think that St. Mark will never run out of fabric. But alas our supply if already reduce to scraps. If you have a closet, shelf, bag, or drawer with fabric begging to be repurposed, please consider St. Mark quilters. Thank you.



EVANGELISM

The year 2024 has been a very giving year for St. Mark as well as individual members of our congregation. You can see the benevolence of this church in the list below.

Local Missions Money

\$3,000.00 Domestic Violence Shelter
\$1,000.00 Veterans Tiny Homes Project
\$2,500.00 Camp Luther
\$ 500.00 Rhineland Fire Dept. Fire Safety
\$7,000.00

Personal Member Donations

\$1,000.00 Domestic Violence Shelter
\$800.00 N.A.T.H Homeless Shelter
\$3,700.00 Rhineland Food Pantry
\$400.00 Veterans Tiny Homes Project
\$980.00 Lima, Peru Donations
\$6,880.00 Member donations

The personal member donations are funds that members have given to be forwarded to the entities that they have listed to receive those funds. Thank you to everyone for making this a very giving year!



Let Us Not Forget

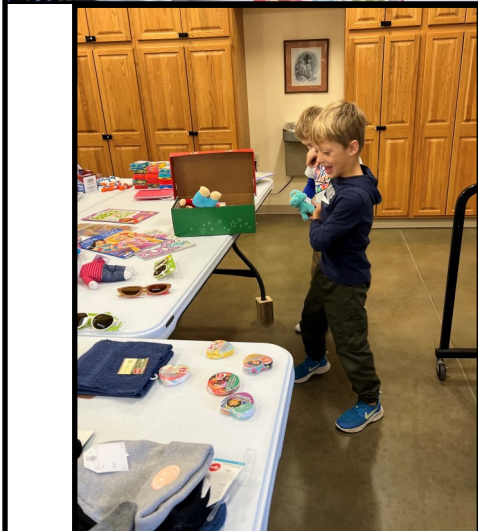
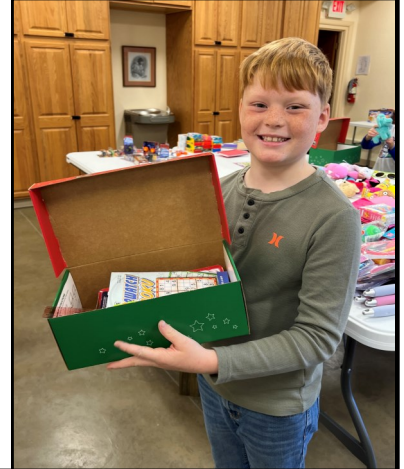
St. Mark has members that are unable to get out, especially in the winter, and they do not get a lot of visitors. Winter can be very hard on folks. Sending a card or making a call can make a real difference in someone's day.

Maybe volunteering is your thing. There are a lot of opportunities to volunteer in our area. You could drive for Meals on Wheels, help with meals at the Senior Center, help at the food pantry distributing food for those in need. They accept help any day that they are open. It doesn't just have to be when our church works there. Sometimes people just need help with their shopping or snow removal or a ride to church.

Be that Christian that is present and ready to help where it is needed. Let's go into the 2024 year making this world a better place to be.

Operation Christmas Shoebox

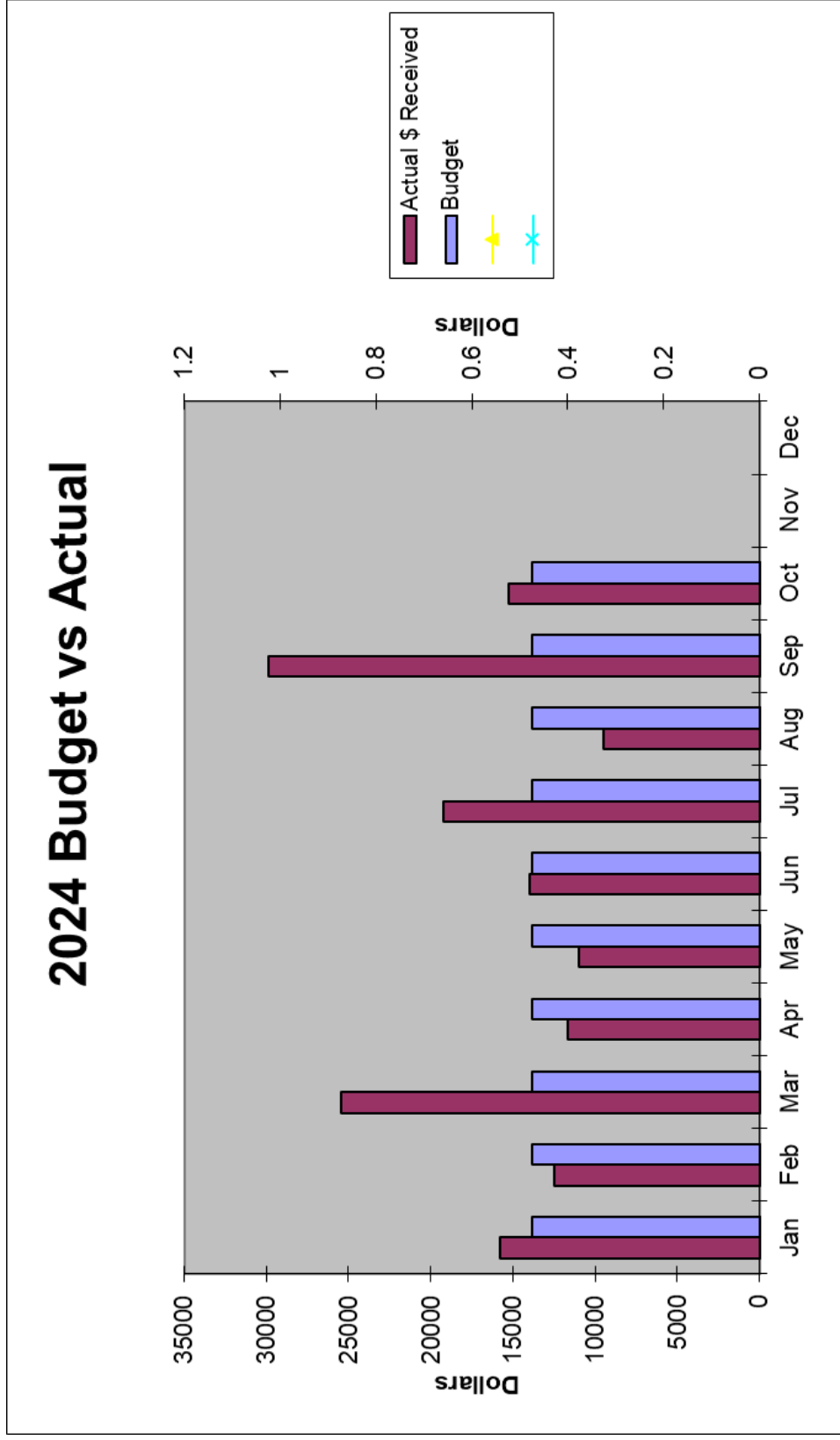
THE "OPERATION SHOEBOX" PROGRAM was held again this year. This program distributes these Christmas shoeboxes around the world where they are needed to children who would otherwise not be getting presents for Christmas. **This year will be the first year that they are able to send these gifts to children in Israel.** Even when we are so far away, we can still send hope and happiness to this and other war-torn or underprivileged countries. What a blessing for everyone! The children from Sunday school have packed the shoeboxes with the items that you donated. Thank you so much for participating in donating all of the wonderful items. The children had a great time filling all the boxes and had a short lesson on why we do this each year and how it is such a great gift for children who may have never experienced receiving a Christmas gift before. A great lesson for us all as to how blessed we truly are in this country. The Board of Evangelism thanks all who helped with this event.



2024 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

13-Nov-24

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Actual \$ Received	15756	12467	25470	11661	11016	13986	19211	9510	29844	15269		
Budget	13809	13809	13809	13809	13809	13809	13809	13809	13809	13809		



ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

THURSDAY WORSHIP 6:00 PM
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 am

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM—1:00 PM
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

**January 2025 Newsletter
deadline is:
December 15, 2024**



BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ed Bauer	12/1
Patricia Sparks	12/3
Breyden Luebke	12/6
Dallas Kelley	12/7
Terri Lammert	12/10
Shane Dornfeld	12/10
Gary Vought	12/11
James Gerdes	12/14
Tim Sprink	12/14
Heidi Buntrock	12/15
David Melvin	12/15
Gerald Boynton	12/19
Tom Davis	12/22
Bruce Vanzo	12/23
Angela Lorenzen	12/24
Dan Baumann	12/31

DECEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

David & Nancy Funk	12/26
Rev. Richard & Sally Miller	12/28
Nancy & Kenneth Newman	12/31