



March 2025 Newsletter

St. Mark Lutheran Church



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

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From the Pastor

"TRANSITIONS"

This fall we will begin the process that will lead to Andy Wyss becoming a *Specific Ministry Pastor* here at St. Mark. After two years Andy will be ordained, and after four years he will have completed the program. During this time, Andy will both learn as a vicar and serve the congregation in ministry.

When I began pastoral ministry in 1971, I would never have guessed the transitions that would occur. Some of the transitions were hard, like leaving the first church that I served, and some were easy, like continuing ministry back in Wisconsin. All of the transitions had unanswered questions.

What will our transitions bring us here at St. Mark? What will change and what will stay the same? The only answer I have is based on the transitions that I've experienced in my 54 years in pastoral ministry. God has been with me and the congregations that I served. He never let us down. He never looked the other way. He always used the transitions to bless both me and the churches that I served.

Transitions are always blessed when the people involved look to God and ask how the transitions can serve His church. God has led our Board of Elders, our Church Council, and then our Congregational Assembly to closely study the *Specific Ministry Pastor* program. We prayed and studied. We discussed it among ourselves. We sought the counsel of others, including our District President.





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. The Thrivent deposit for February was \$26.00.

ST. MARK QUILTERS

The quilters meet Tuesdays mornings at 9:00 am in the lower level. They are a fun bunch of ladies. All ladies are welcome to join us.

EASTER FLOWERS

During the month of March you will be finding an order form inside of your weekly bulletin to place your order for flowers for Easter Sunday. Please make sure that you fill them out if you are interested in providing a lovely plant for Easter. You may put them in the offering plate as the ushers take collection if you like.

LADIES PRAYER LUNCH

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



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

The service for Ash Wednesday will be held on March 5 at 6:00pm. There will not be a service on the Thursday after Ash Wednesday. The next service for that week would be Sunday, March 9th at the usual 9:00am time.

RHINELANDER AREA FOOD PANTRY

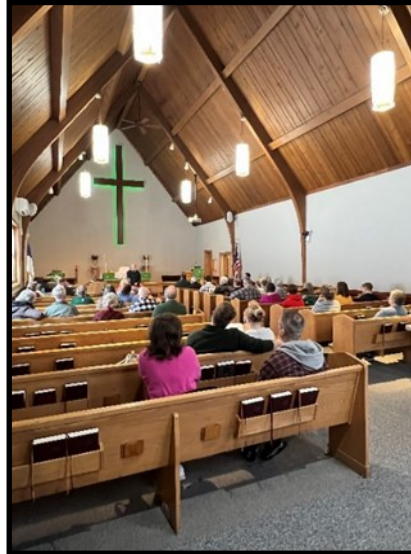
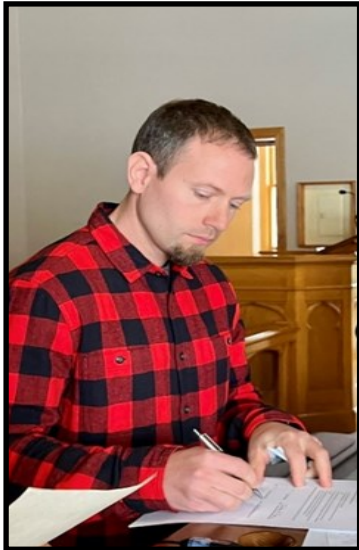
Part of the ministry at St. Mark is to help others that are in need. We are very blessed and thankful to all the people who help distribute food at the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry. The many people that volunteer make the work easy and rewarding. The next opportunity to volunteer at the food pantry is **Monday, March 31, 2025**. Please sign up on the list in the fellowship hall if you are available to help this month. Ten people are needed. You are asked to be there at 2:45pm and will work until 5:00pm. If you are interested in doing this kind of work, please contact the church office for mor information at 715-362-2470. Please take a minute or two to look at the information from the previous year and see what miracle happen when we all work together.

ST. MARK QUILTERS

The St. Mark Quilters are always happy to welcome new members to their group. They have plenty of work to keep them busy. There is really no special skill to learn and the ladies are always happy to show how things are done. If you stop by the church on Tuesday mornings you will hear the hum of sewing machines and the cheerful chatter of the women. You will see some tying, some ironing and ladies that do the cutting that goes into the quilt-making process. You may even catch them sharing fellowship with coffee and doughnuts. Why not stop by?



More News



The congregation of St Mark nominates Andy Wyss to the Specific Ministry Pastor program at Concordia St Louis

With the support of our congregation, Pastor Miller, and the Northern Wisconsin District, Andy Wyss will begin his preparation for ministry at St Mark. As a student in Concordia Seminary's Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program, Andy will undergo four years of intensive coursework while honing his skills under Pastor Miller's mentorship. For two years he will serve as Vicar at St Mark. Upon ordination, the congregation will Call Andy Wyss as Parish Pastor. He will complete the SMP program with continued mentorship from Pastor Miller.

What happens Next? Our commitment to the SMP program and nomination of Andy as SMP Candidate are being submitted to Concordia Seminary at St Louis. We anticipate enrollment decisions from the seminary in late spring and hope Andy can begin coursework this fall.

We pray for the Lord's blessings on Andy Wyss and his family as they begin the SMP program. Thanks be to God for the many blessings bestowed on St Mark leading us to this path.

More details about the SMP program can be found at: <https://www.csl.edu/academics/programs/specific-ministry-pastor-smp/>

Pictured at the top of the page:

Left: Andy Wyss signing the SMP Covenant of Trust.

Center: Feb 16, 2025 Special Congregational Assembly

Right: Pastor Miller signing the SMP Covenant of Trust with Andy Wyss (left) and Elder Al Peterson (far right).

2025 BUDGET VS ACTUAL

18-Feb-25

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

Actual \$
Received
Budget

13365
14712

