



The MARKINGS

Hello St. Mark's Family,

It has been some time since I have composed my thoughts into a Marking's article. Celebrating our 75th Anniversary throughout this church year has had most of our articles revolving around remembering our past that has led us up to the present. So I thought it would be fitting to jump back into the present and take a look at what is going on right now and what also could be coming up this year.

I will start out by saying how blessed and thankful I am to serve St. Mark's! I greatly appreciate our ministerial staff, our preschool staff, and all the volunteers of St. Mark's to whom I get to serve alongside day in and day out. The amount of gifted people in this church, with servant-minded hearts, is humbling and motivating and quite frankly compels me forward to do the best job I can both up front and behind the scenes.

If you have been a part of St. Mark's for a long time or if you are new to this family of God, I hope you can see and experience how blessed we are across the board. To truly be healthy in all areas of the ministry, though not perfect, but healthy...that is a rare thing, and we are seeing and experiencing the results of those blessings. We are supported with so many awesome volunteers, generous gifts, and new people coming in to experience it all with us, and it is always my hope that we are never simply just going through the motions.

Our leadership has been watchful and intentional about making sure we stay ahead of these blessings so that the blessings of more people cannot become overwhelming for the congregation in terms of parking, internal space, and our ability to integrate everyone into our family of God. If there is one thing I can assure you, it is that we aren't doing it perfectly, but we are trying our best. In our efforts to do our best, we have two big plans we are pursuing this year. The first is another pastor from our Seminary in St. Louis. Lord willing, we will have a graduate gifted to us this summer to be Ordained into God's Church and Installed into our congregation. This man, whom the Lord has in mind for us, will be blessed to serve you all and grow in this church. I am very hopeful and optimistic for not only who we will get, but how they will grow to love this community and congregation.

Lastly, our other plan is to evaluate and change the building footprint through expansion and remodeling, which we hope to begin this summer. A congregational vote was recently passed to go ahead with this project. The next steps are twofold. We will be taking a deeper dive into the design of the church, and we will certainly be getting congregational input throughout it all. Our Church Expansion Committee, and especially Tom Radenz, have put in a lot of time to be as transparent and intentional as we can to bring everyone along. The current price tag for the project is 3.25 million, and we are tasked at raising 20% of that before construction permits are pulled. That can be an intimidating number when we only consider ourselves, but strength in numbers should give us all confidence in ourselves.

January 2026
Volume 56, Issue 1

Markings Sponsor

Audrey Wilde

Who wants to extend heartfelt thanks for your prayers and concern. She is grateful to share that her surgery was very successful.

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The Gathering

Join us on **Tuesday, January 27th at 12:30 pm** for an afternoon of fellowship. The afternoon will begin with an appetizer potluck. Bring a favorite appetizer to share.

The afternoon activities will include: **Dart Ball, Sheephead, Cribbage or bring a favorite game.**

MIA Quarterly Report

Men In Action is a group of men at St. Mark's that meets every Tuesday morning at 6:30 am (yes, a.m.) to pray and study scripture. During October, we finished our in-depth study of the book of Daniel and were all pleased with what we had learned with the aid of ChatGPT through an LCMS lens. Before moving back in Biblical time into the book of Ezekiel, we spent 3 weeks to investigate the Qur'an to learn more about Ala, Mohammad, and Islam. As Christians, our duty is not to ignore or harm Muslims but to convert them, sharing the true gospel and surrendering them to the Holy Spirit. We all learned so much and are better equipped to converse or debate with them in a loving manner.

The MIA is about acting on our faith. On October 19th, we held our 25th+ year of The Great Pumpkin Giveaway at Diamond View Apartments. Starting with \$250 from Thrivent Financial for candy, nourishing food, and scriptural handouts to add to 30 quilts sewn by Rita Woller and Kim Grosskreutz. Pumpkins were donated by Dan and Amy Smet (thank you all). We greeted many children and parents from the facility with smiles, invitations and good news.

On October 26, we served the evening dinner at the WMC homeless shelter by starting once again with \$250 from Thrivent for food to prepare a spaghetti dinner in our kitchen, then delivered it to the facility.

In November, we took on a large woodworking project to build 68 shelving units for Camp Luther. Using Thrivent grants and Burnell Utecht's impressive wood-shop, we organized several work-bees to complete the job ahead of schedule.

December found us deep into Ezekiel's 48 chapters of prophesy, and we served two more meals at WMC shelter plus a spaghetti dinner at our own church during Advent.

If you have any questions or would like to join the MIA, contact Lee Belmas or Rich Klein, or just get up really early on Tuesday and join us. The coffee pot is always hot and camaraderie warm. You are always welcome.



Youth Group Super Bowl Sub & Salad Fundraiser



Please help our Youth Group raise funds for future activities and trips by participating in our Sub Sandwich / Salad fundraiser. **Order forms will be in the narthex, and pick up will be on February 8th from 9am-noon.** Price is \$7 each for a Sub Sandwich or Chef Salad which includes chips and a treat.



St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool

“News and Highlights”



A Very Blessed New Year from the Preschool Staff and Students!

THANK YOU! Thank you to everyone who attended our Taco Boat Advent Supper. Special thanks to Kris Sparks, the Preschool families, and the Preschool Staff for all of their work. We appreciate the generous free-will offerings of \$811.00 that were given so we can purchase some new gym equipment for our current indoor gym room.

DECEMBER RECAP: Christmas time is so exciting for our young learners! The students had lots of fun in the month of December as they did many Christmas themed activities, projects, and games. Of course, we learned about the most important reason we celebrate – the birth of Jesus, our Savior! Our students did a wonderful job at their Christmas Services. The students shared the story, “Christmas Lullaby”, donning an animal headband and presenting a special gift to Jesus in the manger. Thank you to everyone who attended, and special thanks to:

- Pastor Hauan for narrating the story and sharing a special message
- Dan Page for playing the piano and the rehearsal times with us
- Blaine Welch and Jean Drake for running the sound and PowerPoint
- Carol Haworth for the manger-shaped gingerbread cookies she made for the students
- Kris Sparks, Dorathy Reed, April Wanish, Patte Lewis, and Carol Haworth for serving at the reception

2026-2027 ENROLLMENT: Enrollment information and forms for the 2026-2027 school year will be available in early January. Current families of the Preschool and St. Mark's member families have precedence for enrollment so please watch the bulletin and pre-service slides for specific information or contact me. Enrollment to the public will begin on Thursday, January 29. Families are encouraged to enroll early, as we expect classes to fill up quickly. If you know of families with 3 and 4 year old children, please tell them about us!



OPEN HOUSE: We will have an Open House on Thursday, January 29, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Families can tour the classrooms, meet the staff, and learn more about our 2-day, 3-day, 4-day, and 5-day preschool class sessions, as well as our Before and After School Childcare options.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK: During the week of January 26-30, Lutheran Schools across the United States will celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week. Our preschool students and staff will participate in fun dress-up days, activities, and a special service project. To end our week of celebration, the preschoolers will be singing at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, February 1. Everyone is invited to attend a free Spaghetti Dinner after the service. We hope you all will join us!



As always, we thank the congregation for its continued support of our preschool, and we wish you all a Blessed New Year!

Mrs. Cathy Page, Preschool Director
715-848-5511

cpage@stmarkslcms.org

Christmas Thanks

Donated this year's lovely tree: donated by the Wanish Family, in honor of Jim Wanish.

For donating the garland on the outside canopy: Leon Rusch made this donation in honor of his and Julie Waterman's parents, Lester and Delores Rusch, and in loving memory of his son, Erik Rusch.

For purchasing outdoor wreaths: Tom & Judy Mueller

Those who cut, put up the Christmas tree, hung the outdoor wreaths and put up the outside garland and decorated the church: Ken & Sue Berndt, Ted Bornowski, Bob & Kim Christensen, Wayne Flanagan, Jonathan & Kiersten Fricke and Oliver, Jerry & Mary Frickenstein, Tracy Gengalo, Hazel Hauan, Carol Haworth, Jeff & Kathy Kern, Caleb & Jacob Novitch, Ray Pasholk, Jr., Tom Radenz, Russell Rauch, Steve & Dorathy Reed, Barb Reynolds, Derek Schilling, Kevin & Lynn Schroeder, Kris Sparks, Bernie Stankowski, Tim Utecht, Dennis Wald, Julie & Bob Waterman, John & Rita Woller, Leon Woller

Arranging the poinsettia plants: Ken & Sue Berndt, Kiersten Fricke, Dan Page

Cleaning and preparing candles for candlelight services: Kiersten Fricke

Changing of the paraments: Linda Ramthun, Katherine Sparks, Gwen Loiz

Those who contributed to the decorating fund or purchased a poinsettia plant:

STAN & KIM BARTSCH for blessings received.

GARY & KATHY BIELEN for God's blessings.

BOB & KIM CHRISTENSEN in memory of our parents.

JOAN CRISMAN in memory of Bernie Crisman.

MICHAEL DEEDON for blessings of memories of Christmas past

PAM FROMM in honor of those serving in our military who won't be home for Christmas.

JOYCE FRICKENSTEIN AND FAMILY in loving memory of Bob Frickenstein and the beauty of God's house.

PHIL & CORINNE HOPKINS in memory of Peggy Horne (Phil's mom) & Ruth Reader (Corinne's mom).

LINDA JABLONSKI in memory of George & Audrey Antross.

DIANE KLEINSCHMIDT in memory of my husband, DuWayne Kleinschmidt.

GINNY KOTTKE thankful for the gift of a Savior!

PAUL AND SHARON MICHALSKI all the prayers that the parishioners and others have said for us as we go through our difficult journey with God leading us. We have experienced many blessings.

KEN NIELSEN in memory of my wife, Mary Ann.

DAN & CATHY PAGE FAMILY in memory of Sandy Schneider, beloved mother and Grandma.

TOM PLAUTZ FAMILY in memory of Lauri Plautz.

BRUCE & BARB REYNOLDS in memory of Sharon Jagler.

LaVERNE SCHADE in memory of my wife, Kaye Schade.

ED SCHMIDT & FAMILY in loving memory of Brenda K. Schmidt.

NICK & DAWN SCHOCH in memory of Dawn's grandma, Charlotte Strehlow.

CHARLES & LOIS SCHULTZ for God's blessings.

ROBERT, MARY & TREVOR SCHULTZ in memory of Robert & Carolyn Schultz, Wallace & Elaine Artus.

SHARON & ROBIN SCHULTZ in memory of Harold, Ryan and Tyler Schultz

JOHN & JILL SIMON in memory of our siblings John Scholze, Judy Simon and Lynda Schneider.

MICHAEL TATMAN for God's blessings.

DON URBAN in memory of my loving wife, Lorraine Urban.

BOB & JULIE WATERMAN in memory of our parents.

DICK & SHERRY WICK to the Glory of God.

ROD & RHONDA ZICK in memory of Rod's brother, David.



Come and bring a friend or a relative to celebrate Epiphany with the LWML ladies at 2510 restaurant on January 6, 2026 at noon. Call Kathy Bielen at 715-845-8116 with your reservation.

Son-Shine Bible Study

Join us for our conclusion of Louie Giglio's, Waiting Here for You on January 7th, as we celebrate that He is our Light and our response is in our worship of Him. We will start our winter study of the book of Matthew on January 14th.

- January 7 – God Is Waiting for You
- January 14 – In Search of the King: Matthew 1-2
- January 21 – Preparing for the King: Matthew 3
- January 28 – The Beginning of the Kingdom: Matthew 4

Books are available in class, and we meet in the Youth Room from 1:00-2:30. Bring your Bible and/or Study Bible if you'd like. All are welcome!



YOUTH FISHEREE



Sunday, January 25th, 2026

NOON - 3:00 p.m.

ROOKERY PARK
Across from Gulliver's Landing

FREE Registration

Hot Dogs Hot Chocolate (w/ donation)

Come Early and eat lunch!

Holes will be drilled for those who do not have the equipment.

~ Prizes & Door Prizes ~

The Fish of the Day will be selected by our judges and mounted by Dave's Wildlife Taxidermy.

Cont'd from front page

In my time here serving St. Mark's and before I arrived, there has been a trend that I have noticed. Whatever the project, whatever the goal, whatever the task laid out in front of the people of this ministry...expectations have always been surprisingly exceeded in both time and support. Considering all the blessings we experience in this ministry and the blessing we are to each other...should we expect anything different? The Lord has provided, the Lord will provide, and we will provide. And if it is Thy will, to have a new pastor and a new building, it will be a blessing to us, our mission, and our community.

~ Pastor Eric

Give Grief a Rest:
Your New Year Wake-Up Call
Beginning a New Year – Refreshed with Hope
Jan. 13th - The Landing ~ 3:30-4:30pm
Jan. 14th - VIRTUAL ~ 6:00 - 7:00 pm

After the holidays, fatigue and emotional exhaustion can linger as you enter a new year without your loved one. Winter's darker days may tempt you to withdraw, but this is often when hope is needed most. You have a choice: resist your loss or move forward and engage with life again. Moving forward doesn't mean expecting everything to be easy—it means accepting each step as it comes and making the best of it. Now is the time to focus on what truly matters and consider four objectives that help you move from the past into a new year and back toward happiness.

Note: All in-person groups are held at The Landing (YMCA 707 3rd Street, Wausau, WI)
 All groups are open to YMCA members and non-members. Free of Charge (unless otherwise noted).

To Register go to: <https://www.wingsgrief.org/zoomgrief-in-person>
 For questions, please email Nan Zastrow at nanwings1@gmail.com

St. Mark's Community Giving Tree Thank You



We would like to thank the congregation for their generosity with this year's Giving Tree. We were able to help 25 families celebrate Christmas this year with many special gifts. There were 81 children that received blessings from many members who gave of their time and resources. You all did an awesome job with shopping and wrapping. Your time and energy is greatly appreciated. Thank you again to the congregation for all of your continued support for families in the Wausau community.

Blessings,
 Kim and Kristen

Women's Event: "Meet Me at the Well Saturday"

All women are warmly invited to **"Meet Me at the Well"** on **Saturday, March 14, 2026**—a refreshing day of fellowship, worship, learning, and encouragement! We invite each attendee to bring a **new or gently used children's board book** to bless families served by **The Babies Place (Neighbor's Place)**.

The day starts at 8:00am with a light breakfast and registration. The event runs officially from 9:00am -3:30 pm. Our Keynote is Tracie Douglass who will be speaking on the day's scripture *Esther 4:14* – *"Perhaps you were created for such a time as this."*

Our lunch will again be a catered Mexican buffet. There will be 3 break out sessions to choose from in the afternoon that cover a variety of Christian women's topics. This day is open to both members and non-members of St. Mark's. **Registration is \$25.00.** Registration form and on-line sign up available through our church's website. Scholarships are available.

Come be renewed, encouraged, and equipped. We hope to see you at the well!

Saturday Women's Event Planning Committee Meeting



Our Meet Me at the Well women's group is excited to begin designing our 3rd Annual Women's Event for Saturday, March 14th. Please consider marking your calendars to join us! Our planning parties will be: **Monday, January 12th, and February 2nd from 6:30-7:15 p.m.** No need to RSVP, just show up! Many hands make light work and we look forward to making this event be another blessing to women of our church and the community.

THE MONTH AT A GLANCE			
FINANCIALS			
November 2024			
RECEIPTS	November	Year to Date	YTD Budget
ENVELOPE/PLATE	\$ 56,448.13	\$ 570,067.04	\$ 559,987.08
BUDGETED MISSIONS	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 77,758.90	\$ 74,822.92
SPECIAL GIFTS	\$ 17,485.56	\$ 103,011.57	\$ 91.67
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 506.15	\$ 4,366.15	\$ -
OTHER	\$ 1,398.00	\$ 11,346.96	\$ 6,966.67
OUTREACH	\$ 585.00	\$ 6,785.00	\$ -
PRESCHOOL TUITION	\$ 18,577.29	\$ 156,509.23	\$ 120,345.50
ROOM USE	\$ 675.00	\$ 8,835.00	\$ 4,766.67
TOTAL	\$ 103,375.13	\$ 938,679.85	\$ 766,980.51
DISBURSED			
COMPENSATION	\$ 45,792.01	\$ 447,767.43	\$ 365,678.85
BENEFIT INSURANCE - Employees	\$ 11,707.56	\$ 127,826.38	\$ 166,625.68
LAY EXPENSES	\$ 689.49	\$ 15,148.03	\$ 15,400.01
EVANGELISM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
STEWARDSHIP	\$ -	\$ 3,078.15	\$ -
EDUCATION EXPENSES	\$ 935.82	\$ 10,606.30	\$ 14,483.34
PRESCHOOL	\$ 830.20	\$ 8,953.59	\$ 10,138.33
CHRISTIAN CONCERNS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FELLOWSHIP EXPENSES	\$ 599.33	\$ 2,742.51	\$ 3,666.67
WORSHIP EXPENSES	\$ 1,781.12	\$ 14,262.74	\$ 11,916.67
YOUTH	\$ 159.61	\$ 1,288.89	\$ 3,849.99
PROPERTIES Misc.	\$ 912.45	\$ 24,886.91	\$ 30,983.32
Fuel & Electric	\$ 2,288.26	\$ 24,665.24	\$ 20,625.00
Sanitation	\$ 336.09	\$ 2,938.99	\$ 2,887.50
Snow Plowing	\$ -	\$ 13,985.00	\$ 14,666.67
Insurance - Wkrs Comp/Property	\$ -	\$ 16,672.00	\$ 13,750.00
Sewer & Water	\$ -	\$ 2,444.46	\$ 4,583.33
Church Equipment	\$ -	\$ 15,635.97	\$ 4,583.33
MISSIONS	\$ 1,964.63	\$ 69,579.41	\$ 74,821.99
SPECIAL GIFTS - OUT	\$ 6,181.18	\$ 99,904.39	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 74,177.75	\$ 902,386.39	\$ 758,660.68
DIFFERENCE	\$ 29,197.38	\$ 36,293.46	\$ 8,319.83

The MARKINGS

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
600 Stevens Drive
Wausau, WI 54401-2977
715-848-5511

Electronic Service Requested



Find us on Facebook!



We are on the Web!

<http://stmarkswausau.org/>

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February MARKINGS Deadline

The deadline to submit articles and announcements for the February edition of the MARKINGS will be **January 22nd at 10 am**. Thank you!



Help taking down Christmas Decorations

We need YOUR help on **Tuesday, January 6th at 3:30 pm** to remove and put into storage all the Christmas decorations at church. Many hands make the labor light and go much faster.



OFFICIAL ACTS— December 2025

Deaths

Char Hafeman (passed 11/15/2025)

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Cable Channel 980 Worship Times: Tuesday: 11:00 am Wednesday: 6:00 pm Thursday: 7:00 am				1 OFFICE CLOSED Pastor Eric vacation until Jan. 7th	2 OFFICE CLOSED Blaine's Family Day	3 Fellowship Hall rented out
4 8:00 Worship 9:15 Youth Programs / Bible Studies 10:30 Worship	5 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists	6 6:30 MIA Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 3:30 Take down Christmas decorations	7 1:00 Son Shine Bible Study 6:00 Worship 6:45 Midweek / HS Youth / Confirmation	8 5:30 New Member class	9 Pastor & Blaine's Family Day	10
	Preschool resumes	Preschool resumes				
11 8:00 Worship 9:15 Youth Programs 10:30 Worship	12 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists 7:00 Band of Brothers 7:00 Dartball 6:30 MMATW planning committee meeting	13 6:30 MIA Bible Study 8:00 Trustees 9:00 Quilting	14 1:00 Son Shine Bible Study 2:30 AED / CPR training 6:00 Worship 6:45 Midweek / HS Youth / Confirmation	15 5:30 New Member class	16 Pastor & Blaine's Family Day	17
18 8:00 Worship 9:15 Youth Programs / Bible Studies 10:30 Worship	19 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists 5:30 Governance Mtg 7:00 Meet Me at the Well No Preschool	20 6:30 MIA Bible Study 9:00 Quilting Preschool Hearing Screening	21 1:00 Son Shine Bible Study 6:00 Worship 6:45 Midweek / HS Youth / Confirmation	22 8:00 NWD Team Ministry Workshop 5:30 New Member class Markings Deadline	23 Pastor & Blaine's Family Day	24 Fellowship Hall rented out
25 New Member Sunday 8:00 Worship 9:15 Youth Programs / Bible Studies 10:30 Worship	26 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists 7:00 Dartball National Lutheran Schools Week	27 6:30 MIA Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 12:30 The Gathering	28 1:00 Son Shine Bible Study 6:00 Worship 6:45 Midweek / HS Youth / Confirmation	29 4:00-6:00 Preschool Open House	30 Pastor & Blaine's Family Day	31

January 2026 - Volunteer Calendar

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	READER	MULTIMEDIA	COMMUNION	USHERS/ACOLYTE
January 4	8 am	Katie & Joel Barboza	Katherine Sparks	Kory Page	Katherine Sparks, Kim Christensen Wafers: Pastor, Ken Berndt	Group 5
	10:30 am	Darwin & Debbie Kufahl	Rachel Olson	Tyler Woller	Rita Woller, Rachel Olson Wafers: Pastor, John Woller	Group 6 Liam Kaufman
January 7	6 pm	Henry Jennejohn	Pastor	Zach Sargent	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
January 11	8 am	Bryon & Kelly Gleisner	Bryon Gleisner	Jacob Emon	Pam Fromm, Kim Christensen Wafers: Pastor, Ken Berndt	Group 5
	10:30 am	Jan Mann	Rachel Olson	Kylie Anklam	Rita Woller, Rachel Olson Wafers: Pastor, John Woller	Group 6 Lucas Hickman
January 14	6 pm	Henry Jennejohn	Pastor	Nick Schoch	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
January 18	8 am	Ted & Mary Johnson	Kurt Schemenauer	Derek Emon	Carrie Emon, Sarah Hill Wafers: Pastor, Ken Berndt	Group 5
	10:30 am	Wanish Family	Rachel Olson	Conner Anklam	Rachel Olson, Scott Michaelson Wafers: Pastor, Brian Borchardt	Group 6 Ariya Prochnow
January 21	6 pm	Henry Jennejohn	Pastor	Nick Schoch	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
January 25	8 am	Pam Fromm	Bryon Gleisner	Nick Schoch	Janet Herring, Amy Smet Wafers: Pastor, Ken Berndt	Group 5
	10:30 am	Jan Mann	Rachel Olson	Kylie Anklam	Rita Woller, Rachel Olson Wafers: Pastor, John Woller	Group 6 Sam Bartelt
January 28	6 pm	Henry Jennejohn	Pastor	Kyle & Brandon Uttech	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9

ALTAR GUILD: Lisa Peck, Joy Schilling

USHERS:

Group 5 - Warren Jacobi - Lead, Sharon Jacobi, Bruce Thurs, Jae Loiz
 Group 6 - Rich Klein - Lead, Herb Ninnemann, Adam Wurz, Chris Grosskreutz
 Group 9 - Henry Jennejohn - Lead, Scott Werner