

600 Stevens Drive • Wausau, WI 54401 • 715-848-5511
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Jesus' Scrapbook
Jesus Presented at the Temple

January 4, 2026

PRESERVICE: *"Let All Mortals Flesh Keep Silence"*

~ violin, Mary Premeau

RINGING OF THE BELLS ~ WELCOME and GREETING

INVOCATION

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in use true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C Amen.

HYMN: “Thank God! My Jesus Cleanseth Me”

(Tune: Es Ist Das Heil; Text: C.F.W. Walther)

Thank God! My Jesus cleanseth me
From all sins I committed,
He paid my debt and set me free,
I, therefore, am acquitted
Of sins’s and Santan’s bondage fell;
My faith now laughs at death and hell,
Because my life is Jesus

Now I, like Simeon, can end
My life in peace and gladness,
And to my God I can commend
My spirit without sadness;
For when my weary eyes I close,
My death becomes a sweet repose,
I see the joys of heaven

How happy, therefore, shall I be,
When life’s frail thread is broken;
When holy angels carry me
To joys that ne’er were spoken;
When I behold Him face to face,
When I have gained that blessed place,
Prepare for me by Jesus.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”

soloist, Bob Waterman ~ violin, Mary Premeau

OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 13:1-3a,11-15

The LORD said to Moses, “Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s. Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE: Colossians 3:12-17

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

VERSE:

P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ!

CATECHESIS

P I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary.

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

P Jesus Christ suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

C He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

P Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

C That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

SERMON HYMN: “The Light of Gentile Nations” (TLH 138 vs 1, 2, 4, 5)

SERMON

PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY OF GOD

THE LORD’S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS / OFFERING

RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

(Please indicate if you are a member or visitor in the Rite of Friendship books and if you will be joining us for Holy Communion. **If visiting please leave us a means to contact you as we would love to follow up with you.**)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

HOLY COMMUNION

We believe Christ’s body and blood are truly present in the bread and wine of this Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins to all who believe. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. If you share this belief and practice, please join us in celebrating the meal of God’s family – Holy Communion, please receive the wafer in the palm of your hand. (The cups with white juice are for those who have requested them. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

COMMUNION HYMNS:

“Blessed Assurance” ~ violin, Mary Premeau

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” (LSB 733)

BLESSING

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ SONG OF SIMEON (words on LSB pgs. 199-200)

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING VERSE: “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” (LSB 922 vs 2)

DISMISSAL

Christmas Vacation

Pastor Eric and his family will be on vacation **until January 7th.**

For emergencies, please contact Pastor Gary at 715-574-1650.

Please keep the following people in our prayers:

Medical / Health Concerns: Jenny Garcia, daughter of Andy & Mary Hoppe, Ella Holmes, Anne Raduechel, Raphael Klein, Cindy Barton, Marie Borchardt, Donna Schroeder, Ava Downing, Grace Kobs, Lana Wilkinson, Carla Grulkowski, Ginger Quaderer, Kristina Klein & Lilly Pikorz, Sandy Flanagan, Lizzy Marciniak, Barb Langbecker, Angela Peterson, Evelyn Mielke, sister in law to Carol Leopold, Judy Young, Elaine Klockziem, Henry Jennejohn, Marilyn Barttelt, Jessie Wiertella, Ruth Tritten.

Battling Cancer: Brenda Barttelt, sister of Carla Haebig, Paul Michalski, Lee Seis, brother-in-law of Henry Jennejohn, Bill Kobs, Aissen Witter, Tracie Wills, Roger Baumgart, father of Lisa Peck, Mike Ferry, brother of Scott, Rich Klein, Jody Krieg.

Military Service - SSG Mitchell Fromm, deployed overseas with the Wisconsin National Guard.



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 8:00 with a light breakfast and registration. The event runs officially from 9:00-3:30 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!

Next planning meeting for Meet Me at the Well Saturday Monday, January 12th, 6:30-7:15

Our committee is working hard on preparations for our 3rd annual Saturday Event being held on March 14th. If you would like to help with this event, please feel free to join us. Hope to see you there. Questions, please call Kristen at 715-966-4172

Son-Shine Bible Study

Our Advent study of Waiting Here for You has brought new understandings of waiting and the reassurance of waiting not only for God but also with God. Now, while we celebrate Christ's birth, our waiting is fulfilled as God always keeps His promises! Our next study will be January 7th when we look into how God is waiting for us, like the Magi, to come and worship Him. We'll meet in the Youth Room from 1:00-2:30. Bring your Bible or Study Bible along if you'd like. All are welcome.

St. Mark's



Lutheran Preschool

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 29, 2025
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

- Meet the teachers
- Tour the Classrooms
- Learn about our 2-day, 3-day, 4-day, and 5-day classes, as well as our childcare options

Contact Preschool Director, Cathy Page,
@ 715-848-5511, ext. 7 or cpage@stmarkslcms.org



We would love for you to become a part of our vibrant community at St. Mark's. If you're looking for a place to grow in your faith, connect with others, and serve the community, then there are plenty of opportunities for you here.

Come join us for a service, learn more about our church, and discover how you can get involved. We welcome all who are seeking to deepen their spiritual journey and connect with a loving church family.

We look forward to welcoming you!

(Our next New Member classes are January 8th, 15th, 22nd at 5:30pm)

St. Mark's Scoop

January 4 - 11, 2026

Sun, Jan 4	8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study / Youth Programs 10:30 Worship
Mon, Jan 5	8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists
Tues, Jan 6	6:30 MIA Bible study 9:00 Quilting 3:30 Take down Christmas decorations
Wed, Jan 7	1:00 Son Shine Bible Study 6:00 Worship 6:45 Midweek / HS Youth / Confirmation
Thurs, Jan 8	5:30 New Member Class
Fri, Jan 9	Pastor & Blaine's Family Day
Sat, Jan 10	
Sun, Jan 11	8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study / Youth Programs 10:30 Worship

Ladies Guild's
"Christmas Luncheon"
Held at 2510 Restaurant
on January 6, 2026 at 12 noon.



For information on ALL *St Mark's* ministry opportunities, visit

stmarkswausau.org

or scan this code for our ministry catalog



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 with pick up on February 8th from 9am-noon.** Price is \$7 each for a Sub Sandwich or Chef Salad which includes chips and a treat.



Christmas Vacation

Pastor Eric and his family will be on vacation
until January 7th.

For emergencies, please contact
Pastor Gary at 715-574-1650

Get Ready.....
Get set.....,
SEW!

The dedicated comfort quilters can't wait to get back to pinning, tying, & stitching on January 6. In the break time we organized our supplies, cut squares, and held a quilt tying bee on December 16.

In December, 40 quilts were donated to OGT and 6 to Chaplain Fahey with North Shore Hospice.

We appreciate and put to good use the many donations of fabric, gently used sheets, blankets, and mattress pads. Much thanks to Thrivent for their generous action grants.

Quilts are greatly needed. Want to help with this rewarding project? Contact Joan Crisman at 715 573-9801



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