

The MARKINGS



June 2026
Volume 56, Issue 6

Meet the Benders!

My name is Joe Bender, and I am honored to be called as the Associate Pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Wausau, WI. I grew up in Quincy, IL and moved to Milwaukee right before my 8th grade year. I have three older brothers and one older sister, and my dad and two oldest brothers are also pastors! Some of my hobbies include running, basketball, golfing, and drumming! I am a lifelong Denver Broncos fan and am not planning on changing that!

Alyssa and I met at Concordia University Wisconsin, where we were both involved in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Pep Band, and Campus Ministry. During our time at CUW, we enjoyed going to Florida, New Mexico, and New Orleans on band tours and mission trips. We got married in July of 2021. Together, we enjoy going on road trips, downhill skiing, and spending time with family. Right now, we do not have any children of our own, but we love being an aunt and uncle to our seven nieces and nephews who live in the Midwest.

Alyssa grew up in Grayslake, IL and has two younger brothers. She is an occupational therapist working primarily with adults in the hospital setting. She also enjoys being in nature, reading, and biking, and is looking forward to the Farmer's Markets around Wausau!

During our time at Concordia Seminary St. Louis, we had the opportunity to spend a year in Oberursel, Germany as part of the study abroad program. Our year in Germany was filled with memorable travel, great food, and lasting friendships. For our vicarage year, we served at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School in Lansing, Michigan, where we were shaped and formed for ministry in many ways.

We feel so excited and grateful to be joining you in ministry at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. We look forward to meeting you, doing life together, and sharing the love of Jesus in the community. Thank you for praying for us as we enter into this new chapter. See you this summer!



In Christ,
Joe & Alyssa Bender

Markings Sponsor
Kurt & Carla Haebig
*in honor of their 37th
wedding anniversary
on June 3rd.*

*Thank
You*

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**First English Lutheran Church
402 N 3rd Ave., Wausau**

Thurs., June 11: 9am - 6pm / Fri., June 12: 9am - 6pm / Sat., June 13: 9am - 3pm

CASH ONLY ~ NO EARLY SALES

Use the SOUTH entrance on Cedar Street—look for sign. An elevator is available at this entrance for anyone needing assistance.

TREASURE



HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

From June 14-20, 14 of our high school youth will be journeying east for their annual High School Mission Trip. This year, the trip takes them to New York state, where they will be serving at a camp called Pioneer on the Lake. They will also be visiting Pastor Eric's vicarage congregation and doing some sight-seeing around the Buffalo area. The group will depart during the 8am service on June 14. Please take a moment to pray for our youth as they represent St. Mark's out east and grow together as part of this life-changing experience.

Hope on the Block: Thursday, June 4th

Featuring Unspoken



Join Hope Life Center, The Hagar House, and 89Q for a FREE night of music and fun on the 400 Block in downtown Wausau. Food trucks and games start at 5pm, local band Awaken at 6pm, and Unspoken live in concert at 7pm.

Quilt Sale Update

Comfort Quilters are “sew” pleased to have sold:

- 10 dog beds
- 21 small quilts
- 33 large quilts



Proceeds came to \$2,584.00

The Comfort Quilters have donated \$1750 to OGT with the remaining quilts being donated and packed by OGT.

All glory to God!



St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool "News and Highlights"



MAY RECAP: Our students were very busy in the month of May. Our weekly themes included the farm, the zoo, the beach, ocean animals, water safety, the season of spring, spring animals, and board games. Our Bible stories were "Peter and the Crippled Man" and "Philip and the Ethiopian Man". We took time to say thank you to our moms and made special Mother's Day gifts for them. We enjoyed learning lots of songs about the farm in preparation for our Closing Celebrations.

END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR: Our 2025-2026 school year has come to an end, and we give thanks to God for a great year of learning and growth in our students. On Wednesday, May 20th and Thursday, May 21st, the Preschoolers had their closing programs called, "Down on the Farm". Wearing colorful bandanas and farm animal headbands, the students did a wonderful job singing their songs. Each student received a Certificate of Completion and a cute farm tote bag filled with a book and special goodies. Families then enjoyed a hot dog lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Special thanks to Kris Sparks, April Wanish, Patte Lewis, and Dorathy Reed for all of their help in preparing and serving the lunch.



SUMMER CAMP: Lots of fun activities are being planned for our upcoming Summer Camps in June and July. All four weeks are full so we will not be taking any more registrations.

2026-2027 ENROLLMENT: Our 2-day, 3-day, and 4-day 4K class sessions are full for the 2026-2027 school year with several students on waitlists. There are still spots available in our 5-day class so if you or someone you know is interested in enrolling a 3 or 4 year old child, contact me for more information.

PRESCHOOL STAFFING:

- We are very excited to welcome Melodie Witter Barker to our Preschool Staff in the fall as our Lead Afternoon Childcare Teacher. Melodie was a student here herself so she is excited to give back to our program. Melodie has a background in Behavior Therapy and will bring a lot of enthusiasm and energy to this position. We praise and thank God for leading her to us!
- We are still in need of a Lead Teacher in our 5-day class. If you or someone you know might be interested in this position, please contact me for more information.



YARD SIGNS: Our **PRESCHOOL YARD SIGNS** are available to anyone who would like to help us advertise by placing a sign in your yard. Pick one up at the table in the gathering area or stop by my office. Thank you for helping us advertise!



THANK YOU: As another school year is now over, we want to thank the congregation for its continued support of our preschool. We also want to thank all of you who have been a Preschool Prayer Warrior throughout this year and prayed for a preschool student. We really appreciate it!

Son-Shine Bible Study

As we have continued our study of Matthew, we have gained many new understandings of the conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders at that time and how that applies to us. The following is our June schedule as our study concludes of this very informative book of the Bible:

- June 3: Session 19 – Matthew 25 Preparation for the King’s Return
- June 10: Session 20 – Matthew 26 The Betrayal of the King
- June 17: Session 21 – Matthew 27 The Crucifixion of the King
- June 24: Session 22 – Matthew 28 The Victory of the King

We’ll meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays from 1:00 – 2:30. You are welcome to join us. Please note, we will not meet July 1st and we will begin our next study The Names of God on July 8th.

2026 St. Mark’s Softball Schedule

Date	Home/ Visitor	Time	Field	W/L
5/17/2026	H Christ Community Church	7:30PM	3	Won 10-1
5/31/2026	H Cheeks Bar and Grill	6:30PM	3	
6/7/2026	H The Garage II	7:30PM	2	
6/7/2026	V Falcon Valley Farm	8:30PM	2	
6/14/2026	H L&S Electric	6:30PM	2	
6/21/2026	H Family Insurance Center	7:30PM	3	
6/28/2026	V S.O.S.	5:30PM	3	
7/12/2026	V The Garage	7:30PM	3	
7/19/2026	V Melonheads	5:30PM	3	
7/26/2026	V Immanuel Baptist Church 2	7:30PM	2	



Wings-A Grief Education Ministry

In-person (YMCA-The Landing) Tues. June 16 3:30—4:30 p.m.

Virtual: Thurs. June 18 6:00-7:00 p.m. CST

~ No Charge ~

After the death of Someone Loved, it’s normal to feel that part of your life ended with theirs. However, some people describe extraordinary “signs”, messages or dreams that can’t be explained. Grief has a way of making us more aware of sensations around or within us. This may cause us to notice coincidences we may otherwise overlook. Some signs may be familiar such as smells, sounds, or objects. Ultimately, the desire to maintain a bond with our loved one can be beneficial to healing grief. Whether you are a skeptic or a believer that those who passed can communicate in subtle ways, it would be hard to deny when it happens. These symbolic messages provide a sense of strength and comfort, reminding us that the spirit continues to endure. Though science may not be able to validate such experiences, we can be assured that we are all connected to something bigger than the small world we live in. Don’t think, “Maybe I imagined it.” Accept it and learn more how these signs offer comfort that death doesn’t end a relationship.



Facilitator: Nan Zastrow Wings-A Grief Education Ministry
715-845-4159 to register or www.wingsgrief.org

THE MONTH AT A GLANCE					
FINANCIALS					
APRIL 2026					
RECEIPTS		April	Year to Date	YTD Budget	
ENVELOPE/PLATE		\$ 58,816.05	\$ 222,090.38	\$ 228,177.10	
BUDGETED MISSIONS		\$ 11,024.00	\$ 33,307.00	\$ 29,415.64	
SPECIAL GIFTS		\$ 157,064.39	\$ 268,206.65	\$ 40.00	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND		\$ 506.24	\$ 2,123.75	\$ -	
OTHER		\$ 2,141.00	\$ 6,614.00	\$ 2,533.36	
OUTREACH		\$ 485.00	\$ 2,340.00	\$ -	
PRESCHOOL TUITION		\$ 23,530.62	\$ 97,479.77	\$ 66,666.64	
ROOM USE		\$ 1,250.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,733.36	
	TOTAL	\$ 254,817.30	\$ 635,161.55	\$ 328,566.10	
DISBURSED					
COMPENSATION		\$ 53,209.21	\$ 205,366.74	\$ 188,845.36	
BENEFIT INSURANCE - Employees		\$ 12,968.99	\$ 52,441.32	\$ 51,007.02	
LAY EXPENSES		\$ 3,195.29	\$ 10,547.09	\$ 6,099.92	
EVANGELISM		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
STEWARDSHIP		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	
EDUCATION EXPENSES		\$ 2,549.95	\$ 4,634.27	\$ 5,300.08	
PRESCHOOL		\$ 1,390.51	\$ 4,119.99	\$ 3,500.00	
CHRISTIAN CONCERNS		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
FELLOWSHIP EXPENSES		\$ 1,290.01	\$ 1,797.82	\$ 1,333.36	
WORSHIP EXPENSES		\$ 2,827.20	\$ 6,357.53	\$ 4,666.64	
YOUTH		\$ 62.29	\$ 920.78	\$ 1,400.00	
PROPERTIES	Misc.	\$ 5,734.80	\$ 12,363.25	\$ 12,566.56	
	Fuel & Electric	\$ 2,858.64	\$ 12,683.57	\$ 8,166.72	
	Sanitation	\$ 487.22	\$ 1,344.17	\$ 1,166.64	
	Snow Plowing	\$ 13,460.00	\$ 34,962.50	\$ 5,666.64	
	Insurance - Wkrs Comp/Property	\$ 14,393.00	\$ 14,321.68	\$ 6,000.00	
	Sewer & Water	\$ -	\$ 1,071.43	\$ 1,666.64	
	Church Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,666.64	
MISSIONS		\$ 2,133.04	\$ 25,191.22	\$ 29,415.56	
SPECIAL GIFTS - OUT		\$ 41,299.97	\$ 60,909.69	\$ -	
	TOTAL	\$ 157,860.12	\$ 449,033.05	\$ 328,567.78	
DIFFERENCE		\$ 96,957.18	\$ 186,128.50	\$ (1.68)	



Mission Corner: Hearts in Action

Connecting Our Church to Outreach Opportunities

Welcome to our Mission Corner—a dedicated space in our newsletter highlighting the outreach efforts and opportunities that connect our church family with our broader community and the world. Each month, we'll share updates, stories, and ways you can get involved in making a positive impact through missions.

Spotlight: Blessing Bags

This month, our Mission Corner shines a spotlight on those in need in our community with **Blessing Bags** for the homeless or those down on their luck.

These are Care Packages filled with essential items: Shirt & socks, toiletries, hygiene products, non-perishable snacks, resource card for area services. Feel free to take one to keep it in your vehicle to hand out to someone in need.

Spotlight: The Babies Place at The Neighbors Place

The Neighbors Place has a program for new mothers and their babies to provide diapers and products to help care for them. We are starting a literacy component with board books (harder cardboard for babies to handle).

Spotlight: New Beginnings for Refugees

New Beginnings for Refugees is a local organization that supports refugees in the Wausau area. They are welcoming new arrivals in September. They are especially in need of: Fry pans (no Teflon), saucepans w/ lids, stock pots, tea kettles, cookie sheets, casseroles (med), mixing bowls – large, dish drainers, scrub buckets – 3.5 gal., NEW mops, NEW bed pillows, NEW queen sheets, NEW bath / hand towels, 1st aid kits, spatulas for turning food (nylon, Silicone or metal).

How You Can Help?

- Take a **Blessing Bag** to keep in your vehicle to give to a person in need.
- Bring in a board book to share a love of reading with **The Babies Place**.
- Bring in items for **New Beginnings for Refugees** by June 29.
- Pray for our mission projects and those we serve.

Let's continue to be the hands and feet of Christ, sharing love and hope through mission work.

Stay tuned to the Mission Corner for more ways to serve and stories of impact!

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” – Matthew 28:19

**Installation of Rev. Joel Picard
at Rib Mountain Lutheran Church**

June 4, 2026, at 6pm

You are invited to attend the installation of Rev. Joel Picard on June 4 at 6:00pm. There will be a light reception of cake following the service.



July Dates to Note

- July 4-11: Pastor Eric at Camp Luther
- July 18-23: Pastor Eric at Synodical Convention in AZ
- July 25-August 1: Blaine on vacation
- July 26-August 3: Pastor Eric on Vacation

EXTRA INNINGS

ANNUAL CHARITY
GOLF TOURNAMENT
JUNE 15TH, 2026

- ✓ 18 Hole Scramble Format
- ✓ Prizes and Raffles
- ✓ Food and Refreshments

GREENWOOD HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
2002 POPLAR LANE • WAUSAU, WI
For more info, call or text 715-921-0404 (Dan)

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE
ABOUT
EXTRA
INNINGS



Just To Clarify:

When you donate to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, that donation is not shared with anyone unless you instruct me otherwise. The Governance Team, the Pastor, and any of the other staff members do not see your donations.

The Counting Teams members are expected not to share the information they see while performing their ministry. With that in mind, I would ask all church members to refrain from entering the conference room while the Counting Teams are in that room.

If you have any questions, please talk directly to me.

Kurt Haebig
Financial Manager

From the Sewing Room

Thank you to all who helped make shorts and backpacks this spring! Many hands accomplished a lot. We will add a cross with the Haitian version of Jesus Loves Me in the pocket of each dress and pair of shorts. Also, a wooden tag with Jesus Loves Me imprinted on it will be added to each backpack. Next items will be packed and on their way to Haiti to be given to the children attending VBS there this summer. We are very grateful to be able to continue this mission of sharing the love of Je-

God's Word brings hope, life, and transformation—and your partnership makes it possible.
Together, we're reaching communities still waiting to hear God speak in their language.



Tiffany (Smith) Tremba is a missionary with Lutheran Bible Translators serving in Tanzania. She is returning to St. Mark's on Sunday, June 21 to share her missionary update in a special presentation in between worship services. Mark your calendar to hear about her extraordinary adventures in Africa spreading the Gospel.

The MARKINGS

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

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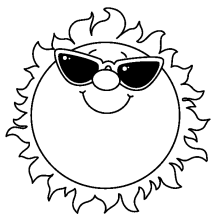


Find us on Facebook!



We are on the Web!

<http://stmarkswausau.org/>



Office Summer Hours:

Starting June 5th until August 28th
the updated hours will be:

Mon-Thurs: 8:00 - 5:00 and Friday 8:00 - 12:00

We will go back to normal business hours
starting September 1st.

July MARKINGS Deadline

The deadline to submit announcements and articles for the July edition of the MARKINGS will be **June 25th at 10 am**. Thank you!

May 2026 Official Acts

Received

Nate & Heather **Burtman** + Eli & Genevieve
David & Lisa **Beilby**

Shay **Boesl**

Jason **Borrero** & Niki **Scheffler**

+ Cooper & Tucker

Tom & Becky **Gatzke** +Lee, Erika, Benjamin

Kevin & Angela **Traska** + Jonathan, Emma
& William

Alex & Autumn **Jones**

Leon & Beth **Bartelt**

Lillie **McCulloch** & Steven **Hehli**

Baptisms

John Edward Radtke (May 10, 2026)

JUNE 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 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists	2 6:30 MIA Bible Study	3 1:00 Son Shine Bible Std 6:00 Worship	4 5:30 PEW Sisters	5 Jean Vacation Office Closed Pastor & Blaine's Family Day	6
7 Blaine Vacation 8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study 10:00 Worship	8 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists 7:30-11:30 Preschool Summer Camp	9 6:30 MIA Bible Study 8:00 Trustees	10 1:00 Son Shine Bible Std 6:00 Worship	11 Ted Clintsman Funeral Visitation: 10:30-12:00 Service: 12:00 Luncheon: to follow Pastor & Blaine's Family Day	12 Office Closed @ Noon Ted Clintsman Funeral Visitation: 10:30-12:00 Service: 12:00 Luncheon: to follow Pastor & Blaine's Family Day	13 Office Closed @ Noon Ted Clintsman Funeral Visitation: 10:30-12:00 Service: 12:00 Luncheon: to follow Pastor & Blaine's Family Day	14 8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship
15 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists	16 6:30 MIA Bible Study	17 1:00 Son Shine Bible Std 6:00 Worship	18 5:30 PEW Sisters	19 Office Closed @ Noon	20 Office Closed @ Noon	21 8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	
22 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists	23 6:30 MIA Bible Study 12:30 The Gathering (touring Monk Gardens)	24 1:00 Son Shine Bible Std 6:00 Worship	25 MARKINGS DEADLINE	26 Office Closed @ Noon Pastor & Blaine's Family Day	27 Office Closed @ Noon	28 8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	
29 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists	30 6:30 MIA Bible Study	1 1:00 Son Shine Bible Std 6:00 Worship	2 Jean Vacation	3 Office Closed	4 Office Closed	5 Office Closed	6 Summer Office Hours M-Th: 8:00 - 5:00 Fri: 8:00 - 12:00 June 5-August 28

June 2026 - Volunteer Calendar

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	READER	MULTIMEDIA	COMMUNION	USHERS/ ACOLYTE
June 3	6:00 PM	Henry Jennejohn	Pastor	Zach Sargent	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
June 7	8:00 am	Nan Schultz	Pastor	Nich Schoch	Kathy Sparks, Janet Herring Wafers: Pastor, Mike Tatman	Group 4
	10:00 am	Fricke Family	Pastor	Michael Deedon	Rita Woller, Rachel Olson Wafers: Pastor, John Woller	Group 3
June 10	6:00 PM	Henry Jennejohn	Pastor	Pastor	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
June 14	8:00 am	Tom & Judy Mueller	Judy Mueller	Nick Schoch	Tom & Judy Mueller Wafers: Pastor, Mike Tatman	Group 4
	10:30 am	Adam Menebroeker	Rachel Olson	Michael Deedon	Rita Woller, Rachel Olson Wafers: Pastor, John Woller	Group 3
June 17	6:00 PM	Henry Jennejohn	Pastor	Brandon & Kyle Uttech	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
June 21	8:00 am	Linda & Tom Jagodinski	Joan Crisman	Blaine Welch	Joan Crisman & Linda Jagodinski Wafers: Pastor, Tom Jagodinski	Group 4
		Hauan Family	Rachel Olson	Tyler Woller	Rich Klein, Rachel Olson Wafers: Pastor, Rich Klein	Group 3
June 24	6:00 PM	Henry Jennejohn	Pastor	Nick Schoch	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
June 28	8:00 am	Kim Christensen	Kathy Sparks	Jacob Emon	Bob & Kim Christensen Wafers: Pastor, Mike Tatman	Group 4
	10:30 am	Jan Mann	Rachel Olson	Michael Deedon	Rich Klein, Rachel Olson Wafers: Pastor, Lee Belmas	Group 3

ALTAR GUILD: Mary Schultz, Sue Berndt

- Ushers:** Group 1: Ken Berndt- Lead, Kevin Schroeder, Todd Hass, Michael Dee Group 5: Warren Jacobi - Lead, Sharon Jacobi, Bruce Thurs, Jae Loiz
- Group 2: Tyler Woller - Lead, Roger Block, Brad Peck, Jim Wilkerson Group 6: Rich Klein - Lead, Herb Ninnemann, Chris Grosskreutz, Adam Wurz
- Group 3: John Woller - Lead, Rita Woller, Jonathan Fricke, Dale Vande Boom Group 9: Henry Jennejohn - Lead, Scott Werner, Mike Henrichs
- Group 4: DeWayne Graf - Lead, Bob Christensen, Todd Krause, Gary Krause