

The MARKINGS

Hello St. Mark's family,

Well, this has been quite a summer! I was gone for a lot of it, but thankfully, we not only have a talented Emeritus Pastor, but we now have a talented Associate Pastor as well. Pastor Joe was ordained in the ministry and installed at St. Mark's on July 12th of this year, and he and his lovely wife, Alyssa, are a blessing to our congregation! I look forward to seeing how they are going to grow into this family of God at St. Mark's and how God will work through them in our local community. On top of adding another pastor, we achieved the financial goal we set for ourselves concerning our Built In Love campaign for the church expansion and remodel. We reached 20% down, equaling \$650,000 of 3.25 million, raised by the generosity, dedication, and support of this congregation. Some of us may have thought it would go faster, and some of us maybe thought it wouldn't happen at all. I will tell you someone who wasn't surprised...God. His timing and His will are perfect, and we simply do our best to align with Him.

Throughout this year, our talented Church Expansion Committee has been putting in precious time towards our overall building project. Be sure to thank Tom Radenz for leading this group, as he has made life incredibly easier for everyone by directing the group as they work hand in hand with Boson Construction. Tom has voiced that he is very happy with how things are proceeding in terms of timing so if Tom is happy, then I am happy. Shovels will go into the ground on August 30th in between our Sunday worship services. What a special and historical moment that will be for St. Mark's! The overall project is projected to be wrapped up sometime around April, and we know and trust the work that Boson Construction will continue to do. They have been a pleasure to work with.

So, for all the blessings we are experiencing and the many things to celebrate, I will also circle us back to a humbling verse in Scripture from King Solomon Proverbs 16:9 says "*The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.*" This is simply King Solomon saying that God's will...will always be done. Our congregation and all of its leaders and volunteers will continue to make plans, set goals, and work into the future. Some things will work out the way we hope they will and other things will not. If we keep things simple and singular, then we will always best align with God's will being done. So, what does it mean to keep things simple and singular? St. Mark's, and any church that exists, does so for the sake of making disciples. A disciple is a follower of God who grows in faith and experience throughout their lives, as they seek to love the Lord God with all their heart and love their neighbors as themselves.

Everything we are and everything we do is geared toward these simple parting instructions from Jesus. We strengthen the saved within our congregation to go out into the world and reach the lost, one sheep at a time, and all of the flock play a part in this. Our pastors, our ministry team, our preschool staff, our leaders, our Elders, our volunteers, our building, and everyone in it are united behind this simple and singular purpose. May God continue to bless us as we go about His business.

September 2026
Volume 56, Issue 9

Markings Sponsor

Mike & Jayne Waksmonski
in celebration of their
25th wedding anniversary.
Also, in memory of Elna &
Ben Moser and Arlette and
Frank Waksmonski.

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- Pastor Elna -



St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool

"News and Highlights"



A NEW SCHOOL YEAR: The preschool staff has been busy preparing for the new school year. The carpets have been cleaned, the tiled floors are shiny, and the classrooms are set up and ready. We are excited to welcome our students for their first days of preschool on September 2nd and 3rd!



SCHOOL THEME: Our school theme for this year is: "Jesus Gives Me Strength" and will be incorporated into our weekly Chapel services and special activities throughout the school year.

UPCOMING DATES FOR PRESCHOOL FAMILIES:

- Parent Orientation Meeting: Tuesday, September 1 – 6:30 p.m.
- First Days of School & Parent Coffee: Wednesday, September 2 & Thursday, September 3
- First Day of Before & After School Care: Friday, September 4



ENROLLMENT: As of August 20th, 56 students are enrolled:

- 2-day class: 16 students
- 2-day class: 11 students
- *3-day class: 12 students (*17 total with 5-day students)
- 4-day 4K class: 17 students
- Before and After School Care: 15 students will use our Before and After School Childcare program throughout the week.

STAFFING: We are now fully staffed for the 2025-2026 school year.

- Deb Cornelius returns as the Lead Teacher in our 2-day and 3-day classes. Michelle Berens and Hannah Arneson will split time as the Teaching Assistants in those classes.
- I will be the Lead Teacher in our 4-day 4K class with Jodi Schreier as the Teaching Assistant.
- We were not able to find a 5-day lead teacher for the students who were registered for the 5-day class. However, an alternate plan was created for these students. They will attend Deb Cornelius' 3-day class on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Hannah Arneson has stepped up to lead a second session of a 2-day class on Tuesdays and Thursdays so those students will attend her class on Tuesdays and Thursdays I am SO THANKFUL that Hannah has offered to lead this other class! She is an amazing teacher and will do a wonderful job! Rebecca Kropp and Carrie Milkowski will split time as the Teaching Assistants in this class.
- We are excited to welcome Melodie Witter Barker as our new afternoon Lead Childcare Teacher!
- Carla Tautges will again do all of our cleaning for us.

PLAYGROUND MOVE: With the upcoming building expansion project, the preschool playground has a new location outside the northwest corner of the Fellowship Hall. The fence and playground equipment was moved on August 26th and 27th, and we sincerely thank everyone who helped in any way!

THANK YOU: We are very grateful and thankful to the Trustees for their continued work in helping us prepare for the school year with little odds and ends jobs and especially the playground move. We are so blessed to have a group of willing, skilled, and dedicated men who help in so many ways!



PRESCHOOL PRAYER WARRIOR: Will YOU be a “Preschool Prayer Warrior” this year? It’s easy! All you need to do is pray for one of our precious preschoolers throughout the school year. Yes, that’s it! Whether it’s a 30-second prayer or a few quiet minutes, your prayers will make a difference! These early years are crucial for building faith, their true identity as a child of God, and a sense of love and security. Names can be found on the table in the gathering area starting Sunday, September 6th. Feel free to take a name and lift up that precious preschool child to our Lord throughout the year. Together, we can raise a generation rooted in love and faith – one prayer at a time.

We are ready to begin the school year, and as always, we thank the congregation for its continued support!

Mrs. Cathy Page, Preschool Director

715-848-5511, ext. 5

cpage@stmarkslcms.org

The Gathering-Card Making

Please join us on **Tuesday, September 22nd at 12:30 pm** in the fellowship hall for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. Kathy Sparks will demonstrate several paper crafting techniques; including embossing, die cutting, stamping and layering decorative paper. You will have the opportunity to make a Christmas card, getting a head start on your Christmas cards. A free will offering will be available to offset the cost of the project.

In addition to card making, we will have time for conversation and cards. Please bring a snack to share. All are welcome!

Knot now....



This month’s focus in the quilting process is trying. Quilt batting is layered in between a patchwork quilt top and the back. The quilt is laid out on tables & we line up these layers. Yarn is sewn through all the layers, tied in knots and trimmed. We mostly tie 2 sizes of quilts, and between 12-18 quilts weekly.

The quilt tying crew includes Nancy Cloutier, Jean Cork, Joan Crisman, Kim Grosskreutz, Sarah Hill, Kathy Kern, Gail Krieg, Judy Mueller, Joyce Nelson, Kappy Molling, Lynn Schroeder, Bev Sturm, Kathy Weise, and Rita Woller. Thank you to this dedicated crew!

The full quilting group commences on September 1st.

Quilts are a much-needed item. Come join in this fulfilling mission. We’ll meet from 9:00-11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, call Joan Crisman at 715-573-9801.

SERMON SERIES – “Personal Space” ~ September 13 – November 1



God our Father, His Son, and the Holy Spirit that proceeds from them both are at their core an absolutely personal God. Our God who creates space, and literally occupies all of it all the time, can also be found occupying the space of an Ark, a Tabernacle, and even a baby. Our God is everywhere at once but yet can be born of a virgin. This *Personal Space* sermon series is meant to show the immensity of God existing beyond space and time, while also showing how God personally comes to us in

occupied space and time. This sermon series will walk us through Genesis to Revelation, culminating on All Saints Day/Reformation Day falling on Sunday, 11/1/2026. We all have an idea of personal space in our own lives, but with God, there is no personal space. God personally gave all He could for us so that we could desire Him as an up close and personal Lord in our lives. We hope you enjoy this series!

THE MONTH AT A GLANCE			
FINANCIALS			
July 2026			
RECEIPTS	July	Year to Date	YTD Budget
ENVELOPE/PLATE	\$ 53,488.83	\$ 374,540.26	\$ 399,309.97
BUDGETED MISSIONS	\$ 7,294.00	\$ 54,007.00	\$ 51,477.40
SPECIAL GIFTS	\$ 56,809.69	\$ 559,346.19	\$ 70.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 276.46	\$ 2,597.80	\$ -
OTHER	\$ 749.47	\$ 8,847.47	\$ 4,433.35
OUTREACH	\$ 260.00	\$ 3,595.00	\$ -
PRESCHOOL TUITION	\$ 389.18	\$ 121,339.56	\$ 116,666.65
ROOM USE	\$ 400.00	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 3,033.35
TOTAL	\$ 119,667.63	\$ 1,129,523.28	\$ 574,990.72
DISBURSED			
COMPENSATION	\$ 44,913.52	\$ 330,999.04	\$ 345,419.41
BENEFIT INSURANCE - Employees	\$ 12,105.07	\$ 88,712.19	\$ 74,322.36
LAY EXPENSES	\$ 5,481.60	\$ 19,758.22	\$ 10,674.95
EVANGELISM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
STEWARDSHIP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 175.00
EDUCATION EXPENSES	\$ 1,774.10	\$ 10,627.48	\$ 9,275.05
PRESCHOOL	\$ 505.98	\$ 6,301.02	\$ 6,125.00
CHRISTIAN CONCERNS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FELLOWSHIP EXPENSES	\$ 8,242.89	\$ 10,354.42	\$ 2,333.35
WORSHIP EXPENSES	\$ 1,365.46	\$ 9,447.13	\$ 8,166.65
YOUTH	\$ -	\$ 1,141.94	\$ 2,450.00
PROPERTIES Misc.	\$ 821.61	\$ 24,127.26	\$ 21,991.60
Fuel & Electric	\$ 2,134.09	\$ 18,956.60	\$ 14,291.70
Sanitation	\$ 263.30	\$ 2,262.47	\$ 2,041.65
Snow Plowing	\$ -	\$ 34,962.50	\$ 9,916.65
Insurance - Wkrs Comp/Property	\$ -	\$ 14,321.68	\$ 10,500.00
Sewer & Water	\$ -	\$ 2,346.45	\$ 2,916.65
Church Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,916.65
MISSIONS	\$ 4,244.00	\$ 48,990.52	\$ 51,477.35
SPECIAL GIFTS - OUT	\$ (1,053.68)	\$ 197,729.15	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 80,797.94	\$ 821,038.07	\$ 574,994.02
DIFFERENCE	\$ 38,869.69	\$ 308,485.21	\$ (3.30)
KDH 08/10/26			

St. Mark's Women's Ministry Event



Women of St. Mark's, you are invited to join our first **Meet Me at the Well** event at St. Mark's taking place on **Monday, September 21**, from **7:00 PM to 8:30 PM** starting in the **Narthex**. Our Bible study this year will feature Lisa Harper's "*Lyrics of Life*" focusing on the Psalms for comfort, small group fellowship, prayer, and community service work for the "Emmett Strong" project.

These Monday events are an opportunity for the women of St. Mark's to grow closer to God, fellowship with one another, and participate in community service events. If you have any questions, please call Kristen @ 715-966-4172. We hope to see you there.

Future Dates: Monday, October 19th and Monday, November 16th. All day event: Saturday, March 13, 2027



Don't Let Grief Have the Last Word

Grief reshapes how you see yourself, the world, and your future. While loss can feel overwhelming, understanding grief is the first step toward finding a way forward. This series is for anyone touched by loss, whether recent or long ago. Together, we'll explore strategies for coping with daily life, discovering inner strength, and finding renewed purpose and resilience. Your life may not be the same, but it can still be meaningful and full of hope.

In-person: Tuesdays, September 22 and 29, and Oct. 6, 13, and 20, from 3:30–4:30 p.m. at The Landing.

Virtual: Thursdays, September 24 and October 1, 8, 15, and 22, from 6:00–7:00 p.m. CST via Zoom.

St. Mark's Bucket Challenge



The St. Mark's Bucket Challenge is a dual fundraiser that benefits the building of a well for clean drinking water in Ghana and the St. Mark's High School Youth Program.

Every day in Ghana, families carry 3-5 gallons of water from a well up to five miles to their home. This is their total daily water supply for drinking, bathing, cooking, and everything else. One well supplies 5,000 people with water per day.

On Sunday, September 13 at 11:30am, high school youth will carry three gallons of water on a .2-mile loop around the St. Mark's parking lot. Five laps equal one mile.

The people of St. Mark's are asked to pledge for a number of laps. The youth, and all others who want to join, will set out to complete the total number of laps pledged as a group. The funds raised will be split 50/50 between building a well in Ghana and benefiting the High School Youth Program.

This is an incredible way for our youth to learn what it's like to carry a daily water supply in other countries, as well as truly earn money for their youth program. Members of St. Mark's are encouraged to cheer on the youth and even help them out by taking a lap! Please take a pledge form from the table in the narthex, complete it, and return it with your pledge amount to the church box in the narthex or to the office. Thank you for supporting these two outstanding ministries!

The Hagar House

The Hagar House 2026 5K Color Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, September 19th, at Doepke Park beginning at 9 AM. Run/Walk through the beautiful streets of Rib Mountain. This event will help raise money to support The Hagar House and its mission to help free single mothers from cycles of crisis through a Christ-centered community. The event is kid & stroller friendly so bring out the entire family to enjoy and support a great cause, but please leave your furry friends at home. Registration will be open until midnight on September 18th; if registering on or after September 3rd, a T-shirt may not be guaranteed. Please register early and reserve your appropriate T-shirt size. Volunteers are also needed for this event. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Fromm at 715-409-8879.

POLKA SERVICE ~ Sunday, October 11 @ 10:30am.

Put on your dancing shoes and join us for a joyful Polka Service!

Come enjoy lively polka music, uplifting worship, and fellowship with friends and family. It will be a fun-filled celebration for all ages!

Everyone is welcome! Bring your family, invite a friend, and come celebrate with us!

Afterwards, come and enjoy a delicious (free-will) chicken dinner in the Fellowship Hall. If you want to help decorate tables, serve or cleanup. Get in touch with Dan Page at 715-921-0404.



Come Sing with Us!

Do you love to sing? We invite you to join the Celebration Choir!

No audition is required—just bring your voice, your enthusiasm, and a heart ready to worship. Whether you've sung in a choir for years or are trying it for the first time, there is a place for you.

**Rehearsal: Thursday, Sept. 24
6:00-6:30pm in the sanctuary**

Come be part of a welcoming group that shares the joy of music, fellowship, and worship. We'd love to have you sing with us.

Contact: Dan Page at 715-921-0404



Son-Shine Bible Study

In our September studies, we will continue to focus on the various names of God in both the Old and New Testaments. Praying the Names of God by Ann Spangler has helped us to experience God in fresh ways by learning about the biblical and cultural context. In addition, these various names have given us insights into God's all-encompassing character and how He has provided for us. Our weekly studies will include:

- September 2 – 'Prince of Peace' Isaiah 9:
- 6 and Hebrews 13:20-21
- September 9 – 'I Am' Exodus 3:13-14 and John 8:50-59
- September 16 – 'Bread of Life' John 6:25-27, 48-58

We meet on Wednesday afternoons, 1:00-2:30 in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us.

Phase II & III of our Built in Love Campaign

I want to start out by saying a great big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Built in Love campaign during *Phase I*. I also want to thank all the people on the Built in Love leadership team that volunteered their time and talents to work behind the scenes in marketing and promotion. We purposely backed off promoting Built in Love for the months of July and August after *Phase I* was achieved. That is no small feat to raise over a half million dollars in less than a half years' time, but now our intention is to move into *Phase II & III* of the Built in Love campaign. *Phase II* will start Rally Day, 9/13/2026, going forward, and this will have a different vibe to it since the building process will be started.

Phase I had a deadline and an intentional sense of urgency for money to be raised that would set the building project in motion. Now that everything has fallen into place for dollars raised, loan approved, and building details set we get to go from a sprint to a more intentional pace for fundraising and raising pledges. *Phase II* is simply one more financial benchmark we are shooting for that was initially set to raise 1 million dollars by Thanksgiving. With *Phase I* being delayed, this sets back our *Phase II* dates as well, and we are now hoping to raise 1 million dollars by the end of January. We are hopeful with end of the year contributions from Required Minimum Distributions and other charitable giving to hit this benchmark that will lead into *Phase III* and generating pledges.

Pledges allow all of us to look down the road into what we are capable and willing to give over a period of time to pay off whatever debt we end up with. Typically, pledges are committed for a three-to-five-year range. Once the expansion and remodel are done and we have the final debt incurred, that will give us an accurate idea of cash flow for operations. Based off the history of St. Mark's and the potential we have within our congregation, I am fully confident that we will continue to surprise ourselves with how the debt is taken care of.

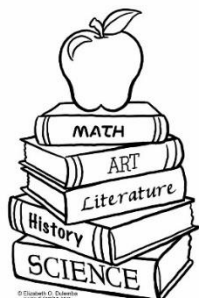
If everyone simply asks the question of what they are capable of and willing to pledge and fulfill, then many hands will make light work. Also, simply seeing the project progress along, and the excitement that comes with that, will unite our vision all the more to see how well this new and remodeled space is going to be filled. For all the blessings God continues to shower upon this congregation, we can humbly hope and pray that God will continue to work through us in the same way He always has.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

600 Stevens Drive
Wausau, WI 54401-2977
715-848-5511

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We are on the Web!

<http://stmarkswausau.org/>

October MARKINGS Deadline

The deadline to submit articles and announcements for the October edition of the MARKINGS will be **September 23rd at 10am**. Thank you!



OFFICE CLOSED
Friday, Sept 4th
and
Monday, Sept 7th

Save the Date ~ Saturday, October 10, 2026

North & South Wisconsin Districts

Lutheran Hour Ministries Joint Convention

Held at Rib Mountain Lutheran Church in Wausau

Theme: "Faith Formation in the Household"

Keynote speaker Rev. German Novelli,
LHM Director, Hispanic Ministries.

Doors open at 7:30 am ~ \$20 per person
(including lunch)

Attention LWML Sisters!

Our regular September meeting will be held on the 8th at 1pm. Business for December & future NEEDS to be planned. All input is necessary.

See you there with all your ideas 😊

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	August 31	1	2	3	4 Jean Vacation	5
Cable Channel 980 Worship Times: Tuesday: 11:00 am Wednesday: 6:00 pm Thursday: 7:00 am	8:00 OCT 11:30 Noon Optimists	6:30 MIA Bible Study 9:00 Quilting Preschool Parent Orientation 6:30 pm	9:00 1st day of Preschool 1:00 Son Shine Bible Std 6:00 Worship	9:00 1st day of Preschool 5:00 PEW Sisters	Pastors' & Blaine's Family Day OFFICE CLOSED	
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11 Jean Vacation	12
8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	OFFICE CLOSED ~ No Preschool ~	6:30 MIA Bible Study 8:00 Trustees 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Ladies Guild	1:00 Son Shine Bible Std 6:00 Worship	11:00 OCT Luncheon in Fellowship Hall	Pastors' & Blaine's Family Day Office Closed at Noon	
13 Rally Day	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study 9:15 Youth Programs / Parent Orientation 10:30 Worship ~ Bucket Challenge ~	8:00 OCT 11:30 Noon Optimists 7:00 Band of Brothers at St. Mark's	6:30 MIA Bible Study 9:00 Quilting	1:00 Son Shine Bible Std 6:00 Worship 6:45 Midweek / Conf. / HS Youth starts	9:00 Adult Bible Study 5:00 PEW Sisters	Pastors' & Blaine's Family Day	Peck / Rode Wedding
20	21	22	23 Markings Deadline	24	25 Jean Vacation	26
8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study / Youth Programs 10:30 Worship	8:00 OCT 11:30 Noon Optimists 5:30 Governance Mtg 7:00 Meet Me at the Well Women's Ministry	6:30 MIA Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 12:30 The Gathering	1:00 Son Shine Bible Std 6:00 Worship 6:45 Midweek / Conf. / HS Youth	9:00 Adult Bible Study 6:00 Celebration Choir	Pastors' & Blaine's Family Day OFFICE CLOSED ~ No Preschool ~	
27	28	29	30	NOTE: The church calendar changes frequently. For the current version, please refer to the calendar on the website (www.stmarkswausau.org) under the About Us tab.		
8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study / Youth Programs 10:30 Worship	8:00 OCT Fall Pastor Conference in Greenville, WI (Pastor Eric & Pastor Joe attending)	6:30 MIA Bible Study 9:00 Quilting	1:00 Son Shine Bible Std 6:00 Worship 6:45 Midweek / Conf. / HS Youth			

September 2026 - Volunteer Calendar

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	READERS	MULTIMEDIA	COMMUNION	USHERS
September 2	6:00 pm	Henry Jennejohn	Pastor	Alex Jones	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
September 6	8 am	Jill Hauan	Pastor	Alex Jones	Linda & Tom Jagodinski Wafers: Pastor, Ken Berndt	Group 4
	10:30 am	Dar & Deb Kufahl	Pastor	Nick Schoch	Rachel Olson, Rich Klein Wafers: Pastor, Michael Tatman	Group 3
September 9	6 pm	Henry Jennejohn	Pastor	Zach Sargent	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
September 13	8 am	JR & Bethany Pulham	Katelyn Pulham	Alex Jones	Amy Smet, Pam Fromm Wafers: Pastors	Group 4
	10:30 am	Nan Schultz	Kathy Sparks	Anklam Family	Rita Woller, Rachel Olson Wafers: Pastors	Group 3
September 16	6 pm	Henry Jennejohn	Pastor	Brandon & Kyle Uttech	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
September 20	8 am	Ken & Sue Berndt	Joan Crisman	Jacob Emon	Joan Crisman, Pam Fromm Wafers: Pastors	Group 4
	10:30 am	Fricke Family	Rachel Olson	Tyler Woller	Rita Woller, Rachel Olson Wafers: Pastors	Group 3
September 23	6 pm	Henry Jennejohn	Pastor	Alex Jones	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9
September 27	8 am	Pam Fromm	Bryon Gleisner	Jacob Emon	Kathy Sparks, Pam Fromm Wafers: Pastors	Group 4
	10:30 am	Adam Menebroeker	Rachel Olson	Anklam Family	Rita Woller, Rachel Olson Wafers: Pastors	Group 3
September 30	6 pm	Henry Jennejohn	Pastor	Zach Sargent	Scott Werner Wafers: Pastor	Group 9

ALTAR GUILD: Sue Berndt & Mary Schultz

USHERS:

Group 3 - John Woller - Lead, Dale Vande Boom, Jonathan Fricke

Group 4 - DeWayne Graf - Lead, Rose Graf, Bob Christensen, Todd Krause, Gary Krause

Group 9 - Henry Jennejohn - Lead, Scott Werner, Mike Henrichs