



600 Stevens Drive • Wausau, WI 54401 • 715-848-5511
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September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

RINGING OF THE BELLS ~ WELCOME and GREETING

OPENING HYMN: "Holy, Holy, Holy" (LSB 507)

INVOCATION

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"Where Two or Three are Gathered"

~ soloist, Bob Waterman ~

OLD TESTAMENT: Ezekiel 33:7-9

"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE: Romans 13:1-10

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ!

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

SERMON HYMN: *"In Christ Alone"*

SERMON

PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY OF GOD

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.**)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Those of you who will not be communing are welcome to come up and receive a blessing by crossing your arms.

(The cups with white juice are for those who have requested them.

Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Just as I Am, without One Plea" (LSB 570)

"Where Charity and Love Prevail" (LSB 845 VS 1-5)

BLESSING and BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: *"God Bless Our Native Land" (LSB 965)*

DISMISSAL

BOUQUET

Today's bouquet was given by Bob & Mary Schultz for their 44th wedding anniversary.

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, Ava Downing, Lana Wilkinson, Carla Grulkowski, Sandy Flanagan, Lizzy Marciniak, Evelyn Mielke, sister in law to Carol Leopold, Judy Young, Jessie Myers, Marliss Fritz, Carol Leopold, Emily Ramthun, Jamesetta, daughter of Pastor Kollie, who is in need of a transplant, daughter-in-law of Ruby Phillips who had a stroke, Grace Kobs, Donna Schroeder, who is in hospice, Bob Moritz, who is struggling with pain, Jamie Krautkramer, niece of Jim & Paulene Sala, Jean Larson, aunt to Gwen Loiz, who has medical issues.

Battling Cancer: Brenda Barttelt, sister of Carla Haebig, Lee Seis, brother-in-law of Henry Jennejohn, Bill Kobs, Aissen Witter, Mike Ferry, brother of Scott, Jody Krieg, Rhonda Payne, Jean Majewski, niece of Sandy Cotey, son of Ruby Phillips who is battling cancer.

Military Service - SSGT Jacob Lang, deployed with the U.S. Marine Corp., PFC Ty Crisman who is base in Poland.

Grieving: family of Kenny Artus, brother of Mary Schultz.

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!

***The next New Member classes will be Oct.1, 8, 15 ~ 5:30pm -8:00pm
~ Please contact the office to sign up. ~***

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!

Son-Shine Bible Study

Our group continues this week with Praying the Names of God, with a study of 'I Am'. Our focus and discussion will include the good shepherd, light of the world, the true vine, as well as others reflected in John's Gospel of Jesus referring to himself as "I am". We meet on Wednesday afternoon, 1:00-2:30 in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us.



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 November 16th and Saturday all day event: March 13, 2027

September 6 - 13, 2026

Sun, September 6	8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship
Mon, September 7	OFFICE CLOSED – LABOR DAY
Tues, September 8	6:30 MIA Bible study 8:00 Trustees 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Ladies Guild
Wed, September 9	1:00 Son Shine Bible study 6:00 Worship
Thurs, September 10	11:30 OGT Luncheon (Note time! Markings calendar listed incorrect time)
Fri, September 11	Office Closed at Noon Pastors' & Blaine's Family Day
Sat, September 12	-----
Sun, September 13	RALLY DAY 8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study / Youth Programs / parent orientation 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bucket Challenge

CELEBRATION SUMMER

Summer was truly a time of celebration at St. Mark's, by the grace of God. Remember the three main events: Pastor Eric celebrating 10 years in the pastoral ministry, welcoming Pastor Joe and Alyssa to St. Mark's, and breaking ground for our building expansion. As your congregational president, I wish to personally thank each and every one of you for your part in making these events so meaningful and successful.

St. Mark's has been truly blessed, and we will continue to keep our focus on the cross and the empty tomb, remembering what Jesus has done to win for us the gift of salvation and eternal life. As our congregation moves forward, let us remember our mission: **"Reach the Lost and Strengthen the Saved."**

~Leon B. Woller



Blessing of the Backpacks

St. Mark's Youth - Please bring your backpacks to worship on Rally Day (September 13th) to be blessed in preparation for the upcoming school year. You'll also receive a special gift! The blessing will be done during the children's message at both services.

Mission Corner: Hearts in Action

Connecting Our Church to Outreach Opportunities

Check out Mission Corner—a dedicated space in our narthex highlighting the outreach efforts and opportunities that connect our church family with our broader community and the world.

Changes in the Works

We are transitioning to electronic distribution of *The Markings* by 2027. We understand that some members prefer to receive a printed copy, and we are happy to accommodate those requests. If you would like to continue receiving a paper copy, please email Jean at jdrake@stmarkslcms.org.

**If you have already contacted the office regarding your preference, you do not need to call again **

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!

High School Youth Fundraiser

for youth events and well drilling in Ghana.

**September 13
at 11:30am**

All St. Mark's members are encouraged to sponsor some laps and come out to watch!

Sponsor forms will be in the narthex beginning August 23.

Young Adults
Men & Women | Ages: 18 - mid 30's

UPCOMING EVENTS



SEPTEMBER BIBLE STUDY

Hot Topics: Relationships Part 1 of 2

📍 St. Mark's

🕒 5:30pm-6:30pm



HAGAR HOUSE COLOR RUN

Volunteering

- See the GroupMe for more info

📍 Doepke Park

🕒 ~8:15am-12pm



S'MORE JESUS

Faith, Fire, and Fellowship

📍 Nine Mile County Park

🕒 5:30-9pm

Join the GroupMe for details on each event, updates, to connect with others, and to RSVP to any event!



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