St Mark's Lutheran Church and Preschool

Reaching the Lost and Strengthening the Saved.

600 Stevens Drive • Wausau, WI 54401 • 715-848-5511
www.stmarkswausau.org

November 22, 2026
Sermon Series: Firstfruits

RINGING OF THE BELLS ~ WELCOME TO WORSHIP ~ GREETING

OPENING SONG: *"Even So Come"*

INVOCATION

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, God's Word reminds us that every good and perfect gift comes from above, from our heavenly Father. Yet we often turn away from His goodness and follow the desires of our own hearts.

Let us confess our sins before God.

(A moment of silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P Heavenly Father,

C We confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. We have given in to temptation and followed the desires of our sinful hearts. We blame others. We make excuses. We have grown impatient in times of trial and have doubted your goodness and love. Forgive us and create in us clean hearts led by the Holy Spirit to walk in newness of life given through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P Every good and perfect gift comes from above, who does not change. In His great mercy, He has brought us forth by the Word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. Therefore upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 2:1-9

The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the LORD, "I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest. All who ate of it incurred guilt; disaster came upon them, declares the LORD."

Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the clans of the house of Israel. Thus says the LORD: "What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless? They did not say, 'Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt,

who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that none passes through, where no man dwells?' And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, 'Where is the LORD?' Those who handle the law did not know me; the shepherds transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit.

"Therefore I still contend with you, declares the LORD, and with your children's children I will contend.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE: James 1:16-18

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 21st chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

SERMON SONG: "*Revelation Song*"

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 SONGS

"For All the Saints"

"Goodness Of God"

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: *"Waiting Here For You"*

DISMISSAL

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!

"Helping Hands" Group



Our church has a long-standing tradition of coming together to help those in need, and time and again, our congregation has shown how willing they are to lend a helping hand.

With today's technology, we would like to make it easier to connect those willing to help with the needs as they arise. If you would like to be included in an email and/or text group to receive notifications when help is needed, please contact Jean in the church office.

This will help us communicate more easily, coordinate our efforts, and make sure we can continue caring for one another when the need arises. Thank you for being part of a congregation with such generous and caring hearts!



Mark your calendars! We'll be decorating the church for Christmas on Tuesday, December 1st, at 3:30 pm. After we finish, we'll gather for a light meal of pizza. Your help will make the job much easier and more enjoyable for everyone. We can't wait to celebrate the season together!

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, Bob Moritz, who is struggling with pain, Jamie Krautkramer, niece of Jim & Paulene Sala, Helen Prochnow for hip replacement recovery, Sharon Shackleton, Helen Prochnow's sister, for health improvement, Kevin Prochnow, recovery for stomach surgery, Melissa Shewmake who is recovery from ankle surgery, Mike Kraft, brother of Kevin Kraft, recovery from a bike accident, Ruth Tritten, Adam Menebroeker for upcoming surgery, Cindy Komonosky, daughter of Judy Young, who is having surgery, Pastor Gary for recovery from surgery.

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, Linda Jablonski, Dave Ramthun, Maxine Frahm, sister of Rose Graf, Tom Woehlert, Chris Hartson, twin sister of Cathy Page.

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

Grieving: for the family and friends of Donna Schroeder.



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who offered their support, kindness, and compassion during this difficult time. Whether you helped with funeral arrangements, served, offered a helping hand, attended the service, or simply kept us in your thoughts and prayers, your generosity and thoughtfulness have meant more than words can express.

We would also like to sincerely thank both Pastor Joe and Pastor Eric for their visits with Mom, their support, and the lovely service. All of this was deeply appreciated.

~ The Family of Lorraine Wilde

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

stmarkswausau.org

or scan this code for our ministry catalog

St. Mark's Scoop

November 22 – December 1, 2026

Sun, Nov 22	8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study **NO** Youth Programs / Nursery 10:30 Worship
Mon, Nov 23	8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists **~ Pastor Eric on vacation until 11/24 ~** **~ Blaine vacation in afternoon ~**
Tues, Nov 24	6:30 MIA **~ Pastor Joe on vacation until 11/29 ~** **~ Blaine on vacation ~**
Wed, Nov 25	6:00 Festive Thanksgiving Eve Worship **OFFICE CLOSED**
Thurs, Nov 26	**OFFICE CLOSED** **11:00 – 1:00 Free Thanksgiving Dinner**
Fri, Nov 27	**Pastors' & Blaine's Family Day** **OFFICE CLOSED**
Sat, Nov 28	----------
Sun, Nov 29	**Advent starts** 8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study / Youth Programs 10:30 Worship
Mon, Nov 30	8:00 OGT 6:00 Dartball
Tues, Dec 1	6:30 MIA 3:30 Christmas decorating



From the Sewing Room

Thank you to all who came to make back packs and shorts again this fall. What a great group of workers! It is amazing to see how many useful items can be made from the constant supply of donated materials. We completed a lot and had fun doing it!

Quilting will start up in January and continue in February and March. All the work done in preparation gives us a big head start when we resume and is greatly appreciated! We are blessed to have this wonderful community of workers, who share their talents making items that benefit so many while spreading the love Jesus.



Call Dan Page at 715-921-0404 with questions about Community Thanksgiving dinner.

Call Nan Zastrow at 715.845.4159 with questions about Wings event.



Son-Shine Bible Study

As we enter the season of Advent, we will begin a four-session video Bible study:

The Marvel and Miracle of Advent by Christine Caine & Lisa Harper

We'll discover that Advent is not only a season for waiting and preparation, but it's also a season of action to share the hope of Jesus with everyone.

- December 2 – The Longing in the Silence
- December 9 – The Practice of Hopeful Waiting
- December 16 – Emmanuel: God With All of Us
- January 6 – This Is Just the Beginning

We will meet on Wednesday afternoons, 1:00-2:30 in the Sanctuary (note the location change due to the start of Advent suppers in the Fellowship Hall). You are welcome to join us as we **Recapture the Wonder of Jesus Living With Us.** Books will be available.

Mission Corner: Hearts in Action

Connecting Our Church to Outreach Opportunities

Mission of the Month:

Bridge Street Mission is located in Wausau. They center on equipping individuals who struggle with homelessness, addictions, hunger, and sustaining a stable life so they can become healthy contributors to society. **Bridge Street Mission** exists to meet people in crisis and move them toward success through the power of the Gospel. The facility located at 325 N 1st Avenue includes the Community Shelter, the Outreach Center, the Men's and Women's Recovery Center.

OUTREACH CENTER NEEDS: Please place items in the baskets in the Narthex

- Saltine crackers
- Lemonade, Kool Aid, Iced Tea Mix
- Tomato and V8 Juice
- Stocks or Broths (chicken, beef, vegetable)
- Dried Legumes (peas, beans, lentils)
- Canned Beans (black beans, chili beans, kidney beans)
- Any type of canned tomatoes
- Canned Soups (cream of mushroom, cream of chicken, cream of celery, tomato)

Thanksgiving Meal Ticket: Please return this ticket with payment to the offering plate or office.

Thanksgiving Meal Ticket

With caring compassion from: $_____

_____

_____

_____

To provide meals and Christian encouragement for people in need during this Thanksgiving season. If you receive more than needed for food, please use my gift for shelter, clothing and other care.



Important Dates to Remember

Nov. 25-27 – Church office closed

Dec. 1 – Christmas decorating starting at 3:30 pm

Dec. 2, 9, 16 – Advent suppers at 4:30 pm

Dec. 11 – Young Adult Ministry Christmas Party

Dec. 16 & 17 – Preschool Christmas Celebration at 10:45 am

The Gathering Christmas Celebration

Join us for a festive time of food, fellowship, and Christmas fun on **Tuesday, December 8th at 12:30** in the Fellowship Hall. We'll enjoy a delicious luncheon featuring Cousins Subs, complete with sides and a beverage. A donation of $7.00 is requested to help cover the cost of the meal.

We'll also share the joy of giving by filling Christmas socks to share with the families of our **St. Mark's Community Children's Giving Tree!** Please bring:

- One pair of Christmas socks (child or adult size)
- One bag of treats, such as candy canes, chocolate kisses, or other individually wrapped goodies, small toys, stickers, etc.

Together, we'll **fill the socks with Christmas cheer** for children in our community!

And to add a little more holiday fun, we'll be making **seed pinecone bird feeders** to take home and hang outdoors for the birds to enjoy.

Come ready for good food, great fellowship, and a little Christmas creativity! We look forward to celebrating the season with you. **Everyone is welcome!**

Hagar House 2026 Annual Fundraiser Banquet @ Hilton Garden Inn

151401 County Rd NN Wausau

Thursday, December 3rd

- Theme: Make Room
- Doors open at 5:30 PM / Event begins at 6:30 PM
- Cost: $80 per person
- Tickets available by calling 715-298-9994

If you are attending the banquet and would like to sit at a table with other members from St. Mark's, please provide your name to Pam Fromm @ 715-409-8879.

Pastor Eric Hauan / Senior Pastor: Ext 101 ~ Pehauan@stmarkslcms.org

Pastor Joe Bender / Associate Pastor: Ext 106 ~ Pjbender@stmarkslcms.org

Blaine Welch / Dir. of Ministry Operations: Ext 102 ~ bwelch@stmarkslcms.org

Jean Drake / Administrative Assistant: Ext 100 ~ jdrake@stmarkslcms.org

Kurt Haebig / Financial Manager: Ext 104 ~ khaebig@stmarkslcms.org

Cathy Page / Preschool Director: Ext. 105 ~ cpage@stmarkslcms.org

Dan Page / Worship Coordinator: 715-921-0404 ~ danpage671@yahoo.com

Matt Rhyner / Praise Band Coordinator: 715-551-0975 ~ matthew.rhyner@gmail.com