The MARKINGS



December 2026
Volume 56, Issue 12

Markings Sponsor
Anonymous donor
In honor of Christ's birth.

Embrace the Holiday Spirit

November 29: Inspired By Micah – Advent Begins



December 6: Preschool sings
December 13: Advent Hymn Sing
December 16 & 17: Preschool Christmas Service 10:45am
December 20: Christmas Music Festival
December 23: No Worship
December 24: Christmas Eve
10:30 am Contemporary Christmas
1:00 pm Contemporary Christmas
3:00 pm Christmas Carol Service / Candlelight
5:00 pm Christmas Carol Service / Candlelight
December 25: Christmas Day ~ 9:00am Festival Communion Service
December 30: No Worship
December 31: No Worship
January 1: No Worship

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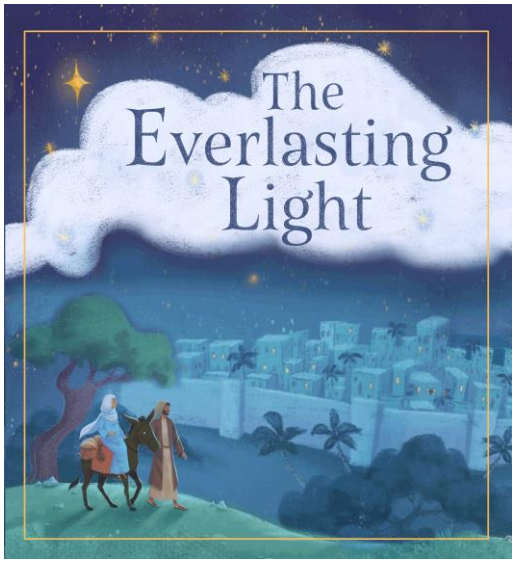
Midweek Advent Series
"The Everlasting Light"
December 2, 9, 16
3:30 pm Traditional
4:30 pm Advent Supper
6:00 pm Contemporary



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

NOVEMBER RECAP: The month of November was definitely a busy one! We had Picture Day (special thanks to Mandy Rae Photograhpy), celebrated Veteran's Day, went to Chapel, had vision screening (special thanks to the Lion's Club), colored placemats for the St. Mark's Thanksgiving Community Dinner, and enjoyed unique Thanksgiving Feasts in each of our classrooms. We learned the Bible story of The Ten Lepers, and it helped remind us to always be thankful!

VETERAN'S DAY PRESENTATION: At our last Preschool Staff Meeting, what started out as a simple discussion turned into a wonderful Veteran's Day Presentation! Our very own Carrie Milkowski (known to our students as Ms. M) is a retired 20-year Army Veteran. She told about her Army experience, brought her uniforms to show, and shared a slideshow of pictures. The 4K students led the Pledge of Allegiance, and all of the students practiced proper etiquette during the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner", said a special prayer for the Veterans, and sang "The Lord's Army". It was a wonderful time to show the Veterans in attendance our appreciation to them. We plan on doing this again next year!

WHAT'S COMING UP: The month of December brings much excitement and anticipation for our young learners. As Christmas decorations are hung and Christmas carols are sung, we are especially excited to teach our preschoolers about the most important reason to celebrate Christmas – the birth of Jesus, our Savior!

SINGING IN CHURCH: Our Preschool students will be singing in church on Sunday, December 6th at the 10:30 a.m. service. That morning, we will also be recognizing Mrs. Michelle Berens for 5 years of service and Mrs. Deb Cornelius (Mrs. C) for 35 years of service at St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool!

SHOEBOX MISSION PROJECT: We collected 20 shoeboxes here at St. Mark's. We pray that these boxes filled with special toys, school supplies, and hygiene items will be a blessing to those who receive them. Thank you to everyone who participated!

ADVENT SUPPER: The Preschool will be hosting the Advent Supper on Wednesday, December 16. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a tasty taco boat, delicious desserts, and fellowship with others. We hope to see you there!

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Our Preschool Christmas Services will take place on Wednesday, December 16 and Thursday, December 17 at 10:45 a.m. in the church. The students will share songs and fingerplays about the birth of Jesus. Everyone is welcome to join us!

"FLEXIBILITY IS KEY!" This is our new motto, and we are being as flexible as possible with everything happening with the construction project. Our students are enjoying watching the workers and big construction vehicles as they work outside our classrooms! We are very excited to see things progressing so quickly!

As always, we thank the congregation for its continued support of our preschool, and we wish you all a blessed Christmas!

Mrs. Cathy Page, Preschool Director
715-848-5511, ext. 5
cpage@stmarkslcms.org



Thanksgiving Dinner ~ Thank You!

We wish to say "thank you" to everyone who donated food and time to serve others in our congregation and community. It was greatly appreciated! Over 200 people were served. Reach the lost and strengthen the saved! ~ Dan & Cathy Page



Beginning December 1st

Beginning December 1st
Each evening, read 1 chapter of
The Book of Luke in the Bible.
There are 24 chapters.
On Christmas Eve, you will have
read the whole account of
Jesus's life and wake up on
Christmas Morning knowing
Who and Why we
Celebrate Christmas.



2027 Flower Chart

The 2027 Flower Chart is now posted in the narthex! Sign up to reserve a Sunday to honor a loved one, celebrate an event, or mark a special occasion. Jean will order flowers from Evolutions in Design (they will send the bill directly to your home), and your bouquet will be displayed at the altar that Sunday and Wednesday. You may take the flowers home after Wednesday's service—just return the green holder to the church. Contact Jean with any questions.

Extra Parking Available

We are grateful to our neighbor, Dovorany Orthodontics, for allowing us to use their parking lots on Sundays during our service times! We encourage those who are able-bodied to take advantage of these parking spaces, which are outlined in red.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Eric or Blaine Welch. Thank you for your cooperation!



2027 Portals of Prayer & Our Daily Bread Devotionals

Our daily devotional booklets provide Scripture, encouragement, and a few quiet moments with our Lord. These booklets will continue to be available **FREE to all members and visitors**.

For 2027, we are again seeking individuals or families to sponsor one quarterly payment of $150 toward the annual cost of $600. Sponsors may give in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special occasion, or simply in thanksgiving for God's blessings. Sponsors will be recognized in The Markings.

To arrange a sponsorship, please contact Jean Drake in the church office. Questions may be directed to Dan Page, Worship Coordinator.

Thank you for helping continue this meaningful ministry!

2027 Offering Envelopes

The envelopes will be set out for pick up in about three (3) weeks. Those who are signed up for electronic giving will not be receiving envelopes. However, we will provide specialty envelopes (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Lent, Advent, etc.) if you request them. Please call the office and talk to Jean if you would like these envelopes. As a reminder to our newest members, envelopes must be requested from the church office.

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!**

Christmas Giving Tree
St. Mark's Community Children's Clothing and Toy Gift Event



Help make Christmas a little brighter for children in our community! Our Christmas Giving Tree will be in the Narthex beginning December 6. Choose an envelope with a child's age, clothing sizes and needs, and favorite toys or games, as shared by their parent or guardian. You're welcome to team up with others to purchase gifts for families with multiple children.

Wrapping paper, tape and gift tags will be available under the tree**. Please wrap your gifts and return them to St. Mark's by Thursday, December 17.** Families will pick up their gifts on Sunday, December 20, from noon to 2 p.m. Have questions or know a family who could benefit? Please contact Kim Christensen at 715-574-6759 or Lisa Peck at 715-581-3521.

Thank you for sharing the joy of Christmas and the love of Christ with our neighbors!

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.

THE MONTH AT A GLANCE			
FINANCIALS			
October 2026			
RECEIPTS	October	Year to Date	YTD Budget
ENVELOPE/PLATE	$ 56,023.72	$ 550,049.49	$ 570,442.84
BUDGETED MISSIONS	$ 7,640.00	$ 77,940.00	$ 73,539.16
SPECIAL GIFTS	$ 10,115.45	$ 607,763.72	$ 100.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	$ 276.51	$ 3,387.23	$ -
OTHER	$ 362.10	$ 10,764.66	$ 6,333.34
OUTREACH	$ 660.00	$ 5,075.00	$ -
PRESCHOOL TUITION	$ 15,664.59	$ 171,389.52	$ 166,666.66
ROOM USE	$ -	$ 5,950.00	$ 4,333.34
TOTAL	$ 90,742.37	$ 1,432,319.62	$ 821,415.34
DISBURSED			
COMPENSATION	$ 53,237.02	$ 484,109.95	$ 472,113.51
BENEFIT INSURANCE - Employees	$ 15,411.65	$ 136,494.04	$ 127,517.65
LAY EXPENSES	$ 1,361.99	$ 22,393.81	$ 15,249.98
EVANGELISM	$ -	$ -	$ -
STEWARDSHIP	$ 1,027.00	$ 1,027.00	$ 250.00
EDUCATION EXPENSES	$ 471.10	$ 11,707.34	$ 13,250.02
PRESCHOOL	$ 1,411.81	$ 10,009.17	$ 8,750.00
CHRISTIAN CONCERNS	$ -	$ -	$ -
FELLOWSHIP EXPENSES	$ 135.00	$ 2,538.24	$ 3,333.34
WORSHIP EXPENSES	$ 1,144.05	$ 10,404.68	$ 11,666.66
YOUTH	$ 182.82	$ 1,467.88	$ 3,500.00
PROPERTIES Misc.	$ 1,130.52	$ 32,515.82	$ 31,416.64
Fuel & Electric	$ 1,851.93	$ 25,159.99	$ 20,416.68
Sanitation	$ 284.30	$ 3,077.57	$ 2,916.66
Snow Plowing	$ -	$ 34,962.50	$ 14,166.66
Insurance - Wkrs Comp/Property	$ (1,097.86)	$ 16,526.82	$ 15,000.00
Sewer & Water	$ -	$ 3,451.97	$ 4,166.66
Church Equipment	$ 50,722.08	$ 53,822.08	$ 4,166.66
MISSIONS	$ 1,756.00	$ 70,377.53	$ 73,539.14
SPECIAL GIFTS - OUT	$ 6,596.56	$ 220,410.13	$ -
Non Budgeted Marketing	$ -	$ 2,387.00	$ -
Non Budgeted Events	$ -	$ 8,332.57	$ -
TOTAL	$ 135,625.97	$ 1,151,176.09	$ 821,420.26
DIFFERENCE	$ (44,883.60)	$ 281,143.53	$ (4.92)

KDH 11/09/2026

Join the Celebration Choir for Christmas

It's that wonderful time of the year again! Whether you are a seasoned singer or simply love to make a joyful noise, everyone is welcome to join us. **Rehearsals are Thursday, December 3rd, 10th & 17th in the sanctuary from 6:00-6:30pm.** We will sing on Sunday, December 20th at the Christmas Musical Festival. Come share your voice, spirit and joy this Christmas season. For more information, contact Dan Page, Choral Director, at 715-921-0404. (call or text)

Women of St. Mark's Meet Me at the Well Update!



Thank you to the many women who joined us for the November event. We were reminded in our Bible study around Psalm 23 of the importance of rest in our lives. When we rest, we mend, when we rest, we grow and when we rest, space is created for wisdom to emerge. It was a good reminder of how God calls us to rest and abide in him so that we can follow the plans that He has for us. There was also a wonderful craft where ladies got to explore their artistic side.

We will NOT be meeting in December but will start 2027 with several events.

- Registration for the March 13th all day event will be open during the first part of January.
- The planning committee for Meet Me at the Well Saturday will be meeting on Monday, January 4th from 6:30-7:30 to continue our plans for the Saturday event.
- On Monday, January 18th, we will be continuing our study of the Psalms. The organization that we will be supporting that month is "Sleep in Heavenly Peace". We will be taking a collection that will include monetary donations, new twin-sized sheet sets, comforters, bed-in-a-bag and new pillows.
- Meet Me at the Well will be sponsoring the Lenten Supper on February 17th. The meal will be homemade macaroni and cheese and smoked barbeque pork. All proceeds will go towards our Meet Me the Well Saturday event to help with the cost of hosting.

Just like the woman at the well encountered Jesus and found new life, *Meet Me at the Well* is an invitation for women to come together, learn more about Jesus, help our community and find strength in one another. If you have any questions, please call Kristen @ 715-966-4172. We hope to see you there. Friends are always welcome to come along.

Future dates:

-February 1st: planning committee 6:30-7:30
-February 15th: Monday Meet Me at the Well 7:00-8:30
-February 17th: Lenten Supper
-March 1st: planning committee 6:30-7:30
-March 13th: 4th Annual Meet Me at the Well Saturday, 8:00-3:30 pm

Mission Corner: Hearts in Action
Connecting Our Church to Outreach Opportunities

This December, we invite you to put your faith into action by supporting two special outreach opportunities that share the love of Christ with others.

1. **St. Mark's Community Children's Clothing and Toy Gift Event** – the "Christmas Giving Tree"
2. **Advent Dinners – Giving With a Purpose**
   Join us for our Advent Dinners throughout December. Each dinner will feature a special ministry or outreach opportunity that will benefit from the free-will offerings collected. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.
   December 2 - Fellowship Ministry ~ Hope for Aids Orphanage in Jinga, Uganda
   December 9 - Men In Action Bible Study ~ Local Families in Need
   December 16 - Preschool ~ Help **St. Mark's Preschool** purchase new chairs

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.

The Everlasting Light

This year's midweek Advent theme is based on Isaiah 60 and employs Phillips Brooks's cherished hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem". Isaiah famously promises that "the glory of the Lord should be revealed". In chapter 60, this glory explodes with radiant color. Divine glory rises upon Zion, who is addressed as a woman throughout chapter 60. She is quite the lady to behold! Brooks's masterpiece beautifully describes Bethlehem a December night. The hymn moves back-and-forth from a description of Christmas to the meaning of Christmas. It ends with the prayer, "O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!" When you connect Isaiah 60 to "O Little Town of Bethlehem", what happens? A wonderful weaving together of biblical hope and Christianity hymnody!

Advent 2026 ~ Sundays Nov.29-Dec.20

"Inspired Advent with Micah" is a theme and sermon series that centers on finding deep, scriptural hope during the Advent season by looking through the eyes of the Old Testament prophet Micah.

Though Micah wrote during a bleak time of corruption and spiritual exhaustion, his words offer an incredible "wake-up call" filled with God's grace and long-term promises.

Key Advent Themes from the Book of Micah

Week 1: HERE COMES GOD! (Hope)
Micah1:2-3; Micah 2

Week 2: SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES (Peace)
Micah 4:1-4

Week 3: THE SMALL MADE GREAT (Joy)
Micah 5:2-5a

Week 4: THE FAITHFUL SHEPHERD (Love)
Micah 5:4-5; Micah 6

Come and prepare your hearts as we apply these teachings to our lives. Read ahead in the book of Micah. See you in church. Invite someone to join you.

~ Dan Page, Worship Coordinator

December 2026 - Volunteer Calendar

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	READER	MULTIMEDIA	COMMUNION	USHERS/ACOLYTE
December 2	3:30 pm	Pam Fromm	Pastor	Blaine Welch	No Communion	No Ushers
Advent	6:00 pm	Lee & Fran Belmas	Pastor	Nick Schoch	No Communion	Group 9
December 6	8:00 am	Ted & Mary Johnson	Kathy Sparks	Nick Schoch	No Communion	Group 4
Preschool Sings	10:30 am	Preschool Teachers	Cathy Page	Michael Deedon	No Communion	Group 3 Lucas Hickman
December 9	3:30 pm	Audrey Wilde	Pastor	Blaine Welch	No Communion	No Ushers
Advent	6:00 pm	Henry Jennejohn	Pastor	Zach Sargent	No Communion	Group 9
December 13	8:00 am	Jill Tranetzke	Bryon Gleisner	Jacob Emon	Kathy Sparks & Sue Berndt Wafers: Pastors	Group 5 Hazel Hauan
	10:30 am	Rod, Janet, & Ryan Werner	Rich Klein	Tyler Woller	Rich Klein, Rita Woller Wafers: Pastors	Group 6 Maverick Lawrence
December 16	3:30 pm	Ted & Mary Johnson	Pastor	Blaine Welch	No Communion	No Ushers
Advent	6:00 pm	Adam Menebroeker	Pastor	Brandon & Kyle Uttech	No Communion	Group 9
December 20	8:00 am	Lee & Fran Belmas	Pastor	Nick Schoch	No Communion	Group 1 No Acolyte
Music Fest	10:30 am	Jan Mann	Rachel Olson	Michael Deedon	No Communion	Group 2 No Acolyte
December 23	No worship					
December 24 Christmas Eve	10:30 am		Pastor	Blaine Welch	No Communion	Groups 2 & 4
	1:00 pm	Darwin & Deb Kufahl	Pastor	Nick Schoch	No Communion	Groups 5 & 6
	3:00 pm	Lee & Fran Belmas	Pastor	Jacob Emon	No Communion	Groups 1 & 3
	5:00 pm	Jill Hauan	Pastor		No Communion	Group 9
December 25 Christmas Day	9:00 am		Pastor	Derek Emon	Rita Woller Wafers: Pastor & John Woller	Volunteers
December 27	8:00 am	Kurt & Carla Haebig	Pastor	Jacob Emon	Sue Berndt, Wafers: Pastor, Ken B.	Volunteers No Acolyte
	10:30 am	Fricke Family	Rachel Olson		Rachel Olson, Rita Woller Wafers: Pastor	Volunteers No Acolyte
December 30	No worship					

ALTAR GUILD: Lisa Peck & Joy Schilling

USHERS: All Groups

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 **Jean vacation**	5
Cable Channel 980 **Worship Times:** Tuesday: 11:00 am Wednesday: 6:00 pm Thursday: 7:00 am	**Advent Suppers** 2nd – Fellowship – Sloppy Joes 9th – MIA – Spaghetti 16th – Preschool - Tacos	6:30 MIA Bible Study 3:30 Christmas Decorating	3:30 Worship - Trad 4:30 Advent Supper 6:00 Worship – Cont. 6:45 Midweek / HS Youth / Confirmation	9:00 NW Dist Church Worker Gathering 5:00 PEW Sisters 5:30 YA Bible Study 6:00 Choir rehearsal	**Pastors' & Blaine's Family Day** **OFFICE CLOSED** Donna Schroeder Funeral 9:00-11:00: Visitation 11:00 Funeral	1:00 Grief presentation by Wings
6	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**
8:00 Worship 9:15 Youth Programs / Bible Study 10:30 Worship* *Preschool singing ~HS Cinnamon Roll Sale~	8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists	6:30 MIA Bible Study 8:00 Trustees 12:30 The Gathering Christmas Party	3:30 Worship - Trad 4:30 Advent Supper 6:00 Worship – Cont. 6:45 Midweek / HS Youth / Confirmation	6:00 Choir rehearsal	**Pastors' & Blaine's Family Day** 5:30 Young Adult Christmas Gathering	
13	**14**	**15**	**16 Jean Vacation at Noon**	**17**	**18 Jean vacation**	**19**
8:00 Worship 9:15 Youth Programs / Bible Study 10:30 Worship	8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists 6:00 Dartball 7:00 Band of Brothers	6:30 MIA Bible Study	10:45 Preschool Christmas Service 3:30 Worship - Trad 4:30 Advent Supper 6:00 Worship – Cont. 6:45 Midweek / HS Youth / Confirmation	10:45 Preschool Christmas Service 6:00 Choir rehearsal	**Pastors' & Blaine's Family Day** **OFFICE CLOSED** **Preschool Christmas Vacation until Jan. 3**	
20	**21 Blaine vacation**	**22 Blaine vacation**	**23 Blaine vacation**	**24 Christmas Eve**	**25 Christmas Day**	**26**
~Christmas Festival~ 8:00 Worship 9:15 Youth Programs / Bible Study 10:30 Worship	8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists 5:30 Governance Mtg	6:30 MIA Bible Study	**Jean Vacation** **No Worship** **NO** Youth Programs	**OFFICE CLOSED** 10:30 Contemporary 1:00 Contemporary 3:00 Traditional 5:00 Traditional	**OFFICE CLOSED** **ONE** Traditional service at **9 am**	
27	**28 Blaine vacation**	**29 Blaine vacation**	**30 Blaine vacation**	**31**	**January 1**	**January 2**
8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study **No Youth Programs or Nursery** 10:30 Worship	8:00 OGT 6:00 Dartball **P. Eric on vacation until Jan 6**	6:30 MIA Bible Study	**Jean vacation at noon** **No Worship** **NO** Youth Programs	**OFFICE CLOSED**	**OFFICE CLOSED**	

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.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
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Find us on Facebook!

We are on the Web!
http://stmarkswausau.org/

January MARKINGS Deadline

The deadline to submit articles and announcements for the January edition of the MARKINGS will be **December 22nd at 10am.** Thank you!

A Friendly Reminder: If you would like to continue receiving *The Markings* in paper form, please contact Jean at 715-848-5511 ext. 1 or **jdrake@stmarkslcms.org.** If you have already shared your preference, thank you! There is no need to contact us again.

OFFICIAL ACTS

Passed
Lorraine Wilde (passed 10/30/2026)
Jack Pettit (passed 11/4/26)
Donna Schroeder (passed 11/15/2026)



The church office will be closed the following days:
December 24th & 25th
December 31st
January 1st

