

February Newsletter

February 2024

The small church with a BIG heart.



Important Dates

Worship Service at Church and On-line

Worship Service Sundays - 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th @ 10 am

Bible Study Tuesdays - 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th @ 9:30 am

Quilting Tuesdays - 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th @ 10:00 am

Church Council Meeting Monday - February 19th @ 7:00 pm

Newsletter Deadline Monday - February 20th @ 11:30 am

Food Shelf - Tuesdays - 6th - 8:00 - 9:30 am,
13th, 20th, 27th - 4:30-6 pm

WELCA Wednesday February 7th @ 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesday - 7th @ 11:00 am

Church School - Wednesday - 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Confirmation - Wednesday - 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Soup Supper Wednesdays - starting - February 14th 6:00 - 6:45 pm

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday - February 14th 7:00 pm

Lenten Services - Wednesday - February 21st, 28th, March 6th, 13th, 20th

Prayer Requests

Thao Thao & her family (Aunt of Nou Moua), Wayne Trapp, May Wallof, Audrey McKeag, Brenda Larson (friend of Jill Ballard), Elaine Orvold (Lisa Molitor's mom), Bill Richer, Mardell Sande & Richard Doffing (grandparents of Adam & Ashley Schiller), and Nicole Mies Anderson.

Please keep all our seniors in your prayers, especially:

Robert & Margaret Hayes, Carolyn Horsch, Sharon Kappedahl, Arlene Ringeisen, Leatrice Taylor and Wayne Weidner

Those who have lost loved ones recently.

When requested, we will be keeping loved ones on the prayer request list for a month.

If you would like them to stay on longer please let Dixie know.

You can contact Dixie at stmarksrandolph@gmail.com or leave a message at (507) 263-9182.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	2
Lent Information	3
Church Information	3
Church School	5
Bible Study & WELCA	6
Community Events	7
Church Contact Info	8



Pastor's Message

Dear St. Mark's,

I am going to try something different this year for my section of the monthly newsletter. Usually, I write about something timely, seasonally, or an update from the church. This year, I've decided to use a theme to organize the monthly newsletter. If you read this year's annual report, I wrote about all of the wonderful gifts, projects, and news from this past year at St. Mark's. I invited us to consider how else God is calling us—A Small Church with a Big Heart—to be Big this year. So, for my section of the newsletter this year, I wanted to focus on this idea of Big and how this shows up in the Bible and for us today.

When we think of “big” in the Bible, my first thought went to the big fish that swallowed Jonah. You probably know this story well. Jonah is actively running away from God. God says go this way, and Jonah goes the opposite way, buying a ticket on a ship going to a different town. He's caught in a sea storm, and when he realizes that this storm will jeopardize the lives of the other passengers, he tells them to throw him overboard. Instead of sinking to the bottom of the sea, God sends a big fish to swallow Jonah up, where he stays in its belly for three days and three nights. Jonah finally calls out to God and agrees to do God's bidding, only to be angered later on by God's compassion for the people of Ninevah. In his frustration, he says to God that he knew God would not hurt the people of Ninevah, which was why he chose to disobey God's command in the first place, saying, “I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.”

Jonah's story is often a story used to teach about God's compassion. We see this throughout the story—God's compassion for the people of Ninevah, the people on the ship, and especially for Jonah. If God is going to send a fish to protect you (sometimes to protect you from yourself!) and to let you know God loves you, he's sending a big fish. Sometimes that fish comes in the form of a friend or a comforting feeling. Sometimes it's in the form of a streak of sunlight that comes through the window in the morning, a reminder that you are not alone, and that God loves you—*a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.*

And Jonah's story is also about calling you, as reluctant as we may be, to share God's compassion with others. Maybe *you* are Jonah or even that big fish for someone else. Maybe God wants you to reach out to that friend you've been telling yourself you're going to text, or finally make those dinner plans with your parent or child you've been meaning to do these past few weeks. Maybe it's a new coworker, a new student, a new neighbor, or even that person who sits two pews ahead of you on Sundays.

I also wrote in the annual report that big does not mean better or more, but instead it can mean bold, courageous, or generous. I'm excited to share other Big stories from the Bible this year to help us think about how we can be and do bold, courageous, or generous together!

God bless you now and always,
Pastor Lue

Church Information



Ash Wednesday

Our Ash Wednesday service will be on
Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 pm.

There will be soup supper from 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm.

Wednesday Soup Suppers

Wednesdays - February 14th, 21st, 28th, March 6th, 13th, 20th

6:00 pm - 6:45 pm

Soup sign-up will be on the table in the narthex or

Email Dixie at stmarksrandolph@gmail.com



Church Information Continued

Annual Meeting

St. Mark's Lutheran Church had the annual meeting on
January 28, 2024 after the worship service.

The potluck lunch was plentiful and delicious.

The fellowship was even better!

Thank you to everyone who attended and brought food!

St. Mark's Church Council for 2024

President	Al Bester
Vice President	Dan Kuhn
Secretary	Keri Lorenzen
Treasurer	Christine Otte
Financial Secretary	Dixie Schaffer
Deacons	Lucinda Preston Kelly Tate Stephanie Krueger
Trustees	Eric Otte Luke Dubbles Robert Nivala
Superintendents	Christine Sachs Shelby Kuhn

Thank you to Orin Legare for serving as Trustee for the past 3 years!

2023 Annual Giving Statements

The Annual Giving Statement have gone out.

If you have any questions or haven't received your statement,

please contact Dixie at the church email

stmarksrandolph@gmail.com

or leave a message at (507) 263-9182

Church School Information

Church School Calendar

Grades 1st-6th grade - Wednesday Evenings 6pm-7:00 pm

February 14th Soup Supper from 6pm to 6:45 pm then

Ash Wednesday Service starting at 7:00 pm

During the Lenten Season starting February 21st

Wednesday Evenings 6pm-6:45 pm

Lent will be starting February 14th with Ash Wednesday. We will NOT be holding church school on that night so that families can come and enjoy soup supper together before the church service at 7 pm. During Lent we will be having a shorter church school night 6-6:45 to allow time for transition between church school and the lent service at 7 pm. It is a shorter turn around and parents are welcome to stay and hang out or enjoy soup supper. Soup suppers are held every Wednesday during Lent from 6-6:45, we will be having church school at this time and will not be feeding the kids supper.

Thank you to the parents and older siblings that have been able to help with the classrooms. We appreciate your help. It makes it easier to play games and make art projects when we have extra adult hands! If you are able to help we greatly appreciate it.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4EA5A922A5FDO-44471350-stmarks>

Confirmation Calendar

Confirmation Wednesday Evenings 7 pm-8:00 pm

February 14th Soup Supper from 6pm to 6:45 pm then

During the Lenten Season starting February 14th

They will be attending the Lenten Services

Wednesday Evenings 7 pm-7:30 pm

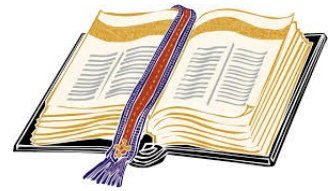
Bible Study Opportunities

Morning Adult Bible Studies

Bible study on Tuesdays starts at 9:30 am.

The 1st Wednesday Bible Study starts at 11:00 am

Please join us.



WELCA Info

- **Next WELCA**-February 7, 2024 @ 10:00 am
- **Meeting** is in the Green Room at Church
- **Quilt Winner** was Sara Otto
- **Ol' Country Bazaar:** The 2023 Bazaar made \$4,124. Thank you to everyone that attended and helped make it a success.
- **Mercy** - WELCA is sponsoring another school year for Mercy. You can see her last letter and picture on the church bulletin board. We will be sending her the completed quilt soon. If you would like to write to Mercy, please give the letter to Dixie and she will email it to the Simba contact person to get it to her.



St. Mark's WELCA Presents

2024 Women's Workshop & Retreat "Understanding Your Grief"

Free attendance - bring a friend – all are welcome!

Saturday, April 6th - 9 am to early afternoon

Lunch, beverages & snacks provided by WELCA.

Free book (& workbook) "I Wasn't Read to Say Goodbye"
provided to you as a gift with attendance.

So we can order materials for the workshop

Please RSVP by March 25th to
stmarksrandolph@gmail.com or
(507) 263-9182 and leave a message.

Area women are welcome!

Questions, please call Dorry Wallof @ 612-309-2066 or email: dorry@midco.net

Community Events

Community Food Shelf

Here at Saint Mark's Lutheran, we try our best to serve our neighbors. One of the many ways we help is by providing food to our local communities. Saint Mark's Lutheran would like to thank you for your generosity in supporting our food shelf.

If you know anyone that could benefit from receiving some extra food please let them know we're here to help.

1st Tuesday- 8:00 am - 9:30 am
2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesdays -
4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Cash donations are used to buy healthy perishable food items.

College Student Food Shelf Invite

The Food Shelf is inviting any College Student to come and get some supplies from the food shelf. We want to help with your expenses during these years. Please come when the Food Shelf is open or at 9 am before Church on Sunday or contact Beth Bester at (651) 246-9301.

Men's clothing & Warm clothing

We are collecting men's new or slightly used clothing for the Valley View Recovery Center in Cannon Falls.

We are also collecting warm outer layers for any age. Please place your clean clothing and coats in the collection box located in the Church hallway by the coat hangers.



1 Wheelchair Available

If you are in need of a wheelchair, for a day, a week, a month, or six months, we have 1 wheelchairs at church that you can borrow. Check with Dixie on availability.

If you know of any events that we should add to Community Events, please contact Dixie at stmarkschurch@northfieldwvfi.com or call (507) 263-9182 before the Newsletter deadline which is the 3rd Tuesday of the month by 11:30 am.

God's Valentine

For God so lo **V** ed the world
 that He g **A** ve
 His on **L** y
 begott **E** n
 So **N**
 tha **T** whoever
 believes **I** n Him
 should **N** ot parish
 but have **E** ternal life

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

PO Box 206,
28595 Randolph Blvd.
Randolph, MN 55065
(507) 263-9182

Sunday Worship
10:00 am
And Live on Facebook

The Small Church
with a Big Heart



We're on the Web
& Facebook

Giving Options

You can send your offering
through the mail at
PO Box 206 Randolph
or
download the **Vanco Mobile**
app on your mobile phone
search **st marks randolph mn**
or
click the **GIVE** button on our
website.

Saint Mark's Lutheran Contact & Staff

Pastor	Lue Moua Church: (507) 263-9182 Cell: (651) 500-9890 Email: pastorluemoua@gmail.com
Office Assistant	Dixie Schaffer Cell: (612) 578-8743 Email: dixie.schaffer@gmail.com
Musician	Lisa Molitor Email: lisa.molitor@yahoo.com
President	Al Bester
Vice President	Dan Kuhn
Secretary	Keri Lorenzen
Treasurer	Christine Otte
Financial Secretary	Dixie Schaffer
Deacons	Lucinda Preston Kelly Tate Stephanie Krueger
Trustees	Eric Otte Luke Dubbels Robert Nivala
	Church Email: stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com
	Web Site: www.stmarksrandolph.com
	Facebook: St. Mark's Lutheran Church
	Instagram: stmarksrandolph