St. Mark's Lutheran Church

November Newsletter

The small church with a BIG heart

Important Dates

Worship Service at Church and Online

Worship Service Sundays 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th @ 10:00am
Bible Study Tuesdays 10th, 17th, 24th @ 9:30am
Adult Evening Bible Study Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th @ 6:30pm-7:30pm
Quilting Tuesdays 3rd, 10th, 17th @ 10am
Church Council Meeting Tuesday 10th @ 7:00pm
Food Shelf Tuesdays 3rd 8:00am-9:30am
10th, 17th, 24th @ 4:30pm-6:00pm
WELCA Wednesday 11th @ 10:00am
Newsletter Deadline November 20th @ 10:00am
Confirmation Sunday November 1st @ 10am Worship Service
Ol Country Bazaar November 28th @ 9:00am-2:00pm
Blood Drive November 30th @ 1:00pm-7:00pm

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Prayer Requests

Levi Stein (deployment to Kosovo), Kate Moorhouse(Niece of Marie Otte), Carolyn Horsch, Marc Slinninger, Tami Little(friend of Karen Slininger), Tim Post (Stephanie Krueger's brother), Mary Ohman, Don Otte, Sarah & Jim Otto, Cyndi Christopher(Jill Ballard's Sister), Jerry & Elaine Orvold(Lisa Molitor's Parents).

When requested, we will be keeping loved ones on the prayer request list for a month. If you would like them to stay loonger, please let Shelby know.

Please keep all of our Seniors in your prayers, especially:
Robert & Margret Hayes. Carolyn Horsch, Clarice Krenik, Leatrice Taylor, and Carolyn Weidner.
Pray for those who have lost loved ones recently.

Pastor's Message

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1Thessalonnians 16-18 NRSV)

Gratitude

The faithful people in congregations I have served have been great source of inspiration. I have been blessed over the years as people have opened their hearts and their lives to me. I have been especially blessed when they have shared their journeys with God. One couple in particular comes to mind when I think about gratitude.

In the summer after my first year at seminary, I got a job helping the pastor of a three-point congregation, in Blair, WI. While I was there, I had the privilege of bringing communion to people who were no longer able to come to church. The Olson's (not their real name) were one of the families I visited.

The Olson's lived outside of Blair on a well-kept farm. Mr. and Mrs. Olson were both now in their 80's. When I came to visit, we sat out in a lovely screen in porch overlooking their farmstead. Without asking, they shared with me their story.

They had both come as young children from Norway and grown up in the area. They had met and married. Mr. Olson had first worked as a farm hand, and eventually saved enough to buy a farm. They worked hard and scripted and saved, and eventually had the money to build and barn and purchase some cows. Slowly they were able paid the loan on the farm, the barn and the herd off.

Just as they had finally worked their way out of debt, lightning stuck the barn. The barned down with all the cattle in it. So, they rebuilt and purchased more cows. And again, they worked and saved. Mr. Olson, paused, and then said, "They say lightening never strikes twice in the same place. Well, I can tell you it does!"

A second time lightening struck their barn and took their herd. So, they re-built again. Over the years, their daughter had been diagnosed with cancer and died. As Mr. Olson telling me their story he has two dime sized indentations in his forehead. They are recent. They are there because doctors drilled into his skull as part of the treatment for brain cancer.

Pastor's Message Continued

As I am listening, Mrs. Olson, brought coffee and cookies. She apologizes for being a bit shaky, and explains that she has glaucoma and has lost most of her sight.
I sit there sipping coffee and enjoying Mrs. Olson's cookies tears start to flow down Mr. Olson's checks as he says, "God has been so good!!!" Mrs. Olson nods in agreement.
I cannot help but thinking I was sitting on holy ground.
I cannot help marveling at their sincere faith and gratitude. After all they had been through, one might expect them to be bitter. But they were just the opposite. They were overflowing with gratitude and thanks. God had walked with them throughout their life and God's presence and care regardless of their circumstances evoked nothing but praise.

At the last church council meeting I had brought up the topic of stewardship. It was suggested that it could be a topic for the November Newsletter. I did not start out talking about stewardship because far too often when money is talked about in the church guilt has been used as a way to try to get people to give. My experience has been that guilt never works. It is shameful that it has been used. Generosity should flow naturally. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." It has been my experience that a heart full of gratitude is what frees me from reluctance or any sense of compulsion. For me generosity flows from gratitude.

As we enter this thanksgiving season, I pray that you may be filled with gratitude to God for all ways God has walked with you in our life. I have discovered that gratitude alone is great blessing. If, by grace, it also moves you to be generous, you are doubly blessed.

Pastor Lloyd Menke

Music Notes

One hymn I want to highlight this month is O Savior, Precious Savior. (Text: Frances R. Havergal, Music: Arthur H. Mann) Besides the warm worshipful words, the harmonies are absolutely beautiful! I find the hymn to be both reassuring and comforting. Here is verse 1.

O Savior, precious Savior, whom yet unseen we love,
O name of might and favor, all other names above:
We worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing;
We praise thee and confess thee, our holy Lord and King.
I hope you all can enjoy the comfort and worship of this hymn as well.

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On a different note, I found a beautiful anthem for our "Christmas Choir" which we will be singing again at the 4pm service on Christmas Eve. All are invited and welcome to sing with us. There will be four rehearsals that take place right after the service on Sundays starting on December 6th. We will meet at the front of the sanctuary. I look forward to singing with those who can join us.

Wishing God's blessings to you,
Lisa



Church Information & Updates

Bible Study Opportunities

Morning Adult Bible Studies

Tuesdays starts at 9:30am



Evening Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays 6:30pm-7:30pm

Coffee Fellowship

We will be having fellowship after the worship service on the **1st Sunday of the month.**

Church School & Confirmation Information

Church School & Confirmation Registration

On Line Church School Registration -
https://forms.gle/PTnRPKs9jGyLnsyt5
On Line Confirmation Registration
https://forms.gle/z8cKaHEVmufnv51KA

Important Upcoming Dates

November 30th- 1:00pm-7:00pm
American Red Cross Blood Drive

January10th - Following the 10:00am Worship Service
2nd vote to continue with dissifiliation from the ELCA

January 24th - Following the 10:00am Worship Service
Annual Congregational Meeting

Confirmation Class of 2026



Tenley Otte

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your path."
-Proverbs 3:5-6



Ramsey Krueger
"For, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way. Holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."
-1 Timothy 4:8



Jonathan Tate
"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
-Galatians 6:9



Will Sachs
"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."
-Isaiah 43:19



Gerald Sachs
"We give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers."
- 1 Thessalonians 1:2

ST. MARK'S WOMEN'S

OL' COUNTRY BAZAAR

sponsored by WELCA

Saturday

NOVEMBER

28

2026

9am - 2pm

ST. MARK'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
28595 Randolph Blvd
Randolph, MN 55065
507-263-9182
Facebook: St. Mark's
Randolph MN WELCA

CRAFTS

BAKE SALE

SANTA

--- 11am - 1pm ---

LUNCHEON

--- Chicken Wild Rice Soup ---
--- Sloppy Joes, Hot Dogs ---
--- Cinnamon Rolls, Caramel Rolls ---
--- Chips, Cookies, Beverages ---

FELLOWSHIP

The proceeds of this event goes directly to St. Mark's WELCA for mission work locally and abroad.

Ol' Country Bazaar

Come celebrate the holiday season at the annual Ol' Country Bazaar!

Join us on Saturday, November 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a day filled with unique handmade crafts, delicious baked goods, and tasty treats from the kitchen.

Bring the family and enjoy a special visit from Santa, who will be stopping by to greet children and guests throughout the day.

Interested in being a craft vendor?

We welcome vendors offering handmade crafts and products only. Direct sales businesses and multi-level marketing (MLM) vendors will not be accepted.

Contact Kris Thomsen-DeWall at (507) 301-2110 for vendor information and applications.

WELCA

· Next WELCA-November 11, 2026 @ 10:00 am.

· We have a new WELCA schedule for meetings: we will meet the 2nd Wednesday of the months of April, July, October, November &; December.

· ***Ol' Country Bazaar*** - Saturday, November 28th 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. We hope to see you there.

· *Bake Sale & Craft Sale items:* We are looking for members to participate in helping donate baked items and craft items for the WELCA booth at the bazaar. Food items that go well are cookies, bars, breads, sweet breads, cakes, pies and snack mixes. If you have a favorite recipe, please help us out. You can drop off your goodies on Friday November 27 th from 11 to 2. If the church is open, you can put the items on the check in table.

· *Volunteers* – We will need volunteers for the WELCA booth and also the kitchen. If you would like to volunteer, please send an email to the church email or contact Dixie at 612-578-8743.

· ***Quilts & School Bags*** – We delivered 26 quilts and 30 school bags to the Lutheran World Relief. We will be donating money to pay the cost of shipping the items to where they are needed. Thank you to Colleen for donating all the school items for the bags and the quilters for making all the quilts and school bags.

· ***LCMC*** – Lucinda Preston shared some information about the LCMC Women's group.

Council Minutes

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Secretary's Report

September 15, 2026

Attendees: Dixie Schaffer, Keri Lorenzen, Dan Kuhn, Chicky Otte, Lucinda Preston, Dean Taylor, Tyler Otte, Lindsay Bester, Shelby Kuhn, Rob Nivala

Absent: Luke Dubbles, Christine Sachs, Stephanie Krueger

Building Uses:

- Randolph Football Team for meals before games
- Forged in Faith making meals for their fundraiser

Secretary's Report:

Motion to accept Secretary's report by Lucinda Preston, seconded by Tyler Otte. Motion passed.

Financial Secretary's Report:

Motion to accept the Financial Secretary's report by Chicky Otte, seconded by Lucinda Preston. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by Tyler Otte, seconded by Dixie Schaffer. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor will be on vacation
- Pastor is leading a Bible study
- Confirmation Sunday November 1st

Deacon's Report:

- Deacons will be shadowing Dixie on church decor

Trustee's Report:

- Trustees have been working to keep the wasp nests down

Board of Education Report:

- 20+ kids signed up for church school
- All teachers have volunteered and classes are covered

WELCA Report:

- They've started working on the Bazaar vendors

Feast & Festival:

- Raised just over $50,000 this year

Old Business:

- Columbarium update: we have the building permit
- Rick is getting a quote on a commercial-grade door

New Business:

- Shelby Kuhn will be taking over as the Church Office Assistant
    - Chicky Otte made a motion to accept our new Office Assistant, Lucinda Preston seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Discussion about the voting process for Sunday, September 20th:
    - After church there will be a registration table to get your ballot
    - There will be coffee and treats in the fellowship hall while the votes are counted
    - Bishop Grimm is being consulted on the wording of the ballot
    - Dixie has a list of members who have given contribution of record
    - Bishop Grimm and a council member will count the votes
- There are a few lights in the sanctuary and fellowship hall that need to be looked at
- Congregational Meeting: October 25th

Next meetings: Tuesday, October 13th, 7pm

Motion to adjourn by Tyler Otte, seconded by Lucinda Preston, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Keri Lorenzen

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 6:30 pm

All 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 Email randolphmnfoodshelf@gmail.com
Or contact Beth Bester at (651) 246-9301

Wheelchair Available

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

If you know of any events that we should add to Community Events, please contact Shelby at stmarksrandolph@gmail.com or call (507) 263-9182 before the Newsletter deadline which is the 20th of the month by 11:30 am.

Grief Material

If you are in need of some reading material regarding grief, we have a section in our library for you to borrow. You can check it out when the church is open or call Shelby at 612-986-1908 and she will set up a time that works for you to meet at the church. We have the book "I wasn't ready to say good bye" by Brook Noel & Pamela D. Blair, PHD

If you would like to talk to someone, you can call Pastor Lloyd at 507-248-4231



Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

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

Sunday Worship
10:00 am
& Streaming 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.

Interim Pastor:	Pastor Lloyd Menke
Church:	(507) 263-9182
Cell:	(651) 248-4231
Email:	llmenke@gmail.com
Office Assistant	Shelby Kuhn
Cell:	(612) 986-1908
Email:	shelbykuhn11@gmail.com
Musician	Lisa Molitor
Email:	lisa.molitor@yahoo.com

President	Dan Kuhn
Vice President	Tyler Otte
Secretary	Keri Lorenzen
Treasurer	Christine Otte
Financial Secretary	Dixie Schaffer
Deacons	Stephanie Krueger
	Lindsay Bester
	Lucinda Preston
Trustees	Robert Nivala
	Dean Taylor
	Luke Dubbels

Church Email: stmarksrandolph@gmail.com
Web Site: www.stmarksrandolph.com
Facebook: St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Instagram: stmarksrandolph
WELCA Facebook: St. Mark's Randolph MN WELCA