

October Newsletter

October 2026

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

Adult Evening Bible Study Wednesdays

7th, 21st, 28th @ 6:30-7:30

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

Church Council Meeting Tuesday - 13th @ 7:00 pm

Food Shelf - Tuesdays - 6th - 8:00 - 9:30 am,

13th, 20th, 27th- 4:30-6 pm

WELCA Tuesday October 14th @ 10am

Newsletter Deadline October 20th @ 11:30 am

Annual Congregational Meeting October 25th

Following 10am Worship Service

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Prayer Requests

Levi Stein (deployment t Kosovo), Kate Moorhouse (Niece of Marie Otte), Carolyn Horsch, Marc Slininger, Tami Little (friend of Karen Slininger), Tim Post (Stephanie Kruegers brother), Mary Ohmann, Don Otte, Sarah & Jim Otto, Cyndi Christopher (Jill Ballards 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 on longer please let Dixie know.

Please keep all our seniors in your prayers, especially:

Robert & Margaret Hayes, Carolyn Horsch, Clarice Krenik, Leatrice Taylor, and Carolyn Weidner.

Pray for those who have lost loved ones recently, especially:

Family and friends of Sharon Kappedahl

Pastor's Message

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10 NRSV)

My Way

It starts early. The test of wills that is. I am told I was a handful to toilet train. I can remember having an “argument” with my son when he wasn’t yet able to talk. I was trying to supplement his diet with some different baby foods. He didn’t want them. Instead, he pointed to the toast. I would try to feed him some vegetables. He would shake his head and point to the toast.

This test of wills between parent and child is a common one. There is a scene in the movie, *A River Runs Through It*, that always make me smile. For those of you who haven’t seen it. The movie follows the lives of the Maclean brothers, Paul and Norman from early childhood into their adult years as they live a relatively blissful life in scenic rural Montana. They are sons of a Presbyterian minister. Early on in the movie, Paul who is eight at the time, does not want to eat the oatmeal served to him at breakfast. The family has a tradition of saying “grace” offering a prayer at the end of their meal, before they are excused from the table. His father tells him that they will not say “Grace” until his bowl is clean. Paul doesn’t move. He stares silently straight ahead. The rest of the family leaves. Paul doesn’t move. It is a test of wills. It gets to be 11:45. Paul’s father returns, the family and the family says “grace,” in which the father prays giving thanks for blessing and the gift of forgiveness.

Part of me says, “Yeah, for Paul!” There is something admirable about not giving in to pressure - being your own person. There are times when it is important to hold fast to important values, standing up for the truth, and not capitulate to evil.

But there is also a fine line between determination and stubbornness. There is a point where insisting on your own way is no longer admirable – a place where it becomes rude or even abusive. There is a place where it becomes the opposite of love. Paul in 1Corinthians 13 in describing love says, “...it does not insist on its own way...”

Knowing where that line is in human interactions is nuanced and more art than science. If we are honest, knowing when to stand firm and when to be humble is not always clear. We need help. If that is the case in our human interaction it is also case when it comes to knowing and doing God’s will.

Pastor's Message Continued

God's Way

God's will simply is not always been clear to us. There are times when God's will has been clear, but I have not wanted to do it. Or been I was afraid or lacked the faith to do it. Have you ever found yourself, praying "thy will be done" and meaning "Lord, bless what I want done?" No doubt there have also been times when we have known and lived in full accordance with God's will. If we are honest, knowing and living in accordance with God's will is a struggle for us. We need help.

Which is why I believe Jesus taught his followers to pray, "Thy will be done," in the Lord's Prayer. When we pray "Thy will be done." We are asking God to help us, both to know and to live in accordance with God's will. Asking for God's help also means that we need to take time to listen. Listening for the Holy Spirit's nudging. Listening by mediating on the scriptures. Listening as we participate in the mutual conversation and consolation of the saints.

For Martin Luther, the mutual conversation and consolation of people of faith sharing also a way God speaks to us. Luther argued that solitude should be shunned and companionship sought, especially in spiritual trials. He valued the comfort of a faithful friend as a "great boon and precious treasure" in life's struggles. Even in the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ sought comfort from His disciples; Paul found courage when brethren came to meet him.

Luther believed sharing mutual consolation was a living out of the Gospel in everyday Christian life—offering and receiving forgiveness, truth, and comfort from one another, reflecting the unity and love of the Church. As we seek and listen for God's will we can be confident that the Holy Spirit is at work to nudge, guide, correct, lead, and empower us to grow in our ability to know and live in accordance with it. May God continue to bless our seeking and our listening.

Pastor Lloyd Menke

Music Notes

Our black dog likes to sleep in different places around the house at night. I'm usually not considering this when I walk down the hall after the lights are out. I don't think to shuffle my feet (or better yet, turn on the light!) so I won't trip on the dog! Yet, I inevitably sleepily stumble through the dark and bump or even trip over her on occasion (sorry Luna).

Light is good! A person can see where they are going. Jesus refers to Himself as the Light of the world in John 8:12,

“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’ “ ESV

Another verse that talks about light is Psalm 119:105.

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” ESV

And one more verse that is traditionally said at the confirmation of our youth (Matthew 5:16).

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
ESV

Light is good!

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Hide it under a bushel-no-I'm gonna let it shine...

Won't let satan blow it out-I'm gonna let it shine...

All around my neighborhood-I'm gonna let it shine...

Everywhere I go-I'm gonna let it shine...

May God bless each of you.
Lisa Molitor



Church Information

Bible Study Opportunities

Morning Adult Bible Studies

Bible study on Tuesdays starts at 9:30 am.

Evening Adult Bible Study

Wednesday Evenings 6:30-7:30



Join us Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm at church starting Oct 7th - Nov 18th (no bible study Oct 14) as we study the books 1st and 2nd Thessalonians. Each week we will learn how Paul's words apply to us today; how to remain calm and faithful in times of trouble and joy. You may purchase the book to read the daily devotional or come just on Wed to watch the video and dig into scripture.

Church School And Confirmation Information

Church School & Confirmation Registration

On Line Church School Registration - <https://forms.gle/PTnRPKs9jGyLnsyt5>

On Line Confirmation Registration <https://forms.gle/z8cKaHEVmufnv51KA>

Church School Class started Sunday, September 20th from 9-9:45 am

Confirmation Class started Wednesday, September 23rd @ 6:30 pm

Coffee Fellowship

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

Blessing of the Quilts

On September 13th the congregation blessed quilts made by St. Mark's Quilters. They will be sent to Lutheran World Relief



WELCA Info

- **Next WELCA**-October 14, 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 am to 2 pm. Kris Thomsen has notified the vendors about the Bazaar. If you are interested in a booth, please contact Kris.
- **Inspiration:** Standing in Faith (Acts 14), He Kept the Faith (1 Timothy)
- **School Bags:** We will be purchasing school supplies for the book bags the quilters have made, they will be taken to Lutheran World Relief
- **Gift for Pastor Lue:** We gave a gift card from Cabela's to pastor for going away gift.

*St. Mark's Lutheran Church**Secretary's Report**August 10, 2026*

Attendees: Dixie Schaffer, Keri Lorenzen, Dan Kuhn, Chicky Otte, Lucinda Preston, Dean Taylor, Stephanie Krueger, Tyler Otte

Absent: Luke Dubbles, Lindsay Bester, Shelby Kuhn, Rob Nivala, Christine Sachs

Building Uses:

- Randolph Football Team will be using the kitchen and fellowship hall for meals before games.
- Randolph/Hampton Fire Dept uses the kitchen for the BBQ
- Baby shower - 8/29
- Senior Sunrise Breakfast - 9/8

Secretary's Report:

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

Financial Secretary's Report:

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

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by Dixie Schaffer, seconded by Lucinda Preston. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor has been transitioning documentation to Dixie
- The St. Paul Synod has provided us an interim pastor for 4-5 months, Pastor Lloyd Menke - Dan will be meeting with him to talk about the new role and compensation.

Deacon's Report: • N/A

Trustee's Report: • The urinal has been fixed. Dean will work on the soap dispenser.

Board of Education Report: • N/A**WELCA Report:**

- Bake Sale for the Feast & Festival brought in over \$700
- They've started working on the Bazaar vendors

Feast & Festival:

- Update on the F&F

Old Business:

- Columbarium update: we owe another \$32,000 + \$10,000 in concrete, \$8,000 in landscaping. Need to sell 15-18 niches to cover the final expenses. Building permit has been approved
- Rick is coming to look at the door in the next few weeks
- Dixie will be retiring as the Church Secretary at the end of October. She's going to post the position in the bulletin/newsletter.

New Business:

- Dixie will update the website
- Preparing for the first vote: Sept. 20th. Membership Voting membership
Sending the disaffiliation process and criteria to be a voting member (need to be met by Sept 13th in order to be recorded)
- Bishop Grimm has requested for the Synod to meet with the congregation
- Dixie to train a few more people on how to livestream and set up communion
- Discussion about where to hang the print that Pastor Lue gave to our congregation
- Fellowship will remain on the 1st Sunday of the month

Next meetings: Tuesday, September 15th, 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 Dixie on availability.

If you know of any events that we should add to Community Events, please contact Dixie 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 Dixie at (612) 578-8743 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

If you would like to talk to someone, you can call Pastor Lue at (651) 500-9890.



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.

Saint Mark's Lutheran Contact & Staff

Interim 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 Lucinda Preston Lindsay Bester
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