

December Newsletter

December 2021

The small church with a BIG heart.



Important Dates

Worship Service at Church and On-line

Worship Service Sundays - 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th @ 10 am

Church Council Meeting Monday - December 13th @ 7:00 pm

Bible Study Tuesdays - 7th, 14th, 21th @ 10:00 am

Quilting Tuesdays - 7th, 14th, 21th @ 10:00 am

Newsletter Deadline Tuesday - December 21st @ 11:30 am

Food Shelf Tuesday - 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - 4:30-6 pm

WELCA Wednesday December 1st @ 10:00 am

Church School - Wednesday - 1st, 8th, 15th - 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Confirmation - Wednesday - 1st, 8th, 15th - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Church School Christmas Program - Sunday December 19th @ 10 am

Christmas Eve Services - Friday December 24th @ 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm

Prayer Requests

Diane Trapp, Pam Soth (friend of Dorry Wallof), Tony Nicolai, Chad Holz and Marilyn Ries (Chicky Otte's mom),

Please keep all our seniors in your prayers, especially:

Dave Blank, Rosella Davisson, Arnie Felton, Robert & Margaret Hayes,

Sharon Kappedahl, Marie Norstad, Ray Ohmann, Arlene Ringeisen, Leatrice Taylor and Wayne Weidner

All those who have lost loved ones recently, especially:

The Family & Friends of Marge Blank and

The Family & Friends of Kay Molstrom (mother of Tony Price)

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 stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com or leave a message at (507) 263-9182.

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Pastor's Message

Dear St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

This is one of my favorite times of the year. The season of Advent and Christmas brings together the anticipation and joy of Jesus' birth. As we light one candle each week of our Advent Wreath, we hear the stories of people waiting and longing for hope; we watch the Christmas story told by our Church School kids; and then we have our Christmas Eve worship, in which we experience ourselves the silent waiting, surrounded by candlelight.

One of the things I love most is the music during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. There is something special about music during this time because the music speaks to both the need for God's presence and the gladness that Jesus' birth brings to us and the world. From "As the Dark Awaits the Dawn (ELW 261) to "Joy to the World (ELW 267), these hymns capture the emotions so well.

Martin Luther wrote, "The Word should be read, sung, preached, written and set in poetry. Wherever it may be helpful and beneficial, I should gladly have it rung out by all bells and played on all organ pipes and proclaimed by everything that makes a sound." Martin Luther viewed music as an important part of our theology, worship service, and faith formation. For example, he argued that one could share the Good News through music, express our praise through music in worship, and further strengthen our relationship with God and faith through music.

In the past few months, we have re-introduced singing among the congregation during worship service as part of our safety and re-opening guidelines. It has been a real joy to hear all the voices again. An exciting opportunity we have at St. Mark's this month is to participate in a choir led by our new pianist, Lisa Molitor. Lisa plans to have the choir sing at our Christmas Eve worship service at 4pm. Practice times will be after service on December 5th and 12th. If you are interested, please feel free to reach out to the church office or stay after service. We welcome anyone and all voices.

I can't wait to sing and hear our favorite Advent and Christmas hymns together this month. These hymns can bring so much joy and light, especially with Minnesota winters. And as Martin Luther advocated, who's to say we can't sing these Christmas hymns throughout the year as we share the Good News with others, praise God, and grow in our faith.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Lue

Church Information

Church School Christmas Program

Sunday December 19th at 10:00 am

The kids have been putting in a lot of hard work, so please join us on Sunday the 19th to watch them tell the story of the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Friday December 24th at 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm

Please join us for one of our worship services.

It's one of the most beautiful services of the year.

A Candle light service with lots of singing and the beautiful story of the birth of Jesus.

Giving Option Changes

Our online giving app is going to be changing from **GivePlus** to **Vanco Mobile**. The **GivePlus** app has been extended until January 31, 2022.

If you are a current **GivePlus** member, please switch before January 31, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Dixie at the church email.

You can send your offering through the mail to

PO Box 206, Randolph MN 55065 or

download the **Vanco Mobile** app on your mobile phone or

click the **GIVE** button on our **website**.

Search for **St Marks Randolph MN** on the Vanco app to find us.

(there are lots of St Marks on the app)

Our account has a picture of the front of the church



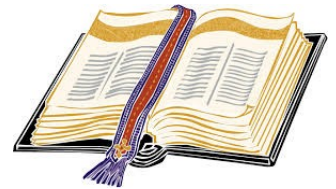
Bible Study Opportunities

Morning Adult Bible Studies

Bible study on Tuesdays start at 10 am.

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

Please join us.



WELCA Info

- **Next WELCA**-December 1, 2021 @ 10:00 am
- **Meeting** will be in the Green Room at Church
- **No WELCA Meetings** January, February or March of 2022
- **Prayer Concerns:** - Solving global warming.

The Ladies of WELCA would like to thank everyone who helped with the Bazaar and all those who came. It was another great event.

75th Anniversary Celebration May 22, 2022

Mark your calendar for our celebration on May 22, 2022 !



Church School Calendar

**Wednesday Evenings 6pm-7pm (8th & 15th until 7:30 pm)
Confirmation Wednesday Evenings 7pm-8pm**

December

1st - Class/practice (Q2, week3)

*8th - Program practice for all grades (Q2, week 5)

**15- Program practice for all grades (Q2, week 6)

19th - Christmas Program

***Christmas Break Dec 22-Jan5th**

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, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesdays
4:30 pm to 6:00 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 contact Beth Bester at (651) 437-6972



2 Wheelchairs Available

If you are in need of a wheelchair, for a day, a week, a month, or six months, we have 2 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@northfieldwifi.com or call (507) 263-9182 before the Newsletter deadline which is the 3rd Tuesday of the month by 11:30 am.



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

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President	Dan Kuhn
Vice President	Al Bester
Secretary	Keri Lorenzen
Treasurer	Christine Otte
Financial Secretary	Dixie Schaffer
Deacons	Beth Bester Kelsey Otte Stephanie Krueger
Trustees	JJ Grant Todd Staub Orin Legare

Church Email: stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com

Web Site: www.stmarksrandolph.com

Facebook: St. Mark's Lutheran Church