

August Newsletter

August 2026

The small church with a BIG heart.



Important Dates

Worship Service at Church and On-line

Worship Service Sundays - 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th @ 10 am

Bible Study Tuesday 18th, 25th @ 9:30 am

Quilting Tuesdays - 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th @ 10:00 am

Church Council Meeting Tuesday - August 10th @ 7:00 pm

Food Shelf - Tuesdays - 4th - 8:00 - 9:30 am,

11th, 18th, 25th - 4:30-6:30 pm

WELCA No meeting this month - Next meeting 10/14/26

Newsletter Deadline August 25th @ 11:30 am

Special Congregational Vote - Sunday, September 20th

Coffee Fellowship

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



Prayer Requests

Will Burleigh, Levi Stein (deployment t Kosovo), Joe & Barb Betzler (friends of Fischer's), Kate Moorhouse (Niece of Marie Otte), Don Otto, Carolyn Horsch, Marc Slininger, Tami Little (friend of Karen Slininger), Tim Post (Stephanie Kruegers brother), Mary Ohmann, Cami Zeien (friend of Besters & Otte's), Don Otte, Sarah & Jim Otto, Sheryl Fischer, 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, Sharon Kappedahl, Clarice Krenik, Leatrice Taylor, and Carolyn Weidner.

Pray for those who have lost loved ones recently.

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Pastor's Message

Dear People of St. Mark's,

As I write this final newsletter as your pastor, I find myself thinking about the many ordinary and holy moments we have shared. These are the memories I will carry with me:

Sweet corn at Feast and Festival

Testing microphones for online worship

S'mores with church school

Sharing Holy Communion with our seniors in their homes and bedsides

Bowling with confirmation students

Wednesday Lenten services (thank you for putting up with my vocals each Wednesday evening!)

I want to especially thank the many people who have reached out by phone, text, email, and fellowship after service to share their own memories and gratitude with me. Nou and I knew the hardest part of this transition would always be leaving the people here at St. Mark's.

These kinds of transitions have also reminded me that the church rarely knows exactly what comes next. St. Mark's, like every congregation, has experienced seasons of change, questions, and uncertainty. And that is not unusual. The people of God have always lived this way.

Abraham left without knowing where he was going. The Israelites wandered through the wilderness. The disciples followed Jesus without knowing what the road would bring. The early church faced uncertainty at every turn.

What carried them was not certainty.

It was grace.

After all, we are Lutherans. We confess that we are saved not because we have everything figured out, but because Jesus has already died for our sins. Grace is God's promise that we do not have to secure our own future. We do not have to earn God's love. We do not have to know what tomorrow holds.

Christ holds us.

That is my hope for St. Mark's.

Whatever comes next, may you trust that God's grace is already there. When the way is clear, may you walk faithfully. When the way is uncertain, may you walk anyway, trusting that the God who has been faithful through generations will continue to be faithful.

The church does not belong to us. It belongs to Christ.

And that is the Good News.

Pastor's Message Continued

Thank you for allowing me and my family to walk with you for this part of the journey. Thank you for the laughter, the hard conversations, the prayers, the worship, and the countless small acts of grace that have made St. Mark's a community of faith: a small church with a big heart.

May St. Mark's continue to live by that grace.

May you continue to trust it.

May you continue to share it.

And may you remember that wherever the road leads, God is already there.

In faithful service,

Pastor Lue

Introducing our Interim Pastor



Pastor Lloyd Menke

Pastor Lloyd is married to his lovely wife, Gaye. They have two married children, Joshua, and Katherine. Joshua and his wife, Sarah are both ELCA pastors. Their son, Isaac (1½). Isaac has Cerebral Palsy. Katherine and her husband, Jens, live in Minneapolis. They have two daughters, Alma (2½) and Lena (6 mo.)

He grew up on a dairy farm between Waseca and Owatonna, attended Waseca schools, received his B.A. from St. Olaf College, and received his M. Div. and D. Min. degrees from Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

He served Trinity Lutheran in Estelline, SD, and Mabel, MN, both communities of about 600 in population. He also served as a pastor/developer beginning a new congregation in West Des Moines, Iowa. Before retiring in January of 2025, Pastor Lloyd served as the Senior Pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran in Hastings for 24 years.

Pastor Lloyd enjoys time with his grandchildren, travel, hiking, going on rides with Gaye on their ebikes, and taking landscape and wildlife photos. He volunteers time at the local food shelf. Together with his two sisters, he continues to be active in managing the original family farms in Waseca County. In the time we have together, he looks forward to getting to know everyone at St. Mark's, and sharing the good news of the gospel.

Music Notes

August 2026 Music Notes

I will miss Pastor Lue and his family as they move on to another calling.

Pastor Lue was the first person I met when I came to interview to be the church accompanist back in the fall of 2021. We collaborated for worship services, celebrations and funerals. We started doing the Holden evening prayer service for Lent a few years back, and for one year I came to the Tuesday Bible study that he lead.

He has always been kind and supportive to me, lifting a burden with words of reassurance if I felt anxious or unsure.

I've also especially liked getting to know Nou, since we all arrived early to church. She always helped get communion ready, and was so kind, insightful and interesting for me to talk with and get to know. Everything from her being a college professor, to learning about the Hmong culture. I enjoyed that so much, and will miss her. I'll also miss Nathaniel's enthusiastic greeting when we'd first see each other Sunday morning.

There is a song from a number of years ago from Michael W. Smith that sums up all the feelings around this good-bye. It's called "Friends". I'll share the chorus:

"And friends are friends forever, if the Lord's the Lord of them,
and a friend will not say never, 'cause the welcome will not end.
Though it's hard to let you go, in the Father's hands we know,
that a lifetime's not too long to live as friends."

Wishing God's richest blessings to our dear friends Pastor Lue, Nou and Nathaniel! Thank you for your kindness and friendship.

Lisa



Church Information

Bible Study Opportunities

Bible Study - When We Pray

Started July 7th for 6 weeks from 9:30 - 11 am,
Each week has a new focus.

If you can't make it to all, come when you can.

Prayers: The Lord's Prayer, Prayers of Petition & Thanksgiving, Prayers of Adoration, Prayers of Lament, Prayers on Intersection, Prayers that Unify.



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.**
- **Bake Sale** - The bake sale went well at the Feast & Festival! Thank you to all who brought in and bought goodies. We made \$735.50 for the day.
- **Ol' Country Bazaar** - mark your calendars for November 28th for our annual Ol' Country Bazaar. It will be from 9 am to 2 pm. We will be needing baked goods again for that event!
- **School Bags** - The quilters have been busy making school bags to be filled and sent off to Lutheran World Relief for school kits around the world.
- **Prayer Concerns:** for St. Mark's in the process of looking for a new pastor and for Pastor Lue and his new calling at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Office Assistant Opening at St. Mark's Church

Dixie has decided to retire from her retirement job at St. Mark's.

It's a part-time positions with approximately 8 to 12 hours per week. Duties include preparing weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters and ordering supplies as needed for the worship service and the operation of the church.

If you would like more detailed information you can contact Dixie.

If you are interested in the positions, please send your resume to

stmarksrandolph@gmail.com by **September 1, 2026.**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Council Secretary's Report
June 16, 2026

Attendees: Tyler Otte, Pastor Lue, Dixie Schaffer, Keri Lorenzen, Dan Kuhn, Chicky Otte, Lucinda Preston, Lindsay Bester

Absent: Stephanie Krueger, Kelly Tate, Luke Dubbles, Christine Sachs, Dean Taylor, Shelby Kuhn, Rob Nivala

Building Uses:

- Many teams using the ball field

Secretary's Report:

- Update the date of the June outdoor service to June 28th

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

Motion passed.

Financial Secretary's Report

- Dixie wasn't able to print her normal reports as she's working to fix a computer issue Motion to accept the Financial Secretary's report by Tyler Otte, seconded by Lucinda Preston. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- There is \$35,000 sitting in checking allocated to the 2nd payment of the columbarium Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by Tyler Otte seconded by Dixie Schaffer. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

- Reported on visitations of the seniors and shut-ins
- Attended Synod Assembly - Pastor Grim has been appointed the new Bishop • Pastor has reached out to the upcoming confirmands that will be confirmed in October to start their faith statements

Deacon's Report:

- Dixie is creating a calendar and engaging the Deacons to help set up the sanctuary

Trustee's Report:

- N/A

Board of Education Report:

- Hoping to have a monthly gathering for the kids over the summer

WELCA Report:

- N/A

Feast & Festival:

- Save the date: Sunday, August 2nd

Old Business:

- Discussion about placement of the columbarium and landscaping ideas
- The urinal needs to be fixed, reaching out to Bryce Pressnall

New Business:

- The food shelf door keeps getting caught in the wind. Dan is reaching out to Rick Olson to see if we could get a replacement door - and consider the opposite swing of the door.

- Lindsey presented several security camera options for the Council to review and discuss
- Discussed seal coating the parking lot but we would need to repaint the lines
- Big thank you to Marv for cleaning and painting the playground equipment
- If people are renting the pavilion and providing alcohol, we should check on the insurance coverage
- We'd like to add back in the Sharing of the Peace into the service
- Dan is working on the Randolph Township building permit
- Dan shared with the Council that Pastor Lue will be leaving St. Mark's for a new calling.

Next meetings: Monday, July 13th, 7pm

Motion to adjourn by Tyler Otte, seconded by Lucinda Preston, meeting adjourned.
Respectfully submitted by Keri Lorenzen

Because the newsletter is being sent out late this month, there are two approved council meeting minutes.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Council Secretary's Report

July 13, 2026

Attendees: Pastor Lue, Dixie Schaffer, Keri Lorenzen, Dan Kuhn, Chicky Otte, Lucinda Preston, Lindsay Bester, Shelby Kuhn, Rob Nivala, Stephanie Krueger, Christine Sachs Tyler Otte

Absent: Luke Dubbles, Dean Taylor

Update: At the June Council Meeting, Dan shared with the Council that Pastor Lue had taken another calling and will be leaving St. Mark's. His final Sunday will be 8/9/26.

- After the meeting the Council requested copies of the Constitution and Bylaws to ensure all proper steps are adhered to.
- The Council felt it was an important time to review the current and future state of the ELCA and research other Lutheran denominations to ensure St. Mark's is set up for the future.
- The Council met with a representative from Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC) on 6/23
- The Council met with a representative from Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) on 6/29
- Dan shared with the congregation that the Council recommended entering into the process of disaffiliation from the ELCA on 7/12. He also submit the communication to the St. Paul Area Synod.
- Council members are conducting a lot of research and encouraging the congregation to do the same. We'll need to schedule an informational session and prepare documentation for those that can't attend.
- The Council is scheduled to meet with Bishop Lull and Grimm 7/28

Guests: Bob & Frieda Helgersen attended the meeting to discuss the recommendation to disaffiliate from the ELCA

Building Uses:

- Ball Field use - Mondays and Wednesdays - Community Ed
- Wayne Weidner funeral, Friday, July 24th

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 Tyler Otte. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by Dixie Schaffer, seconded by Lindsay Bester. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

- Reported on visitations of the seniors and shut-ins
- Pastor will be on vacation July 26th
- He's working on transition plans

Deacon's Report:

- N/A

Trustee's Report:

- N/A

Board of Education Report:

- New curriculum is being planned to start in the fall
- September 20th - first day

WELCA Report:

- Working on the Bake Sale for the Feast & Festival
- They've started working on the Bazaar vendors

Feast & Festival:

- Save the date: Sunday, August 2nd

Old Business:

- Dan attended the Planning Commission meeting for the columbarium
- Lindsey is digging into the details on one of the security camera options
- Rick is coming to look at the door in the next few weeks
- Seal coating the parking lot is being moved to discussion in the spring

New Business:

- Meeting with the Synod - July 28th, 7pm
- Dixie will be retiring as the Church Secretary
- Informational meeting - rules of the meeting need to be outlined (ask an LCMC representative to attend)

Next meetings: Monday, August 10th, 7pm

Motion to adjourn by Tyler Otte, seconded by Lucinda Preston, meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted by Keri Lorenzen

Special Congregational Meeting Voting Information for 9/20/26

St Mark's will be holding a special congregational meeting and voting on September 20th after the worship service. This vote is for the congregation to decide if they would like to leave the St. Paul Area Synod ELCA. This vote needs a 2/3 decision to leave the synod. You can only vote in person as required by the St. Paul Area Synod Constitution. You also need to be a qualified voting member of the congregation. The following reference is from the constitution on who is considered a qualified voting member.

Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

If you are planning to vote, please make sure you have fulfilled your requirements by September 13, 2026 so the office has time to compile the voting member list.

If you would like to have a copy of the information shown at the July 30th LCMC informational meeting, please contact the Church office at the church's email stmarksrandolph@gmail.com or leave a message on the phone **(507) 263-9182** and one will be sent to you.

If you have any questions, you can contact:

Dan Kuhn (507) 321-1673

Lucinda Preston (651) 253-6408

Tyler Otte (507) 291-1290

Disaffiliation Process from the Bishop

A congregation's consideration of terminating its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a significant event in the life of the congregation. It is the desire of the Bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod, ELCA to partner with congregations in this discernment process. The hope is a congregation will prayerfully consider how affiliation or disaffiliation with the ELCA allows members of the congregation to best live into their baptismal identity.

The process as prescribed by Chapter 6 of the Model Constitution for Congregations is outlined below. This process, whether or not your congregation has updated its own constitution, must be followed. The process can be found, in its entirety, in the sixth chapter of the most recent version of the Model Constitution for Congregations. If you do not have a copy of the Model Constitution it is available online or you may call the synod office and a copy will be provided to you.

Please contact the synod office with any questions. Please note the first step in the discernment process is written notification to the synod bishop at least 30 days prior to a special meeting considering a resolution to terminate the congregation's relationship with the ELCA. After such notification the synod bishop and Congregation Council will determine a means of consultation (you have done this).

“A resolution indicating the intent to terminate [the congregation's] relationship [with the ELCA] must be adopted at two legally called and conducted special meetings.”

The resolution requires 2/3 vote by voting members present to pass

The first meeting for a vote on the resolution

Held no sooner than 30 days after written notice of the meeting is received by the bishop of the synod

During the time period ascribed above the congregation shall consult with the bishop or the bishop's designees (the time and manner of the consultation shall be determined by the bishop in consultation with the Congregation Council)

If the resolution fails at the first meeting the resolution fails and cannot be taken up again for at least 6 months. (*C6.05.h)

If the resolution at the first meeting passes

The bishop and congregation continue in consultation for a period of at least 90 days after receipt of written notification regarding the outcome of the meeting (see below)

A second vote is taken at a second legally called special meeting. Notice of the meeting must be received by the bishop and congregation at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

For the first and second meeting: within 10 days the secretary of the congregation shall send a copy of the resolution to the bishop “attesting the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, and shall send copies of the resolution and certification to the voting members of the congregation.”

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

Randolph/Hampton Fire District Chicken BBQ

Please support the Fire Department at the
 58th Annual Chicken BBQ
 Saturday, August 15, 2026
 Serving Food from 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Dance from 8:00 pm to 12:00 am
 Raffle Drawing at 9:00 pm

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.

Fun Fest at St. Mathias Church in Hampton

Please join our friends and neighbors for a day of fun!

Sunday, August 23, 2026

Mass is at 10:00 am

Fun Fest begins at 11:00 am

Live Auction starts at 1:45 pm

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:
Office Assistant	Dixie Schaffer Cell: (612) 578-8743 Email: dixie.schaffer@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