

September Newsletter

September 2026

The small church with a BIG heart.



Important Dates

Worship Service at Church and On-line

Worship Service Sundays - 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th @ 10 am

Bible Study Tuesday 15th, 22nd @ 9:30 am

Quilting Tuesdays - 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th @ 10:00 am

Church Council Meeting Tuesday - 15th @ 7:00 pm

Food Shelf - Tuesdays - 1st - 8:00 - 9:30 am,
8th, 15th, 22nd - 4:30-6:30 pm

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

Newsletter Deadline August 20th @ 11:30 am

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Special Congregational Vote - Sunday, September 20th



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:

The family and friends of Sharon Kappedahl.

Pastor's Message

“⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4: 6-7)

Thank you

I want to begin by saying, “Thank you” for the warm welcome I have received from you. It is an honor and privilege to walk with you in this interim time. Please know that I am praying for you and will do my best to serve you, and the gospel to which we are called.

Good-byes Are Hard

It is not easy to have a beloved pastor move on. Pastor Lou's leaving naturally causes a sense of grief and uncertainty. What was settled and comfortable is gone. Concerns about the future naturally arise. When a pastoral change happens, it is completely normal to feel a sense of apprehension and anxiety.

Anxiety is funny. It tends to magnify our concerns and amplify our fears. Like a child being convinced that a bump in the night is a monster under the bed, when I am anxious a small change in my body becomes a sign of cancer. What are mole hills become mountains when I am anxious.

I have a tendency to misplace things. After I look for a while without finding whatever I have misplaced, I there are times when I feel my anxiety start to rise. If it is something important, like my wallet or car keys and I am now in danger of being late for an appointment, it rises quicker. Without, exception that only makes things worse, because anxiety has a way of narrowing my vision, clouding my thoughts, and decreasing my options. When I am anxious, I can look right at something and still not see it. I don't stop to think, “Oh, I have spare set of keys, or I guess I could take the other car.” And telling myself, “Don't be anxious.” Never works. It only makes me more aware of my own anxiousness and inability to stop it.

Pastor's Message Continued

The Peace of God

Anxiety, it seems has always been part of the human condition. Paul would not have written to the congregation in Philippi about it if people there weren't experiencing it. In the Philippian congregation their anxiety has arisen because of a conflict between two women, Euodia and Syntyche. Both were "true companions" who had labored with Paul for the gospel and whose names were in the book of life. We don't know what the conflict was about, and we don't need to.

It is enough to know that being good followers of Christ, does not exempt us, or our congregations, from experiencing conflict and anxiety.

Paul tells the congregation in Philippi there is help. He invites them to take their concerns to God in prayer. And to do so with thanksgiving. Then, in verse 8, Paul tells them some things they can be giving thanks for. Being thankful for "...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,," Paul says, "think about these things." Focus on these things.

It is amazing how switching our mindset can calm our nerves and quiet our hearts, especially when we are turned to and trusting in the rising and living Lord Jesus. The peace of God that surpasses understanding is real. I cannot control its coming, but I can testify to having experienced it. For me it is a peace, a quietness, calmness, and sense of serenity that can come even in the most anxiety producing circumstances. It comes with an assurance that the power that raised Jesus from the dead is still active and working for me, loving me, even now.

As I pray for you and for St. Mark's I pray this very real peace of God may also be holding each of you in this transition time.

Pastor Lloyd

Music Notes

I so much appreciate hymns that start out like the Lord's Prayer. It may not be the same words, but it starts out with praising God for who He is. "Our Father, who art in heaven, **hallowed be Thy name.**" While there are many times to thank God for what He has done, and ask for what

we need, which is good, it seems so appropriate that we, the creatures, praise our Creator. I think of the creatures in heaven that go around God's throne all the time saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come." (Revelation 4:8) We sing this in the opening of the old hymn, Holy, Holy, Holy, and we also praise God for who He is in the opening line of another hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.

I like to try and remember praise time in my own personal prayers, before skimming over confession and thanks to get to my always long list of needs. It's good to bring the long list, but I just don't want to forget the praise part!

One way that helped me get started, when I wasn't sure what to include in praise, (and if you are not already doing this) was to think of an attribute of God for each letter of the alphabet: Awesome, Beautiful, Creator, Deliverer, Eternal, Faithful....etc. I can think of more words for some letters than others. Psalms is a good place to find words of praise as well.

At any rate, may we all remember to praise our Creator as we navigate the ups and downs of life here on earth. God is worthy of our praise! Amen.



Church Information

Bible Study Opportunities

Morning Adult Bible Studies

Bible study on Tuesdays starts at 9:30 am.

Bible Study will start on September 15th

Please join us.



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' Count;y Bazaar** - Saturday, November 28th 9 am to 2 pm



Church School And Confirmation Information

Church School & Confirmation Registration

In person registration at church Sunday September 13th 11-11:45

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

We also have a live Sign Up Genius link where we will share dates when we need some volunteers.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094EAAAA2EAAF85-65032126-stmarks>

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

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

Coffee Fellowship

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

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 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.

Open Forum with Bishop Justin Grimm

There will be an open forum with Bishop Justin Grimm on

Wednesday, September 9th at 7 PM

at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

This forum will give voting members a chance to dialogue together about the ELCA and for him to answer any questions you might have.

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	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