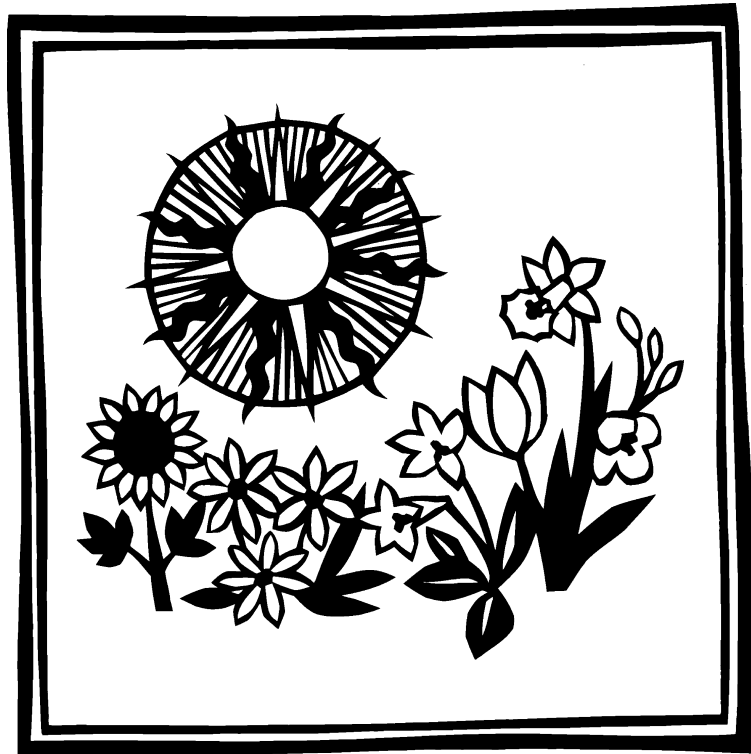


# Saint Mark's Lutheran Church



**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 6, 2026**

## Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

*We welcome all to worship here: those who are strong in faith and those who are seeking, those who are hurting, and those who give comfort; all who are drawn to worship and faith. We represent a variety of backgrounds, political positions, races and ethnicities. We recognize that we are not of one mind or persuasion on many significant issues, and yet we gather in Christ to worship God together.*

*Children are welcome in this worship service, and encouraged to participate in any way they are able to. Teach the children sitting around you how to use their hymnals, bulletins, and to sing and speak loudly! We value the noise made by children!*

*If you have questions or need assistance, please ask. If you have concerns, please let us know. We are glad that you are here with us today.*

*Visitors, we are especially glad to see you. Please come again!!*

*God's Blessing,  
Saint Mark's Lutheran Church*

— The **BOLD** is read by the **Congregation**—

The Small Church with a **Big** Heart

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
THE GATHERING

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand as you are able.*

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✙ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*A moment of silence for reflection*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

ELW 522

As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;  
There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,



teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.  
may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated..*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING:                      Genesis 1:1—2:4a**

<sup>1</sup> When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup> So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.

” And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created humans in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>2:1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup> On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.

<sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4a</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM:

## Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.

<sup>5</sup> **Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,  
who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;

<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup> young men and maidens,  
old and young together.  
<sup>13</sup> **Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted,  
whose splendor is over earth and heaven.**  
<sup>14</sup> The LORD has raised up strength for the people and  
praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.  
Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING:

**Acts 17:22a, 24-28**

<sup>22a</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, <sup>24</sup>  
“The God who made the world and everything in it, he who  
is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by  
human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though  
he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life  
and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all  
peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times  
of their existence and the boundaries of the places where  
they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and  
perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed  
he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and  
move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets  
have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

*Celtic Alleluia*



## GOSPEL:

**John 1:1-5**

The holy gospel according to...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with  
God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with  
God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without  
him not one thing came into being. What has come into  
being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all  
people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness  
did not overtake it.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILRENS SERMON

## SERMON

Pastor Lloyd Menke

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 639

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

### When We Are Living

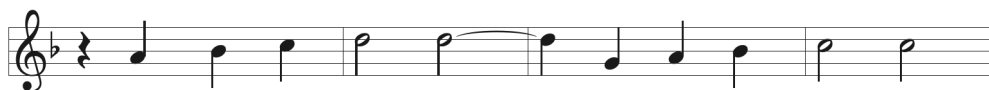
*Pues si vivimos*



*Pues si vi - vi - mos, pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,*  
 1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,  
 2 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain, . . . .  
 3 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find . . . .



*y si mo - ri - mos pa - ra él mo - ri - mos.*  
 and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord. . . .  
 when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace, . . .  
 those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind; . . .



*Sea que vi - va - mos o que mu - ra - mos,*  
 Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,  
 wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,  
 and when we help them, or when we feed them,



*so - mos del Se - ñor, so - mos del Se - ñor.*  
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.  
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.  
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.

2 En la tristezayen el dolor,  
 en la belleza y en el amor,  
 sea que suframos o que gocemos,  
 somos del Señor, somos del Señor.

3 En este mundo por doquier habrá  
 gente que lloray sin consolar.  
 Sea queayudemos oalimentemos,  
 somos del Señor, somos del Señor.

Text: st. 1, based on Romans 14:8; tr. Elise S. Eslinger, b. 1942  
 st. 2-3, Roberto Escamilla, b. 1931; tr. George Lockwood, b. 1946

Music: SOMOS DEL SEÑOR, Spanish traditional  
 Spanish text, sts. 2-3 © 1983 Abingdon Press and tr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company

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## APOSTLES' CREED

*Gathered together, let us confess our faith...*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with: ...Hear us O God,  
 The congregation responds: **Your mercy is great.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING

**You can send your offering through the mail to :**

***Saint Mark's Lutheran Church***

***PO Box 206***

***Randolph MN 55065***

**or download the *Vanco Mobile* app on your mobile phone  
 or go to our *website* and click on the give button on the top.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Please stand as you are able.*

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE MEAL

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*In the night in which he was betrayed...  
...Do this for the remembrance of me.*



### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Lord's banquet is before you, taste and see that God is good.

### DISTRIBUTION

#### *For those communing at the altar:*

*Pastor will direct one side of the sanctuary at a time to come to the altar. You will form a single file line in the middle aisle. You will receive bread from the pastor and wine/grape juice from the communion assistant. Once you receive communion and wine, please return to your pew.*

*If you have limited mobility, please let the pastor know and pastor will come to your seat with communion and wine.*

*If you need gluten-free options, please let the pastor know.*

#### *For those communing online:*

*After communion at the altar is completed, Pastor will commune those who are joining us virtually. Please take out your bread. Pastor will say, "The body of Christ given for you," and you may eat the bread.*

*Please take out your wine or juice. Pastor will say, "The blood of Christ shed for you," and you may drink the wine/juice.*

*After everyone has received communion, Pastor will conclude communion by saying:*

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**



## SENDING SONG

ELW 836

### Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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## Thank You!

It is a pleasure to have you worship with us today. We sincerely pray that the service was inspiring, and comforting. If you find occasion to worship with us again, please know that we appreciate your presence. If you are looking for a home church, please let the pastor know by phone, email, or text. Wherever you go, may God be at your side and bring you peace and joy.



## Prayer Requests

Levi Stein (deployment to Kosovo), Carolyn Horsch, Don Otte, Kate Moorhouse (Marie Otte's niece), Marc Slininger, Tami Little (Karen Slininger's friend), Mary Ohmann, Sarah & Jim Otto, Tim Post (Stephanie Kruegers brother), Cami Zeien (friend of Besters & Ottes), 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.

## Events this Week:

Quilting - Tuesday 10:30am

Food Shelf - Tuesday 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

ELCA Meeting - Wednesday 7:00 pm

Worship Service - 10:00 am

## Services for Sharon Kappedahl Friday, September 11th

Visitation - 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm @ St. Mark's

Funeral & Burial - Outdoor service 2:00 pm

@ Little Cannon Cemetery Rural Nerstrand

Reception - 3:30 pm @ St Mark's

## **Announcements**

### **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.

### **Congregational Voting September 20th**

There will be a Congregational vote on September 20th after the worship service. This vote is to decide if we plan to stay with our current Synod, the ELCA St Paul Synod. A 2/3 majority vote is needed to leave the Synod. You must be present to vote.

### **Installation Service for Bishop Grimm**

If you would like to attend the Installation Service for Bishop-Elect Justin Grimm on September 13th at 3:30 at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, please go to this website and sign-up.

<https://spas-elca.org/event/bishop-installation-service/>

### **Church School Registration**

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

On Line 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/20F094EAAA2EAAF85-65032126-stmarks>

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

### **Elko Speedway will be honoring Jerry Thomsen's**

memory during one of the Feature races on Saturday, Sept 12th.

Jerry, a former St Mark's member was tragically taken in a snowmobile accident in 2011. While he has been gone 15 years, not a day goes by where he's not thought of or a story isn't shared. He could bring a smile to anyone's face and he always lit up the room with his infectious laugh! His memory lives on in his kids, his family & friends. Jerry had a passion for racing, snowmobiling & St. Mark's. We hope you can make it out to help remember him at his favorite place, the race track!!

"Yip, yip, let's race"



Gates open at 4:30pm

Opening Ceremony at 5:50pm

Racing starts at 6:00pm

Tickets can be purchased at the gate or online at  
[www.elkospeedway.com](http://www.elkospeedway.com) .

### **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 to 9:30 am

2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

All cash donations are used to buy healthy perishable food.

### **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 [randolphmnfoodshelf@gmail.com](mailto:randolphmnfoodshelf@gmail.com)

### **Saint Mark's Lutheran Contact & Staff**

|                     |                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor              | Pastor Lloyd Menke<br><b>Church:</b> (507) 263-9182<br><b>Cell:</b> (651) 248-4231<br><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:llmenke@gmail.com">llmenke@gmail.com</a> |
| Office Assistant    | Dixie Schaffer<br><b>Cell:</b> (612) 578-8743<br><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:dixie.schaffer@gmail.com">dixie.schaffer@gmail.com</a>                        |
| Musician            | Lisa Molitor<br><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:lisa.molitor@yahoo.com">lisa.molitor@yahoo.com</a>                                                             |
| President           | Dan Kuhn                                                                                                                                                     |
| Vice President      | Tyler Otte                                                                                                                                                   |
| Secretary           | Keri Lorenzen                                                                                                                                                |
| Treasurer           | Christine Otte                                                                                                                                               |
| Financial Secretary | Dixie Schaffer                                                                                                                                               |
| Deacons             | Stephanie Krueger<br>Lucinda Preston<br>Lindsay Bester                                                                                                       |
| Trustees            | Robert Nivala<br>Dean Taylor<br>Luke Dubbels                                                                                                                 |

### **Saint Mark's Lutheran Church**

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(507) 263-9182

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**Website:** [stmarksrandolph.com](http://stmarksrandolph.com)

**Facebook:** St. Mark's Lutheran Church

**Instagram:** [stmarksrandolph](https://www.instagram.com/stmarksrandolph)

**WELCA Facebook:** St. Mark's Randolph MN WELCA