

January Newsletter

January 2024

The small church with a BIG heart.



Important Dates

Worship Service at Church and On-line

Worship Service Sundays - 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th @ 10 am

Bible Study Tuesdays - 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th @ 9:30 am

Quilting Tuesdays - 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th @ 10:00 am

Church Council Meeting Monday - January 15th @ 7:00 pm

Newsletter Deadline Monday - January 20th @ 11:30 am

Food Shelf - Tuesdays - 2nd - 8:00 - 9:30 am,
9th, 16th, 23rd - 4:30-6 pm

WELCA Wednesday January 3rd @ 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesday - 6th @ 11:00 am

Church School - Wednesday - 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Confirmation - Wednesday - 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Annual Meeting - Sunday - 28th after the worship service

Potluck Lunch - Sunday - 28th after the annual meeting

Prayer Requests

Mardell Sande & Richard Doffing (grandparents of Adam & Ashley Schiller) Elaine Orvold (Lisa Molitor's mom), Audrey McKeag, Nicole Mies Anderson, and Bill Richer.

Please keep all our seniors in your prayers, especially:

Robert & Margaret Hayes, Carolyn Horsch, Sharon Kappedahl, Arlene Ringeisen, Leatrice Taylor and Wayne Weidner

Those who have lost loved ones recently, especially:

The family and friends of Tayven Geiger and

The family and friends of Bud Ringeisen

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 stmarksrandolph@gmail.com or leave a message at (507) 263-9182.

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Pastor's Message

Dear St. Mark's,

I have a feeling that I'd be preaching to the choir if I told you how quickly Christmas came and went! Most of the presents at our house were wrapped just in time, and others were quickly stuffed into stockings. And we're still waiting for one more present that didn't quite make the deadline. If 2024 is anything like 2023, you'll be reading the January 2025 newsletter in no time!

The signs of Christmas ending are all around us: the end of 24-hour Christmas music on the radio, putting away Christmas decorations, and sales for Christmas items going up. However, for Christians, our liturgical calendar says different. We are still in the midst of the Christmas season and still singing familiar Christmas hymns into January. It's still okay to say "Merry Christmas!" in church when you greet others. The Christmas season ends on Saturday, January 6th with the Epiphany of Our Lord; a day we commemorate the coming of the Magi as told in the gospel of Matthew. During the entire season of Epiphany, we recognize all of the ways God reveals himself through Jesus Christ.

The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, which means "to manifest," "appear," or "make known." Today, we use the word epiphany with a slight difference. For example, we might say something along the lines of, "I just had an epiphany!" when we make a realization or have an idea. I imagine it is a lot like the cartoons of a light bulb turning on above someone's head when there is an epiphany—an ah-ha moment!

As we start a new secular calendar year at St. Mark's, you might have different realizations or ideas for this upcoming year. Maybe you have a light bulb idea or an ah-ha moment about something you'd like to do at St. Mark's, whether it's with church school, worship, activities, etc. I invite you to share your ideas with me over the next months, so we can continue to be in community, build community, and be community for others.

Although the Christmas season is ending, the promise that Christmas brings endures: hope, peace, joy, and love. I hope that this new year is filled with the Christmas promise for you and your loved ones. May we come to new realizations that nurture hope, peace, joy, and love in ourselves and for others.

God bless you,
Pastor Lue

ELCA presiding bishop issues statement on Israel-Hamas war

10/13/2023 12:00:00 PM

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?" —Psalm 22:1

Dear church,

As Lutherans, we are accustomed to holding tension between two truths. Thus the ELCA denounces the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to unspeakable loss of life and hope. At the same time the ELCA denounces the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim.

For the past week we have borne witness to the horrors of the escalating crisis between Israel and Hamas. We also watch a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza as Israel blocks food, water, fuel and medical supplies and as airstrikes continue to cause unbearable civilian casualties ahead of a just-announced ground assault. We see Israelis and families around the world in the agonizing wait for word about the fate of loved ones killed or taken hostage by Hamas. We are in anguish, grieving and praying for all people who are living in trauma, fear and uncertainty.

Among us are Palestinian Lutherans who are fearful for their families, their communities and their homeland. In our communities we have Jewish and Muslim neighbors, who are also facing the horrors of this crisis and its impact on their loved ones.

It is difficult to find words that suffice in the complexity of this moment, and in the web of relationships that bind us together, as church, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our interreligious partners. Yet God has called us to be a people who stand with others amid suffering.

We must also call a thing a thing. The power exerted against all Palestinian people — through the occupation, the expansion of settlements and the escalating violence — must be called out as a root cause of what we are witnessing. We are committed to our long-standing accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

The God who liberates us calls us to be a liberating witness. May it be so.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Things you can do:

- Find updated resources and statements from the ELCA @ elca.org/Israel-Hamas.
- Join our partner Churches for Middle East Peace for prayer every Wednesday from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Eastern time. Register @ cmep.org/event/pray-for-peace.
- Call your lawmakers today through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and urge them to take action to deescalate the conflict and uphold unrestricted humanitarian aid to Gaza. Find your member of Congress at [govtrak](https://govtrak.com).
- Support Lutheran Disaster Response @ community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis.

Church Information

Annual Meeting

St. Mark's Lutheran Church will hold their annual meeting on
January 28, 2024 after the worship service.
We will be having a potluck meal after the meeting, please join us.
Bring a dish to share if you would like.

St. Mark's Church Council for 2024

President	Al Bester
Vice President	Dan Kuhn
Secretary	Keri Lorenzen
Treasurer	Christine Otte
Financial Secretary	Dixie Schaffer
Deacons	Lucinda Preston Kelly Tate Stephanie Krueger
Trustees	Eric Otte Luke Dubbles Robert Nivala

Thank you to Orin Legare for serving for the past 3 years!

2023 Annual Giving Statements

The 2023 annual giving statements will be going out in the next few weeks,
be sure to watch your email or mail box for your statement.

If you have any questions about your statement or if you don't receive it,
please contact Dixie at the church email

stmarksrandolph@gmail.com

or leave a message at (507) 263-9182

Church School Information

Church School Calendar

Grades 1st-6th grade - Wednesday Evenings 6pm-7:00 pm

Confirmation Wednesday Evenings 7pm-8pm

Church School and Confirmation resumes on January 10, 2024.

January 31st will be the next Family Night.

Watch your email and Facebook for more information to follow.

St. Marks Church School classroom helpers needed

Church School Teachers needed!

We are still in need of a couple of teachers, please consider helping!

We are excited to have so many kids in our church school program this year! With larger class sizes we could use extra hands to help kids with craft projects, snacks and keep the kids focused on the teachers lesson for the day. We are looking for adults, middle school and high school age to be a teachers helper, you will not be responsible for lesson plans. It is a great opportunity for Honor roll credits for high school age kids. We ask that middle school youth volunteer for 1-3rd grade only to allow a bigger space between ages. Sign up for multiple days or one day, anything helps! Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4EA5A922A5FD0-44471350-stmarks>

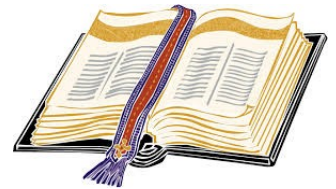
Bible Study Opportunities

Morning Adult Bible Studies

Bible study on Tuesdays starts at 9:30 am.

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

Please join us.



WELCA Info

- **Next WELCA**-January 3, 2024 @ 10:00 am
- **Meeting** is in the Green Room at Church
- **Officers for 2024:** Diane Trapp-President. Dorry Wallof-Vice President, Sheryl Fischer-Treasurer, Dixie Schaffer-Secretary, Colleen Thompson-Inspirational Advocate.

Amish Quilt Drawing

The winner of the Amish Quilt is Sara Otto!
Congratulations!

St. Mark's WELCA Presents **2024 Women's Workshop & Retreat** **"Understanding Your Grief"**

Free attendance - bring a friend – all are welcome!

Saturday, April 6th - 9 am to early afternoon

Lunch, beverages & snacks provided by WELCA.

Free book (& workbook) "I Wasn't Read to Say Goodbye"
provided to you as a gift with attendance.

So we can order materials for the workshop

Please RSVP by March 25th to
stmarksrandolph@gmail.com or
(507) 263-9182 and leave a message.

Area women are welcome!

Questions, please call Dorry Wallof @ 612-309-2066 or email: dorry@midco.net

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 6:00 pm

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) 246-9301.



1 Wheelchair Available

If you are in need of a wheelchair, for a day, a week, a month, or six months, we have 1 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.

Wishing
 YOU A
 Blessed
 NEW YEAR

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	Al Bester
Vice President	Dan Kuhn
Secretary	Keri Lorenzen
Treasurer	Christine Otte
Financial Secretary	Dixie Schaffer
Deacons	Stephanie Krueger Lucinda Preston Kelly Tate
Trustees	Orin Legare Eric Otte Luke Dubbels
	Church Email: stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com
	Web Site: www.stmarksrandolph.com
	Facebook: St. Mark's Lutheran Church
	Instagram: stmarksrandolph