

December Newsletter

December 2023

The small church with a BIG heart.



Important Dates

Worship Service at Church and On-line

Worship Service Sundays - 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st @ 10 am

Bible Study Tuesdays - 5th, 12th, 19th @ 9:30 am

Quilting Tuesdays - 5th, 12th, 19th @ 10:00 am

Church Council Meeting Monday - December 11th @ 7:00 pm

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

Food Shelf - Tuesdays - 5th - 8:00 - 9:30 am,
12th, 19th, 26th - 4:30-6 pm

WELCA Wednesday December 6th @ 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesday - 6th @ 11:00 am

Church School - Wednesday - 6th, 13th - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Confirmation - Wednesday - 6th, 13th - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Church School Christmas Program - Sunday - 17th @ 10:00 am

Prayer Requests

Eric Hjelter, 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.

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 Lutheran Church,

The Advent Season is here! Advent marks a time of waiting and preparation as we anticipate the birth of Jesus on Christmas. It is a time filled with hope and joy as we also start a new church calendar.

My favorite thing about the Advent Season is certainly singing and listening to Christmas carols. Christmas carols capture the feelings of Advent so well—the anticipation, the joyfulness, and the peace. If you ask me, I really do not have a favorite Christmas carol or hymn. I enjoy them all, but if you asked Nathaniel, he would tell you his favorite song is *The Little Drummer Boy*. In fact, Nathaniel had this song on repeat for two weeks this past summer.

As a child, I really did not listen to the lyrics of *The Little Drummer Boy*. I was more mesmerized by the drumming and repetitive *rum pum pum pum* than by the message that this song conveys. But after hearing this song on repeat, I've listened more closely. It's a story about a young drummer who hears the call to visit a new born king—Jesus. The song tells how visitors bring an assortment of gifts to honor Jesus. Many of you know the gifts that the Three Wise Men brought to Jesus: gold, frankincense, and myrrh, which were some of the most expensive and valued items during Jesus' time. The young drummer sings that all he could bring was his drum to play for Jesus. By the end of the song, we learn that this gift was perfect for Jesus.

This message is such a great reminder for us in so many ways. First, it affirms that we all have gifts to share. And no matter how big or small the gift is, it is still a gift that is beautiful. I know this message is especially important during Christmas when there is so much pressure to get the newest and latest gadget, the most popular gift on social media, or the most expensive and biggest item. But that's not what Jesus asks of us. He asks us to bring the gift of ourselves to others—in service, in companionship, in love, and in community.

Lastly, this song tells us that Jesus is calling all of us to him. The holiday season can be a lonely time for so many. It can be a reminder of broken relationships or recently lost loved ones. But this song shares a message of God's welcoming love, inviting us all to his community and to his family. At St Mark's, we try our best to build the same welcoming community—*on earth as it is in heaven*. I hope you'll find some time to join us this Advent season as we start a new church calendar, awaiting and preparing for Jesus' birth, and singing our favorite and loved Christmas carols.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Lue

Christmas Service Schedule

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24th

4:00 pm Service

9:00 pm Service



Church School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17th at 10:00 am

The children have been practicing and working hard to show us the story of the birth of Jesus.

Please join us!



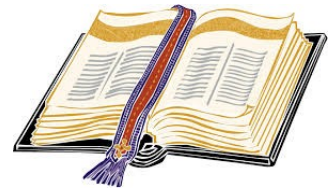
Bible Study Opportunities

Morning Adult Bible Studies

Bible study on Tuesdays starts at 9:30 am.
No Bible Study on December 26th or January 2nd.

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

Please join us.



WELCA Info

- **Next WELCA**-December 6, 2023 @ 10:00 am
- **Meeting** is in the Green Room at Church
- **Bazaar** - Was very well attended. Thank you to all who volunteered and those who attended.
- **Food Shelf** has been very busy lately with new participants.
- **Prayer Concerns:** - Prayers for world peace.



QUILT RAFFLE

**Antique Amish Quilt
Queen Bed Size
Originally Purchase near Maiden Rock WI**

Drawing is on December 31st

**Tickets available before and after Church
or contact Dixie**

**\$5 for 1 ticket
\$20 for 5 tickets**

**Drawing Date: December 31, 2023
Proceeds go to St. Marks WELCA**



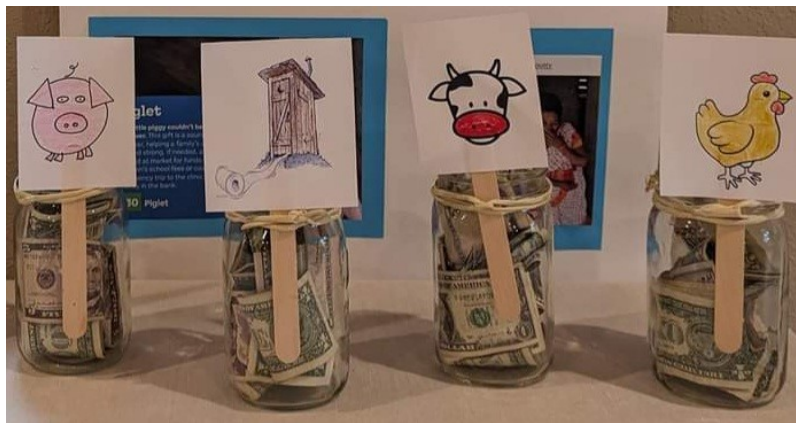
Church School Information

Church School Youth Offerings

And..... The cow won!

During family night we announced the winner of the animal fundraiser was a cow. The church school kids raised \$255.55 towards a cow and several church members came up with the rest to purchase a cow for \$500. We am super excited to let all the kids and families know that the church is donating an extra \$215 dollars so that we can purchase a family farm for a needy family. The family will have a cow, 2 goats, a dozen chickens and 2 pigs to grow their farm and provide for their family. Thank you again for your generosity and helping teach the kids the value of giving.

Shelby and Christine



Church School Calendar

1st - 3rd grade - Wednesday Evenings 6pm-7:00 pm

Extra time to practice for the Christmas Program

4th - 6th grade - Wednesday Evenings 6pm-7:30 pm

Confirmation Wednesday Evenings 7pm-8pm

****20th & 27th - Christmas Break****

No Church School or Confirmation

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

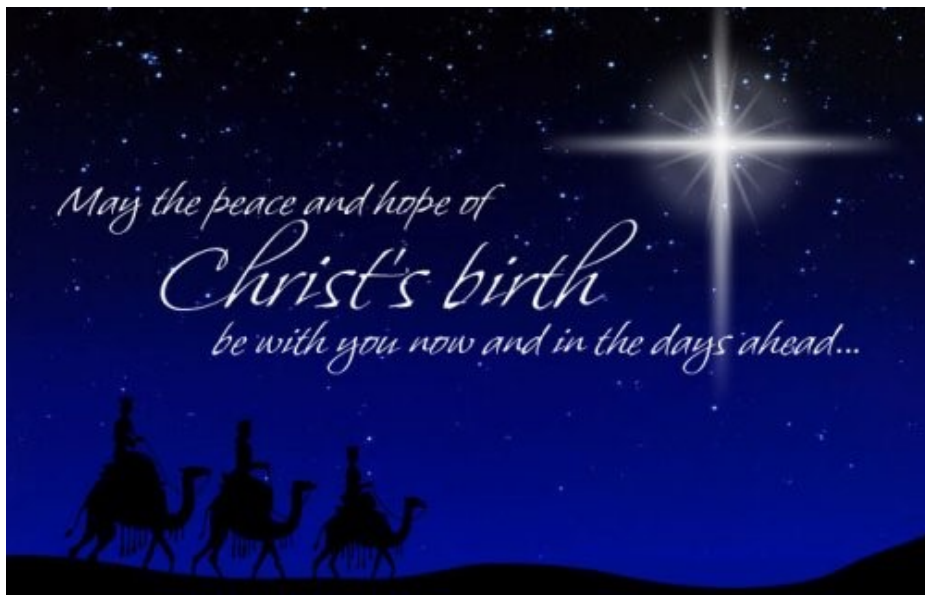
The Food Shelf is inviting any College Student to come and get some supplies from the food shelf. We want to help with your expenses during these years. Please come when the Food Shelf is open or at 9 am before Church on Sunday or contact Beth Bester at (651) 246-9301.

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.



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

Pastor	Lue Moua Church: (507) 263-9182 Cell: (651) 500-9890 Email: pastorluemoua@gmail.com
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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
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	Instagram: stmarksrandolph