



Founded on the Word ... Focused on the Cross

Glorify God, Grow in Grace, Go with the Gospel

St. Mark's Lutheran Weekly Newsletter

May 3rd, 2026

Ponder This For A Moment

"The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness'" Jeremiah 31:3.

Glorify & Grow: Sunday Mornings

8:00* & 10:45 Worship (**live streamed*)

9:15 Sunday School (*meet in Chapel*)

9:30 Bible Discussion for Teens / All Ages

Growing in Grace Opportunities

May 6 - School Chapel Service @ 8:20 a.m.

May 7 - JOL Bible Study @ 9:30 a.m.

May 7 - Starting Point @ 6:30 p.m.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week is coming up May 4-8! Our faculty will be treated to a quiet **lunch on Thursday, May 7th**. If you would like to drop off donations, please do so through the office. Another great way to show appreciation is giving RaiseRight gift cards of \$10 or \$25. A percentage of each card (anywhere between 1 and 10%, occasionally more) goes to support our school. We have several cards on hand; please contact Erin Donoho (edonoho@stmarkslutheran.com) or call or stop by the office for more information. Let's show our teachers and staff how much we appreciate their service to our congregation and school.

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society International Convention

The International 2026 LWMS Convention will be held June 25-28, in Madison, WI. See the bulletin board for information about registration.

Men's Fellowship

Men of St. Mark's, come and join us on the 2nd Monday of each month for fellowship and time in the Word. We meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the library. Mark your calendars for this opportunity for spiritual growth! Contact Paul Baker with questions or to RSVP: 916.595.2628; pudgie42@gmail.com.

Starting Point Class

The next round of Starting Point classes began Thursday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m., and you can still join. Starting Point is an introductory course to St. Mark's and the message of Jesus and the Bible. In a simple, easy-to-follow format, we lay out the foundation of the Christian faith to help you connect to God, purpose, and community. This 10-week course is a great refresher for our members and an easy, no-pressure class to invite a friend to. Find out more and register at: stmarkslutheran.com/new/bible-information-class/ or contact Pastor Wetzel (kwetzel@stmarkslutheran.com).

Support Our School With Box Tops

Remember box tops? They can still be used to raise money for our school—only digitally. The app is easy to download and scans your receipt to identify Box Top products and give earnings to our school. You can also pay directly if you link your Walmart and Box Top accounts. For more information, please visit <https://boxtops4education.com/how-to-earn>.

LWMS Ballots - Any Confirmed Female Only

International LWMS Candidate Ballots are on the shelf underneath the LWMS Bulletin board. Please pick one up and vote for candidates and

mission projects and return the ballot only in the box on the LWMS shelf.

Ballots MUST Be returned by May 17th!

Thank you!

School Review Flyers

Help us promote our school! Parents, alumni, and all church members, please consider leaving a review on [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com) or [GreatSchools.org](https://www.greatschools.org). This helps us boost our school's visibility online. You can leave a review by scanning the QR codes below. And, current parents and up to 4-year Alumni parents all get entered into a \$1,000.00 sweepstakes if you give reviews on [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com)!

Niche:



GreatSchools:



Congregation Meeting Recap

April 26 meeting recap. Last Sunday, the coordinating council hosted a meeting for both church and school communities to provide important updates. The key issue that the leadership group wanted to convey was that we are facing a significant budgetary deficit estimated at around \$200,000 for the upcoming 2026/2027 Fiscal Year which will begin on July 1. The reasons for this are cost increases in many categories, and, more impactfully, continued enrollment challenges in our school. As a group, we walked through a few of the details of the situation and then answered questions and received input from the group in attendance. All were appreciative of the transparency and "heads up" on the issues we will face as we approve a budget in June. It is important to state that there is no scenario on the table in which we will shut down our school. In fact, the congregation was united and vocal in its support to keep this ministry ongoing. The key actions going forward on this topic are doing all we can

to increase enrollment; that every person consider increased giving (the need is estimated in the 20%-30% range in total); and above all, that the whole St. Mark's community provide continued prayerful support of this wonderful ministry and really all the ministry opportunities that God has set before us here at this place and time.

Faith & Family Fun Night is Back with the River Cats – August 7 Save the Date!

If you are interested in going to a River Cats game with anyone from our congregation, we will be gathering names now so we can reserve good seats sooner rather than later. Tickets average \$25 each and we need to keep track of everyone that wants to go now so we don't miss anyone before it's too late. Please email the office at churchadm@stmarkslutheran.com if you are interested and want to reserve tickets.

We need to know by the end of May to get good seats per our River Cats representative.

These are fun and a great way to gather together with our church family.

Ministry Financial Plan Update

Offerings received since July 1, 2025: \$549,432
Minimum need for July 2025-June 2026: \$575,120

Dates/Events to keep in mind at St. Mark's ...

May 3rd - Confirmation @ 2nd service
May 4th–8th - Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
May 15th - Play Performance @ 6 p.m. (in MPC)
May 17th - LWMS Ballot Deadline
May 23rd - Piano Recital @ 6:30 p.m. (in Church)
May 27th - Graduation Ceremony for 8th Graders @ 6 p.m.



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