



St. Mark's
Lutheran Church

The Messenger

715 24th Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND | www.stmarksgf.org | 701-772-4807

"A Heritage of God's Grace" Since 1910

Member of GIFT of Grace Lutheran Ministry

December 2025



The Advent/Christmas brunch will be
held on Saturday,
December 6th at 10:00 a.m.

The theme this year is
"Joy to the World"

Plan to attend and bring a friend to
celebrate the joyous season.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Or, you can contact the
church office at 772-4807 (leave message)

Women of the **ELCA** 



*Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
will be held at St. Mark's at 3:00 pm
(Worship will be led by Pastor Aaron Bye)*

Christmas Eve Candlelight worship will be at Walle @ 5:00 pm

A Quiet Christmas worship will be held at Walle on December 21st at 4:30 pm

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

St. Mark's Annual Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, January 18th. Included on the agenda is election of representatives to 2026 Synod Assembly, Red Willow Bible Camp, Valley Senior Living Annual Meeting and Abiding Memorials Ministry. Annual reports will be distributed at that time. All ministries are requested to have reports to include in the packets.



ANNUAL REPORTS: It is nearly time for submitting your annual reports for 2025. **If at all possible, please submit your reports to the office by mid December.** We realize that this may not be possible for all, especially those with financial reports. Sandy will be out January through March, so your early reports would be appreciated. Thank you!



God's Work, Our Hands

Foster Care Gift Cards. . .

There are still a few tags on the Angel Tree. The deadline is **December 7th**. We are asking for gift cards not to exceed \$25. Gift Cards will be distributed by GF Social Services for their Foster Care program.



Gifts for Baby Jesus Sunday (White Gifts Sunday)



On Sunday, December 7th, we will observe the Salvation Army's "Gifts for Baby Jesus Sunday" (formerly White Gift Sunday). If you are able, please wrap a gift for a boy or girl ages 0-17, in simple white tissue paper and bring it with you to worship December 7th. (There is a great need for the teenagers.)

There will be a time during worship to bring those gifts forward and place them under the trees in the front of the sanctuary. The gifts will symbolize a present for baby Jesus and will be distributed by the Salvation Army with their Annual Christmas Food and Toy Baskets. Thank you!

Women of the ELCA Board Meeting November 3, 2025

Rose Keeley, Marsha Oss, Linda Simmons, and Olive Weber

The Advent Christmas Brunch, Joy to The World, will be on December 6 starting at 10 a.m.. Plans were made for the program, decorations, and food.

Our annual Love Offering is planned for February.
Tentative dates for the rummage sale are April 17 and 18, 2026.

Our next meeting will be on January 5 at 1:30 p.m.
We closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Linda Simmons, Secretary

Women of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA 



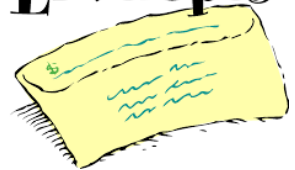
The Parents of Loss group will meet on Tuesday, December 9th, at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel at St. Mark's. This group is for all who are grieving the loss of a child or grandchild, regardless of age. They meet here the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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Your 2026 Offering Envelopes are here! If you haven't already received yours, please contact the office and make arrangements to pick them up.

If you are interested in Simply Giving, the electronic giving option, please contact the church office. This is a convenient way to keep up to date on your contributions.

Offering Envelopes



Abiding Memorials Ministry Please remember that if you have any requests for project funds, they should be submitted to them the last week of each quarter. This will give them sufficient time for all members to review the paperwork. Requests should be sent to Iver Buchmann. Thank you!

REMINDER ----REMINDER ----REMINDER ----

Now that cooler weather is here, it is especially important to **make sure all meetings/functions are on the church office calendar**. If the office isn't aware of your events, the rooms won't be scheduled for heat. So, to be assured that you will have a comfortable space for your meeting/function/event, be sure that that you notify the office you will be here. Thank you.



Highlights from the November 11th, St. Mark's Council Meeting

ST MARK'S FINANCIAL REPORT - 01/01/25 through 10/31/25

BUDGETED GIVING:	\$ 65,616.00
(2024 YTD Giving \$ 67,655.00)	
2025 YTD Fund Income	\$148,986.00
2025 YTD General Fund Expenses	\$152,133.00
GENERAL FUND <u>Deficit</u>	- \$ 3,147.00



St. Mark's Pulpit Supply

St. Mark's Council members will be scheduling pulpit supply for our 10:30am worships each week until further notice. The schedule for the next few weeks is:

December 7 th	Deacon Nickolas Baumann
December 14 th	Pastor Bud Johnson
December 21 st	TBD
December 24 th , @ 3:00pm,	- Pastor Aaron Bye
December 28 th	Pastor Bud Johnson
January 11 & 18	Pastor Bud Johnson
February 1 & 22	Pastor Bud Johnson
March 8 & 22	Pastor Bud Johnson

Thank you to Rose Keeley for scheduling worship leaders for St. Mark's!



MARK THESE UPCOMING EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Men's Breakfast – Thursday, December 4th, at 8:00am at Butterwicks
St. Mark's Council - Tuesday, December 9th, at 6:30pm
Parents of Loss – Tuesday, December 9th, at 7:00pm in the chapel

December Birthdays and Anniversaries...

Birthdays:

3 Jeff Bear
 15 Carol Hendrickson
 16 Brad Rundquist
 Ella Rundquist
 17 Eleanor Foss
 20 Maurine Danielson
 24 Jerry Berge
 26 Marsha Oss
 Bob Twedt
 27 Pat Keeley

Anniversaries:

1 Michele & Mark Peterson
 27 Jay & Nora Hubbard



(Please contact the church office if you have any corrections.)



President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Mark Peterson
 Iver Buchmann
 Rose Keeley
 Art Ruud

Donna Hubbard Marsha Oss

Ministers: Every member of the congregation

Missionaries: Willie & Annie Langdji

Office: 701-772-4807 **Office Email:** stmarkselca@msn.com
(Office Hours will vary – please call ahead)

Websites: St. Mark's www.stmarksqf.org
 GIFT www.giftofgracegf.org



Please look for our logo and "Like" us on Facebook at St. Mark's Lutheran Church





Evangelical Lutheran
 Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.



Eastern North Dakota Synod
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

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December 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
	1 7:00 Scouts	2	3 9-Noon Quilting	4 8:00 Men's Breakfast	5	6 10:00 "Joy to the World" WELCA Brunch
7 <u>White Gift Sunday</u> 10:30 Worship (Deacon Nickolas)	8 7:00 Scouts	9 6:30 Council 7:00 Parents of Loss	10 9-Noon Quilting	11	12	13
14 10:30 Worship (Pastor Bud)	15 7:00 Scouts	16	17 9-Noon Quilting	18	19	20
21 10:30 Worship 4:30 Quiet Christmas at Walle	22 7:00 Scouts	23 Christmas Eve Worships 3:00 St. Mark's (Pastor Bye) 5:00 Walle (Lay-Led)				26
28 10:30 Worship (Pastor Bud)	29	30	31 NEW YEARS EVE			
						27