



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

August 2026

Red Willow Ministries Quilts & More Auction Saturday, August 22nd 1651 Jacob Drive – Binford, ND

10:00 am
11:00 am
12:30 pm
10:00-2:15

Quilt Viewing Opens
Lunch in the Retreat Center
Live Auction in the Chapel
Silent Auction in the Chapel

Quilts from small table toppers to king size.

Online bidding on www.redwillowministries.com opens at 8:00 am on August 7th, and closes at 8:00 pm, August 14th.



Raffle tickets (\$10) are available in the church office for this "Lakota Star" quilt.

Red Willow will celebrate their 100th Anniversary at the camp on Saturday, August 8th. See poster included in this newsletter.

A message from Pastor Karen...

Thank you all for the warm welcome! I am delighted to be serving Jesus with you as your interim pastor these next nine months. Please feel free to contact me through the St. Mark's office 701-772-4807. My usual office hours will be Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in the morning. I will be getting an email address through the parish website soon. It is wonderful to reconnect with the people of St. Mark's and to meet new people at Walle and Evanger. Please be patient with me as I endeavor to remember or learn your names. It may take some time.

As we serve Jesus together, we remember our baptismal promises affirmed at confirmation:

- To abide in this Faith and in the covenant of baptism and as members of the Church to be diligent in the use of the Means of Grace and in Prayer. (Service Book and Hymnal, 1958)

- To live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. (Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, and Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 2006)

I invite you to prayerfully consider how you, your congregation, and this parish are being called to serve Jesus. As we serve together, may we experience the love of God and the joy of living in his kingdom.

See you at worship! Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karen Young Trenne



MARK THESE UPCOMING EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Men's Breakfast – Thursday, August 6th, at **9:00 am (Please note change)**

St. Mark's Council - Tuesday, August 11th, at 6:30pm

Parents of Loss – Tuesday, August 11th, at 7:00pm in the chapel

From the Office of the Presiding Bishop
The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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All Together in One Place

JUNE 23, 2026

America at 250: Holding gratitude and humility

Dear church,

As we look toward the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, many of us will celebrate with fireworks, parades and barbecues. Independence Day often brings us together with family and friends. Yet there is more that connects us than our communal celebrations. We are also connected through a common vision.

Signed in 1776, the Declaration of Independence proclaims a vision of equality for all people. While there were other nations pushing for equality at the time, the declaration was and is a monumental document in the way it names the aspiration so boldly. As we observe and celebrate the 250th anniversary of that signing, we also affirm the vision of freedom and equality it casts. We can be grateful.

And with contrition and humility, we acknowledge all the ways we have failed to embody that vision. As members of this church, we are called to “pray, participate in, and advocate for civic life in the United States that reflects God’s activity and call, which seek both the well-being of all people and a creation marked by justice and peace” (ELCA social statement [*Faith and Civic Life*](#), p. 89).

As Lutherans, we know the importance of naming realities for what they are. As citizens, we confess the ways we have not yet realized the vision of the Declaration of Independence and, more importantly, as Christians we confess the ways we have participated in or been complicit in failures to live into the vision God provides. This vision is rooted in creation and redemption. God crafts each person in God’s own image and sends Jesus Christ to redeem us, setting us free to follow Christ’s new commandment to love one another.

The history of the United States is complex, and all too often we have fallen short of our stated values. Indigenous peoples across this land have been forced to cede their ancestral homes and pushed to reservations. Women and men have been prevented from voting because of their sex and race and spat on and jailed when they demanded their rights. Japanese American families were interned during World War II. Queer and transgender people’s lives are obstructed by federal and state orders.

There is a photograph of Elizabeth Eckford, one of the nine Black teenagers who integrated Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957. Books under her arm, she faces forward as angry white people crowd behind her. She was just trying to go to school.

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All Together in One Place – continued

Holding both the failures and the vision in our hearts and minds, I invite us to ask ourselves, “What does it mean to celebrate a promise that is real and yet still unfolding? What does it mean to be a people who always live in ‘the already but not yet’?”

This is a central question for us not only as we mark the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence but also in our daily lives as people of faith. The prophets repeatedly remind us of the vision God casts for all of creation, and they call us to account when, as God’s own people, we fall short.

When we fall short, we remember we are rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We think, speak and live out faith through God’s future. God’s future is resurrection. As a church, we are turned not only to the past but to the future God is making possible right now through us as we love and serve others.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe that God calls us to:

- Remember our connection to each other through baptism, as Scripture teaches us: “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5).
- Name sin for what it really is and to repent of it, as the Augsburg Confession and the catechisms remind us.
- Serve the common good in society as “earthly measures toward God’s intention” (*Faith and Civic Life*, p. 11).

As we celebrate 250 years of the Declaration of Independence, we can hold gratitude and humility, possibilities and shortcomings. We continue to live in the already and the not-yet.

And we hold fast to the most important promise of all: the presence of God with us, the power of the resurrection of Christ, the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit and the ever-unfolding grace of God.

We celebrate this occasion neither as a perfect nation nor as a perfect church but as a people held in God’s grace and called into community in service to all neighbors and for the sake of the world God so loves.

In Christ,



God's Work, Our Hands

Salvation Army Food Pantry Needs

Thank you to all of you who responded to the Salvation Army's need for Food Pantry items. St. Mark's delivered a heaping cart full of donations this week! Your continued generosity is so much appreciated!



Highlights from the July St. Mark's Council Meeting

- GIFT Council is looking at updating the parish website.
- Giving is down from last year.
- The daycare has renewed their lease for 2 years.
- Abiding Memorials voted to match the WELCA donations that they made this spring. This totals \$1,600.00.

ST MARK'S FINANCIAL REPORT - 01/01/26 through 06/30/26

BUDGETED GIVING:	\$ 33,139.00
(2025 YTD Giving \$ 43,447.00)	
2026 YTD Fund Income	\$ 63,045.00
2026 YTD General Fund Expenses	\$ 66,247.00
GENERAL FUND <u>Deficit</u>	- \$ 3,202.00



The Parents of Loss group will meet on Tuesday, August 11th, 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.

Abiding Memorials Ministry

Please remember that if you have any requests for project funds, they should be submitted to Abiding by 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!



39TH ANNUAL QUILTS & MORE AUCTION

LIVE & SILENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

at Red Willow Bible Camp

1651 Jacob Drive, Binford, ND 58416

SCHEDULE

Quilt Viewing in Gym - 10:00 AM

**Luncheon in the Retreat Center
Dining Room - 11:00 AM**

Silent Auction - 10:00 AM - 2:15 PM

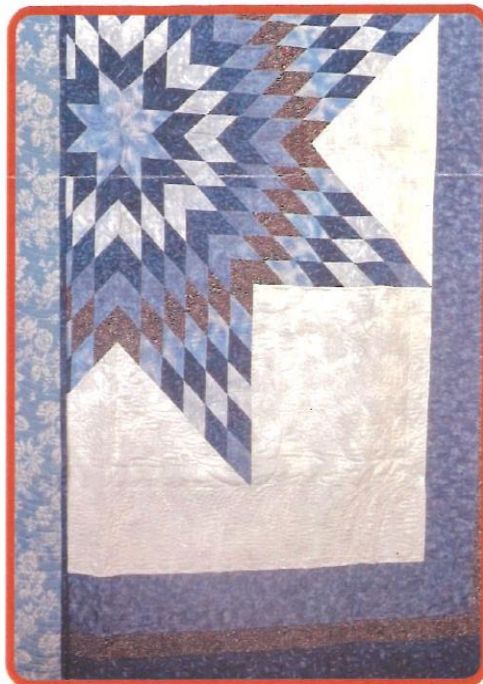
Live Auction in the Chapel - 12:30 PM

ONLINE AUCTION

AUGUST 7-14

(Link on Camp's Website)

**Bidding Opens 8:00 AM, August 7
and Closes 8:00 PM, August 14**



RAFFLE QUILT

"Lakota Star"

**Donated by the family of
the late Janice Thykeson**

(Contact the camp if you need raffle tickets)

RAFFLE TICKETS - \$10.00 EACH

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE

PREVIEW QUILTS • DOWNLOAD ABSENTEE BIDDER FORM • DOWNLOAD QUILT DONATION FORM

WWW.REDWILLOWMINISTRIES.COM or Scan Here →

CONTACT US AT: 701-676-2681 | OFFICE@REDWILLOWMINISTRIES.COM



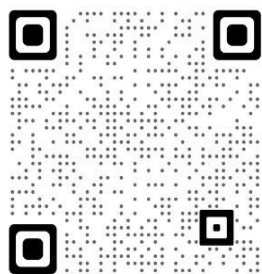


RED WILLOW MINISTRIES

Light the Fire, Celebrating 100 Years

PLEASE JOIN US
TO CELEBRATE!
SAT, AUGUST 8TH

1:00 PM Check-in & Ice Cream Social
3:00-5:00 PM Time to Explore Camp
5:00 PM Celebration Banquet
6:30 PM Celebration Program
8:00 PM Campfire
9:00 PM Walk to Cross Hill
REGISTRATION REQUIRED - \$50 PER PERSON



**SUNDAY @ 10:00 AM | WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL
WITH BISHOP TESSA MOON-LEISETH**

**Register by using the QR Code or heading to
redwillowministries.com/100-year-celebration**

August Birthdays and Anniversaries...

Birthdays:

2 Arnie Harstad
 12 Roselynn Umess
 13 Stephanie Dillenburg
 14 Carol Forsman
 25 Olive Weber
 26 RyLee Vetsch
 27 Scott Bohm
 29 Gloria Nerby

Anniversaries:

2 Jerry & Bev Bear
 13 Reg & Roselyn Umess
 26 Mark & Linda Keehr
 29 Tom & Ann Henderson
 30 Mike & Kristyn Vetsch



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



President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
 Donna Hubbard

Mark Peterson
 Iver Buchmann
 Rose Keeley
 Marsha Oss Art Ruud

Interim Pastor: Pastor Karen Young Trenne
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.stmarksgf.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.



All 4 Learning
 Childcare Center



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

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:30 Worship	3 7:00 Scouts	4	5 10:00 Quilting	6 9:00 Men's Breakfast	7	8 Red Willow 100 th Anniver. 1:00 Check in 5:00 Banquet 6:30 Program
9 10:00 Red Willow Worship w/ Bishop Tessa 10:30 Worship	10 7:00 Scouts	11 6:30 Council 7:00 Parents of Loss	12 10:00 Quilting	13	14	15
16 10:30 Worship	17 7:00 Scouts	18	19 10:00 Quilting	20	21	22 Red Willow Quilt Auction 10:00 Showing 11:00 Lunch
23 10:30 Worship	24 7:00 Scouts	25	26 10:00 Quilting	27	28	29
30 10:30 Worship	31 7:00 Scouts			30	31	