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

November 2026



All Saints Sunday

November 1st

During worship on this special day, we will honor those members of our St. Mark's family who have died since All Saints last year. In doing so, we demonstrate our belief that all the baptized are saints of God. We grieve for our beloved dead, knowing that God honors our tears.

May God Bless their memory:

Rev. Robert Weber **Beulah Borgeson**

On this special day, we also celebrate the gift of our baptismal relationship with God. **Sawyer Ivy Thompson** has been baptized at St. Mark's in the last year.



The Advent/Christmas brunch sponsored by St. Mark's WELCA will be held on Saturday, December 5th at 10:00 a.m.
Plan to attend and bring a friend to celebrate the joyous season.
More information will be available in the December newsletter.

A message from Pastor Karen…

November: All Saints and Thanksgiving

My dear friend, Ann, died this past summer. She was a baptized child of God, which by definition makes her a saint. She was fun, funny, very smart, and quirky. She lived in Sioux Falls where she was a professor of Religion at Augustana University. I was blessed to be able to spend time with Ann, her husband Gary, and their poodle, Arthur, while I was serving as an interim pastor in Sioux Falls in 2024-25. We celebrated Holy Communion at Ann's funeral. Eucharist is the Greek word for Holy Communion and it means thanksgiving. When we gather around the table of the Lord, we are celebrating the Great Thanksgiving that will not end.

Who are the saints you will be celebrating this November? Will you be remembering a loved one who recently died? Can you remember a time when you sat at a table together enjoying food and fellowship? Maybe it was even on Thanksgiving Day. As we gather together again this year to remember our beloved dead on November 1, and as we gather together on November 26 for the USA Thanksgiving holiday, we will cherish the memories of those we have loved and lost. We will also cherish those who sit at those tables with us now.

Every time we gather at the Holy Communion table, we are joined by the Communion of Saints. The Communion of Saints is the whole church on earth and in heaven. It is our time to be reunited with those we love at the table of the Lord while we wait together for the day when he will return and gather all of us to himself at the feast that will have no end.

Thanksgiving Blessings to all you saints of the GIFT Lutheran Ministry!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karen Young Trenne



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There will be a special meeting of the congregation following the 10:30am worship on Sunday, November 15th.
This will be an informational meeting to discuss the future of St. Mark's and to discuss the offer we received to purchase our building.
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Consecration Sunday
November 15th

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November 15th, has been designated as Consecration Sunday.

On this Sunday, you will be given an opportunity to pledge your commitment to our ongoing ministry for the coming year.
You will be mailed additional information very soon – including a pledge card for 2027. Cards will also be available in the church office.

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Following worship, a special coffee time will be served by the Outreach Ministry
All are welcome.

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Below, we have posted a chart which shows different levels of giving. It is provided here simply to allow you to look at where you are in your giving, reflect on that, and possibly set giving goals for the future.

Weekly Giving Guide

ANNUAL INCOME	MONTHLY INCOME	WEEKLY INCOME	4%	6%	8%	10%	12%	15%
18,000	1,500	346	14.00	21.00	28.00	35.00	42.00	52.00
25,000	2,083	481	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	58.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	69.00	87.00
40,000	3,333	769	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	92.00	115.00
45,000	3,750	65	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	104.00	130.00
50,000	4,167	962	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	115.00	144.00
60,000	5,000	1,154	46.00	69.00	92.00	115.00	138.00	173.00
75,000	6,250	1,442	58.00	87.00	115.00	144.00	173.00	216.00
100,000	8,333	1,923	77.00	115.00	154.00	192.00	231.00	288.00
125,000	10,417	2,404	96.00	144.00	192.00	240.00	288.00	361.00
150,000	12,500	2,885	115.00	173.00	231.00	289.00	346.00	433.00
175,000	14,583	3,365	135.00	202.00	269.00	337.00	404.00	505.00
200,000	16,667	3,846	154.00	231.00	308.00	385.00	462.00	577.00
225,000	18,750	4,327	173.00	260.00	346.00	433.00	519.00	649.00
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God's Work, Our Hands

Thank you to all of you who donated food items and cash donations for the United Way's backpack program in October. They are so appreciated.

Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness as we participate in the following programs and giving opportunities:

Foster Care Gift Cards. . .

Each year at Christmastime, Grand Forks Social Services works to obtain gifts for foster children in our community. They do so by asking people and organizations to purchase a variety of gifts and donate them. St. Mark's will be helping them out again this year by donating gift cards.
Very soon, you will see the Christmas tree set up in the narthex. **Please consider taking one or more tags from the tree and purchasing a gift card**. They ask that all cards not exceed $25 in value.



We have set a **December 13th deadline** to ensure the cards get distributed in time.

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the needs of those less fortunate and being a part of our focus on "God's Work, Our Hands".

Your Outreach Ministry

White Gifts Sunday. . .

On Sunday, December 6th, we will observe the Salvation Army's 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 6th. (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!



A Special Day of Thanks…

Our worship at St. Mark's on Sunday, ***November 22***nd, has been designated our "***Special Day of Thanks".***
This special day of thanks will be a time to show appreciation for all the wonderful things in our lives. It is a day to be thankful for our family, friends, health and the people who care about us. We will be reminded to be kind, appreciative for what we have and to spread happiness to those around us.

Two offerings will be taken that Sunday. Our regular offering will be taken, as well as our special designated Thanksgiving offering.

Please use your special "Thanksgiving Offering" envelope for this designated offering. Our Thanksgiving offering is one of our designated offerings throughout the year. These three designated offerings (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday & Thanksgiving) are split among Christus Rex, ELCA Missionary Support, Valley Senior Living, Red Willow Bible Camp.



Highlights from the October St. Mark's Council Meeting

- ✓ Outreach Ministry has many projects coming up this fall including United Way's backpack program, Social Services Angel Tree and White Gift Sunday.
- ✓ Consecration Sunday is November 15th. Letters and pledge cards will be mailed.
- ✓ Mark will make the congregation aware that St. Mark's has received an offer to purchase the building. No decisions have been made and discussions will follow.
- ✓ Abiding Memorials approved requests for various donations from Outreach Ministry totaling $4,400. A WELCA request was also approved for $500 to Red Willow.

ST MARK'S FINANCIAL REPORT - 01/01/26 through 09/30/26

BUDGETED GIVING:	$ 48,611.00
(2025 YTD Giving $ 61,053.00)	
2026 YTD Fund Income	$ 96,405.00
2026 YTD General Fund Expenses	$ 95,574.00
GENERAL FUND difference	**$ 831.00**



The JOY Group will meet for food and fellowship on Wednesday, November 11th, at Noon. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.



The Parents of Loss group will meet on Tuesday, November 10th, 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.



One of the best coziest days at PRBC…The Quilt Auction.

There will be soup and sandwiches, homemade bars, fresh coffee and a quilt to take home.

ELCA

Bidding takes places promptly at 1:30pm on Nov. 1st. (There will be no online bidding)

Many people across the state of ND donate quilts, table runners, wood crafted items, potholders, homemade cards and more!

PRBC thanks you for your time and dedication, for your generosity and the love that went into each item



MARK THESE UPCOMING EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR:

WELCA - Monday, November 2nd, at 2:00pm
Men's Breakfast – Thursday, November 5th, at 9:00 am at Butterwicks
GIFT Council - Monday, November 9th, at 5:30pm at St. Mark's
St. Mark's Council - Tuesday, November 10th, at 6:30pm
Parents of Loss – Tuesday, November 10th, at 7:00pm in the chapel
JOY – Wednesday, November 11th, at noon
Consecration Sunday - Sunday, November 15th, at 10:30am
Special Day of Thanks – Sunday, November 22nd, at 10:30am

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

ELCA

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All Together in One Place – Celebrating Our Diversity

September 28, 2026

Dear beloved children of God,

As a church, we collectively continue to celebrate the diversity with which God has created the world. Scripture tells us that, from the very beginning, we were made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). In the book of Acts, many were gathered in one place when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Each was given the power to witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:32-33). In 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, the human body serves as a metaphor, demonstrating that a healthy Christian community relies on the many distinct gifts and qualities of each unique member — emphasizing unity through continuing to be a connected church.

I am thankful to serve this church in the office of presiding bishop. I am also grateful for my experience as an activist and leader in communities and congregations that are at the margins. Whatever our role and wherever our place in the church, God calls us to develop trusting relationships with our neighbors. In the service of Affirmation of Baptism, the presiding minister asks, "Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism ... to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 236). Striving for justice involves learning about underlying causes of division and inequity. It is a commitment our church makes because of baptism.

Celebrating diversity and striving for equity, inclusion and accessibility for all reflect this baptismal call. The words "diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility" and the initialism "DEIA" mean different things to different people. For the ELCA, as church together, these terms reflect our "delight in the fact that the people called, gathered, and enlightened" by God represent such a wide array of identities, backgrounds and life stories (ELCA social statement Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture, 1993, p. 3). The terms remind us of the gospel vision of community, in which all are truly welcome. They are terms this church has chosen to include in its teachings and constitutions as reflections of our faith in God, who creates, redeems and sustains all people.

Everyone matters in this church. I have celebrated with synods and congregations as they build communities that reflect the people and neighborhoods around them. I have worshiped in places where many languages are spoken and people from different backgrounds feel welcome. Together we have expanded our understanding of what it means to be church through relationships with companion churches around the world and through relationships between congregations in rural, urban and suburban settings here in the United States. We are joined together through holy baptism, through which God calls us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. "Diversity," "equity," "inclusion" and "accessibility" are reflections of justice when it is fulfilled. Like many saints before us have said, justice is the form love takes in society. The road is long, but we go forth in faith, trusting in the risen Christ and inspired by one another for the work ahead. Let us continue in the covenant God has made with us, to serve all people in love. In Christ,



What's Happening in the GIFT of Grace Parish…

- ** GIFT of Grace Council – meets Monday, November 9th, at 5:30pm at St. Mark's
- ** Special Day of Worship – Sunday, November 22nd, at St. Mark's at 10:30am
- ** Doughnut Making – at Walle following 8:30am worship on November 1st.
- ** Lefse Making – at Walle following 8:30am worship on November 15th
- ** Confirmation Worship – for Ezra at Walle on Sunday, November 8th, at 8:30am
- ** Master Chorale – will have their fall concert at St. Mark's on November 14th
- ** Classic Swing Band – will be at United Lutheran for a free concert on November 15th, at 7pm.
- ** Save the Date!! – St. Mark's WELCA Christmas Brunch on December 5th, at 10:00am
- ** Walle Christmas Program – Sunday, December 6th

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!



** Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1st.
Remember to set your clocks **BACK 1 HOUR.**

November Birthdays and Anniversaries…

Birthdays:

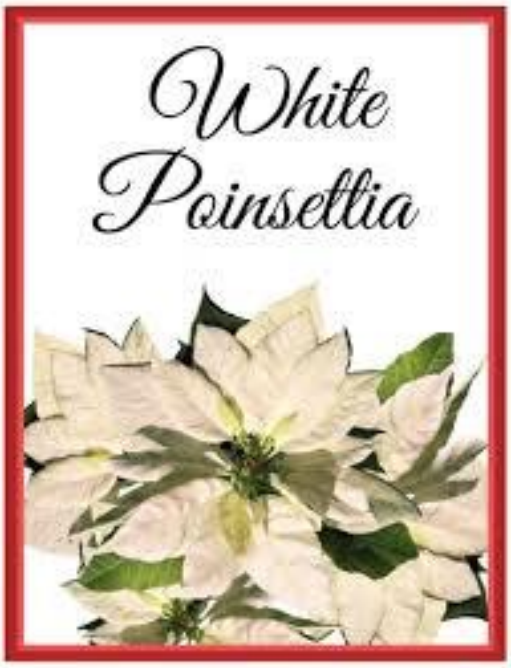
1	Cheryl Lauster
2	Jerry Bear
9	Nancy Harstad
10	Sandra Robinson
10	Autumn Rundquist
15	Oakley Oss
18	Iver Buchmann
19	Kristina Swenson
20	Layla Hubbard

Anniversaries:

11	Cody & Megan Oss
29	Arnie & Nancy Harstad



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



Poinsettia Order Form

If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia to display during our Advent Season, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by December 6th

All Seasons is offering us white poinsettias in 6 ½ inch pots for $12 each.

NAME:_____

I would like to purchase _____ plants(s)

☐ Please leave my poinsettia on display during all of Christmas Season.

☐ I will take my plant home on Christmas Eve.

My plant(s) is in ☐ honor of ☐ memory of:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____



THANKSGIVING TOGETHER

Join us as we introduce our newest neighbors and recent refugees to the tradition of Thanksgiving.

NOVEMBER 16
6:00PM - 7:30PM

Enjoy a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner. The evening will include conversation, live music and a greeting from Global Friends Coalition.
This event is sponsored by area churches.

PLEASE RSVP

Calvary Lutheran Church
1405 S 9th St, Grand Forks, ND

Who says we can't have a little fun with our coffee and fellowship time after worship?









President	Mark Peterson	
Vice President	Iver Buchmann	
Secretary		
Treasurer	Rose Keeley	
Donna Hubbard	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.

November 2026

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DAYLIGHTS SAVINGS TIME BEGINS					
1 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 10:30 Worship	2 2:00 WELCA 7:00 Scouts	3	4 10-Noon Quilting	5 9:00 Men's Breakfast	6	7
8 10:30 Worship	9 **5:30 GIFT Council @ SM** **7:00 Scouts**	10 6:30 Council	11 10-Noon Quilting Noon JOY	12	13	14 Master Chorale Concert
15 CONSECRATION 10:30 Worship 7:00 Classic Swing Band at United Luth.	16 6-7:30 @ Calvary Thanksgiving Toether 7:00 Scouts	17	18 10-Noon Quilting	19	20	21
22 SPECIAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING 10:30 Worship	23 7:00 Scouts	24	25			28
29 10:30 Worship	30 7:00 Scouts					