



Holy Cross—St. Mark

Newsletter

July 2025



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Holy Cross & St. Mark Lutheran
Churches



Website:

holycrossandstmark.org

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Upcoming Events

Jul. 14-17: VBS @HS - 6-7:45pm
Jul. 20: Joint VBS Service and Picnic
@HC - 10:30am
Jul. 21: SM Voters' Meeting - 6pm
Jul. 22: 1st Summer Midweek Bible Class
(Revelation)
Jul. 24: HC Voters' Meeting - 6:30pm

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Devotional Thoughts

By Pastor Crass

Did you know that our church is a confessional Lutheran church? It sounds like a complicated term, but it really isn't. It means that first, our church holds to the Lutheran Confessions, the many confessions of faith that our Lutheran forefathers composed to summarize the truths of scripture. Second, it means that our church does not shy away in being forward facing in what we believe. We don't just say, "We believe the Bible." We confess what we believe, always grounded in the Bible. Because of this, the Lutheran church has always been a teaching church. We've taken seriously the Great Commission's call to both baptize and instruct. This is one of the reason you will find the two largest confessional Lutheran church bodies in America toward the top of the list of the largest private school systems in the United States. This is why you'll see a dedication to catechetical instruction within our synod and her churches too. We aren't content with splashing in the shallows of God's word. We want to plumb its depths.

I don't think it would be far-fetched to say St. Mark and Holy Cross have refused to shy away from confessing our faith too. Historically, we have valued educating people in God's word. Just look at the black-and-white pictures on the wall of the confirmation classes of decades past, young Christians who confessed their faith and promised a life of faithfulness.. Just look through the picture on the church website of giant Sunday School classes, VBS events, and youth get-togethers. Talk to adult confirmands in our congregation, and they'll remember the Bible Basics Class they took, not because the church wanted to put them through the paces to prove their mettle before they became members, but because our church wants her members to know what she believes and confesses, because she wants them to confess it boldly.

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WELS News

Teachers, staff ministers, vicars, and pastors assigned

May is assignment month in our synod. It's a joyful time and an event to celebrate the assignment of called workers.

The Assignment Committee, composed of the Conference of Presidents, assisted by advisors from the ministerial education schools and administrators of the synod's areas of ministry, met May 14 and 15 to assign teacher and staff ministry candidates from Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn. The Assignment Committee carefully considered all requests for candidates and prayerfully matched those requests with the skills and training of the graduates. One hundred fifteen teacher candidates and four staff ministry candidates were assigned. Dozens of requests for candidates were not able to be filled, and many teaching vacancies remain. The Commission on Lutheran Schools continues to work directly with those schools that have vacancies.

The next week the Assignment Committee met at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis. There the committee assigned 37 vicar candidates and assigned or re-assigned 29 pastor candidates. As was the case for teachers, many requests for candidates were not able to be filled, and the pastoral vacancy rate remains higher than we would want it to be.

Despite the limited number of candidates, the assignment of these workers is a reminder of what a great blessing our ministerial education system is. It provides faithful and well-trained workers who will soon go into the harvest fields where God the Holy Spirit is sending them. Please remember these called workers in your prayers, and ask God to send more workers into his harvest field.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

Looking at recent 175th anniversary events

Recently, WELS Historical Institute hosted two events to commemorate the 175th anniversary of WELS. On Wed., May 28, 2025, WELS Historical Institute hosted the WELS 175th anniversary dinner at Salem, Milwaukee, Wis., in celebration of the founding of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The original constitution for WELS was adopted on May 26, 1850. That adoption took place at the first synod convention, which was held in a small log cabin church at Salem Lutheran Church in Granville. WELS President Mark Schroeder and former President Karl Gurgel greeted the attendees. Prof. Joel Otto, chairman of WELS Historical Institute, gave the main address highlighting the blessings of God's grace to WELS through the years.

Then, on Sat., May 31, Rev. Jeremiah Gumm led a tour of the historic Union Cemetery. Union Cemetery was originally founded as St. Johannes Lutheran Cemetery in 1851 by St. John's Lutheran Church (8th and Vliet) in Milwaukee. In 1865, it merged with the cemeteries of Grace (WELS) and Trinity (LCMS) of downtown Milwaukee. During the tour, Gumm shared the rich history of many early WELS founders and leaders interred there, including Rev. Johannes Muehlhaeuser, who helped select and purchase the grounds, as well as Rev. Johann Bading, Dr. Adolf Hoenecke, and Prof. John Schaller.

Dual Parish Update

- The joint council approved the use of Facebook advertising to publicize more church services and events.
- Both churches will be working to host a "welcome home Sunday" in fall, where we'll attempt to have every member our church worshipping together.

St. Mark Council Update

- The new church sign has been ordered and the planter out front is going to be replaced.
- July we will approve the new church constitution that council has been working on for the past couple years.

Holy Cross Council Update

- The new green banners have been purchased and displayed. Council will be looking into purchasing banners for additional seasons of the church year.

Who Can I Pray For?

Below are some of our shut-ins that you can pray for, call, and even visit (please call ahead before any visits).

- Carol Heydn - (906)788-4445 - W5744 14 Lane, Wallace, MI 49893
- Kristin Bates - (906)280-8276 - W6450 Cty. Rd. 358, Daggett, MI 49821
- Harold and Virginia Schlenvogt - (906)753-4326 - W5209 Cty Rd 348, Stephenson, MI 49887
- Evelyn Smith - (920)370-2361 - W3124 Cty Rd 366, Daggett, MI 49821 (currently living at Menominee Health Services in Menominee)
- Cheryl Bussler - (906)290-0881 - N222 Willow St, Stephenson, MI 49887
- Jim and Carlyn Lynch - (906)241-1488 - N10438 M-35, Cedar River, MI 49887
- Judy Hamblen - (715)923-5661 - 2006 Lake Park Dr, Room 209, Marinette, WI 54143 (The Cottages in Marinette)

Would you like to be included on this list? Please reach out to Pastor Crass.

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Our confessional stance matters just as much now as ever. As Christianity shrinks in our nation, many Christians are being tempted to water-down their teachings to make them more palatable with the world around them. “The times have changed!” they say. But while technology has changed—for good and for bad—people have not. Every person is a sinner. The world is filled with stress and sorrow. A rescuer is needed. But just as people have not changed, neither has God’s word. His promises are still the same, promises to forgive in Christ, to care for us, and to bring us home to heaven. God’s good will in our lives has not changed either, no matter how many months we dedicate to this sin or that and no matter how much our favorite political commentator tells us that evil is actually good. There is no place to twist and mutilate God’s word. There is only space to confess it boldly.

Our bold confession matters in our world today, especially as more and more people have no concept of who Christ is. When the new blue hymnal was made, the three-year cycle of Sunday readings was adjusted slightly to include more Bible narratives, stories that most people would have heard in their Sunday School in generations past. Because we cannot assume anymore that the visitor (and maybe even member) sitting in our pew knows who Jonah, or Judas, or John the Baptist is, we have to simplify. We have to go back to the basics. That’s not a bad thing. We are the teaching church, remember! But I hope it doesn’t accompany a mindset that seeks to stay in the shallows permanently. God’s word has a lot more to say about your life, and the beauty of our Lord’s promises provide a lifetime of amazement.

Once again, this month our church is reminding us of our heritage as the teaching church. As the finishing touches are put on our VBS for all ages (from birth to glory), our members are given another opportunity to grow in the word so that they can better confess their faith. If I can be so bold, your presence at this VBS Bible class, no matter how old or young you are, is really important. It confesses that growth in God’s word does not end on your confirmation day. It confesses that God always has more to say to us. And it confesses that this VBS ministry of our church matters.

Let’s dive deeper in God’s promises at VBS and in one of our weekly Bible classes. Let’s make sure that we know what we confess and why we confess it. Amen.

Member Announcements

If you have any announcements you would like shared with our church family, please reach out to Pastor Crass.

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8am Bible Class at Holy Cross 8:45am Worship at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at St. Mark 11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark	2930	1	2	3	4	5
8am Bible Class at Holy Cross 8:45am Worship at Holy Cross w/Communion 10:30am Worship at St. Mark w/Communion 11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark	67	8	9	10	11	12
8am Bible Class at Holy Cross 8:45am Worship at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at St. Mark 11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark	1314	15	16	17	18	19
10:30am Joint VBS Worship at Holy Cross 11:30am VBS Picnic at Holy Cross	2021	22	23	24 6:30pm Holy Cross Voters' Meeting	25	26
8:45am Worship at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at St. Mark 11:30am Fellowship at St. Mark	27	28	29	30	31	1
St. Mark Altar: Kay Keefer Hostess: Sue & Charlotte Blake		Holy Cross				
		Date	Ushers	Counters		
		7/6	Team 3: Kedsch	Team 2: Ken Hacker & Terri Sivula		
		7/13	Team 4: Sivula	Team 3: Sean Trout & Jeff Hacker		
		7/20	Team 5: Anderson, Walcher, Lynch	Team 4: Marie Anderson & Mary Sivula		
		7/27	Team 1: Trout/Kary	Team 1: Jerry Kary & Kristin Sivula		