



# Holy Cross—St. Mark

## Newsletter

### October 2025



Facebook:

Holy Cross & St. Mark Lutheran  
Churches



Website:

[holycrossandstmark.org](http://holycrossandstmark.org)

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#### Upcoming Events

Oct. 6: HC Ladies' Aid - 1pm  
Oct. 13: Little Lambs @HC - 6pm  
Oct. 13: SM Voters' Meeting - 6pm  
Oct. 16: HC Voters' Meeting - 6:30pm  
Oct. 22: 20's & 30's Group @HC - 5:30pm  
Oct. 26: Welcome Home Sunday  
Oct. 26: Circuit Reformation @Mt. Olive in Iron Mountain - 4pm  
Oct. 27: Little Lambs @HC - 6pm

Pastor Crass Contact Info:  
(309)798-0610 - text or call  
[pastorcrass@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcrass@gmail.com)

#### Devotional Thoughts

*By Pastor Crass*

One of my favorite movies growing up was *Cool Runnings*, based on the true story of the Jamaican bobsled team participating in the 1988 Winter Olympics. I couldn't believe sprinters from an island nation that sees no snow could actually make the Olympics and compete for a medal. But my disbelief was not all that inappropriate. In reality, the team was nowhere near medal contention, finishing dead last. Their sled crash at the end of the film was not mechanical failure, like the movie shows, but driver error. Many more events in the movie were either embellished or made up altogether. And it made me wonder, "Why would they make up details about such a good story?" I was foolish to not understand: only the best stories sell.

Stories are powerful. They can shape people's opinions and drive them to do unbelievable things. They can bring out incredible sadness or fierce anger. But what happens when stories don't tell the truth? And what happens when we start to read fiction as if it's reality?

In our time of AI fakes and satire that can be indistinguishable from news, it is easy to live according to lies. Who among us hasn't shared a story with others, only to find out that it wasn't true? And who of us refused to believe something that actually was true because it seemed like a lie? But what's most pernicious is when stories with an inch of truth are stretched a mile to further an agenda, be it a movie that gives the impression that a problem is much more dire than it truly is or a documentary that ignores meaningful facts to support the director's agenda. Stories are powerful, but if those stories are built on lies, they will lead people to think and act in a way that is inconsistent with reality.

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## WELS News

*Our synod has set a strategic plan for the next ten years of our shared ministry. Over the next four months, I'm going to include each of the four parts of that plan. You can read ahead and find more resources at [christthroughus.net](http://christthroughus.net).*

### Culture

#### **Our goals in cultivating a gospel-driven culture**

Culture is a shared mindset—commonly held values and expectations—that shapes what an organization does. As WELS marks 175 years of God's grace, we prayerfully reflect on the world's and our own culture to faithfully carry out Christ's calling to be his ambassadors.

#### **Raise up culture-shaping leaders**

A congregation's culture flows first from our leader and Savior, Jesus Christ. Yet in his gracious design, Christ also works through human leaders such as called workers and lay members to mold the culture of congregations. Through this strategic plan, we strive to build and support gospel-minded leaders who embody Christ's mission of sharing the good news with all people.

#### **Foster a zealous gospel mindset**

"How could you not want to give that gift to everybody?" remarks Jena Winder, member at Riverview, Appleton, Wis., about sharing the good news with others. "I don't think there's anything more. Well, I know there's nothing more important. And so it's worth the risk." This is one example of what having a zealous gospel mindset looks like—putting one's own comfort aside to share God's grace with others because his Word is our highest priority.

#### **Make outreach a personal effort**

As we live in a culture searching for purpose and connection, personal outreach is more crucial than ever. Our goal is that all believers prayerfully consider how they can embrace their role as living witnesses to Christ's love to best use their spiritual gifts from God. "While people are going through life, we can be there and be the people to share that hope with them when they need that the most. The Great Commission is for all of us," reflects Travis Winder, member at Riverview, Appleton, Wis., on the importance of personal outreach.

#### **Encourage cross-bearing discipleship**

The call to serve as Christ's ambassadors is a high privilege, but it is not an easy path. Jesus himself warned that following him demands self-denial and cross bearing. God has given all believers spiritual gifts to best serve him. Through encouragement and examples rooted in Scripture, we will help believers demonstrate courageous love and bear bold witness to the gospel, even when it invites opposition.

#### **Build deep Christian community**

Many in our society yearn for authentic community instead of the fleeting connections they currently experience. Christ calls us to foster deep Christian community, revealing to the world the unity and love found in him. We strive to build welcoming spaces where people not only find community but most importantly find peace in their Savior.

### Dual Parish Update

- Welcome Home Sunday will be held on October 26. Our hope is to have 100% attendance that Sunday.

#### St. Mark Council Update

- St. Mark is exploring hiring a bookkeeper within the congregation to make the treasurer position more accessible to more men who would like to server in the future.

#### Holy Cross Council Update

- We will be in need of a new treasurer in the new year.
- A breakfast fundraiser for Christmas gifts for local families in need will be held in November.

## 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 - 1191 Pawn Dr, Green Bay WI 54313 (currently living at Menominee Health Services in Menominee)
- Elizabeth Grille - (906)792-6060 - W4728 County Rd. 338, Wallace, MI 49893 (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)
- Shirley Wetthuhn - (906)639-2236 - 2006 Lake Park Dr, Room 114, Marinette, WI 54143 (The Cottages)

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

*(continued from page 1)*

And yet, we go on telling stories, and even when we know they are false, we treat them like they are true. Like some religious mantra, we believe that if we repeat them enough, they will be true. But let me tell you this. No amount of convincing myself that I was a serviceable basketball player as an eighth grader changed the fact that I was (and am even more so now) a short and slow player on the court. It took getting cut freshman year of high school to internalize that thought. The stories we tell ourselves are powerful. But if they aren't true, we will eventually pay the price for them.

I find a strange phenomenon in our present times, though. We fill our eyes and ears with made-up stories, which too often form how we view the complexities of life, but the truth of God's word gets treated as if it were just a story. Gallup polling supports that second claim. In the past fifty years, the percentage of Americans who view the Bible as the actual, inspired word of God has been cut in half, while the percentage who believe it is nothing more than fables created by men has more than doubled. So, we have an inversion, don't we? The word of God is viewed as a story and the stories we watch on our screens are seen as the truth. It reminds me of what St. Paul wrote to Timothy: "For there will come a time when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, because they have itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in line with their own desires. They will also turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths."

Do not be fooled by the stories you hear. Not all are lies, but how can you be sure which are true? Instead, make sure you hold to the stories God tells, because these don't have to be stretched to seem interesting or twisted to serve a narrative. And these will not lead to a disordered or inaccurate view of the world, because they are God's descriptions and promises about and to his creation. And then take what God tells you and use it to understand and filter the stories the world tells, so you can decipher what messages are true and worthwhile and what messages are tools of the flesh to deceive and destroy. See all things in the light of the cross and grave. It won't mean you'll have some power to tell every truth from every lie, but it will help you better differentiate entertainment and narrative from truth. It will help you better see the world as God sees it. Amen.

## Member Announcements

*If you would like an announcement made in next month's newsletter, please let Pastor know.*

# October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 8am Bible Class at Holy Cross 8:45am Worship at Holy Cross 9:45am Sunday School at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at St. Mark 11:30am Fellowship at St. Mark	<b>29</b> 6pm Little Lambs	<b>30</b> 1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross	<b>1</b> 3:30pm Catechism Class	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8am Bible Class at St. Mark 8:45am Worship at St. Mark 9:30am Sunday School at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at Holy Cross 11:45am Bible Class at Holy Cross	<b>6</b> 1pm Holy Cross Ladies' Aid	<b>7</b> 1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross	<b>8</b> 3:30pm Catechism Class	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8am Bible Class at St. Mark 8:45am Worship at St. Mark 9:30am Sunday School at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at Holy Cross 11:45am Bible Class at Holy Cross	<b>13</b> 6pm Little Lambs 6pm St. Mark Voters' Meeting	<b>14</b> 1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross	<b>15</b> 3:30pm Catechism Class	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Holy Cross Voters' Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8am Bible Class at St. Mark 8:45am Worship at St. Mark 9:30am Sunday School at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at Holy Cross 11:45am Bible Class at Holy Cross	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross	<b>22</b> 3:30pm Catechism Class 5:30pm 20's & 30's Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:45am Welcome Home Sunday Worship at St. Mark 9:45am Welcome Home Sunday Fellowship at St. Mark 9:30am Sunday School at Holy Cross 10:30am Welcome Home Sunday Worship at Holy Cross 11:30am Welcome Home Sunday Fellowship at Holy Cross 4pm Circuit Reformation at Mt. Olive in Iron Mountain	<b>27</b> 6pm Little Lambs	<b>28</b> 1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark 6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross	<b>29</b> 3:30pm Catechism Class	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>

Unless otherwise noted, the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

St. Mark  
Altar: Sue & Charlotte Blake  
Hostess: Nancy Larsen

Holy Cross			
Date	Ushers	Counters	
10/5	Team 1: Trout/Karry	Team 3: Sean Trout & Jeff Hacker	
10/12	Team 2: Kunize	Team 4: Marie Anderson & Mary Sivula	
10/19	Team 3: Kedsch	Team 1: Jerry Karry & Kristin Sivula	
10/26	Team 4: Sivula/Tauscher	Team 2: Ken Hacker & Terri Sivula	