



# Holy Cross—St. Mark

## Newsletter

### June 2025



Facebook:

Holy Cross & St. Mark Lutheran  
Churches



Website:

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

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#### Upcoming Events

Jun. 2: VBS Planning Meeting - 6:30pm  
Jun. 9: SM Council Meeting - 6pm  
Jun. 19: Joint Council Meeting @SM - 6:30pm  
Jun. 23: HC Council Meeting - 6:30pm

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

#### Devotional Thoughts

*By Pastor Crass*

Recently, with the addition of Reuben to our family, Christa and I began working on a will. For the last four-or-so years our retirement advisor has been pushing us to take care of this, but having a person dependent on us for care finally made the difference. And so came the first question from the lawyer: What assets do you have to leave behind?

Money is money. It certainly serves a purpose. It is a gift of God that can be used to serve him or abused to serve self. But whatever money I have to my name at the time of my death will not be mine anymore. And any money I hand down to Reuben and any other kids the Lord blesses Christa and I with will not accompany them into death. We talk about inheritance and heritage. We talk about the legacy we will leave behind when our time on this earth is over. But what assets, what lasting heritage, do we have to pass down to the next generation?

To find out what matters, we need only to look to the past. Our church records are filled with names of men and women who are not with us anymore. Maybe some of them are your own mothers and fathers or grandmothers and grandfathers. What did they leave behind when they went home to heaven? What did they do that still has an effect on all of us today? More than any endowments they left to the church or memorials set up by family and friends after they went home, they left to us this inheritance of faith. We may take it for granted, because the work they did in the church and home seemed so menial and small. But there was nothing menial and small about the nights mom and dad sat at the foot of the bed to lead the family in devoting their hearts and minds to Jesus for just a few minutes before the kids drifted off to sleep. There was nothing small about the woman standing with her arm around her friend as the casket of her friend's father was lowered into the ground.

*(continued on page 3)*

## WELS News

### WELS Christian Aid and Relief Cleans Up after Wisconsin Tornadoes

This past Saturday, about 40 WELS Christian Aid and Relief volunteers gathered in Juneau, Wis., to clear tree branches and other debris caused by a tornado that touched down in the community on May 15. Using supplies from one of the WELS Christian Aid and Relief disaster relief trailers, along with their own tools, multiple volunteers were able to chop up the tree debris and move it out of the way. They made quick work at the home of one WELS member and then moved on to a few others.

Additional local cleanup efforts were organized, including one by Lakeside Lutheran High School, which helped to clear debris for a family from Lakeside whose farm was heavily damaged. In the midst of these hardships, it's wonderful to see God's people reaching out with love and compassion to assist those who are hurting. Learn more about Christian Aid and Relief and how to volunteer at [wels.net/relief](http://wels.net/relief).

*Update provided by Rev. Daniel Sims, director, WELS Christian Aid and Relief*

### 2025 Synod Convention Planning Continues

The 68th WELS biennial synod convention will take place July 21-24 at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minn. Nearly 400 voting delegates—comprised of pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and laymen—will attend, along with several dozen advisory delegates.

The Book of Reports and Memorials (BORAM), which contains the information to be considered by the convention, is now available online at [welsconvention.net/boram](http://welsconvention.net/boram).

Some of the important items to be discussed or decided at the convention are:

- The declaration of fellowship between WELS and the Africa Mission Evangelism Church (AMEC) of Tanzania. Discussions have been taking place with representatives of AMEC for several years, and those discussions have determined that WELS and AMEC are united in doctrine and practice.
- Two proposals to change the way synod officers are elected. Both proposals involve seeking nominations prior to the convention and publicizing the final ballot in early summer before the convention convenes. This would give delegates an opportunity to learn more about the candidates and would also give nominees time to think about their decision, if elected, in advance of the actual election.
- The synod will have the opportunity to adopt a new long-range strategic plan entitled "Christ through us," which will serve as a guide for the synod as it carries out its mission over the next ten years.
- Every area of ministry will report on its work during the past year and outline plans for the future.

We pray that God will bless the decisions of the convention and will provide delegates with important information they will be able to share with their own congregation and congregations in their area.

Serving with you in Christ,  
WELS President Mark Schroeder

## Dual Parish Update

- There are hopes that we will hold a Welcome Home Sunday this fall, kicking off our goal to get more of our church members back into regular worship attendance.
- VBS will be taking place this summer. If you would like to help, please talk to Pastor Crass.

### St. Mark Council Update

- Final touches are being put on the planning for the new sign in front of church.
- The updated church constitution is finished and awaiting approval at the July voters' meeting.

### Holy Cross Council Update

- Green banners have been purchased to be used for the season after Pentecost.

## 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

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

*(continued from page 1)*

There was nothing menial about the council member sitting through another three hour meeting to decide how best to serve the families of the congregation. And certainly, there was nothing menial about the hours upon hours that God's people quietly spent to make sure they understood the scriptures and held them in their truth and purity.

As I think about what I will hand down to my son, it probably won't be the athleticism or height to play professional ball. It probably won't be the smarts to study at an Ivy League school. It probably won't be the mechanical mind to fix his own car or rewire his house. And if he does excel in any of those skills, I'll thank God for all the talents he gave him (and credit my wife). But what I care about more than the money Reuben makes or the success he finds in life is that the hospital I die in will not be the last place I see my boy. I want him in heaven. I want everyone in heaven.

Some of you might feel like you're playing the last few holes of life and the clubhouse is in sight. Some of you might still be in those early stages where you're trying to figure out where you fit in. But I'll tell you this, whether you are 19 or 91, you are thinking about the same thing: "What mark will I leave on the people around me?" Look to the past. Look to those Christians that are now in glory. They handed us the pure gospel at the family dinner table and at church. They set the example to keep our eyes heavenward, even as we work and serve today.

Christa and I should probably get our will done. Should the Lord call us home to heaven sooner than we expect, it will probably make things easier on our family. But I think our will will always be one of the least of my concerns, because more than the guns I want to leave Reuben or the childhood keepsakes I want him to have, what matters most to me is that he inherits the true faith, that great heritage that is only found in the word of God. As you think about the heritage you will leave behind, let me leave you with the words to a beautiful hymn:

*God's Word is our great heritage  
and shall be ours forever;  
to spread its light from age to age  
shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way,  
in death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,  
we keep its teachings pure  
throughout all generations.*

## Member Announcements

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

# June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																		
1 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	2 6:30pm VBS Meeting	3	4	5	6	7																		
8 8am Bible Class at Holy Cross 8:45am Worship at Holy Cross 9:45am Fellowship at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at St. Mark 11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark	9 6pm St. Mark Council Meeting	10	11	12	13	14																		
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St. Mark Altar: Tammy Eichhorn & Kathy Ludwig Hostess: Connie & Sally Theuerkauf		Holy Cross																						
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