

Great Is Thy
Faithfulness

Birthday Anniversaries

- 7 Clarice Purdy
- 10 Jacob Moore
- 15 Kara Peterson
- 17 Sue Hendrickson
- 18 Dustin Hendrickson
- 20 Lyle Johnson
Rebecca Lee
- 24 Justin McDermott
- 26 Rachelle Vannett
- 27 Daniel Johnson
- 28 Jerry Hansen

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 3 Dolly Pfau
- 12 Linda Bromley
Max Rosin
Jolene Krueger
- 15 Zach Everett
- 16 Emily Ruelle
- 19 Mason Keller
- 21 Clayton Guffey
- 22 Stan Bromley
Debbie Eraas

Wedding Anniversaries

None



"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

John urges us to grow in love, to grow up into the image of Christ who demonstrates what love looks like with His sacrifice on the cross. For love always seeks the good of others, always seeks to serve, to give and to bless.

God has given each of us some measure of time, talents and treasures. Do you have the gift of befriending the elderly and shut-ins, preparing food for the Lenten suppers, sharing your musical talent, working with the children or youth, serving as an usher or church officer, or being on an LWML committee? Whatever it might be, if it is something you have been given, then that is something you can give to build up our congregation.

So let your love be active and visible to the world by serving at St. Mark's Lutheran and in the Minot community with your time, talents and treasures—that's STEWARDSHIP!

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For Christians, these promises lead us directly to Christ. Lent directs our eyes toward the cross, where God's mercy is fully revealed. Jesus Christ is the One who bore the judgment Joel's people feared. He is the One whose body was torn so that our hearts might be healed. On the cross, God did not relent from judgment by ignoring sin, but by placing that judgment upon His Son. There, God's grace and justice meet.

That is where Lent moves. It moves toward Good Friday, where the cost of sin is laid bare. And it moves toward Easter, where restoration is complete. Each confession in Lent is answered by absolution. Each fast is met by God's promise of true nourishment. Each tear is gathered by the Lord who delights to show pity to His people.

As we walk through this Lenten season, Joel's words guide us well. They teach us that repentance is not about earning God's favor, but about returning to the God who already favors us in Christ. "Yet even now" is spoken us today. Even now, God welcomes us home.

In the peace of Christ,
Pastor Philip Beyersdorf



St. Mark Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

February 2026

www.minotstmarks.com, stmarks@srt.com, 701-839-4663, also on Facebook, Remind and Instagram

Read Joel 2:12-19. As we enter the season of Lent this month, the Church hears once again the urgent and gracious call of God: **"Yet even now, return to Me with all your heart."** Lent is not merely a change in the color on the altar or a shift in the tone toward solemnity. It is a holy season designed for repentance, renewal, and return. Few texts capture the heart of Lent more clearly than our text from Joel 2.

The prophet Joel speaks to a people devastated by disaster. Fields were ruined, joy was cut off, and worship was disrupted. Whether the calamity was a locust plague, drought, or a sign of impending judgment, the result was the same: God's people were brought face to face with their helplessness. Into this devastation, the Lord speaks words that still ring with mercy and urgency: **"Yet even now."** Even now – after sin, after neglect, after judgment has begun, God still calls His people back.

Lent begins with this same "even now." We do not enter Lent because we are ready or worthy, but because God invites us. He calls us to return **"with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning,"** not as empty rituals, but as expressions of hearts that recognize the seriousness of our sin. Lent strips away illusions of self-sufficiency. It reminds us that sin is not a minor flaw to be managed, but as a deadly reality that separates us from God.

Yet the Lord immediately clarifies what true repentance looks like: **"Rend your hearts and not your garments."** **Outward practices of fasting, ashes, silence, and prayer are not rejected. In fact, the Church embraces them during Lent.** But these practices are never ends in themselves. God desires hearts torn open by His Word, hearts that confess sin honestly and cling to His mercy alone. Lent is not about appearing repentant; it is about actually repenting.

This repentance is grounded not in fear, but in the character of God. Joel proclaims one of the most beautiful confessions of faith in all of Scripture: **"Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."** The call to repentance is never separated from the promise of grace. God does not summon sinners back in order to crush them, but to restore them.

This is essential for understanding Lent rightly. Lent is not a season of despair or self-punishment. It is a season of honesty and hope. We confess our sins because we know who God is. We acknowledge our failures because we trust that He forgives. True repentance is not driven by terror of judgment, but by confidence in mercy.

Joel also reminds us that repentance is communal. The trumpet is blown. The assembly is gathered. Elders, children, infants, newlyweds – all are called. Lent is not a private spiritual project, but the shared journey of the Church. Together we hear the Word. Together we confess. Together we pray, **"Spare Your people, O Lord."** The Church stands before God not as individuals competing in piety, but as one body dependent on grace.

And God answers. **"Then the Lord became jealous for His land and had pity on His people."** This jealousy is not wrathful insecurity, but covenant love. God refuses to abandon those He has claimed as His own. He acts for His people's sake, restoring what was lost and removing their shame. Grain, wine, and oil return – signs not only of physical provision, but of worship restored and joy renewed.

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FAMILY SKATING

Minot LYF hosted

St. Paul's, St. Mark's & Our Savior Families mark your calendars for the annual family skating.

Time: 12:00pm - 4:00pm - ice time 12:30pm - 2:30pm
Where: MAYSA
Cost: Food Drive to Lord's Cupboard

Most needed items: canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, nutritional cereal, canned veggies, fruit in juice (no syrup), macaroni and cheese

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

MAYSA ARENA Please RSVP to your respective LYF leader so we can plan accordingly.

Services in the Seasons of Lent and Easter

Ash Wednesday
February 18

Midweek Wednesday Lenten Services
February 25
March 4, 11, 18, 25

Palm Sunday
March 29 at 9:30 A.M.

Maundy Thursday
April 2

Good Friday
April 3

Holy Saturday
April 4 *(6:30 St. Paul's Lutheran)

Resurrection Sunday 6:00 A.M.
9:30 A.M.



Financials for January to December 2025
(As compared to January—December 2024)

Income \$296,269.73 (+\$14,669.94)
Expenses \$317,404.37 (+\$45,408.54)
Net Income **-\$21,134.64** (-\$30,738.60)

THANK YOU for your generous giving as faithful stewards.



Does observing the beauty of nature sometimes make you feel calm and peaceful?

If so, you will not want to miss the LWML meetings planned for this year. A nature theme has been chosen for the four programs, entitled, **Jesus For All Seasons**. The Bible verse selected to go along with the theme is **Ecclesiastes 3:1**. "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens!" Sounds inspiring, beautiful, and faith-filled doesn't it?

The LWML meeting dates for 2026 were set last year and are listed on the inside back page of the 2025-2026 LWML (Two Year) Handbook. The schedule of events is also list here for your convenience. See you at LWML in 2026!

Jesus For All Seasons LWML 2026 Schedule

Spring Season
Sunday, March 1, 11:00 A.M.
Business Meeting & Mites Offering
Host: Naomi Circle

Summer Season
Sunday, June 7, 11:00 A.M.
Business Meeting & Mites Offering

Fall Season
Sunday, October 4, 11:00 A.M.
Business Meeting & Mites Offering

Winter Season
Sunday, December 6, 11:00 A.M.
Christmas Social & Love Offering
Host: Elizabeth Circle

Joel 2:12-19

¹² "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. ¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

¹⁸ Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹ The Lord answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations."

Serving St. Mark Lutheran Church Church Council 2026

President—Jacob Merck
Vice President—
Secretary—
Treasurer—Brad Oothoudt
Financial Secretary—Cathy McDermott
Board of SS and Youth—Renee Johnson
Board of Elders—Richard Hagar
Sub-Committee of Elders:
Evangelism—Sean Krill
Board of Trustees—Brian Johnson
Sub-Committee of Trustees:
IT Committee—Cheryl Merck
LWML President—Dolly Pfau
Sub-Committee of Church Council:
Stewardship—Cathy McDermott

Elders
Chair—Richard Hagar BEU-CRE
Sean Krill AAA-BET Rev. Arie Bertsch CRI -FISK
Greg Anderson FISL-GRO Clayton Guffey GRU-ISA
Mike Enslin ISE-KRI Steve Erdman KRO-MUE Jacob Merck MUF-RIC
Joe Specht RICD-SWE Brad Oothoudt SWI-ZZZ

Trustees
Chair—Brian Johnson
Mike Enslin Todd King Cheryl Merck Chandler Braaten Les King
Asst. Financial Secretary—Gayle Enslin
Asst. Treasurer—Dolly Pfau
Church Secretary—Cathie Wasser
Youth Director—Virginia Braaten

Serving us at St. Mark's in January

Date of Divine Service	Communion Elder	Communion Setup	Acolyte	Transfer
February 1		Cathie Wasser	Nathan Ruelle	Rudy, Vicki and Anthony Steinke
February 8		Amy Armstrong	Emma Cox	
February 15		Robin Erdman	Kainen Lee	
February 22		Missy Larsen	Kash Wilcox	



Main Street Living Media Ministry

"MAIN STREET LIVING" is a locally-produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North and North Dakota Districts of our LCMS, along with a 30-minute Lutheran Hour program (normally "This Is The Life," along with occasional church-season specials).

Programs are broadcast starting **at 10:00 am Central Time / 9:00 am Mountain time** on the following **WDAY XTRA Channels:** Minot/Williston KMCY Xtra Channel 14.3

February 1: Rev. Christopher Neuendorf, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Bottineau, ND, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Rugby, ND, and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Willow City, ND, presents the message: "How Do We Make Up for Our Sins?" based on Micah 6:1-8. *This Is the Life* program: "Visitation."

February 8: Rev. Philip Beyersdorf, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Minot, ND, presents the message: "The Word's Power, Purpose, and Fruit" based on Isaiah 55:10-13. *This Is the Life* program: "Happy Dirty Hands."

February 15: Rev. Scott Johnson, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: "Lead us not into Temptation" based on Matthew 4:1. *This Is the Life* program: "Destination Unknown."

February 22: Rev. Rick Jones, Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch, Minot, ND, presents the message: "Divine Inoculation" based on Matthew 4:1-11. *This Is the Life* program: "Cell of Hope."