

# Annual Report

## May 2025- April 2026



The Lutheran Church of Saint Mark

*in joy we share Christ's truth*



[www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org](http://www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/stmarkglastonbury>

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## Agenda

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**The Lutheran Church of Saint Mark  
Annual Meeting  
April 26, 2026**

1. Reading of minutes from January and April congregational meeting
2. Ratification of proposed constitutional amendments
3. Election of council members
4. Request for synod convention attendees
5. Update from the call committee
6. Presentation of the annual report
7. Other items as brought forward

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## Council Positions for 2026

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Nominating committee members: Ray Frick, Jule Beer and Leslie O'Rourke

The following slate assumes ratification of proposed council realignment. 1 year terms will be needed for alignment with odd numbered years. 4-6 members at large are allowed.

### **Nominations:**

President	Dave Obedzinski (first 2 year term)
Vice President	Ronald Kraatz (first 2 year term)
Financial Secretary	Dave Taylor (2 year term)
Treasurer	Linda Obedzinski (1 year term)
Secretary	Betsy Crayton (first 1 year term)
Member at Large	Jule Beer (first 1 year term)
Member at Large	Leslie O'Rourke (first 2 year term)
Member at Large	Carol Weber (first 2 year term)
Member at Large	Jan Frick (first 1 year term)
Member at Large	(first 2 year term) (optional)
Member at Large	(first 1 year term) (optional)

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## **Introduction—Ray Frick, Council President**

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This annual report is analogous to a public corporation's (i.e. St. Mark) annual report to its stockholders (congregation). This reports contains our financials: income, expenses, assets, and audit results. It also contains reports from our committees and staff on highlights from their work.

Just like in a corporation, where the stockholders have the ultimate authority, the congregation holds the authority to call a pastor, approve a budget, and sell/buy property or assets. However, the church council provides the day-to-day management of our community. The church council is a combination of a corporate board, and management.

As a board:

- Staff evaluations were done.

- Arranged for worship leadership during our pastoral vacancy.

- While the congregation has the final authority, the council does formulate the budget for approval.

- The council has presented changes to the council structure for ratification. The present structure no longer meets our current congregation size.

As management, the council has:

- Met monthly to review the committees' work. One particular emphasis has been encouraging committees to work together.

- Overseen the work of the Executive, Audit, Nominating, and Financial committees.

- Approved authorized expenditures for building improvements and needed repairs.

- Approved building usage requests.

I'd like to acknowledge this year's council: Mike Davis (vice-president), Carol Weber (secretary), Linda Obedzinski (treasurer), Dave Taylor (financial secretary), Deb Gresens

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## Introduction—*continued*

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(property and acting worship), Ronald Kraatz (stewardship), Jan Frick (education and acting mission), Linda Hilliard (fellowship) and Betsy Crayton (at-large). I would also like to thank John Prosen, LLM, for his outstanding job leading our worship, our special summer sessions, and for his thoughtful guidance during our discernment process.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve you as council president these last four years. I trust that you will give the new council and president your total support, as you provided me.

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## President's Report—Ray Frick

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*Vibrant: Pulsating with life, vigor, and activity.* What are the characteristics that would lead you to conclude that a church is vibrant?

**Worship:** Obviously, regular Sunday worship services will be offered where the Word is shared, great preaching occurs, and the sacraments celebrated. The music is diverse (classical, contemporary, folk), singing robust with a talented choir and guest musicians. Mid-week services, and occasional services (Christmas and Easter times) are offered. Members are willing and wanting to pray. On-line broadcast of services reach members that cannot attend in person.

**Mission:** The members support local mission needs such as food banks and food kitchens. Other mission activities raise funds for regional and global mission work. The community has a mission endowment fund using the earnings to fund mission work.

**Outreach:** The building is a major factor in community outreach. Community groups (i.e. AA, ESL) use the building. Musical groups hold concerts. Members establish connections with these groups. Ecumenical events are regular. The website is informative, up-to-date, looks good, and is easy-to-use.

**Fellowship:** After service, members and guests have fellowship and reconnect as a community. Fellowship generally occurs with mission and service events. Members even have social activities among themselves.

**Education:** Bible study and other educational events (usually with a mission event) occur. The education needs of any young members are met.

**Property:** The building and grounds are well kept and maintained. The community is educated and concerned about the environmental impact of the facility, and have projects to help the environment (i.e. pollinator garden).

**Stewardship:** The members fully support the church's monetary and manpower needs. The budget is funded by annual giving, and not by using endowment money. The staff is adequately compensated.

I think that St. Mark *is* a vibrant, mission-orientated congregation making a difference in our communities. But, read the following committee reports and decide for yourself. Please remember to thank those who “make it happen.”

Ray

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## Alternate Solutions Committee Report—Ronald Kraatz, Chair

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While the Long Haulers committee looked at ways to build a future for Saint Mark within the current structure, the Alternative Solutions Committee looked into, well, Alternatives. We began with the assumption that the major driver of needing an alternative was financial. That is, the financial resources available to Saint Mark may not be sufficient to support the past staffing and operation. To that end, we developed and examined seven financial alternatives. These were incorporated into the final question on the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT). The seven alternatives were:

- Part-time pastor
- Sharing full-time pastor with another congregation
- Merging with another congregation
- Sharing worship and office space with another congregation
- Selling current facility and renting space to worship and for offices
- Capital campaign to pay off mortgage and reduce expenses
- Holy Closure of Saint Mark

The Committee then led Saint Mark members in the process for conducting the CAT survey through Holy Cow Consulting. We selected two of the available modules from Holy Cow and added five questions from other modules or that we developed. Thirty-seven (37) members completed the on-line survey. The results were made available to all Saint Mark members and the New England Synod. Results are still available for members to review.

For the seven alternatives above, thirty-three members (33) answered the final question. The results showed general support for the first four alternatives and markedly less for the final three.

The Committee then looked more closely at “affiliating” with other churches – “affiliating” deliberately having a wide variety of meanings:

- Coordinated or integrated mission foci and activities
- Sharing of a full-time minister
- Sharing of a single facility
- Merger

We made initial contacts with four churches in or near Glastonbury. Three of the four were going in different directions and were not ready to consider affiliation. We had an initial meeting with the Vestry (equivalent to our Council) of Saint James Episcopal Glastonbury. While there was interest in further consideration, Saint James has since moved to consider affiliation with another Episcopal church in a nearby town.

This left only the first alternative above – part-time pastor – that Saint Mark members generally supported. The Council established a Call Committee to work with the New England Synod to pursue finding a part-time pastor. We may, of course, revisit the other alternatives in the future if we are not successful in calling a part-time pastor.

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## Minister of Music's Report—Martin Smith

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*"Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us."*

-Martin Luther

I believe these words of Luther are especially appropriate in these days of tensions and turmoil and war throughout the world. If only beautiful music were the absolute remedy! Yet we must strive to use God's gifts for the benefit of all in as many ways as possible. Last year I shared the words from Psalm 90 and Saint Augustine as the choir has sung in the hymn *Restless is the heart* as words of comfort when things may feel unstable. God has been our refuge ... and God still is.

Reflecting over the past year, we have seen many changes, yet we remain faithful. We have enjoyed the preaching of several ministers of the Word, sung and listened to many compositions by both Choir and Folk Group, sung a few new hymns and responses, and gathered in summer to worship informally, singing music both old and new. All this has helped in our discernment and and our enrichment.

I have been delighted to meet new musicians in the past year, particularly Emma Ross (flutist) and Dylan Prothro (trumpeter), who have shared their talents with us and enriched our worship tremendously. Emma's generous donation of time and talent is a blessing. And our tradition of *Hallelujah* chorus at Easter is certainly enhanced by the trumpet flourishes, as well as those during the liturgy!

As we move forward in our process of discernment, I hope we will continue to strengthen and enrich our worship and community life musically. Abundant blessings to all who make our parish community the welcoming place that it is!



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## Worship and Music Report—Deb Gresens & Leslie O’Rourke

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In September of 2025, Dottie Marschhausen resigned as the chair of the Worship and Music committee. The following volunteers stepped in to fill the position previously filled by one: Mike Davis, to coordinate and schedule Lectors, Prayer Leaders and Communion Assistants and Ginny Rutz to manage the Altar Guild assignments. Both Ginny and Mike continue to work with the teams Dottie had established to ensure that all aspects of a Sunday or special service are in order. They have each done an outstanding job and we thank them for their commitment.

Committee members include John Prosen, Martin Smith, Linda Hilliard, Linda Obedzinski, Leslie O’Rourke, Deb Gresens and Ray Frick. Team members meet regularly to choose worship settings, hymns, discuss and plan for additional services for Advent and Lent and festival Sundays. Lee Hilliard maintains St. Mark’s sound system and collaborates with a team of St. Mark “techies.” They make certain that services are audible and accessible via Zoom and recorded for sharing on YouTube.

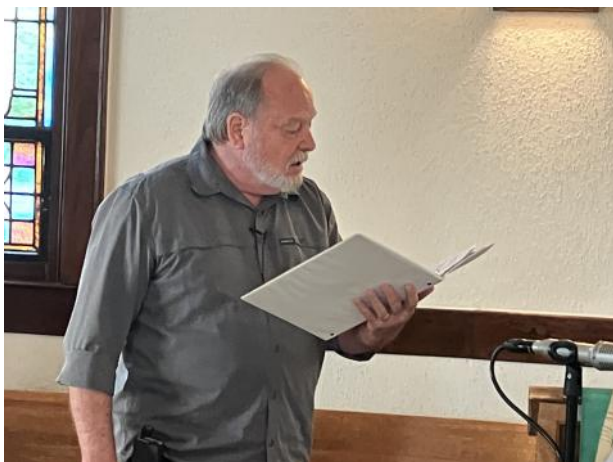
### Over and Above Contributions:

Office manager Ellen Dougherty works closely with John Posen, Martin Smith and Linda Hilliard in the formation of all service bulletins.

Jan and Ray Frick graciously volunteered to coordinate Soup & Bread meals prior to each Wednesday night Lenten service. Jan led worship after each meal.

### Of Interest:

Both the Long Haulers and the Alternative Solutions committees had numerous discussions about ways we could adapt our services to attract new members. Many ideas were generated and then abandoned due to difficulties with logistics and manpower. One idea that did make it was the Mid-week summer service on Thursday nights. A huge thank you to both John Prosen and Martin Smith for their dedication to planning and pulling off these services. Although attendance was sparse, we did attract some non-members. Held in the fellowship lounge, the experience was a more intimate worship service. No decision has been made about continuing this service.





Pictured are pollinators visiting the Community Garden at St. Mark, part of what the church called its “commitment to care for creation.”

### Celebrate Spring at May 4 Earth Care Event

On Sunday, May 4, at 4 p.m., St. Mark will be hosting a timely event, ‘Earth Care: Are We Stuck on Hold or Moving Forward?’

It’s spring! Time to dig in and prioritize how our actions impact our planet. As we celebrate the return of spring, it is clear that our care of the earth needs more attention. Floods, raging rivers, huge winter storms, heat waves and devastating fires can be overwhelming. Some positive changes to care for the earth have been made, but what can each of us do to move care for the planet forward?

St. Mark is excited to have longtime proponents of ‘Earth Care’ come and share their insights with the community about the beneficial impact that each of us can make. Join the Reverend Darrell Urban and his wife, Nancy,

for an engaging session on Sunday, May 4, at 4 p.m. at St. Mark featuring video and group interaction. Attendees will explore together: What is our present situation? Which actions positively impact the climate? How can each of us take action to move forward and bloom where we are currently planted?

A light reception will follow where attendees are invited to ask questions and look at ‘Earth Care’ resources. There is no cost for this event, but advance registration is requested. To register and for more information, contact St. Mark at [churchoffice@saintmarkglastonbury.org](mailto:churchoffice@saintmarkglastonbury.org) or call the office at 860-633-1188. The Lutheran Church of Saint Mark is located at 75 Griswold Street.

*Glastonbury Citizen 4/17/25*

The third and final event of the ‘First Sunday of the Month’ series was held on May 4, 2025. Rev. Darrell Urban and his wife, Nancy, presented an interactive session focused on Earth Care and how each of us can make some simple and practical changes that would benefit our environment, like minimizing waste and pollution and also protecting our precious resources like water. Seven people attended in person and one via zoom.

**Mid-week Services:** During the season of Pentecost, the Education committee held Matins on Tuesdays at 9am and Vespers on Wednesdays at 7pm. Both services were conducted via zoom.

**Mid-week Advent Services:** The theme for Advent 2025 was “Making All Things New” based on an Augsburg Fortress Advent devotion and worship series. It seemed appropriate during this time of discernment as to the future possibly being envisioned for St. Mark. Matins were held on Tuesdays

at 9am via zoom. Vespers were held on Wednesdays at 7pm both in-person and via zoom. Prior to the service, there was a soup and bread fellowship time at 6pm, along with Advent activities.

**Mid-week Lent Services:** The theme for Lent 2026 was “A Different Kind of Fast – Feeding Our True Hunger and Thirsts” based on Augsburg Fortress Lenten devotions. Similar to the Advent theme of “Making All Things New”, this Lenten focus seemed appropriate during this time of discernment as to St. Mark’s future, especially as to what people are hungering and thirsting for in our future. Matins were held on Tuesdays at 9am via zoom. During Lent, Vespers services were held on Thursdays at 7pm both in-person and via zoom. Prior to the service, there was a soup and bread fellowship time at 6:15pm.

Sunday Evening Bible Study continued watching the TV program, “The Chosen”. They have been using a study guide by Dr. Rick Gillespie-Mobley and found it to be very helpful in watching the episodes. The guide has also prompted many engaging discussions within the group about the biblical stories and the portrayals of Jesus and the disciples.



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## Missions Report—Jan Frick

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The Mother's Day Plant Sale held on Sunday, May 11th was a great success and raised almost \$700. A word of thanks and appreciation goes to Thrivent for approving an action grant that helped to offset plant costs for both the sale and for St. Mark's garden. Proceeds from the sale were split between Glastonbury Links Together and other expenses for the garden.



St. Mark Garden 2025 Recap: We expanded the garden once again and were able to provide dozens and dozens of vegetables to the Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) Food Pantry. A Thrivent Action Team grant was used to offset the expansion costs. Many thanks go to all the volunteers who helped plant, weed, and harvest the garden during the 2025 growing season.



Care Bags: Deb Gresens and Linda Hilliard organized volunteers to purchase personal care items and assemble care bags that could be given to individuals seeking assistance.

Scrip Cards: Leslie O'Rourke is managing the scrip card sales that generate funds that can be used for charitable contributions and Missions projects. Be sure to buy cards!!

Global Refuge: Previously known as the Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service (LIRS), Global Refuge has expanded its services in supporting displaced peoples. Again as in the past, members of St. Mark wrote Christmas cards, 112 in total, that were sent to Global Refuge for distribution to refugees.



Thrivent's 2025 Feed Northeast Challenge: Over 1,000 !!!! food items and cash donations of \$227 were collected during the month of October and delivered to Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) Food Pantry. Special thanks

goes to Elaine and Jake Auger, Linda Hilliard, Ginny Rutz, and Ray Frick for their assistance with soliciting food at Stop & Shop on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and heartfelt appreciation to Anne Davis for the publicity. A Thrivent Action Team grant of \$250 was also used

*Continued next page*

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## Missions Report—*continued*

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to help purchase food. And if that wasn't incredible enough, MACC also received an additional \$500 from Thrivent. It was a fantastic effort to help those facing food insecurity!!

**Christmas-at-Sea:** Once again, Eleanor Tunney generously organized the efforts to raise funds to provide personal care satchels for Christmas gifts to seafaring crews on container ships. She also coordinated the knitting of hats that proved to be a wonderfully loved-filled undertaking!!

**Community Child Guidance Clinic in Manchester:** Eleanor Tunney organized the fund raising and purchase of STEAM kits for CCGC students for Christmas 2025.

**Carol's Closet:** St. Mark has been participating and contributing to this St. James' ministry. They held a Quilt & Tea fundraising event on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> in support of this ministry. St. Mark helped in preparing food for the tea. Special thanks and appreciation goes to Anne Davis, Linda Hilliard, Linda Obedzinski, and Ginny Rutz for volunteering to help.

**Food Donations:** Once a month, St. Mark donates and delivers food to the elementary schools for children who are at risk of not having sufficient food for the weekend. Almost 40 students have been receiving the weekend food each month. Additionally, St. Mark collects and donates food to the Glastonbury Food Bank and makes financial contributions to Glastonbury Links Together.

**Christmas 2025 and Spring 2026 Joy Totes:** Filling up the Joy Totes has become a favorite activity at St. Mark and has been a wonderful way for us to share our joy and messages of love to the community groups using our building.



**Easter Egg Hunt:** On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, a dozen children and their parents who attend VRABE ESL classes were treated to an Easter Egg Hunt in the church's lounge and narthex (due to rainy weather). It was wonderful to see all the kids having a great time finding eggs. Many thanks go to Anne Davis, Linda Hilliard, Linda Obedzinski, Ellen Zerillo, and Deb Gresens for helping with the hunt.



**Missions Endowment Fund:** The 2026 distribution from the Mission Endowment Fund will be \$3,000 and will be distributed to local and global missions organizations.



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## Fellowship Report—Linda Hilliard, Chair

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Thank you to all the many people who have helped keep us fellowshiping. The Gluten-free Friends, Amigos and Amigas, Deb's Team, Folk Group Friends, and Godfellas, have kept the coffee pot humming, and provided wonderful treats to enable us to talk, share, support each other after worship each Sunday. Thank you for all the baking, shopping, chopping, plating, decorating, pouring, loading and unloading of the dishwasher.

On Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> was the tenth anniversary gala for Jacob's Well Cabaret's collaboration with Adam Tortorello, and White Rabbit. The cabaret performance took place in the sanctuary and the hall ways, with a theme of Disney. Thank you to all who attended, and to the committee: Deb and Mark Gresens, Dave Taylor, JaneMarie Galiette, Ray and Jan Frick, Betsy Crayton and Anne Davis, as well as those who performed and shopped for the materials for the many baskets in the silent auction. \$770 was raised for ELCA Good Gifts.



# Jacob's Well CABARET



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## Fellowship Report—*continued*

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On September 21<sup>st</sup>, we enjoyed our Service in Williams Park, with build-a-grinder lunch to follow. Thank you to all who made this event happen!



On Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> was the annual Christmas Party and Yankee Swaps. Thanks to Betsy Crayton and David Taylor for hosting the women and the men.

On Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, we played host to an amazing orchestra (in which Linda Hilliard plays) called L'Estro Armonico, conducting by Eric Chen. The orchestra is from South Windsor, and is comprised of many young players, ages middle school and up, and some adults, and it is their habit to share an extensive concert of all kinds of Christmas music in as many places as they can arrange. We fed them a potluck supper, and the concert began at 4:00. Thanks to my committee for this, Ellen Zerillo, Rebecca Bourret, David Obedzinski, Ginny Rutz, and Christa Berezowskyj. The parents of the orchestra players also provided truckloads of food, both savory and sweet, and our committee provided giant mac and cheese, ziti and meatballs, meat and cheese platter, an amazing cake, many desserts, and support for the group. It helped to stir up a lot of Christmas spirit, and one reported being moved to tears by more than one number.

On Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday, we were joined by Goodness Korean members, and Pastor Park for our 9:00 service. Pastor Park processed in with John Prosen and read prayers and lessons in Korean. We later shared an Easter coffee hour, with lots of coffee, goodies and joy.

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## Property Committee Report—Deb Gresens, Chair

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### Building and Structure Maintenance:

The Property Committee reports the following:

Members of the Property Committee and Sexton, Dan Dickau work together to maintain the interior and exterior of St. Mark's.

Jule Beer and Dave Rutz ensure facility inspections (i.e., boiler and alarm system) are up to date. They also maintain the heating and lighting systems that are on timers.

Dave Rutz manages the capital improvement plan. He provides a timeline that reflects completed projects and projections for the next three (3) to five (5) years.

### Landscape and Property Maintenance:

Landscape Improvement: Jan and Ray Frick, with the assistance of several volunteers, maintain the community garden. Numerous volunteers are caretakers of the flower beds and landscape plantings on the church and parsonage property. Members continue to donate vegetable plants, perennials and annuals for the church gardens and flower beds.

Pollinator Garden: Eleanor Tunney maintains pollinator garden.

Property Maintenance: Volunteer mowing teams that were established several years ago, continue to maintain the church lawn throughout the mowing season.

Fall and Spring "Clean-Up": Two days each year are designated to extensive interior and exterior cleaning projects. Many volunteers work together to complete these projects.

### Building Use:

Community Support Groups: Local groups continue to use our facility throughout the week.

Various performance groups, including White Rabbit Theater group, Cuatro Puntos, Eclectica, and Tenuto have used the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary for rehearsals and performances.

VRABE (Vernon Regional Adult Based Education) continues to provide classes for ESL students (English as a Second Language), GED (Graduate Equivalency Degree) and Literacy classes. A nursery/preschool is available for parents and/or caregivers attending class on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

A service in Spanish is held each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Ramona.

Pastor Park leads the Korean Methodist Church Sundays at 1:30 p.m.

Heart Collective, under the direction of Ayesha Jackson and Jenn Campbell held services in the Fellowship Hall.

All applications for community use of St. Mark's facilities are reviewed by the Property Committee and recommendations are presented to the Church Council.

### Personnel:

**Committee Members:** Dave Rutz, Jule Beer, Leslie O'Rourke, Andrea Clark and Deb Gresens.



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## Stewardship Committee Report—Ronald Kraatz, Chair

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Stewardship adopted the theme “Two Coins and the Spirit of Giving” for the Stewardship campaign for 2026. Jesus told the story in Mark 12:41-44:

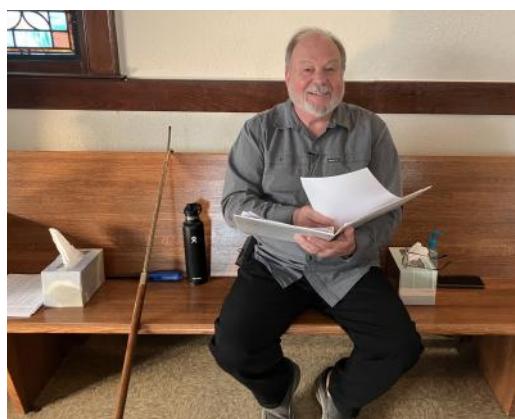
Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

We again celebrated at “Breakfast Church” on October 19 in the hall. Saint Mark members provided a sumptuous breakfast. The worship service benefited greatly by the “intimate” setting as we focused on the gifts that God has given to us and our responses to those gifts. David Taylor shared his personal reflections on stewardship, in particular WWRD (ask Dave). Commitment Sunday was November 9.

The response from Saint Mark members was terrific. Pledges for 2026 from twenty-four (24) families committed \$170,865 to the General Fund, an increase of 4 percent over their 2025 pledges. Six families increased their pledges by over ten percent! For the Capital Fund, pledges by fourteen (14) families totaled \$12,480 which is consistent with prior years. However, two families that pledged in 2025 have left or are not as active at Saint Mark and the pastor position is vacant, resulting in a decrease of total pledges of over \$26,000 to the General Fund.

Members also made commitments of Time and Talents to Saint Mark along with their money commitments. These pledges are absolutely vital to the functioning and mission of Saint Mark.

THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU.



## Financial Secretary's Report—Dave Taylor

The actual operating income received for the last 3 years is listed below. In addition, we received \$11,544 for capital improvements, \$2,768 for local missions and \$771 for Glastonbury Links Together during the calendar year 2025.

Thank you to all members of the St. Mark family for your continuing generosity.

Lutheran Church of St. Mark			
Income History			
Operating Income	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual
Pledged	175,650	184,800	181,187
Unpledged	7,006	7,927	5,100
Community Donations	6,600	17,390	7,282
Holiday Envelopes	3,610	2,320	1,830
Thrivent Choice	1,934	1,334	1,342
Loose Plate	65	273	240
Flowers & Bulletins	1,545	0	0
Utilities, Snowflakes	20	0	935
Lyman Developers	1,500	6,000	6,000
Interest/Adjustments		2,000	2,632
<b>Total</b>	<b>197,930</b>	<b>222,044</b>	<b>206,548</b>

### Making Your Offering Electronically by Venmo

Your Church Offerings can be sent directly via the App or Application  
[Venmo@stmark-Glastonbury](mailto:Venmo@stmark-Glastonbury).  
 For questions on how to use Venmo, contact Dave Taylor at 860-796-1678.



**Thank you for keeping your offerings current so that our church  
 can operate effectively for our congregation.**

## Treasurer's Report—Linda Obedzinski

Many thanks to all the faithful givers to our church community. Those of you who prepay your annual pledge make it much easier to manage the cash flow, as expenses always tend to be highest early in the year due to winter utility costs and snow removal.

Another big thank you goes to all who donated \$2,597 to the Snowflake Hearts campaign to help with the unexpectedly high costs with our many winter storms. In 2026 St. Mark paid \$16,462 for snow removal! We are fortunate that our contractor is diligent about pre-treating when any ice or precipitation is expected, and making multiple visits when needed during a lengthy storm. Keeping the parking lot and walkways clear of snow and ice is part of being good stewards of our property – and minimizing the risk of any slip and fall lawsuits.

As usual, I am presenting the list of our fund balances at the end of the most recent quarter (3/31/26). Feel free to ask me any questions you may have about this information.

Lutheran Church of Saint Mark  
Total Asset Balance Sheet

	3/31/2026	12/31/2025	Change from prior quarter	Notes
<b>ASSETS</b>				
---Cash and Bank Accounts				
St Mark Checking Account (082)	\$ 82,417	\$ 17,964	\$ 64,453	
St Mark Savings	\$ 79,374	\$ 78,930	\$ 444	
ELCA Mission Endowment Fund	\$ 75,000	\$ 67,917	\$ 7,083	
<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 236,791</b>	<b>\$ 164,811</b>	<b>\$ 71,980</b>	Many donors prepaid 2026 pledges
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Key Deposit	\$ 1,216	\$ 1,216	\$ -	
Memorial Fd Liability	\$ 6,251	\$ 6,251	\$ -	
Memorial Fund Rindi Taylor	\$ 1,586	\$ 1,586	\$ -	
Memorial Fund Wes Clark	\$ 2,351	\$ 2,351	\$ -	
Mission Endowment Fund	\$ 75,000	\$ 67,917	\$ 7,083	Market value increased
Restricted - Capital Campaign	\$ 19,571	\$ 12,791	\$ 6,780	
Restricted - Mission	\$ 2,906	\$ 2,906	\$ -	
Restricted gifts World Hunger	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Restricted - Next Year Pledges	\$ 61,979	\$ 10,500	\$ 51,479	Many full-year 2026 pledges were paid in Q1
Restricted - Youth Group	\$ 8,162	\$ 8,162	\$ -	
Special Funds Held	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,217	\$ 183	Short-term collections for flowers, campaigns
Pastor's CE - Accrued unused funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Sabbatical Funds - Pastor plus church	\$ 558	\$ 558	\$ -	
Glastonbury Links Together	\$ 1,471	\$ 441	\$ 1,030	
Pastor's Discretionary fund	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000	For hardship assistance
			\$ -	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 186,451</b>	<b>\$ 117,896</b>	<b>\$ 68,555</b>	
<b>Equity (assets less liabilities)</b>	<b>\$ 50,340</b>	<b>\$ 46,915</b>	<b>\$ 3,425</b>	

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## Mission Endowment Fund Report — David Obedzinski

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### THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. MARK MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND 2025 REPORT

*Provision D of the St. Mark's Mission Endowment Fund Policy requires that the Endowment Investment Committee (EIC) report Fund balances, investment performance and material investment recommendations to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting following Council's formal review and approval.*

**NOTE:** Within the ELCA Foundation the name of the fund where our fund is invested in the "Ministry Growth Fund".

**FUND BALANCE:** The St. Mark investment account began 2025 with a balance of \$67,917.43 and ended the year with a balance of \$75,954.88. I fulfilled a request from the Church Council and Missions Committee for a withdrawal of \$2,700 from the fund for 2025 grants in April of 2025.

**PERFORMANCE:** Our fund continued to grow without contributions being made to it by members or the church and grew from \$67,917 to \$75,954 amidst strong broad market growth.

**MATERIAL INVESTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** There are no recommendations at this time. The Fund continues to focus on the longer term, adhering to its overall strategic asset allocation, seeking to deliver solid, long-term results through a blend of asset classes.

**GIFTS MADE TO THE FUND BY MEMBERS:** There were no individual gifts made to the endowment by members or the congregation itself in 2025. For more information about how to make a gift to the fund see the text below. There are quarterly fund earnings that are folded back into the principal of the fund annually and help it grow.

**MISSION GRANT IMPACT OF OUR FUND:** Having exceeded the \$50,000 minimum required by our church for a withdrawal we were once again able to fulfill the Fund's purpose to support and enhance the mission of our Church. With the 2025 grants of \$2,700 the Fund has generated a total of \$22,600 for Missions work/grants since the Fund's viability in 2014.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A 2026 WITHDRAWAL:** I had recommended to the Finance Committee and Board making a maximum withdrawal of \$3,000 for this year's selection of grants to be made. I am awaiting their confirmation and will process the request with the fund's manager once it's confirmed.

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**Member Reminder About Contributions** — Congregation members can make contributions to our Mission Endowment Fund at anytime by designating a gift to the *Mission Endowment Fund* in gifts to Saint Mark. Additionally, members may also designate a gift to the fund in their estate plans which will eventually add to the fund and allow us to make more of an impact with our Mission work locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Contact David J. Obedzinski, ([Hofstrafan@msn.com](mailto:Hofstrafan@msn.com)/860-805-8198) - Finance

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## Longhaulers Committee Report — Mark Crayton, Chair

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Our committee was tasked with looking at ways to grow and maintain St Mark in as close to its current form as possible. We began by asking ourselves:

Who are we?

What are we?

Why are we important to the community?

Where are we as a congregation?

We discovered that St Mark already has a significant presence in the community through:

Programs targeted to food insecure members of our community, including our community garden

Outside groups using our facilities; including VRABE, AA and other congregations.

New outreach ideas were proposed and these programs will continue to provide an opportunity to further the ministry of St Mark.

Once the results of the CAT were available, we spent considerable time developing the Ministry Site Profile. This is an in-depth profile of St Mark as a congregation now, who we strive to be going forward, and what strengths we hope to find in our next pastor. The completed profile was submitted to the Church Council, and was approved. The profile was then submitted to the NE Synod, where it is currently being used in the search for our next faith leader. The MSP, along with CAT are also resources for the Call Committee going forward.

We believe that members of St Mark have much to be proud of, and that there is a future for our congregation.

Committee members: Jan Frick, Valerie Taff, Anne Davis, Deb Gresens, Leslie O'Rourke, Cathleen Decker, Linda Hilliard, Mark Crayton (chair)

## **THANK YOU!**

**Thank you to all of our members who have contributed their time and generosity in supporting the ministry of St. Mark.**



**The Lutheran Church  
of Saint Mark**

*In joy we share Christ's truth.*

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