

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

WEEK OF DECEMBER 7, 2025

Build-Your-Own-Nativity Next Sunday!

As a part of our Christmas Festival Sunday December 14, we will have a congregational participation telling of the Christmas story. If you'd like to be an angel, a shepherd, an animal, etc. get your costume in the narthex before worship, or simply come forward when called.

Wednesday Community Dinners

All are welcomed to the table for this homemade meal offered Wednesdays during the school year. Freewill offering gladly accepted. Dec 10: *wild rice soup*, Dec 17: *Italian dinner*. Note: The kitchen crew will be off for the holiday break. No meals on Dec. 24 or 31.

Holden Evening Prayer Service during Advent Wednesdays at 6pm in the Chapel

In the midst of the busy Christmas season, St. Mark's invites you to a moment of peace on Wednesday evenings **December 10 and 17** in Lundquist Chapel. We gather to hear scripture, and to sing and pray the Holden Evening Prayer Service.

Women's Advent Potluck Brunch -

Sat. Dec. 13 at 10am - *Sign up deadline is Dec. 10*

All women are invited to bring your favorite brunch item and enjoy a program of Advent/Christmas hymns and a speaker from *Hope for the Brave*. The mission of *Hope for the Brave* is to end generational violence. A free-will offering will be taken to support their programs. Sign-up on Sundays Nov. 23, 30 and Dec. 7 in Rees Hall. Cost is \$5.00. All women are welcome and bring your friends. Call Virginia Collier 651-777-0584 for more information or to sign-up. *Hope for the Brave will be accepting new and gently used men's, women's and children's clothing for their Clothes Closet.*

Children's Christmas Choir - Sun. Dec. 21

All children are invited to learn to sing *Away in a Manger* during Sunday School time, and sing it for the Offertory. They will be led by Mackenzie Lyon, who sings in the Choir of St. Mark's, and teaches voice and piano as a profession.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who donated money or turkeys for the North high baskets. We ended up with 23 baskets total for those in need. Thank you for your generosity!

Celebrate Christmas at St. Mark's

Christmas Eve

3pm with the Worship Band

10pm* Candlelight service with the Choir of St. Mark's, Jubilee Handbell Choir, and St. Mark's String Quartet.

**Prelude begins at 9:45*

Christmas Day

9:30am in Lundquist Chapel

Lessons & Carols

9:30am on Sunday, Dec. 28

Sun. Dec. 14 is last day for Decorating Forms

In order to ensure that your memorial/honor is included in the Christmas bulletins, please return your form by next Sunday. Extra forms are available at the Welcome Center.

Gift Goes On Holiday Sponsorship

Many thanks for sponsoring kids and seniors from the Giving Tree this Christmas season. Please bring wrapped gifts for Head Start kids and unwrapped items for Gifts for Seniors to church (room to the right of the office or in the office) by Sunday, Dec. 14.

Another way to give is by purchasing Food Gift Cards from a local grocery store in the amount of \$20. Please include the receipt with each card to confirm their value for the recipient. One card will be included with each set of gifts for the Head Start kids. These Gift Cards should be dropped off at the church office by December 14. Please label, *Gift Goes On*.



Have you returned your 2026 Statement of Intent?

It's not too late! Simply place it in the offering plate, mail it, drop it off in the church office anytime during the week (M-Th), or complete it online using this QR code. Thank you for your faithful support of St. Mark's ongoing ministry. *Watch the thermometers in the Narthex to track progress toward our goals.*



2026 Intent

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Dec. 14 Team 2, Capts: Carl Hurtgen, Terri Borowick

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

My friend Pastor Reggie tells about his first call, as a youth pastor in a large ELCA congregation in a small Minnesota town. Early on he was confronted with a difficult situation. Several members of the congregation objected to a pregnant, unmarried teenage girl participating in his youth group. He reminded them of another pregnant, unmarried teenage girl. Ironically, her name also was Mary.

As Lutherans, we don't seem to honor Mary, Mother of God, as much as other Christian traditions. We read her story every year, but really only because of her connection to Christmas. Her story is one of faith, trust, hope, and perseverance in the face of great adversity. It is also a story of God's great justice.

Following Pastor David's sermon, we'll sing ELW 723, Canticle of the Turning, a vigorous Irish jig. Notice the words of waiting and trusting:

"My heart cries out with a joyful shout,
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait."

Notice also the profound and troubling refrain. It is either words of warning, or words of comfort and reassurance.

"My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn."

In 2025, a year of wars, political unrest, social disconnection, fear, etc., perhaps Mary's story is our story more so than ever.

Coming up in Worship...

Sun. Dec. 7: Worship Band

Sun. Dec. 14: Christmas Festival – Choir of St. Mark's, Jubilee Handbell Choir, Build Your Own Nativity

Sun. Dec. 21: Choir of St. Mark's, Jubilee Handbell Choir

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

- **Women's Advent Potluck Brunch:** Sat. Dec. 13
- **Christmas Festival Sunday:** Dec. 14
- **Annual Meeting:** Sun. Jan. 25, 2026

Thank You to our Worship Assistants

Worship Band: Mark Ebner, Missy Lillie, Tom Michel, Diane Sell, Tyler Ronsberg, vocalists; Ken Indrelie, guitar; Steve Falkowsky, bass; Russ Payne, drums

Ministry Assistant: Tyler Ronsberg

Advent Wreath Lighting: The Ulm Family

Usher Team 1: Mike Ericson, Mike Clasen, Marlene Moreno, Suzanne Ericson, Andy Petersen, Corinna Petersen

Reader: Jennifer Arsenault

Communion: Marjorie Koniar, Tyler Ronsberg

Welcome Center: Sherry Berry

Altar Care: Joanne Wegwerth, Diane Leonhardt

Greeters: Joe & Diane Danko

Multimedia: Gary Martin, Josh Hirman

Worship Assistants needed for Christmas Services

If you will be attending one of the Christmas services, please consider signing up to serve as a greeter, usher, communion assistant, altar care, or welcome center attendant. Sign up as an individual or as a family. Sign up sheets at the Welcome Center.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 7

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

9:30 am Sunday School

2:00 pm Survivor Resources Service, SC

5:00 pm Progressive Dinner, RH

Monday, December 8

6:30 pm Monday Night Bible Study, Zoom

6:30 pm Stewardship for All Seasons

Tuesday, December 9

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS

5:30 pm Finance Mtg, Zoom

6:00 pm Property Mtg, FS

6:30 pm Personnel Mtg, LB

6:30 pm St. Mark's Strummers, #102

Wednesday, December 10

11:00 am Polar Ridge Service, offsite

5:00 pm Wednesday Dinner, RH

5:45 pm Jubilee Handbell Choir, SC

6:00 pm Faith Formation

6:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service, LC

7:15 pm Choir of St. Mark's, SC

Thursday, December 11 – Office Closed

8:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study, offsite

6:30 pm Anne Bible Study, FS

Friday, December 12 – Office Closed

Saturday, December 13 – Office Closed

10:00 am Women's Potluck Brunch, RH

Sunday, December 14

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am HS Youth Shopping Trip, offsite

Ministry Staff

Rev. David Bjorklund, *Lead Pastor*
prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org

Kate Bentley, *Deacon*
deaconkateb@stmarks-nsp.org

Tom Paulson, *Dir. of Music & Worship*
tomp@stmarks-nsp.org

Office Hours

Mon – Thurs: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Ph: 651-777-7451

Weekly Worship

Sundays: 9:30 am

Guest WiFi

P3@nutButt3r