

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

WEEK OF JULY 20, 2025

Registration is open!

Vacation Bible School – August 5, 6, and 7

Children ages 4 and up are invited to join us for Vacation Bible School from 9am-Noon where we will be exploring the theme *At the Table*. Our sessions will be filled with a variety of activities that dive into our theme, including storytelling, games, crafts, and snacks! Kids in grade 6 and above are welcome to sign up to be helpers! Scan the QR code to sign up. It's free!



VBS 2025 Reg

Ukulele Meeting Today at 10:30am

Are you interested in the ukulele? We hope to form a group for fun, and occasionally play for worship. Meet Susan Borowick (sborowick@msn.com) in the Music Room (off Rees Hall) immediately following worship. All ages, levels of ability and experience (including none) welcome!

Wednesday Summer Campfire Services

July 23, Aug 13 & 27

Join us on the second and fourth Wednesday for worship at 6:30pm. This is a casual (30-45 minute), faith-filled evening around the campfire (outside, behind the chapel). Singer/songwriter Zach Spirov provides guitar music all summer! Bring your own chairs and invite your friends. *If the weather doesn't cooperate, we gather in the chapel.*

Women's Summer Bible Study – Sat. July 26, 10am

We are happy to have Emily Ronsberg, a daughter of St. Mark's, lead us in our Bible Study on Saturday, July 26 at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. Emily is a recent graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary and is currently working as a chaplain. Registration will be from 9:30-10:00am followed by Bible Study at 10am and lunch at 12 noon. The lessons are in the June/July/August *Gather* magazine, and copies will be available at registration on Sundays, July 13 & 20 in Rees Hall. Cost is \$15.00. Call Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584 for more information or to register. All women are welcome and please bring a friend! Wednesday, July 23 is the last day to sign up.

Free Produce Giveaway – Mon. July 28, 4-6pm

Be sure to stop by St. Mark's for free produce! We set up outside the chapel on the corner across from North High. Grab a variety of produce items. No income requirements – just good food shared with neighbors. Thanks to the North St. Paul Food Shelf and Second Harvest for providing the produce. Future dates include Mon. Aug 25 and Sept 22. If you would like to volunteer to help distribute for one of the events, contact Julie at urbanja@comcast.net.

Summer Sunday Worship & Music Schedule

July 28 Mackenzie Lyon (mezzo soprano)

Aug 3 Lauren Lammers (soprano)

Aug 10 Coda – Scott Dorf (saxophones) and Malcolm Anderson (keyboards)

Aug 17 Outdoor Worship & Picnic with St. Mark's Worship Band

Aug 24 Tom Michel (tenor); Diane Sell (gospel storyteller)

Aug 31 Miranda Hirsch (saxophone)

St. Mark's Scout Troop 46 Disbanded – Supplies Available

St. Mark's Scout Troop 46 officially folded in 2020, and they are now giving away a variety of camping and kitchen supplies. You're invited to stop by the Fellowship Hall to pick up any items you may find useful: tents, portable picnic tables, kitchen supplies, camp stoves, pots and pans, coolers, games, etc. Items are first come, first served. Please come by soon to see what's available!

School Supply Drive – July 16 thru August 10

St. Mark's together with Girl Scout Troop 57696 is collecting new school supplies for the Kids In Need Foundation (KINF). Collection boxes can be found in Rees Hall and outside the church office. KINF, headquartered in Little Canada, MN, distributes school supplies to under-resourced students across the nation. Locally, they have a Teacher Resource Center where qualifying teachers can shop throughout the school year for school supplies and classroom resources at ZERO cost. Items needed include notebooks, pencils, washable markers, backpacks, glue sticks, etc. Pick up a complete shopping list at the Welcome Center. Visit KINF.org for more information.

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

July 27-Team 4 Capt: Bonnie Meyers

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

It's better to act into a new way of thinking,
than to think into a new way of acting.
(Ken Grosch, 1938-2025)

On Tuesday I attended the best funeral I've ever been to! Ken was married to my mother's cousin Rosalie, and they attended Incarnation Lutheran in Shoreview including when I served there as director of music and worship. Rosalie sang in the choir. His daughters Heidi and Greta were college classmates and musical colleagues, and still today are my good friends. Ken held degrees in business and engineering, then served as a missionary to Ethiopia and New Guinea, and then as executive director of Global Health Ministries. His was definitely a life well lived!

Most compelling were the stories about Ken's kindness toward all people, his love of service, and his gratitude. When someone asked him how he's doing, he always replied, "I'm grateful!" While this was sometimes off-putting, it more often gave him the opening to talk about the many good things in his life: the love of God, his love for others, and the opportunities that gave him to serve and be of good use in the world. A lifelong woodworker, his final project, an urn for his own ashes, was not quite complete upon his death. His family decided that was a good metaphor for his life, many good works that will live on well after his death.

Our scriptures and music today tell us to "Listen, God is calling!" and to "Open your ears and hear God's word." Maybe God isn't telling us to go be a missionary in Africa like Ken, (or maybe God is?), but God does have words of wisdom for us, words that Ken clearly heard and enacted into a new way of thinking. Blessed be his memory.

The bells are ringing, again!

On Wednesday the four cases of handbells, about 195 lbs, were returned to us from the Schulmerich factory in Green Lake, PA – refurbished, cleaned and sounding beautiful! This is much sooner than expected. Many thanks to Bonnie Pottratz, Sandy Leach and Tom Paulson who unpacked and inspected all 66 bells. Stop by the choir loft following worship for a personal demonstration.

News from the Foundation...

The St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation is planning for 2026 and inviting congregation members to share their talents by becoming a Board of Trustees participant. We operate with the support of 3 sub-committees: Communications & Development; Finance & Investments; and Grants & Disbursements. The full board meets 5 times per year, with sub-committees meeting as needed averaging 2-4 hours per month. Currently, the Communications Committee is seeking to welcome several new members to join this volunteer group. Tasks may include working with various media; contributing to the newsletter or website; writing reports or announcements; or promoting donor opportunities. Chat with a Board member or visit the website for further resources at www.stmarksnspfoundation.com. Every bit of talent shared helps the Foundation continue to grow.

Mark your calendar for these fall events:

- **Wednesday Dinner/Education Kickoff:** Sept.10
- **God's Work, Our Hands:** Sept.14
- **North St. Paul Fall Parade:** Sept.18
- **Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mark's:** Oct.6
- **KidsFest:** Oct.10, 4-6pm
- **Trunk-or-Treat:** Oct.26, 4-6pm

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, July 20

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

Monday, July 21

No ministry events scheduled

Tuesday, July 22

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS

6:30 pm Girl Scout Leader Mtg, #203

Wednesday, July 23

6:30 pm Campfire Worship Service

Thursday, July 24

8:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study, offsite

6:30 pm Anne Bible Study, FS

Friday, July 25 – Office Closed

Saturday, July 26 – Office Closed

9:00 am Women's Summer Bible Study, FH

Sunday, July 27

9:30 am Worship Service, SC



GIVE ONLINE

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