Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

NOVEMBER 15, 2026

Next Sunday, Nov. 22

Intent Cards: All are invited to bring their completed 2027 Statement of Intent cards to place in the basket during communion.

New Members: We will officially recognize and give thanks for our newest members.

Soup Sunday: Join us for delicious homemade soup and bread after worship. Free will offering. Proceeds go toward grocery gift cards for those in need during the holidays. Take out is also available.

North High Thanksgiving turkeys – Sun. Nov. 22

Once again, we are partnering with North High to provide turkeys for families in need. We will be providing meals for 20 families and need 20 turkeys to include in the Thanksgiving baskets. If you would like to donate a frozen turkey (12-16 lbs), please contact Julie at urbanja@comcast.net or sign up at the Welcome Center. **Turkeys need to be dropped off at church by Sun. Nov. 22.**

Sunday Night Youth Group – Nov. 22 at 6:30 pm

All 7th-12th graders are invited to attend Sunday Night Youth Group from 6:30pm-8:00pm on the **2nd and 4th Sundays** of each month. We meet in the Youth Room on the second floor of Rees Hall and friends are welcome.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Social Wed. Nov. 25 at 6:30 pm

All are invited to gather at St. Mark's on Thanksgiving Eve to celebrate God's goodness, bounty, and mercy. Bring a pie to share if you wish, and stick around after worship for the social hour. **No dinner, education, or choir rehearsal.*

Christmas Decorating – Sun. Nov. 29, 12pm

We're getting ready to deck the halls for Christmas! If you are available to help, please meet us in Rees Hall and join in the fun. If you have questions, please contact Mindy at mindybiedermann@gmail.com.

Wednesday Community Meals – 5-6pm

Join us for a homemade meal on Wednesday nights in Rees Hall from **5-6pm** during the school year. There is no set charge for the meal, however freewill donations are always appreciated.
Nov 18: Italian, Nov 25: No Dinner (attend the Thanksgiving Eve service & pie social at 6:30pm)

Global Mission Craft Fair – Dec. 5, 9am-3pm

Head to St. Mark's from 9am to 3pm for this fun day of shopping and supporting local crafters and home businesses. **Ten percent of all profits benefit our sister congregations Kihesa and Mtwivila Lutheran Iringa, Tanzania.** Expect a good selection of vendors - candy, jewelry, toys, ornaments, blankets, bags, signs, and more! We still have several tables available for any crafters you may know. (There is more space in Rees Hall this year, so we can accommodate more crafters.) Please contact Sharon Tyman at atsabrinasharon@gmail.com or 763-312-9224 or the church office for registration information. If anyone has an item or a few that they would like to donate, please bring it to the church office before Dec. 3. It can be included on the Tanzania table.

Holden Evening Prayer for Advent – Sun. Dec. 6, 6pm in Lundquist Chapel

The Choir of St. Mark's will sing Marty Haugen's beloved Holden Evening Prayer with Pastoral Intern Rachel Wyffels as cantor and soloist. The service is a respite from the intensity and drama of the Christmas season, and a place for people for whom the season, for whatever reason, isn't always so joyful. Come, enjoy the peace and calm. The service will include poetry, prayer, psalms and anthems. A coffee and cookies reception will follow.

Annual Progressive Dinner – Sun. Dec. 13

All are invited! Appetizers at 4pm at host homes, dinner at 5:15pm at church, followed by 6:30pm dessert. *Bend in the River Big Band* will provide the entertainment. Cost is $20/person. **Sign up begins on November 22.** You may also sign up to be an appetizer host! *Registration will be available in-person and online.*

Sing the marvelous music of Christmas!

If you sang in choir in high school or college, and now miss it, or maybe are just missing the joy of singing, join the Choir of St. Mark's for the Christmas season. Christmas music is especially fun to sing. Come to a couple of Wednesday rehearsals - 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, and 12/23, 7:15 to 8:30pm – then sing for as much of the Christmas Season as fits your schedule. You'll be glad you did!

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

If we want a garden,
we're gonna have to sow the seed,
Plant a little happiness, let the roots run deep.
If it's love that we give, then it's love that we reap,
If we want a garden,
we're gonna have to sow the seed.

For about 6 years I was Jerry's first call to sing for a funeral. Jerry was music minister at a large catholic church in the area. I sang a funeral about every two weeks there, and was on a first name basis with the priest. Knowing I was Lutheran, he willingly included me in communion at each service. But when Jerry went back to his home church, catholic, in northern Minnesota for his father's funeral, his Lutheran wife was pointedly excluded from communion. Open tables are pretty much assumed at St. Mark's, but apparently not everywhere.

I'm glad that St. Mark's pointedly and redundantly welcomes all people to God's table. It is a faithful and gracious response to "Love God, Love Others." We may get tired of hearing it, Pastor David may even get tired of saying it, but I'll bet you anything that someone in the sanctuary today desperately needs to be welcomed and accepted.

Our music today centers on that open table, welcoming theme. At the Offering the Choir of St. Mark's sings a country song by the Highwomen, "I want a house with a crowded table, and a place by the fire for everyone." By the quote above, also from the song, we can see that this is a process, not a destination. Our Sending Song is the parable about open tables and welcoming. "Lord, as you welcome us into your kingdom, may we reach to welcome the world by your grace." Again, we can see process, not destination. Time to tend the garden!

Upcoming in Worship

Nov 22: Choir of St. Mark's; St. Mark's Strummers
Wed Nov 25: Thanksgiving Eve, Choir of St. Mark's
Nov 29: Rachel Wyffels, violin and soloist

Gift Goes On Holiday Sponsorship

This year St. Mark's will again partner with Head Start, located in our own building, to provide gifts and food gift cards for children and families in need this holiday season. We will also be providing requested items for a local organization, Gifts for Seniors. A "Giving Tree" with ornaments, each having the name and gift ideas for one student and lists of items for seniors will be located in Rees Hall beginning November 25th.

Another way to help this holiday is to purchase 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 individual gift bundle.

Thank you in advance for helping others in our community this Christmas season. If you have questions, please contact Karyn Mikel at 612-414-2317 or karynmikel@comcast.net.

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Nov. 22 Team 4: Capt: Bonnie Meyers

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 15
9:30 am Worship Service, SC
9:30 am Sunday School

Monday, Nov. 16
1:00 pm Phoebe Bible Study, FH
6:30 pm Monday Night Bible Study, Zoom

Tuesday, Nov. 17
9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS
10:00 am Naomi Bible Study, FS
6:30 pm St. Mark's Strummers, LC

Wednesday, Nov. 18
5:00 pm Community Meal, RH
5:45 pm St. Mark's Ringers, SC
6:00 pm Education Hour
6:45 pm Communion Service, LC
7:15 pm Choir of St. Mark's, LC

Thursday, Nov. 19
8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite
1:00 pm Elizabeth Bible Study, FS
6:30 pm Church Council Mtg, #203/Zoom

Friday, Nov. 20 – *Office Closed*
Saturday, Nov. 21 – *Office Closed*

Sunday, Nov. 22
9:30 am Worship Service, SC
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Soup Sunday, RH
6:30 pm Youth Group, YR

Ministry Staff

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

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

Rachel Wyffels, *Pastoral Intern*
rachelw@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
Wednesdays: 6:45 pm

Guest WiFi
P3@nutButt3r