

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Woodbury Chorus and Orchestra Concert – TODAY! Sun. Nov. 16 at 4pm

Rhythm of Life is a concert of familiar choral and orchestral music and hosted at St. Mark's. The concert is free, and no tickets are required. A free-will offering will be taken, with 100% of the proceeds going to the North St. Paul Food Shelf.



Return your Statement of Intent on Sun. Nov. 23

Knowing what you intend to contribute financially to the work God calls us to do at St. Mark's serves as an important planning tool for the coming year. If you've never turned in an intent card before, please join us this year. Even if you are unable to state the amount of your intent, the card is also an indication of your prayerful support for the ministry of St. Mark's. Return your Statement of Intent during worship on Sun. Nov. 23, mail it or drop it off in the church office during the week, or complete it online using this QR code. Thank you for your faithful support of St. Mark's ongoing ministry.



2026 Intent

Soup Sunday – Sun. Nov. 23

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

Partnering with North High to provide Thanksgiving turkeys – Sun. Nov. 23

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 could donate a turkey (8-10 lbs), please contact Julie at urbanja@comcast.net or sign up at the Welcome Center. Turkeys need to be at church by Sun. Nov. 23.

Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Social – Wed. Nov. 26 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.

Gift Goes On Holiday Sponsorship

This year St. Mark's is partnering with Head Start 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" contains ornaments with the name of one individual and gift ideas for children and lists of items for seniors will be located in Rees Hall beginning Nov 26. If you would like to sponsor one or more people, please select an ornament, sign the form, shop, and bring wrapped gifts for Head Start kids and unwrapped gifts for seniors to St. Mark's between Dec. 7-14. You may also purchase \$20 grocery store gift cards (include the receipt with each card). One card will be included with each individual gift bundle. Drop off gift cards at the church office by Dec. 14. Please label for *Gift Goes On*. If you have questions, please contact Karyn Mikel at 612-414-2317 or karynmikel@comcast.net.

Annual Progressive Dinner – Sun. December 7

All are invited! Appetizers at 4pm at host homes, dinner at 5:15pm at church, followed by 6:30pm dessert. Bend in the River Band will provide the entertainment. Cost is \$20/person. **Sign up begins on November 16.** You may also sign up to be an appetizer host!

Wednesday Community Dinners

All are welcomed to the table for this homemade meal offered Wednesdays during the school year. Freewill offering gladly accepted. Nov 19: pulled pork, Nov 26: no dinner (Thanksgiving Eve)

Women's Advent Potluck Brunch – Sat. Dec. 13, 10am

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 by meeting basic needs through education, support and the healing love of Jesus Christ. 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.

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

I was excited to drive into our full parking lot on Sunday November 3 about 3:30 pm. Over 300 people were attending the East Metro Symphony Orchestra concert in our sanctuary. Including the orchestra, that is 375 people, and their family and friends, who have a positive image of and a good feeling for St. Mark's, our welcome and our role in the community! Kudos to Susan Borowick for hosting.

On Tuesday evening November 5, as I was leaving, the Ukulele Group was rehearsing in the sanctuary, EMSO was rehearsing in Rees Hall, and Ashland Children's Theatre was rehearsing in Fellowship Hall. Our building was full of people and glorious music!

Then, on Wednesday after Choir of St. Mark's rehearsal, I heard the Nun's Chorus from the Sound of Music being rehearsed in Fellowship Hall. It was Ashland Children's Theater again, and they were back Thursday evening. This Sunday the Woodbury Chorus and Orchestra are presenting a benefit concert for the North St. Paul Food Shelf. In this difficult economy, when food shelves are busier than ever, even running out of food, hosting a benefit concert sounds to me like a productive way to love our neighbors.

Kudos to St. Mark's Lutheran Church for welcoming the community into our building! This is certainly in line with our mission to Love God, Love Neighbor. And as another scripture puts it, "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me."

Coming up in Worship...

Sun. Nov. 23 – Worship Band

Wed. Nov. 26 – **Thanksgiving Eve:** Choir of

St. Mark's; Anna Bjorklund, Susie Lenz,

Missy Lillie, Diane Sell & Maureen Schnitzer

Sun. Nov. 30: Choir of St. Mark's, Ukulele Group

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. Come to a couple of Wednesday rehearsals - 12/3, 12/10 & 12/17, 7:15 to 8:30 – then sing for our two biggest services: Christmas Festival Sunday Dec. 14 at 9:30 am, and Christmas Eve Wed. Dec. 24 at 10pm. You'll be glad you did! Contact Tom Paulson at tomp@stmarks-nsp.org.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

- **Soup Sunday:** Nov. 23
- **Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Social:** Nov. 26
- **Global Mission Craft Sale:** Dec. 6
- **Progressive Dinner:** Dec. 7
- **Women's Advent Potluck Brunch:** Sat. Dec. 13
- **Christmas Festival Sunday:** Dec. 14
- **Christmas Eve Services:** 3 & 10pm
- **Christmas Day Service:** 9:30am
- **Annual Meeting:** Sun. Jan. 25, 2026

Mental Health Information

Take full advantage of our relationship with the Mental Health Connect collaborative and attend one or more of the following events. Go to www.mhconnect.org/find-mhc for more details:

- **Well-Being in Uncertain Times** – Tues. Nov. 18, 6– 8pm, Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- **2025 Online Faith & OCD Conference** – Wed. Nov. 19, 11am – 4:45 pm

Some events may require registration or/and a fee. See the Mental Health Connect site for details.

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Nov 23: Team 4, Capt: Bonnie Meyers

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, November 16

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

9:30 am Sunday School

4:00 pm Woodbury Chorus & Orchestra Concert, SC

Monday, November 17

1:00 pm Phoebe Bible Study, FS

6:30 pm Monday Night Bible Study, Zoom

Tuesday, November 18

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS

10:00 am Naomi Bible Study, FS

6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Mtg, FS

6:30 pm Ukulele Group, #102

Wednesday, November 19

5:00 pm Wednesday Dinner, RH

5:45 pm Jubilee Handbell Choir, SC

6:00 pm All Ages Faith Formation

6:00 pm New Member Info Session, LB

7:00 pm Prayer and Praise Service, LC

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

Thursday, November 20

8:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study, offsite

1:00 pm Elizabeth Bible Study, FS

6:00 pm Worship Band rehearsal, SC

6:30 pm Church Council Mtg, #203

Friday, November 21 – Office Closed

Saturday, November 22 – Office Closed

12:00 pm Girl Scout Pinewood Derby, Rh

Sunday, November 23

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

9:30 am Sunday School

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