

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

OCTOBER 4, 2026

Welcome Rev. Emily Ronsberg, Guest Preacher

Emily currently serves as a staff chaplain at Emplify Health in La Crosse, WI. Having grown up at St. Mark's, it is with great joy that we welcome her back. Emily was ordained in a service at St. Mark's on April 18, 2026. Some of her hobbies include reading, playing D&D with friends, and cuddling her foster cat Cheese.

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.

Oct 7: beef bowls, Oct 14: tator tot hotdish, Oct 21: hot beef sandwiches

Free! KidsFest – Oct. 9 from 4-6pm

Bring your kids and invite some friends for a fun afterschool event with face painting, balloon animals, bounce house, bubble artist and treats! A great way to kickoff the weekend! We will set up in the parking lot at St. Mark's. Come for as long as you'd like. *Free of charge.* Made possible with a grant from the St. Mark's Foundation.

Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mark's – Mon. Oct. 12

St. Mark's is hosting the Red Cross blood drive in Rees Hall on Monday, October 12 from **12-6pm**. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter NorthStPaulChurchesMN to schedule.

Women's Fall Brunch "Getting Your Ducks in a Row....Or Not" – Sat. Oct. 24 at 10am

All women are invited to Rees Hall to enjoy a delicious brunch and the humor and insight of author Gaye Lindfors. Gaye is the author of several books. She shares honest stories, biblical encouragement and plenty of humor to help us loosen our grip on control, love the people in front of us, and actually enjoy the moment we're in. She will have her books available to purchase for \$10.00. Sign up on Sun. Oct. 4, 11 and 18 or by calling Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584 by Thursday October 22. Cost is \$15.00. We will also be collecting new toys for the Hope for the Brave Christmas Toy Drive. Hope for the Brave helps families that are victims of abuse and neglect. Thank You for caring. Come enjoy this time with us. ALL women are welcome!

Trunk-or-Treat is coming up sooner than you think!

Sun. Oct. 25, 4-6pm

Start planning your theme, trunk décor, or costumes for Trunk-or-Treat. We have very creative folks here at St. Mark's who keep it fun and not too scary for children. Last year we had over 700 costumed kiddos stop by our event along with their families. If you've participated in previous years or you're a newbie, join us this year! ***If you can't make it to the event, consider donating a bag of candy to the cause (participants bring their own, but extra is often needed with the larger attendance). A donation box is in Rees Hall or you can leave it in the church office.***

New! Sunday Night Youth Group

We're trying something new this year for our 7th-12th graders. In addition to Wednesday nights we are hosting 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. *Please note that we will **not** meet on the 2nd Sunday of October (the 11th) due to a scheduling conflict. Next gathering is Oct. 25.*

Curious About Becoming a Member of St. Mark's?

Pastor David will be hosting a series of information sessions for those interested in becoming members of St. Mark's. If you are interested in becoming a member or would simply like to learn more about our congregation please RSVP for **one** of the sessions below by contacting the church office.

New Member Information Sessions:

Sun. **Oct. 11** – 11:00am Sun. **Nov. 1** – 11:00am

Wed. **Oct. 21** – 6:00pm Wed. **Nov. 11** – 6:00pm

Thanks to all the produce volunteers

We had 197 guests and 17 volunteers at the last produce giveaway of the year. This has been such a successful outreach to the community. Over the three events, St. Mark's shared fresh produce with over 575 families in our community. We are grateful to Second Harvest for delivering the produce and to all the St. Mark's volunteers for their hard work and smiling faces at each event. Thank you!

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Oct 11 Team 2 : Capt: Steve Linder

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

There in God's garden stands the tree of Wisdom,
Whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations.
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty. (ELW 342, verse 1)

Out of all the ways of thinking about Jesus – friend, guide, redeemer, life, word, wisdom – only in the last 10 years or so have I begun to understand the metaphor of Jesus as the tree of life. As a young person I remember singing, "The tree of life my soul has seen, laden with fruit as always green." I found that poetry obtuse and confusing, and my first encounter with ELW 342 was not a whole lot better.

But if I separate the words from the music, and approach them as poetry, I start to see the life and purpose of Jesus. In verse 2 we sing, "Its name is Jesus, name that says 'Our Savior!'" In verse 3, "Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage." Verse 4, "See how its branches reach to us in welcome." Verse 5, "This is my ending, this my resurrection." Verse 6, "All heaven is singing, 'Thanks to Christ'." This is the story of the love of Jesus for, and the redemption of, the world. Not the path, but the goal; not how to get there, but what it is.

In his new book *Sing Many Names, Scriptural Images for God in Hymnody*, Dr. Zebulon Highben of Duke University notes that trees stand as sentinel at the beginning and ending of the bible. In Genesis 2 it is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, in Revelation 2:7 and 22:2, it the tree of life whose leaves heal the nations. So as challenging as I find this metaphor, perhaps it is worth exploring. If like me, you find this a lot to bite off all at once, I encourage you to simply read the text, and listen as others around you sing. I empathize with you; it took me ten years!

Upcoming in Music

Oct 11 Worship Band

Oct 18 Choir of St. Mark's; St. Mark's Ringers

New Handchimes make their debut today!

St. Mark's Music Ministry is pleased to announce that we have acquired a new set of handchimes, also known as MelodyChimes, from Schulmerich Bells. We've borrowed chimes in recent years from Incarnation Lutheran in Shoreview, and Centennial United Methodist in Roseville, and now seems the right time to acquire our own set. So the handbell music during communion today will be played entirely on hand chimes, and our music throughout the fall and Christmas will feature them prominently. If you'd like a demonstration, ask any bell player. Please join us following worship for coffee and treats sponsored by Music Ministry to celebrate our new chimes.

Mark your calendar

- **Oct 4-10:** Foundation Week
- **Oct 9:** KidsFest, 4-6 pm (N. parking lot)
- **Oct 12:** Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mark's
- **Oct 18:** Mission Sunday
- **Oct 25:** Trunk-or-Treat, 4-6 pm (W. parking lot)

October is Pastor/Deacon/Intern Appreciation Month

During this time, the Personnel Committee will have comment cards available at the Welcome Center. If you choose to fill one out, place it in the basket provided. There also is an opportunity for you to donate money for a gift for Pastor David, Deacon Kate, and Intern Rachel. Envelopes will also be available at Welcome center. Any questions, please feel free to ask a Personnel Team Member.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, October 4 – Foundation Week

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

9:30 am Sunday School

Monday, October 5

4:15 pm Anniversary Committee, FS

6:30 Monday Night Bible Study, Zoom

Tuesday, October 6

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS

Wednesday, October 7

5:00 pm Community Meal, RH

5:45 pm St. Mark's Ringers rehearsal, SC

6:00 pm Education Hour

6:45 pm Communion Service, LC

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

Thursday, October 8

6:00 pm Worship Band Rehearsal, SC

6:00 pm Intern Committee, #203/Zoom

Friday, October 9 – Office Closed

4:00 pm KidFest, N. Parking Lot

Saturday, October 10 – Office Closed

Sunday, October 11

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am New Member Session

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: 51-777-7451

Weekly Worship

Sundays: 9:30 am

Wednesdays: 6:45 pm