

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

AUGUST 23, 2026

CYF Education registration is now open

Register your kids for CYF education programs, which begin in September. There is **no fee** for our programs, however advanced registration is helpful for planning purposes. We are excited for the upcoming program year and have made some changes that we hope will work well for your family. Wednesday night education begins on Sept 16 and Sunday School begins on Sept. 13. Head to www.stmarks-nsp.org and check out the Children & Youth tab for more information and a registration link or simply scan this QR code to complete the quick registration form.



School Supply Drive – Now through September 1

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. Pick up a complete shopping list at the Welcome Center. Visit KINF.org for more information.

Produce Giveaway – Tomorrow, Aug 24, 4-6pm

St. Mark's provides free produce on the fourth Monday of the month in July, August and September. We always need volunteers to help carry boxes to set up; distribute food to our guests; and help move produce inside after the event. Invite your friends and neighbors to one of the next events...there's always PLENTY. We're also collecting plastic and paper bags. Bring them to the Rees Hall collection cabinet. *The last event will be Sept 28.*

Marksman meeting – Mon. Aug 24, 7pm

The Marksman will meet at 7pm in Lundquist Chapel. This group is open to all men of the congregation. Each month we gather for fellowship, conversations about life and faith, as well as Bible and other studies.

North High Staff Appreciation Breakfast

Wed. Aug 26, 8-9:30 am

St. Mark's hosts this breakfast each year in Rees Hall to honor the staff at North High and welcome them back for the school year. Lots of helping hands are needed to pull this off. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Julie at urbanja@comcast.net. A donation list is at the Welcome Center for those who wish to donate food items.

Women's Synodical Bible Study Enrichment – Sat. Sept. 19

The event will be in Rees Hall with registration from 8:30-9:00am. The study, from the Gather magazine, will include a journey with women of the Bible – Hagar, Ruth and Mary Magdalene – whose bold faith transformed their unexpected stories. The study, led by Pastor Carrie Johnson Stiles our former youth leader, will also include a session on Prayer. Lunch and fellowship will follow at 12:30pm. Cost is \$20.00 and registration information is on the bulletin board in Rees Hall. ALL women are welcome. Contact Virginia Collier 651-777-0584 for information and copies of the Bible Study lessons. See you there!

Attention all groups and committees

As we prepare the church calendar for September 2026 through August 2027, we are asking all ministries and groups to submit their meeting and event dates for the upcoming year. Please send your regular meeting dates, special events, and other important dates to heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org so we can include them on the calendar. Thank you for helping us keep our church calendar accurate and up to date!

Mark your calendar

- **Aug 24, Sept 28:** Free produce giveaways
- **Sept 13:** Sunday School Kickoff
- **Sept 16:** Wednesday Night Kickoff
- **Sept 17:** North St. Paul Fall Round Up Parade
- **Oct 4-10:** Foundation Week
- **Oct 9:** KidsFest, 4-6 pm (N. parking lot)
- **Oct 25:** Trunk or Treat, 4-6 pm (W. parking lot)

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Aug 30: Team 5: Capt: Mike Clasen

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

Jesus said, "And I tell you, you are Peter,
and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it."

Last week I talked about metaphors for God, beginning with God as Father. In today's gospel, Matthew 16:13-20, we encounter another metaphor for God, the rock. Here, Jesus calls Peter the rock; yet in Psalms 18 and 31, God is called the rock, a sure foundation on which other things are built. And in Matthew 7 and Luke 6, Jesus tells the parable of the wise builder whose builds his house on the solid rock, the sure foundation. The rains fall and the winds blow, but the house stands. Jesus seems to be telling Peter that it is faith like his that will be the foundation for God's people.

In the hymn following the sermon we'll sing about that rain and wind, and the persistence and consistency of God. "Built on a rock the church shall stand, even when steeples are falling" (ELW 652, verse 1). These words, this poetry, was written in the 1800's, when Protestants, Catholics, and Orthodox had only really begun to tolerate each other's presence, yet alone cooperate. Today those schisms still seem very real, and I am grateful for the rock.

To close worship we'll remember that it is not only an ancient statement of faith that encourages us in our journey, it is the example of our forefathers and foremothers, brothers and sisters known and unknown, all who have gone before, and all who walk with us. Revelation calls it a great cloud of witnesses. "Faith born of God,.. bind us with all who follow you...until the world is made anew." Good to know that even though it sometimes feels like it, God does not leave us to face that rain and wind alone.

Choir Rehearsals begin Wed. Sept. 16

The Choir of St. Mark's (7:15-8:30 in the Chapel) and the Handbell Choir (5:45-6:40 in the Sanctuary) will begin rehearsals for the fall season on Wednesday evening September 16. New members and all returning members warmly welcomed. Contact Tom Paulson, Director of Worship and Music, for more information.

Music Opportunity for Children

The National Lutheran Children's Choir is seeking new singers, ages 7-14, this fall. Part of the National Lutheran Choir based here in the Twin Cities, NLCC is a place where young singers can grow musically, develop healthy vocal technique, music literacy, and ensemble skills, and build confidence and community. No prior experience is required. See NLCA.com or Tom Paulson, Director of Worship and Music for more information. The NLC celebrates, invigorates and expands sacred choral music, bringing inspiration and meaning to people of diverse faiths and backgrounds.

Mental Health Event

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

- **Chronic Procrastination & Its Toll on Mental Well-Being**, Tues. Sept. 8, 7– 8:30 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and also via Zoom.

Summer Music Schedule

Aug 30 Lauren Lammers, *soprano*;
St. Mark's Strummers
Sept 6 Rachel Wyffels, *violin & soloist*

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, August 23

9:30 am Worship Service

Monday, August 24

10:30 am Caring Ministries Mtg, #203
1:00 pm Women's Board Mtg, FS
4:00 pm Produce Giveaway, outside
7:00 pm Marksmen meeting, LC

Tuesday, August 25

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS
6:30 pm St. Mark's Strummers, LC

Wednesday, August 26

8:00 am North High Staff Breakfast, RH

Thursday, August 27

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite
6:30 pm Church Council Mtg, #203

Friday, August 28 – Office Closed

Saturday, August 29 – Office Closed

Sunday, August 30

9:30 am Worship Service



GIVE ONLINE

Ministry Staff

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

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

Rachel Wyffels, *Pastoral Intern*
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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