

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

WEEK OF OCTOBER 5, 2025

Women's Synodical Cluster Meeting – Oct. 7, 6pm

This event is hosted by Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Bayport, MN and the cost is \$5.00

The speaker will be Kate Swenson who gives insight into the world of her son's autism. Her book "Forever Boy" is about their family's journey. We will collect a monetary offering for her organization, and material offerings for our local food shelves. We will carpool from St. Mark's. Call Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584 with questions or to register. All women are invited to attend this event.

Free! KidsFest – Oct. 10, 4-6pm

Free community event! 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 kick-off the weekend! We will set up in the North parking lot at St. Mark's. Come for as long as you'd like.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Oct. 13, 12-6pm

St. Mark's will host another blood drive in Rees Hall. An estimated 38 percent of Americans are eligible to give blood or platelets, but less than 10 percent actually donate. If you are healthy and eligible, please come out to donate. Book your appointment and become a part of the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross. Sign up at RedCrossBlood.org using code: NorthStPaulChurchesMN or scan here:



Wednesday Night Schedule

5-6pm – Community Dinner, Rees Hall

6-7pm – Faith Formation for all ages

7-7:30pm – Prayer & Praise service, Chapel

Wednesday Community Dinners

All are welcomed to the table for this homemade meal offered Wednesdays during the school year. Freewill offering gladly accepted. Oct 8: meatloaf, Oct 15: tater tot hotdish, Oct 22: chicken dinner

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Oct 12: Team 2 Capt: Carl Hurtgen

It's not too early to start thinking about Trunk-or-Treat – Sun. Oct. 26, 4-6pm

The chilly weather reminds us that fall events will soon be here. Start planning your theme, trunk décor, or costumes for Trunk-or-Treat – we have very creative folks here at St. Mark's! Last year we had 24 trunks and over 500 costumed kiddos visit our event. If you've participated in previous years or you're a newbie, join us this year! Another way to participate is to make a monetary donation (note Trunk/Treat in memo line) or donate candy to the cause. Drop off bags of peanut-free candy in the church office.

October is Pastor/Deacon appreciation month

Show them some love and fill out a card, located on the nametag tables. Completed cards can be turned at the Welcome Center. On Sunday, October 26, there will be special treats after worship.

Winter is coming – Be part of our on-call snow removal team

Volunteers are needed to clear sidewalks as needed on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, and in the event of excessive snow totals. For more information or to sign up, contact Kurt Biedermann at kurtb@stmarks-nsp.org.

New Member Info Sessions – Nov. 9 or Nov. 12

St. Mark's will be welcoming new members into the congregation on Sunday, November 23 during morning worship. If you are looking for a congregation to call home we would love for you to share in our life as church together. A New Member Class will be held on Sunday, Nov. 9 after worship in the Fireside Room and Wednesday, Nov. 2 after dinner (6pm) in the library. *Choose a time that works for you!* Contact Pastor David at prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org or 651-777-7451, ext 222 for more information.

Events from the St. Paul Area Synod

If you would like to learn about events promoted by the Synod, visit the website and subscribe to their weekly email at spas-elca.org/our-synod/newsletter/.

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

God is here! As we God's people meet
to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.

Some hymns are big picture hymns. They help us wrap our minds around important ideas in broad, general ways. "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the bible tells me so" is a perfect example. Our Gathering Hymn is definitely not a big picture hymn. It is more like a sermon in song. It goes into great detail why we come to worship, what we are trying to accomplish as we worship, and why we should encourage others to join. I've noticed that these Sermon Hymns often need some study or analysis to help them come to life and enrich our worship. Otherwise, their details get lost in the singing.

It starts with a big concept, "God is here!" and, as you see by the quote above, quickly explains why that is important. The poet speaks of the symbols whereby God speaks to us – from the table, the pulpit, the baptismal font, and the cross. The poet takes special note of having children in worship, and gives us, the children of God, a new, true, but rather uncomfortable name, the servants of the Servant. The poet wraps it all up with a sort of benediction, "in an age of change and doubt, keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out." I'm grateful for the encouragement and the help, because I know this is something we cannot do alone.

Living a good life, a Godly life, isn't easy, as we all know so well. We need to know and be able to articulate both the big picture and the details. So the next time you're humming Jesus Loves Me, go to the hymnal, find ELW 526, study the poem, and give thanks to God for the big picture and the details.

Coming up in Worship...

- Oct 5** – Foundation Week: Choir of St. Mark's, St. Mark's Foundation soloist, Jubilee Handbell Choir
- Oct 12** – Healing Service: Anna Bjorklund, Susie Lenz, Missy Lillie, Diane Sell & Worship Band
- Oct 19** – Global Mission Sunday: Choir of St. Mark's, Jubilee Handbell Choir
- Oct 26** – Reformation and Confirmation Sunday: Choir of St. Mark's

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

- **KidsFest:** Oct.10, 4-6pm
- **Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mark's:** Oct.13
- **Global Mission Sunday:** Oct. 19
- **Trunk-or-Treat:** Oct.26, 4-6pm
- **EMSO Concert:** Nov. 2, 3pm, Sanctuary
- **All Saints Evening Service:** Nov. 2, 6pm, Chapel
- **Soup Sunday:** Nov. 23
- **Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Social:** Nov. 26
- **Global Mission Craft Sale:** Dec. 6
- **Progressive Dinner:** Dec. 7

Upcoming Mental Health Connect Events

Take full advantage of our relationship with the Mental Health Connect collaborative and attend any of the events listed on their website. Some events may require registration or a fee.

See www.mhconnect.org/ for details.

- **No One Recovers Alone: Strengthening Family Engagement** – Thurs. Oct. 9, 11:30 am-1:00 pm
- **safeTALK Suicide Prevention Class** – Sat. Oct. 11, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
- **Adolescent Substance Use and the Role of Caring Others** – Tues. Oct. 14, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, October 5

Foundation Week

9:30 am Worship Service, SC
9:30 am Sunday School

Monday, October 6

6:30 pm Monday Night Bible Study, zoom

Tuesday, October 7

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS
6:30 pm Ukulele Group, #102

Wednesday, October 8

Foundation Week

11:00 am Polar Ridge Service
5:00 pm Wednesday Dinner, RH

5:45 pm Jubilee Handbell Choir, SC

6:00 pm All Ages Faith Formation

7:00 pm Prayer and Praise Service, LC

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

Thursday, October 9

8:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study, offsite

Friday, October 10 – Office Closed

4:00 pm KidsFest, North Parking Lot

Saturday, October 11 – Office Closed

Sunday, October 12

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