

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

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.

Sept 23: baked potato bar, Sept 30: burger bar, Oct 7: beef bowls

Wednesday Night Schedule

5:00-6:00pm – Community Meal (Rees Hall)

5:45-6:40pm – Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

6-6:45pm – Education Hour (all ages)

6:45-7:15pm – Communion Service (Chapel)

7:15-8:30pm – Choir of St. Mark's Rehearsal (Chapel)

Produce Giveaway – Mon. Sept. 28, 4-6pm

Invite your friends and neighbors to our last giveaway event on September 28...there's always PLENTY.

We're also collecting plastic and paper bags. Bring them to the Rees Hall collection cabinet.

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.*

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.

Spiritual Gifts Retreat – Sat. Oct. 10

This retreat will provide you with an opportunity to look deeply at who you are and how God has uniquely blessed you with certain gifts. Get all the details at spas-elca.org/event/spiritual-gifts-retreat-fall-2026/ If you are interested in attending this Synod event please contact Pastor David. *Members of St. Mark's who attend will have the registration cost covered by the church.*

It's not too early to start thinking about Trunk-or-Treat – 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!

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

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

*You are stronger than you think
and loved more than you know.
Help is available and you deserve it.
Stay. The world is better with you in it.*
-Unknown



The Mental Health Ministry Team will have a table in Rees Hall on Sundays (9/20 & 9/27) at 10:30 am and Wednesdays (9/23 & 9/30) at 5 pm. Stop by to sign up for the drawing for a gift basket.

Celebration of Life for Robert (Bob) Ecker September 26, 1-5pm

The celebration of Bob's life will be held in Fellowship Hall. Bob and his wife Karen have been members of St. Mark's since 1983. Bob was active as a Scout leader of Troop 46 at St. Mark's in the 1980's and 1990's when our boys were involved. He also coached Little League football and basketball, and girl's basketball. He is missed by wife Karen, sons Nick (Vicki) Ecker, Mike Ecker, daughter Kitty (Dave) McDonough, and grandsons Peter and Henry.

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Sept 27 Team 4: Capt: Bonnie Meyers

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

*Build a longer table, not a higher wall,
Feeding those who hunger, making room for all.
Feasting together, stranger turns to friend
Christ breaks walls to pieces, false divisions end.
(David Bjorlin, ACS 1062)*

A couple of weeks ago I introduced you to my friend Stacy, and her experience being excluded from communion. Today her story continues. She was singing in the choir at one of our sister ELCA congregations. The community had seen an influx of Spanish speakers, and so the congregation was proactively learning Spanish language liturgy and songs to help welcome their new members, and send the message that they are a part of the congregation, that they are included.

In choir rehearsal, after working hard on one of the songs, the woman next to her, not known for her tact, said, "I hate this Mexican *%\$#!" Stacy replied, "Well that's not very kind." No one else said a word, and the silence was deafening. Stacy sang through the rest of rehearsal with a real heaviness in her heart. When rehearsal ended, she handed her music in, and never came back. When she told me about it, she said, "I'm 60 years old. I have better things to do with the rest of my life than to listen to such negativity and hatefulness."

I commend the congregation for doing the hard work of including the excluded in their midst. Loving our neighbor isn't always the easiest thing or the expedient thing. When Jesus tells us about the Good Samaritan, he is asking us to not just love passively but actively, to talk the talk AND walk the walk. Today our quartet sings, "God of mercy, God of grace, make this church a welcome place" and we close worship singing, "Build a longer table, not a higher wall." May God give us the grace to live out those words even when they are difficult.

Upcoming in Music

Sept 20 Vocal Quartet: Lauren Lammers, Mackenzie Lyon, Tom Michel & Bill Kempe

Sept 27 Creation in Christ Sunday, Choir of St. Mark's; Handbell Choir

Oct 4 Choir of St. Mark's

There's still time to get involved in Choir

Choir Rehearsals began last Wednesday, but there is still time to get involved. The Choir of St. Mark's rehearses 7:15-8:30 (Chapel) and the Handbell Choir rehearses 5:45-6:40 (Sanctuary). New members and all returning members are always warmly welcomed. Contact Tom Paulson, Director of Worship and Music, for more information.

Mark your calendar

- **Sept 27:** Creation in Christ Sunday
- **Sept 28:** Free produce giveaway
- **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 25:** Trunk or Treat, 4-6 pm (W. parking lot)

Genesis to Revelation books needed

Are you finished with your Genesis to Revelation Bible Study books? We're redoing the study and would love to collect your gently used books for others to use. Please bring donated books to the Library.



GIVE ONLINE

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 20

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

Monday, September 21

1:00 pm Phoebe Bible study, FS
6:30 pm Monday Night Bible Study, Zoom

Tuesday, September 22

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS

Wednesday, September 23

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

Thursday, September 24

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite
6:30 pm Church Council Meeting, Zoom

Friday, September 25 – Office Closed

Saturday, September 26 – Office Closed

Sunday, September 27

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
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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