

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

OCTOBER 18, 2026

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 today in Rees Hall or call Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584 by Wednesday, October 21.** Cost is \$15.00. We will also be collecting new toys for the Hope for the Brave Christmas Toy Drive to help families that are victims of abuse and neglect. Come enjoy this time with us. All women are welcome!

Sunday Night Youth Group – Oct. 25

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 normally meet in the Youth Room on the second floor of Rees Hall and friends are welcome.

Trunk-or-Treat is one week away!

Sun. Oct. 25, 4-6pm

Start planning your theme, trunk décor, or costumes for Trunk-or-Treat. We have very creative folks 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 St. Mark's and the Girl Scouts this year! Those doing a trunk should arrive by 3:30 to set up. Whether you are planning to Trunk or Treat with you kids or host a trunk (or both!) join us for this fun family event!

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 21: hot beef sandwiches, Oct 28: chicken dinner, Nov 4: enchilada bake

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Oct 25 Team 4 : Capt: Bonnie Meyers

Today is Global Missions Sunday

Information will be shared about both St. Mark's missions in Tanzania and India. We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of our companionship with Kiheisa Lutheran Church in Iringa, Tanzania. Again we are prayerfully asking members to sponsor Tanzanian students from both our Kiheisa and Mtwivila companion congregations in secondary school.

Please welcome Rev. Kirsten Fryer, Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Vitality, from the St. Paul Area Synod. Rev. Fryer joined the synod staff this summer and had been serving as the pastor at Bethlehem in the Midway in St. Paul since 2019. Before that, she served for six years with ELCA Global Mission at St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo in Egypt. Since coming to St. Paul, Kirsten has been a valued member of the synod's vitality and mission support teams and served as dean of the City Conference on Synod Council.

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 or would simply like to learn more about our congregation please RSVP for **one** of the sessions below by contacting the church office. *Sessions will be held in Room 103 just off of Rees Hall.* New Member Information Sessions: Wed. **Oct 21**–60m or Sun. **Nov. 1** –11am or Wed. **Nov. 11** – 6pm

EMSO Concert at St. Mark's – Sun. Nov. 1, 3pm

The East Metro Symphony Orchestra will present Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 plus Copland's Lincoln Portrait, Barber's Adagio for Strings, and Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man for their fall concert at St. Mark's in the Sanctuary. Admission is free! Freewill donations accepted. More at emsorch.org.

Holden Evening Prayer Service – Sun. Nov. 1, 6pm

St. Mark's Music Ministry will lead Marty Haugen's Holden Evening Prayer to celebrate All Saints, and remember and honor those who have gone before us, especially since last All Saints. If you have recently lost someone this is a good way to honor their memory, and give thanks for the life you shared. The service will include poetry, prayer, psalms and anthems, and be sung by The Choir of St. Mark's. A coffee and cookies reception will follow.

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

"Elijah rock, shout! Shout! Elijah Rock, comin' up, Lord!
If I could I surely would, just stand on the rock where
Moses stood." (African American Spiritual)

Elijah Rock is an energetic, joyful – although sung in a minor key – spiritual I've known since well before my high school days. But I have to admit I never really knew what it meant. To complicate matters, I've learned that spirituals often had both spiritual and temporal meanings. For instance the phrase "My home is over Jordan," meant the singer is looking forward to going to heaven, and could also mean that the singer received news that a recent escapee had crossed over the Ohio River into the free north.

The version we are singing today is only one of hundreds of possibilities, and it uses only some of many versions of the lyrics and the melody. That so many versions exist, and that some of the lyrics seem incomplete, is a good indication that the song was well known, and passed down from generation to generation orally. In fact most spirituals were not notated until sometime in the late 1800's.

"Comin' up, Lord" seems to refer to Elijah being taken up to heaven in a chariot. Moses stood on several rocks in the desert. Two of them gushed forth water, and from the top of the third he saw the Promised Land. So the "rock where Moses stood" seems to refer to being saved and salvation. I think the singer is proclaiming their vision of heaven and a better world on earth. What do you hear?

Upcoming in Worship

Oct 25 Choir of St. Mark's

Nov 1 Choir of St. Mark's, St. Mark's Ringers

Nov 1, 6pm All Saints Holden Prayer Service
in the Chapel, led by the Choir of St. Mark's

What is a Secret Prayer Sister?

A Prayer Sister is a special person who thinks about you, remembers you with cards and greetings, and lifts you up in prayer. They walk beside you in good times and hard times as a secret partner. If you would like to be a Prayer Sister fill out a form in the office, at the Welcome Center or at the Women's Fall Brunch on October 24. Leave it in the box and your Prayer Sister's name will be sent to you after October 31. And, remember, it's a secret!! It's all part of the fun! Contact Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584 with questions.

Mark your calendar

- **Oct 18:** Mission Sunday
- **Oct 25:** Reformation & Confirmation Sunday
- **Oct 25:** Trunk-or-Treat, 4-6 pm (W. parking lot)
- **Nov 1:** EMSO Fall Concert at St. Mark's, 3pm
- **Nov 1:** All Saints Holden Prayer Service, 6pm
- **Nov 22:** Soup Sunday after worship
- **Nov 25:** Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Social, 6:30pm
- **Dec 5:** Global Missions Craft Fair, 9am-3pm

Gift Goes On – Holiday Giving Program

St. Mark's will be sponsoring families this holiday season through our *Gift Goes On* program. If you are a member of St. Mark's and could use assistance at Christmas, please contact Pastor David or Intern Rachel by November 8.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, Oct. 18 – Global Mission Day

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

Monday, Oct. 19

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

Tuesday, Oct. 20

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS
10:00 am Naomi Bible Study, FS
6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Meeting, FS
6:30 pm St. Mark's Strummers, LC

Wednesday, Oct. 21

5:00 pm Community Meal, RH
5:45 pm St. Mark's Ringers rehearsal, SC

6:00 pm Education Hour

6:00 pm New Member Info Session, #103

6:45 pm Communion Service, LC

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

Thursday, Oct. 22

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite
6:30 pm Church Council Mtg, #202/Zoom

Friday, Oct. 23 – Office Closed

Saturday, Oct. 24 – Office Closed

10:00 am *Getting My Ducks in a Row*
women's fall event, RH

10:00 am Confirmation rehearsal, SC

Sunday, Oct. 25 – Reformation Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service, SC
9:30 am Sunday School
4:00 pm Trunk or Treat, W. Parking Lot

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: 651-777-7451

Weekly Worship

Sundays: 9:30 am
Wednesdays: 6:45 pm