

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

JUNE 21, 2026

VBS Registration is open!

Parents, grandparents, neighbors...Vacation Bible School will be July 7, 8, 9. All children ages 4 and up are invited to join us for Vacation Bible School from 9am-12 noon where we will be exploring the theme Saints and Holy Helpers. Our sessions will be filled with a variety of activities that dive into our theme, including storytelling, games, crafts, special guests, and snacks! There is no charge for VBS. Kids grade 6 and above are welcome to register as youth helpers! Use the QR code to sign up.



VBS 2026

VBS Craft Request

In VBS this year we will be making God's Eyes with yarn as one of our crafts. If you have yarn remnants or unused yarn to share with the VBS kids, it would be so appreciated! We will be collecting until July 6. A bin labeled VBS Yarn collection will be available in the church office to drop off any donations. Thank you in advance for your support!

Free Summer Concerts: 2026 Lutheran Summer Music Festival Season – June 21 to July 19

Lutheran Summer Music is thrilled to announce its 2026 season, featuring over 40 free concerts, recitals, and worship services open to the public. Hosted at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, this season offers a vibrant lineup of musical experiences, also shared online via Live from LSM—bringing this summer's transformational work to audiences around the world. Highlights this season include a guest appearance by Cantus, a series of events dedicated to the music of J.S. Bach—including the St. Matthew Passion—and music celebrating the United States Semiquincentennial. View all events and reserve free tickets at LSMacademy.org/calendar.

Help distribute free produce to local families this Summer

St. Mark's is once again hosting three free produce giveaways (July 27, Aug 24, Sept 28) in partnership with Second Harvest Heartland. This is a great way to meet some of our neighbors and provide good food for families. We need a crew of volunteers to help distribute the food from 4-6 pm outside the church. Volunteers should plan to show up at 3:30pm to help sort and set up. If you are interested, contact Julie at urbanja@comcast.net.

Thank you for today's special music!

Jennifer Arsenault recently started playing flute again after several years' break, and plays with the Seward Concert Band. She also plays regularly for worship here at St. Mark's (graciously at Tom's many requests) and with the Jubilee Handbell Choir.

Lindsay Samelian started singing with St. Mark's Choir this winter. She has also sung with VocalPoint, Central Presbyterian, and Woodland Hills Church. She teaches math in Mounds View Public Schools. When not singing, she loves to read and hike.

Anna Bjorklund sings at St. Mark's with The Choir of St. Mark's as well as the Worship Band and various ensembles. She is also a recreational rock star, singing co-lead with The Main Thing, a Twin Cities cover band. Her day job is teaching high school math at Eastview High School in Apple Valley, and in her spare(?) time, she loves to read, garden, and cook pretty decent food.

Singer/Songwriter Billy Johnson – Sun. June 28

Please welcome Billy Johnson to worship next Sunday at St. Mark's. Billy has been here several times and is a congregation favorite. The Star Tribune calls him, "one of the Twin Cities best feel-good, blue-collar, barroom-rousing tunesmiths." Other shows this coming week are:

- Sun. June 21 at Dancing Dragonfly Winery, 1-4pm
- Tues. June 23 at Badger Hill Brewery, 5-7pm;
- Wed. June 24 at The Lexington in St Paul, 7-9pm
- Sun. June 28 at Schram Vineyards, 1-4pm

Don't miss him! For more information see billyboymusic.com.

St. Mark's Church-Wide Scrap Metal Collection Sat. July 25: 8am - 12:30pm

As a fundraiser for the St. Mark's grounds crew, we are hosting a church-wide scrap metal drive. Clean out your shed, garage, basement and bring your old steel, iron, copper, aluminum, lead and stainless steel to church (North Parking Lot) on Saturday, July 25. Old lawnmowers, bikes, water heaters, washers, dryers, metal posts, etc. qualify for recycling. We cannot accept any refrigerators, freezers, etc. or any electronics. Any questions, see or call Doug Ronsberg 612-269-6915.

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

"In our culture, we associate vulnerability with emotions we want to avoid such as fear, shame, and uncertainty. Yet we too often lose sight of the fact that vulnerability is also the birthplace of joy, belonging, creativity, authenticity, and love."
(Dr. Brene Brown)

The focus of Dr. Brown's research is vulnerability. (She says when strangers ask her what she does for a living, this is a great conversation stopper.) When I read the quote above, it reminds me of how we begin most of our worship times together. "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sin God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9) It's clear that honesty builds healthy relationships, with others and with ourselves, and there is something especially satisfying when contemporary academic research supports ancient scripture. Yet our culture treats vulnerability as a weakness.

This intersection of vulnerability, truth, and healing is the subject of our special music today, *If We're Honest*, sung by Anna Bjorklund and Lindsay Samelian. It acknowledges an obvious part of the human condition, that none of us are perfect. It encourages us to bring our brokenness before the God of love and each other - something that takes a lot of vulnerability - and seek the healing power of love.

*"Bring your brokenness and I'll bring mine.
'Cause love can heal what hurt divides. And mercy's
waiting on the other side, if we're honest."*

If Dr. Brown is right, joy, belonging, creativity, authenticity and love are all waiting as well. Deep breath!

Summer Music Schedule

June 28 Billy Johnson, *singer/songwriter*
July 12 Zach Spirov, *singer/songwriter*
July 19 Outdoors – Worship Band
July 26 Tom Michel, *tenor*
Aug 2 Mackenzie, Lenora & Viola Lyon, *soloists*;
St. Mark's Strummers
Aug 9 Coda Duo (Scott Dorf, *saxophone*;
Malcolm Anderson, *keyboards*)
Aug 16 Outdoors – Worship Band
Aug 23 Shari Durden, *marimba & xylophone*
Aug 30 Lauren Lammers, *soprano*
Sept 6 Rachel Wyffels, *violin & soloist*

News from the Foundation

As we prayerfully consider opportunities for future grants through St. Mark's, we invite all congregation members to share ideas about where financial support could make a meaningful difference for the people of St. Mark's and the surrounding community. What needs do you see among our members, neighbors, children, seniors, families, or local organizations? Are there ministries, outreach efforts, educational programs, community partnerships, or special projects that could bring hope, connection, care, or encouragement? Your insights and experiences are valuable as we seek ways to extend God's love with thoughtful and impactful giving through St. Mark's Foundation. Visit the Foundation website: stmarksnsfoundation.com

Mark your calendar

- **July 7,8,9:** Vacation Bible School (9am to noon)
- **Jul 19, Aug 16:** Outdoor worship & picnic
- **Jul 27, Aug 24, Sept 28:** Free produce giveaways

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

June 28: Team 4: Capt. Bonnie Meyers

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, June 21

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

Monday, June 22

10:30 am Caring Ministries Mtg, #203

Tuesday, June 23

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS

Wednesday, June 24

No ministry events

Thursday, June 25

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite

6:30 pm Church Council Mtg, #203

Friday, June 26 – Office Closed

Saturday, June 27 – Office Closed

Sunday, June 28

9:30 am Worship Service, SC



GIVE ONLINE

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