

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

SEPTEMBER 27, 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 30: burger bar, Oct 7: beef bowls,
Oct 14: tator tot hotdish

New! Sunday Night Youth Group begins tonight

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. Tonight will be our first gathering. This group will meet in the Youth Room on the second floor of Rees Hall and friends are welcome. *Please note that we will not be meeting the 2nd Sunday of October due to a scheduling conflict.*

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.

Saturday Stewards and Garden Stewards – Oct. 3

The group will gather to do projects around the church grounds and inside the building. All are welcome. We start around 9am and are usually done by noon. Stop by to help if you are able. Contact Mark McKenzie at kiltboarder@gmail.com with questions.

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.*

Trunk-or-Treat is coming up sooner than you think! 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! *If you can't make it to the event, consider donating a bag of candy to the cause. Watch for a candy donation box in Rees Hall soon.*

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

The Mental Health Ministry Team will have a table in Rees Hall today at 10:30 am and Wednesday Sept. 30 at 5 pm. Stop by to sign up for the drawing for a gift basket.



Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Oct 4 Team 1: Capt: Mike Ericson

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

The earth does not belong to us, we belong to the earth.
All things are connected like the blood that unites us all.

We did not weave the web of life,
we are merely a strand in it.

Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.
(Chief Seattle)

Our association of churches, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), in cooperation with two other associations, the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches, is encouraging a new liturgical date, Creation in Christ Sunday. Creation in Christ celebrates the ongoing creation of the world in and through Christ, who sustains, unites, and holds all created things. So today we are doing the first of hopefully many more Creation in Christ Sundays to come.

You'll notice that all our music is oriented toward creation and our role with God as caretakers. To help us all – young, old and middle-age – to sing together, before we sing our Gathering Hymn, we'll invite the children forward to the chancel to help lead it. *All Creatures Worship God Most High* has lots of Alleluias, and the pastors will provide them with a banner to wave each time we sing Alleluia. Adults are encouraged to help them out by waving jazz hands every time we sing Alleluia.

Our Closing Hymn has become a personal and congregational favorite. After a rather whimsical listing of some of God's many creatures (When was the last time you sang about a penguin, a platypus or a snake?!) we sing "In this great and strange creation, with a breath God gives us birth. Born of soil to live as stewards, called to love and serve the earth." May God give us the grace and encouragement to live out the words we sing.

Upcoming in Music

Oct 4 Choir of St. Mark's

Oct 11 Worship Band

Mark your calendar

- **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 18:** Mission Sunday
- **Oct 25:** Trunk-or-Treat, 4-6 pm (W. parking lot)

St. Mark's will be celebrating Foundation Week October 4-10

Harvest of Hope is more than this year's St. Mark's Foundation Week theme—it's a celebration of lives touched through your generosity. Every gift planted in faith is bearing fruit in meaningful ways. This year, Foundation grants have helped support a seminary student learning and serving here at St. Mark's, provided camp scholarships so youth can grow in faith, offered emergency rent assistance to a family facing hardship, funded scholarships for students at our sister congregation in Tanzania, and provided partial support for a youth mission trip to Japan. These are just a few examples of how your gifts are sowing seeds of hope both in our own community and around the world. During Foundation Week, we invite you to celebrate this harvest with gratitude and prayer as we look forward to the many ways God will continue to work through the faithful generosity of the people of St. Mark's.



GIVE ONLINE

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 27

9:30 am Worship Service, SC
9:30 am Sunday School
6:30 pm Youth Group, Youth Room

Monday, September 28

10:30 am Caring Ministries, FS
1:00 pm Women's Board Mtg, FS
4:00 pm Produce Giveaway, outside
6:30 Monday Night Bible Study, Zoom
7:00 pm Marksmen, LC

Tuesday, September 29

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

Wednesday, September 30

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

Thursday, October 1

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite

Friday, October 2 – Office Closed

Saturday, October 3 – Office Closed

9:00 am Garden and Saturday Stewards

Sunday, October 4 – Foundation Week

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

Rachel Wyffels, *Pastoral Intern*
rachelw@stmarks-nsp.org

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
Wednesdays: 6:45 pm