

# Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

WEEK OF AUGUST 31, 2025

## CYF Education registration is now OPEN

It's that time again! There is no fee for our programs, however advanced registration is appreciated for planning purposes. We are excited for the upcoming program year and have made some changes that we hope will work well for your family. Wednesday night education begins on Sept 10 and Sunday School begins on Sept. 14. Review the information [stmarks-nsp.org](http://stmarks-nsp.org) in the Children & Youth tab. You can also register online using this QR code.



CYF Reg Form

## Book Club meeting – Tues. Sept. 2 at 1pm

The discussion will focus on the book *James*, by author Percival Everett and will be held in the Chapel at St. Mark's. All are welcome.

## St. Mark's to host two wellness sessions in Sept

### • Wed. Sept. 3 at 6 pm: *Anxiety, Stress and Coping*

The transition back to school after summer break can be a source of both excitement and anxiety for students and their families. Renee Lebatt from MN NAMI will present a seminar *specifically designed for youth and the people who care about them*. The event will be in Fellowship Hall. Please use the North parking lot and door 12N.

### • Sun. Sept. 21 at 10:45 am: *Self Care & Mindfulness*

Danielle Thornton from MN NAMI will present a wellness seminar reminding us to be mindful of and take care of our own mental health. The session begins at 10:45 am after worship and is open to all ages.

More events hosted by our partners at Mental Health Connect can be found at [www.mhconnect.org](http://www.mhconnect.org) and [www.stmarks-nsp.org](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org).

## Saturday Stewards – Sept. 6

The Saturday Stewards Group will meet at 9am. There are tasks to suit anyone who shows up. Contact Mark McKenzie at [kiltboarder@gmail.com](mailto:kiltboarder@gmail.com) or just stop by. **There will also be a group working in the gardens** to prepare for fall. Bring your own clippers, trowels (hand shovels) and other helpful garden tools. No experience needed.

## Women's Bible Study Enrichment – Sat. Sept. 20

We will gather in Rees Hall from 9am-12pm for a Bible study, followed by lunch. All women are invited to this annual synodical event previewing the 2025-26 lessons in the *Gather* magazine. The Bible Study leader will be Pastor Carrie Johnson Stiles. Pastor Carrie was a former youth leader here at St. Mark's who is now a Pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wyoming. Cost is \$20.00 and registration information is available on the Women's Board in Rees Hall. Contact Virginia Collier 651-777-0584 with questions or more information. ALL women are welcome to participate.

## New liturgy this fall beginning Sept 21

We're going to begin learning a new liturgy, Holy Communion Setting 6, ELW pages 165-174. The music is jazz-based, and the Choir of St. Mark's really enjoyed learning it to sing for Jeanette Perrault's ordination. We'll learn about one new song per month to give us all time to absorb it. We'll use the prelude as our rehearsal time, so be sure to **come a little early each Sunday this fall to learn some jazz!**

## Final Produce Giveaway – Mon. Sept. 22

On Aug 25 we had 12 volunteers from church and 240 visitors at St. Mark's for free produce! We set up outside the chapel on the corner across from North High from **4-6 pm**. No income requirements – just good food shared with neighbors. Thanks to the volunteers, the North St. Paul Food Shelf, and Second Harvest. *See you on September 22!*

## Mark your calendar for these fall events:

- **Wednesday Dinner/Education Kickoff:** Sept. 10
- **Sunday School Kickoff:** Sept. 14
- **God's Work, Our Hands Service Day and Special Guest, SPAS Bishop Patricia Lull:** Sept. 14
- **North St. Paul Fall Parade:** Sept. 18
- **KidsFest:** Oct. 10, 4-6pm
- **Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mark's:** Oct. 13
- **Mission Sunday:** Oct. 19
- **Trunk-or-Treat:** Oct. 26, 4-6pm

## Thank You!

Special thanks to all the volunteers (17 of them!) who helped out at the annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast last Wednesday. Thanks also for generous food and monetary donations. We hosted 105 teachers and staff from North High.

## Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

*It's better to act your way into a new way of thinking,  
than to think your way into a new way of acting.*  
(Ken Grosch, 1938-2025)

On July 20 I wrote about my friend Ken Grosch. I had been to his funeral, and it was truly a celebration of a life lived very well. There his two daughters talked about this quote, something he taught them, and I have found myself thinking about it often in the last month. Change is of course, as inevitable as death and taxes, and we can either fight it tooth and nail, or we can use our life lessons to effect change positively, i.e. acting our way into a new way of thinking.

As a child I was a church-goer because I wanted to get into heaven. Not so much anymore; I have a new way of thinking about it. More and more I think my role, indeed "our" role, as church-goers is to support, uplift and encourage each other in our faith, so that we can go out and make the world a better place for all the people that God loves. Considering the difficult state of our world, we need more action.

Our community songs today encourage us to action, perhaps even before thinking. In the Opening Hymn, verse 1 focuses on why we worship, "As we gather at your table, let our hearts and minds be stirred." Verse 2 focuses on what we are doing, "Turn our worship into witness, send us forth to love and serve you." Verse 3 encourages and supports our action, "help us summon other guests to share that feast." In light of Ken Grosch's wisdom, perhaps we should sing the third verse first!

### Next Week's Ushering Schedule

**Sept 7:** Team 1 Capt: Mike Ericson

## Regular weekly choir rehearsals begin on Wednesday September 17

- Jubilee Handbell Choir (5:45-6:45, in the sanctuary)
- Choir of St. Mark's (7:15-8:30), in the sanctuary

New members are welcomed and encouraged. The first two weeks (Sept 17 and 24) are OPEN REHEARSALS. Anyone who wants to come and listen, sing or ring along is welcome. See Tom Paulson or email [tomp@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:tomp@stmarks-nsp.org) for more information.

## Council Corner – August 21 Meeting

- Children, Youth and Family: Volunteers are needed in the fall for the nursery and the Sunday School and Confirmation programs.
- Drama Ministry: Work is underway on a series of fall monologues and the Christmas Festival program.
- Finance: The Finance committee updated and made changes to St. Mark's Financial Policies and Procedures. The general fund cash balance as of July 31 is \$255K.
- Property: The area on the west side of the sanctuary where trees fell during recent storms will be backfilled and seeded with grass. The skylight leak is being evaluated by the roofing contractor.

The complete minutes are available in the office after they are approved at the following meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September 25.

## Refrigerator Replacement Needed – Can You Help?

The refrigerator in Fellowship Hall has stopped working and needs to be replaced soon – especially with Wednesday night dinners starting up again. Any leftover food from these meals is stored and shared with our North St. Paul/Maplewood Police and Fire personnel. If you're willing to contribute toward this important need, please speak with Pastor David. Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

### Weekly Calendar

#### Sunday, August 31

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

**Monday, September 1** – Office Closed  
Labor Day

#### Tuesday, September 2

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS  
1:00 pm Book Club, LC

#### Wednesday, September 3

6:00 pm Teen Mental Health Workshop, FH

#### Thursday, September 4

8:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study, offsite

**Friday, September 5** – Office Closed

#### Saturday, September 6

9:00 am Saturday Stewards

#### Sunday, September 7

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

### Ministry Staff

Rev. David Bjorklund, Lead Pastor  
[prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org)

Kate Bentley, Deacon  
[deaconkateb@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:deaconkateb@stmarks-nsp.org)

Tom Paulson, Dir. of Music & Worship  
[tomp@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto: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