

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

MARCH 8, 2026

St. Mark's Church 140th Anniversary

Initial meeting after worship TODAY

During 2027, St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church will be celebrating its 140th anniversary. The cornerstone for the original church at 14th and Margaret Street, was laid in September 1887. That cornerstone can be found at the bottom of the staircase going down to Fellowship Hall. **If you are interested in helping with planning the celebration for the church's 140th anniversary during 2027, an initial meeting will be held today, following the church service.** If you cannot attend but would like to participate, please contact Barb Michel, barbmichel2014@gmail.com, or another member of the archive committee or leave your name and contact info in the church office. Committee members are Joe Danko, Karyn Mikel, Karey Strandquist, Derrick Stolen, and Betty Wolf.

Pizza, Pi(e) and Puzzles – March 15 after worship

While Saturday (3.14) is the official Pi Day, St. Mark's will be celebrating after worship on SUNDAY with pizza, pie and puzzles. Fun for the whole family! Sign up today or Wednesday and indicate if you would also like to donate a "dessert pie." Contact: Wanda Hurgen, 651-299-2696 (Hospitality Committee)

East Metro Symphony Orchestra (EMSO) concert at St. Mark's – March 15, 3pm

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, music celebrating the unique and diverse influences of America will be the focus of the concert. Pieces include Gershwin's vibrant and genre blending *Rhapsody in Blue*; Dvorák's *Symphony No. 9*; and José Moncayo's folk and dance music inspired *Huapango*. Admission to this concert is free. Donations are always appreciated.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Mon. March 30, 1-7pm Christ Lutheran Church (NSP)

Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter NorthStPaulChurchesMN to schedule an appointment. Christ Lutheran is located at 2475 E 17th Ave, North St. Paul.

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

March 15 Team 3, Capt. Bob Engwer

Lenten Theme for 2026: The Least of These

Join us during the season of Lent when we will be focusing on God's concern for *The Least of These* on Sundays and Wednesdays. Inspired by Jesus' words in the Beatitudes and in Matthew 25, we will hear how God cares for the brokenhearted, the neglected, the poor, and the suffering. **Schedule Note: During Lent, Wednesday services will begin at 6:15pm in the Sanctuary.**

Wednesday Community Dinners – 5-6pm

All are welcomed to the table for this homemade meal offered Wednesdays during the school year. Freewill offering gladly accepted. Mar 11: burrito bake, Mar 18: mac and cheese bar

Thank you to our worship assistants:

Ministry Assistant: Corinna Petersen

Assisting Director (Offering): Bill Kempe

Usher Team 2: Carl Hurtgen, Terri Borowick, Sharon Sporic, Robin Graham, Miland Meek, Steve Linder

Welcome Center: Suzanne Ericson

Greeters: Beth Hoppe, Gloria Wiegert

Communion: Joe Danko, Corinna Petersen

Altar Care: Joanne Wegwerth, Diane Leonhardt

Multimedia: Gary Martin, Josh Hirman

Palm Sunday Action

ISAIAH's Black Church Power Project and ISAIAH's Mainline Protestant Congregations are organizing a Palm Sunday afternoon Procession and Worship at the State Capitol in St. Paul starting at 2pm. Our goal is more than 10,000 Christians joining together to highlight our call to love the neighbor, heal the sick, feed the hungry, and welcome the stranger in this critical moment in our nation's history. The church in Minnesota has been powerfully proclaiming that loving the neighbor should be at the center of our public life, and we will continue to lead! If you'd like more information please contact Pastor David.

Mark your calendars!

Watch for more details about these events in your weekly announcements and eNews:

- **Mar. 15: Pizza "Pi" and Puzzles** after worship
- **Mar. 15: EMSO concert** (3pm)
- **Mar. 29: Palm Sunday** Pancake Breakfast
- **Apr. 2: Maundy Thursday** Living Last Supper, 7pm
- **Apr. 3: Good Friday** Tenebrae Service, 7pm
- **Apr. 5: Easter Sunday Services**
6:37am Sunrise Service, 9:00 & 10:30am
- **Apr. 19: Church-wide Potluck** after worship

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

March is Women's History Month, honoring the contributions, achievements, and culture of women in arts, science, politics, and beyond. As we worship, we'll incorporate readings from women theologians, poets, leaders, and composers to help us all more deeply understand their contributions, much as we did in February, Black History Month.

Elaine Hagenberg, Laura Story, Carolyn Jennings, Kathleen Thomerson, and Amy Beach, are all big names in late 20th century/early 21 century church music. **Hagenberg** (b. 1979) who wrote the Offering, is renowned for her ability to seamlessly weave lush harmonic landscapes, captivating melodies, and evocative. She offers a unique blend of artistic sophistication and universal appeal. **Story** (b. 1979) is an American Contemporary Christian singer/songwriter who has won a Grammy and six Dove Awards.

Jennings (b. 1936) is Professor Emerita of Music at St. Olaf College where she taught and served as Chair of the Music Department. She worked to promote the use of inclusive language in texts for singing, and to heighten awareness of how language shapes as well as expresses thought. **Thomerson** (1934-2025), was an American organist and hymnwriter. She taught at St Louis Conservatory, Southern Illinois University, and was music director at Mt Olive Lutheran, Austin, TX. **Beach** (1867-1944), who wrote our communion anthem, was the first successful American female composer of art music. Her Gaelic Symphony was premiered by the Boston Symphony in 1896, the first symphony composed and published by an American woman. Until the 1970's her music was published under her husband's name, Mrs. HHA Beach.

Susan Palo Cherwien (1953-2021), as you can see, died much too early. Her many original hymns (eight in the ELW alone) gave her a contemporary perspective to our understanding of God. She writes "Singing together is one of the most important things the Christian community does together in worshiping God. We sing into ourselves, into each other, into the universe, holy stories, holy truths, wisdom, beauty. We are shaped into one body by singing together holy songs. We begin to vibrate together. We are changed. Into what are we being shaped by the songs that we sing?"

Upcoming in Worship Music

Wed. Mar 11: Koki Sato, guest pianist

Mar. 15: Worship Band

Mar. 22: Choir of St. Mark's & Jubilee Handbell Choir

Marksmen Men's Group, 2nd and 4th Mondays

The Marksmen will continue meeting twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Monday at 7pm in Lundquist Chapel. The Marksmen is open to all men of the congregation. Each month we'll gather for fellowship, conversations about life and faith, as well as Bible and other studies. Contact Pastor David for more info (prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org).

Fun with Ukuleles!

Have you noticed our ukulele group, the St. Mark's Strummers, and wished that you could get in on the fun? We'd love to have you join our merry band; no experience is necessary. We will teach you how to play. We can even provide a loaner ukulele if you just want to check us out. Contact Susan Borowick (sborowick@msn.com) for details, or just show up and play! Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 8

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

9:30 am Sunday School

Monday, March 9

6:30 pm Monday Bible Study, offsite

7:00 pm Marksmen, LC

Tuesday, March 10

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS

5:30 pm Finance Mtg, Zoom

6:00 pm Property Mtg, FS

6:30 pm Personnel Mtg, LB

6:30 pm St. Mark's Strummers, SC

Wednesday, March 11

11:00 am Polar Ridge Service

5:00 pm Wednesday Dinner, RH

5:15 pm Jubilee Handbell Choir, SC

6:15 pm Lenten Service, SC

6:15 pm Faith Formation

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

Thursday, March 12

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite

Friday, March 13 – Office Closed

1:00 pm Quilting, FH

Saturday, March 14 – Office Closed

Sunday, March 15 – Quilt Blessing

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Pizza, Pi(e) and Puzzles, RH

3:00 pm EMSO Concert, RH

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