

# Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 5, 2026

## Happy Easter from St. Mark's!

I want to thank you for spending your Easter morning with us. We are delighted to share with you this remarkable story of God's incredible love. It is our hope that as you leave here today, you feel amazed, inspired, and surprised by the power of God's great love for you and your life. May God bless you and lead you to abundant life!

~Pastor David Bjorklund

## 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.* Apr. 8: sloppy joes, Apr. 15: baked potato bar, Apr. 22: hamburgers, Apr. 29: sandwiches, May 6: tacos

## VBS Registration is now open!

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, and snacks! There is no charge for VBS. Kids in grade 6 and above are welcome to register to be youth helpers! Please use the QR code to sign up.



VBS 2026

## Lawn care volunteers needed

If you are interested in helping out with grass cutting at St. Mark's this summer, please contact Doug at ronsbergd@gmail.com or call the church office at 651-777-7451. Cutting days are flexible.

## Church Potluck – Sun. April 19

The hospitality team is hosting a church-wide potluck after worship on April 19 – gather together for good food and good fellowship. Bring your appetite and your favorite dish to share! If your last name is A-J please bring a hot food item; K-S a cold item; and T-Z a dessert. Spots will be available to plug in your crock pots to keep food warm.

## St. Paul Area Synodical Convention – Sat. April 25 St. Mark Lutheran Church (Circle Pines) 8am-4pm

All women are welcome to experience worship, speakers, learning sessions, Bible study with Bishop Patricia Lull, business meeting, and great food and fellowship with other women. The keynote speaker is Marcie Rendon, author of *Where They Last Saw Her* about missing and murdered indigenous women. Feminine and hygiene products will be collected for MN Indian Women's Resource Center (list on the bulletin board in Rees Hall.) A monetary collection will be taken for Second Harvest Heartland and a refugee house. A quilt will go to Safe House for homeless teens. Registration information is on the bulletin board – **due April 16.** Cost is \$50. We will carpool from church. Contact Virginia Collier for more information at 651-777-0584.

## Calling all seniors for a special Spring Luncheon on May 7, 11am-1pm

All seniors, plus a guest, are invited to the Caring Ministries' Senior Spring Luncheon on May 7 at St. Mark's from 11am to 1pm. It includes a worship service in the sanctuary, followed by lunch in Rees Hall and entertainment/sing-a-long by the "Strummers" - St. Mark's new ukulele group. This is an opportunity for all **homebound members and their caregiver/guest** to gather with longtime friends for food and fellowship. In addition, **all seniors from St. Mark's** are invited to join the fun. Signups available in Rees Hall after church on Sun. April 19 and April 26. No cost but reservations are requested so enough food can be prepared. You may also call the church office at 651-777-7451 to make a reservation. Please contact Pastor David, Barb Michel (651-777-4305), or any Caring Ministry member for additional information.

## Women/Girls Spring Fling – Sat. May 9, 11am

All women and girls are invited to this intergenerational Spring event hosted by the Girl Scouts of District 622 and the Women of St. Mark's. This will be a three course "light tea" and will include activities and a speaker. A time to interact with younger and older ladies of all generations while enjoying food, fellowship and fun! Sign up on Sundays-April 19, 26 and May 3 in Rees Hall. Cost is \$10.00. Contact Virginia Collier 651-777-0584 with questions or to sign up. Come join us in the joyful season of Spring.

### Next Week's Ushering Schedule

April 12 Team 2: Capt. Carl Hurtgen, Terri Borowick

## Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

If you are listening carefully you may think *On the Third Day*, the choir, brass and handbell offering song, rather strange. You'd be right. It's written in a minor key while we sing "Jesus was crucified. He died and was buried." We transition to a major key on the words, "On the third day Christ arose," only slowly and hesitantly, although the music is thoroughly energetic and buoyant. It feels strange because today we are used to celebratory and joyful music in major keys. It wasn't always this way. In the 15th and 16th centuries, by ecclesiastical decree, minor keys were used to portray joy, happiness and celebration.

All this changed gradually as brass instruments developed and were incorporated into worship (not without a lot of controversy!) They obviously were great for celebrations and fanfares, but before the development of valves or pistons in the late 1700's they could not play in minor keys without a great deal of trouble. So, in the meantime, the church (and peoples' ears) gradually came to accept major keys as appropriate for joy and happiness instead of minor keys.

Singing *On the Third Day* is an act of resurrection in itself. We start in the depths of despair, walk the difficult path of hope, and eventually arrive at our goal, new life in Jesus Christ. In so doing, we remember where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. We remember that hope is never a straight or easy path, but we don't have to walk it alone. We remember that our limited vision of the world is not always congruent, and sometimes even in conflict, with God's: where we may see death, God may see life. Happy Easter!

## Upcoming in Worship

**Apr.12** – Choir of St. Mark's; Lauren Lammers, soprano

**Apr.19** – Worship Band, Anna Bjorklund, Susie Lenz, Missy Lilly and Diane Sell

## Upcoming Mental Health Events

Take full advantage of our relationship with the Mental Health Connect collaborative and attend one or more of the following events. Go to [www.mhconnect.org/find-mhc](http://www.mhconnect.org/find-mhc) for more details:

- **Nature as Therapy** – Tues. April 14, 7–8:30pm., Bethlehem Lutheran Church and via Zoom.
  - **Choosing Hope: Five Practices for Living Fully** – Tues. April 21, 6–8pm, Bethlehem Lutheran Church.
- Some events may require registration and/or a fee. See the Mental Health Connect site for details.

## News from the Foundation: Planting Seeds

When you donate to St. Mark's Foundation, you are planting seeds of giving that will flourish far beyond the present moment. Your contribution helps nurture lasting change, offering hope and support to those in need while ensuring your gift continues to grow and benefit future generations. By supporting the Foundation, you become part of a legacy of generosity that shapes our community for years to come. Visit [stmarksnspfoundation.com](http://stmarksnspfoundation.com) to learn more about the mission of the Foundation.

## Mark your calendar

Watch for more information about these upcoming events in the weekly email newsletter and announcements.

- **Apr.19:** Church Potluck after worship
- **Apr.26:** God's Work, Our Hands day of service
- **May 2:** Derby Day Party
- **Jun.14, Jul.19, Aug.16:** Outdoor worship & picnic

### Weekly Calendar

#### Sunday, April 5 – Easter

6:37 am Sunrise Service, CB/SC  
9:00 am Worship Service, SC  
10:30 am Worship Service, SC

#### Monday, April 6

6:30 pm Monday Bible Study, offsite

#### Tuesday, April 7

6:30 pm St. Mark's Strummers, SC  
7:00 pm Foundation Exec. Comm., LB

#### Wednesday, April 8

11:00 Polar Ridge Service, offsite  
5:00 pm Community Meal, RH  
5:45 pm Jubilee Handbell Choir, SC

6:00 pm All-Ages Faith Formation  
7:00 pm Prayer & Praise Service, LC  
7:15 pm Choir of St. Mark's, SC

#### Thursday, April 9

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite

**Friday, April 10** – Office Closed

**Saturday, April 11** – Office Closed

#### Sunday, April 12

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

### 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