

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

JULY 12, 2026

Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic – July 19

All are invited to the second outdoor worship service and picnic of the summer. On the menu: grilled hot dogs and brats, coleslaw, chip, lemonade and cupcakes for dessert. If the weather doesn't cooperate, worship and picnic will be inside.

Produce Giveaway – July 27, 4-6pm

The first produce giveaway of the season is on Monday, July 27. This is a great way to meet some of our neighbors and provide good food for families. We have a great need for volunteers to help distribute the food. Are welcome and should plan to show up at 3:30pm to help sort and set up.

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 at 612-269-6915.

Book Discussion: *"What Happened to You? Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing"* by Dr. Bruce D. Perry and Oprah Winfrey

Mental health learning is ongoing. Join us on **Wednesday, July 29 at 6:30 pm** in the Fireside Room for a discussion on this highly recommended book. The book is available at Ramsey County and Washington County libraries and at used bookstores. If you have questions, contact Bonnie Meyers at bonniemeyers@comcast.net.

Next Marksmen gathering – Aug. 10

We are off for the month of July, but will meet again on August 10th, 7pm in Lundquist Chapel. All are welcome!

Police/Fire hospitality room needs restocking

The snacks are getting low in the police/fire break room at St. Mark's. If you wish to donate, we could use individual packs of: granola bars, Slim Jim's/jerky, cracker/cheese packs, cookies, and frozen dinners. Please drop off donations in Rees Hall kitchen on Sundays or in the office Mon-Thurs. Thank you so much for your support of our first responders.

CYF Education registration is now open

Register your kids for CYF education programs, which begin in September. There is **no fee** for our programs, however advanced registration is helpful 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 16 and Sunday School begins on Sept. 13. Head to www.stmarks-nsp.org and check out the Children & Youth tab for more information and a registration link or simply scan this QR code to complete the quick registration form.



CYF 26-27 REG

St. Mark's 140th Anniversary Celebration "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace"

St. Mark's Church will be celebrating its 140th anniversary in 2027. Save the date of April 11, 2027 for the anniversary church service including other events, special guests, a walk of remembrance, potluck lunch, games and sharing of stories.

To help remind folks of our roots, we are looking for people who have been members or have grown up in the church for 50 years or more to share their thoughts about St. Mark's, its people and its faith through the years. These remembrances will create a special book for everyone to read and share.

The committee is also looking for a few individuals or family groups who would be willing to share memories via a short video.

Please send your remembrances to Karyn Mikel at karynmikel@comcast.net or drop them off at the church office. If interested in doing a video, contact Barb Michel at barbmichel2014@gmail.com or leave your name and contact information with the church office. There is no hard deadline for the remembrances, but for the video please reply by the end of August for scheduling purposes.

Thank you, the 140th Anniversary Committee

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

July 19: Team 3: Capt. Bob Engwer

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

I am guessing that most of us did not grow up on farms. But, we do live in a state where agriculture is very important to our economy and way of life, there are a lot of farms, and many of us have gardens. So the ideas of fertile soil, seeds, planting, watering, nurturing, ripening and harvesting are hands-on tasks, not foreign concepts. Little or no explanation necessary.

In our gospel today, Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower. The story appears in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, suggesting to me that it must have been very memorable and relatable to those who heard it first. Jesus is like the sower who scatters seeds; the seeds represent the word of God. Some seeds will sprout and do well, others not so much. But even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. As you read the gospel, notice the repetition of the words 'hear' and 'listen.' Both are actions.

Our three hymns today are all centered on the above concepts, especially ELW 508, *As Rain from the Clouds*. If possible, read through the words before we sing them. Notice the natural (pun intended) progression. In verse 1, the rain nourishes and prepares the soil for the seed. In verse 2, the seeds are scattered. In verse 3, they are nourished, they grow and are harvested, and we can give thanks for the harvest of grace. In a world in much need of grace, it is a very timely message.

River City Chorale Concert – Fri. July 17

The Chorale (based in Hudson, WI) will perform their concert "Shalom: Songs of Peace and Wholeness" at 7:00 pm at **King of Kings Lutheran Church** in Woodbury (1583 Radio Drive). There is no admission fee, freewill offering accepted.

Summer Music Schedule

July 19 Outdoors – Worship Band & Picnic
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 & Picnic
Aug 23 Shari Durden, *marimba & xylophone*
Aug 30 Lauren Lammers, *soprano*
Sept 6 Rachel Wyffels, *violin & soloist*

Mark your calendar

- **Jul 19, Aug 16:** Outdoor worship & picnic
- **Jul 27, Aug 24, Sept 28:** Free produce giveaways
- **Sept 13:** Sunday School Kickoff
- **Sept 16:** Wednesday Night Kickoff
- **Sept 17:** North St. Paul Fall Round Up Parade

Council Corner - June 26, 2026

- Year-to-date income has improved, and expenses are less than budgeted.
- Intern Rachel Wyffels will start her year with us on August 3. As part of her internship, she will be participating across a broad span of church life, including preaching, leading Bible studies, pastoral care and visits, funerals, stewardship, and Council/committee meetings. She will serve a concurrent stewardship internship in the fall, which should benefit our own campaign, and is planning a mission trip to Tanzania in January.
- The Council will hold their planning retreat on September 26, 2026.
- Improvements to the chapel have not yet begun, due to other pressing concerns facing the Property Committee. However, it is still expected that the work will take place over the summer. Watch for additional details.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, July 12

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

Monday, July 13

No ministry events

Tuesday, July 14

5:30 pm Finance Mtg, Zoom

6:30 pm Personnel Mtg, LB

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

Wednesday, July 15

No ministry events

Thursday, July 16

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite

6:00 pm Worship Band rehearsal, SC

6:30 pm Anne Bible Study, FS

Friday, July 17 – Office Closed

Saturday, July 18 – Office Closed

Sunday, July 19

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