

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

WEEK OF JANUARY 4, 2026

Wednesday Community Dinners resume on Jan. 7

All are welcomed to the table for this homemade meal offered Wednesdays during the school year. Freewill offering gladly accepted. Jan 7: sloppy joes, Jan 14: Lasagna, Jan 21: soup/sandwich/salad, Jan 28: Mexican chicken with rice.

Wednesday Activities resume on Jan. 7

5-6pm: Dinner
6-7pm: All-Ages Faith Formation
7-7:30pm: Prayer and Praise Worship

Quilting begins - Fri. Jan. 9 at 1:00pm

St. Mark's has a very faithful group of quilters who assemble and tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief as well as for those in our community. These quilts provide comfort and warmth in difficult times. Everyone is invited to help make quilts. You qualify if you can tie a knot! Plan to attend one or more quilting sessions on Friday afternoons - January 9 & 23; February 13 & 27, and March 13 & 27. We meet in Fellowship Hall from 1:00-5:00pm. Come for an hour or stay for the entire time. Quilting Coordinators: Shirley Pickett (651-735-0016) and Darlene Dent (651-777-1657).

Singer/Songwriter Billy Johnson -

Next Sun. January 11

We are pleased to welcome Billy Johnson next Sunday for worship at St. Mark's. Billy has been here several times and is a congregation favorite. The Star Tribune calls him, "one of the Twin Cities best feel-good, blue-collar, barroom-rousing tunesmiths." Don't miss him! For more information see billyboymusic.com.

Men's Book Study Group – Jan. 12 & 26

Our Men's Book Study Group for *Notes and Being a Man* by Scott Galloway will meet January 12 & 26 at 7pm in the Office Lounge, located next to the Church Office. For the January 12 session, we gather for introductions to one another and to the book. We will meeting again on January 26 to discuss the book in full. If you have questions or would like to be part of the study please contact Pastor David.

Rescheduled Women's "Advent" Potluck Brunch – Sat. Jan. 17 at 10:00am

All women are invited! Bring your favorite brunch item and enjoy a program of Advent/Christmas hymns, a speaker from *Hope for the Brave*, wonderful fellowship and lots of fun. The mission of *Hope for the Brave* is to end generational violence, one person at a time, by meeting basic needs through the love of Jesus Christ by providing education, support and healing. A free-will offering will be taken to support their programs. We will also be collecting new or gently used clothing for their Clothes Closet.

Sign up or confirm your reservation on Sundays January 4 and 11 in Rees Hall. Cost is \$5.00. All women are welcome and bring your friends. Call Virginia Coller 651-777-0584 for more information or to sign up.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Soup Sunday – January 25

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting following worship at about 10:40am. Enjoy a bowl of hot soup (takeout also available) and purchase some tasty baked goods to support global missions.

Thank You to our Worship Assistants

Usher Team 1: Mike Ericson, Mike Clausen, Marlene Moreno, Suzanne Ericson, Andy Petersen, Corinna Petersen

Reader: Diane Danko

Communion: Marjorie Koniar, Diane Danko

Welcome Center: Sherry Berry

Altar Care: Joanne Wegwerth, Diane Leonhardt

Greeters: Joe & Diane Danko

Multimedia: Gary Martin, Josh Hirman

Mark your calendars!

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

- **Jan. 11:** Billy Johnson in worship
- **Jan. 12/26:** Men's Book Study Group
- **Jan. 16/17:** Youth Lock-in
- **Jan. 25:** Annual Meeting and Soup Sunday
- **Feb. 8:** National Lutheran Choir Tune-Up

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

I like the way we in the liturgical worship tradition celebrate Christmas. Our culture seems to forget about Christmas on December 26, but Lutherans, Catholics and Episcopalians have a good month of preparation, Advent, then 12 days of Christmas joy and festivities, culminating in Epiphany (technically January 6, but today, January 4, is close enough), the arrival and adoration of the magi. In our culture the story of the magi, lumped in with the birth narrative, gets short shrift. But it is a story rich with hope, joy, peace, light, and promise. The magi are the first to declare Jesus's divinity with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And they came from foreign lands, a reminder that God's love and grace is universal.

As we celebrate Christmas one last time, one last hurrah so to speak, we focus on telling the story for all the world to hear. And we turn our attention to the meaning of Christmas so well summed up in Howard Thurman's poem, The Work of Christmas.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Jan. 11 Team 2, Capts: Carl Hurtgen & Terri Borowick



GIVE ONLINE

Upcoming in Sunday Worship

Jan. 11: Billy Johnson, singer/songwriter

Jan. 18: Choir of St. Mark's, honoring our recent retirees (250 years of music ministry!)

National Lutheran Choir Tune Up – Sat. Jan. 31

The Choir of St. Mark's will be joined by 450 of their closest singing friends Saturday morning January 31 at Roseville Lutheran Church for 2026 National Lutheran Choir Choral Tune-Up, Making Music across Generations. We'll enjoy a morning of singing with acclaimed composer Elaine Hagenberg and NLC Artistic Director Dr. Jennaya Robison. We'll sing alongside members of the National Lutheran Choir learning 4 choral selections. This annual festival promises to be an invigorating morning of making music together. If you would like to attend, see Tom Paulson, Director of Music and Worship, or any choir member for more details. Robeson invites "singers of all backgrounds, or none, to join us."

Choirs of St. Mark's Tune Up – Sun. Feb. 8

The Choir of St. Mark's will be led by Dr. Robeson and a quartet from the NLC on Sunday February 8 in the St. Mark's Choral Tune Up. (The January 31 event is specifically for the choir singers, while this is more focused on the needs of St. Mark's Music Ministry.) There will also be a children's choir. If you would like to sing, please see Tom Paulson, Director of Music and Worship, or any choir member for more details.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, January 4

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

Monday, January 5

6:30 pm Monday Bible Study, zoom

Tuesday, January 6

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS
6:30 pm St. Mark's Strummers, #102

Wednesday, January 7

5:30 pm Wednesday Dinner, 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, January 8

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite

Friday, January 9 – Office Closed
1:00 pm Quilting, FH

Saturday, January 10 – Office Closed

Sunday, January 11
9:30 am Worship Service, SC
9:30 am Sunday School

Website: www.stmarks-nsp.org

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