

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9, 2025



INVITED TO SERVE

Our fall sermon series continues with the theme, *Invited to Serve*. The ways in which we are each called to serve are as different and individualized as we are. What we do know however, is that we are each called to be in service to one another, for the sake of one body in Christ. We can know and trust that God has given each of us the gifts we need to do the work to which we are called. Together, we will explore the ways in which we, as people of St. Mark's, are already living into this call to service. We will also dive deeper into that invitation, maybe trying something new, or showing up in a new place. We are excited to come together today as a congregation to support the Prayer Shawl ministry as we bless the beautiful shawls that have been created as acts of service to our neighbors. These shawls take time to make and with each and every stitch the maker is offering their love and prayers for someone else to receive. What a perfect example of living into this invitation of service. Let us offer our hands, our time, and our hearts in service to God and one another—so that through us, others may catch a glimpse of the love of Christ.

Blessing of Prayer Shawls

This is the 20th Anniversary of the Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. Mark's. Shawls are a reminder of God's ever-present love for those in need of comfort, healing and spiritual well-being. If you need a prayer shawl for yourself or someone else, pick one up at the table in Rees Hall after worship or contact one of the pastors at any time. Those interested in knitting or crocheting prayer shawls are welcomed to stop at the table in Rees Hall for more information, patterns, and prayers.

New Member Info Sessions – Nov. 9 or Nov. 12

St. Mark's will be welcoming new members into the congregation on Sunday, November 23 during morning worship. A New Member Class will be held today after worship in the Fireside Room and Wednesday, Nov. 12 after dinner (6pm) in the library. *You only need to attend one session.* No registration needed, just stop by.

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Nov 16: Team 3, Capt: Bob Engwer

Woodbury Chorus and Orchestra Concert – Sun. Nov. 16 at 4pm

Rhythm of Life is a concert of familiar choral and orchestral music and hosted at St. Mark's. The performance includes *Festival Gloria*, *Seven Bridges Road*, *Hosanna*, *You Raise Me Up* with *Be Still My Soul* and more. The concert is free, and no tickets are required. **A free-will offering will be taken, with 100% of the proceeds going to the North St. Paul Area Food Shelf.**

Soup Sunday – Sun. Nov. 23

Join us for delicious homemade soup and bread after Sunday worship. Free will offering. Proceeds go toward grocery gift cards for those in need during the holidays. Take out is also available.

Partnering with North High to provide Thanksgiving turkeys

Once again, we are partnering with North high to provide turkeys for families in need. We will be providing meals for 20 families and are looking for 20 turkeys to include in the Thanksgiving baskets. If you could donate a turkey 8-10 lbs, please contact Julie at urbanja@comcast.net or sign up at the Welcome Center. **Turkeys need to be at church by Sunday November 23rd.**

Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Social – Wed. Nov. 26 at 6:30 pm

All are invited to gather at St. Mark's on Thanksgiving Eve to celebrate God's goodness, bounty, and mercy. Bring a pie to share if you wish, and stick around after worship for the social hour. *No dinner, education hour, or choir rehearsal.

Annual Progressive Dinner – Sun. December 7

All are invited! Appetizers at 4pm at host homes, dinner at 5:15pm at church, followed by 6:30pm dessert. Bend in the River Band will provide the entertainment. Cost is \$20/person. **Sign up begins on November 16.** You may also sign up to be an appetizer host!

Wednesday Community Dinners

All are welcomed to the table for this homemade meal offered Wednesdays during the school year. Freewill offering gladly accepted. Nov 12: chicken, Nov 19: pulled pork, Nov 26: no dinner (Thanksgiving Eve)

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

"I have one life and one chance to make it count for something...My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can, with whatever I have, to try to make a difference."

Jimmy Carter (1924-2024)

I generally don't quote politicians here because I think separation of church and state is important. However, given Mr. Carter's post-Presidential life – teaching Sunday school for years and years, building hundreds of homes for Habitat for Humanity, overseeing elections in many fledgling and struggling democracies - I think we can safely call him a humanitarian. In the quote above, he beautifully sums up what it means to serve.

For humanity, this is always a difficult lesson. An elementary reading of history makes that painfully clear. But scripture is very clear. Think about the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Read today's scripture, "(Jesus) emptied himself, taking the form of a servant" (Philippians) and "(Jesus said) whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave to all" (Mark).

This will probably be a lesson we have to learn many times in our lives, and will have to learn to forgive ourselves each time we try and fail. So we ask for God's help singing, "Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you." And we go out singing "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord" knowing we have one life in which to try to make a difference.

Sing the Marvelous Music of Christmas

If you sang in choir in high school or college and now miss it, or maybe are just missing the joy of singing, join the Choir of St. Mark's for the Christmas season. Come to a couple of Wednesday rehearsals - 12/3, 12/10 & 12/17, 7:15 to 8:30 – then sing for our two biggest services: Christmas Festival Sunday Dec. 14 at 9:30 am, and Christmas Eve Wed. Dec. 24 at 10pm. You'll be glad you did! Contact Tom Paulson at tomp@stmarks-nsp.org.

Coming up in Worship...

Sun. Nov. 16 – Choir of St. Mark's; Lenora & Viola Lyon, soloists

Sun. Nov. 23 – Worship Band

Wed. Nov. 26 – **Thanksgiving Eve:** Choir of St. Mark's; Anna Bjorklund, Susie Lenz, Missy Lillie, Diane Sell & Maureen Schnitzer

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

- **Woodbury Chorus & Orch. Concert:** Nov. 16, 4pm
- **Soup Sunday:** Nov. 23
- **Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Social:** Nov. 26
- **Global Mission Craft Sale:** Dec. 6
- **Progressive Dinner:** Dec. 7
- **Christmas Festival Sunday:** Dec. 14
- **Women's Advent Potluck Brunch:** Sat. Dec. 13
- **Christmas Eve Services:** Wed. Dec. 24 – 3 & 10pm
- **Christmas Day Service:** Thurs. Dec. 25 – 9:30am
- **Annual Meeting:** Sun. Jan. 25, 2026

News from the Foundation...

The next Foundation Board meeting is **this Tuesday, November 11**. Grant request forms and guidelines are available on the Foundation website at stmarksnspfoundation.com and should be submitted online or in the church office before this date.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, November 9

9:30 am Worship Service, SC
9:30 am Sunday School
10:45 am New Member Info Session, FS

Monday, November 10

6:30 pm Monday Night Bible Study, Zoom
6:30 pm Stewardship, office

Tuesday, November 11

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS
1:00 pm Archives Mtg, LB
5:30 pm Finance Mtg, Zoom
6:00 pm Property Mtg, FS
6:30 pm Ukulele Group, #102
7:00 pm Foundation Board Mtg, #203

Wednesday, November 12

11:00 am Polar Ridge Service
5:00 pm Wednesday Dinner, RH
5:45 pm Jubilee Handbell Choir, SC
6:00 pm All Ages Faith Formation
6:00 pm New Member Info Session, LB
7:00 pm Prayer and Praise Service, LC
7:15 pm Choir of St. Mark's, SC

Thursday, November 13

8:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study, offsite
6:30 pm Anne Bible Study, FS

Friday, November 14 – Office Closed

Saturday, November 15 – Office Closed

Sunday, November 16

9:30 am Worship Service, SC
9:30 am Sunday School
4:00 pm Woodbury Chorus & Orchestra Concert, SC

Ministry Staff

Rev. David Bjorklund, Lead Pastor
prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org

Kate Bentley, Deacon
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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