Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

NOVEMBER 8, 2026

Sunday Night Youth Group – Today at 6:30 pm

We're trying something new this year for our 7th-12th graders. In addition to Wednesday nights we are hosting Sunday Night Youth Group from 6:30pm-8:00pm on the **2nd and 4th Sundays** of each month. We normally meet in the Youth Room on the second floor of Rees Hall and friends are welcome. Next gatherings Nov 22.

Marksmen – Mon. Nov. 9 at 7pm

The Marksmen will meet in Lundquist Chapel. This group is open to all men of the congregation. Each month we gather for fellowship, conversations about life and faith, as well as Bible and other studies.

Curious About Becoming a Member of St. Mark's? Last info session is Wed. Nov. 11 at 6pm

If you are interested or would simply like to learn more about our congregation attend the upcoming information session in Rees Hall room #103 hosted by Pastor David. No registration necessary.

Wednesday Community Meals – 5-6pm

Join us for a homemade meal on Wednesday nights in Rees Hall from **5-6pm** during the school year. There is no set charge for the meal, however freewill donations are always appreciated.
Nov 11: lasagna, Nov 18: Italian, Nov 25: No Dinner (attend the Thanksgiving Eve service & pie social at 6:30pm)

Soup Sunday – Sun. Nov. 22

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

Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Social Wed. Nov. 25 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, or choir rehearsal.*

Global Mission Craft Fair – Dec. 5, 9am-3pm

Head to St. Mark's from 9am to 3pm for this fun day of shopping and supporting local crafters and home businesses. **Ten percent of all profits benefit our sister congregations in Tanzania.** Expect a good selection of vendors - candy, jewelry, toys, ornaments, blankets, bags, signs, and more!

Annual Progressive Dinner – Sun. Dec. 13

All are invited! Appetizers at 4pm at host homes, dinner at 5:15pm at church, followed by 6:30pm dessert. *Bend in the River Big Band* will provide the entertainment. Cost is $20/person. **Sign up begins on November 22.** You may also sign up to be an appetizer host!

Gift Goes On Holiday Sponsorship

This year St. Mark's will again partner with Head Start, located in our own building, to provide gifts and food gift cards for children and families in need this holiday season. We will also be providing requested items for a local organization, Gifts for Seniors. A "Giving Tree" with ornaments, each having the name and gift ideas for one student and lists of items for seniors will be located in Rees Hall beginning November 25th.

Another way to help this holiday is to purchase food gift cards from a local grocery store in the amount of $20. Please include the receipt with each card to confirm their value for the recipient. One card will be included with each individual gift bundle.

Thank you in advance for helping others in our community this Christmas season. If you have questions, please contact Karyn Mikel at 612-414-2317 or karynmikel@comcast.net.

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. Christmas music is especially fun to sing. Come to a couple of Wednesday rehearsals - 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, and 12/23, 7:15 to 8:30pm – then sing for as much of the Christmas Season as fits your schedule. You'll be glad you did!

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

I have to commend our Stewardship team for putting together *A Culture of Generosity: Open Hearts, Open Doors, Open Tables*. This is a message the world needs to hear! In a world that divides us into categories – male or female; by religion: Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or none; insiders with money, power and influence or outsiders without; as worthy or unworthy poor (apparently the rich are always worthy?); as Republican or Democrat, etc. – it is an important message that everyone is welcome in this community, and everyone is welcome at God's table, even the people I don't want to welcome. Two of our songs today make that abundantly clear.

Come to the Table, helps us process this. It is very clear in song and scripture, that the welcome goes to "the thief, the doubter, the hero, the coward, the prisoner, the soldier, the younger, the older, all who hunger, all who thirst, paupers and princes, all who failed, all the forgiven, all who dream, all who suffer, who love and lost, the chained and free, those who follow, those who lead, the letdown, the found, all labeled right or wrong, all who hear this song." Quite a list isn't it.

In *Plowshare Prayer*, we pray for "the last and the least," "the anxious, depressed and unseen," "the workers, the hungry, the houseless," "the lonely and recently spouseless," "the queers and their closeted peers," etc. It is a catalogue of the work Jesus calls his followers to do. As we worship today, we talk about who and what God is calling us to be and do, especially in 2027. Let us ponder this big picture message, let us be open to the needs of the world around us, and may we love as Jesus loved.

Upcoming in Worship

Nov 15: Choir of St. Mark's; St. Mark's Ringers; Jennifer Arsenault, flute; Rachel Wyffels, violin; Lauren Lammers, Rachel Wyffels & Mackenzie Lyon, trio

Nov 22: Choir of St. Mark's; St. Mark's Strummers

Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Calendars

Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us a tangible way to express that gratitude. During the month of November we especially want to give thanks for our many blessings. Use the Thankoffering calendar and the message for each day to think about how we can bless others. Calendars are available at the Welcome Center. Monies collected will go to local community needs and to support the mission of the Women of the ELCA. Thank you for your gifts.

News from the Foundation

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded of the many blessings in our lives and the importance of sharing those blessings with others. We give thanks for our families, friends, our church community, and the opportunities God places before us to make a difference in the lives of others. One meaningful way to express our gratitude is through a generous gift to the St. Mark's Foundation. Your gift helps provide grants that support education, youth, families in need, and outreach both near and far. As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving, may we also consider how we can become a blessing to others. Together, we can continue to share God's love, nurture hope, and make a lasting difference in our community and beyond.

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Nov 15 Team 3: Capt: Bob Engwer

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 8
9:30 am Worship Service, SC
9:30 am Sunday School
6:30 pm Youth Group, YR

Monday, Nov. 9
6:30 pm Monday Night Bible Study, Zoom
7:00 pm Marksmen, LC

Tuesday, Nov. 10
9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS
5:30 pm Finance Mtg, Zoom
6:00 pm Property Mtg, FS
6:30 pm St. Mark's Strummers, LC

Wednesday, Nov. 11
11:00 am Polar Ridge Service
5:00 pm Community Meal, RH
5:45 pm St. Mark's Ringers, SC
6:00 pm Education Hour
6:00 pm New Member Info Mtg, RH#103
6:45 pm Communion Service, LC
7:15 pm Choir of St. Mark's, LC

Thursday, Nov. 12
8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite
66:00 pm Intern Committee, #203

Friday, Nov. 13 – *Office Closed*
Saturday, Nov. 14 – *Office Closed*

Sunday, Nov. 15
9:30 am Worship Service, SC
9:30 am Sunday School

Ministry Staff

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

Kate Bentley, *Deacon*
deaconkateb@stmarks-nsp.org

Rachel Wyffels, *Pastoral Intern*
rachelw@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
Wednesdays: 6:45 pm

Guest WiFi
P3@nutButt3r