

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

JULY 7, 2024

Women's Summer Bible Study – Sat. July 13

This Bible study *After Certainty*, from the Gather magazine, focuses on what it means to live in faith after a worldwide pandemic, climate change, political turmoil and a changing religious landscape. Deacon Kate Lindberg will be leading us in Fellowship Hall. Registration – 9:30-10:00am; Bible study – 10:00am; lunch – 12 noon. The lessons are in the June, July/August Gather magazine, and copies will be available at registration on Sundays June 30 and July 7 in Rees Hall. Cost is \$13.00. Call Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584 to register or for more information. *All women are welcome and please bring a friend!*

Outdoor Worship Service and Picnic – July 14

Get ready for another fun outdoor day at St. Mark's! The Worship Band will lead the music for the day and a picnic will follow. There will be hot dogs/brats with toppings, potato salad, chips, watermelon, and dessert. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll bring it all inside.

Marksmen "Brew and BBQ" – July 17

The men of St. Mark's are invited to gather together for the brewing of beer and eating of meat on Wednesday, July 17 from 6-8pm. This is a great opportunity to get to know other men in the congregation and to learn more about the brewing process. Art Arsenault will be our brew master and Gary Martin will be working the grill. RSVP via stmarks@stmarks-nsp.org or by contacting the church office at 651-777-7451.

Volunteers Needed for Free Produce Events

St. Mark's is once again hosting three free produce giveaways (July 22, Aug 26, Sept 23) in partnership with the North St. Paul Food Shelf and Second Harvest. We need a crew of volunteers to help distribute the food from 4-6 pm outside the church. Volunteers should plan to show up at 3:30 pm. If you are interested, sign up at the Welcome Center, contact Julie Urban at urbanja@comcast.net, or call the church office at 651-777-7451.

Vacation Bible School/Day Camp – August 5-9

Bring your children, grandchildren, cousins, and friends! This will be the best of Vacation Bible School and summer camp all rolled into one great week! The full-day program (9am-3pm) also has 1/2-day options. **Register online at www.stmarks-nsp.org.**

Summer Sunday Worship Music Schedule

When our choirs are on summer break, like much of Minnesota, it is a good opportunity for us to think outside the box each Sunday and experience music and worship in new and different ways. Peruse the list here, and plan to be here as often as possible.

- July 7** Zach Spirov (singer/songwriter)
July 14 Outdoor Worship with St. Mark's Worship Band & Church Picnic
July 21 Anna Bjorklund, Susie Lenz & Missy Lillie and the music of the Wailin' Jennys
July 28 Suzanne Benson (flute) & Frankie Benson, (flute/oboe/English horn)
Aug 4 Billy Johnson (singer/songwriter)
Aug 11 Lauren Lammers (soprano); Miranda Hirsch (saxophone); and Nick Hirsch (trumpet)
Aug 18 Outdoor Worship with St. Mark's Worship Band and Church Picnic
Aug 25 East Metro Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet (Jeff Hodgson)
Sept 1 Matthias Baese (horn) from the St. Olaf College Orchestra

Kids Summer Playdate – July 13, 2:30-4:30pm

Families are invited to St. Mark's for the afternoon to get together for a playdate! We will plan on being outside, but if the weather is not in our favor we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a time of fun and connection for our children and their parents, feel free to invite your neighbors too, all are welcome! Please reach out to Deacon Kate if you have any questions (katel@stmarks-nsp.org).

School Tools Drive – July 14 through August 18

St. Mark's will be collecting items for Interfaith Action's School Tools Drive. Many families cannot afford the items for their children to help them be successful during the school year. There will be collection tubs in Rees Hall near the stage starting July 14. Interfaith Action distributes the supplies to low-income families in the Twin Cities area. Here is the list of items that are needed: backpacks; 3-ring binders, loose-leaf paper & folders; calculators; spiral & composition notebooks; pencils, pens, markers, colored pencils, crayons (24 count), erasers, highlighters, pencil sharpeners; glue sticks & bottles; scissors & rulers; facial tissue; school boxes; and sanitizer; reusable masks. A take-home shopping list is located in Rees Hall.

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Worship & Music

"Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics." (Mark 6:7-9)

This gospel lesson always stands out to me as especially challenging, and potentially rewarding. Jesus sends his disciples out on a sort of trial run or experiment with almost nothing. This makes them vulnerable and dependent on how others perceive and receive them. I think we can especially empathize, because when we follow in the way of Jesus we too can feel vulnerable, and dependent on how others receive/perceive us.

Our opening hymn *Will You Come and Follow Me* captures those ideas in great detail. Verses 1-4 are the instructions of Jesus in the form of a question: "Will you go where you don't know...", "Will you care for cruel and kind...", "Will you kiss the leper clean...", and (especially perceptive and provocative), "Will you love the you you hide..." Verse 5 is our response: "Lord, your summons echoes true...", "let me turn and follow you..." Refrains in all five verses make it clear that it is not just the world that will be changed, it is each of us, personally: "let me turn and follow you and never be the same" and "I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me." You can see why I find this challenging. Jesus is asking nothing less than to change my whole life!



Wednesday Summer Campfire Services

July 10 & 24, Aug 14 & 28

We will have Wednesday night worship in June, July, and August, at 6:30 on the second and fourth week of each month. Join us for a casual (30-45 minute), faith-filled evening around the campfire. Singer/songwriter Zach Spirov is providing guitar music for these services all summer! Communion available. Bring your own chair/blanket and invite your friends.

News from the Foundation...

The power of your donations has enabled The St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation to award significant grants thus far in 2024. Three ongoing focus areas include:

- The Mental Health Ministry with support for workshops and speakers
- Children, Youth, and family Ministries with recent financial aid for the Youth Gathering this July in New Orleans
- Music Ministry Enhancement with brass provided at Easter and further music plans for Christmas

Other grants given in 2024 include:

- Student sponsorship in Tanzania
- Shobi's Table food truck maintenance
- Seminary expenses for a daughter of the congregation
- Hospitality & entertainment for the Progressive Dinner

We anticipate further growth of God's message within these ministries and in future grant requests. Keep your hearts and minds open for possible grants for consideration. Continue to visit the Foundation website: stmarksnspfoundation.com.

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Sunday, July 14

Team 2: Capt. Carl Hurtgen & Terri Borowick

Calendar

Sunday, July 7

9:30 am Worship Service, RH

6:00 pm Youth Gathering "Gathering," YR

Monday, July 8

7:00 pm Stewardship Meeting, FS

Tuesday, July 9

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, #203

5:30 pm Finance Mtg, #203

6:00 pm Property Mtg, FS

6:30 pm Personnel Mtg, LB

Wednesday, July 10

10:00 am Polar Ridge Service

6:30 pm Campfire Worship Service

Thursday, July 11

8:00 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite

9:00 am Weekly Gardening, outside

6:00 pm Worship Band rehearsal, SC

Friday, July 12 – Office Closed

Saturday, July 13 – Office Closed

9:00 am Saturday Stewards

9:30 am Women's Bible Study, FH

2:30 pm Summer Playdate for Kids

Sunday, July 14

9:30 am Outdoor Worship Service & Picnic

Ministry Staff

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

Kate Lindberg, Deacon
katel@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

Website: www.stmarks-nsp.org