



## Spring Outdoor Cleanup Day – this Saturday, May 7

Everyone is invited to an outdoor clean-up day at St. Mark's starting at 9 am. Come help get our grounds and parking lots ready for the for the summer. All types of tasks are available. Items to bring – gloves, rakes, tools, and your enthusiasm! Many hands make the work go faster (and make it more fun!)—hope to see you there.

## Rachel's Day is Sunday May 8

The day takes its name from Jeremiah 31:15-17, in which the matriarch Rachel grieves for her children. Rachel's Day is a time to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear. At the 1996 Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention, delegates passed a memorial on Rachel's Day. We continue to observe Rachel's Day in order to broaden awareness of the violence suffered by children and to encourage taking action to address it. The Women of St. Mark's will distribute blue ribbons as a symbol of support.

## Women's Spring Luncheon "Thanks for the Memories" – Saturday, May 14

All women are welcome to join us for our annual spring luncheon. This year we will be honoring and extending well-wishes to our Pastor Mary who will retire on May 15. A music program provided by singer/guitarist Mary Hall, who entertains by sharing her love of music and her Christian faith. Following the program, we will have an Italian luncheon catered by Donatelli's (baked mostaccioli, salad and bread sticks followed by dessert). **Sign-up in Rees Hall on Sundays May 1 and 8.** Cost is \$10.00. Come and share the morning with us and honor Pastor Mary. Please call Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584 with questions or to register. All women are welcome and bring a friend!

## Pastor Mary's Retirement Celebration – Sunday, May 15

Let's fill the church for Pastor Mary's sendoff! Join the congregation for worship on May 15 at 9:30 am for her last Sunday with us at St. Mark's and her retirement from active ministry. After worship, everyone is invited to celebrate with Pastor Mary, John and their family for a light brunch (fruits, pastries, and finger sandwiches) in Rees Hall. A basket for cards and notes of appreciation will be available. *Pastor Mary invites those who would like to make a gift in honor of her retirement to consider designating those gifts to the Grace Space project (see below).* Checks may be made out to St. Mark's Church. Please include "Grace Space" in the memo line. Contribute online at [www.stmarks-nsp.org](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org)—click on the special giving opportunities link, then select Grace Space from the drop down menu.

## Relocation of the Grace Space

As parents of young children know, worshipping as a family can be a challenge. It's difficult for the smallest of God's children to sit still for the length of a service on the best of days, and nearly impossible on the worst. The Grace Space in our sanctuary is intended to provide young children with an engaging environment that gives parents an opportunity to focus on, and be mentally present in worship. It is a wonderful gift to young families but could use some improvement to better meet the needs of our worshipping community. In the near future we will be relocating the Grace Space from its current position in the front of the sanctuary to the rear, directly back from where it is currently located.

With the Grace Space in the rear of the sanctuary, young children will still be able to move around and play but in a less prominent area. This will help to minimize distraction for others and allow parents to make a quick and discreet exit if needed. As a parents of young children, Anna and I have appreciated the Grace Space and we look forward to the changes. It'll make life a little bit easier for all of us with littles in tow!

This project has received the full support of our Property Committee and Church Council. It has an estimated cost of \$5,000 to cover the cost of materials for the construction of a false floor to level out that area, construct a railing, and purchase furniture and other items appropriate to the space. The St. Mark's Foundation has graciously offered to cover up to \$2,500 of the costs. Pastor Mary, recognizing the renovated Grace Space is a positive investment in St. Mark's future, is inviting those who would like to make a gift in honor of her retirement to consider designating those gifts to the Grace Space project. If you have any questions about this project please let me know.

~Pastor David ([prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org))

## Next Wednesday May 11 is the last dinner night until next fall

If you are interested in volunteering to help next year, please contact Julie Urban and [urbanja@comcast.net](mailto:urbanja@comcast.net) and you'll be contacted in late summer.

## Fare for All – May 16 (3:30-5:30 pm) at Redeeming Love Church in Maplewood

Fare For All is a cooperative purchasing program that offers affordable groceries and packages of produce and meat for up to 40% off retail prices. They buy fresh produce and frozen meat in bulk from wholesalers and manufactures to find the best deals. Pre-assembled "packs" are available for sale from \$10 to \$30. All are welcome to shop! Redeeming Love Church is located at 2425 White Bear Ave N. Upcoming sale dates include: May 16, Jun 13, Jul 18, Aug 15, Sept 12, Oct 17, Nov 14, Dec 5 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. To find out more about the types of packs available, monthly featured packs, and other locations, visit [fareforall.thefoodgroupmn.org](http://fareforall.thefoodgroupmn.org).

## East Metro Symphony Orchestra (EMSO) Concert at St. Mark's – May 22 at 3:00 pm

EMSO will perform **Beethoven (Belated) Birthday Bash**, a concert honoring the music of Ludwig van Beethoven on Sunday, May 22 at 3:00 pm at St. Mark's. Admission is free. Donations are always appreciated. Reserved seats are recommended but not necessary. Please visit EMSO's website at [www.emsorch.org](http://www.emsorch.org) for more info or to reserve seats.

## Stewardship Conversation Sunday – May 22

St. Mark's is our faith home and we care deeply about the place and the people. What are our hopes and dreams for St. Mark's? What do we think God is calling us to do in this place, at this time? Join the Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS) team for coffee, and conversation after service on Sunday, May 22. Learn about the team and share with them your vision and ideas for St. Mark in the coming years.

## MN Twins baseball game – Sunday, June 12

It's time to trade in your Covid mask for a catcher's mask. We are going back to Target Field to the Twins vs. Tampa Bay Rays on Sunday, June 12. First pitch is at 1:10 pm. Bus



leaves St. Mark's at 11:30 am. \$20 includes your ticket and transportation on the bus! Scan this QR code to register and pay online to make sure you don't miss out!

## Vacation Bible School – August 9-11 (9am to 12 pm)

St. Mark's is hosting *River of Life*, ELCA World Hunger's VBS program for pre-K to 5th graders. Together we'll journey down the river to learn about God's gracious gift of water. From the waters of baptism to the waters that sustain farms and gardens, water is life. Kids will learn about the importance of water and explore important "ports" during the week to hear Bible stories about water. They will also hear about communities working to restore watersheds, to protect rights to water and to ensure safe water for everyone. And they'll have a lot of fun with games, crafts and more! Free of charge. Sign up by Aug. 8 at [www.stmarks-nsp.org](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org) or scan the QR code here:



## Garden Gift Cards

The Garden Team will be selling garden cards in Rees Hall on Sundays, **May 1 and May 8**. Bachman's cards are available in \$10 and \$25 and are good for any items purchased at the store. Gertens cards are available for \$25 and can be used to purchase any green and growing items. And remember – they make great gifts too! The Garden Team earns 15% with funds used for improving and maintaining the church gardens. If you need cards at other times, please call Sherry at 651-777-6704 and we can get them to you. Thank you for your support!

## Coordinator Needed For Annual Red Cross Blood Drive in October

St. Mark's is in the rotation of the Red Cross blood drives that some of the NSP churches host each year. St. Mark's hosts the October blood drive, typically the first Monday in October. The drive is 1:00 to 7:00 pm in Rees Hall. We are in need of someone (or a couple) to host and coordinate the drive. This involves making sure Red Cross staff can get in the building and set up, help with minor set-up like putting out chairs for donors to sit in while waiting, putting out snacks and water bottles on a couple tables for donors when they're done donating, and being present to see things are going smoothly. The St. Mark's coordinator(s) would have to make sure the church doors are locked and everything secured when the drive is done. If you're interested, please contact the church office at 651-777-7451 and we can put you in contact with the current coordinator.

## Update on St. Mark's picture directory...

We are in the process of making corrections to the proof copy and then we'll send it off to be printed. Thank you for your patience. ~Sue & Terri

# Youth Education Volunteers Needed for 2022-23



As we enter into the finals weeks of Youth Education for 2021-22 we are already preparing for 2022-23 and are asking for the congregation's continue support to sustain and grow our Youth and Family ministry. *The preliminary calendar for 2022-23 is shown below.*

For 2022-23 we are looking for 8 adults to serve as teachers on Wednesday nights for PreK-6th Classes, and 4 Confirmation Adult Leaders. Specifically we would like a pair of co-teachers for each of the following grade levels: PreK & Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade, 3rd & 4th grade, and 5th & 6th grade. As well as a pair of co-leaders for 7th and 8th confirmation classes.

While the bulk of our Youth Education will be on Wednesdays we would also like to offer Sunday School for families who are interested. In order to do so, we are looking for a pair of volunteers to serve as Sunday School co-teachers. Initially there would be a single PreK-3rd Grade classroom for Sunday School on Sunday mornings.

We would also like to find someone to serve as a volunteer Youth Ed Coordinator for PreK-6th grade. This person would be responsible for preparing classroom materials, tracking attendance, assisting classroom teachers, and working with Pastor David to ensure our teachers are supported and our students are engaged. This volunteer position would be about 3 hours per week.

Being able to share the faith with our young people is a great gift and a sacred task. If you've taught in the past and want to teach again we'd love to have you. If you've never taught before but have a heart for kids we'd love to have you.

Please contact Pastor David (pr davidb@stmarks-nsp.org or 651-777-7451) with any questions or to express your commitment for 2022-2023.

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## Interested in ushering once a month?

If you are interested in ushering, please contact Dan Colberg at [drcolberg@comcast.net](mailto:drcolberg@comcast.net) or call 612-716-5969.

## Upcoming Schedule

### Sunday, May 8

9:30 am – Usher Team 1  
(10:30 Capt. Mike Ericson)

### Sunday, May 15

9:30 am – Usher Team 2  
(8:30 Capt. Carl Hurtgen)

March FINANCIALS		
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$159,787	\$136,976
Expense	\$147,076	\$151,503
Net difference	\$12,711	(\$14,527)
<i>Thank you for supporting St. Mark's Ministry!</i>		

## Next Week's Daily Lectionary Readings

### Monday, May 9

Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 37:15-28  
Revelation 15:1-4

### Thursday, May 12

Psalm 148  
Ezekiel 2:8-3:11  
Revelation 10:1-11

### Tuesday, May 10

Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 45:1-9  
Acts 9:32-35

### Friday, May 13

Psalm 148  
Daniel 7:13-14  
Revelation 11:15

### Wednesday, May 11

Psalm 100  
Jeremiah 50:17-20  
John 10:31-42



## Coffee this Sunday...

sponsored Sherry Berry in honor of Bud – 5 years since he could enjoy coffee hour.



Follow us on  
**Instagram**

If you like to use Instagram, please give us a follow @stmarksnsp. We've been adding more content lately.

Anything you would like to see more of? Contact [anm@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:anm@stmarks-nsp.org).



## Supporting Women's Goals

Women have been faithful servants in our church and community through many years. With the approach of Mother's Day, what an excellent opportunity to honor or remember a special woman or group of women that influenced your spiritual growth. The St. Mark's Foundation continues to support goals for women with grants, such as for seminary education. Check the Foundation website at [www.stmarksnspfoundation.com](http://www.stmarksnspfoundation.com) to learn more.

## Next Week's Calendar

### Sunday, May 8

9:30 am Combined Worship Service, SC  
10:45 am Sunday School

### Monday, May 9

6:30 pm Monday Bible Study, ZOOM

### Tuesday, May 10

10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study, 203/4  
5:30 pm Finance Mtg, ZOOM  
6:00 pm Property Mtg, FS

### Wednesday, May 11

Last night of Wednesday Activities  
10:00 am Polar Ridge Service  
5:00 pm Wednesday Dinner, RH  
5:30 pm Joyful Voices Choir, MR  
6:00 pm Youth Education  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Service

### Thursday, May 12

8:30 am Denny's Breakfast & Bible, offsite  
7:00 pm Choir of St. Mark's, SC

### Friday, May 13 – Office Closed

### Saturday, May 14 – Office Closed

10:00 am Women's Spring Luncheon, RH

### Sunday, May 15

#### Pastor Mary's Retirement Celebration

9:30 am Combined Worship Service, SC  
10:30 am Brunch, RH