

Dear Friends,

It's an exciting and eventful time at St. Mark's. We have had the chance to welcome and meet our new Associate Pastor and his family, David, Anna, Desmond and Julian Bjorklund, and now we welcome Eric Gustafson who will walk alongside us for the next year as our Pastoral Intern.

I wanted to say a few words about the gift that St. Mark's offers to the larger church by serving as an Internship site. Pastoral Interns are students (in our case from Luther Seminary in St. Paul), and St. Mark's is a learning site. Interns are working towards becoming a Pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. They do not come to us fully formed and credentialed with all knowledge and flawless skills. They come eager to learn, discover their gifts and passions, develop their pastoral identity, try new things, maybe stumble and fall, definitely learn and grow into the Pastor God is calling them to be. At the end of their Internship year, they are one step closer to serving Christ's church. We get to be a part of their journey, and that's exciting. We live and serve together for a year, and then we send them off to bless a different congregation, another group of people. As they continue on in ministry, they will always carry a little bit of St. Mark's with them.

Each Intern is unique. Each comes with their own gifts and life experience. Over this next year we will get to know Eric, learn his story and become a part of his life as he becomes a part of our lives and the St. Mark's story. We will also welcome the participation of his girlfriend, Katie, and adult daughters, Tess and Emma, however they choose to be involved.

This coming Sunday we will welcome Eric with a Service of Beginning and a reception following worship. Plan on attending, and don't forget to wear a name tag!

May God bless our time together!

*Pastor Mary*

## FREE Pop-Up Produce Stand – Monday, August 23 and September 27



The next date is this coming Monday, **August 23**. No registration or income requirements—just good food shared with neighbors. Pickup is available from 4-6 pm in the St. Mark's parking lot (on the sanctuary side). A variety of seasonal produce items are available to pick up. Please bring your own bags. Tell your friends and neighbors about this EASY way to get FREE, delicious fresh produce. *Provided in partnership with the North Saint Paul Food Shelf and Second Harvest.* **If you would like to volunteer, contact Pastor Mary at [primary@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:primary@stmarks-nsp.org).**

## Lutheran Disaster Response: Give now for Earthquake relief in Haiti

We have all learned of the devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti last Saturday. Over 1,900 people were killed, and search-and-rescue efforts continue; blocked roads are delaying the delivery of vital supplies; and 26,000 homes were damaged or destroyed—but the full extent of damage is still unknown. Haiti is also suffering through a political crisis and was hit by Tropical Storm Grace on Monday night, which caused severe flooding in communities already damaged by the earthquake.

**Lutheran Disaster Response** is collaborating with partner organizations in the communities to meet relief needs, including food, water, medical supplies and temporary shelter. Please visit [community.elca.org/haiti-crisis](https://community.elca.org/haiti-crisis) to make an online gift. You will also find information about making a donation by check (checks should **not** be sent to St. Mark's.) Gifts to "Haiti Crisis" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the earthquake.

**Free while supplies last:** Large green leaf hosta plants and red bee balm (monarcha). Dug up today and available in bags along Rees Hall. Thanks to the garden volunteers for their hard work today!

## North High Teacher's Appreciation Breakfast – Wednesday, August 25

The annual North High Teacher's Appreciation Breakfast will be held on Wednesday August 25. **Helpers are needed to come to church at 7:30 am to help prep food.** Serving will be from 8:30 - 10:00 am. Contact Julie Urban at urbanja@comcast.net with questions.

## God's Work, Our Hands

### Day of Service – September 12

St. Mark's is once again participating in the ELCA Day of Service—an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Sign up for one of the many volunteer opportunities online at [www.stmarks-nsp.org](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org) or paper sign ups are available in Rees Hall after worship.

## Online worship

Although we are back to worshipping in person, we are also committed to maintaining an online presence for folks who can't make it to the church. Online services will be available by 3:00 pm at [www.stmarks-nsp.org](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org), via Facebook, or simply use the email link sent to you.

## Interested in sponsoring Sunday coffee?

We invite you to consider sponsoring coffee on a given Sunday. A gift of \$30 will cover the cost of the coffee for our fellowship time for one week. Send checks to St. Mark's with "coffee sponsor" in the memo line. Sign up in Rees Hall (thru the end of 2021). You may also email [annm@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:annm@stmarks-nsp.org) with your information.

## Significant Dates in September

### Sunday, September 12 – 9:00 Service

Rally Sunday and God's Work our Hands service day  
Sign up at [www.stmarks-nsp.org](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org).

**Wednesday, September 15** – Wednesday programming begins – supper, worship, education, and choirs.

**Sunday, September 19** – Return to two Sunday worship services, 8:30 and 10:30. Special programming opportunities between services.

**Thursday, September 23** – North St. Paul Fall Round-Up Parade. Walk with church friends for a fun way to participate in our community.

## Thank You

Thank you for the many generous snack donations for the North St. Paul Police and Fire Departments. **At this time we do not need any more.** Watch for future announcements when we start running low again.

## Garden Gift Cards

As the days get cooler and fall is on the way, a reminder that the Garden Team has Bachman's and Gerten's gift cards for your planting purchases. Fall is an excellent time to plant perennials, trees and shrubs. Plus, you may find reduced prices on what you are looking for. To purchase the cards, please contact Sherry at 651-777-6704 or Wanda at 651-770-1905. Thank you for supporting the Garden Team.

## Want to...



Thank a teacher, caregiver, an essential worker, a special person who worked long and hard during the COVID pandemic? A donation to the St. Mark's Foundation will carry God's word forward and be an honor

for the at special person.

Visit [www.stmarksnspfoundation.com](http://www.stmarksnspfoundation.com) or contact a trustee member (listed on the website) for information on grant requests.

## From the St. Mark's Restoration Team

Due to the rise in Covid-19 infection rates, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is again advising masks while in indoor public spaces. **This guidance applies even to those who are fully vaccinated.** We of St. Mark's, out of concern for those among us who are most vulnerable – children, those with health issues, those who are unable to be vaccinated – are once again requiring that masks be worn in doors in larger gatherings. This includes worship services and receptions (masks may be removed for eating and drinking).

July FINANCIALS		
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$324,262	\$333,027
Expense	\$263,521	\$336,254
Net difference	\$60,742	(\$3,227)

*Thank you for supporting St. Mark's Ministry!*

## Interested in ushering?

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

## Upcoming Usher Team Schedule

### Aug. 22—Team 1

Jane Roy – Capt.  
Barbara McNeely  
Marlene Moreno  
Howie Drager

### Aug. 29—Team 2

Terri Borowick – Capt.  
Sharon Sporcic  
Robin Graham  
John Haley  
Dan Colberg