

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42*

Dear Friends,

In Acts 2:42 we find three key traits of the church: education, fellowship, and worship. Wednesday nights will embrace all three traits of the church, much as it has here in the past. We will begin our Wednesday nights by gathering for food and fellowship. Afterwards we will shift to education then close the evening with a short sending worship service. Wednesdays will be about feeding our bodies, minds, and souls!

One significant change for this fall is that Christian Education for children PreK-8th Grade will be on Wednesday nights instead of Sunday mornings. This will allow us to be good stewards of our resources by focusing our energies on developing a strong Christian Ed program on Wednesdays. More importantly it allows for children, youth, and adults to be in church together on Sundays. We cannot emphasize enough the impact worshipping as a family has on a child's spiritual development. Worshipping as a family on Sundays and participating in Christian education on Wednesdays will plant the seeds of faith in good, rich soil.

In addition to offering youth education on Wednesdays we will be looking at offering opportunities for adult education, and we hope to resume youth and adult choirs later in the fall. The Youth Group will meet that night too so there will be a lot going on Wednesday nights.

With COVID-19 still very much part of the landscape, we will continue to follow the guidance of our Restoration Team. Masking will be required regardless of vaccination status except while eating and drinking.

Pastor David

Blessing of the Backpacks – this Sunday, August 29

Fresh new clothes and stylin' new shoes? Check. All the supplies on the list? Check. Backpacks blessed? ... No? Don't worry. We got you covered! Bring your kids and their backpacks to church this Sunday at 9:00 am. During worship we'll have a special blessing for our students and all the educators and school staff in our congregation. Start the year off right!

Small Group Leaders Needed

With youth education resuming in September we are looking for small group leaders to be part of our Christian Education Team. We're looking for 4 Confirmation leaders, and 4-6 elementary leaders. If you want to be a part of a great team contact Pastor David at prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org or call 651-777-7451, ext. 232.

North High Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

We had a wonderful turn out for the annual breakfast this year. Thanks to all the volunteers who planned, prepared, served and cleaned up afterwards. We continue to pray for the staff, teachers, students and families at North High throughout this coming year.



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 or paper sign ups are available in Rees Hall after worship.

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.

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.

Council Corner–August 19 meeting

Dear Members of St. Mark's. As summer comes to a close, we are excited to have the additions of Pastor David Bjorklund and intern Eric Gustafson as they walk with us into the change of season and our fall programming. Council discussed the following:

- Pr. David Bjorklund and Eric Gustafson joined their first Council meeting.
- As Pr. Bjorklund meets with members and families, St. Mark's CYF programming is taking shape for wonderful opportunities for youth and service.
- The Finance Committee reports the General Fund balance at \$166,993 and under budgeted forecast of \$64,000.
- The Hospitality/Outreach committee has several upcoming events for St. Mark's to participate in during September: "God's work. Our hands" service Sunday, Wednesday night service and programming, and North St. Paul's fall Round-Up Parade. These and others are a great way to continue to build and grow the St. Mark's community.
- As Eric Gustafson becomes acquainted with St. Mark's, there is still space for volunteers to work on the intern committee to assist with his tenure.

The complete meeting minutes are available in the church office after they are approved at the following meeting. The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 16 at 6:30 pm.

Next FREE Pop-Up Produce Stand Monday, September 27



We had another great turnout for the second free produce giveaway. There was a good variety of fresh items including potatoes, watermelon, sweet corn and eggplant. Thanks to everyone who volunteered. We are grateful for you and the neighbors who showed up to share this bounty! The last scheduled produce giveaway is Monday, **September 27 from 4-6 pm in the St. Mark's parking lot.** Provided in partnership with the North Saint Paul Food Shelf and Second Harvest.

Free plants!

In the grass along Rees Hall, there are FREE yellow Stella de Oro miniature day lilies. This perennial will rebloom after they are deadheaded. Fall is a very good time to plant them.

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 with your information.



Coffee this Sunday...

is sponsored in honor of

Mike and Suzanne Ericson.

Happy 27th Anniversary Mom and Dad!

Love, Rachel, Paige, and Westin Ericson

Interested in ushering?

If you are interested in ushering, please contact Dan Colberg at drcolberg@comcast.net or call 612-716-5969.

Upcoming Usher Team Schedule

Aug. 29—Team 2

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

Sept. 5— Team 5

Dan Colberg – Capt.
John Haley
Terry Kapaun
Dave Smith

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.

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).

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, via Facebook, or simply use the email link sent to you.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Are you a member of Thrivent? Please consider directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. Mark's. You can do this ONLINE at www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or CALL 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice." Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year.

July FINANCIALS		
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$324,262	\$333,027
Expense	\$263,521	\$336,254
Net difference	\$60,742	(\$3,227)
<i>Thank you for supporting St. Mark's Ministry!</i>		