



2023 Stewardship Update – it's not too late!

Our Fall Stewardship Campaign, *Growing Together in Love*, was launched during November. We are seeing an early return on intent cards of about 2/3 of our goal—we have nearly 120 turned in, and are looking for about 60 more to reach a 10% increase over last year's response.

As our leadership works to develop a budget for the coming year, it is helpful to have this kind information to prepare a realistic, sustainable and faithful spending plan for 2023. We have done so much together to love God and to love others, and are eager to continue that work.

We understand that you may be unable to commit to a specific financial amount; please submit a card and offer your intent to *pray* for and support the ministry of St. Mark's in other ways. Additional cards are available in the pews. Or complete your intent card online [at www.stmarks-nsp.org](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org) or scan the QR code to go straight to the form. As always, your gifts to our shared ministry are very much appreciated!



2023 Statement of Intent

Global Mission Craft Fair to Support Kiheisa – Saturday, December 3 (9am – 4 pm)

St. Mark's is hosting a craft fair to support our sister congregation, Kiheisa Lutheran, in Iringa, Tanzania on Saturday, December 3 from 9 am to 4 pm. Perfect timing for Christmas shopping. You'll find handmade candies, wreaths, jewelry, artwork, ornaments, doll clothes, jams and jellies, blankets, towels, bags, signs, apparel, and more!

Constitution review session after worship – Sunday, December 4

Several updates have been proposed for the St. Mark's constitution. Sunday after worship, members from Council and the Constitution Committees will be available in the Fireside Room to answer any questions about the updates and the upcoming congregational meeting. The special congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, December 11. Copies of the changes may be downloaded at www.stmarks-nsp.org/resources or a few hard copies are available at the Welcome Center.

Youth Christmas Wreath Sales – December 4

Wreaths will be sold in the Rees Hall parking lot on Sunday, December 4 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Wreaths of various sizes and swags will be available.

Progressive Dinner – Last Day to Sign Up is Sun. Dec. 4

This year we will return to a more traditional "progressive" format on Sunday, December 11. Appetizers will be served at homes (4 -5:15 pm), then we'll move to St. Mark's Rees Hall for dinner/desserts (5:30 – 6:45 pm), followed by entertainment (7-7:45 pm). Sign up now! The cost is \$15/person.

Wednesday Sanctuary Worship during Advent begins at 6:15 pm

We will begin worship early and use the Holden Evening Prayer Service, November 30—December 21. Regular 7 pm services will resume in January.

Women's Advent Brunch – Saturday, December 10 at 10:00 am

All women are invited to the annual Advent Brunch as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior. This is a special time of year as we gather for good food, fellowship, music and to enjoy this beautiful season. Our musical program will be the "Silver Harmony Singers" who will perform a variety of songs including Christmas and sing-a-longs. Sign-up through Dec. 7 in Rees Hall, or by calling Virginia Coller at 651-777-0584. Cost is \$12.00.

Children's Christmas Program –

Sunday, December 11 during worship

St. Mark's children will present the Christmas story during the worship service at 9:30 am.

East Metro Symphony Holiday Concert –

Sunday, December 11 at 2 pm

This musical tour through a winter wonderland of holiday classics will be held at St. Mark's at 2 pm. Admission to this concert is free. Donations appreciated. For more concert or season information, visit EMSO's website at www.emsorch.org.

Ashland Productions Holiday Musical –

Sun. December 18 at 2:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to attend this holiday event just in time for Christmas. Twenty tickets for the production at Maplewood Community Center (YMCA) have been reserved for St. Mark's. The cost is \$20/person. Please call Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584 or e-mail ginnacoller@hotmail.com to **reserve your tickets by December 5**. Following the performance we will enjoy dinner at Acapulco Restaurant 3069 White Bear Ave, Maplewood. Dinner will be on your own.

Gift Goes On gifts to be dropped off by Dec. 8

If you have signed up to participate in the Gift Goes On program at St. Mark's, gifts need to be wrapped and returned to St. Mark's by Wednesday, December 8. Thank you in advance for helping others in our community this Christmas season. Please contact Liz Elicerio-Nelson at lizelicerio@gmail.com or call 651-278-9049 with any questions.

Wednesday Dinners – 5:00-6:00 pm

What's for supper? On Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 pm we've got you covered. Volunteers prepare a delicious, homemade meal for all who come to the table. Bring your family. Invite your friends. Let us do the cooking for you! Suggested freewill offering of \$2 per person (\$10 max per family). Regular Menu (subject to change):

Dec 7: burger bar, Dec 14: BYO Subs

Dec. 21 & 28: no dinner (Winter Break)



Coffee this Sunday...

sponsored by Diane Danko, in honor of Joe's 81st birthday on Dec. 6.



Christmas Worship Services

Christmas Eve – 3:00 & 10:00 pm

Christmas Day – 9:30 am

Would you like to assist with ushering/greeting/communion at one of the Christmas services? Sign up at the Welcome Center.

Ushers Needed!

We are in need of at least three new ushers. No experience necessary, you only have to usher once a month every other month at 9:30 am. Training will be available and you will be doing a great service for St. Mark's and the congregation. Contact Dan Colberg at 612-716-5969 to find out more or to sign up!

Usher Schedule

Questions? Please contact Dan Colberg at 612-716-5969.

Sunday, December 4

9:30 am – Usher Team 1

(10:30 Capt. Mike Ericson)

Sunday, December 11

9:30 am – Usher Team 2

(10:30 Capt. Terri Borowick)

Movember Thanks!

The Mark's Men are pleased to announce they reached their goal of raising \$2,499 for the Movember Foundation! The Movember Foundation has one goal: to stop men from dying too young. Funds raised through the Movember campaign in November go to fund projects focusing on prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health and suicide prevention. Our thanks to all who donated this past month. Apologies and gratitude to the wives who endured our gnarly mustaches!

Yours Truly, The Mark's Men Movember Team

Pr David Bjorklund, Josh Hirman, Mark McKenzie, Gary Martin, Tim Reddy, and Tyler Theno



On the calendar		Pastoral Staff
Sunday, December 4 Second Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Wreath Sales, West lot 9:30 am Worship Service, SC 10:30 am Sunday School, CE Office 10:40 am Constitution discussion, FS	Thursday, December 8 8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, Denny's 6:00 pm Call Committee, 203/4 & Zoom 7:00 pm Adult Choir, MR	Rev. Arne Bergland, <i>Interim Pastor</i> arneb@stmarks-nsp.org Rev. David Bjorklund, <i>Pastor</i> prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org
Monday, December 5 6:30 pm Monday Bible Study, FS 6:30 pm SAS Meeting, Zoom 7:00 pm Handbell Choir, SC	Saturday, December 10 – Office Closed 10:00 am Women's Advent Program, FH	Office Hours Mon –Thurs: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Closed on Fridays
Tuesday, December 6 9:00 am Morning Bible Study, #203	Sunday, December 11 Third Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Worship Service w/Sunday School Christmas Program, SC 10:30 am Special Congregational Mtg, SC 2:00 pm East Metro Symphony Concert, SC 5:30 pm Progressive Dinner	Guest WiFi P3@nutButt3r
Wednesday, December 7 5:00 pm Dinner, RH 5:30 pm Joyful Voices, MR 6:00 pm Act(s)2 Youth Education 6:15 pm Advent Service, SC		

Your donation and completed form may be returned to the church office or placed in the offering basket located in the Narthex by **Sunday, December 18**. Forms are also be available at the Welcome Center on Sundays and Wednesdays.



Print this page and cut on the dotted line.

Christmas Decorating Request

Each year we collect contributions for the for the Christmas decorating fund, *in honor of and in memory of* loved ones. These names will be included in a special insert on Christmas Eve as well as the December 23 Weekly Update. **Please complete this form and place it in the offering or return it to the church office with your check.** Make checks payable to St. Mark's and include "holiday decorations" in the memo line.

I wish to contribute (circle one): \$15 \$20 \$ 30 Other \$ _____

My contribution is being given: (please print clearly)

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Contributions must be received by the church office by **Sunday, December 18** to be included in the Christmas bulletin. Gifts received after this date will be recorded, but may not be printed in the bulletin.