

Dear Friends,

This weekend our nation celebrates its birth and the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As that remarkable document states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all (...) are created equal, that they are endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." For nearly 250 years Americans have strived to live into the high ideals enshrined in the Declaration with varying degrees of success.

Lutheran theology teaches that we are both sinner and saint, that these two natures coexist within us. Our present sanctification does not cast out sin nor does our sin nullify our sanctification. God loves us as sinner and saint. That same love calls us to reject sin, embrace the gospel, and strive for the kingdom.

As we celebrate all that is good about this nation that we love let us remember the work of creating a "more perfect union" is ongoing. Let us also remember that it is Christ who sets us free.

Happy Fourth of July! May God bless you and these United States! See you in church on Sunday.

~Pastor David

Last Call for Youth Canoe Trip registration – no fee this year!

There's still time to sign up for the Youth Canoe Trip, July 29-31. We'll be paddling down the Namekagon River in northern Wisconsin. This trip is open to 2022 high school graduates and those entering 7-12th grades in the fall. Thanks to our fundraising efforts and a generous grant from the St. Mark's Foundation there is no cost for this year's trip! Click here to register online at www.stmarks-nsp.org or scan the QR code to go directly to the sign up page. Contact Pastor David with any questions (prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org).



July Saturday Stewards *cancelled*

Due to the 4th of July holiday weekend, Saturday Stewards has been cancelled for July. See you August 6. If you are looking to help out....the Garden Team could use more hands on Thursday mornings (see next page).

Outdoor Worship Service & Picnic – July 10 and August 14

Our first outdoor service (followed by a quick congregational meeting—see below) & picnic is coming up soon. We'll be grilling (brats, hot dogs, hamburgers) and provide sides to fill your plate. You don't need to bring anything. *If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll move the party indoors.* As always, anyone who wants to stay after to help clean up is more than welcome!

Special Congregational Meeting – July 10

Council President Mike Ericson and Pastor David Bjorklund have called a special congregational meeting to be held on July 10, 2022 following morning worship. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the Mission Investment Fund loan for our parking lot renovation, and to approve expenditures to replace the sanctuary HVAC system. Both of these projects have been reviewed and approved by the Property and Finance Committees, and the Church Council. These will be the only items on the agenda for this special meeting. A quorum of 100 members is required for the meeting. July 10th is also the morning of our outdoor worship service and picnic. We'll have a lively service with communion and two baptisms. Immediately after the service we'll have our brief congregational meeting and afterwards we'll break out the food to feast and have some fun!

Fare for All – July 18 (3:30-5:30 pm) at Redeeming Love Church in Maplewood

Fare For All is a cooperative purchasing program that offers affordable groceries for up to 40% off retail prices. They buy fresh produce and frozen meat in bulk from wholesalers and manufacturers to find the best deals. All are welcome! Redeeming Love Church is located at 2425 White Bear Ave N. Additional sale dates include: Aug 15, Sept 12, Oct 17, Nov 14, Dec 5 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. Learn more at fareforall.thefoodgroupmn.org.

Mark Your Calendars

The Wurst Ride Ever – July 16 at 1:00 pm

While the Gasthaus closed this past December their Biergarten will be open weekends during the summer. That means the Wurst Ride Ever is back...so mark your calendars and tune up those bikes!

The St. Paul Area Synodical Women's Convention – July 16

"Strength and Dignity without Fear" will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2022 – a one day convention with registration at 8 am and closing worship at 4 pm. The host church is Bethesda Lutheran Church, 2855-47th Street E. Inver Grove Heights, MN. Cost is \$35.00. The annual gathering is lead by Bishop Lull and includes Bible study, learning sessions, luncheon speaker, worship with communion, great food and fellowship. We will be collecting new men's, women's and children's socks and underwear for a foster care and a shelter. *Please leave your contributions in the Collection Cupboard in Rees Hall.*

Sign up and registration forms are on the women's board. **July 1 is the last day to register.** All women are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please call Virginia Coller at 651-777-0584 with any questions.

Volunteer Opportunities

Free! Pop-Up Produce Giveaway

July 25, August 22, September 26

Volunteers needed

On the 4th Monday of the month, a variety of seasonal produce items are available to pick up from 4-6 pm at St. Mark's. 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.* **We need a crew of volunteers to help sort, bag, and distribute the food.** If you are interested in helping out, please contact the church office at 651-777-7451 or email stmarks@stmarks-nsp.org. We'll start compiling a list for July. If you are interested in coordinating the volunteers for the Pop-Up, let us know.

Altar Care: We need about 5 volunteers to set up communion before worship and take it down afterwards. You can sign up for a monthly rotation or as a substitute on an as-needed basis. Training provided. Contact Barbara McNeely (brmcneely4@comcast.net or 651-777-5711) if you are interested or if you have questions.

Garden helpers: The Garden Team needs help taking care of the many gardens at St. Mark's on **Thursday mornings at 9:00 am.** We meet on the Rees Hall side of the building and work for about two hours. If another day and time works better, you would be interested in adopting a garden or two, or perhaps connecting the sprinkler hoses, give Sherry Berry a call. We are flexible and open to other options and really need extra help. Contact Sherry Berry at 651-777-6704 or Wanda Hurtgen at 651-770-1905 with questions.

Interested in ushering once a month?

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

Upcoming Schedule

Sunday, July 3

9:30 am – Usher Team 5
(10:30 Capt. Dan Colberg)

Sunday, July 10 – Outdoor

9:30 am – Usher Team 5
(10:30 Capt. Jane Roy)



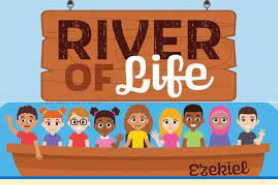
Share a smile

Attention Amazon Prime Day (July 12-13) shoppers! Remember to take advantage of the smile.amazon.com program. The St. Mark's Foundation is registered with Amazon Smile and will receive a donation with every purchase when you designate the Foundation as your chosen charity. Your shopping can benefit the mission to carry God's word forward to future generations. To learn more about the Foundation visit the website at www.stmarksnsfoundation.com.




Coffee this Sunday...

is sponsored by Kathy Hanon – God Bless America!




**Free! Vacation Bible School
August 9-11
(9 am 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 have a lot of fun with games, crafts and more! **Free of charge! Sign up by Aug. 8** at www.stmarks-nsp.org or scan the QR code here:



VBS Volunteers Needed

VBS is right around the corner and we want to be ready to offer a great experience for the kids...and we need great volunteers to make it happen! **Youth volunteers** (6-12th graders) are needed to help run games, assist with crafts and music, and act in skits. **Adult volunteers** are needed to help organize and run the different activities and to shepherd the kids to their rotations. We also need adults to help out with food prep and service. Please sign up to volunteer by using the VBS registration link at www.stmarks-nsp.org or scan the QR code (shown above.)



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 annm@stmarks-nsp.org.

Next Week's Calendar	
Sunday, July 3	9:30 am Worship Service, SC
Monday, July 4	Office Closed Happy 4th of July!
Tuesday, July 5	No ministry activities
Wednesday, July 6	No ministry activities
Thursday, July 7	8:30 am Denny's Breakfast & Bible, offsite
Friday, July 8	Office Closed
Saturday, July 9	Office Closed
Sunday, July 10	9:30 am Outdoor Worship Service & Special Congregational Meeting
	10:30 am Church picnic

Council Corner - June 23 meeting

Council is looking forward to the July 10 outdoor service, special meeting, and picnic. We met in

June to discuss the following:

- Pastor David has a number of gatherings planned for our youth, including an upcoming canoe/camping trip in July and VBS in August.
- The Finance reported the General cash balance at \$165,000. We are moving forward with an overall financial review of St. Mark's.
- The Personnel committee has been making progress in the interim pastor search with our area synod.
- There is a lot going on with the upkeep and renovation of our building and property. The anticipated July 10 special congregational meeting will present needed restoration for our HVAC system, parking lot, and sidewalks. Some beautification is also happening with the removal of a few damaged/dying trees and the completion of the columbarium rain garden. In addition, new signage is beginning outside while worship technological equipment is being installed inside the building. Council is grateful to all who are contributing to these services.
- There are a number of opportunities to volunteer or share your talents. Please check the Weekly Update for more information.

The complete meeting minutes are available in the church office after they are approved at the following meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

May FINANCIALS		
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$252,376	\$241,227
Expense	\$259,063	\$267,022
Net difference	(\$6,687)	(\$25,795)
<i>Thank you for supporting St. Mark's Ministry!</i>		

Around the Neighborhood

Light it Up Maplewood – July 4, 4-10 pm

Hazelwood Park (1663 Cty Rd C) Come for family games/activities, inflatables, food trucks, adult beverages, music from *Good for Gary*, fireworks at 10 pm. Details at <https://maplewoodmn.gov/885/July-4th>

Music at Casey Lake – July 21, 7-8:30 pm

Bring a lawn chair and head to Casey Lake Park to enjoy the acoustic duo Matt & Laurel. Listen to their covers on songs from Prince, Ed Sheeran, Elvis, Mumford and Sons, Adele and many more.