



## Members needed to serve on Call Committee

The Nominating Committee is looking for members of the congregation to serve on a Call Committee. This Call Committee will be tasked with identifying candidates for our pastoral staff. We are looking for 8-10 people to serve on this committee. The Church Council would like a Call Committee to be established within the next month and hopes these positions will be filled quickly.

The Call Committee's primary objective will be to identify candidates for the lead pastor position. Our current associate pastor, Pastor David Bjorklund, has indicated he is willing to be considered for the lead pastor role. As internal candidate, Pastor David would initially be the only candidate for consideration.

Should the Call Committee put Pastor David's name forward, there would be special congregational meeting to vote on Pastor David for lead pastor. Should the congregation choose not to select Pastor David for the lead pastor role, the committee would then move on to consider other candidates for the position. If the congregation were to choose Pastor David as lead pastor, then the Call Committee would transition to identifying candidates for the associate pastor position.

Our partners at the St. Paul Area Synod have been working with the Council during this time of transition and will continue to offer guidance throughout this process. If you have any questions about this process please contact Council President Mike Ericson at [maericson@yahoo.com](mailto:maericson@yahoo.com) or (612) 790-5166.

If you would like to serve on the Call Committee please contact one of the members of our Nominating Committee: Dan Colberg, Committee Chair ([drcolberg@comcast.net](mailto:drcolberg@comcast.net)); Mike Ericson; Beth Jensen ([elizabethcljensen@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethcljensen@hotmail.com)), or Mark McKenzie ([kiltboarder@gmail.com](mailto:kiltboarder@gmail.com)).

*Mark your calendars...*

## The Wurst Ride Ever – July 16th

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!

*Mark your calendars...*

## Outdoor Worship Services & Picnics – July 10 and August 14

We have dedicated two dates this summer to hold outdoor worship services (followed by church picnics) this summer. (That second date is Intern Pastor Eric's last Sunday at St. Mark's). Let's hope the weather is cooperative. *Watch the Update for more information.*

## Opportunity to participate in *The Nourishing Vocation Project*

Vocation comes from the Latin word *vocare* which means "to call." Hence, vocation literally means "calling." To embrace vocation is to recognize that what one does in life is not merely by one's personal choice or for one's personal fulfillment or gain. Instead, God daily calls people to be a part of God's purposes in this world for the sake of the common good. Leaning into the call of God is to live attentive to vocation.

St. Mark's has been invited to participate in *The Nourishing Vocation Project* (NVP) through St. Olaf College. The NVP invites individual participants and whole congregations to deepen their understanding of God's call upon their life and work so that they might live life on purpose and engage in ministry on purpose for the common good.

Pastor David is looking for 5-6 individuals to participate as Congregational Vocation Ministers (CVM). This team of CVMs will work first to nourish vocation in their lives and later be invited to lead the congregation in the same *work*. As part of this project, **St. Olaf has offered to pay for 3 of our CVMs to attend the Conference on Worship, Theology and Arts at St. Olaf, July 25th-28th.** This opportunity could not come as a better time in the life of St. Mark's. As we enter a new chapter in the life of our congregation now is a great time to explore and nourish our individual and shared sense of vocation. To learn more about this life-giving and life-changing process please contact Pastor David ([prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org) or call 651-777-7451, ext. 232).

## Many thanks to those of you who participated in Sunday's "Let's Talk" event!

The Stewardship for All Seasons team was happy to engage in conversation with about 50 of our members who shared some of their hopes and dreams for St. Mark's future. Having a chance to learn more about the priorities our faith family holds dear is critical as we embark on another new phase of our shared life.

We would like to continue the conversation by providing the opportunity for more members and their families to offer input. **We have posted the questions discussed on the St. Mark's website ([www.stmarks-nsp.org](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org)) for those who weren't able to participate in person on Sunday. Look for "Let's Talk About Stewardship" and click on the link to open the google form.** Please take time to talk about these things with your family. We'd love to hear more, especially from our young families and our teens!

## The Choir of St. Mark's

A big thank you to everyone that sang in the Choir of St. Mark's this year, as well as to our dedicated accompanist, Dorothea Jirsa. Whether it was for a single Sunday, a month, or the entire season, it was such a blessing for me to work with such a lovely group of people. While we gather together for a purpose - to sing and share the Gospel through song - we also laugh a lot, share sorrows, and build community. Being in the choir is much more than singing and I want everyone to know that there's a spot for you in the choir. Regular rehearsals will resume again in mid-September and I hope to see you there. ~Trevor Wolter

## Altar Care Volunteers Needed

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](mailto:brmcneely4@comcast.net) or 651-777-5711) if you are interested or if you have questions.

## Snack donations requested for NSP Police & Fire Departments

St. Mark's continues to provide portable snacks and water for the North St. Paul Police Department when they need to take a break during evening and overnight shifts. They are so appreciative of our hospitality! Currently, our stockpile is getting low. **We are asking for donations of individually packaged snacks and bottles of water.** Donations may be dropped off (labeled NSP PD) in the Fellowship Hall kitchen or in the church office.



## Tour of Settled worksite

On Tuesday May 24, a small contingent from St. Mark's attended an introductory tour of the *Settled* worksite at Woodland Hills Church in Maplewood. We learned about the challenges confronting the "chronically homeless" that live almost invisibly among us and the efforts *Settled* leader Gabrielle Clowdus and her team are undertaking to create "sacred communities" that will not only house people, but provide them with a family network that is missing in the lives of virtually every person living in this situation. To learn more about Settled, go here: [settled.org/](http://settled.org/)

## 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 explore important "ports" during the week to hear Bible stories about water. 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:



## 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**, between 6th and 12th grades, 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](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org) or scan the QR code (shown above.)

## Garden helpers needed

The Garden Team needs more people to help with the gardens at St. Mark's. Currently, the majority of the work is being done by a couple of women in their 70s and one is retiring. It is our prayer that several will come forward to help and rebuild the Garden Team. The gardening takes place weekly on **Thursdays at 9:00 am**. We meet on the Rees Hall side and spread out. Depending on the amount of work, we are done in 1-2 hours. We also need help with watering – basically connecting a hose to the sprinkler/soaker hoses placed in the gardens. Contact Sherry Berry at 651-777-6704 or Wanda Hurtgen at 651-770-1905 with questions.

## Garden Gift Cards

The Garden Team will be selling gift cards in Rees Hall on Sundays, **through June 5**. 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. 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!*



Give Back. Give a Pack.

Polar Packs are available in Rees Hall to take and fill. Each backpack contains a list of items to be purchased. Once the backpack is filled, return it to the Rees Hall kiosk the following week if possible. If there are no empty backpacks, you may still take a list and return food purchases in a bag. The backpacks will be delivered to North High families in need. Contact Julie Urban at urbanja@comcast.net with any questions.

## Pastor Mona Anderson Obituary

Please see the Star Tribune (online only) tribute to Pastor Mona at <https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000425938/>. There will be a visitation time and memorial service at Lyngblomsten Chapel but note that capacity in the chapel, and especially parking, is *extremely* limited.

**Coffee hour in memory of Pastor Mona** will be sponsored at St. Mark's on **Sunday, June 12** after the regular 9:30 am Sunday church service. No formal program, come chat and share your memories! There will also be a card basket to share with her family.

## Council Corner – May 19 meeting

St. Mark's gave Pastor Mary Froiland a well-deserved celebratory farewell event on Sunday, May 15 for her retirement. Her last message to us was to cherish the past, but rejoice in things anew! Your Council will take that message to heart. The following was discussed at the last Council meeting:

- Pr. David reported that the Global Barnyard drive was a huge success. In addition, planning for this summer's VBS and next year's youth program is underway, and he is seeking volunteers to serve where needed with their talents.
- The Finance reported the General cash balance at \$185,000, with an uptick in giving in April from this time last year.
- Because of the anticipated parking lot restoration in June, the Property Committee has moved forward with the project to remove several trees on the property due to disease or damage. The HVAC and Grace Space projects are also moving ahead.
- The Restoration team is strongly suggesting using masks for indoor gatherings.

The complete meeting minutes are available in the church office after they are approved at the following meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 23 at 6:30 pm.

April FINANCIALS		
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$209,999	\$202,051
Expense	\$196,948	\$203,628
Net difference	\$13,051	(\$1,577)

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

## 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, May 29

9:30 am – Usher Team 3  
(8:30 Capt. Larry Dent)

### Sunday, June 5

9:30 am – Usher Team 3  
(10:30 Capt. Bob Engwer)



### Coffee this Sunday...

is sponsored by Bill & Shirley Pickett in memory of all those who gave their lives in service to our country.

## Thanks to North High Students

On Tuesday, May 17, North High School had a Day of Service during which students and staff undertook a variety of projects around North St. Paul, including clean-up work on St. Mark's rain gardens! Our beleaguered rain-catchers have drawn in a lot of sediment, leaves, debris and detritus over winter and a team of 50 students filled a small dump truck with the harvest. North High environmental science teacher, Courtney Johnson, has assembled a subset of these students to study and care for the rain gardens that will be chosen to remain functional on the west side of the St. Mark's campus in the coming years. *Thank you, North High!*



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).

### Next Week's Daily Lectionary Readings

#### Monday, May 30

Psalm 29  
Exodus 40:16-38  
Acts 16:35-40

#### Wednesday, June 1

Psalm 29  
Ezekiel 3:12-21  
Luke 9:18-27

#### Friday, June 3

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Isaiah 44:1-4  
Galatians 6:7-10

#### Tuesday, May 31

Psalm 29  
2 Chronicles 5:2-14  
Acts 26:19-29

#### Thursday, June 2

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Isaiah 32:11-17  
Galatians 5:16-25

### Next Week's Calendar

#### Sunday, May 29

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

#### Monday, May 30 – Office Closed Memorial Day

#### Tuesday, May 31

10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study, 203/4

#### Wednesday, June 1

No ministry activities

#### Thursday, June 2

8:30 am Denny's Breakfast & Bible, offsite

#### Friday, June 3 – Office Closed

#### Saturday, June 4 – Office Closed

9:00 am Saturday Stewards

#### Sunday, June 5

9:30 am Worship Service, SC