



Saint Mark's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

# Weekly Update

November 17, 2022

Dear friends,

1 Samuel chapter 8 details Israel's demand for a king. It's a pivotal point in Israel's story as it marks a rejection of God's sovereignty over them. God instructs the prophet Samuel to warn the people of consequences of choosing an earthly king over the kingship of God but the people will not be swayed. They persist in their demands and Saul is appointed king. Long story short, it did not go well. The failures and infidelities of Israel's kings are well documented in scripture (see 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles).

This Sunday is **Christ the King Sunday**. On this final day of the church year we are reminded that Christ the King is unlike the kings and rulers of this world. This year for Christ the King we are offering a unique service that walks us through the whole liturgical calendar. The service begins with Advent and ends with Christ the King. In between we will celebrate Christmas and Epiphany, Lent and Easter, the Day of Pentecost and the season of Pentecost. It's a fantastic service and I'm excited that we get to share it with you.

So join us this Sunday as we celebrate the liberating reign of Christ the King. Don't forget that Sunday also marks the end of our fall stewardship campaign. Remember to bring your intent cards and be sure to stick around after service for delicious soup in Rees Hall.

~Pastor David

## Soup Sunday – November 20

Homemade soup and bread will be served until noon in Rees Hall. Take-out is also available. Freewill offering. All proceeds benefit Thanksgiving meal grocery cards for those in need.



**Loving God. Loving Others.**

## Stewardship Sunday – November 20

Stewardship is a time to talk about how we share God's blessings with each other and with our larger community. You should have received a brochure outlining the initiatives for St. Mark's 2023 appeal and an intent card (extras at the Welcome Center). Please prayerfully consider how you will respond to this invitation to participate in what God is doing through St. Mark's. If you have not already returned your intent card the church, you are encouraged to return it on Sunday or during the week. Additional cards are also available in the pews. We hope you will catch the excitement of our 2023 initiatives and respond with gratitude as you are able. Or complete your intent card online here: <https://onrealm.org/SaintMarksNSP/AddPledge/2023intent> *As always, your gifts to our shared ministry are very much appreciated!*

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service – November 23 at 7 pm

St. Mark's once again gathers on Thanksgiving Eve to celebrate God's goodness, bounty, and mercy. Worship begins on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Bring a pie to share if you wish, and stick around after worship for the social hour (with pie, of course). *\*No dinner, youth education, or youth choir this night.*

## Craft Fair to Support Kihesa – December 3

St. Mark's is hosting a craft fair to support our sister congregation, Kihesa 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!

## Youth Christmas Wreath Sales – November 27 & December 4

Wreaths will be sold in the Rees Hall parking lot on Sunday November 27 and December 4 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Wreaths of various sizes and swags will be available.

## Mark Your Calendars

### Women's Advent Brunch: *Music is in the Air* Sat. Dec. 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." St. Mark's members, Diane & Joe Danko, are a part of this group. They will perform a variety of songs including Christmas and sing-a-longs. Sign-up on Sundays Nov. 27 and Dec. 4 in Rees Hall, or by calling Virginia Coller at 651-777-0584. Cost is \$12.00. **Please register by Wed. Dec. 4. Bring a friend - or two!**

### Special Meeting of the Congregation – Sunday, December 11, after worship

On behalf of the church council and in accordance with the church by-laws, I do hereby call for a special congregational meeting on December 11 for the purpose of review and approval of the revisions to the St. Mark's Constitution which were last reviewed and revised in 2016. Beginning tomorrow, you may download the digital version at [www.stmarks-nsp/resources](http://www.stmarks-nsp/resources). A limited number of hard copies of the changes will be available at the Welcome Center and in the Church office. ~Mike Ericson, Church Council President

### East Metro Symphony Concert: Holiday Journeys – Sunday, December 11

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 in support of the orchestra's work in the community are always appreciated. The concert will feature several EMSO holiday favorites including Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride and Christmas Festival and the always popular Holiday Sing-Along. For more concert or season information, visit EMSO's website at [www.emsorh.org](http://www.emsorh.org).

### Progressive Dinner – Sunday, December 11 (Sign up in Rees Hall on Sunday)

This year we will return to a more traditional "progressive" format. 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.** We are looking for volunteers who would like to host the appetizer portion in their home. If interested let Julie ([urbanja@comcast.net](mailto:urbanja@comcast.net)) or Suzanne ([maericson2000@aol.com](mailto:maericson2000@aol.com)) know as soon as possible.

### "Field trip" to see Ashland Productions

#### *Holiday Musical* – Sun. Dec. 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 Coller 651-777-0584 or e-mail [ginnacoller@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Gift Goes On – Sponsor an Individual or family this Christmas!

Can you sponsor someone needing a little help this Christmas? St. Mark's will again be participating in the *Gift Goes On* program, in partnership with Ramsey County and Head Start. If you are interested in sponsoring a person, please contact Liz Elicerio-Nelson at [lizelicerio@gmail.com](mailto:lizelicerio@gmail.com) or call 651-278-9049 to provide your contact information.

Liz will contact you so you can select the person you would like to help. **Gifts need to be wrapped and returned to St. Mark's by Wednesday, December 8.** Lists will be available at church following the Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, Nov. 23 and Sunday, Nov. 27.

If you would like to select a name, but prefer to have someone shop for you, there is an option to purchase a Target Gift Card. The Youth of St. Mark's are willing to shop and wrap. Another way to help is to purchase Cub Gift Cards in the amount of \$15 which will be included with each individual gift bundle. These Gift Cards can be purchased and mailed or dropped off at church or to Liz by December 8th. Please label, "Gift Goes On".

*Thank you in advance for helping others in our community this Christmas season.*



### Coffee this Sunday...

is sponsored by Pat & Wayne Kuhlman, in honor of their 58th wedding anniversary.

## 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, November 20

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

### Sunday, November 27

**9:30 am – Usher Team 4**  
(8:30 Capt. Dan Colberg)

## 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). *If you are interested in helping with cooking, set up, or clean up, please contact Julie at [urbanja@comcast.net](mailto:urbanja@comcast.net).*

A new Children's Menu option each week is designed to appeal to our younger diners. This meal option will be served from the little "house" in Rees Hall.

Regular Menu (subject to change): *Nov 23-no dinner (pie social after Thanksgiving Eve service at 7 pm);*

Dec 7: burger bar, Dec 14: BYO Subs

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

## Garden Gift Cards

The holidays are approaching quickly. Reminder that the Garden Team has Bachman's and Gertens gift cards available for your holiday decorating – plus they make great gifts! Bachman's can be used to purchase any item they sell. Gertens cards can be used to purchase any green and growing item. If you would like to purchase the gift cards, please call Sherry at 651-777-6704 and we can arrange a time for you to get them. Thank you for supporting the Garden Team.

## Call Committee Update

The Call Committee is moving into the interviewing phase of the call process. Here is information provided by the Church Council in Weekly Updates earlier this year.

The Call Committee's primary objective is 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 an 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 a 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 will transition to identifying candidates for the associate pastor position.

Our partners at the St. Paul Area Synod have been working with the Council and with the Call Committee during this time of transition and will continue to offer guidance throughout this process.

If you have questions about this process please contact Council President Mike Ericson ([maericson@yahoo.com](mailto:maericson@yahoo.com) or (612) 790-5166) or call Committee Chair Bonnie Meyers ([bonniemeyers@comcast.net](mailto:bonniemeyers@comcast.net) or (651) 770-9053).



### Grateful Recipients...

During Foundation Week in October the focus was on following the ongoing ministries of past interns and seminary students, as well as other worthy projects funded through the years. Positive and appreciative comments were voiced by members of the congregation as they learned more about the Foundation. It is a joy to reflect on the success of grants given out and the continued participation with the Foundation's goals. Visit [www.stmarksnspfoundation.com](http://www.stmarksnspfoundation.com) to learn more about carrying God's word forward for future generations.

## Next Week's Calendar

**Sunday, November 20** – *Christ the King*

**Soup Sunday**

**Stewardship Appeal Sunday**

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

10:30 am Sunday School, CE Office

**Monday, November 21**

1:00 pm Phoebe Bible Study, FS

6:30 pm Monday Bible Study, zoom

7:00 pm Handbell Choir, SC

**Tuesday, November 22**

*No ministry events*

**Wednesday, November 23**

7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service

& Pie Social

**Thursday, November 24**

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

**Friday, November 25**– Office Closed

**Saturday, November 26**– Office Closed

**Sunday, November 27**

*First Sunday in Advent*

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

10:30 am Sunday School, CE Office

## In the Community

### Serving at North St. Paul Food Shelf

The North St. Paul Food Shelf depends on volunteers to serve its clients. Every weekday the Food Shelf needs two or more volunteers to assist with receiving and shelving food between 10 am-1 pm. **Our last service week of 2022 is Nov. 28-Dec.2.** Please contact Pastor David (prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org) to sign up. *Your continued support is greatly appreciated.*

### Fare for All – Dec. 5 (3:30-5:30 pm) at Redeeming Love Church in Maplewood

Fare For All is a cooperative purchasing program that offers affordable groceries and packages of produce and meat for up to 40% off retail prices. They buy fresh produce and frozen meat in bulk from wholesalers and manufactures to find the best deals. Pre-assembled “packs” are available for sale from \$10 to \$30. All are welcome to shop! Redeeming Love Church is located at 2425 White Bear Ave N. To find out more about the types of packs available, monthly featured packs, and other locations, visit [fareforall.thefoodgroupmn.org](http://fareforall.thefoodgroupmn.org).