



St. Mark's Fall Stewardship Appeal

You should all have received a mailing this past week with a brochure outlining our Ministry Initiatives for 2021 and an intent card for you to indicate how you plan to participate in the ongoing ministry of St. Mark's. **Please return your intent cards, even if you aren't making a change in your giving.** We hope you have been able to read about where we see God at work in our community and the world and how we of St. Mark's can participate in that good work. We appreciate all you have provided to St. Mark's over the years; your prayers, energy, creativity, finances, time and so much more! We look forward to a vibrant and fruitful season of shared ministry ahead of us!



GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE
LOVING GOD. LOVING OTHERS.

Last Sunday, November 15, we heard from Mike Ericson about the housing boom in North St. Paul and what this means for St. Mark's. In case you missed it, watch Mike's talk on St. Mark's YouTube channel (St. Mark's Church NSP) at <https://youtu.be/3simUNsijRY>. The video clip is also posted on St. Mark's Facebook page. And the whole service is still up on the website at www.stmarks-nsp.org.

From the COVID Response/Restoration Team

In response to the latest guidance from our Governor and community health experts, the St. Mark's COVID Response/Restoration team has determined we need to flex back to phase I guidelines for the protection of all. Here is the criteria for phase 1 and the guidelines as found in our policy:

<p>External Conditions:</p> <p>Government Orders for communities to stay at home. Disease spread is occurring the in the community and hospitalizations are increasing.</p> <p>Criteria (for phase):</p> <p>Government issues to stay at home orders.</p>	<p>Church Activities</p> <p>Worship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship services move to online delivery. • Recording in the sanctuary is limited to critical elements of worship, while maintaining at least 6 ft of space between people. • Life celebrations (weddings, funerals, baptism) are postponed and all participants notified. <p>Activities on-site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All St. Mark's - NSP staff will telework • Staff may return to the facility to acquire equipment and record worship segments. • Bible studies and small groups will meet online.
---	--

Congregational Zoom Check-in: Coffee & Conversation – Fridays at 10:00 am

Check in with Pastor Mary and your other friends from St. Mark's via Zoom each Friday morning at 10:00, for conversation and a quick peek at the upcoming Sunday's sermon texts. *This week's texts are: Ephesians 1:15-23 and Matthew 25 31-46.* All are welcome!

NOTE: We will not meet next Friday, November 27 (day after Thanksgiving).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81850034128>
Meeting ID: 818 5003 4128

Thank God For Humor!

Steve Nelson, former Lead Pastor at St. Mark's and current faithful member of St. Mark's, established a Thanksgiving tradition of preaching a **Thank God For Humor!** sermon on Thanksgiving Eve. In a year where it sometimes seems there is not much to laugh about, we are grateful for his offer to bring this tradition back! On Thanksgiving Eve, a pre-recorded Thanksgiving service will be available, featuring Pastor Steve's comedic talents! **Watch it on Wednesday evening (Nov. 25), or Thursday – or whenever you need a good laugh!** Share it with your friends and family. Laugh together, and Thank God for Humor!

Wreath Sales—Nov. 28 & Dec. 6

Wreaths will be sold **in the Rees Hall parking lot** on Sunday, November 28 and December 6 from 10 am to 12:00 pm. Wreaths of various sizes and swags will be available. If you are interested, garland and mailbox swags can be special ordered. Please contact Heidi McKenzie at 651-231-5500 or heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org for questions.

GIFT GOES ON - Giving to the community this Christmas

One way the love and giving of St. Mark's is shared into our greater community is through the Gift Goes On program. Are you interested in helping to bring additional joy to a person in need this Christmas? Contact Liz Elicerio-Nelson at lizelicario@comcast.net or 651-278-9049 to sign-up. (Or leave a message at church for Liz.)

Gifts need to be wrapped and returned to St. Mark's by Wednesday, December 9. (Instructions for curb-side drop-off process and dates will be made available when you select a person.)

Other ways to give are:

- **Purchase Cub Gift Cards** in the amount of \$15 which will be included with each individual gift bundle. These Gift Cards can be mailed or dropped off at church or to Liz by **Tuesday, December 1. Please label with Gift Goes On.**
- **Knitting or purchasing hats and mittens to include in the gift bundles.** These can be dropped at church in the bin by the office. Please place in Ziplock bag with Size and if for male or female. **These items should be dropped at church by Wednesday, December 9.**

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

Support the St Mark's Foundation with Amazon Smile

Are you ready for the holidays? Planning to use Amazon for your shopping needs this Christmas? Remember that when you make purchases on Amazon, you can also be donating to the St. Mark's Foundation. Just use this link: **<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-3463204>** and you will be directed to the site smile.amazon.com where you are automatically asked if you want to support St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation. We hope you say "yes" because then Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the St. Mark's Foundation. Thank you for your support of the Foundation and its mission to carry God's Word forward. Please contact a Foundation board member or email the Foundation at stmarksnspfoundation@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

Garden Gift Cards

Thanksgiving is coming up and that means Christmas is just around the corner too. Just a reminder that the Garden Team has Bachman's and Gerten's gift cards available for your shopping trips. Bachman's are in \$25 and \$10 amounts and are good for anything they sell. Gerten's cards are in \$25 cards and are good for anything green and growing. Plus – don't forget, they make much appreciated gifts for those on your shopping list. Call Sherry at 651-777-6704 and we can arrange a time for you to get the cards. Thank you for supporting the Garden Team.

Online Worship every Sunday & Facebook Live Sunday Preludes

Please continue to join us for online worship services every Sunday—available via links on Facebook, the St. Mark's website (www.stmarks-nsp.org) and emailed directly to you. Please join us as often as you are able. Trevor Wolter Ternez goes Live on Facebook on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am to provide prelude music.

Charitable Contributions & Giving Policies

The Finance Committee has posted a valuable document to the resources section of the church website at www.stmarks-nsp.org/resources. This document reviews types of contributions, descriptions of funds at St. Mark's, and other important giving policies. This is a great reference when you have questions about your charitable giving.