



Saint Mark's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

# Weekly Update

November 23, 2022

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service – Tonight at 7 pm

St. Mark's is gathering 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.*

## Church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day

## Advent Gingerbread Party – Sunday, November 27

Families are invited to celebrate the beginning of Advent after worship. We'll have fun building gingerbread houses (and snacking along the way!) Please join us in Rees Hall for this fun activity.

## 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.

## Wednesday Sanctuary Worship during Advent begins at 6:15 pm

We will begin worship early and use the Holden Evening Prayer Service beginning next Wednesday, November 30. Regular 7 pm services will resume in January.

## Global Mission Craft Fair to Support Kiheza – December 3 (9am – 4 pm)

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

## 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 on Sundays Nov. 27 and Dec. 4 in Rees Hall, or by calling Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584. Cost is \$12.00. Please register by Wed. Dec. 4. Bring a friend - or two!



## Loving God. Loving Others.

### *There's still time to turn in your Intent Card*

Thank you to everyone who has completed and submitted an Intent Card for 2023! If you haven't already, it's not too late. You should have received a brochure outlining the initiatives for St. Mark's 2023 appeal and an intent card (extras of both are available 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. Knowing what members intend to contribute financially to the work God calls us to do serves as an important planning tool for the coming year. Even if you are unable to state the amount of your intent, the card is also an indication of your prayerful support for the ministry of St. Mark's. 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 at <https://onrealm.org/SaintMarksNSP/AddPledge/2023intent> or scan the QR code. *As always, your gifts to our shared ministry are very much appreciated!*



2023 Statement of Intent

## **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.

## **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 in the resources section of [www.stmarks-nsp](http://www.stmarks-nsp). 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 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](http://www.emsorch.org).

## **Progressive Dinner – Sun. December 11 (Sign up in Rees Hall on Sundays)**

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.

## **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](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.

## **Gift Goes On – Sign up to sponsor an individual or family in Rees Hall!**

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. Lists will be available at church following worship on Wed. Nov. 23 and Sunday, Nov. 27. Gifts need to be wrapped and returned to St. Mark's by Wednesday, December 8. 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 8. Please label, Gift Goes On. Thank you in advance for helping others in our community this Christmas season.

## **Wednesday Dinner – 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): Nov 30: Tater Tot Hotdish, Dec 7: burger bar, Dec 14: BYO Subs, Dec. 21 & 28: no dinner (Winter Break)  
A new Children's Menu option each week is designed to appeal to our younger diners. This meal option will be available from the little "house" in Rees Hall.

## **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).

## 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 27

9:30 am – Usher Team 4

(8:30 Capt. Dan Colberg)

### Sunday, December 4

9:30 am – Usher Team 1

(10:30 Capt. Mike Ericson)

## 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.*

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.

## Council Corner - November 17 meeting

Council met in November to discuss the following:

- Council had several committees come to the meeting to discuss items, such as enhancements to sanctuary service projection and building security, as well as upcoming budget needs, and Call committee's recommendation process.
- CYF had successful events with Feed My Starving Children and Moonlight Madness.
- The Finance committee reported expenditures under budgeted forecast by \$70,000 and the General Fund cash balance just over \$200,000. The audit review is close to being completed once Finance resolves a few minor inquiries.
- Hospitality is seeking all new and experienced bakers to bring in Christmas cookies for our upcoming special congregational meeting on Dec. 11, which is set to review and vote on the recommended updates to St. Mark's constitution.
- The Music Ministry, led by Pr. Arne Bergland, will begin the process to assess St. Mark's wants/needs for the upcoming year.
- The Nominating committee is seeking interested members of St. Mark's to join Council. Please reach out if this is where you see your gifts and talents fit.
- Players and Planners committee is seeking participation from St. Mark's. Please reach out to Tyler Ronsberg if interested in reviving our historically successful drama program.
- Stewardship Sunday was last week, and Council would like to thank all committee members for their hard work and effort leading this drive to bring our collective service to one another, both inside St. Mark's walls and also to our larger community.
- In preparation for the Dec. 11 congregational meeting, both Council and Constitutional Review committee members will be available in the Fireside room after Nov. 27 and Dec. 4 services to discuss any questions.

The complete meeting minutes are available in the church office after they are approved at the following meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2022 at 6:30 PM.



## Coffee this Sunday...

sponsored by Barb Michel in gratitude for all the cups of coffee shared with St. Mark's friends.

### October FINANCIALS

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Income	\$585,552	\$454,953
Expense	\$447,344	\$518,323
Net difference	\$138,207	(\$63,370)

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

## Next Week's Calendar

### Sunday, November 27

*First Sunday of Advent*

- 9:30 am Worship Service, SC  
10:30 am Gingerbread Party, RH

### Monday, November 28

- 1:00 pm Women's Board Mtg, FS  
6:30 pm Monday Bible Study, zoom  
7:00 pm Handbell Choir, SC

### Tuesday, November 29

- 9:00 am Morning Bible Study, #203

### Wednesday, November 30

- 5:00 pm Dinner, RH  
5:30 pm Joyful Voices, MR  
6:00 pm Act(s)2 Youth Education  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Service, SC

### Thursday, December 1

- 8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, Denny's  
6:00 pm Call Committee Mtg, 203/4  
7:00 pm Adult Choir, MR

### Friday, December 2 – Office Closed

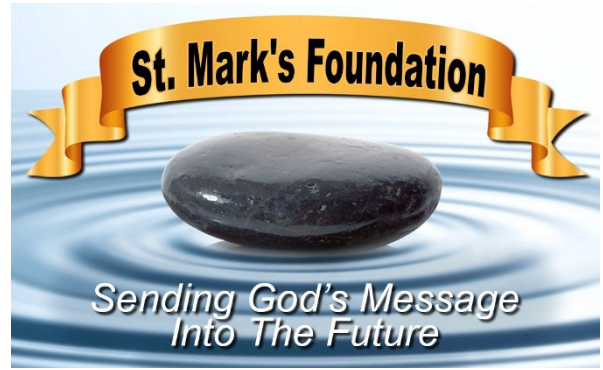
### Saturday, December 3 – Office Closed

- 9:00 am Global Mission Craft Fair, RH  
9:00 am Saturday Stewards

### Sunday, December 4

*Second Sunday of Advent*

- 9:00 am Wreath Sales, West parking lot  
9:30 am Worship Service, SC  
10:30 am Sunday School, CE Office



### Attention Shoppers

With holiday shopping upon us we once again remind all Amazon shoppers to take advantage of the Amazon Smile program. The St. Mark's Foundation is registered with [www.smileamazon.com](http://www.smileamazon.com) and will receive a donation with every purchase when you designate the Foundation as your chosen charity.

Visit [www.stmarksnsfoundation.com](http://www.stmarksnsfoundation.com) to learn more about carrying God's word forward to future generations.