

Hey Friends!

We're back at it! Two services on Sunday mornings. Wednesday nights are back in action. God's Work, Our Hands was a huge success! I'm feeling pretty great being the church with you. I hope you're feeling pretty great about being the church too!

While Jesus was still on earth he told his disciples to be and build the church but he didn't say much about how to do that. For 2,000 years Christians have been at work trying to be the church. Sometimes we've been pretty good at it. Other times, not so much. This Sunday we'll explore the question of how to be the church and what it means for us today. I look forward to seeing you!

Pastor David Bjorklund



It's not too late to register for Wednesday night Youth Education "Act(s) 2"

All youth education (for 3-yr-olds through 12th grade) is on Wednesday nights as part of our Act(s)2 Ministry. On Wednesdays, following dinner (served from 5:00-6:00 pm in Rees Hall) we provide an hour of education for youth of ALL AGES (3-yrs-old to 12th grade) from 6 to 7:00 pm. From 7:00 to 7:25 pm we gather together as a large group for Sanctuary, a time for music, Word, and prayer. We started on September 15, but **it's not too late to register**. *Following our current policies, masks must be worn except while eating or drinking.*



A registration form is available at www.stmarks-nsp.org/resources or simply scan this QR code. If you have questions, please contact Pastor David.

This Sunday:

- **Adult Forum: LSS Circle of Welcome – Sunday, September 19 between services**

Our nation is in the process of making room for refugees from Afghanistan. How do you feel about that? Are you ready to welcome them with open arms, or do you have some reservations? We invite you to join us for a meeting with Cate Duin from Lutheran Social Services (LSS) on Sunday, September 19 at 9:30 am (between services, Rees Hall classrooms 202-203) about LSS's Circle of Welcome program which helps place refugee families into American communities. St. Mark's has a history of welcoming and assisting refugees. It is time to consider it again!

- **Music Crash Course – Sept. 19 or Oct. 3**

If you're interested in joining the vocal or handbell choirs but are hesitant because you don't think you know enough about music, come to a music crash course. We'll cover the basic terminology and principles of music that will make you feel like a professional in just one short session. Two identical sessions are being offered between worship services in the Music Room, starting at about 9:35 am on Sept. 19 and Oct. 3.

Interested in becoming a member of St. Mark's?

Every so often, we make a point of welcoming new folks into membership here at St. Mark's. Before the Covid shut down, several folks had expressed interest in joining our congregation, but didn't have the opportunity to pursue that because we weren't gathering in person. Now that we are beginning to come together again we thought it would be a good time to invite folks to explore becoming members. Some of you have been hanging around with us for a while now. Others are returning after a time away. Still others live nearby and are interested in joining the "neighborhood" church. Whatever brings us together, we give thanks to God for the opportunity to build relationships of mutual trust and respect to better carry out the good gospel work to which we have been called. **For more information, join the Pastors between services on September 28**, or contact either Pastor Mary (primaryf@stmarks-nsp.org) or Pastor David (prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org) to discuss next steps.

Wednesday Night Dinners are back!

What's for supper? Well, on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 pm we've got you covered. Volunteers prepare and serve a delicious, homemade meal for all who come to the table. Suggested freewill offering of \$2 per person (\$10 max per family). *Following our current policies, face coverings must be worn except while seated and eating/drinking. Weather permitting, limited outdoor seating will be available.* Sept. 22: Sloppy Joes, Sept. 29: Lasagna

Regular Worship Schedule: Two Sunday Services, 8:30 and 10:30 am

Both services are the same and include Holy Communion, congregational singing, reading & teaching from the Bible, and prayer. We will continue to post one service online each Sunday afternoon.

Women's Fall Luncheon: "Together Again" – September 25 at 11:00 am

"Together Again" is a Fall event for all women of the church. We have missed being together, sharing stories, talking, and laughing. We invite you to get reacquainted at a women's luncheon on Saturday, September 25 at 11:00 am in Rees Hall. We will play a game and have a safe lunch with wrapped sandwiches, etc. There is no charge for this event. Actually - we will pay you to come! We will also reveal our Prayer Sisters that we have had for 2 years. Sign up on the Women's Board in Rees Hall or by calling Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584 or email ginnacollier@hotmail.com. Please reserve your spot by September 20 so we will have plenty of food! All women are invited and encouraged to bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you!

Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mark's Monday, October 4, 1:00-7:00 pm

Help save lives. Healthy donors are encouraged to book an appointment at redcrossblood.org. Questions? Contact John Froiland at johnjfro55@gmail.com.

Joyful Voices Youth Choir – October 6

Choir rehearsal for youth in grades 2-12 will begin October 6 at 5:30 PM. All youth are welcomed and no experience is necessary. Come and have fun with your friends!

Choir Rehearsal Time Change

Starting next week, Thursday, September 23, 2021, the Choir of St. Mark's will rehearse on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. There will be no rehearsal on Wednesday.

Schedule photography appointment for the new St. Mark's Picture Directory

A lot has changed in the 9 years since our last picture directory. We need to update your photos! It's important for everyone to participate so we can have the most complete directory possible. **Picture dates are Nov. 10-13.** Sign up is active right now Monday thru Friday online at <https://www.ucdir.com/schedule/login.php>. Login: **mn151** and Password: **photos**. You can also use the QR code to the right.



The online signup will be disabled on Saturday and Sunday and you can sign up between and after services on Sundays in Rees Hall.

Volunteers are needed to greet families on picture days and get them checked in. If you are able and willing please contact Sue Fletcher (sehletcher@gmail.com), Terri Borowick (terrib@stmarks-nsp.org), or call the church office (651-777-7451).

Foundation Week – October 3, 2021



The St. Mark's Foundation is celebrating Foundation Week 2021 beginning on Sunday, October 3. Please join us in Rees Hall for conversation, coffee and treats following the service. Members of the board of trustees will be available to chat about Foundation activities and answer questions. See where your gifts to the Foundation have helped the Foundation further the mission of "Carrying God's Word Forward."

Visit www.stmarksnsfoundation.com for more information about the Foundation or send an email to stmarksnsfoundation@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

In Sympathy...

A memorial service for **Ginger Jensen** will be held at St. Mark's on Friday, September 17, at 11:00. Ginger died in April 2021. *May God comfort all who mourn with the promise of the resurrection.*

Thank You...

Thank you to the St. Mark's community for lifting us up in prayer, for your love, support and presence. A very special thanks to the bakers, servers and quilters. Our heartfelt gratitude to Heidi, Trevor and Pastor David for making the visitation and service so beautiful.

-Yours in faith, the Kleppe Family

St. Mark's Restoration Team Update

Continuing to protect one another as we expand our worship activities and gathering plans at St. Marks.

As we quickly approach the new Church year filled with new activities, opportunities for gathering together and renewed emphasis of community outreach and service – we are being mindful of the challenges we still face in the midst of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. St. Mark's Restoration Team, along with our wonderful St. Mark's staff and Church Council are continuing our efforts to monitor local and state guidelines which help determine how to keep our doors open and our community safe.

With increased activities there is increased risk for exposure and transmission of the Covid-19 virus and its variants.

Everyone is aware that currently there is a resurgence in infection rates and we must do our part to keep St. Mark's community as safe as possible. To do this we ask everyone to participate and continue to follow these best practices:

1. Face Masks will be required when participating at any indoor activity
2. We encourage distancing when appropriate
3. Frequent use of hand sanitizers when engaged with one another
4. Increase sanitation and cleaning practices between and during activities
5. Continue diligence in monitoring State and Local health directives

We as a community have been strong and courageous in our approach to continuing in our worship and fellowship as a congregation. Let us celebrate our efforts to gather together once again – yet be mindful of the challenges we still face.

~Kurt Biedermann (Chair – St. Mark's Restoration Committee)

Online worship

Although we are back to worshipping in person, we are also committed to maintaining an online presence for folks who can't make it to the church. Online services will be available by 3:00 pm at www.stmarks-nsp.org, via Facebook, or simply use the email link sent to you.



Coffee this Sunday...

is sponsored by Bill & Shirley Pickett.

Interested in sponsoring Sunday coffee?

We invite you to consider sponsoring coffee on a given Sunday. A gift of \$30 will cover the cost of the coffee for our fellowship time for one week. Send checks to St. Mark's with "coffee sponsor" in the memo line. Sign up in Rees Hall (thru the end of 2021). You may also email annm@stmarks-nsp.org with your information.

Mark your calendars...

Thursday, September 23 – North St. Paul Fall Round-Up Parade. Walk with church friends for a fun way to participate in our community.

Monday, September 27 – Last Free Produce Giveaway from 4-6 pm in the St. Mark's parking lot.

Garden Gift Cards

As the days get cooler and fall is on the way, a reminder that the Garden Team has Bachman's and Gerten's gift cards for your planting purchases. Fall is an excellent time to plant perennials, trees and shrubs. Plus, you may find reduced prices on what you are looking for. To purchase the cards, please contact Sherry at 651-777-6704 or Wanda at 651-770-1905. Thank you for supporting the Garden Team.

Interested in ushering?

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

Upcoming Usher Team Schedule

September 19

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

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

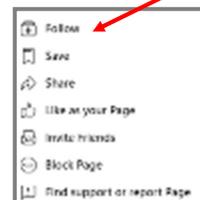
September 26

8:30 – Usher Team 4
(Capt. Brent Diamond)

10:30 – Usher Team 4
(Capt. Bonnie Meyers)

Follow St. Mark's on Facebook

Follow us on Facebook so you can see all the latest news. Go to the St. Mark's website (www.stmarks-nsp.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page. Click on the  icon which takes you to St. Mark's Facebook page. **Then click on the three dots** ••• near the top of the page and select **"follow"** from the drop-down menu.



Subscribe to St. Mark's YouTube Channel

If you have not already done so, we encourage you to subscribe to our Youtube channel: just go to St. Mark's website (www.stmarks-nsp.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page. Click on the  icon which takes you to the St. Mark's Youtube channel page. Click **"subscribe"** on the right side of the page.

God's work. Our hands.

September 12, 2021

Huge thanks to the 40 volunteers who participated in the God's Work Our Hands event last Sunday. There were 9 different activities at St Mark's and in the community. The recipients of your efforts greatly appreciate you.



Thank You!