

Hello St. Mark's!

I am very excited to be joining you for the next year! It has been a busy time already of learning names and new routines. I am super-grateful for the loving welcome I have received thusfar and look forward to getting to know each of you better.

Ephphatha! In this week's gospel reading, Jesus uses this word in commanding a deaf man's ears to be opened. Ephphatha! What a great word! (Come Sunday to hear an approximate pronunciation.) In what ways do we hear Jesus commanding our ears to open? What are we deaf to in the world? How is Jesus commanding our other graciously given, but dulled, senses be opened to the world?

“Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.”
(Neno lake Mungu, ELW #513)

Peace,

Intern Pastor Eric Gustafson

Free Plants!

The garden team has placed bags of ground sedum (a great ground cover) outside Rees Hall. Please take them!

God's Work, Our Hands Day of Service – September 12

Don't delay...this Sunday is the last day to sign up!

St. Mark's is once again participating in the ELCA Day of Service—an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. **Sign up for one of the many volunteer opportunities online at www.stmarks-nsp.org** (or scan the QR code). Paper sign ups are available in Rees Hall after worship.



Memorial Services

- A memorial service for **Henry Schmidt** will be held at St. Mark's next Wednesday, September 8, at 11:00 am. Henry died on June 10, 2021.
- A memorial service for **Maggie Vick** will be held at St. Mark's on Saturday, September 11, at 1:00 pm. Maggie died on December 7, 2020.

Small Group Leaders Needed

With youth education resuming in September we are looking for small group leaders to be part of our Christian Education Team. We're looking for 4 Confirmation leaders, and 4-6 elementary leaders. If you want to be a part of a great team contact Pastor David at prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org or call 651-777-7451, ext. 232.

Registration is open for all Youth Education!

All youth education (for 3-yr-olds through 12th grade) will be on Wednesday nights, beginning September 15. A registration form is available at www.stmarks-nsp.org/resources or simply scan this QR code. Please download and fill out the form and then email it back to Pastor David at prdavid@stmarks-nsp.org. If you have questions, please contact Pastor David.



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 Coller at 651-777-0584 or email ginnacoller@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!

Significant Dates in September

Sunday, September 12 – 9:00 Service

Rally Sunday and God's Work our Hands service day
Sign up at www.stmarks-nsp.org.

Wednesday, September 15 – Wednesday programming begins – supper, education, and adult choir.

Sunday, September 19 – Return to two Sunday worship services, 8:30 and 10:30. Special programming opportunities between services.

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.

From the St. Mark's Restoration Team

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is advising masks be worn in large indoor gatherings. **This guidance applies even to those who are fully vaccinated.** St. Mark's is once again requiring that masks be worn during worship services and receptions (masks may be removed for eating and drinking).

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.

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 anm@stmarks-nsp.org with your information.



Coffee this Sunday...

*is sponsored by Jane Roy
in memory of Mom and Dad.*

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

Sept. 5 – Team 5

Dan Colberg – Capt.
John Haley
Terry Kapaun
Dave Smith

Sept. 12 – Team 5

Dan Colberg-Capt
John Haley
Terry Kapaun
Dave Smith