

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Caregiver Support Group – Today at 10:45am

St. Mark's has a new support group for those caring for others. If you are a caregiver, you are welcome to attend anytime. We meet on the 2nd Sunday of every month at 10:45am in the Fireside Room.

Refresh, Renew, Remember Retreat – February 15

This retreat is sponsored by the Women's Ministry of Bethesda Lutheran Church in Inver Grove Heights on Sat. Feb. 15, 8:30am-1:00pm. The cost is \$30 includes breakfast, music, worship, group sessions, lunch and fellowship. **Register on the women's board in Rees Hall by Feb. 11.** Plan to carpool from St. Mark's.

Chili Cookoff – Sunday, Feb. 16 after worship

The annual chili cook-off might get spicy with a little friendly competition. Bring in a crock of your best chili on for Sunday, Feb. 16 to compete for bragging rights. We'll serve it in small bowls so everyone gets a chance to taste several kinds and vote on their favorite! Prizes will be given to top 3 vote getters! Note: if you want to offer any toppings, you'll need to provide those yourself. Crock pots should to be dropped off in Rees Hall before worship. Remember, they will only have an hour to heat, so make sure it is warm before you drop it off. *Sign up at the Welcome Center!*

Ordination Service for Jeanette Perrault – Sat. Feb. 22 at St. Mark's

All are invited to attend the service of Holy Communion with the Rite of Ordination for Jeanette Perrault on Feb. 22 at 11:00am here at St. Mark's Church. Jeanette will be ordained in the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. It's a day to celebrate God's church, the Body of Christ, and the relentless and resilient power of the Holy Spirit. All are welcome to attend and wear red, the color of the day. A meal will follow the service.

Wednesday Night Community Meal – 5-6 pm

All are welcomed to the table for this homemade meal offered Wednesdays during the school year. *Freewill offering gladly accepted.* Feb 12: Italian dinner, Feb 19: baked potato bar, Feb 26: meatloaf. The complete menu through April may be found at www.stmarks-nsp.org/resources.

Epiphany Sermon Series: Living Our Baptism

This series explores the covenantal commitments we make in the affirmation of baptism:

Jan. 12: Baptism of Our Lord

Jan. 19: To Live Among God's Faithful People

Jan. 26: To Hear the Word of God and Share in the Lord's Supper

Feb. 2: To Proclaim the Good News of God

Feb. 9: To Serve All People

Feb. 16: To Strive for Justice and Peace

Feb. 23: Affirmation of Baptism

First Responder snack donations needed

We are in need of the following for the NSP/Maplewood Police/Fire Dept snack area: bottled water/juice, individually wrapped cookies, frozen dinners, beef jerky snacks, yogurt, cheese, etc. Items can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall kitchen or the church office.

East Metro Symphony Orchestra (EMSO) presents Peter and the Wolf – Sun. March 15 at St. Mark's

The concert will begin at 3:00pm with spotlight performances from small ensembles of orchestra members. In the second half, the orchestra will present Sergei Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf, the Russian folk tale told through the music with different instruments representing each character in the story. Admission to this concert is free. Donations are always appreciated. For more information, visit www.emsorch.org.

Church Potluck – Sun. March 23

The hospitality team is hosting a church-wide potluck after worship on March 23 – gather together for good food and good fellowship. Bring your appetite and your favorite dish to share! Last names beginning with A-L: cold dish, M-Z: hot dish.

Thank You to our Worship Assistants:

Usher Team 2: Terri Borowick, Carl Hurtgen, Sharon Sporic, Robin Graham, John Haley, Miland Meek

Reader: Jennifer Arsenault

Welcome Center: Suzanne Ericson

Greeter: Gloria Wiegert

Altar Care: Joanne Wegwerth, Diane Leonhardt

Communion: Diane & Joe Danko, Shirley Pickett

Multimedia: Gary Martin, Josh Hirman

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

We saw a stranger yesterday.
We put food in the eating place,
Drink in the drinking place,
music in the listening place.
And with the sacred name of the Triune God,
he blessed us,
our house, our cattle, and our dear ones.
As the lark says in her song, Often, Often,
Often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.

The words of *The Stranger's Guise*, our communion music today, are ancient Celtic, a Rune of Hospitality. They bear a striking similarity to Hebrew 13:2, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Notice the importance of the number three, three places: eating, drinking, & music, and three blessings; house, cattle and dear ones. In Celtic culture, the number three represents wholeness and completeness. Notice also that it is not just the stranger who is blessed. Personally I love that music (interpreted broadly as in the arts?) is, with food and drink, an essential part of life.

My mother was born in 1934, in a small railroad town in Iowa. A child of the Great Depression, she remembered her grandfather sitting on the back porch with "hobos" who would pass through Waukon "riding the rails." He would feed them and help them as best he could. As a man whose first language was Norwegian, he probably didn't know this rune, but as a Lutheran immigrant farmer, he knew Hebrews, I'll bet. For us today it is a great reminder to treat everyone with kindness and respect.

Upcoming in Worship

Sun. Feb. 16 – Worship Band; Tom Michel, soloist
Sun. Feb. 23 – Choir of St. Mark's; Anna Bjorklund, Susie Lenz & Missy Lillie, trio

February Mental Health and Wellness Events

Here are some upcoming events. These are offered through St. Mark's collaboration with Mental Health Connect. If you're interested in attending, but don't want to drive, contact Bonnie at bonniemeyers@comcast.net to meet at St. Mark's and ride together. Detailed event information can be found at www.mhconnect.org/findmhc



MHC EVENTS

- **Tues. Feb. 11 (12pm - 1:30pm via Zoom)** *Harnessing the Arts for Health and Wellbeing: A Conversation with Renée Fleming*
- **Tues. Feb. 11 (7pm - 8:30pm in person or via Zoom at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Mpls)** *Grief: How to Move Towards Healing in Body, Mind and Spirit*
- **Tues. Feb. 18 (6pm-8pm) at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Mpls)** *Take Time for Mental Health: Better Together*

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Team 3: Capt: Bob Engwer



GIVE ONLINE

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 9

9:30 am Worship Service, SC
10:35 am Sunday School, #206/207
10:45 am Caregiver Support Group, FS

Monday, February 10

6:30 pm Monday Bible Study, Zoom

Tuesday, February 11

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS ON BREAK
5:30 pm Finance Mtg, Zoom
6:00 pm Property Mtg, FS

Wednesday, February 12

10:00 am Polar Ridge Service, offsite
5:00 pm Community Dinner, RH
5:15 pm Handbell Choir, SC
6:00 pm Youth Education Hour, SC
6:00 pm Adult Convo Hour, FS

7:00 pm Worship Service, LC
7:15 pm Choir of St. Mark's, #102

Thursday, February 13

8:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study, offsite

Friday, February 14 – Office Closed

1:00 pm Quilting, FH

Saturday, February 15 – Office Closed

Sunday, February 16

9:30 am Worship Service, SC
10:30 am Chili Cook-Off, RH
10:35 am Sunday School, #206/207

Follow us



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Ministry Staff

Rev. David Bjorklund, *Lead Pastor*
prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org

Kate Bentley, *Deacon*
deaconkateb@stmarks-nsp.org

Tom Paulson, *Dir. of Music & Worship*
tomp@stmarks-nsp.org

Office Hours

Mon –Thurs: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Ph: 651-777-7451

Weekly Worship

Sundays: 9:30 am

Guest WiFi

P3@nutButt3r

Website: www.stmarks-nsp.org