

# Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

JULY 5, 2026

## It's VBS week!

**Today is the last day to register!** We are looking forward to a great week at VBS. All children ages 4 and up are invited to join us for Vacation Bible School from 9am-12 noon for a variety of activities that including storytelling, games, crafts, special guests, and snacks! There is no charge for VBS.



VBS 2026

## Help distribute free produce to local families this Summer

St. Mark's is once again hosting three free produce giveaways (July 27, Aug 24, Sept 28) in partnership with Second Harvest Heartland. This is a great way to meet some of our neighbors and provide good food for families. We need a crew of volunteers to help distribute the food from 4-6 pm outside the church. Volunteers should plan to show up at 3:30pm to help sort and set up. If you are interested, contact Julie at urbanja@comcast.net.

## Saturday and Garden Stewards - July 11, 9am

We will be gathering to focus on a combination of outside and inside projects. We will continue to work outside which might include redoing the glazing putty around the chapel windows, repairing window well covers, garden maintenance, and general outdoor upkeep. We also may prep for our upcoming metal recycling drive.

## Special guests on July 12

**Zach Spirov** (singer, songwriter, guitarist) will join us for worship next Sunday. Zach is a St. Mark's favorite and his genre blending musical style is something you won't want to miss!

Guest preacher **Hannah Hawkinson** is an ELCA Pastor who has served congregations in Indiana and Illinois. She currently serves as Resource Developer for Congregational Resources at Augsburg Fortress Publishers in Minneapolis, collaborating with writers across Christ's church to craft devotionals, Bible studies, and other resources. An avid bookworm and lifelong Chicago Cubs fan, Hannah lives in St. Paul, where she is a member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church.

## St. Mark's Church-Wide Scrap Metal Collection Sat. July 25: 8am - 12:30pm

As a fundraiser for the St. Mark's grounds crew, we are hosting a church-wide scrap metal drive. Clean out your shed, garage, basement and bring your old steel, iron, copper, aluminum, lead and stainless steel to church (North Parking Lot) on Saturday, July 25. Old lawnmowers, bikes, water heaters, washers, dryers, metal posts, etc. qualify for recycling. We cannot accept any refrigerators, freezers, etc. or any electronics. Any questions, see or call Doug Ronsberg at 612-269-6915.

## Book Discussion: "What Happened to You? Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing" by Dr. Bruce D. Perry and Oprah Winfrey

Mental health learning is ongoing. Join us on **Wednesday, July 29 at 6:30 pm** in the Fireside Room for a discussion on this highly recommended book. The book is available at Ramsey County and Washington County libraries and at used bookstores. If you have questions, contact Bonnie Meyers at bonniemeyers@comcast.net.

## Invitation to Building a Culture of Generosity

As we strive to sustain and grow our ministry I am looking for volunteers to join our Stewardship Team and take part in "Building a Culture of Generosity." Building a Culture of Generosity (BCG) is a stewardship and fundraising program brought to us by our friends at the St. Paul Area Synod and GSB Consulting. BCG is a stewardship program for congregations seeking to stabilize and grow financial giving, teach biblical stewardship principles, help members discover generosity, and build a foundation for a generous culture. I hope you will join me and members of your Church Council in this important work. - Pastor David (prdavidb@stmarks-ns.org)

## Marksman Off for July

The Marksmen will be taking the month of July off. We will meet again on August 10th, 7pm in the Lundquist Chapel. All are welcome!

## Next Week's Ushering Schedule

**July 12:** Team 2: Capts. Carl Hurtgen & Terri Borowick

## Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

*In This Time of Great Reflection* is a hymn that lifts up the theme of the Puritan John Winthrop's 1630 sermon, "A Model of Christian Charity." Winthrop talked about the Massachusetts Bay Colony as "a city on a hill," referencing Jesus' image from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:14. In his use of this phrase, Winthrop wasn't giving a sermon about American exceptionalism, as some later historical figures have suggested. As historian Daniel T. Rodgers explains in *As a City on a Hill: The Story of America's Most Famous Lay Sermon*, Winthrop was actually delivering a warning: The eyes of the world would be on Plymouth to see if the colony would morally succeed in being loving, just, humble, good, neighborly, and kind.

This hymn is a prayer that, as we reflect on our nation's 250th anniversary, we will strive to be a morally responsible and community-building people; that we will repent of our sins and become as loving and humble as God is calling us to be. This hymn was commissioned by *Sojourners* magazine for their June 2026 special issue: *A Christian Response to America's 250th Birthday*.

*(The above is quoted from Hymns by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, carolynshymns.com. Gillette has written over 550 hymns that have been sung by congregations around the world, from the Washington National Cathedral to St. Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland to St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town, South Africa, to small town churches, and small household congregations, and now to St. Mark's Lutheran, North St. Paul, MN. She is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and an ordained pastor.)*

## Summer Music Schedule

- July 12 Zach Spirov, *singer/songwriter*
- July 19 Outdoors – Worship Band & Picnic
- July 26 Tom Michel, *tenor*
- Aug 2 Mackenzie, Lenora & Viola Lyon, *soloists*; St. Mark's Strummers
- Aug 9 Coda Duo (Scott Dorf, *saxophone*; Malcolm Anderson, *keyboards*)
- Aug 16 Outdoors – Worship Band & Picnic
- Aug 23 Shari Durden, *marimba & xylophone*
- Aug 30 Lauren Lammers, *soprano*
- Sept 6 Rachel Wyffels, *violin & soloist*

## News from the Foundation

Through the Thrivent Financial Choice® program, eligible members can direct Choice Dollars to support charitable organizations and ministries that make a meaningful difference in their communities. Donating Choice Dollars to a foundation or non-profit organization helps provide funding for important programs, outreach, education, and community care without any additional cost to the member beyond their existing eligibility. These gifts, when combined with the support of others, strengthen the organization's ability to serve, grow, and continue its mission of compassion, generosity, and hope. You can donate your Choice dollars to the St. Mark's Foundation. For help or clarification, talk to Jim Wolf or email [jimwolf5708@msn.com](mailto:jimwolf5708@msn.com). Visit the Foundation website: [www.stmarksnspfoundation.com](http://www.stmarksnspfoundation.com)

## Mark your calendar

- **July 7,8,9:** Vacation Bible School (9am to noon)
- **Jul 19, Aug 16:** Outdoor worship & picnic
- **Jul 27, Aug 24, Sept 28:** Free produce giveaways

### Weekly Calendar

#### **Sunday, July 5**

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

#### **Monday, July 6**

No ministry events

#### **Tuesday, July 7**

9:00 am Vacation Bible School  
6:30 pm St. Mark's Strummers, LC

#### **Wednesday, July 8**

9:00 am Vacation Bible School  
11:00 am Polar Ridge Service

#### **Thursday, July 9**

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite  
9:00 am Vacation Bible School

#### **Friday, July 10 – Office Closed**

#### **Saturday, July 11 – Office Closed**

9:00 am Saturday Stewards  
9:00 am Garden Stewards

#### **Sunday, July 12**

9:30 am Worship Service, SC



GIVE ONLINE

### Ministry Staff

Rev. David Bjorklund, *Lead Pastor*  
[prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org)

Kate Bentley, *Deacon*  
[deaconkateb@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:deaconkateb@stmarks-nsp.org)

Tom Paulson, *Dir. of Music & Worship*  
[tomp@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto: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