

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

AUGUST 9, 2026

Welcome Rachel Wyffels, Pastoral Intern

St. Mark's has been blessed over the years by the many and varied gifts of our interns and I know Rachel's gifts for ministry will be a blessing to us; and I know that you will be a blessing to her. To help Rachel get to know of all you over the next several weeks and months, please take the time ahead of worship to put on a name tag. It'll help her to match names to faces.

Marksmen meeting – Mon. Aug 10, 7pm

The Marksmen will meet at 7pm in Lundquist Chapel. This group is open to all men of the congregation. Each month we gather for fellowship, conversations about life and faith, as well as Bible and other studies.

Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic – Aug 16

It's the last outdoor worship service and picnic of the summer! On the menu: BBQ chicken, baked beans, chips, fruit and desserts. As always, if the weather doesn't cooperate, worship and picnic will be inside.

CYF Education registration is now open

Register your kids for CYF education programs, which begin in September. There is **no fee** for our programs, however advanced registration is helpful for planning purposes. We are excited for the upcoming program year and have made a some changes that we hope will work well for your family. Wednesday night education begins on Sept 16 and Sunday School begins on Sept. 13. Head to www.stmarks-nsp.org and check out the Children & Youth tab for more information and a registration link or simply scan this QR code to complete the quick registration form.



School Supply Drive – Now through September 1

St. Mark's together with Girl Scout Troop 57696 is collecting new school supplies for the Kids In Need Foundation (KINF). Collection boxes can be found in Rees Hall and outside the church office. KINF, headquartered in Little Canada, MN, distributes school supplies to under-resourced students across the nation. Locally, they have a Teacher Resource Center where qualifying teachers can shop throughout the school year for school supplies and classroom resources at ZERO cost. Pick up a complete shopping list at the Welcome Center. Visit KINF.org for more information.

Produce Giveaways – Aug 24 & Sept 28, 4-6pm

St. Mark's provides free produce on the fourth Monday of the month in July, August and September. We always need volunteers to help carry boxes to set up; distribute food to our guests; and help move produce inside after the event. Invite your friends and neighbors to one of the next events...there's always PLENTY. We're also collecting plastic and paper bags. Bring them to the Rees Hall collection cabinet.

North High Staff Appreciation Breakfast

Wed. Aug 26, 8-9:30 am

St. Mark's hosts this breakfast each year in Rees Hall to honor the staff at North High and welcome them back for the school year. Lots of helping hands are needed to pull this off. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Julie at urbanja@comcast.net. A donation list is at the Welcome Center for those who wish to donate food items.

St. Mark's 140th Anniversary Celebration "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace"

St. Mark's Church will be celebrating its 140th anniversary April 11, 2027 and the anniversary committee is looking for people who have been members or have grown up in the church for 50 years or more to share their memories about St. Mark's, its people and faith through the years. Contact Karyn Mikel at karynmikel@comcast.net or Barb Michel at barbmichel2014@gmail.com if interested in sharing your St. Mark's memories, or leave your contact information with the church office and we will get back to you. Thank you, the 140th Anniversary Committee

Mark your calendar

- **Aug 24, Sept 28:** Free produce giveaways
- **Aug 16:** Outdoor worship & picnic
- **Sept 13:** Sunday School Kickoff
- **Sept 16:** Wednesday Night Kickoff

Summer Music Schedule

Aug 16	Outdoor Service–Worship Band & Picnic
Aug 23	Shari Durden, <i>marimba & xylophone</i>
Aug 30	Lauren Lammers, <i>soprano</i> ; St. Mark's Strummers
Sept 6	Rachel Wyffels, <i>violin & soloist</i>

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

Last week I wrote about the African-American Spiritual, and how we, as Lutherans, have been slow to recognize our commonality with the African-American faith experience, slow to recognize how African-American Spirituals speak truth to power, and slow to even claim it as Lutheran, let alone American. Today we have the opportunity to put all this into practice. We close worship today with a classic African-American Spiritual, *This Little Light of Mine*.

Imagine for a moment what we as Lutherans might be like if we never had the opportunity to learn and sing this song, and music like it. I'm guessing many of us learned it as children in Sunday School or Vacation Bible School, and have carried it forward to sing it as adults in worship. We learned its lesson, to let the light of Jesus, the light of the world, shine in and through us in all the things we say, do and be, and especially in how we treat other people. To not hide it, or let anybody blow it out. It is a lesson I come back to almost daily.

Sure, there are other songs that speak about Jesus, the light of the world - *Rise, Shine, You People*, *Christ the Lord Has Entered*, and *Go Light Your World* come to mind - and they teach us the same lesson. But some music has a way of embedding itself in our souls more deeply than others. My friend Barb was a music therapist. She often sat at the bedside of someone in hospice, played her guitar and sang to them. She told me it was common for someone who hasn't open their eyes or spoken for several days, to sing along to songs like *Jesus Love Me* and *This Little Light of Mine*, and even open their eyes, if only for a few moments. So as you sing today, contemplate the depth of your familiarity with this song, give thanks for our commonality with all who follow in the way of Jesus, and resolve to not let anything divide us.

Music Opportunity for Children

The National Lutheran Children's Choir is seeking new singers, ages 7-14, this fall. Part of the National Lutheran Choir based here in the Twin Cities, NLCC is a place where young singers can grow musically, develop healthy vocal technique, music literacy, and ensemble skills, and build confidence and community. No prior experience is required. See NLCA.com or Tom Paulson, Director of Worship and Music for more information. The NLC celebrates, invigorates and expands sacred choral music, bringing inspiration and meaning to people of diverse faiths and backgrounds.

Thank you to our worship assistants

Usher Team 2: Cart Hurtgen, Terri Borowick, Sharon

Sporcic, Robin Graham, Miland Meek, Steve Linder

Reader: Diane Danko

Communion: Joe & Diane Danko

Welcome Center: Suzanne Ericson

Altar Care: Joanne Wegwerth, Diane Leonhardt

Greeters: Beth Hoppe, Gloria Weigert

Multimedia: Gary Martin, Josh Hirman

Council Corner – July 23, 2026

- Year-to-date income has improved, and expenses are still less than budgeted.
- Pastoral Intern Rachel Wyffels starts her year with us on August 3. An internship committee has been appointed to help support Rachel on her learning journey with us. Committee members include Susan Borowick, Christie Lamers, Steve Nelson, Andy Petersen, Bonnie Pottratz, and Betty Wolf.
- A fresh bid has been received for carpeting for the chapel refurbishment project.
- The Stewardship Committee has accepted the Synod's stewardship proposal, "Building a Culture of Generosity." Work on the campaign will begin in August.

The complete meeting minutes are available in the church office after they are approved at the following meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 27.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, August 9

9:30 am Worship Service, SC
11:00 am Wurst Ride Ever, offsite

Monday, August 10

7:30 pm Marksmen, LC

Tuesday, August 11

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS
5:30 pm Finance Mtg, Zoom
6:00 pm Property Mtg, FS
6:30 pm St. Mark's Strummers, LC

Wednesday, August 12

11:00 am Polar Ridge Service
6:30 pm Players & Planners Mtg, FS

Thursday, August 13

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite
6:00 pm Worship Band Rehearsal, SC

Friday, August 14 – Office Closed

Saturday, August 15 – Office Closed

Sunday, August 16

9:30 am Outdoor Worship Service
10:30 am Church Picnic

Ministry Staff

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

Kate Bentley, Deacon
deaconkateb@stmarks-nsp.org

Rachel Wyffels, Pastoral Intern
rachelw@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