

# Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

JANUARY 19, 2025

## **Budget Review Session – Today after worship**

Prior to the Annual Meeting, you will have the opportunity to attend a budget review in the Fireside Room after worship today. Bring any budget questions you may have.

## **“Cabin Fever” Game Day – Jan. 25**

Join us on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 25 from 1-4pm, in Fellowship Hall for an afternoon of board games, card games, fellowship, laughter and snacks! Feel free to bring your favorite game or we will have a variety to choose from. Sign-up on the Women's Board in Rees Hall. Call Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584 for more information.

## **Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Soup Sunday – January 26**

All are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting following worship at about 10:40 am. Enjoy a bowl of hot soup (takeout also available) and purchase some tasty baked goods to support global missions. If you would like to **donate baked goods**, drop them off in Rees Hall on Sunday morning (1/26) and use the paper plates that will be available soon. *We will be voting on the annual budget, so it is especially important for members to attend.*

## **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.* Jan 22: breakfast sliders, Jan 29: salad bar, Feb 5: burger bar. The complete menu through April may be found at [www.stmarks-nsp.org/resources](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org/resources).

## **Join us for Quilting**

St. Mark's has a very faithful group of quilters who assemble and tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief as well as for those in our community. These quilts provide comfort and warmth in difficult times. Everyone is invited to help.. You qualify if you can tie a knot! Plan to attend one or more quilting sessions on FRIDAY (NOTE CHANGE OF DAY) afternoons - January 24; February 14 and 28, and March 14 and 28. We meet in Fellowship Hall from 1-5pm. Come for an hour or stay for the entire time. Quilting Coordinators: Shirley Pickett (651-735-0016) and Darlene Dent 651-777-1657.

## **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

## **Red Cross Blood Drive – January 27 at North Presbyterian Church (2675 East Highway 36)**

Give blood and save lives from 12-6pm. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and search: North St Paul Churches to schedule an appointment. Create a flurry of hope! Come give blood Jan 27-Feb 28 for a \$15 e-gift card at [rcblood.org/flurry](http://rcblood.org/flurry).

## **Saturday Stewards – February 1**

This project-based group meets on the first Saturday of each month. We work on special tasks and assist the custodial staff as needed. We could really use your help! Join us Feb. 1 from 9 to 12. For more information, call Mark McKenzie at 651-231-5500.

## **Refresh, Renew, Remember Retreat – February 15**

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

## **Nursery Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for volunteers to staff the nursery on Sunday mornings. This is a great opportunity to give back to younger families. Hours are 9:15-11:15am and the service is live streamed so you won't miss a thing! Please contact Deacon Kate at 651-777-7451 or [deaconkateb@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:deaconkateb@stmarks-nsp.org) if this is a role you are interested in. We can get you more information and can work on creating a schedule - you are not signing up for every week by saying you are interested.

## Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

Many years ago I worked with an intern who made a really good point in her sermon. It seems like, throughout history, that whenever two Christians disagreed with each other, one went off and started a new church. That is us! Martin Luther disagreed with the Catholic Church, and his followers became known as Protestants or Lutherans. At the same time Henry VIII feuded with the pope, and declared himself head of the church in England, the Anglican or Episcopalian church. Methodists, Baptists, Puritans, Unitarians, Congregationalists, Quakers, all disagreed with another church, and formed their own. I don't think that all this division is what God had in mind.

Our scripture today teaches us about living among God's faithful people, all of them, not just those who agree with you. Our music reflects that. We begin by singing "gather in the lost and forsaken, the blind and the lame, the rich and the haughty, the proud and the strong, nourish us and teach us to fashion holy lives and true hearts (ELW 532)." After Pastor David's sermon, we'll sing a paraphrase of Psalm 133, "Oh how good it is when the family of God dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity." The poets remind us that life is a journey to be shared, and together we rejoice, weep, find strength, grace, and belonging. And we'll close with a song that may well become our Baptismal theme song, and expounding on the life-as-a-journey theme, I'm Going on a Journey. Note the poignant, especially relevant third verse.:

There are other saints who have said amen.  
They'll keep me faithful to my journey's end.  
Along the way I want to be  
the kind of person that God set free. (ELW 446)

## Upcoming in Sunday Worship

**Jan. 26** – Choir of St. Mark's; Jubilee Handbell Choir

**Feb. 2** – Singer/Songwriter **Billy Johnson**

We'll be welcoming Billy Johnson to sing and play guitar during worship. He has been here several times, most recently Aug. 4, 2024 and Nov. 26, 2023. The Star Tribune calls him, "one of the Twin Cities best feel-good, blue-collar, barroom-rousing tunesmiths." Don't miss him! For more information see [billyboymusic.com](http://billyboymusic.com).

## Youth Summer Camp Opportunity at Camp Wapo

St. Mark's has partnered with Camp Wapo in Amery, WI to reserve 15 spots for youth currently in grades 4-9 to register for camp! Our week is Aug. 10-15. These spots are saved from now until Feb. 15 – any unclaimed spots will be opened back up for general registration. The registration fee is \$150, the camp costs \$700/student. Fundraising over the next six months will help make camp affordable for any child who wants to attend. Learn more at: [lakewapo.org/programs/wapo-youth-camp/](http://lakewapo.org/programs/wapo-youth-camp/) Registration can be completed at: [lwlbc.com/stmarks-nsp](http://lwlbc.com/stmarks-nsp) now through Feb. 15. Please reach out to Deacon Kate in the meantime if you have any questions!

### Next Week's Ushering Schedule

**Sunday, January 26, 2025**

**Team 4: Capt: Bonnie Meyers**



GIVE ONLINE

### Weekly Calendar

#### Sunday, January 19

9:30 am Worship Service, SC  
10:35 am Sunday School, #206/207  
10:40 am Budget Review, FS

#### Monday, January 20

1:00 pm Phoebe Bible Study, FS  
6:30 pm Monday Bible Study, Zoom

#### Tuesday, January 21

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, LB  
10:00 am Naomi Bible Study, FS

#### Wednesday, January 22

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, January 23

8:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study, offsite  
6:30 pm Church Council Meeting, #203

#### Friday, January 24 – Office Closed

1:00 pm Quilting, FH

#### Saturday, January 25 – Office Closed

1:00 pm Cabin Fever Game Day, FH

#### Sunday, January 26 – Soup Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service, SC  
10:35 am Sunday School, #206/207  
10:40 am Annual Congregational Mtg, RH

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### 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

**Website:** [www.stmarks-nsp.org](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org)