

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

OCTOBER 11, 2026

Sunday Night Youth Group

Update! Christie & Jason Lamers have graciously offered to host Youth Group at their home tonight from 6:30-8pm! If you would like to attend, you can email christielamers@gmail.com to get the address. We're trying something new this year for our 7th-12th graders. In addition to Wednesday nights we are hosting Sunday Night Youth Group from 6:30pm-8:00pm on the **2nd and 4th Sundays** of each month. We normally meet in the Youth Room on the second floor of Rees Hall and friends are welcome.

Wednesday Community Meals – 5-6pm

Join us for a homemade meal on Wednesday nights in Rees Hall from **5-6pm** during the school year. There is no set charge for the meal, however freewill donations are always appreciated.
Oct 14: tator tot hotdish, Oct 21: hot beef sandwiches, Oct 28: chicken dinner

Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mark's – Mon. Oct. 12

St. Mark's is hosting the Red Cross blood drive in Rees Hall on Monday, October 12 from **12-6pm**. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter NorthStPaulChurchesMN to schedule.

Women's Fall Brunch "Getting Your Ducks in a Row....Or Not" – Sat. Oct. 24 at 10am

All women are invited to Rees Hall to enjoy a delicious brunch and the humor and insight of author Gaye Lindfors. Gaye is the author of several books. She shares honest stories, biblical encouragement and plenty of humor to help us loosen our grip on control, love the people in front of us, and actually enjoy the moment we're in. She will have her books available to purchase for \$10.00. Sign up on Sun. Oct. 4, 11 and 18 or by calling Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584 by Thursday October 22. Cost is \$15.00. We will also be collecting new toys for the Hope for the Brave Christmas Toy Drive. Hope for the Brave helps families that are victims of abuse and neglect. Thank You for caring. Come enjoy this time with us. ALL women are welcome!

Trunk-or-Treat is coming up soon!

Sun. Oct. 25, 4-6pm

Start planning your theme, trunk décor, or costumes for Trunk-or-Treat. We have very creative folks here at St. Mark's who keep it fun and not too scary for children. Last year we had over 700 costumed kiddos stop by our event along with their families. If you've participated in previous years or you're a newbie, join us this year! Those doing a trunk should arrive around 3:30 to set up. ***If you can't make it to the event, consider donating a bag of candy (participants bring their own, but extra is often needed with the larger attendance). A donation box is in Rees Hall or you can leave it in the church office.***

Curious About Becoming a Member of St. Mark's?

Pastor David will be hosting a series of information sessions for those interested in becoming members of St. Mark's. If you are interested in becoming a member or would simply like to learn more about our congregation please RSVP for **one** of the sessions below by contacting the church office. *Sessions will be held in Room 103 just off of Rees Hall.*

New Member Information Sessions:

Sun. **Oct. 11** – 11:00am Sun. **Nov. 1** – 11:00am
Wed. **Oct. 21** – 6:00pm Wed. **Nov. 11** – 6:00pm

Holden Evening Prayer Service – Sun. Nov. 1, 6pm

St. Mark's Music Ministry will lead Marty Haugen's Holden Evening Prayer, to celebrate All Saints, and remember and honor those who have gone before us, especially since last All Saints. The service will include poetry, prayer, psalms and anthems, and be sung by The Choir of St. Mark's. A second Holden Evening Prayer, this one for Advent, will be held Sun. Dec. 6 at 6pm..

EMSO Concert at St. Mark's – Sun. Nov. 1, 3pm

The East Metro Symphony Orchestra will present Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 plus Copland's Lincoln Portrait, Barber's Adagio for Strings, and Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man for their fall concert at St. Mark's in the Sanctuary. Admission is free! Freewill donations accepted. For more information visit emsorch.org.

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Oct 18 Team 3 : Capt: Bob Engwer

Upcoming in Worship

Oct 18 Choir of St. Mark's; St. Mark's Ringers

Oct 25 Choir of St. Mark's

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' They went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. (Matthew 22:9-10)

A parable is a story meant to teach a lesson, or lessons. When I read this parable in prep for today I was especially struck by the king's (a metaphor for God in this parable) lack of discrimination. The king says to invite 'everyone you find' and 'they gathered all whom they found, both good and bad.' The king shows no partiality for any particular person - not for gender, race, religion, social status, income or wealth, political party, age, ethnicity, contributions, ability to quid pro quo, country of origin, criminality ... I could go on, but I think you get the point.

At times it seems to me that all of human history could be read in terms of how humans categorize other humans - as insiders or outsiders, as deserving or undeserving, as rich or poor, as my tribe or other. When we see someone on the street, do we even see the person behind the category? I know I sometimes don't. How have we so badly missed the mark?

Come to the Table, our communion song on today helps us process this and even change our proverbial tune. It is very clear in song and scripture, that the invitation to the table goes to "the thief, the doubter, the hero, the coward, the prisoner, the soldier, the younger, the older, all who hunger, all who thirst, paupers and princes, all who failed, all the forgiven, all who dream, all who suffer, who love and lost, the chained and free, those who follow, those who lead, the let down, the found, all labeled right or wrong, all who hear this

song." Quite a list isn't it. I certainly see myself in it, and I'm guessing you see yourself in it, too. More importantly, I see people I don't want to see in it. Perhaps today, that is my lesson. What's yours?

New Handchimes

St. Mark's Music Ministry is pleased to announce that we have acquired a new set of handchimes, also known as MelodyChimes, from Schulmerich Bells. We've borrowed chimes in recent years from Incarnation Lutheran in Shoreview (Thanks to Amy Maakestad), and Centennial United Methodist in Roseville (Thanks to Jerry Salitros), and now seems the right time to acquire our own set. So our music throughout the fall and Christmas season will feature them prominently. If you'd like a demonstration, ask any bell player.

October is Pastor/Deacon/Intern Appreciation Month

During this time, the Personnel Committee will have comment cards available at the Welcome Center. If you choose to fill one out, place it in the basket provided. There also is an opportunity for you to donate money for a gift for Pastor David, Deacon Kate, and Intern Rachel. Envelopes at Welcome Center.

What is a Secret Prayer Sister?

A Prayer Sister is a special person who thinks about you, remembers you with cards and greetings, and lifts you up in prayer. They walk beside you in good times and hard times as a secret partner. If you would like to be a Prayer Sister fill out a form in the office, at the Welcome Center or at the Women's Fall Brunch on October 24. Leave it in the box and your Prayer Sister's name will be sent to you after October 31. And, remember, it's a secret!! It's all part of the fun! Contact Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584 with questions.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, October 11

9:30 am Worship Service, SC
9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am New Member Session, #103
6:30 pm Youth Group, offsite

Monday, October 12

12:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive, RH
6:30 Monday Night Bible Study, Zoom
7:00 pm Marksmen, Chapel

Tuesday, October 13

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, October 14

11:00 am Polar Ridge Service
5:00 pm Community Meal, RH
5:45 pm St. Mark's Ringers rehearsal, SC
6:00 pm Education Hour
6:45 pm Communion Service, LC
7:15 pm Choir of St. Mark's, LC

Thursday, October 15

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite
1:00 pm Elizabeth Bible Study, FS
6:30 pm Anne Bible Study, FS

Friday, October 16 - Office Closed

Saturday, October 17 - Office Closed

Sunday, October 18 - Global Mission Day

9:30 am Worship Service, SC
9:30 am Sunday School

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
Wednesdays: 6:45 pm