

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Today is the First Day of Sunday School!

If your child is new to Sunday School here's a few things to know. Sunday School begins and ends in the 9:30am worship service. Students start with their families in worship before being dismissed for class following the Children's Sermon. After class time they will rejoin their families for Communion and the close of service. Sunday School is for children in Pre-K (4yo) up to 4th grade. All are welcome to participate.

Monday Night Bible Study resumes – Sept. 14

The Monday night Bible study meets on Mondays at 6:30 pm on Zoom. This year the group, along with Pastoral Intern Rachel, will be starting with Exodus. For more information, or for the Zoom link, please contact Dan at 612-716-5969. New members are always welcomed.

Wednesday Community Meals resume Sept. 16

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.

Sept 16: pork loin dinner, Sept 23: baked potato bar, Sept 30: hamburger bar, Oct 7: beef bowls

Wednesday Night Kickoff – Sept. 16

The following is the schedule for Wednesday nights. We hope to see you there!

5-6pm – Community Meal (Rees Hall)

5:45-6:40pm – Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

6-6:45pm – Education Hour (all ages)

6:45-7:15pm – Communion Service (Chapel)

7:15-8:30pm – Choir of St. Mark's Rehearsal (Chapel)

Choir Rehearsals begin Wed. Sept. 16

The Choir of St. Mark's (7:15-8:30 in the Chapel) and the Handbell Choir (5:45-6:40 in the Sanctuary) will begin rehearsals for the fall season on Wednesday evening September 16. New members and all returning members warmly welcomed. Contact Tom Paulson, Director of Worship and Music, for more information.

Produce Giveaway – Mon. Sept. 28, 4-6pm

Invite your friends and neighbors to our last giveaway event on September 28...there's always PLENTY. We're also collecting plastic and paper bags. Bring them to the Rees Hall collection cabinet.

North St. Paul Fall Parade—Thur. Sept. 17, 6pm

Come along with St. Mark's for North St. Paul's annual fall parade. We would like as many people as possible as we begin promoting the 140th Anniversary. Wear a St. Mark's shirt. Line up is on 2nd Street at 5:30 pm. Park at St. Mark's by 5:15 to head downtown together. Contact Suzanne at maericson2000@aol.com with questions.

Women's Synodical Bible Study Enrichment – Sat. Sept. 19

The event will be in Rees Hall with registration from 8:30-9:00am. The study, from the *Gather* magazine, will include a journey with women of the Bible whose bold faith transformed their unexpected stories. The study, led by Pastor Carrie Johnson Stiles our former youth leader, will also include a session on Prayer. Lunch and fellowship will follow at 12:30pm. Cost is \$20.00 and registration information is on the bulletin board in Rees Hall. ALL women are welcome. Contact Virginia Collier 651-777-0584 for information and copies of the Bible Study lessons. See you there!

Free! KidsFest – Oct. 9 from 4-6pm

Bring your kids and invite some friends for a fun afterschool event with face painting, balloon animals, bounce house, bubble artist and treats! A great way to kickoff the weekend! We will set up in the parking lot at St. Mark's. Come for as long as you'd like. *Free of charge.*

Spiritual Gifts Retreat – Sat. Oct. 10

This retreat will provide you with an opportunity to look deeply at who you are and how God has uniquely blessed you with certain gifts. Get all the details at spas-elca.org/event/spiritual-gifts-retreat-fall-2026/ If you are interested in attending this Synod event please contact Pastor David. *Members of St. Mark's who attend will have the registration cost covered by the church.*

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.

New Member Information Sessions:

Sun. **Oct. 11** – 11:00am Sun. **Nov. 1** – 11:00am

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

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

In my opinion *Victor/Victoria* has the best, funniest opening scene of any movie, ever! Julie Andrews plays a down-on-her-luck singer auditioning at a shady nightclub in Depression era Paris. As she sings beautifully, the nightclub owner scowls over his glass of wine. In a rapid-fire exchange she says, "You can see I have a legitimate voice." He replies "I'm looking for something illegitimate." She, "I'm sure with a little practice..." He scoffs, "that is like a nun saying with a little practice she could become a streetwalker. Take my advice, stick to singing Carmen!" She replies, "I am a coloratura, not a mezzo! Despite what you think, practice does make perfect!" She takes in a deep breath, nails a really high note that shatters his wine glass, and stalks out! He, "what in %\$#& was that?" Robert Preston, who has been watching all along, deadpans, "Bb."

But it's only the best and funniest, if you are an insider. In this case the insider is a musician or an opera lover who knows that there are different kinds of sopranos, who sing different opera roles. Coloraturas specialize in high, rapid, light singing; mezzos specialize in lower, heavier, often sultry singing. Mistaking one for the other, in some circumstances, can be insulting. Clearly the nightclub owner was an outsider.

This is a perfect example of insider language, language that excludes. As a community that wants to include, we try to be as clear as we can in our communications, and not exclude anyone, especially when it comes to worship. There are lots of insider terms in worship – refrain, hymn/song, VBS, offering, lectern, even church! When you come across a term in our worship that you don't understand, I'll bet you anything you're not the only one. Ask me, or Pastor David, or Intern Rachel. We want to help you participate in worship; it's one of our passions. Insider language can be funny in a movie, but not in worship.

Upcoming in Music

Sept 20 Vocal Quartet: Lauren Lammers, Mackenzie Lyon, Tom Michel & Bill Kempe
Sept 27 Choir of St. Mark's; Handbell Choir

Mark your calendar

- **Sept 16:** Wednesday Night Kickoff (dinner, education, worship, choir rehearsals)
- **Sept 17:** North St. Paul Fall Round Up Parade
- **Sept 28:** Free produce giveaway
- **Oct 4-10:** Foundation Week
- **Oct 9:** KidsFest, 4-6 pm (N. parking lot)
- **Oct 12:** Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mark's
- **Oct 25:** Trunk or Treat, 4-6 pm (W. parking lot)

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 an appointment. Appointments fill up quickly.

It's not too early to start thinking about Trunk-or-Treat – 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!

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Sept 20 Team 3: Capt: Bob Engwer

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 13

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

Monday, September 14

6:30 pm Monday Bible Study, offsite
7:00 pm Foundation Board Mtg, #203
7:00 pm The Marksmen, LC

Tuesday, September 15

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS
10:00 am Naomi Bibles Study, FS
6:30 pm St. Mark's Strummers, LC

Wednesday, September 16

5:00 pm Community Meal, RH
5:45 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal, SC

6:00 pm Education Hour
6:45 pm Communion Service, LC
7:15 pm Choir of St. Mark's, LC

Thursday, September 17

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite
1:00 pm Elizabeth Bible Study, offsite
6:00 pm North St. Paul Parade

Friday, September 18 – Office Closed

Saturday, September 19 – Office Closed

8:00 am Women's Bible Study, RH

Sunday, September 20

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: 51-777-7451

Weekly Worship

Sundays: 9:30 am