

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Chili Cookoff – Today after worship

Come to Rees Hall after worship to taste a variety of chili recipes and vote for your favorite! Prizes will be given to top 3 vote getters!

Lenten Theme for 2026: The Least of These

Join us during the season of Lent when we will be focusing on God's concern for *The Least of These*. Inspired by Jesus' words in the Beatitudes and in Matthew 25, we will hear how God cares for the brokenhearted, the neglected, the poor, and the suffering. On Sundays we'll focus our attention on those "lesser" figures in the Bible that are overshadowed by the "greater" figures around them. During our Wednesday midweek services we'll focus on those raised up in Matthew 25 and will be collecting special offerings to support the least of these in our community. **Schedule Note: During Lent, Wednesday services will begin at 6:15pm in the Sanctuary.**

Wednesday Community Dinners - 5-6pm

All are welcomed to the table for this homemade meal offered Wednesdays during the school year. Freewill offering gladly accepted. Feb 25: salad bar, Mar 4: lasagna, Mar 11: burrito bake, Mar 18: mac and cheese bar

Graduation Scrapbooks

St. Mark's scrapbookers will again make a personal memory book for your high school graduates. We invite each grad/parent/grandparent to provide \$15 for basic materials, up to 15 photos, and memories to go with the photos. Please contact Karyn Mikel at karynmikel@comcast.net or 612-414-2317 to obtain the form. Pictures and form are due by May 17; preferred by April 17.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Mon. March 30, 1-7pm Christ Lutheran Church (NSP)

Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter NorthStPaulChurchesMN to schedule an appointment. Christ Lutheran is located at 2475 E 17th Ave, North St. Paul.

Drama costumes looking for new homes

Feb 22 & Mar 1 (Sun) and Feb 25 & Mar 4 (Wed)

We are clearing out drama costumes that are ready for their next act. There are a variety of pieces, with assorted styles and sizes. This is a great opportunity to pick up some treasures. Available **free of charge, with a free will offering graciously accepted**. All offerings will go directly toward supporting our Children, Youth and Family Ministry.

St. Mark's Church 140th Anniversary

During 2027, St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church will be celebrating its 140th anniversary. The cornerstone for the original church at 14th and Margaret Street, was laid in September 1887. That cornerstone can be found at the bottom of the staircase going down to Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in helping with planning the celebration for the church's 140th anniversary during 2027, **an initial meeting will be held on Sunday, March 8**, following the church service. If you cannot attend but would like to participate, please contact Barb Michel, barbmichel2014@gmail.com, or another member of the archive committee or leave your name and contact info in the church office. Committee members are Joe Danko, Karyn Mikel, Karey Strandquist, Derrick Stolen, and Betty Wolf.

Columbarium Niches & Memorials Available

Our church offers columbarium niches in the Memorial Garden near the sanctuary – a sacred and peaceful space for cremated remains. Are you looking for a meaningful way to remember someone special? Purchasing a niche provides a lasting connection to our faith community and ensures ongoing care in a beautiful, prayerful setting. Our Memorial Wall offers a lasting tribute within our sacred space – a beautiful way to celebrate a life of faith and love. For details, please pick up a packet at the Welcome Center or contact the church office. **Please note:** the cost of niches will increase on March 1. For additional information, please contact the church office.

Mark your calendars!

Watch for more details about these events in your weekly announcements and eNews:

- **Feb. 22: Chili Cookoff** after worship
- **March 15: Pizza "Pi" and Puzzles** after worship
- **April 19: Church-wide Potluck** after worship

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

March 1 Team 1, Capt. Mike Ericson

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

February is Black History Month, honoring the contributions, achievements, and culture of Black Americans in arts, science, politics, and beyond. As we worship, we'll incorporate readings from black theologians, poets, and leaders, and music of black musicians to help us all more deeply understand their contributions. We'll do much the same in March, Women's History Month.

Keith Hampton arranged the spiritual *I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me* for organ. The Founder and Artistic Director of the Chicago Community Chorus (CCC), he is an organist, conductor, composer, educator, church musician, adjudicator, and workshop clinician, and Director of Music/Organist at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Mark Miller, wrote the Offering, *I Believe*. He believes that everyone is a Child of God, that music is instrumental in healing the world, and that music, social justice, and the beloved community are inextricably tied. He adheres to Cornel West's belief that "Justice is what love looks like in public." A Lecturer in Sacred Music at Yale, Mark is also Professor of Church Music, at Drew University in Madison NJ, and Minister of Music of Christ Church (UCC & American Baptist) in Summit, New Jersey.

On Sunday February 8 we read **Langston Hughes** poem *I Dream a World*. Today Mackenzie Lyon and Jennifer Arsenault are presenting a song version set by Rev. Nancy Raabe. Hughes (1901-1967) was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist, best known as a leader of the Harlem Renaissance. He made his career in New York City becoming well known in the Harlem creative community. *I Dream a World*, written in 1941, may be his best known poem.

Minneapolis-based, **Joe Davis** is an award-winning spoken word artist and bestselling author whose work focuses on spiritual well-being, social justice, and community healing. Davis holds a Master of Arts degree in Theology of the Arts and also heads a multimedia production company, a soul funk band, and a racial justice education program.

Upcoming in Worship

Feb. 22: Choir of St. Mark's & Mackenzie Lyon, soloist

March 1: Jubilee Handbell Choir; Jennifer Arsenault, flute

March 8: Choir of St. Mark's; Mackenzie Lyon & Lauren Lammers, soloists

Fun with Ukuleles!

Have you noticed our ukulele group, the St. Mark's Strummers, and wished that you could get in on the fun? We'd love to have you join our merry band; no experience is necessary. We will teach you how to play. We can even provide a loaner ukulele if you just want to check us out. Contact Susan Borowick (sborowick@msn.com) for details, or just show up and play! Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Upcoming Mental Health Connect Events

Take full advantage of our relationship with the Mental Health Connect collaborative. Visit mhconnect.org/find-mhc for more details:

- **Tues. March 10, 7pm: Responding to an Overdose with naloxone/Narcan** at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in person or via Zoom.
- **Tues. March 24, 6pm: Understanding Our Body's Reaction to Trauma** at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 22

9:30 am Worship Service, SC
9:30 am Sunday School
10:45 am Chili Cookoff, RH

Monday, February 23

10:30 am Caring Ministries Mtg, #203
6:30 pm Foundation Financial Mtg, #203
6:30 pm Monday Bible Study, offsite
7:00 pm Marksmen Group, LC

Tuesday, February 24

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, FS
6:30 pm Girl Scout Leader Mtg, #203
6:30 pm St. Mark's Strummers, SC

Wednesday, February 25

5:00 pm Wednesday Dinner, RH
6:15 pm Lenten Service, SC
6:15 pm Faith Formation
7:15 pm Choir of St. Mark's, SC

Thursday, February 26

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

Friday, February 27 – Office Closed

1:00 pm Quilting, FH

Saturday, February 28 – Office Closed

Sunday, March 1

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

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

Guest WiFi

P3@nutButt3r