

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Helping Our Neighbors – Learn more today

Many of our members have reached out to ask how we can support families and communities negatively impacted by the federal presence in the Twin Cities.

Pastor David will hold a short meeting to talk about these efforts after worship today in the Sanctuary at about 10:45am.

Saturday Stewards – February 7

The Saturday Stewards Group will meets at 9am.

There are tasks to suit anyone who shows up.

Contact Mark McKenzie at kiltboarder@gmail.com for a project list or just stop by.

Choirs of St. Mark's Tune Up – Sun. Feb. 8

The Choir of St. Mark's will be led by Dr. Robeson and an octet from the National Lutheran Choir on Sunday February 8 in the St. Mark's Choral Tune Up. There will also be a children's choir. If you would like to sing, please see Tom Paulson, Director of Music and Worship, or any choir member for more details.

Ash Wednesday Services – February 18

Lent kicks off with Ash Wednesday on February 18. Services will be at 11:00am and 6:15pm. A soup lunch follows the morning service and dinner is available from 5-6pm before the evening service.

Funeral Service for Dorothea Jirsa – Sat. Feb. 21

A service for our beloved Dorothea, who passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, January 25, will be held at St. Mark's on February 21. A visitation will be held on Friday, February 20 at Sandberg Funeral Home from 5-7pm. Funeral services will be held at St. Mark's on Saturday, February 21 with visitation and fellowship at 10am and funeral service starting at 11am. A luncheon will be held at the church immediately following the service.

Marksmen Men's Group, 2nd and 4th Mondays

The Marksmen will continue meeting twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Monday at 7pm in Lundquist Chapel. The Marksmen is open to all men of the congregation. In February we will continue our study of *Notes on Being a Man* by Scott Galloway. You do not have to have read the book to be part of the conversation. Each month we'll gather for fellowship, conversations about life and faith, as well as Bible and other studies. Contact Pastor David for more info (prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org).

Lenten Theme for 2026: The Least of These

During the season of Lent 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.**

Upcoming Mental Health Events

Take full advantage of our relationship with Mental Health Connect and attend one or more of their upcoming events.

- Mind-Body Practices for Promoting Mental Health – Tues. Feb. 10, 7 – 8:30pm (Zoom)
- Breaking through Loneliness – Tues. Feb. 17, 6 – 8pm, Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Some events may require registration or/and a fee. Go to www.mhconnect.org/find-mhc for more details.

Drama costumes looking for new home

After many memorable performances, we are clearing out drama costumes that are ready for their next act. We'll be giving away costumes to anyone who can use them. Includes a variety of pieces from past productions, with assorted styles and sizes. Whether you're planning future performances or just love creative reuse, 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. Available Sundays (Feb 22 & Mar 1) and Wednesdays (Feb 25 & Mar 4).

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), 15 photos (to be inserted in the book), 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.

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 for Women's History Month.

Mark Miller wrote the communion solo, *No One Alone*. 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.

Florence Price wrote our prelude, *Adoration*. She is the first American black woman to have a symphony performed by a major orchestra: her first, by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, in 1933! In 1932 the same symphony won first prize in the Wanamaker Foundation Awards, and her piano sonata took third! She graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music, and headed music departments at several major colleges throughout her career.

Keith Hampton arranged *This Little Light of Mine*. The Founder and Artistic Director of the Chicago Community Chorus (CCC), he is an organist, conductor, composer, educator, church musician, adjudicator, workshop clinician, and Director of Music/Organist at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

William J. Barber II, is an American Protestant minister, social activist, professor in the Practice of Public Theology and Public Policy, and Founding

Director of the Center for Public Theology & Public Policy at Yale Divinity School. The president and senior lecturer at Repairers of the Breach and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival, he has authored six books on preaching, morality, activism and justice.

Upcoming in Worship

Feb. 8: Choirs of St. Mark's Tune Up, children and adults, with Dr. Jennaya Robison

Feb. 15: Worship Band

Feb. 18: Ash Wednesday – 11:00 am and 6:15pm

News from the Foundation

The St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation has been blessed in 2025 with generous gifts and therefore has been able to also give back generously. The Foundation has been able to carry its mission forward by endowing grants for more than \$22,000 during 2025. You can request a grant from the Foundation by submitting a request form online or completing a form in the church office. Grants are reviewed by the Grants Committee and then considered by the Board of Trustees. Explore some possibilities that would benefit our church, or local and global communities. Visit the website at www.stmarksnspfoundation.com to view grants previously awarded and follow the guidelines for accepted grant categories.

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 4: Chili, Feb 11: Burger bar, Feb 18: Tater Tot Hotdish, Feb 25: Salad bar

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Feb 8: Team 2, Capts. Carl Hurtgen/Terri Borowick

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 1

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

Monday, February 2

No ministry events scheduled

Tuesday, February 3

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

Wednesday, February 4

5:30 pm Wednesday Dinner, RH
5:45 pm Jubilee Handbell Choir, SC
6:00 pm All Ages Faith Formation
7:00 pm Prayer & Praise Service, LC
7:15 pm Choir of St. Mark's, SC

Thursday, February 5

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite

Friday, February 6 – Office Closed

11:00 am Archives inventory, FH

Saturday, February 7 – Office Closed

9:00 am Saturday Stewards

Sunday, February 8

9:30 am Worship Service with National
Lutheran Choir, 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