

Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

AUGUST 2, 2026

Red Cross Blood Drive – Church of St. Peter

Wed. August 5, 1-7pm

Every 2 seconds someone in the US needs blood. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: NorthStPaulChurchesMN to schedule an appointment. Located in St. Peter's Fellowship Hall at 2600 Margaret St. N. (North St. Paul).

Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic – Aug 16

It's the last outdoor worship service and picnic of the summer. On the menu: BBQ chicken, baked beans, chips, fruit and desserts. If the weather doesn't cooperate, worship and picnic will be inside.

CYF Education registration is now open

Register your kids for CYF education programs, which begin in September. There is **no fee** for our programs, however advanced registration is helpful for planning purposes. We are excited for the upcoming program year and have made some changes that we hope will work well for your family. Wednesday night education begins on Sept 16 and Sunday School begins on Sept. 13. Head to www.stmarks-nsp.org and check out the Children & Youth tab for more information and a registration link or simply scan this QR code to complete the quick registration form.



CYF 26-27 REG

School Supply Drive – Now through September 1

St. Mark's together with Girl Scout Troop 57696 is collecting new school supplies for the Kids In Need Foundation (KINF). Collection boxes can be found in Rees Hall and outside the church office. KINF, headquartered in Little Canada, MN, distributes school supplies to under-resourced students across the nation. Locally, they have a Teacher Resource Center where qualifying teachers can shop throughout the school year for school supplies and classroom resources at ZERO cost. Items needed include notebooks, pencils, washable markers, backpacks, glue sticks, etc. Pick up a complete shopping list at the Welcome Center. Visit KINF.org for more information.

Police/Fire Hospitality Room restocked!

Thank you for supporting our first responders. We have now collected enough donations to fully restock the cupboards.

Welcoming Rachel Wyffels as Pastoral Intern

On Monday we will be welcoming Rachel to St. Mark's. St. Mark's has been blessed over the years by the many and varied gifts of our interns and I know Rachel's gifts for ministry will be a blessing to us. I know also that you will be a blessing to her. Rachel's first Sunday with us will be August 9. I hope you will be able to be with us that morning to officially welcome her to our congregation. To help Rachel get to know of all you over the next several weeks and months, please take the time ahead of worship put on a name tag. It'll help her to match names to faces and it might help the person in the pew next to you who forgot your name at some point and has been too embarrassed to ask!

Produce Giveaways – Aug 24 & Sept 28, 4-6pm

The first event was a great success, even with 100° temps! We had potatoes, onions, apples and squash/zucchini available for 185 neighbors at no cost. Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers and Second Harvest. Invite your friends and neighbors...we always have PLENTY. We're also collecting plastic and paper bags. Bring them to the Rees Hall collection cabinet.

North High Staff Appreciation Breakfast

Wed. Aug 26, 8-9:30 am

St. Mark's hosts this breakfast each year in Rees Hall to honor the staff at North High and welcome them back for the school year. Lots of helping hands are needed to pull this off. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Julie at urbanja@comcast.net. A donation list will be at the Welcome Center for those who wish to donate food items.

St. Mark's 140th Anniversary Celebration

"Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace"

St. Mark's Church will be celebrating its 140th anniversary April 11, 2027 and the anniversary committee is looking for people who have been members or have grown up in the church for 50 years or more to share their memories about St. Mark's, its people and faith through the years. Contact Karyn Mikel at karynmikel@comcast.net or Barb Michel at barbmichel2014@gmail.com if interested in sharing your St. Mark's memories, or leave your contact information with the church office and we will get back to you.

Thank you, the 140th Anniversary Committee

Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

The 2006 maroon Evangelical Lutheran Worship book has fourteen African-American Spirituals, and seven more in the 2020 supplement *All Creation Sings*. The 1978, green Lutheran Book of Worship had four songs identified as "Negro Spirituals." The 1958 red Service Book and Hymnal had one "Negro Spiritual," *Were You There When They Crucified My Lord*. The lesson is clear. We, as Lutherans, have been slow to recognize our commonality with the African-American faith experience, how African-American Spirituals speak truth to power, and to even claim it as Lutheran, let alone American.

I'm so grateful for this progress. As followers in the way of Jesus, we have much more that holds us together than anything that divides us. We need to know each other, and work together to make this a better world. Something about love God, love neighbor.

I've found that African-American spirituals teach scripture, (see *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, ELW 290) and make it real and personable (see *Were You There When They Crucified My Lord*, ELW 353) among many other virtues. Today Mackenzie is singing about unity and perseverance: "Walk together, children, don't you get weary!" Her daughters Viola and Lenora are singing about God's all encompassing, never-ending love: "He's got you and me..., the little tiny baby..., the wind and the rain..., the whole world in his hands." Our worship is infinitely richer, more welcoming, and more loving because we know and sing these songs.

Next Week's Ushering Schedule

Aug 9: Team 2: Cpts. Terri Borowick & Carl Hurtgen

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, August 2

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

Monday, August 3

No ministry events

Tuesday, August 4

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

Wednesday, August 5

11:00 am 140th Anniv. Comm. Mtg, FS

Thursday, August 6

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite

Friday, August 7 – Office Closed

Saturday, August 8 – Office Closed

Sunday, August 9

9:30 am Worship Service, SC



GIVE ONLINE

Summer Music Schedule

- Aug 9 Coda Duo (Scott Dorf, saxophone; Malcolm Anderson, keyboards)
Aug 16 Outdoors – Worship Band & Picnic
Aug 23 Shari Durden, marimba & xylophone
Aug 30 Lauren Lammers, soprano; St. Mark's Strummers
Sept 6 Rachel Wyffels, violin & soloist

Mark your calendar

- **Aug 24, Sept 28:** Free produce giveaways
- **Aug 16:** Outdoor worship & picnic
- **Sept 13:** Sunday School Kickoff
- **Sept 16:** Wednesday Night Kickoff

Music Opportunity for Children

The National Lutheran Children's Choir is seeking new singers, ages 7-14, this fall. Part of the National Lutheran Choir based here in the Twin Cities, NLCC is a place where young singers can grow musically, develop healthy vocal technique, music literacy, and ensemble skills, and build confidence and community. No prior experience is required. See NLCA.com or Tom Paulson, Director of Worship and Music for more information. The NLC celebrates, invigorates and expands sacred choral music, bringing inspiration and meaning to people of diverse faiths and backgrounds.

Grounds Crew Scrap Metal Fundraiser: *Thank You!*

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped with or contributed to the Grounds Crew Scrap Metal Fundraiser. We raised over \$650 to help cover the cost of gas, parts, and supplies needed to maintain our church grounds.

"I'm not crying; you are."

Thanks to Julie Urban and a team of kitchen crew volunteers for chopping about 500 lbs of onions leftover from the produce giveaway. These will be frozen and used for Wednesday Community Meals and Soup Sundays.

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