

February 2019**Scripture Passage of the Month:
Psalm 150**

*Praise the LORD!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty firmament!
Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD! ~ Psalm 150*

This month, as part of our Woven Together: Many Threads, One Fabric theme, we are highlighting the music ministries of St. Mark's. It is appropriate, therefore, that Psalm 150 is our scripture passage for the month of February.

There are a couple of things coming up this month that will provide us with great opportunities for praise.

On February 16, there will be a memorial service for Bob Murphy. Bob served St. Mark's as music director for 30 years. More than that, Bob served the larger community as a gifted musician, mentor and friend to so many. Join us at St. Mark's for a time of shared grief and joyful celebration, as we remember Bob's life, give thanks for the many ways his life touched ours, and entrust him to the love and care of God, who walked with him throughout his life and holds him close even now. Prelude music begins at 2:45 and there will be a reception following the service.

If you've been in the sanctuary lately, you will have noticed that the organ has been completely taken apart. It is being cleaned and repaired. Once the work is completed, we will feature our beautiful organ at a morning worship service, highlighting the gift of this musical instrument in praise.

As we highlight our music ministries this month, consider what gifts you might have to offer. The variety of musical opportunities is so great at St. Mark's and the more folks who participate, the greater the joy. In addition to the opportunity to praise God through music, participating in our music ministries is a great way to get to know folks and build community!

Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

God's Peace,
Pastor Mary

Coming Up...**Feb. 3:** Blood Pressure Screening**Feb. 3 & 6:** Youth-Led Worship**Feb. 6:** Chili Cookoff**Feb. 10:** Scout Sunday**Feb. 16 (Saturday):** Memorial Service for Bob Murphy. Prelude music begins at 2:45 pm, service at 3:00 pm.**Feb. 24:** Youth BINGO fundraiser, 11:30 am**March 6:** Ash Wednesday*For more details, see inside.***WHAT'S INSIDE**

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What's happening this month

Questions of Faith: Adult Education Opportunity Wednesdays & Sundays in the Fireside Room

Join Pastor Mary for a five session adult study on questions of faith. We will explore the topic with the help of the video series, *Embracing an Adult Faith*, featuring author and theologian Marcus Borg. Meet from 6:30-7:30 pm on Wednesdays starting Jan. 23. The series will be repeated on Sundays from 11:30-12:30 starting Feb. 3. *Come for 1 session or all 5!*

Wed. Jan. 23 /Sun. Feb. 3 – *Session 1: Who is God?*

Wed. Jan.30/Sun. Feb. 10 – *Session 2: Who was Jesus?*

Wed. Feb. 6/Sun. Feb. 17 – *Session 3: What is Salvation?*

Wed. Feb. 13/Sun. Feb. 24 – *Session 4: How do we practice our faith?*

Wed. Feb. 20/Sun. Mar. 3 – *Session 5: How do we live in community?*

Free Blood Pressure Screening – February 3

Century College Nursing students offer free Blood Pressure Screening on the first Sunday of each month from 8:30 – 11:30 in Rees Hall.

Jan Winkler's last week at St. Mark's – February 3 & 6

During our worship services the week of February 3, we'll be celebrating the ministry and work of Jan Winkler, our children's ministry director for the past 8 years as we say goodbye. On Sunday, we'll have special treats during fellowship time. A more focused celebration will take place from 6:30-7:30 pm in the chapel on Wednesday, Feb. 6 with carnival games, food and a last bit of fun with Jan.

Youth-Led Worship – February 3 & 6

During the week of February 3rd the young people of our church will be taking over worship in all capacities, inviting us to reflect on our fears and how God through Christ reminds us to DO NOT FEAR because God is with us.

Chili Cookoff – February 6

We're spicing things up with a little friendly competition. Bring in a crock of your best chili on Wednesday, February 6. We'll serve it in small bowls so everyone gets a chance to taste several kinds and vote on their favorite! Chili needs to be in Rees Hall by 4:30 pm that day, or in the fridge on Tuesday evening (Feb. 5) - with instructions for heating it up. Sign up in Rees Hall to bring in your best chili!

Scout Sunday February 10

For over 60 years, St. Mark's has been supporting Troop 46 and their mission to help build the character of young people through scouting. The ushers on February 10 are all a part of the Scouting program. Special refreshments after services.

Memorial Service for Robert Murphy Saturday, February 16 3:00 pm

St. Mark's will host a memorial service for Bob Murphy, who served St. Mark's as music director for 30 years. More than that, Bob served the larger community as a gifted musician, mentor and friend to so many. Join us for a time of shared grief and joyful celebration, as we remember Bob's life, give thanks for the many ways his life touched ours, and entrust him to the love and care of God, who walked with him throughout his life and holds him close even now. **Prelude music begins at 2:45** and there will be a reception following the service. *The memorial will be live-streamed for those unable to attend.*

Wednesday Night Dinner

Join us for diner on Wednesday nights (5-5:50 pm) in Rees Hall. Suggested freewill offering of \$2/ person or \$10 max/family. Be sure to follow St. Mark's on Facebook, where we post the menu each Wednesday.

Feb. 6: Chili Cookoff

Feb. 13: Chicken Alfredo

Feb. 20: Breakfast

Feb. 27: Chicken Enchiladas

Ministry Highlight Insert: **Music Ministry**

Please take a moment to read the Music Ministry insert at the back of this month's newsletter. It's filled with an overview of the committees that work behind-the-scenes at church. This focus on ministries continues every month during the program year. *Coming in March: Women's Ministry & Adult Education*

Woven Together
MANY THREADS ONE FABRIC

Annual Meeting Update

On January 27, we held our annual meeting, a good way to wrap up our month of emphasizing the ministries of the administrative teams in our congregation. The good work of our council, personnel committee, finance committee, and property committee, came to fulfillment with the passing of a balanced budget for 2019 and a strong commitment from the members of this congregation to embrace the future God is calling us into – even if the specifics of that future are not quite clear. We don't know where the path will ultimately lead, but the light is shining brightly on the next steps of our journey.

Among the difficult decisions that needed to be made, were budget adjustments that impact staff members.

- Staff support for Children Youth and Families ministry was reduced from 60 hours a week to 25 hours a week. Pastor Ivy and Susie Modrow will work to develop and equip a Children's Ministry Leadership Team to ensure that quality programming continues for our youngest members. Jan Winkler had already decided to move to Florida to be near her new granddaughter, Anna, and her departure enables us to make the necessary reduction in staff hours.
- The decision was also made to no longer have a paid staff member overseeing hospitality and drama ministries. This means that after many, many years, Judy Larkins will no longer be on staff at St. Mark's. We look forward to her continuing involvement as a member of the Players and Planners Team as she chooses, and in a capacity that suits her schedule. An appropriate expression of our gratitude is being planned.
- The assistant music director position was reduced from 15 hours to 10 hours a week. Dorothea continues to contribute more than she is compensated for to the music ministry of St. Mark's. We are grateful for her willingness to share her skills and love of music with our community.
- The music stipend budget was reduced from \$12,000 to \$5,000. This fund has been used to pay for guest musicians as well as compensate the professional musicians who accompany our Morning Psalm led worship. Two of our regular Morning Psalm musicians, Jeff Bina and Beau Jeffrey, have resigned – Jeff to join his wife, Lindsey, at her congregation, and Beau to assume a fuller role as a musician at Eaglebrook. We send them off with gratitude as they take these new directions. Our budget constraints, as well as their departure, provide us with the opportunity to identify and utilize more musical gifts and talents from our members.

In other business, Bob Engwer, Josh Hirman and Brian Larson were elected to council. Shannon Young, Nick Glendenning, Gary Hook, and youth representative Erin Koppen, were reelected. Betty Beane and Bill Kunze completed 2 terms on council and were gratefully acknowledged for their service. Synod Assembly voting members include Kurt Biedermann, Jim Wolf, Jenn Luong and Karyn Mikel. Nominating Committee members are Mark McKenzie, Beth Jensen, Candy Peterson, Nick Glendenning and Karen Biedermann.

It was also reported that St. Mark's is pursuing opportunities to lease some of our underutilized space as a means of both supporting other ministries and services in our wider community and generating revenue to support the ministry of our congregation. Our building is one of our great assets. It makes sense to share it.

We are entering 2019 with a balanced budget and increased opportunities for involvement and ministry. We are grateful to all members of this congregation for your continued faithfulness, and to God who continues to lead us into a new day.

Financial Update through December 2018

	December 2018	YTD Budget	YTD 2018	Over/(Under) Budget	YTD 2017
Contributions	\$76,515	\$654,950	\$586,484	(\$68,466)	\$634,606
Other Income	4,989	12,595	15,847	3,252	15,169
Total Income	\$81,504	\$667,545	\$602,332	(\$65,213)	\$649,775
Expense	\$54,177	\$704,392	\$651,651	(\$52,741)	\$653,680
Difference	\$27,327	(\$36,847)	(\$49,320)		(\$3,905)

Children, Youth & Family Ministries



Meet David: Shepherd boy, songwriter, giant slayer and king!

Come get to know our next BIBLE HERO – DAVID – and see the amazing things God had planned for this young shepherd boy's life!

JAM is our Children's Ministry Program for all kids from Age 3 through 5th Grade and is offered weekly at 6:30pm on Wednesdays and 10:15am on Sundays. It's never too late to sign up -- you can register your kids for JAM on the church website (www.stmarks-nsp.org/k_5_grade) or complete a registration form at church.

Volunteer Sign-Ups are available on the church website or you can sign up at church. Scholarships are available and NO ONE will be turned away for inability to pay. Please contact Jan Winkler if you need financial help or have any questions!

Transitions in St. Mark's Children's Ministry Program – A note from Jan Winkler

It is with many mixed emotions that I say 'goodbye' to you, my St. Mark's family, as I move to Jacksonville, Florida to be with my new baby granddaughter and her family. My last days of JAM will be Sunday, February 3 and Wednesday, February 6, with my last day in the office on Thursday, February 7. On Wednesday, February 6th during the 6:30 pm JAM hour, we'll have a fun celebration of our time together and I hope you'll try to be there to praise God for all that He has done for us and will continue to do over the next stages of our faith journeys.

JAM Kids sing at Youth Led Worship services

Sun. Feb. 3 and Wed. Feb. 6

Be sure to come to worship on Sunday, February 3 (10:15am) and Wednesday, February 6 (6pm) where the JAM Kids will sing "I Won't Be Afraid" at the 10:15 Sunday service and the 6 pm Wednesday service as well! As this is also Jan Winkler's last program days at St. Mark's, there will be lots of kid-friendly elements built in, along with a time of celebration after worship both days. Hope to see you there!

Baptism Classes Available

Interested in learning more about Baptism at St. Mark's? Monthly Baptism classes are available the first Saturday of each month at 10 am. Please contact the Church Office at 651-777-7451 to sign up or for more information.

Looking Ahead...

- Sunday, March 3: The Sunday JAM youth will do a special service project, packing care kits for people in need.
- Wednesday, March 6: Ash Wednesday. Everyone is invited to attend the worship service at 7 pm (dinner at 5 pm) – there will be no regular JAM that evening.
- Sundays, March 10 & 17 and Wednesday, March 3: No JAM due to school Spring Break. This is a great time to worship together as a family.

JAM will continue with the EMOJI theme through the remainder of the School Year, with our volunteer leadership team stepping up to keep things running smoothly. As with any transition, your prayers, support and active involvement as both participants and volunteers is crucial. Please prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to help keep JAM strong and viable for the children of our congregation.

Thank you for sharing your children with me and for the opportunity I have had to build loving relationships with them, with all of you, and with our ever-present, loving Lord. I will miss you all and hold you close in prayer always.

Confirmation Ministries Grades 6–8

We meet on Wednesday nights, 6:30-7:30 pm in Rees Hall unless otherwise noted.

Wed. Feb. 3: Youth Led Worship @ 8:45 and 10:15 am.

Sun. Feb. 6: Youth Led Worship @ 6 pm

Wed. Feb. 13: Senior Mentor visits, 6:30 to 8 pm

Wed. Feb. 20: Teaching Night

Wed. Feb. 27: HS Youth Takeover

Sat. Mar. 2: 8th Grade Poverty Experience, 9 am to 12 noon in the Chapel

Wed. Mar. 6: Ash Wednesday. No Confirmation. Join us for dinner at 5:00 and worship at 7:00 pm

High School Youth Group Calendar

Youth Group meets regularly on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Youth Room (upstairs in Rees Hall).

Feb. 3 & 6: Youth Led Worship (Sunday: 8:45 & 10:15 am, Wednesday: 6:00 pm)

Feb. 17: Young Adult/Youth Group Meal at 11:30 am

Feb. 24: Bingo Fundraiser from 11:30 am-2 pm

Feb. 27: Youth Group leads Confirmation from 6:30-7:30 pm

Congratulations Confirmands & Thank You Mentors!

On Sunday, January 20, eighteen young people affirmed their baptismal vows and became adult members of St. Mark's. With great joy, we welcome these young adults with their varied gifts and wonderful personalities into a deeper relationship with us as we navigate life together. Congratulations to:

Nicole Amy Baldwin, Chet lee Bertelsen, Samuel David Erickson, Justin Louis Kuchenmeister, Elena Frances Martinez, Connor Leroy Mellesmoen, Spenser Richard Menard, Leo Robert Milan, Mason Paul Modrow, Kyle Edward Narow, Isabelle Ruth Neve, Ashleigh Lillian Peterson, Joshua Christian Peterson, Sarah Ann Peterson, William Gregory Schleicher, Jillian Lee Tabaka, Aidan Bradley Walters, and Erin Ann Young.

We also are thankful for their mentors, small group leaders and senior mentors who have walked with them in preparation for this day. A special thanks to small group leaders: Mike Koniar, Jake Boyer, Hans Neve, Shannon Erickson and Karen Schleicher; to senior mentors: Virginia Collier, Sherry Berry, Wayne & Joanne Wegworth and to mentors: Betty Wolf, Jim Wolf, Libby Tabaka, Hans Neve, Heather Martinez, Jeremy Vranek, Joanie Hendricksen, Mark Ebner, Mark McKenzie, Michon Peterson, Chris Peterson, Shannon Young, Lynn Lambert, Sharon Gulbrandson, Tom Michel, and Steve Linder.

Youth-Led Worship – February 3 & 6

During the week of February 3rd the young people of our church will be taking over worship in all capacities, inviting us to reflect on our fears and how God through Christ reminds us to DO NOT FEAR because God is with us.

Sun. Feb. 3

8:45am: Greeters: Rachel & Ryan's 6th grade
Ushering: Doug's 7th Grade
Readers: Tino Martinez & Tate Jensen

10:15am: Greeters: Jason & Amy's 6th grade
Ushering: Lisa & Mark's 7th grade
Readers: Shelby Anderson & Anne Griesbach

**Please arrive 30 minutes before the service at which you are serving.*

Wed. Feb. 6 at 6:00 pm

Greeters: Jen's 6th
Ushering: Logan Studer, Logan Woods, Paige Simanski
Reader: Zoey Livingston

Confirmation, Youth & Children's Ministries: Pastor Ivy Huston

Email: privyh@stmarks-nsp.org Tel: 651-777-7451, ext 232

Youth Ministry: Susie Modrow

Email: susiem@stmarks-nsp.org Cell: 320-279-0905

Women of St. Mark's

Come Quilt With Us

St. Mark's is blessed to have a very faithful group of quilters who assemble and tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief as well as for those in our community. These quilts provide comfort and warmth, often in difficult times. All women of our church are invited to help — you qualify if you can tie a knot! Plan to attend one or more quilting sessions on Thursday afternoons: February 14 and 28, and March 14 and 28. We meet in Fellowship Hall from 1:00-5:00 pm. Come for an hour, or stay for the entire time. Please contact our quilting coordinator Shirley Pickett at 651-735-0016 with questions.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – February 19 at 7:00 pm

Prayer Shawls bring comfort to those in need. Meet in the Fireside Room and as we knit and crochet and pray together. Help provided! We meet on the third Tuesday of the month. Contact Sue Fletcher 651-770-1271 for more information.

Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization Soup Luncheon – Saturday, February 2 (10:30 am – 1:00 pm)

Rev. Nancy Nord Bence, Executive Director of Protect Minnesota, will join us at Luther Memorial Church (315-15th Ave N. South St. Paul) to share her insight about gun violence prevention. We will learn how gun violence is a public health issue that affects all of us in some way or another and also hear about bills we expect to see introduced at the Capitol this legislative session. There is no charge for this event, but a free-will offering will go to Protect Minnesota. Lunch is provided by the women's board. Join us for great food, great fellowship and an opportunity for learning. Contact Virginia Collier 651-777-0584 with questions.

Lakeshore Players Presents...Steel Magnolias Sunday, March 31

Join us at the new Hanifl Performing Arts Center in White Bear Lake on Sunday, March 31 at 2:00 pm. Sometimes laughter is a matter of life and death! A triumphant comedy-drama explores the bond a group of women share in a small town, southern community as they cope with the death of one of their own. Just 20 tickets have been reserved at a group ticket rate of \$16.00. They will be sold on Sundays, February 17 and 24 in Rees Hall, or call Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584. We will carpool from St. Mark's and stop for dinner following the performance.

Reminders:

- The January/February issue of the Gather magazine contains two Bible Studies. Please save for your February meeting.
- The Women of St. Mark's Board will meet on Monday, February 25, at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room. All board members and Bible study representatives are asked to attend.



Council Corner January Meeting

- Two outside entities are looking at leasing some of our underused space. It potentially gives us another outreach, not to mention a new revenue stream. A representative from Ramsey County Head Start attended the meeting to introduce their program.
- The 2019 budget was again a much discussed agenda item. After adjustments and cuts the final budget to be presented for Congregational approval is balanced.
- The Nominating Committee put three names forward to join Council. Since the Constitution allows expansion between 12 and 15 members, there will be 3 new members on the ballot at the Congregational meeting
- The complete meeting minutes are available in the church office. The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2019 at 7:00 pm.



Did you know . . .

the St. Mark's Foundation Board of Trustees meets 4-5 times a year to conduct its business. If you have any questions, comments, grant requests or other business for the board members, please contact a board member, fill out the contact form on the website or drop a note in the Foundation mailbox in the church office. The upcoming board dates are: April 9, June 11, Sept. 10, Nov. 13. Visit our website for more information about the Foundation and its mission at stmarksnsfoundation@gmail.com.

More Worship News

The Importance of Congregational Singing

A note from Neil Lubke

Martin Luther famously said, "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise." The ELCA document, Principles for Worship says that ultimately, "the assembly is the primary musical ensemble, and its song is the core of all music in worship."

Throughout history and across cultures and religions, whenever people have gathered to worship, there has been singing. The Hebrew scriptures are full of examples, Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn at the Last Supper, and Paul instructed the Ephesians and Colossians to "sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs." By the time Luther came along, congregational singing was almost non-existent in the Roman Catholic tradition, except in a few places where the people sang devotional songs in their own language during communion or at morning and evening prayer. What Luther did in the Reformation was to literally and figuratively give congregations back their voice, and placed that at the heart of worship.

Singing together forms community; it is the heartbeat of the Body of Christ in worship. When we sing together we become participants rather than observers; we become part of a communal experience. Our singing together shapes our identities and becomes part of our collective memory. Even in advanced stages of memory loss people frequently remember hymns from their childhood. The songs sung together in community over generations become part of our collective memory as the church, too.

What people sang together, in worship, in the home, or even at work in the fields mattered greatly to Luther. He set numerous passages of scripture,

especially the psalms to music, and also put parts of the catechism to music as well. He was literally setting theology to music, in order to write truth into peoples' hearts, so that the Word of God might be among the people in the form of music. (How did you learn the alphabet? By singing it!)

Like Christ's body broken and shared, our communal song is also shared for the sake of the world. Just like a morsel of bread and a sip of wine, our songs can nourish and sustain and form us to the singing, serving, and praying body of Christ in the world.

God, may our hearts be grateful,
And may our words be true.
May all our songs be noble
And draw us deep in you,
That singing holy stories,
More holy we become,
Transposed into like spirits
To be your loving home.
~Susan Palo Cherwien, "What Joyous Song Unfolding"

Looking Ahead to March: Lent & Easter

During the season of Lent, our midweek services will focus on the theme, *Interwoven: God's Story and Our Stories*. Several members of our community will lead us in reflecting on a Biblical story that has had a particular impact on their lives. Following the 6 pm service, there will be an opportunity for anyone interested to continue the discussion on how God's story is interwoven with our own stories.

Lent and Holy Week Schedule

March 6 : Ash Wednesday Services at 11:00 am & 7:00 pm
Community Supper 5:00 pm

March 13-April 10:
Community Supper at 5:00 pm
Worship Service at 6:00 pm
Interwoven Discussion at 6:30 pm

April 14: Palm Sunday Services at 8:45 and 10:15 am with Youth Pancake Breakfast between/after services

April 18: Maundy Thursday Services 11:00 am & 7:00 pm

April 19: Good Friday Service at 7:00 pm

April 21: Easter Sunday Services

Have you subscribed to St. Mark's weekly eNews update?

It's a fun way to keep in touch with what's happening at St. Mark's, in the community, and the world. If you would like to receive this weekly "mini-newsletter" just email annm@stmarks-nsp.org. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Church Office Hours

Mon - Thurs
8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Closed on Fridays

Weekly Worship Services

Sundays
8:45 and 10:15 am (Sept-May)

Wednesdays
6:00 pm (Sept-May)

Visit us online

At www.stmarks-nsp.org you will find lots of resources such as the current newsletter, the most up-to-date online calendar and downloadable forms.

St. Mark's Prayer Line & Community Prays Email

Prayer is Powerful. A Community Prays email is sent weekly to staff, council, the prayer line group, and anyone who would like to be part of this ministry! Contact the church office at 651-777-7451 to sign up or ask questions. If you do not use email, we will mail the weekly prayer lists to your home. You may also continue to contact Dawn at 777-7693 with Prayer Line requests.

Follow us on Facebook



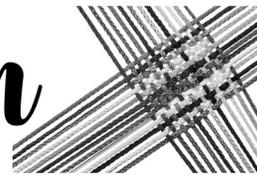
Fun pictures from events and around church, inspiring updates, and timely event reminders are posted often. Find us at facebook.com/stmarksnsp to get status updates on your timeline!

Staff Directory

Church Office.....	(651) 777-7451
After Hour Pastoral Emergency.....	(651) 274-9708
Lead Pastor, <i>Mary Froiland</i>	primaryf@stmarks-nsp.org , ext. 222
Pastor of Faith Formation, <i>Ivy Huston</i>	privyh@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 232
Music Director, <i>Neil Lubke</i>	neill@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 225
Organist/Choir Director, <i>Dorothea Jirsa</i>	dorotheaj@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 227
Morning Receptionist, <i>Jenn Luong</i>	jennl@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 221
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Custodian, <i>Heather Winner</i>	heatherw@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 237

Woven Together

MANY THREADS ONE FABRIC



February Highlight: Music Ministry

Overview of Music Ministry

Music has the profound power to draw a diverse community of lives together into a rhythm and pattern set forth in love and mercy from the beginning of creation. The notes we sing solicit emotions and memories while connecting our present moment to a future beyond our imagination. It touches our hearts and connects us to one another and the promises of God, as we are proclaiming the good news of God's loving presence with us. As we sing together, relationships are fostered and as we learn to follow God's rhythm, we live together in concert with one another and the greater world. God has placed the song of grace within our hearts and calls it forth through vocal and instrumental opportunities as we make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

With choirs of all ages and musicians of all abilities and backgrounds, we know there is a place for you in St. Mark's music ministry. Come discover the fellowship that a shared love of music fosters:

The Choir of St. Mark's

This adult choir is open to all interested adults (high school and up) who wish to become a member of a special musical community. When you join a choir, you're not just singing notes together, you're doing life and ministry together. This group shares God's love through a wide range of musical works (classical sacred music, spirituals, folk and hymn arrangements) to help lead worship. No previous musical experience is required. All music learning takes place in a fun and relaxed environment. The Choir of St. Mark's primarily sings for the 8:45 am service on Sundays and all major church celebrations.

Joyful Voices Choir

This choir is for young people in 1st –12th grade. The choir provides special music for worship services and helps lead congregational singing. Joyful Voices is a vibrant, energetic group who love to sing and show their love of God and their church through music. And, they have a lot of fun along the way. No experience is necessary to join—we learn as we go! Joyful Voices provides music about once a month at 10:15 am Sunday and 6:00 pm Wednesday.

Music is
a form
of prayer.

Toru Takemitsu



Morning Psalm Band

Our Sunday morning worship band leads the contemporary service at 10:15 am. The ensemble consists of guitar, vocals, keyboard, piano and drums. The band members range from professional musicians to talented volunteers from the congregation. In the coming months, recent budget constraints provide us with the opportunity to identify and utilize more musical gifts and talents from our members.



Jubilee Handbell Choir

Learn how to play handbells by joining this fun group (grade 5 through adult). We play throughout the year at major festival services (Christmas, Easter, Holy Week) and periodically during Sunday worship. The choir uses 4-Octaves of Schulmerich handbells. Training is provided!



Wednesday Night Band

This team of youth and young adults (middle school and up) leads the 6:00 pm Wednesday worship service. The music isn't difficult and it's fun to sing for this 30 minute midweek service. Do you have vocals, guitar, keyboard, percussion or another instrument to add to the mix? There is a place for you.

St. Mark's Sanctuary Organ

The Sanctuary organ was built and designed by the Rod Levsen Organ Company and was installed in 1993. The organ is currently being given a good cleaning. What does that mean? Every single pipe (1,831 of them) is taken out, cleaned and then carefully put back in place. Other "hidden" areas also receive a good cleaning. The entire organ console is taken apart, cleaned and wiring is replaced. Once all of this work is completed, everything is put back together, and every pipe tuned.



Then the singing enveloped me. It was furry and resonant, coming from everyone's very heart. There was no sense of performance or judgment, only that the music was breath and food.

~ Anne Lamott, *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*

Music Group	Rehearsal Schedule	Contact
The Choir of St. Mark's	Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm September through May	Neil Lubke
Joyful Voices Choir	Wednesdays, 4:45 – 5:30 pm September through May	Dorothea Jirsa
Jubilee Handbell Choir	Mondays, 7:00 – 8:00 pm September through May	Neil Lubke
Wednesday Night Band	Wednesdays, 5:00 – 5:40 pm September through May	Neil Lubke
Morning Psalm Band	Rehearses on Sunday mornings each week throughout the year.	Neil Lubke

God Moments from St. Mark's Musicians

"Musical memories are strong. Church songs that we hear or sing in childhood are often the last thing to leave us when we are older or nearing the end of our time. I remember visiting a former choir member who was suffering from advanced Alzheimer's and was still able to join in singing with me. It was powerful."

"Singing in the church choir has rooted deep messages in my heart and soul. Because we spend so much time preparing to share songs during worship, we really live with these incredible words, and they have a deep impact in our lives."

"We are singing to God and telling about the things that He does for us."

"Music has a way of speaking to others like nothing else does. It inspires and nurtures our souls."

"Music is a universal language. It teaches, consoles and inspires. It enables all of us to participate in worship and connect to God in a way that is inherently personal but at the same time unites us a community."

"I love being in choir because I have learned new songs and made new friends."

"I feel a God Moment every time I hear these voices and see the faces of the young people singing praises to God and expressing their faith. What a privilege that is for all of us."

Ways YOU can get involved

If you have special gifts and talents, **or you just enjoy making music in God's name**, please contact the music department at 651-777-7451, ext. 225 or call the church office. There are opportunities for all ages and abilities...give it a try!



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church