

May 2019

Scripture Passage of the Month:
Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift....The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. – Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

Dear Friends,

We are coming to the end of the program year here at St. Mark's. During this year we have been highlighting different ministries each month through our theme, *Woven Together: Many Threads, One Fabric*. I hope it has been as helpful to you as it has been to me, your (relatively) new pastor. Did you learn about something that was going on here that you had no idea about? Was your interest piqued to get involved in a new area of ministry? Were you surprised, gratified, humbled, by the many ways God is using us of this beloved community to be the heart and hands of Jesus? I hope so.

Our theme verse for this month is a fitting one to close out our year. Paul uses the image of the unity of the Body of Christ, in which we all find our place. No part of the Body is the same or has the same function, but each has its own gift to be used for the purpose of building up this Body of Christ to which we all belong. In the same way the many threads of our lives are woven together into one fabric by the Master Weaver to create a beautiful fabric, manifesting the love and grace of God. We each have something to contribute, and without any one of us, the fabric is less than it is meant to be, the Body is not complete.

While the program year is ending, our life together here at St. Mark's continues on throughout the summer and I hope you will all continue to participate in the many ways we come to be together and go out to serve. Just a few are listed below:

Sunday morning worship will be one service at 9:30 am. We will experience a variety of worship styles and formats during this time and we will also introduce our new Grace Space as a way to welcome and include children in worship. For more information on Grace Space, please see the CYF Update (p. 4).

On Wednesday evenings, St. Mark's will again be joining with other area churches for Worship on the Farm. The evening will provide a community supper and worship. The theme for this year is *The Mysterious Acts of God*, and we will be journeying through the book of Acts during our time together each week. This community building and worship opportunity takes place at the Historic Bruentrup Farm located at 2170 County Rd. D, in Maplewood, from 5:15 to 7:00pm. A great experience for the whole family!

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Coming Up...

- May 4:** 40 Years in Revue: A
St. Mark's Cabaret at 5:00 pm
- May 8:** CYF End of Year Celebration
at 6:30 pm
- May 9:** Garden Team informational
meeting at 6:30 pm
- May 11:** Mother-Daughter-Friend
Spring Luncheon at 10:00 am
- May 15:** Fun and Fellowship at Pizza
Ranch, 5:30 to 7:00 pm
- May 16:** Tanzania Mission Trip
Information Meeting at 6:30 pm
- May 19:** Morning Psalm leads both
services, 8:45 and 10:15 am
- May 19 & 21:** Summer Drama Ministry
Auditions for Big Fish
- May 22:** All-Ages Community Game
Night, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
- May 26—Sept. 1:** Combined Summer
Sunday Worship Service
at 9:30 am
- June 5:** Worship at the Farm
- June 24-28:** Vacation Bible School

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What's happening this month

Last Wednesday Night Dinner – May 8

Join us from 5-5:50 pm in Rees Hall for the final dinner night of the season. Suggested freewill offering of \$2/person or \$10 max/family. If Wednesday night meals have been a blessing for your family, please consider making a special contribution to help keep it going for next fall. 5/8: brats & hot dogs

Garden helpers needed – Informational meeting on May 9

Over the years, the Garden Team has dwindled to two women doing the majority of the gardening. Our gardens are large and some additional help is needed! Come learn about our gardening needs on Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 pm in the Fireside room. Contact: Sherry Berry at 651-777-6401 or Wanda Hurtgen at 651-770-1905.

Wednesday Night Fun – May 15 & 22

As the Wednesday program year comes to an end on May 8 and the kitchen crew hangs up their aprons, we are providing a couple more opportunities to chill and chat before Worship on the Farm begins on June 5.

Fun and Fellowship at Pizza Ranch – May 15, 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Let's meet at Pizza Ranch for a little food and fun! Dinner will be on your dime (pay your own way) we will meet in the community room. No lessons or program just a great opportunity to enjoy pizza, chicken, salad and fun with friends. Hope to see all you all there! (Pizza Ranch, 1845 E County Rd D, Maplewood MN 55109).

All-Ages Game Night – May 22, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

This fun night will feature a variety of games from party games, to simple luck-based board games, to strategy games. Come for just 30 minutes or stay for two hours! Bring a game to share, or play one of the games brought by Corinna and Andy Petersen (we are definitely board game geeks!). Please bring a snack to share (chips, popcorn, candy, etc.) and your own beverage.

Tanzania Mission Trip Information Meeting – May 16

Interested in the experience of a lifetime? Join us for an informational meeting regarding a mission trip to Tanzania in June of 2020 to visit our partner church, Kihesa Lutheran Church in Iringa Tanzania. The meeting will be Thursday, May 16 at 6:30 pm at St. Mark's. Tunatarajia kukuona huko (Swahili for "We hope to see you there!")

Morning Psalm leads both services – Sunday, May 19

For many, many years we have been blessed by the music and worship leadership of our praise band, Morning Psalm. Now, with several original members having moved on and others feeling the need to take a well deserved breather, Morning Psalm will be disbanding. Join us on May 19, at both 8:45 and 10:15 am, as we worship together one last time, praising God and giving thanks for the ministry of Morning Psalm among us. There will be special treats in their honor during fellowship time in Rees Hall.

Summer Drama Ministry Auditions for *Big Fish* – May 19 & 21

Auditions for the August 2019 production of *Big Fish* are set for Sunday, May 19 from 1:00-3:00 pm and Tuesday, May 21 from 7:00-9:00 pm. Adults and students entering grade 9 and up are invited to audition. Please bring a song to sing and prepare for a short dance audition as well. Rehearsals begin on Sun. June 2. Sign up for auditions on the stmarks-nsf.org homepage or e-mail Director Karen Biedermann at biederkm@gmail.com.

Combined Summer Sunday Worship Service starts on May 26

Wasn't it fun to worship together as a congregation last summer? Well, we're doing it again! We will have ONE combined worship service at 9:30 am on Sundays. We begin on Memorial Day weekend (May 26) and go through Labor Day weekend (Sept. 1).

Worship on the Farm begins June 5

Once again this year, St. Mark's is collaborating with other local ELCA churches for this exciting worship opportunity. Join us each week for Worship on the Farm at Bruentrup Heritage Farm. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm followed by a 30 minute worship service at 6:30 pm. Attend by yourself or gather a group! Meet new friends! Bruentrup Heritage Farm is located at 2170 County Rd D East, Maplewood.

Continued from front page:

For something completely different, we are also planning on doing **Backyard Church** three times during the summer, on the Sunday evenings of June 30, July 21, and August 18. This is an opportunity for us to gather in community outside of the walls of our building, taking the church out into our neighborhoods. Different members of St. Mark's will host a gathering at their homes (or in a nearby park). We will eat together and share in a brief time of worship and communion. It's a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors who may not be particularly comfortable in a church building, but who are quite at home in a backyard. Watch for more information as plans are firmed up!

And those are just the worship opportunities. Watch for more information on the Youth and Young Adult Adventure Trip, Vacation Bible School, the drama production of *Big Fish*, ongoing Bible Studies, Saturday Stewards, and so much more.

As always, it is good to share with you in this good gospel work to which we have all been called.

God's Peace,
Pastor Mary

Garden Gift Cards

St. Mark's Garden Team is again selling gift cards for Bachman's (\$10 & \$25) and Gertens (\$25). Bachman's cards are good for anything they sell and Gertens cards are for green and growing items only. **Please visit our table in Rees Hall on Sundays through June 2.** Proceeds from the sales are used to maintain and improve the gardens at St. Mark's. Thank you for your support. Contacts: Sherry at 651-777-6704 or Wanda at 651-770-1905.

Counters needed

If you have an hour or so on a Monday morning that you could contribute to St. Mark's, our Finance Associate, Helene, would love to welcome you as an offering counter. Join a faithful group of people who meet at 8:30 Monday mornings in the church office to count and record the contributions from the previous week. Training and coffee provided! Contact the church office.

Building Maintenance and Improvement Fund

St. Mark's is fortunate to have a fund that has been designated for building upkeep needs as they arise. This fund is supported by designated contributions from St. Mark's members. This Spring, the council authorized use of some of the funds to do much needed repairs on the heating system in the chapel, fellowship hall, and office wing. Unfortunately, as repairs began, more problems were discovered. We are addressing the most urgent needed repairs at this time, but more attention will need to be paid to the system prior to the heating season this Fall and Winter. If Building Maintenance and Improvement is an area near and dear to your heart, we encourage you to consider making an additional gift to this fund at this time. It is good to have available resources when needs arise. Thanks for your care for this building and the ministry that flows from it.

Mark your calendar...

Twins game at Target Field – August 11

Join your St. Mark's friends for an afternoon of fun at Target Field as the Twins take on the Cleveland Indians on Sunday August 11. Watch for details about signing up. If you have questions, contact Alan Wyman.

Financial Update through March 2019

	March 2019	YTD Budget	YTD 2019	Over/(Under) Budget	YTD 2018
Contributions	\$49,451	\$143,935	\$138,096	(\$5,839)	\$150,538
Other Income	1,149	2,586	4,126	1,540	2,003
Total Income	\$50,600	\$146,521	\$142,222	(\$4,299)	\$152,540
Expense	\$47,824	\$171,404	\$167,856	(\$3,548)	\$176,058
Difference	\$2,776	(\$24,883)	(\$25,634)		(\$23,518)

Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Plans for Summer & Fall 2019 for Children, Youth & Family Ministries

As we come to the close of this program year, we give thanks for the way in which faith has been shared and nurtured through our amazing volunteers and leaders and how each of our lives have been touched by God's love and mercy. Moving into the summer months and looking into the fall, we are excited to offer a few new opportunities for our children and youth especially when it comes to engaging with our worshipping community.

Two goals have rising to the top of our conversations through the listening posts, online survey and discussions with leaders throughout our church; 1) Relationship building is key across the ministries areas along with connecting families to one another and 2) Creating meaningful and accessible space in worship for our young ones to engage in worship alongside their families. With these in mind, we will be working to create opportunities for even deeper connections as we pass around the faith.

During the Summer you'll see several adjustments to worship in order to help our children understand and connect to what is taking place within worship through the language we use, adding Children's sermons each week, offering self-guided craft projects which connect with the scripture stories (Lectionary) for the day and the creation of a **Grace Space** in the sanctuary where children can quietly play and color while participating in worship alongside their parents. We also will be equipping the congregation to be welcoming and hospitable to the youngest among us, fulfilling the baptismal promises we as a congregation make on their behalf while supporting their parents as they strive to raise their children in the faith.

In the fall, we will be shifting several ministries to better connect with the message of God's grace as well as bridging the gaps between ministry areas.

- Pastor Ivy will be directing ministry and leading ministry volunteers within the Children's and Confirmation ministries. Susie Modrow will continue to coordinate the high school ministry and will be working more intentionally with connecting with our young adults. Susie will also be collaborating with Pastor Ivy and our (soon to be formed) CYF team on intergenerational events and cross ministry opportunities.
- 6th-8th grade confirmation will remain largely as is on Wednesday nights but our 9th grade mentoring component will shift from Sunday mornings to Wednesday nights in order to collaborate more closely with our high school youth group.
- Youth group will continue to meet on Wednesday nights with a greater focus on faith practices and service opportunities.
- Our JAM (Jesus and Me) children's ministry will shift in programming and name beginning in the fall, becoming **Children's Church** with opportunities on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.

- Sunday mornings at the second service, the children will begin in worship and be dismissed to Children's Church following the children's sermon, to do activities based on the scripture passages we are focusing on in worship that day for the remaining time of worship. Occasionally, this group will rejoin worship for communion and the remainder of the service.
- Wednesday nights, Children's church will meet from 6:30-7:30pm, with a simplified rotation format of Bible stories with age group teachers to build community.

If you have questions or concerns about these shifts or are interested in being part of leading a certain area, please contact Pastor Ivy.

CYF End-of-the-Year Celebration – May 8

All ages welcome! Come enjoy a meal at 5 pm, worship at 6 pm, and the party goes from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. This year's celebration will include lots of fun games, treats, inflatable obstacle course, ice cream truck, and more!

Confirmation Calendar

The last night of Confirmation is Wednesday, May 8.

Wed. May 8: End of the Year Celebration (6:30-7:30) Ice Cream truck, Inflatable fun, large group games! Bring a friend!

Wed. May 15: Leader Debriefing: 6:00 at Acapulco in Maplewood. Appetizers & sodas provided. 3069 White Bear Ave N, Maplewood. RSVP to Pastor Ivy by May 14.

High School Youth Group Calendar

Youth Group meets regularly on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Youth Room.

May 1: Slime Night! Bring an extra set of clothes to change into. We're going to get messy!

May 4: Rent-A-Youth. Stay tuned for times.

May 8: End of the Year Celebration from 6:30-8 pm.

May 15: CYF Leader Debriefing at 7 pm.

May 23: Young Adult Collaboration from 6-8 pm.

Vacation Bible School - June 24-28

Join us for an African safari adventure as we explore how Life is wild and God is Good, through our VBS adventure ROAR! We'll be gathering our children (3 year olds-5th grade) on June 24-28 from 9 am—12 pm to learn the stories of faith, create art, engage in play and connect with our friends in Tanzania. We encourage you to register online through our church website (click on the VBS banner on the main page). Cost is \$15 per child with a family cap of \$40. Scholarships are available; talk to Pastor Ivy for details.



We also need your help! We are looking for a variety of volunteers to help with the week of VBS as helpers, group leaders, game and craft helpers, music leaders, story actors and many more. If you are interested in helping, please contact Rachel Ericson or Pastor Ivy or sign up on the website.

We are also in need of donations for VBS. Watch during the month of May during our fellowship times for the gigantic poster of needs or check out the VBS website. Every donation helps!

If you have questions about VBS please contact Pastor Ivy at privyh@stmarks-nsp.org or Rachel Ericson at rachelericson1@gmail.com or call the church office (651) 777-7451.

Thank you Wednesday Night Dinner Crew!!!

A Gigantic THANK YOU to our Wednesday Night dinner crew who has again fed our lives with good food and conversations over these Wednesday nights during the school year. Wednesday Dinners will return in the fall. Thank you to Bonnie Pottratz, Carol Perrault, Julie Urban, Jenn Luong, Mike Clausen, Steve Nelson, Neil Knutson, Shirley Matschull, Jane Lamson, Al Linder, George Blattner, Patty Bauer, Rhonda Blattner, Dan Colberg, Suzanne Ericson, Pastor Mary Froiland, Chuck Leonhardt, Pete Mogren, Candy Peterson, John Pottratz, and Shannon Young.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to those who received their First Communion on Maundy Thursday this year. We celebrate with the families of Wyatt Brown, Ben Farnsworth, Annie Glendenning, Elise Gilbert, Ruby Hirman, Alayna Huberty, Payton Hutchinson, Josie Klopp, Madeline Klopp, Sofia Klopp, Harold Kunze, Lorelie Lamers, and Bryn Nelson.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries: Pastor Ivy Huston

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

High School Youth Ministry: Susie Modrow

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

Women of St. Mark's

Mother-Daughter-Friend Spring Luncheon

May 11 at 10:00 am

The theme of this year's annual luncheon is *Writing My Life Story*. Guest speaker and author Gloria VanDemmeltraadt will discuss her passion for helping people capture their memories through writing. She is the author of several books which will be on sale at the luncheon. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available on May 5 in Rees Hall, or by calling Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584. All women, young and old, are invited to attend. Invite a friend!

Thank you to all St. Mark's Quilters

The group assembled and tied 90 quilts this year for Lutheran World Relief as well as for those in our community. These quilts provide comfort and warmth, often in difficult times. We are so blessed to have these faithful caring women at St. Mark's.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Tuesday, May 21

We meet at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Prayer shawls wrap people in love and caring. All are welcome to share in this ministry. Contact Sue Fletcher 651-770-1271 for more information.

32nd St. Paul Area Synodical Women's Convention

"Hospitality" Based on 1 Peter 4:9-11

On May 3 & 4 the Women of the St. Paul Area Synod will be gathering for Bible Study led by Bishop Patricia Lull, worship with communion, learning sessions, business meetings and fellowship with other Christian women. Please keep us in your prayers as we gather together, conduct business, and learn about changes in the Women of the ELCA organization. The event is being held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lakeville.

Summer Bible Study – Saturday, July 20

Our topic is "For Such a Time as This: Lessons from the Book of Esther." We will meet at 10:00 am (location to be announced.) The cost is \$7.00 and includes lunch. Pastor Mary will lead us in this summer study found in the *Gather* magazine. Copies of the lessons will be available if you do not receive the magazine. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend. Sign up in Rees Hall on Sundays, July 7 and 14 or on the Women's bulletin board. Bring a friend for this meaningful study and a morning of fellowship.

Introduction to the 2019-2020 "Gather" Bible Study

September 14

St. Mark's will again be host for the Saint Paul Area Synodical women's event that introduces the upcoming Bible study found in the *Gather* magazine. It will be held on Saturday September 14 in Rees Hall. Our Pastor Mary will be the Bible Study leader. More information and registration will be available this summer.

Women's Board Meeting – May 28

The Women of St. Mark's Board will meet on Tuesday, May 28 at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room. All board members and circle representatives are asked to attend.



Worship Matters

Spring. I wait for it longingly every year. But with the season comes work that must be done to care for our plants and grass and trees that have made it through the harsh winter.

This spring at St. Mark's there is also work to be done, even as we celebrate all that is growing and blooming. The Morning Psalm band has faithfully and artfully led worship for years in the 10:15 service. They will lead the music at both services on May 19. This will be their final Sunday with us as an ensemble. Please take special effort to thank them for their incalculable contribution to the worship life of this congregation. They have stayed the course through a lot of changes over the years with a steady commitment to making worship lively and meaningful. Because of the budget realignment approved in January, and the recent departure of two long-term members, the band has decided, rather than trying to reinvent themselves as a "version 2.0" without paid professional members, to step aside and make room for something new to develop.

This is the work ahead of us: to reimagine a music program and worship life together as a DIY experience. Think of me as a general contractor or a landscape designer. I can help with a plan for how this new vision for worship and music might take shape, but it will be all the members of St. Mark's contributing their talents and willingness to learn new skills that will get this new landscape planted and growing. What will it look like? That's something God alone can see right now. May the peace and joy of the risen Christ be with you.

~Neil Lubke

Council Corner: April 25 Meeting

The April meeting consisted of reviewing and discussing various models of worship stemming from discussion at the Council retreat, in conjunction with CYF structure and planning, and possible opportunities as we wind down the season and look forward to summer and next fall. St. Mark's will come together in May to celebrate the Cabaret with Drama ministry, wrapping up our Woven Together theme, CYF's end-of-year, and Morning Psalm's last musical service.

In other business:

- The St. Mark's Foundation gave an update on the financial report.
- Carolyn Newell has been working on a fresh, new website.
- Building and Maintenance has made progress on necessary upkeep of our facility.
- Hospitality is looking for leadership and participation in various roles during the summer for Wednesday fellowship, worship, and backyard service.

The complete meeting minutes are available in the church office after they are approved at the following meeting. The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2019 at 6:30 pm.



Did you know . . .

On Memorial Day we remember those loved ones who have gone home to heaven before us. One way to honor and remember them is a gift to the St. Mark's Foundation where their legacy will live on for generations to come. If you want to find out more about the work of the Foundation, visit the website at www.stmarksnsfoundation.com or email stmarksnsfoundation@gmail.com.

Coffee Hour Sponsorship

Members of the congregation are invited to consider sponsoring coffee on a given Sunday. \$30 will cover the cost of the coffee for our fellowship time for one week. And wouldn't it be nice to have cookies with coffee? Consider signing up to bring cookies for an upcoming Sunday! Sign up in Rees Hall on the bulletin board.

Wednesday Night Dinners

Join us next Wednesday night (5-5:50 pm) in Rees Hall for the final dinner night of the season. Suggested freewill offering of \$2/person or \$10 max/family. **If Wednesday night meals have been a blessing for your family, please consider making a special contribution to help keep it going for next fall.** 5/8: brats and hot dogs

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



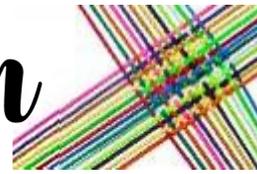
Fun pictures from events and around church, inspiring updates, and timely event reminders are posted often. Find us at facebook.com/stmarksnsp to get status updates on your timeline!

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>Neil Knutson</i>	neilk@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 237
Custodian, <i>Hunter Winner</i>	hunterw@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 237
Custodian, <i>Heather Winner</i>	heatherw@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 237

Woven Together

MANY THREADS ONE FABRIC



Social Ministry

We are one family through Christ and called to care for and tend to the needs of all the members of God's household and beyond. We do this through compassionate action, advocacy and most importantly within our relationships with one another. When we are aware of the need of those around us, we are called to share, walk with, and pray for the need. We have an opportunity and a biblical mandate to care about and work to satisfy the basic needs of those around us. God has already created the opportunities for us to serve and is using us in the right place at the right time with the right resources to bring hope and healing.

- India REACH Home Orphanage
- Tanzania: Bega Kwa Bega
- North St. Paul Food Shelf
- Polar Packs/Polar Den
- Soup Sundays
- Red Cross Blood Drive
- *Gift Goes On* Christmas Outreach
- Wednesday Night Dinner

Adult Education

Faith is a lifelong journey of exploration where we seek to understand our lives and the ways of the world through the lens of scripture, prayer and conversation with God and one another. As adults, we often neglect to carve out time to participate in the spiritual practices which help us stay grounded in God's peace and sustained in God's grace. Through a variety of topics, always grounded in scripture and Lutheran witness, we come together explore God's promises of new life. Groups are always open to new members!

- Old Testament Bible Study
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study
- Wednesday Weekly Word
- Denny's Bible Study
- Topical series

Children, Youth and Family

This ministry creates space and opportunities for people from birth through young adulthood to experience God's unconditional love, explore the story of Jesus' sacrifice and listen for the Holy Spirit's nudging in our lives. Through discovering the depth of our faith tradition, practicing compassion & service for our neighbors, and learning the story of God's people throughout time, we begin to see our place in the story of redemption. These ministries seek to connect people to one another and to our God who loves us beyond measure through building habits of worship, prayer, and life-long learning.

- Children's Ministry (Birth–5th grade)
- Confirmation Ministry (6–9th grade)
- Youth Ministry (9–12th grade)

Spiritual Care

When it comes down to it, all of one's life, from cradle to the grave, is shaped by God's grace and care. Throughout the milestones of life, God's spirit guides us and offers us peace and hope. Spiritual care is done by more than just the pastors – it's part of our witness and call as people of faith to tend to one another with encouraging words and compassionate actions. God is bringing opportunities for us to practice spiritual care with one another by using our hands, and hearts and voices to embody hope, speak a word of encouragement, and to stand with one another.

- Caring Ministry Team
- Faith for Life Support Group
- Caring Hands
- Pastoral Care
- St. Mark's Columbarium
- Prayer Ministry

Hospitality & Worship

As Christians, worship and hospitality are the cornerstones which inspire relationships and community with one another and with God. As we engage in the traditional expressions of our Lutheran faith, we are also seeking new ways to engage one another and the culture in which we live. In worship, and through acts of hospitality, we express who are as people of God.

- Welcome Center
- Greeters
- Ushers
- Communion Servers
- Altar Care
- Banners
- Holiday Decorations
- Sound & Projection
- Kitchen Help
- Special Hospitality Events

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.

- The Choir of St. Mark's
- Joyful Voices Choir
- Morning Psalm Band
- Jubilee Handbell Choir
- Wednesday Night Band

Women of St. Mark's

The Women of St. Mark's Ministry Vision: As an organization of Christian Women, we encourage all women to grow in their faith, be of service to others and engage in fellowship with other women. The Women of St. Mark's have six Bible Study Groups that meet monthly for Bible Study and fellowship. Studying the word of God is the focus of our time together as it has been for many years. From the Ladies Aid to the LCW (Lutheran Church Women) to the current Women of the ELCA, we grow through study and through service to others. We remember St. Mark's shut-ins with cards and small gifts throughout the year. Cards of support are sent to St. Mark's women in the military. We provide financial support to local organizations as well as support for people in India, Tanzania and Guatemala. All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to join us.

- Quilting
- Prayer Shawls
- Special Events
- Women's Bible Studies

Social Ministry

We are one family through Christ and called to care for and tend to the needs of all the members of God's household and beyond. We do this through compassionate action, advocacy and most importantly within our relationships with one another. When we are aware of the need of those around us, we are called to share, walk with, and pray for the need. We have an opportunity and a biblical mandate to care about and work to satisfy the basic needs of those around us. God has already created the opportunities for us to serve and is using us in the right place at the right time with the right resources to bring hope and healing.

- India REACH Home Orphanage
- Tanzania: Bega Kwa Bega
- North St. Paul Food Shelf
- Polar Packs/Polar Den
- Soup Sundays
- Red Cross Blood Drive
- Wednesday Night Dinner

Administrative Committees

Everything we do is a calling to continue the work begun by Jesus as we live into the kingdom of God in the here and now. The work of our administrative committees provides a strong foundation as we engage in the mission placed in our hands and planted in our hearts by God. The structure of these administrative committees is one where specific skills combine with faith to help set the stage for all of us to live out God's call on this corner of the world. These behind-the-scenes committees are lay driven and work in collaboration with other committees, the pastors, and church staff to bring about stability and structure.

- Church Council
- Personnel Committee
- Finance Committee
- The St. Mark's Foundation
- Special Gifts & Memorials
- Property
- Garden Team
- Saturday Stewards

"How can I get involved?"

We hope you have enjoyed learning about the ministries of St. Mark's throughout the *Woven Together* project.

Getting involved and sharing experiences with others is one of the best parts of belonging to a church community. This is the chance for you to use your gifts to give back to the church, the local community and the world. Whether you are stretched for time, or you are looking to fill your days, there are meaningful opportunities here at St. Mark's. Your commitment can be weekly, monthly, yearly, or occasionally as needs arise. Take a chance, step out of your comfort zone, and be a part of something greater than yourself!

If you are ready now, call the church office at **651-777-6451** and we can direct you to the appropriate person. If you are still on the fence, there will be a more complete pamphlet, containing specific needs and opportunities, available this summer.