

September 2019

Scripture Passage of the Month:

Acts 18:25

He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus. – Acts 18:25

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Summer is just about over and plans are well underway to launch our Fall programming schedule. If you had the opportunity to take some vacation and get away a bit this summer, I hope you found the time refreshing and restorative. I look forward to welcoming you back!

September 8 will be our last one-service Sunday with worship at 9:30, followed by a brunch and special service projects as part of God's Work, Our Hands, Sunday. We join with other congregations throughout the ELCA in this day of service. Wear your yellow GWOH t-shirts if you have them!

The fall worship schedule begins on **September 15** with services at 8:30 and 10:30 am, and time for an Adult Forum between services. Jenn Luong will lead our first Adult Forum, at 9:30 am, reporting on her experience as a voting member to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August, and actions taken there.

The above passage from the 18th chapter of the book of Acts, is one of six references in Acts to the Way. Followers of the Way, was the name given to the earliest followers of Jesus, well before they were ever called Christians. I like the expression, Followers of the Way. It gives a sense of motion, action, and dynamism. There is nothing stagnant about setting out on a journey along the Way. The Way unfolds before us with unexpected twists and turns, and surprises waiting over the next hill. The term speaks of a journey, rather than a destination. It invites us into a Way of life modeled for us by Jesus.

This next year, we will be using the theme, [Re]Discovering the Way, as the basis for our shared life in community. Throughout the year we will be focusing our attention on various aspects of this theme, such as: [Re]Discovering the Way of Jesus; of Hope; of Gratitude; of the Cross; of Life.

As we journey together along this Way of Jesus over the next year, it is my prayer that we will [re]discover a clear sense of purpose and a renewed energy and excitement for the work of God's realm from this place at this time.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God's Peace,
Pastor Mary

Coming Up...

Sept. 8: Columbarium Dedication
@ 9:30 am

Sept. 8: God's Work, Our Hands
(worship, brunch, service)

Sept. 11: Wednesday Night Kickoff
4:45 pm – Joyful Voices Choir
5:00 pm – Dinner in Rees Hall
6:00 pm – Worship Service
6:30 pm – Children's Church (formerly JAM)
6:30 pm – Confirmation
6:30 pm – Mentoring
6:30 pm – High School Youth Group
7:00 pm – Choir of St. Mark's

Sept. 14: Intro to the "Gather"
Bible Study @ 9 am

**Sept. 15: New worship hours begin
at 8:30 and 10:30!**

Sept. 15: Adult Forum @ 9:30 am

Sept. 16: Free Farmers Market @ 4 pm

Sept. 17: "Millennial" Meet Up (6:30 pm)
at Tamarack Tap Room in Woodbury

Sept. 17: Prayer Shawl Ministry

Sept. 22: Adult Forum @ 9:30 am

Sept. 29: Adult Forum @ 9:30 am

Oct. 12: Women's Fall Potluck

Get all the details inside!

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What's happening this month

Blessing for the new school year – September 1

During the 9:30 am service, we will take time to give thanks and ask for God's blessings on a new year of learning. A small gift for students will be handed out during worship.

Columbarium Dedication – September 8

On September 8, we will begin our 9:30 worship service with the dedication of our new columbarium. Once the columbarium has been dedicated, it will be ready to receive the remains of our loved ones. For those of you who have loved ones to lay to rest, please contact either of the pastors to arrange a time for a brief committal service for you and your friends and family members who would like to attend.

God's Work, Our Hands day of service – September 8

St. Mark's will once again participate in the ELCA-wide *God's Work, Our Hands* service day. This will be our last Sunday with the summer worship service schedule at 9:30 am. After worship there will be a brunch and then participants will work on service projects (indoor and outdoor options). Wear your GWOH or St. Mark's t-shirt if you have one.

Wednesday Night Dinners start September 11

Food, fun, and fellowship. A homemade dinner is available every Wednesday during the program year. The "cost" is a freewill offering of \$2/person or \$10 max/family. Like us on Facebook, where the menu is posted every week.

9/11: Italian Dinner 9/25: Pork Chops, Sour Cream Mashed Potatoes
9/18: Salad Bar 10/2: Chicken Dinner

Upcoming Sunday Adult Forums at 9:30 am

September 15: Jenn Luong will report on her experience as a voting member to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

September 22: Bonnie Meyers is introducing a new Book Study. The first book will be *Call Me American*, by Abdi Nor Iftin.

September 29: Leaders from Ramsey County Head Start will be with us to share about the mission of Head Start and to talk about what our partnership in North St. Paul means for our community.

One more Free Farmers Market – September 16

St. Mark's has partnered with the North Saint Paul Food Shelf and Second Harvest to host a Free Farmers Markets in our parking lot. The last one will be on September 16. No registration or income requirements. Volunteers are needed to sort, bag, and distribute fresh produce starting at 3:00 pm. At 4:00 pm the groceries will be distributed. Contact Pastor Mary or Carl Hurtgen if you are interested in helping out.

Pastor Mary invites you to join her at...

From Partnership to Mission: A Global & Local Journey

This Saint Paul Area Synod event will be Saturday, September 28 from 8:30 to 5:30 pm at Roseville Lutheran Church. Join others for a day of relationship building and learning around the call to respond to God's amazing grace in our local and global work! The day includes worship, large group sessions, learning tracks, and lunch. Cost is \$25 per person. Find out more and register at: www.spas-elca.org/frompartnershiptomission/.

New Sunday morning worship times begin September 15 8:30 & 10:30 am

Sunday morning services will be held at 8:30 and 10:30 am, beginning on September 15. Moving each service 15 minutes allows us to have almost an hour for adult education between services. This is something we have not been able to provide on Sunday mornings before, and we are excited to make it a priority.

"Millennial" Meet Up – September 17

Much as we hate labels like *millennial*, it may well be the easiest way to identify the target age for a new group at St. Mark's. So excuse the label, but if this sounds interesting to you and you roughly fit within this identification, feel free to join us on the third Tuesday of each month, beginning September 17 at 6:30 pm at the **Tamarack Tap Room in Woodbury**. We will share a drink and discussion about faith, theology, and questions of ultimate significance. The initial gathering will be an exploratory meeting to see what people might be interested in discussing, and to gather some questions to look at going forward. Also to come up with a good name for the group. For more information, talk to Heather Fogelson, Adam Reinke, or Pastor Mary. Bring a friend!

St. Mark's Bible Studies

In keeping with our theme of *[Re]Discovery*, how about making this the year you join a Bible Study and *[Re]Discover* the Scriptures? Whether you are a Biblical expert or a relative novice, you are welcome to join a group and this Fall is a great time to start!

Monday Evening Bible Study: Monday nights, 6:00-7:00 pm, Room 207. Formerly known as the Old Testament Bible Study, the group will begin exploring the New Testament story of Jesus when they convene on **September 9**. Woohoo! It only took about 13 years to get through the Old Testament! It's a great time to join in. Contact Bible Study leader, John Froiland, for details.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Tuesdays 8:30-9:30 am, Fireside room. Once again the group will begin at the beginning and journey through the Bible together over the course of a year. The opening session will be on **September 10**, and will look at the biblical story of creation found in Genesis 2. This is a great opportunity to join the group and *[re]discover* the arc of God's story playing out among us. Pastor Mary will be leading the study.

Weekly Word: Wednesdays 10:00-11:00 am starting **September 11**, Fireside Room. This is a weekly Bible Study that explores the upcoming Sunday morning sermon texts. This study is led by Pastor Mary or Pastor Ivy, depending on who is preaching the upcoming Sunday. Come and get a glimpse of the sermon for the following Sunday – and help the pastors out by contributing your own insights!

Bible Study at Denny's Restaurant: Thursdays 8:00-9:00am at Denny's on White Bear Ave near Maplewood mall. This group is affectionately known as the Triple Bs: Breakfast, Bibles, and BS. Following breakfast, we read and discuss a chapter in the Bible. Conversation ranges from theology to politics, from technology to quantum physics. Never a dull moment with this group. The group has grown over the past year, but we can always pull up another table!

Women of the ELCA Bible Study Groups (Circles)

The Women of St. Mark's offer many opportunities for monthly Bible Study gatherings. A complete list of dates, times and locations is available in the church office (and on page 6 of the newsletter).

Update on Deming, New Mexico & the crisis at the border

Many of us heard first hand from Mary Lillie, the story of the situation in Deming, New Mexico, where the Lillie's live a good part of the year. Mary wanted to share an update. Asylum seekers, primarily families fleeing violence in their home countries of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, continue to arrive in Deming at the rate of about 50 a day. Due to the response of churches and individuals across the nation, the community of Deming is able to offer food, basic supplies, shelter and support to these people. Since the initial influx of people, the process of connecting folks with their sponsors living in the US has been streamlined. Usually within a day or two, folks are on their way to the homes of their sponsors, where they will live until their asylum hearings. The New Mexico state legislature has also been hard at work on efforts to secure federal funds to aid people and families seeking asylum. Mary Lillie wants us to know that this is not a story of despair. It is a story about wonderful people responding to human needs and sharing the love of God.

Financial Update through July 2019

	July 2019	YTD Budget	YTD 2019	Over/(Under) Budget	YTD 2018
Contributions	\$44,958	\$327,775	\$327,319	(\$456)	\$328,517
Other Income	864	6,830	9,089	2,259	6,483
Total Income	\$45,822	\$334,605	\$336,408	\$1,803	\$335,000
Expense	\$50,046	\$372,242	\$354,191	(\$18,051)	\$389,132
Difference	(\$4,224)	(\$37,637)	(\$17,783)	\$19,854	(\$54,132)

Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Confirmation Ministry

Our Confirmation ministries interact with students in grades 6-9 and their families as we pass around the faith through learning the foundational pieces of Lutheran Christianity in the midst of the everyday engagement with life. Through small group conversations, large group teaching from the pastoral staff and practical applications of faith, our young people experience God's abounding love for them, their peers and the world at large. The two main pieces of our Confirmation Ministries are Confirmation (6-8gr) and Mentoring (9th grade) on Wednesday nights during the school year. Registration forms and full calendars can be found on the church website or in Rees Hall. Contact Pastor Ivy Huston with questions.

6th-8th grade Confirmation: Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm

This year we will be focusing on exploring the Bible stories of God inviting ordinary people into God's extraordinary grace and love

- **6th Grade Workshop: Sat. Sept. 7, 9:00-1:00pm.** Parents please attend along with your student. We'll start at church in Rees Hall for group building and learning about the confirmation program and then, following lunch, we'll head to Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids to pack meals for kids in need around the world. Please rsvp to confirmation@stmarks-nsp.org by Thursday Sept 5.
- **Confirmation Kick-Off Night: Wed. Sept. 11, 6:30-7:30 pm.** Parents please attend with your students as we have some fun together alongside your small groups leaders and senior mentors!
- **Teaching nights: Wed. Sept. 18, 6:30-7:30 pm.** We'll meet in Rees Hall to begin to tackle the story of Creation with Adam & Eve.
- **Senior Mentor Visits: Wed. Sept. 25, 6:30-8:00pm.** We'll be meeting offsite at senior mentors' homes. Watch for details!

9th Grade Mentoring moves to Wednesday nights!

We'll meet from 6:30-8:00 pm either in Fellowship Hall or Youth Room (unless otherwise noted). This year, we are partnering with the activities of the Youth Group to help build relationships as we explore together faith practices to help nurture our relationship with God and one another. Please check the Mentoring calendar for activities which mentors are needed to be in attendance.

- **Mentoring Kick Off night: Wed. Sept. 11, 6:30-8:00pm** beginning in the Youth Room. Youth and mentors will start in the youth room for get-to-know you activities. At 7:30, 9th graders, parents and mentors will meet in Rees Hall 207 to go over specific details of the mentoring program.
- **Bowling at PINZ: Wed. Sept. 18 6:30-8:00 pm.** We will carpool over to PINZ from church with Mentors, 9th graders and Youth Group. Parents please pick up your youth from PINZ in Oakdale.
- **Gathering Times: Wed. Sept. 25, 6:30-8:00 pm: Named & Claimed-exploring our Baptismal Vows.** Fellowship Hall. Mentors are needed.

High School Youth Group

High-schoolers meet weekly on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Youth Room (or offsite for special activities and service projects.

- 9/8: **God's Work Our Hands.** Join us for brunch and a time for serving our neighbors
- 9/11: **Fall programming kicks off.** Youth Group meets 6:30-8 pm
- 9/18: **Bowling at Pinz.** Be sure to bring your socks!
- 9/20: **Homecoming Tailgating Party** at North from 6:30-8 pm
- 9/24: **Summer Mission Trip** Informational Meeting at 7 pm

Young Adult Collaboration

This group is designed for 18-24 year olds, young people who are still within similar experience levels. Planned meetings include: meeting online the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm, having brunch quarterly after worship, doing a Bible study during winter break, and participating with congregations across the St. Paul Area Synod through the Young Adult Collaboration.

- 9/5: **Traveling Together** online meeting at 7 pm
- 9/28: **Brunch at Perkins** at 11:30 am

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

Children's Church *(formerly JAM)*

We have renamed our children's ministry from JAM (Jesus and Me) to Children's Church and have created opportunities for them to grow and explore what God is up to through Bible stories, in service towards the world, and in relationships with one another. Unique education opportunities for children 3 years old through 5th grade on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights include exploring God's stories in the Bible with real life, practical applications through art, science, technology and so much more! Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings will offer separate and unique experiences so that families can choose to attend both without it feeling repetitive.



Open House/Kick-off – Wed. Sept. 11 & Sun. Sept. 15

Children's Church begins Wednesday, September 11 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the upstairs classrooms of Rees Hall with an open house/scavenger hunt. At 7:15, we'll be formally welcoming and blessing our 3-year-olds as part of our Open House. Sunday morning Children's church will kickoff on September 15.

Wednesday Nights, 6:30-7:30pm

Children experience Bible-based rotations in collaboration with the scripture passages used in Wednesday worship. Includes Parent & Child nights where leaders will help equip parents to be faith bearers for their children as we explore the hallmarks of our faith. Children will begin in specific Rees Hall classrooms for rotation activities, closing their time together in room 204 where parents are invited to join us.

Sept. 11: Kick off night & Parent Open House: check out the rotations, meet the shepherd for your child's small group and we will bless and welcome our 3 year olds into Children's Church at 7:15 pm.

Sept. 18: Learning Rotation: Creation

Sept. 25: Learning Rotation: Creation

Oct. 2: Learning Rotation: Abraham & Sarah

Sunday Mornings, 10:30-11:30 am

At the second service, children will begin in worship with their families up through the Children's sermon when they would be released to do activities based on the lectionary (scripture for the day used in worship) in Rees Hall. Occasionally the children will remain in worship for the entire service and will participate in active leadership through ushering, reading the scripture and participating in communion.

Sept. 15: Lost Coin & Lost Sheep: Luke 15: 1-10

Sept. 22: Pray for Everyone: 1 Timothy 2: 1-7

Sept. 29: The parable of the rich man & Lazarus: Luke 16: 19-31

Oct. 6: Faith passed around: 2 Timothy 1:14

Blessing for the new school year – September 1

During the 9:30 am service, we will take time to give thanks and ask for God's blessings on a new year of learning. A small gift for students will be handed out during worship.

2nd & 3rd Grade Family Bible Class Sunday, September 29

We invite all 2nd & 3rd graders and their parents to our Bible 101 class from 9:30 – 10:20 am in room 204. This class will prepare kids to receive a Bible from the church during the worship on Wednesday, Oct. 2 at 6:00 pm or Sunday, Oct. 6 at 10:30 am. Parents, please RSVP to CYF@stmarks-nsp.org so that we have the appropriate materials ready for you and your child to participate.

Generation to Generation Experience – Sun. Oct. 13

Faith is best lived out when it is passed around between the generations. We've found here at St. Mark's that when we create space between the generations for faithful conversation and community, life is enriched and fun abounds. Each quarter we will be hosting a Generation to Generation Experience between worship services on Sunday morning from 9:30-10:20 am to help foster these relationships through hands-on, guided discussion for people of all ages. We look forward to seeing you!

The Grace Space & Activity Bags in Worship

This summer we created a quiet play space in the sanctuary for our youngest children (geared for children 0-5 years old) and families have found it to be helpful without distracting the rest of the congregation. This space is open for quiet play throughout the worship service and parents are encouraged to sit near their children as they play to help maintain the worship atmosphere. If you prefer to have your children remain with you in the pews, we do have activity bags hanging in the Narthex which will help our kids engage in quiet play which worshipping with the larger congregation.

Introduction to the 2019-2020 "Gather" Bible Study September 14 at St. Mark's – Register by Sept. 11!

The Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization is sponsoring the Introduction to the 2019-2020 Bible Study found in the *Gather* magazine. It will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14 in Rees Hall. The theme for the Fall lessons will be based on the books of Job, Psalms and Lamentations. The Winter 2020 lessons will be on vocation and calling. **We are excited to have our own Pastor Mary as the Bible Study leader!** Registration will be from 8:30-9:00am, with the study from 9:00am-12:30pm followed by lunch. Cost is \$16.00 (includes registration, speaker, breaks and lunch.) Bible study only (no lunch) is \$8.00. Registration forms are available on the Women's board in Rees Hall—deadline is September 11. Please call Virginia Collier with questions at 651-777-0584. All women are invited to attend this Bible Study.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – September 17

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tues Sept. 17 at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Do you like to knit or crochet? If so, please bring your current project, start a new one or come to learn about making these shawls that bring comfort to so many. Contact Sue Fletcher 651-770-1271 for more information.

Blizzard Bags – Collection deadline October 3

Lutheran Social service and Meals on Wheels distribute these 2 day food supplies to have available during "snow days" when volunteers can't make deliveries to seniors. Place donated items in the Collection Cabinet by Oct. 3. Put a completed set of the following items in a brown paper lunch bag. Shopping lists are available on the women's board in Rees Hall. Individual items are also welcome.

Shopping List:

- 2 cans (4-5 oz) chicken or tuna
- 1 (14-15 oz) or 2 (4oz) cans fruit
- 1 (14-15 oz) or 2 (4 oz) cans vegetables
- 4 indiv. pkgs saltines or 2 pkgs cheese/peanut butter crackers
- 2 hot chocolate packets
- 2 dessert items, granola bars, pudding cups, etc.

A Healthy Brain – October 5

Carolynn Klaver, Dementia Care Specialist at Lyngblomsten Care Center, will discuss this vital organ and challenges to it, such as dementia and stages of memory loss, sharing strategies to maintain mental fitness. Join with East and North Central Cluster Churches on Sat. Oct. 5 at 9:30 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 6355 10th St N, Oakdale, MN. Cost is \$5.00 for a light brunch and program. Monetary offering will go to Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization and also to Lyngblomsten Care Center. Questions - contact Linda Kapaun 651-777-8580

Mark your calendars...

Fall Potluck – October 12

The Women's Fall Potluck Breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 12, at 10:00 am in Rees Hall. Please bring a breakfast dish to share. Cost is \$5.00. We will reveal our current Prayer Sisters and select new ones for the upcoming year. If you cannot attend and want a new Prayer Sister, forms will be available in the office and on the Welcome Center. A name will be mailed to you in mid-October. Also, don't forget to surprise your current Sister and let her know who you are! ALL women are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information, please call Virginia Collier 651-777-0584.

Board Meeting – Sept. 23

The Women of St. Mark's Board will meet on Monday, September 23 at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. All board members and circle representatives are encouraged to attend. Note change of time.

Women's Bible Studies

Bible studies will start up again in September. Groups are open to new member and ALL women are invited to attend. They meet on a monthly basis, at a variety of times, and use the ELCA Bible study from *Gather* magazine. Most meet in the Fireside Room, unless otherwise noted.

Anne: Thurs. Sept. 5 at 6:30 pm
(offsite at Caribou Coffee on WB Ave & Cty Rd D)

Hannah: Wed. Sept. 11 at 11:00 am

Sarah: Thurs. Sept. 12 at 10:00 am

Phoebe: Mon. Sept. 16 at 6:30 pm

Naomi: Tues. Sept. 17 at 10:00 am

Elizabeth: Thurs. Sept. 19 at 1:00 pm

Music Ministry

Fall Music Ministry Start-Ups

September is here and all the music groups at St. Mark's will soon be gathering to rehearse and provide music for worship. We welcome the newest member of our music team – Trevor Wolter Ternez. He will be directing the Choir of St. Mark's and the Jubilee Handbell Choir. Please consider joining one (or more) of these groups. Anyone is welcome. You don't need years of experience singing or playing an instrument. A willingness to share what talents you have, and a love for bringing God's word to others through music is all that is needed.

Joyful Voices Choir(1st through 12th grade) Joyful Voices sings special music approximately twice a month for worship either for the 6:00 pm service on Wednesdays, or Sundays at 10:30 am. Rehearsals are from 4:45-5:30 in the music room. If the time of rehearsal is a problem, we can work it out. The first rehearsal is Sept. 11.

The Choir of St. Mark's (late high school and up) The adult choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30pm in the music room. The group sings special music for worship on Sundays. All types of music are in our repertoire – classic Lutheran choral, contemporary, world-wide cultural, and gospel. We are always looking for new members and previous choir experience is not necessary. Remember the "Pop-Up" choirs this summer? It was fun! Try "popping –up" this fall. The first rehearsal is Sept. 11.

Jubilee Handbell Choir (all ages) St. Mark's Handbell ringers provide music for special services throughout the year, as well as for some Sunday services. New members are always welcome. If you have little or no handbell experience, we are happy to teach you. Rehearsals begin on Monday, September 23 at 7:00 pm

Wednesday Worship Music Team This group leads worship for the Wednesday evening services. If you would like to help with this through singing, playing guitar, or percussion, please contact Dorothea Jirsa, or one of the pastors. Rehearsals for this group are held at 5:00 pm on Wednesdays, and will begin on Sept. 11.

For last minute information about rehearsal times for any of these groups, please check the service bulletins, or St. Mark's online calendar. You may also contact the music department through dorotheaj@stmarks-nsp.org or trevorw@stmarks-nsp.org.

A little more about Trevor Wolter Ternez

Trevor is a Wisconsin native, though he has been semi-nomadic in recent years living in Chicago, IL, Long Beach, CA, and now Saint Paul, MN. He works full time for Granicus, a company that specializes in digital tools for government organizations to communicate with residents. There he manages a team of project managers that coordinate the implementation of city and county websites and it was due to an opportunity within the organization that he relocated back to the Midwest. Despite the much celebrated Packers-Vikings rivalry, Trevor doesn't follow sports.

From an early age, Trevor has been closely involved in church music. He started organ lessons his sophomore year of high school and by Lent of that year was playing hymns in church and by summer full church services. He attended Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN and received a degree in Parish Music and Practical Theology. Ever since graduation, he has never gone more than a few months without having an organ bench to keep warm. Trevor grew up in the Lutheran tradition, and while he cherishes the experiences and growth from serving in other traditions, he's a Lutheran at the heart, which was one of the major factors that drew him to St. Mark's.

Trevor was recently married at the end of March. He and his husband, Fabian, are still working out the logistics of legally changing their last name, so if you want to google Trevor, do so using "Trevor Wolter" and you'll have more success. (There are a few videos on YouTube of him playing that you might enjoy.) Fabian is a native of California and has really enjoyed the changing seasons. They have a dog, a Chihuahua, named Diego, who is nearly 10 and a cat, named Kitty, who just turned 7. Trevor and Fabian are excited to become part of the family at St. Mark's.



More News

Have you signed up for Electronic Giving?

Electronic giving can be an easy way to commit to a consistent giving plan. Go online at stmarks-nsp.org and choose the "Donate Online" button to access Simply Giving through VANCO Services. Create a user profile and set up your offering schedule and form of payment. Offerings can be made as a debit from your checking/savings account or with a debit or credit card. If you have any questions, please contact Helene Doran in the church office at helened@stmarks-nsp.org or 651-777-7451.

Weekly Community Prays

Each week, an email list of prayers for our community and people within it are sent to help guide our prayer times and encourage us to be holding one another in prayer. On the prayer list are joys and challenges along with long term needs, and our military personnel. If email isn't for you, we also can send out a hard copy through the mail so you can participate. If you would like to receive the Community Prays email, or if you have a prayer request to be added to the list, contact Pastor Mary or call the church office.

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.

Council Corner: August 15 Meeting

Council met in August and received summer meeting updates from committees.

- The youth room renovations will begin soon, funded by donations and a grant, with the final painting party occurring at the end of September.
- There have been significant updates from the CYF committee for the roll-out of the coming school year. Thanks to this group for all of your hard work during this transition.
- The finance committee reported a healthy budget.
- St. Mark's has once again signed up for the North St. Paul Fall Roundup Parade Thursday, Sept. 14. This is another great opportunity for us to have presence in our community.
- Players and Planners concluded their performances of *Big Fish*. Congratulations!
- The Property committee has been busy with completing the parking lot and signage, Columbarium, discussions with engineers about the roof, and security updates.
- RIC update: A committee will be formed to create a plan for St. Mark's involvement and strategy on moving forward.
- The Free Farmer's Market was a big success with more events planned.

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 September 16, 2019 at 6:30 pm.



Did you know . . .

The St. Mark's Foundation Board of Trustees will host its annual "Foundation Week" Sunday, Oct. 6 and Wednesday, October 9. Board members will be available to answer questions, hear your concerns or explain what the Foundation is all about. In addition, the board will be meeting September 10 and November 13. If you have any questions about the Foundation mission or operation, comments, grant requests or new business for board members to consider, you are invited to attend either of the meetings. If you wish more information, 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. You can also email us at stmarksnsfoundation@gmail.com. Please visit our website at <http://www.stmarksnsfoundation.com> for more information about the Foundation's mission.

Thrivent Action Grants

Are you a Thrivent member interested in partnering with St. Mark's for an Action Grant through Thrivent? We'd love to work with you on a variety of projects which our ministry groups are looking forward to engaging in this fall. There is a list of potential projects in the church office to help spark your interests. If you need help applying for a Thrivent Action Grant, please contact Jim Wolf or Chuck Leonhart for guidance or call the Thrivent Help line. Thank you for your generous gifts!

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
9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Closed on Fridays

Weekly Worship Services

Sundays
8:30 and 10:30 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 (Pastor Mary)	(608) 295-5401
Lead Pastor, <i>Rev. Mary Froiland</i>	primaryf@stmarks-nsp.org , ext. 222
Associate Pastor, <i>Rev. Ivy Huston</i>	privyh@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 232
Organist/Choir Director, <i>Trevor Wolter Ternez</i>	trevorw@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 225
Organist/Choir Director, <i>Dorothea Jirsa</i>	dorotheaj@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 227
Office Manager, <i>Heidi McKenzie</i>	heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 231
Communications, <i>Ann Mott</i>	annm@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 235
Youth Director, <i>Susie Modrow</i>	susiem@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 233
Finance Associate, <i>Helene Doran</i>	helened@stmarks-nsp.org , ext 238
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