

SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL

# JUNE CONNECTOR

# WELCOME OUR NEW DEAN!

*Rev. Aidan Owen*



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# A Message from Our New Dean, Rev. Aidan Owen

Dear Saint Markans,

It is with great joy that I write to you for the first time as your Dean!

Five months ago, as I was leaving the Benedictine monastery where I had been a brother, I began to pray and dream of the shape God was inviting my vocation to take now. Over twelve years of monastic life, I had been steeped in the understanding that Christian vocation is inherently communal. My time as Rector of Ascension Holy Trinity Church, next door to the Monastery, deepened this conviction and showed me how to love even more broadly.

God forms us, through the Body of Christ, to be with and for one another so that we can be with and for God's world. I knew that, whatever shape my vocation was to take now, I would live out that vocation primarily in and through Christian community. My leaving monastic life and more fully rooting myself in my priesthood was not primarily about me. It was an invitation to love and serve God's people in a different way than I could do as a monk.

When I first read the Saint Mark's parish profile, chills quite literally ran over my skin. I sensed a deep resonance between my own contemplative, monastic spirituality and the Benedictine identity that undergirds so much of life at Saint Mark's. Over the last five months, that initial sense of fit has deepened and clarified. Through my conversations with Bishop Loya, the Dean Search Committee, your Provost Tim, and the Vestry, I have come to believe that God has been forming me for a long time to be your Dean in this particular moment in the life of Saint Mark's, the Twin Cities, and the wider church and world. I am beyond delighted that the Committee, the Vestry, and the Bishop also discerned the rightness of this fit.

In his letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul writes that each of us was given gifts "for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ." (Eph 4:12-13) The gifts that God gives us are not primarily for our own fulfillment, though they hopefully will fulfill us along the way. God pours her love into our hearts so that, in imitation of Jesus, we can pour ourselves out for the healing of the world. Through that movement of self-giving love, we become more whole ourselves, because we allow Christ—our deepest self—to live in us.

This is the mystery and the gift of vocation. By grounding ourselves in communion with God in prayer and service, we discover that, underneath and beyond any identity marker, we are first and foremost planted irrevocably in the heart of God. From that place, we can grow into the full stature of Christ, spreading our branches to offer shade and sustenance to all of God's creatures.

This image may seem idealistic, and perhaps it is, but we do not reach maturity in Christ, either individually or communally, without a great deal of struggle. There are forces of evil and division in this world and within our own hearts that seek to prevent our full flourishing and freedom. Part of the challenge and the gift of Christian community is that we are constantly confronted with our need for other people to conform to what we like and want and our frustration, and even rage, when they refuse to do so.

The difficulties that arise in our common life, however, are a feature, not a bug. By returning to our commitment to love one another, we learn to see that the tensions that arise so naturally in community can help us cultivate a spirit of detachment from our own deeply held convictions. From this place of detachment, we can meet those who seem so different from us with hospitality and love. As we live into these practices of hospitality and grace, we learn to rely less strongly on our own opinions and to trust that unity is inherent in diversity. When we learn to see and love and know one another in Christ, including the ways in which we differ, then, in the words of Paul, we can “grow up in every way into Christ who is the head, from whom the whole body, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” (Eph 4:15-16)

I am sure that, in the coming years, we will have many opportunities to support and challenge one another in our common and individual growth in holiness. I am already aware of areas in our common life that need attention, grace, healing, and renewal. But I want to say clearly at the very beginning of my ministry with you, that I am convinced that this community is absolutely ready for the transformation to which God is inviting us. I would not have accepted the call to be your Dean if that were not true.

There is a love and generosity of spirit in this community that is rare. I heard it in the ways the Dean Search Committee spoke of one another and their work together. I have experienced it in my conversations with Cathedral leadership as I prepare to join you in the Twin Cities. And, frankly, the fact that you would call an unconventional candidate like me to be your Dean speaks to your readiness for a new way of being church together.

I want to close with a personal observation. I am the first openly gay Dean of Saint Mark’s Cathedral, and I arrive during Pride Month. That timing is not incidental—it is providential. I have spent my life navigating the creative tension inherent in being a queer Christian. I am young, gay, and hungry for Jesus. I also serve an institutional church with deep wells of tradition, order, and beauty, all of which may include a sense of nostalgia for an earlier time, a time when I could not have been ordained a priest, much less be called as your Dean. I have found, again and again, that these worlds are not as far apart as they may sometimes feel. In fact, they meet within the heartbeat of one human person. So it is with every divide within every community—Saint Mark’s, the Twin Cities, and the whole world. We all rest in one another. And we all meet in the heart of Christ, who refuses to be divided into factions or fragments, and who insists on stitching us back together again into one body: the Body of Christ poured out in love for a world that desperately needs the good news of God in Christ. That is my mandate as your Dean. That is our mandate as the people of God at Saint Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral: not to smooth over our differences, but to love them, and to trust that, in Christ, we are already one.

I cannot wait to begin our life and ministry together.

Now to the One who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine: to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Your brother in Christ,



Aidan

# Pride Month at Saint Mark's

*Beloved Saint Markans, Pride Month is underway! Here's a preview of what's ahead, and how you can get involved. Allies of the LGBTQIA+ community are warmly encouraged to participate in any and all of our Pride-themed events.*

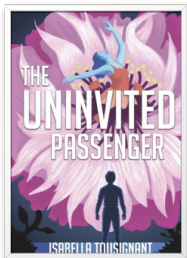
*We'll provide more details as Pride month progresses. If you have questions or would like to know how you can participate, please email us at [lgbtq@ourcathedral.org](mailto:lgbtq@ourcathedral.org). Happy Pride!*



**Pride T Shirts!** Show your support with a Saint Mark's Pride T shirt. This year's shirts will be on sale for \$20. To place your order, please find Rick Simon just outside the Community Room before or after 10:30 Sunday worship this month. You may also reserve a T-shirt by emailing [lgbtq@ourcathedral.org](mailto:lgbtq@ourcathedral.org) with your name and shirt size (small to 3X). Please note these shirts will fit true to size. Supplies are limited, so order yours today!



**Painting our Steps!** A Saint Mark's tradition, we'll once again be transforming our cathedral steps in brilliant rainbow colors. Our painting crew will gather on Saturday morning, **June 13, starting at 9 am**. We'll supply the paint, supplies and snacks. Just bring yourself and be a part of the fun. To join our crew, [please RSVP via this form](#).



**Pride Book Club!** We're also excited to host a book discussion with Saint Mark's member and author, Bella Tousignant. We'll gather on **Wednesday June 17 at 6:00 pm** to learn about Bella's wonderful book, *The Uninvited Passenger*. For more than 60 years, Bella fought to suppress her authentic self, battling shame, fear and the relentless weight of hiding her identity. But the uninvited passenger - her true self - was always there, demanding to be heard. You can buy Bella's book [here](#).



**Outdoor Hospitality!** During **Pride Weekend (June 27-28)**, thousands of people will be visiting, passing by, or parking their cars at Saint Mark's. It's a great opportunity to provide a welcome, assist with questions, share information about the cathedral, or to simply be present as a listener. Our Outdoor Hospitality team would love your help, and you can choose the date and time that works best for you. [Please sign up for a time slot here](#). We hope you'll be a part of this witness of welcome!



**Pride March & Parade!** Saint Mark's and other ECMN parishes across the Twin Cities will be marching together in the Pride Parade on Sunday morning, **June 28, at 11 am**. We're looking for a big turn-out to show the community the support of the Episcopal Church, so we hope you'll join us. Email [lgbtq@ourcathedral.org](mailto:lgbtq@ourcathedral.org) to save your place for this important and fun event.



**Pride Service!** Each year on the Sunday of the Twin Cities Pride festival, hundreds gather at Saint Mark's to celebrate with our friends and neighbors. This year's Pride service will be on **Sunday, June 28 at 4 pm**. It's always an affirming experience! Please plan to join us.

# Transfigured ~ Trans///Figured

"This is a wonderful idea! Sign up for it and see if it works out. There's always a chance. Apply for the grant and we'll see."

Those were the words of Reverend Mother Siri Hustad when I messaged her with only hours left to sign up for the multi-day spiritual retreat known known as Trans//Figured, an event organized by TransEpiscopal, Aaron Scott of the Gender Justice Office, and several other officers and clergy of The Episcopal Church.

Trans///Figured was the first spiritual retreat for and by trans peoples in The Episcopal Church. Previously, TEC has held a retreat for trans & LGBTQ clergy, but this was the first one open to all lay people.

I am so grateful that I did end up receiving a travel grant from The Episcopal Church and was able to make the flight to The Diocese of California.

When we got to the retreat site I ended up on a nature walk with several other young trans women. We all spoke about our backgrounds, our faith, and our lives, laughing together and trying to comprehend how surreal this experience was.

At the end of the first day we participated in the Daily Office together. It felt to me as if a yearning of my heart had been healed. Seeing my trans siblings together praying gave me a sense of peace and hope I had never truly felt before. It made me realize I was not alone in my hope in Christ Jesus.

The retreat featured talks from trans journalists, and members of the church. With their encouraging words I was able to understand my hopes for vocation within the church was truly a possibility.

The retreat was filled with a sense of peace, joy, and solidarity. It showed to me that The Episcopal church stands in love with all its peoples. Especially for the trans community as we live in a time of political & social persecution.

I am thankful for this healing work of The Episcopal Church. Trans people are beloved by God. Trans people are just as worthy as anyone else is to partake in the life of the church, and this retreat proved that to me.

Lina Campbell  
Member, Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

**More Pride activities are being hosted at Saint Mark's this month too! Including Shabbat services and the Minnesota Philharmonic Pride Concert. Check out our website calendar for more info.**

# VIOLINS OF HOPE

PRESENTED BY: THE MINNESOTA JCC  
FAMILY LEGACY SPONSOR:  
THE EIGER & ZAIDENWEBER FAMILIES



The Violins of Hope collection was founded by Israeli violinmaker Amnon Weinstein, who devoted his life to restoring instruments that had belonged to Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust. The collection includes 70 restored instruments, each carrying a story of music, memory and survival, and is presented by the Minnesota JCC.

**A selection of these instruments will be featured in the Art Gallery of Saint Mark's from June 10 – 14. You are invited to view the instruments, engage in individual stories, and experience a few of the instruments in performance.**

## Programs at Saint Mark's

### June 10, Wednesday

**1:00 pm:** Archer Brown will perform using one of the Violins of Hope, accompanied by Gloriana Wolf.  
**2:30 pm:** Educational Programming presented by the Jewish Community Relations Council.

### June 14, Sunday

**2:30 pm:** The Lux String Quartet in concert using instruments from the Violins of Hope collection.

*Registration is not required. Parking available. Free-will offering to support art and music at Saint Mark's.*

## Viewing Hours:

**June 10, Wednesday, 12:00 – 3:00 pm**

**June 11, Thursday, 12:00 – 3:00 pm**

**June 13, Saturday, 12:00 – 3:00 pm**

**June 14, Sunday, 2:00 – 5:00 pm**



Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis, MN 55403

## The Cathedral Choir Residency ~ August 10-16, 2026



Choirs throughout England and America apply to sing at the many cathedrals in the United Kingdom and Europe while their choirs are on summer break.

Our choir has been approved for a week's residence in at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, August 10-16, 2026.

It is an opportunity to spend time together, to enjoy a vibrant and famous capital city, to absorb some of the history of England, and to sing in the awe-inspiring cathedral.

We will sing Evensong daily during the week (probably with one day off), a Sung Eucharist on Saturday, and two Sunday services.



**Learn more about this wonderful opportunity for our choir on our website.**

# Caring for our Neighbors: In the past and in the present

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

These words from John 20 opened our celebration of Pentecost on May 24. During the season of Pentecost, we reflect on what it means to continue the work of Jesus in the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The stories in these pages show how that work at Saint Mark's has always centered on caring for our neighbors, in the past and in the present. One theme throughout these parishioner reflections is the holy practice of adaptability and change. Whether it's a polio outbreak or immigration enforcement surge, our ministries must be clear about changing needs and shift to meet the moment with faith.

Holy adaptability can be scary, just like any change. And how can we know what to do when things are shifting so quickly?

Jesus shows us the way in this passage from John: "Jesus came and stood among them." We only can know what our communities need if we are standing among our communities. We can only practice faithful and holy adaptability if we are rooted in being present with each other and with the most vulnerable.

Peace, guidance, and courage will come alongside us, because we don't stand there alone: Jesus is there, both grounding us and sending us with a peace that can only come from being present, just like Jesus.



## Faith in Action leaders

Rev Clara Sanders, [claras@ourcathedral.org](mailto:claras@ourcathedral.org),  
Support for each of these leaders & ministries

Linda Brandt, [brandt.linda@gmail.com](mailto:brandt.linda@gmail.com),

Great River Landing

Betsy Lee, [betsylee108@gmail.com](mailto:betsylee108@gmail.com),

First Nations Kitchen

Dale Longfellow, [dalelongfellow@gmail.com](mailto:dalelongfellow@gmail.com),

Groveland Food Shelf

Tom Allen, [deartom@hotmail.com](mailto:deartom@hotmail.com),

Sunday Night Supper

# Groveland Emergency Food Shelf

Saint Mark's has supported the Groveland Emergency Food Shelf for 50 years. During Operation Metro Surge, Groveland partnered with home delivery agencies to provide more than 700,000 pounds of food to people unable to leave home. Today, guest visits have returned to pre-ICE levels, with more than 200 guests served on many days.

Groveland recently replaced its aging delivery van, used daily to collect surplus food from local stores and restaurants. Donations are being sought for the van and refrigeration system. Contributions and volunteer information are available at Groveland Food Shelf. Consistent volunteers are especially needed.



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## Second Sunday Night Supper

Groveland also supports the Second Sunday Night Supper by donating surplus food. In April, donated vegetables were used by Chef David Leussler of the First Unitarian Society to prepare healthy meals for about 75 guests.

Saint Mark's has supported this ministry for decades, first partnering with St. Stephens in the 1950s and later hosting suppers beginning in the 1960s. Today, Plymouth Congregational Church hosts the meals, while First Unitarian Society helps with food sourcing and preparation. Saint Mark's volunteers continue to cook, serve, and welcome guests.

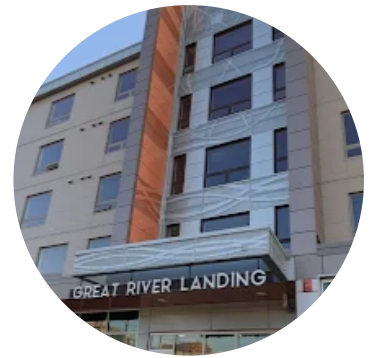


Volunteers are always needed for food prep on Thursdays and meal service on the second Sunday. Join for any part of the day and help make guests feel welcome.

## Great River Landing

Great River Landing is a supportive housing development in Minneapolis, who along with 180 Degrees provides housing and services focused on men exiting incarceration.

Saint Mark's began Fresh Start at Great River Landing in 2024 and the partnership continues to grow. A passion for justice inspires many of our volunteers, including Saint Mark's member Vicki Nymam. "To eat, laugh with and listen to them is to be on sacred ground," she says. One resident shared how difficult it is to stay sober after employers reject him because of his incarceration. Saint Mark's volunteers are working to connect residents with businesses willing to hire them. "But just as critical as finding jobs," Vicki says, "is their finding hope in the God whose deepest wish is to be beside them."



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## First Nations Kitchen

St. Mark's member, Dana Dickson has volunteered at First Nations Kitchen, a ministry of All Saints Indian Mission, for more than 15 years. Dana values the mission of this ministry: every Sunday evening, providing food for the hungry and building community. Serving meals indoors morphed to food service outdoors during and since the pandemic, and then further adjustments during the recent ICE Surge.

On a recent Sunday, Dana shared his experience of distributing something else folk need: warm clothing. "I was placed in the rear of the nave. At first, I was unsure about helping with the clothing as I only speak American English and there is sometimes a language barrier to overcome. But as the evening wore on, Dana mused that Indeed, God shows up in many ways, and when we respond, we are serving our neighbors. Dana concluded, "I know I was serving people...I hope I was serving God's purpose."



# Sheltering Arms

## Changing Ministries and Missions

In our prayers “we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in **mind, body, or estate**.” But for more than a century, Saint Markans have done far more than offer these intercessory pleadings. Scores of our parishioners have given of their time, talent, and treasure to help grow the changing ministries and missions of service to Minneapolis. One of the recipients is Sheltering Arms.

## Estate (1882-1942)

Sister Annette Relf, the first woman Deacon of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, envisioned a home for destitute orphans. With a gift of three lots in South Minneapolis, a new Sheltering Arms Orphanage was constructed on what is now the site of Becketwood Cooperative on West River Parkway. Bishop Whipple was instrumental in raising the funds needed to pay off the mortgage and in adding the Holy Innocents Chapel.

Over the years, the number of resident children grew from 30 to 70; and in 1910 an expanded home opened. Despite many years when illnesses were prevalent, most children thrived in an environment filled with gardens, gym equipment, playrooms, and even a horse named Charley. A good number of women from Saint Mark's served The Sheltering Arms Orphanage in various roles during this time, including Presidents Snyder, Dwinell, and Case.

## Body (1943-1955)

When the polio epidemic hit during the early years of World War II, Bishop Keeler saw the need for a new mission and ministry. Partnering with Sister Kenny and St. Barnabas Hospital, new treatments were provided for afflicted patients of all ages at the converted site of Sheltering Arms. The women of Saint Mark's stepped forward again to help the community, with Mrs. West and Mrs. Jaffray serving as Presidents.

## Mind (1955-1983)

Thanks to the Salk vaccine, the eradication of polio called for another new ministry for Sheltering Arms. Just as “new occasions teach new duties,” Sheltering Arms changed its mission to provide a day school for what were then called “mentally retarded children.” Deans Fred Morris and Henry Hancock were especially supportive of the more than dozen families at Saint Mark's who were struggling to raise mentally challenged children. They advanced the new mission of Sheltering Arms and gave birth to MARC, the precursor of ARC-MN. It was a period that combined the best of OUT-reach and IN-reach, and the congregation grew significantly. During the years when Breck School (another affiliate of the Episcopal Church) was next door to Sheltering Arms, many students took turns visiting with children and reading them stories.

**In 1982**, Saint Markan Darlene Haskin served as the President of Sheltering Arms. She, along with Bishops Anderson and McNairy, led a lengthy period of discernment. In two years, the property was sold to Episcopal Homes of St. Paul and the development of Becketwood. In recent years, the ministry and grant-making mission of The Sheltering Arms Foundation evolved further; but it is still a vital partner within the community ministry of Saint Mark's and the broader Episcopal Church in Minnesota.

Written by David Christopherson

# More about Saint Mark's

## Connect with Us

If you are new, please fill out our Connect cards that are in the pews. Or scan this QR Code to fill it out electronically. The email you provide will add you to the e-news list to help you connect in this community.



Connect

## Nursery (ends for summer on June 21)

Available from 10am – 12pm, the nursery is located next to the library on the second floor of the building. This space is best suited for children between 6 months and 6 years.

**Family Space.** In the front of the Nave, near the Lectern which is on the left side as you face the altar, is a soft and accessible area for families with children. There are soft toys available, and it is a great place for children to be able to observe the actions of the service.

**Docent Tours.** Every Sunday, there is a docent-led tour of the Nave after the 10:30am service. To learn about the history and art of this cathedral, meet the leader under the Pulpit, which is where the Homily/sermon is offered.

**Fellowship.** Every Sunday, after both morning services, coffee and treats are offered in the Community Room, on the first floor. Lively conversation is always included with fellowship.

**Restrooms.** In the Art Gallery hallway is an accessible space available for everyone. Additional restrooms are in the library hallway, as well as down the stairs in the Parlor area.

**Hearing Assist.** Our sound system is compatible with T-coil hearing aids. Hearing assist devices are also at each door; ask an usher for assistance. Users of hearing aids need only touch the “telephone” setting on their hearing aid to clearly hear the spoken word.

**Ways to Give.** As an expression of gratitude for God's generosity, please consider a financial gift today and place it in the offering plate. We are greatly appreciative of your generosity.



2026 Giving

Sunday: 7:30am - 1:00pm  
Monday: By appointment  
Tuesday: By appointment  
Wednesday: 9:00am - 3:00pm  
Thursday: By appointment  
Friday: Closed  
Saturday: 9:00am - 1:00pm

**BUILDING  
SCHEDULE**

# JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

**June 4, Thursday** – Contemplative Prayer, 9:00 am every Thursday, All Saints Chapel

**June 5, Friday** – Gospel-based Discipleship, 12:15 – 12:45, every Friday, via zoom

**June 10, Wednesday** – SAAGES Gathering, 11:30 am, Community room

**June 10, Wednesday** – Violins of Hope, 1:00 pm Concert

**June 10, Wednesday** – Violins of Hope, 2:30 pm program offered by Jewish Community Relations Council

**June 11, Thursday** – Violins of Hope, 12:00 – 3:00 pm, Art Gallery

**June 11, Thursday** – Women's Ministry, 6 – 7:30 pm, Library; bring a simple dish to share

**June 13, Saturday** – Painting the Stairs for Pride, 9:00 am, Outside

**June 13, Saturday** – Violins of Hope, 12:00 – 3:00 pm, Art Gallery

**June 14, Sunday** – *Reverend Aidan Owen, Preaches and Presides, 8 am and 10:30 am*

**June 14, Sunday** – Violins of Hope, 2:30 Concert

**June 14, Sunday** – Violins of Hope, available until 5:00 pm, Art Gallery

**June 14, Sunday** – Sunday Night Supper, 4:00 pm for volunteers, 5 pm for meal served at Plymouth Congregational Church

**June 17, Wednesday** – Pride Book Club, 6:00 pm, book "Uninvited Passenger"

**June 21, Sunday** – First Nations Kitchen serving opportunity, details @ ourcathedral.org

**June 22, Monday** – Mixed Blood Equitable Dinners: Climate Resilience at 6 pm.

**June 26, Friday** – Minnesota Philharmonic Pride Concert, 7:30 pm

**June 27, Saturday** – J-Pride Shabbat Service, 10:00 am, everyone is invited

**June 27, Saturday** – Hospitality on the front Lawn, 11 am – 5 pm

**June 28, Sunday** – *One morning worship, 9:00 am*

**June 28, Sunday** – Pride Parade, 11:00 am

**June 28, Sunday** – Hospitality on the front lawn, 10 am – 4 pm

**June 28, Sunday** – Pride Worship, 4:00 pm

## Saturday

5:30pm Santa Misa en Español (Worship Service in Spanish)

## Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist Rite I (Traditional Language)

10:30am Holy Eucharist Rite II (Contemporary Language)

## Wednesday

12:15pm Holy Eucharist

## Thursday

9am Contemplative Prayer

WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE