

MARK TIMES

January 11, 2015 + The Baptism of Our Lord



From Your Pastor...

I hope you noticed our **year-end financial numbers** that were posted in last week's issue of the *Mark Times*. I don't blame you if you didn't; we read so many things each day that it's easy to overlook a relatively small block like that. But if you missed it, I want to emphasize that those numbers are **cause for celebration!** Despite losing two Sundays (and two Sundays' offerings) due to bad winter weather and hence being behind budget for nearly the entire year, **we finished 2014 not only meeting and "beating" our budget by \$2,000+, but our income exceeded our expenses by almost \$8,000!**



In a book that I have held on to for about 20 years, the pastor of a very successful Catholic church in the northeast says, **"When the parish becomes the sacrament of the welcoming, loving and forgiving Jesus, then everything is taken care of – even the finances."**

I believe this firmly, and I'm certain that our financial stability and more is a direct reflection of the many ways in which St. Mark Lutheran Church shares the love of God as we experience it in Jesus Christ. I give thanks to God as we celebrate the movement of the Spirit in, with and among us, and look forward to the many opportunities ahead in 2015 to share God's love and grace, thus helping others to experience God more fully, as we do in turn. Blessed Epiphany season!

Pastor Brian

Save the Date for Bishop Eaton!



Don't forget that on **March 21 & 22** we will welcome **ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton** HERE to St. Mark! Bishop Eaton will present the **Schaaf Memorial Lecture** on Saturday, March 21 at 7:00PM in the church, and will preach during a joint Lutheran-Episcopal worship service that Sunday at 10:00AM.

Adult Forum: Angels



Interested in angels? Pastor Brian begins a **four-week series TODAY (January 11)** about these popular heavenly beings, focusing primarily on angels as they are depicted in the Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Apocrypha, and in conversation with contemporary views of angels.

Fiber Arts Fun on January 19!



Calling anyone with a cutting board and rotary cutter! If you have a board and can cut fabric into squares, we can use your help on **Monday, January 19**. The Fiber Arts group will be **cutting fabric for projects** and can use all the help we can get. We will meet to cut from **9:00-11:00AM** in the **Parish Hall** and have lunch for you after the cutting is done. If you don't have a board, but would like to help, please come along. We will have a couple of extra boards and cutters for volunteers! Hope to see you there!

Ice Skating in Forest Park



No school on Monday, January 19, and nothing could sound "cooler" than **ice skating with the TURTLES** at Steinberg Arena in Forest Park! **Meet at church at 11:00AM** with your "cold" cash to pay for skate rental (\$5), admission (\$7) and lunch (\$10) (or bring a sack lunch if you wish!). RSVP to Melanie or Pastor Brian.

Food Pantry Meeting TODAY



All those interested in doing any small part in helping to operate the food pantry are invited to a meeting **TODAY, Sunday, Jan. 11** at **4:00PM** in the Parish Hall.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, 1/13	9:30 AM	Bible class: <i>Infancy Gospel of Thomas</i>
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Evening Prayer – Church
Thursday	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Choir
Friday		Pastor’s Sabbath
Sunday, 1/18	9:00 AM	The Divine Liturgy
	10:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Forum: <i>Angels</i> , led by Pastor Brian

LOOKING AHEAD

Next Sunday, January 18, 2015

READINGS:

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 John 1:43-51

WORSHIP SERVERS

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian Robison
Assisting Minister: Brian Moeller
Acolyte: Nathan Partelow
Chalice Bearer: Tom Partelow
Crucifer: Frank Dressel
Lector: Cheryl Newsome
Ushers: Al Patrick & John Friedenbach

Campus Ministry Trivia Night!

Let’s put together a St. Mark table to challenge all comers at the Lutheran Campus Ministry trivia night on **Saturday, February 7** at Bethel Lutheran Church in University City (7001 Forsyth). Doors open at 6:00PM, play begins at 6:30PM. \$20 person/tables of 8. Proceeds benefit ministry with college students and their annual service trip. Please let Pastor Brian know if you are interested in joining the team!

And mark your calendar for the TURTLES trivia night here at St. Mark on Saturday, March 7!

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- + The synod website (www.csis-elca.org) has a resources “tab” with congregational resources for you to use?
- + The synod website (www.csis-elca.org) has links to all 26 ELCA colleges and universities and to all 8 ELCA seminaries?

Donations for Pregnancy Care Center



Our Fiber Arts Ministry delivers baby blankets & hats to Belleville’s Pregnancy Care Center, but the center in great need of other items as well. They serve children from birth to 5 years. They especially need **socks, shoes** and gently used **boys clothing**.

Look for the marked box in the Narthex to place your donations. Thank you for your generosity.

Offerings for weekend of January 3–4, 2015

SHINE	27
Sunday Service	59
Weekend GF Collection:	\$1582
Financial Crisis Fund:	\$ 20

Tuesday Bible Class

Please join us in the office/education building conference room on Tuesday mornings at **9:30AM** for in–depth study and good conversation as we continue our study of the **Infancy Gospel of Thomas**.



2014 Giving Statements

40 statements were emailed on Wednesday, 1/7/15, saving us almost \$20.00 in postage!! Please look in your “spam” folder if you did not receive yours and you know the office has your email address. Otherwise, all other statements were mailed on Thursday.

If you did **not** receive yours or have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Judi in the office at 618.233.9809.