



MARK TIMES

December 10, 2017 + The Second Sunday of Advent



From your Pastor...

This Wednesday, December 13 is St. Lucy's Day. Not much is known about her, but from the 4th century onward stories circulated among Christians about Lucy, her faith, and her death which came about because of her faith. From early on, especially in Scandinavian countries, Lucy's feast day took place during the annual celebration of the winter solstice, a time of heightened appreciation for the powers of light over darkness. Candles and light play a large part in celebrations of St. Lucy's Day.



During the season of Advent, we have heard the words of John the Baptist, who "came as a witness to testify to the light...He himself was not the light, but came to testify to the light." (John 1:6-8) Christians believe that Jesus is this light that strengthens, heals, forgives, and loves all. Jesus is an all-consuming light who chases away any darkness that threatens to harm us.



Like St. Lucy, we can help others see, appreciate, and bask in the light of Christ. We can "lighten up" with gratitude when we realize that we are not the light. We don't have to be the light ourselves. When we act in loving ways, when we show mercy or kindness to others, when we speak up for what is right, or work for justice, we are pointing to the light of Christ.

We lighten up when we acknowledge that Christ is the Light. We "lighten out" as we point to him & try to follow him, and especially when we (like St. Lucy) put God before every other thing in our lives. May the light of Christ & the faith of St. Lucy guide us!

Pastor Brian

CONGREGATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS

Secretary: Janet Jacquot
Treasurer: Greg Martens**
Financial Secretaries: Frank Dressel* Barb Wurdinger*
Pastoral Care (male): Gary Weshinskey
Pastoral Care (female): Bonnie Schaefer*
Property: Tom Partelow*
Synod Assembly Voting Members:
Adult Male: Brian Moeller
Adult Female: Andrea Moeller Youth: Grace Moeller
**denotes incumbent*
***Greg Guenther will finish Greg Martens term as VP*



Join us for Christmas Caroling

TODAY St. Mark choirs invite you to join them in singing Christmas carols to those unable to get out and about. We will catch a quick lunch after the education hour and then go singing. All ages are welcome to join in the fun. A sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall that will help us know how to arrange carpools.

Church Decorating Days will be Saturdays, December 16 and 23, 9am. Lighten your busy schedule by including an hour of work to help prepare both the church and the chapel for Christmas. Let it be a part of your anticipation during this Advent season. -Kathy R.



Christmas Flower donation envelopes are in the hymnal racks. Donate any amount & take the flowers with you after worship. Please make all checks out to St. Margaret's Altar Guild. Thanks for making our church especially beautiful for the Nativity of Our Lord.



THANKS to some of our resident Norwegians (Andersens) for the St. Lucy's Day treats after today's worship!

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Wednesday	11:30AM	Table Talk: <i>Infancy Gospel of Thomas</i>
	7:00PM	Holden Evening Prayer
Thursday	7:00PM	Bell choir
	8:00PM	Voice choir
Saturday	9:00AM	Church Decorating
Sunday, 12/17	9:00AM	The Divine Liturgy
	10:20AM	Coffee Hour
	10:30AM	Sunday School
	10:30AM	Adult Forum: <i>Rick Steves' European Christmas</i>
	12:00PM	Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal & Pizza Party

Offerings for December 3, 2017

Sunday worship attendance:	84
Shine worship attendance:	16
General Fund Donations	\$3,379
Christmas Flowers	\$55

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
12/3-12/9	\$3,379	\$172.48	\$3,506.52
YTD	\$149,434.70	\$157,870.88	-\$8,436.18

Holden Evening Prayer continues this Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00PM in the church. Our "Blue Christmas" service will be next Wednesday, December 20, also at 7:00PM.

NOTE: we will not host the traditional soup suppers before evening prayer this year.

Food Pantry Spotlight items for December are **soap products**. Bar soap, dish detergent, and laundry detergent are needed. Bring donated items to the Welcome Area on Sundays or to the church office during the day. Thank you!



105 East "D" Street, Belleville, IL 62220
 Office: 618.233.9809 Fax: 618.233.4090
 Pastor Brian's cell phone: 314.363.6784

Sunday, December 17, 2017

READINGS:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 Psalm 126
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8, 19-28

LOOKING AHEAD

WORSHIP SERVERS

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison
Assisting Minister: Greg Martens
Acolyte: Renee Southers
Crucifer: Rex Rothgangel
Chalice Bearer: Tom Partelow
Lector: Charlie Duncan
Ushers: Frank Dressel & Jason Martens

Angel Tree

St. Mark members are encouraged to join again with St. George's & **Lutheran Child & Family Services**, to provide Christmas gifts for children in need. Please **return the gifts by TODAY, December 10.**



St. Mark Table Talk is **THIS Wednesday, December 13** at 11:30AM in the conference room. Pastor Brian will lead a discussion of the extra-biblical book, the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas*. Bring your lunch and hear how one early Christian writer decided to "fill in" the missing years of Jesus' childhood in unusual and entertaining fashion!.

Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal and pizza party is **next Sunday, December 17**, starting at **12PM** in the Church. Rehearsal is expected to last an hour and the pizza party will follow in the Parish Hall.



Photo Consent Form

In the interest of Internet privacy, we have created a form to sign if you do **NOT** wish to have **your photo** or **your child(ren)'s photo** published on St. Mark's **Facebook page** or **website**. Without this form signed, we will assume that it is okay to post photos of you from the various events and so forth we have at St. Mark. The form is available on the St. Mark table.

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