



MARK TIMES

December 9, 2018 + The 2nd Sunday of Advent



Join us for **Christmas Caroling TODAY** to members who are unable to get out and about. We will catch a quick lunch **after the education hour** and then go singing. We will have a list of members to visit; we might split into two groups if necessary. **Speak to Jill if you'd like to join in the fun—all ages are welcome!**



Advent Evening Prayer continues **THIS Wednesday (December 12)**. We will enjoy the lovely **Holden Evening Prayer** service on **December 5 and 12**, followed by the **Blue Christmas** service on **December 19**. All services are at **7:00PM** in the church.

“Angel Tree” gifts are due today, but if you didn't choose a child to provide for, a monetary donation to **Lutheran Child & Family Services** is most welcome!



Adult Forum: Heresies and Schisms concludes **TODAY** at 10:30AM as Pastor finishes his series examining the primary heresies & schisms of the first five centuries of the Church. We will today explore **Pelagianism and Nestorianism**.

St. Mark Table Talk is **THIS Wednesday** at **11:30AM** in the education/office building's conference room. Bring lunch and/or a holiday-themed snack as Pastor Brian leads discussion on **How December 25th Became Christmas**.

There's a chill in the air!

The Evangelism/Social Ministry committee is collecting children's **gloves, hats, and socks** for those less fortunate this winter. Collection continues until **December 16**. Put your donation in the **blue tub** in the **Welcome Area**.



Sign Cards for our Homebound

After worship this morning the Health and Wellness Ministry will have **Christmas cards available for all to sign**. The cards will then be mailed to our home bound members, and those who have moved away this past year. Please add your greeting!

Congratulations to our newly elected/re-elected Council members!

President:	Greg Guenther
Vice-President:	Keith Kniepkamp
Financial Secretary:	Charlie Duncan Tim Richards
Pastoral Care (male):	Ken Woodrome
Pastoral Care (female):	Jan Richards
Evangelism/Social Min.:	Ann Martens
Christian Education:	Anita Robinson
Youth:	Jan Dressel

Synod Assembly Voting Members:

Adult Male:	John Andersen
Adult Female:	Danielle Tribut

From Your Music Director...

Dear people of St. Mark,

It is with mixed emotions that I tender my resignation, effective December 31, 2018. While I have enjoyed being in ministry with you and the people of St. Mark, circumstances have changed to the degree that I need to resign.

When Donita and I learned that a lesbian couple lost their court case to be able to age together as a married couple in a senior living center in St. Louis, it made us face the reality that we needed to be able to have a house where we could age in place. That led to our move to a Chesterfield ranch style house. I was overly optimistic about the drive to St. Mark and did not account for the increase driving time to my daily job. It has quickly become apparent that I need to make a change.

Throughout the move, I also struggled with my knee. I need to have it replaced sooner than later. February works better for my full-time employment but not well for the church choir season. With it being my driving leg I anticipate being unable to drive for at least a month. That is bad timing for the church season of Lent and preparation for Easter.

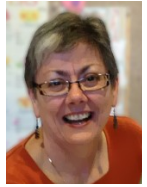
Finally, because of my work at Operation Food Search, Donita and I have not had the vacation and camping opportunities we want. So after 39 years of music ministry, I am retiring. I don't want to look back and feel like I have missed out on time with my wonderful partner.

It has been a joy working with the Bells and the choir. Both are filled with talented and good hearted people. I give thanks to God for my time with them and this great congregation.

I have also valued and appreciated working with Pastor Brian. He has been a thoughtful, collegial worship partner.

I pray God's blessing on your music ministry. Thank you for your service and friendship!

Grace and peace, *Jill Thompson*



Christmas Flower donation envelopes are in the hymnal racks. **Donate any amount & take the flowers with you after worship.** Thanks for making our church especially beautiful for the Nativity of Our Lord.

Offerings

December 2, 2018

Sunday worship attendance:	110
General Fund Donations:	\$4,696
Designated Fund Donations:	\$449

Month to Date

December Offerings:	\$5,145
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>\$2,971</u>
Difference:	\$2,174

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison

Assisting Minister: Mike F.

Acolyte: Jackie L. **Crucifer:** Danielle T.

Chalice Bearer: Tom P. & Barb W.

Lector: Jim M. **Ushers:** Sherri F. & Jason M.

Basket Holders: Corbin M. & Jackie L.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 (Psalm)

Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18



Quiet Please! We've noticed some **increased conversation** in the sanctuary during the **Prelude** before service. While conversation is an important part of nourishing community, the Prelude is a time for reflection to quiet our hearts in preparation for worship. Please kindly try to bring your conversations to a close when you hear the Prelude music beginning.

Weekly Health Tip! If you have not received your **flu shot**, please get one. Help protect yourself and your friends and family from the flu.

Church Decorating day will be Saturday, **December 22**, 9AM. Lighten your busy schedule by including an hour of work at church on Saturday. Many are needed 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.*



Monthly Charitable Donation November's Evangelism/Social Ministry charity designation is for the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land**. You may add to this donation by writing a check to St. Mark with "**ELCJHL**" in the memo line.

Food Pantry Needs **canned fruit, bar soap, dish detergent, and laundry detergent!** If you're able to donate any, please bring it to the Welcome Area or to the office. Thank you!



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, 12/10	11:00AM	Health & Wellness Companion Program meeting - conference room
Wednesday	11:30AM	St. Mark Table Talk— <i>How Dec. 25 Became Christmas</i> —Conference room
	7:00PM	Holden Evening Prayer—Church
Thursday	7:00PM	Bells rehearsal
	8:00PM	Choir rehearsal
Sunday, 12/16	9:00AM	The Divine Liturgy
	10:20AM	Coffee & fellowship
	10:30AM	Sunday School
	10:30AM	Adult Forum: To Be Announced

WE PRAY FOR THE ILL AND CONFINED

St. Mark Parishioners

Ken Augustine
Kathryn Bjornstad
Gary Dozier
Mike Foppe

Lila Frerichs
Geri Jolley
Bruce Martens

Bob McConnell
Don Muller
Sue Patrick

Tim Richards
George Shafer
Ed Townsend
Bea Whiteside

Family and Friends

Lavone Alvarez (friend of the Hinkles)
Judy Betz (friend of Mary Skifton)
Marilyn Billings (aunt of the Martens' family)
Joe Bohnenstiehl (nephew of Amanda Kilzer)
Christine (Private prayer request)
Hudson Combs (family of Robinsons)
Johnell Cook (stepmother of Carolyn Simard)
Cheryl Ellison (mother of Julie Valerius)
Katrina Fenner (friend of Art Engelage)
Joni Giordano (friend of Barb Wurdinger)
Asia Graham (friend of the Kilzers)
Margy Groennert (aunt of the Martens')
Stephanie Groennert (cousin of the Martens' family)
Arlene Hunt (friend of the Robisons)
Imogene Kuykendell
(friend of Lucy Montgomery)
Pat Likness (mother of Jan Dressel)

Allen & Mary Jane Martens (uncle/aunt of the Martens' family)
John Martfeld (friend of Ruth Carnaghi)
Dorothy May (mother of Jan Richards)
Pr. **Ron** Neustadt (friend of St. Mark)
Jim Outland (family of Anita Robinson)
Tim & Missy Partelow & family (brother of Tom)
Jeff Pence (brother of Pam Clark)
Darnell Rideout (stepfather of Mike Cardoza)
Eileen Robertson (niece of the Shafers)
Darrell Robinson (husband of Anita Robinson)
Dave Schaaf (former parishioner)
Stefanie Schroeder (friend of St. Mark)
Jo Smith (friend of the Moellers)
Kris Whitley (sister to Kim O. & Kathy R)
Cody Willard (friend of the Duncans)
David Wilkey (son of June Isselhardt)
Linda Wrisley (sister of John Downing)
Jane (friend of Julie Valerius)

THANKSGIVINGS AND INTERCESSIONS

We pray for those who celebrate their birthday this week:

Mitchell Curlin (12/9), **Lauren Richards** (12/9), **Brad Geppert** (12/12),
Patty Bearth (12/13), and **Brian Robison** (12/15)

We pray for those who celebrate their wedding anniversary this week:

Dave & Renee Scott (12/9) and **Mike & Randi** Cardoza (12/12)

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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