

# MARK TIMES NEWS & NOTES FOR DECEMBER 3, 2023

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

- Monday 12/4:** 2:30PM Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor  
**Wednesday 12/6:** 6:00PM Soup supper  
7:00PM Advent Evening Holy Communion  
**Thursday 12/7:** 6:15PM Bell choir  
7:15PM Voice choir  
**Saturday 12/9:** 9:00AM Church & chapel cleaning day

### Annual Meeting

The 2023 Annual Meeting is **TODAY Sunday, December 3 at 10:45AM** in the **Parish Hall**. Please plan to join us for this meeting, we will decide the budget for 2024, vote on new church officers, and receive updates from the council and committees.

**St. Mark Offerings for 11/26:** General Fund: **\$2,669.11** (*incl. online offerings received by 11/30*);  
Coffee Fund: \$106; Muller Landscaping: \$101;  
Fiber Arts: \$101; Property Maintenance: \$101;

<b>ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</b> <b>DECEMBER 3, 10:45AM</b>	
<b>COUNCIL NOMINATIONS</b> (*denotes incumbent)	
Secretary:	<b>Aaron Fuchs</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Rick Crosby</b>
Financial Secretary:	<b>Jan Litherland</b> <b>Tom Partelow</b>
Pastoral Care (male):	<b>Ken Tegtmeier*</b>
Pastoral Care (female):	<b>Jan Dressel</b>
Property:	<b>Frank Dressel*</b>
<u>Synod Assembly Voting Members:</u>	
Adult Male:	<b>Greg Martens</b>
Adult Female:	<b>Danielle Tribout</b>

**Advent Communion Service & Soup Suppers** return **THIS Wednesday, December 6**. Plan to come enjoy a hot meal of soup and salad at 6:00PM in the Parish Hall before joining us in the church for an evening service of Holy Communion.

**One supper remains open (12/20) - get a group together and host!** A sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall near the coffee stand.

### Advent Lessons & Carols

Please join us **NEXT Sunday, December 10 at 5:00PM** for our annual joint service of Advent Lessons & Carols. This traditional service is a wonderful way to celebrate the season, with beautiful hymns and scripture passages that guide and focus us in our time of preparation for Christmas and the Lord's return. The service is especially appropriate for inviting friends and family, particularly those who might be searching for "something more" this holiday. A wine and cheese reception will follow.

### Christmas Flowers

Proclaim Christ's birth with flowers! Anyone wishing to donate should fill out the front portion of a special envelope in the pews and return it, with a check/cash, to the offering plate or the office by 12/20. \*Online donations may be made through VANCO. All dedications will be published in the Christmas bulletin.

### Adult Forum 12/10 & 12/17

For the Adult Forum hour on 12/10 & 12/17, we will watch a series of videos featuring Christmas traditions from across the Lutheran world, including Norway, Finland, and Germany, among others!

## St. Mark T-Shirts

Inspired by imagery from the popular *Indiana Jones* film series, the winning design from our t-shirt contest is ready to order!

Adult shirts sizes S-XL are \$19.50 including tax 2XL, 3XL,4XL & 5XL are \$22.75 including tax.

*Payment is required when the order is placed.*

Orders **must** be placed through **Rich's Stiches** <http://www.richsstichesemb.com> **no later than December 10 at 5pm**. When the webpage opens, scroll down to **Online Stores**, then scroll down and click on St. Mark Lutheran Church.

*Sherri will be available in the Parish Hall after service on Dec 3 and Dec 10 to enter orders for those who are not computer oriented.*

*You may also contact her at 618 791-6148 with your order and payment information.*

T-shirts orders will be distributed December 17 in the Parish Hall before and after service.



## Angel Tree Project thru Lutheran Child & Family Services

**WOW!** All the sheets with the children's names and wishes have been claimed – this is the earliest this has ever happened! If you didn't get a sheet and would like to contribute to the cause, monetary donations will be accepted. Remember – there is *not* an expectation that you provide everything on the child's wish list - a \$50 limit per child is recommended.

Please take and complete a gift tag from the "Christmas Tree" and gently attach it and the Child's name and Wishes sheet to the UNWRAPPED gift and **return by December 10**. Gift wrapping and/or gift bags may also be donated.

Please contact Sherri Foppe 618 791-6148 [cookinsherri2@gmail.com](mailto:cookinsherri2@gmail.com) or Ann Martens 618 530-8679 if you have any questions.

## Monthly Treasurer's Note

October 2023 Income	\$16,033.55
October 2023 Expenses	\$23,094.39
October 2023 Net Cash Flow	-\$7,060.84

October 2022 Income	\$16,703.06
October 2022 Expenses	\$19,238.48
October 2022 Net Cash Flow	-\$2,535.42

Giving was slightly down and expenses were significantly up compared to the same month last year. We are in the red by about \$13,000 this year. Year-to-date expenses are at \$186k and income (including ERC and Thrivent Choice Dollars) is around \$173k as of the end of October.

Thank you for your questions and comments about the proposed 2024 budget during Adult Education Hour. The Church Council approved the final version of the 2024 Spending Guide at the November meeting in preparation for the congregation's vote at today's Annual Meeting.

## SHARE THE WARMTH Project

Inspired by Phillip's Wish in the movie *5000 Blankets*, our collection of **GENTLY USED or new blankets, hats, mittens, gloves, scarfs**, etc. for the homeless in our community will run thru January 31. Check your closets to see how many blankets you have that will help keep our homeless a little warmer this winter! A collection can is in the Narthex.