

MARK TIMES

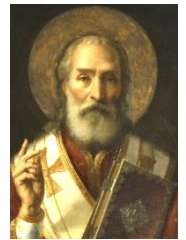
NEWS and NOTES for December 15, 2024

This Week at St. Mark:

Monday, Dec. 16:	2:30PM	Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
Wednesday, Dec. 18:	11:30AM	St. Mark Table Talk: <i>Gluttony and Drunkenness in Israel</i>
	6:00PM	Advent Soup Supper
	7:00PM	Holden Evening Prayer
Thursday, Dec. 19:	6:15PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00PM	Voice Choir Rehearsal

Today's Adult Forum – *St. Nicholas, Part 2*

Today's Adult Forum will feature the second half of the video documentary, *St. Nicholas – The Real Story*, led by Dr. Mark Wilson, one of the lecturers at the Bible and Archaeology Fest that Pastor Brian attended.



Advent Lessons & Carols Tonight

Please join us **TONIGHT, Sunday, December 15 at 5:00PM** for our annual service of Advent Lessons & Carols with St. George's. 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.

Table Talk Bible Class This Wednesday!

The rescheduled St. Mark Table Talk Bible class from November is **THIS Wednesday, December 18 at 11:30am** in the conference room. Appropriately dropping right in between the year's two great days of feasting, the topic is "**Gluttony & Drunkenness in Ancient Israel.**" Bring a lunch and let's dig in!



Our last **Advent Evening Prayer & Soup Supper** is this **Wednesday, December 18**. 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 Holden Evening Prayer.

Proclaim Christ's birth with flowers!

Anyone wishing to donate should watch for a special envelope in the pews, fill out the front portion and return it, with a check/cash, to the offering plate or the office by **THIS Wednesday, December 18** with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line. *Online donations may be made through VANCO at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-ZMGQ>. All dedications will be published in the Christmas bulletin.



Yoga at St. Mark!



Interested in **Yoga**? Whether you are a beginner or experienced, come to a **Meet and Greet** on **Thursday, December 19 at 6:15PM** in the **Parish Hall** to **meet the instructor** and **ask any questions** concerning the practice of yoga, the class itself and items you may need. **Formal classes will be held for 45 minutes on Thursday evenings at 6:15PM beginning on January 2, 2025** in the **Parish Hall**. A **donation of \$5.00** is asked for **each session**. Please **bring your own mat and water bottle** for classes.

Practicing yoga can help with body flexibility, strength, mobility, and balance. It also requires you to shift into a more relaxed state, which can help decrease stress, increase focus, and promote a stronger connection with yourself. You can't ask for a more pose-ative experience!

Angel Tree THANKS

Thank you to everyone for making the Angel Tree Project very successful. Our faith communities at St George's and St Mark generously provided **gifts for over 70 children** through Lutheran Child & Family Services.



Presiding Bishop Eaton's Christmas Message



In her Christmas message, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton calls our attention to the word "joy" in the angel's proclamation to the shepherds. "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11). Eaton reminds us that the message of Christmas is **joy, not** happiness. Happiness is transient and humanmade. But joy given by God is deep and strong and unshakable. "Joy is a sign of the reign of God...Perhaps that is

why in the middle of the night, to terrified shepherds, outside of a small town, God chose to send the angels to announce the birth of Jesus. No distraction. No interference. Just the simple, deep, profound gift of true and lasting joy." Watch the video message here: <https://bit.ly/3D9ULKc>

St. Mark Offerings for 12/8: General Fund: \$7036; Food Pantry: \$14.14

Advent Word Search



N	P	E	A	C	E	C	A	N	D	L	E	S	L
F	H	O	E	A	O	N	K	R	C	V	U	W	L
R	A	C	J	N	E	N	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y
A	I	H	E	M	S	T	E	T	N	E	N	N	I
N	S	R	S	E	S	R	E	S	E	G	O	L	D
K	S	I	U	H	N	E	M	E	S	I	W	E	N
I	E	S	S	E	Y	S	Y	A	E	O	J	V	I
N	M	T	R	L	L	E	R	M	N	Y	R	O	T
C	S	M	A	H	T	P	R	W	J	G	R	L	L
E	A	A	M	T	M	O	H	Y	O	J	E	I	A
N	C	S	A	E	S	H	E	R	P	H	L	L	H
S	L	Y	A	B	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	R	S
E	N	O	W	A	D	V	E	N	T	S	C	N	A
S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	E	H	A	A	A

STAR
SHEPHERDS
ANGELS
PEACE
GOLD
BETHLEHEM
JESUS
FRANKINCENSE
JOY
CANDLE
NATIVITY
CHRISTMAS
WREATH
LOVE
WISEMEN
MESSIAH
MYRRH
ADVENT
HOPE