

# MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for May 5, 2024

## THE WEEK AHEAD:

|                        |         |  |
|------------------------|---------|--|
| <b>Monday 5/6:</b>     | 9:00AM  | Health & Wellness Meeting — conference room                              |
|                        | 2:30PM  | Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor  |
| <b>Wednesday, 5/8:</b> | 11:45AM | Ladies Lunch Bunch at No Jack's, Smithton                                |
| <b>Thursday, 5/9:</b>  | 1:30PM  | Evangelism & Social Ministry Meeting                                     |
|                        | 7:00PM  | Joint Ascension of Our Lord Service<br><i>Ice Cream Social to follow</i> |

### Adult Forum: *Funeral Planning with the Pastor*

During today's Adult Forum, Pastor Brian will lead attendees through a workshop related to preparing for one's funeral, but from the church ministry perspective and role as opposed to that of a funeral home. Choosing hymns and Scripture readings are just part of this process that can be both a gift you can leave for your loved ones, and a gift that they can in turn give back to you.

### Ascension Worship & Ice Cream!

**THIS Thursday, May 9 at 7:00PM**, St. Mark and St. George's will celebrate the Ascension of Jesus with a joint worship service & ice cream social immediately after! Make plans to join us for this special celebration and fellowship with our Episcopal friends. St. Mark will host the service with Fr. Mark preaching.



### Ladies Lunch Bunch

All St. Mark ladies are invited to join the new "Lunch Bunch" at No Jacks (4001 IL-159, Smithton, IL) on **Wednesday, May 8** from **11:45A-1:00P**. Please RSVP **Anita Robinson** by text or call at **618-420-2838** by **Monday, May 6**.

### Tea and Fellowship Hour on 5/26

In place of the Ladies' Tea gathering offered last year, the congregations of St George's and St Mark are invited to a special Tea/Coffee Hour **following our joint service on May 26, 2024** in celebration of Trinity Sunday. We hope to see you there to enjoy time together in fellowship. This gathering is open to all members of St Mark and St George's: ladies, gentlemen, and children!

### St. Mark Offerings for 4/28:

Operating Fund: **\$3,104.11** (including online giving received by 4/26); Fiber Arts: \$101;  
Barb Wurdinger Memorials: \$1,658.66 (\$1,278.66 to Food Pantry); Grounds Maintenance: \$101;  
Dorothy Koeneman Memorials: \$15 (Food Pantry); Muller Landscaping Fund: \$101

## First Quarter 2024 Treasurer's Note

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Q1 2024 Income        | \$52,263.37  |
| Q1 2024 Expenses      | \$56,503.29  |
| Q1 2024 Net Cash Flow | \$(4,239.92) |

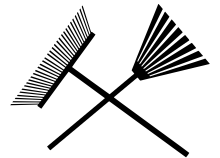
|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Q1 2023 Income        | \$57,764.20 |
| Q1 2023 Expenses      | \$55,584.17 |
| Q1 2023 Net Cash Flow | \$2,180.03  |

Shown here are St. Mark's financial results for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024. As we noted for the close of Q4 2023, December 2023 giving was very generous and resulted in a positive cash flow for the 2023 year (of \$2,980). As the numbers above show, we have a negative cash flow through the first quarter of 2024 of approximately \$4,240; and, this compares to a slight positive cash flow for the same period in 2023. Of note, our Q1 income is at 83% of our budget for the period and our Q1 expenses are at 90% of our budget for the period (which is \$62,620 for the quarter). So, both are below budget projections, and expenses slightly more so.

A positive note is that March of 2024 was a favorable (positive) cash flow of \$2,060 while January and February were both unfavorable (negative). This is of course a trend we hope will continue as the year progresses. We trust that the St. Mark's congregation finds this information to be useful and that we collectively will strive to maintain the positive trend started in March.

### Workday!

The St. Mark/St. George's joint property committee will hold a workday on Saturday, May 18 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM to finish some of the projects that weren't able to be done in March. Word on the street is that coffee and donuts will be provided!



### Youth Gathering Collection

A goal for this summer's ELCA Youth Gathering is to create 3,000 disaster relief kits filled with the eight most-requested items to help residents as they wait for the power grid to be restored after a storm or other natural disaster. It takes about \$100 to create an entire disaster relief kit.

Each region is asked to bring a different item to build relief kits. Our region, Region 5, is tasked with bringing **cooling towels**. These are specially designed microfiber towels that hold water without being heavy or bulky. We will accept donations of the towels themselves, or financial donations towards the purchase of such towels. Please talk to Melanie or Melaina and Anna if you have questions!

