

MARK TIMES NEWS & NOTES FOR DECEMBER 17, 2023

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Monday 12/18: | 2:30PM | Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor |
| Wednesday 12/20: | 6:00PM | Soup supper |
| | 7:00PM | Advent Evening Holy Communion |
| Thursday 12/21: | 6:15PM | Bell choir |
| | 7:15PM | Voice choir |
| Sunday 12/24: | 9:00AM | Advent 4 Divine Liturgy |
| | 11:30AM | Christmas Decorating |
| | 7:00PM | Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy |

Advent Communion Service & Soup Suppers conclude **this Wednesday, December 20.** 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.

Christmas Flowers Due TODAY

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: *Christmas Traditions in Iceland & Germany*

For the Adult Forum hour today, we will watch a series of videos featuring Christmas traditions from across the Lutheran world. **Today's videos feature Iceland and Germany.**



Decorating Day Upcoming!

There is no decorating day on 12/23. We will **finish decorating for Christmas** after St. George's 10:30AM service on **Sunday, December 24.** This is a joint effort by the altar guilds of St Mark and St George, but **ALL** are encouraged to come and help! Many hands make work light and quick!

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>. When the webpage opens, scroll down to **Online Stores**, then scroll down and click on St. Mark Lutheran Church. **The ordering window will remain open until January 31, 2024.**

For those who are not computer oriented, you may contact Sherri Foppe at 618 791-6148 with your order and payment information.



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** for the homeless in our community will run thru January 31.

The collection bin in the Narthex/Canterbury Room has overflowed several times and we are WELL on the way to the 125-blanket goal!

As of 11am on December 5 the following donations were received:

73 blankets; 54 hats/ear covers; 57 pairs of gloves; 35 neck scarves/mufflers; 60 pairs of socks

Donations have been distributed to:

St. George/St. Mark Food Pantry; Union United Methodist Church homeless program; Belleville Christian Center; Moms on a Mission in Dupo.

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.

From A Word to Advent, by Bishop Greg Busboom

The world exists in Advent. The world waits. The world longs. The world hurts. The world hopes.

The waiting of the world seems more poignant this year. Ukraine, Israel, Palestine all wait — waiting for freedom, waiting for justice, waiting for peace. The earth waits — waiting for healing, waiting for renewal, waiting for rest. Those living on the margins wait — waiting for welcome, waiting to be noticed, waiting for equity and inclusion. Our congregations wait — waiting for new life, waiting for a pastor, waiting for re-engagement. Even we who all-too-often give in to the temptation to ignore Advent wait — waiting for meaning, waiting for something more, waiting for life to somehow get easier than it is.

The world exists in Advent. Waiting.

Waiting with the world in Advent allows us to name what is not right with the world and, instead, to bear witness to the radically new world that, in Christ, already is, even though it is not yet. Waiting with the world in Advent encourages us to challenge the powers-that-be and the false narratives they seek to force upon us and, instead, to share with them the story of a migrant Jew born in the Palestinian city of Bethlehem who instead of taking life from his enemies gives his life for them. Waiting with the world in Advent frees us to neither give in nor give up and, instead, to live by hope, hope both in what is still coming and in what, through Christ, already is.

St. Mark Offerings for 12/10: General Fund: **\$4,992.11** (*incl. online offerings received by 12/15*); Food Pantry: \$50; Christmas Flowers: \$110; Jim Jolley Memorials: \$75.25

Christmas Schedule

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT WORSHIP

Sunday, December 24, 9:00AM



FESTIVAL CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Sunday, December 24, 7:00PM

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Monday, December 25, 10:00AM

Joint service with St. George's Episcopal Church

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 31, 10:00AM

Joint service of Lessons & Carols with St. George's Episcopal Church