

# MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for January 14, 2024

## THE WEEK AHEAD

- Monday 1/15:** *Martin Luther King Day—Office Closed*  
2:30PM Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
- Tues. 1/16:** 5:30PM Food Pantry Meeting
- Thurs. 1/18:** 6:15PM Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:15PM Voice Choir Rehearsal



### Diaper Drive for Epiphany!

As the Wise Men brought gifts to the baby Jesus, we will celebrate **Epiphany** with a **Diaper Drive** for little ones in need in our community.

**Our Epiphany Diaper Drive runs through January 14.** Items collected will be donated to The Pregnancy Care Center of Belleville, Fontabella Maternity Home in O'Fallon and other local organizations.

**Diapers sizes 4 through 7 and pullups sizes 2T and 3T are most needed.** Open packages will be accepted. **Unopened packages of diaper wipes and diaper rash cream are also welcome.**

Realizing diapers are expensive, members are encouraged to join together on purchases or provide monetary donations to Sherri Foppe or Ann Martens. Donations may also be made electronically at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR> through January 15th.

### It's a New Year!

It's a great time to do something new and different, like **joining the choir!** Rehearsals are at 7:15PM on Thursdays. No tryouts or solo voices needed; just a love of singing, a desire to praise God, and the ability to more-or-less carry a tune. One or two bell ringers are also needed. Just see Music Director Carol Kugler for more details or to sign up!



### Neighborhood Watch Opportunity for St. Mark & St. George's

The Joint Safety Committee has identified a neighborhood need our churches might be able to help with. St. George's has begun the process of organizing a Neighborhood Watch (NW) program, and they have invited St. Mark to participate. Beyond wanting to be helpful to the neighborhood, we have our own interest in neighborhood safety and health. Organizational leadership, facility support, and hosting quarterly meetings are just a few of the ways our churches could support a NW program. Anyone interested in serving to implement this endeavor, please contact Mark Bearth, [mark.bearth@gmail.com](mailto:mark.bearth@gmail.com).



## St. Mark/St. George's SHARE THE WARMTH Project

Inspired by Phillip's Wish in the movie *5000 Blankets*, our collection of clean GENTLY USED or new blankets, hats, mittens, gloves, scarfs, etc. for the homeless continues until January 31.

The collection bin in the Narthex/Canterbury Room has overflowed **4 times** and we have **EXCEEDED our 125 blanket goal!** I can't wait to see how far beyond we will be when the project ends!

As of January 6, the following donations have been received:

138 blankets (some of these made the long car ride all the way from Florida!)

149 hats/ear covers

90 pairs of gloves

51 neck scarves/mufflers

95 pair socks

Donations have been distributed to:

St. George/St. Mark Food Pantry (2); Union United Methodist Church homeless program; Belleville Christian Center; Moms on a Mission in Dupo; Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois; Pregnancy Care Center in Belleville (planned for 1/16)

There's still time to check your closets and ask family and friends to share blankets/quilts gloves, hats, scarves that will help keep our homeless a little warmer this winter!

Do you or someone you know have the talent of knitting and/or crocheting? FREE yarn is available to anyone (member or non-member) to make hats, mittens, gloves, scarves for this project. Contact Peggy Anderson 618 791-0992 for your FREE yarn.



## 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.*



**St. Mark Offerings for 1/7:** General Fund: **\$4,112.11** (incl. online offerings received by 1/5); Food Pantry: \$50