

MARK TIMES

News & Notes for January 7, 2024

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Monday 1/8:** 9:00AM Health & Wellness meeting – conference room
- Thurs. 1/11:** 1:30PM Evangelism & Social Ministry meeting - conference room
6:15PM Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:15PM Voice Choir Rehearsal
- Sunday 1/14:** 10:30AM Adult Forum: “*The House of Peter?*” led by Pastor Brian



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 will run January 7 through 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.

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.



Thank You, Thank You! We wish to thank the St. Mark congregation for their generous Christmas gift for 2023. We all feel so blessed to serve this congregation in the different ways we are called. May all of us continue to be blessed and thrive in 2024! Thank you and Happy New Year!!

~Evelyn & Charlie Duncan, John Andersen, Gary & Marilyn Huffman, Carol Kugler, and Randi Cardoza

Thank You to all who contributed to the financial gift from the congregation and those who gave individual gifts, including those who fed my addiction to cookies and sweets! I continue to be deeply touched by your tremendous generosity. - *Pastor Brian*

SHARE THE WARMTH Project Continues!

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 almost to our 125-blanket goal!

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; Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois

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.

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.



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!



St. Mark Offerings for 12/24 (Christmas Eve) & 12/31: General Fund: **\$2,895.55** (*incl. online offerings received by 12/29*); Disaster Relief: \$25