

# MARK TIMES NEWS & NOTES FOR DECEMBER 24, 2023

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Tonight 12/24:** 7:00PM Christmas Eve Festival Divine Liturgy

**Monday 12/25:** 10:00AM Christmas Day Divine Liturgy *with St. George's*

**Sunday 12/31:** 10:00AM 1st Sunday of Christmas Liturgy of Lessons & Carols *w/St. George's*

### Angel Tree Project

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in St. George's and St. Mark's joint Angel Tree Project Christmas Drive through Lutheran Child and Family Services this year. A picture is worth a thousand words – just look at how many children we helped have a great Christmas!!



### 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 almost to our 125-blanket goal!



As of December 14, the following donations had been received:

101 blankets; 99 hats/ear covers; 68 pairs of gloves; 43 neck scarves/mufflers; 72 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; 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.



## 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).



### Thanks Carol Singers!

THANK YOU to the 19 members who brought some Christmas cheer to several of our homebound members on December 17. Your efforts gave much joy to those folks who cannot get out-and-about as they might like.

## Chocolate & Coffee!

**Did you forget a gift for someone? Need something quick, easy and available THIS MORNING??** Head down to the Parish Hall before or after worship and pick up some **fair trade coffee & chocolate** for sale. These products are not only delicious but **good for workers & the lands they farm.**



## 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.*



## Living Lutheran Magazine

If you haven't done so, please pick up the latest Living Lutheran (formerly *The Lutheran*) magazine from the St. Mark table in the Narthex. The current November/December issue is the last printed magazine that they will produce, so please take advantage of it. The magazine will continue, but in an online-only format.

**St. Mark Offerings for 12/17:** General Fund: **\$7,980.11** (*incl. online offerings received by 12/22*); Food Pantry: \$5; Christmas Flowers: \$25