

MARK TIMES NEWS & NOTES FOR NOVEMBER 12, 2023

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

- Monday 11/13:** 9:00AM Health & Wellness meeting – conference room
- Tuesday 11/14:** 5:30PM Food Pantry meeting – conference room
- Thursday 11/16:** 6:15PM Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:15PM Voice Choir Rehearsal
- Friday 11/17:** Annual reports due
- Saturday 11/18:** 9:30AM Boy Scout Food Drive

Adult Forum Today: *What Does the Parable of the Talents Mean?*

The Gospel for 11/19 includes Jesus' famous Parable of the Talents, in which three slaves are entrusted with the master's wealth; two invest their portion and make more, but the third buries his and is punished. Although the **story** itself is fairly straightforward, recent scholarship argues that the parable's **meaning** is less clear – and that an ancient audience would have interpreted it differently than a modern one. Pastor explores this idea **TODAY, Sunday, November 12** during the Adult Forum hour. This is a week early to give you something new to consider as you hear the parable during his absence on 11/19.

Budget Presentation November 19 for 2024

NEXT Sunday, November 19 during the Adult Forum hour, we will hold a presentation regarding the **2024 Church Spending Guide/Budget** to be voted on at the Annual Congregation Meeting on Sunday, December 3. This is to both answer questions and make tweaks to the budget so it can be approved at the Church Council meeting on November 27. Please plan to attend so that budget questions can be kept to a minimum at the Annual Congregation Meeting, thus keeping it shorter and more efficient.

Pumpkin Palooza Next Sunday!

It's the 'Great Pumpkin' Palooza, St. Mark and St. George's! **NEXT Sunday, November 19**, we will have a **bake sale** between and after all three services to **benefit our combined Food Pantry**. Put it on your calendar now to **bake, shop and join the fun** for a very important ministry. Soon we will have cans of pumpkin from our pantry available if you would like to take some for your baking, but you can bring any flavor of baked goods to sell. Keep your eyes and ears open for more details in the very near future!



Pastor at Continuing Education

Pastor Brian is out of town this **Thursday, November 16 through Sunday, November 19** to attend the Bible & Archaeology Fest in San Antonio. In case of emergency, please contact **Fr. Mark Ohlemeier** of St. George's at **785-220-5528**.

We welcome **Pastor S. Blake Duncan** as our guest presider and preacher next Sunday.



Boy Scout Food Drive 11/18

This year's Boy Scout Food Drive will take place **THIS Saturday, November 18**. We need **volunteers** to help **sort food** in the **Parish Hall** from about **9:30AM to 12:00PM**.

Annual Reports from Committee Chairs are due to Randi no later than 12:00PM on Friday, November 17. The Annual Meeting is Sunday, December 3 at 10:30AM in the chapel.



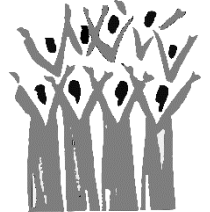
St. George's Trip to the Holy Land

St. George's Holy Land travel committee met and decided, considering the instability in the region, to **postpone** their much-anticipated trip for one year. The **new dates** of travel will be **February 23-March 6, 2026**. The brochure is being updated and should be available soon.

Choir Notes

The chancel choir is already rehearsing for Advent and Christmas and we'd love to have you singing with us! **We especially need ladies**, and the only requirement is that you can *more or less* carry a tune. A solo voice is not necessary.

Also **we could use two or three more bell players**. If you can read music and would love to play, talk to Carol Kugler – we'll teach you how!



Downtown Belleville Trick or Treat Oct 27

The uninvited rain delayed the fun, but it turned out to be a great evening at the Downtown Belleville Trick or Treat!

Hot Cocoa, Christian Halloween coloring pages, pencils, stickers and candy were shared with about 750 children and adults. The coloring pages included an invitation to visit St. Mark. And there was a block and a half-long line for photos with "Ant-Man" (Pastor Brian)!

Thank you to all the volunteers and the Thrivent Action Team grant that made this community event happen again this year!



Angel Tree Project

We continue our St. Mark and St. George's tradition of participating together in the Angel Tree Project Christmas Drive through Lutheran Child & Family Services to provide Christmas gifts to especially needy families. Monetary donations may be made for those who prefer not to shop. Sheets with the children's names and wishes are on a table in the narthex/Welcome Area.

UNWRAPPED gifts with the *gift tag* and the *child's name and Wishes sheet* included should be **returned by December 10**.

Please contact Sherri Foppe 618 791-6148 cookinsherri2@gmail.com or Ann Martens 618 530-8679 if you have any questions.

October 28 Noisy Change Offering

Thank you to those who donated noisy and not-so-noisy funds for Franklin School student past due lunch and book fees. The school staff will determine which student's accounts will be credited with the \$260 donated.

Sunday Movie Matinee

About 20 members of St. Mark & St. George's along with a few guests participated in the showing of the movie **5000 Blankets** on Sunday, November 5. The movie was inspired by a real-life story about a woman and her son who start a movement that inspires a city. *The movie also reminds us that children can help us see what we don't want to see and inspire us to make a change.* The movie is our impetus for our collection of **GENTLY used or new blankets, hats, gloves, scarves**, etc. for the homeless in our community. Check your closets to see how many blankets/quilts you have that will help keep our homeless a little warmer this winter!



The movie is available on to watch on YouTube, Google Play, Apple TV, Amazon Prime or contact Sherri 618 791-6148 or cookinsherri2@gmail.com to borrow her DVD.

Mastectomy and Port Pillows from the Fiber Arts group are available in the Welcome Area for anyone who needs one.

Seizure Awareness Class

The **Joint Safety Committee** of St. George's and St. Mark is sponsoring a class to educate and prepare us for the safe and correct care of a person exhibiting any type of **seizure** activity.

All **members** of the **Joint Safety Committee** and our respective **Safety Volunteers** are encouraged to attend this **free class** on **Saturday, December 2, 2023**, from **10:00-11:30am** in the **Parish Hall**.

To ensure we have the correct number of handouts and materials, it is important that you sign up on the sheet on the St. Mark table in the Narthex. **The last day to sign up is Tuesday, November 28.** For more information, please contact Mark.Bearth@gmail.com or text him at (618) 767-6543.

Thanksgiving Day Service

St. George's Episcopal Church is offering a **Thanksgiving Day worship** service at **9:00AM** in the **chapel** on Thursday, November 23. This is not a joint service, but interested St. Mark members are welcome to attend!



Advent Communion Service & Soup Suppers return **Wednesday, December 6**. 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.

Get a group together and host one of the soup suppers! A sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall near the coffee stand.

Christmas Flowers

Proclaim Christ's birth with flowers! Special envelopes can be found in the pews. Anyone wishing to donate should fill out the front portion and return it, with a check or cash, to the offering plate or the office by December 20. All dedications will be published in the Christmas bulletin.

St. Mark Offerings Report for November 5

General Fund: **\$4,689.61** (*includes online offerings received by 11/10*); Food Pantry: \$125.75; Noisy Offering: \$260

St. Mark T-Shirt Ideas 2023 – *Final Ballot*

Please circle your **ONE favorite** and return your ballot to the box on the St. Mark table in the Narthex any time before Tuesday, November 14.

****Mock-up is just to show what the options could possibly look like. Final designs will be created when a winner is chosen.**

1. *Front, in “Indiana Jones” style:* St. Mark Lutheran Church

Back, under image of the Ark of the Covenant: It is Well with my Soul

John 14:27

www.stmarkbelleville.org

Front



Back



2. Jesus – The gift that keeps on giving

Front



Back

