

# MARK TIMES NEWS & NOTES FOR DECEMBER 10, 2023

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

<b>Wednesday 12/13:</b>	6:00PM	Soup supper
	7:00PM	Advent Evening Holy Communion
<b>Thursday 12/14:</b>	6:15PM	Bell choir
	7:15PM	Voice choir
<b>Saturday 12/16:</b>	9:00AM	Hanging of greenery, trees, & wreaths

**WOW!!! Offerings this past Sunday totaled just over \$25,000, including \$23,000+ towards operating funds!!!! We are OVERWHELMED by your generosity!!!!**

## Council Elections

Thank you to all who attended and participated in last Sunday's Annual Congregational meeting, and congratulations and many thanks to those who were elected to serve on the Church Council:

Secretary:	<b>Aaron Fuchs</b>	Treasurer:	<b>Rick Crosby</b>
Financial Secretary:	<b>Jan Litherland</b>	Pastoral Care (male):	<b>Ken Tegtmeier</b>
	<b>Tom Partelow</b>	Pastoral Care (female):	<b>Jan Dressel</b>
Property:	<b>Frank Dressel</b>		

### Synod Assembly Voting Members:

Adult Male:	<b>Greg Martens</b>	Adult Female:	<b>Danielle Tribout</b>
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**St. Mark Offerings for 12/3:** General Fund: **\$23,729** (*incl. online offerings received by 12/8*); Food Pantry: \$1,150; Christmas Flowers: \$165; World Hunger: \$101; Thrivent Choice: \$991

## **Advent Communion Service & Soup Suppers** continue **this Wednesday, December 13.**

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.

## **Advent Lessons & Carols TODAY**

Please join us **THIS afternoon** at **5:00PM** for the return of our joint service of Advent Lessons & Carols. This traditional service is a wonderful way to celebrate the season, with beautiful hymns and scripture passages that guide and focus us in our time of preparation for Christmas and the Lord's return. The service is especially appropriate for inviting friends and family, particularly those who might be searching for "something more" this holiday. A wine and cheese reception will follow!

## **Christmas Flowers**

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 Norway & Finland***

For the Adult Forum hour TODAY & 12/17, we will watch a series of videos featuring Christmas traditions from across the Lutheran world. **Today's videos feature Norway and Finland**, complemented by **Scandinavian treats** for St. Lucia's Day (12/13)!

## 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> **no later than TODAY, December 10 at 5pm.** When the webpage opens, scroll down to **Online Stores**, then scroll down and click on St. Mark Lutheran Church.

*Sherri will be available in the Parish Hall after worship today to enter orders for those who are not computer oriented. You may also contact her at 618 791-6148 with your order and payment information.*



T-shirts orders will be distributed December 17 in the Parish Hall before and after service.

## Angel Tree Project thru Lutheran Child & Family Services

Today is the last day to return the gifts purchased for the Angel Tree project. Remember that gifts should be UNWRAPPED. Write the *Child's Name, Family Number, Social Worker's Name* on the gift tag provided under the tree in the Narthex, and attach it and the wishes sheet to the gift bags. Gift wrapping and/or gift bags may also be donated.

Please contact Sherri Foppe 618 791-6148 [cookinsherri2@gmail.com](mailto:cookinsherri2@gmail.com) or Ann Martens 618 530-8679 if you have any questions.

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

The collection bin in the Narthex/Canterbury Room has overflowed twice already and we are over half-way to the 125-blanket goal! I can't wait to see how much we will exceed it by when the project ends Jan 31.

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; Mom's on a Mission in Dupo (will be delivered on 12/15)

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.

## On a Sad Note

It is with deep regret and sadness that I inform you of the passing of **Tom Hohn**, watercolor instructor for St. George's and St. Mark.

Those participants from the two congregations who attended the classes will remember Tom's witty sense of humor and his great one-line comments. Especially if a student couldn't see what he was showing the class, he would often tell the group that his grandfather would say to him, "You make a better door than a window!" Tom will be sorely missed. - **Cindy Lynk, St. George's**