

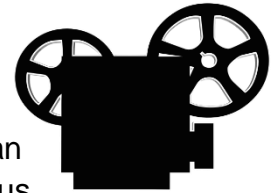
MARK TIMES NEWS & NOTES FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2023

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

- Monday 11/6:** 2:30PM Fiber Arts at Westfield
- Thursday 11/9:** 1:30PM Evangelism/Social Ministry meeting – Conference Room
6:15PM Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:15PM Voice Choir Rehearsal
- Friday 11/10:** Office closed for Veterans Day
- Saturday 11/11:** 9A-12P Property work day

Sunday Movie Matinee in the Parish Hall TODAY

Come back to the **Parish Hall TODAY Sunday, November 5**, from **2:30PM to 4:30PM** for our first-ever movie matinee! We will be showing the movie **5000 Blankets**. Inspired by a real-life story, it is a moving, inspiring drama about a woman and her son who start a movement that inspires a city. The matinee will prepare us for our November collection of blankets, hats, gloves, & scarves for the homeless in our community. Popcorn, soda, bottled water and other movie snacks will be available. **Invite your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors to join us for this FREE movie!**



Budget Presentation November 19 for 2024

On **Sunday, November 19** during the Adult Forum hour, we will hold a presentation regarding the **2024 Church Spending Guide/Budget** that will 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.

Adult Forum next Sunday: *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 Brian explores this idea **NEXT** Sunday, November 12 during the Adult Forum hour. This is a week early to arm you with something new to consider as you hear the parable during his absence on 11/19.

Memorial Service for Jim Gillespie next Saturday

Long-time dedicated and beloved St. George's members Jim and Vivian Gillispie were involved in a motorcycle accident in May. Jim did not survive. As Viv continues to recover, she has requested a **memorial service for Jim**. It will be held **next Saturday, November 11 at 2:00PM** with a reception following in the Parish Hall. St. Mark members who are moved to do so are welcome to attend.



Property workday next Saturday, November 11 from 9:00AM to 12noon

Gift of New Silverware!

After many years of dealing with mismatched and occasionally chipped forks, knives, and spoons in the Parish Hall, we give thanks for the gift of entirely **new silverware** from the donations given in memory of **Randy Hinkle**. Randy was a great friend to many and he loved spending time in fellowship, and he would be pleased to know that the gift in his honor will complement activities that bring people together for shared meals.



Pumpkin Palooza November 19!

It's the '**Great Pumpkin' Palooza**, St. Mark and St. George's! On 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!



St. George's Trip to the Holy Land

St. George's Holy Land travel committee met and decided, in light of the recent attack by Hamas upon Israel, 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 by Alpha Christian Tours and should be available soon. The trip will remain a 12-day tour and the planned sites to visit will not change. Since the booking is so far out, costs listed on the updated brochure will most certainly be an estimate. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate Bob Vaughn 618-593-7263 or Sue Vaughn 618-593-7213 or bobsuevon@charter.net or Dawn Jung 618-792-6035 or dawnjung@juno.co

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 sign up and attend, though the class is open to any member of each congregation. This class is **free** and will take place 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. A signup sheet is 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.

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

Final Chili Cook-Off Total

Final proceeds from the sales at St. George's booth for the 2023 Chili Cook-Off totaled \$9,647 to be split amongst Franklin School, Cub Scout Pack 2, TOCO (Tapestry of Community Offerings) and the St. Mark/St. George's Food Pantry.

St. Mark Offerings Report for October 29

General Fund: **\$1,399.11** (*includes online offerings received by 11/3*); Food Pantry: \$50;
ELCA Disaster Relief: \$171.44

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

