

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for November 23, 2025

Sunday, Nov. 23:	10:30AM	Congregational budget meeting
Monday, Nov. 24:	6:00PM	Pastoral Care committee meeting – conference room
	7:00PM	Church Council meeting – CR
Thursday, Nov. 27	9:00AM	Thanksgiving Day worship (St. George's) - chapel
Thurs-Fri, Nov. 27-28:		<i>Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday</i>

Budget Meeting TODAY

This morning (**November 23**) during the Adult Forum hour in the Parish Hall, a meeting will be held to discuss the 2025 Church Spending Guide/Budget which will be voted on at the Annual Congregation Meeting on Sunday, December 7. This meeting will allow us to answer questions regarding the budget, and to make tweaks before approval at the Church Council meeting on November 24. Please plan to attend!

Pumpkin Palooza Thank You!!!

Such a great variety of goodies and crafts were donated for last Sunday's Pumpkin Palooza bake sale! We collected an astounding **\$1900** to benefit our combined Food Pantry. Thank you to all the treat bakers and shoppers! It is such a blessing to do the Lord's work together to serve our community – and have fun in the process! And congratulations to Barb Miller, winner of the quilt raffle!



Thanksgiving Day Service

St. George's Episcopal Church is offering a **Thanksgiving Day worship** service at **9:00AM** in the **chapel** this Thursday, November 27. This is not a joint service but interested St. Mark members are welcome to attend!



“Angel Tree” Project with Lutheran Child and Family Services (LCFS)

St. Mark and St. George's are again participating in the Angel Tree Project Christmas Drive through LCFS. The project provides Christmas gifts to especially needy families in our area.



Remember, you are not asked to provide everything on the child's wish list—a **\$60 limit per child** is recommended. However, we realize that may not be possible for many so please consider asking other members, family members or neighbors to share the joy of Christmas with you!

*Please attach the child's name/wish sheet to the UNWRAPPED gift to be **returned by Sunday, December 7**, and earlier if possible. Gift wrap and/or gift bags may also be donated.*

Please contact Sherri Foppe 618-791-6148 cookinsherri2@gmail.com or Ann Martens 618-530-8679 if you have any questions. Monetary gifts will be accepted for those who prefer not to shop, and may be given to Ann or Sherri. Donations for gifts may also be given online at <https://shorturl.at/usHZG>



Advent Evening Prayer Service & Soup Suppers return **Wednesday, December 3**. 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 Holden Evening Prayer. **Get a group together and host one of the soup suppers!** A sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall near the coffee stand.

Proclaim Christ's birth with flowers!

Anyone wishing to donate should watch for a special envelope in the pews, fill out the front portion and return it, with a check/cash, to the offering plate or the office by 12/18 with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line. *Online donations may be made through VANCO at <https://shorturl.at/ar1Ss>. All dedications will be published in the Christmas bulletin.



Meals on Wheels Needs Help!



The Meals-On-Wheels services provided out of our Parish Hall need more volunteers, particularly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please see Frank Dressel or David Buckley about serving those for whom this food may be the only substantial meal of the day.

Franklin School Lunch Packing

We pack 20 bag lunches for needy students at Franklin school for all long weekends, and we welcome volunteers! Packing requires about an hour on the day before most holiday weekends. See Peggy Andersen (618-791-0992) to sign up or for questions. Your support is so much appreciated!

Christmas Caroling on December 7

On **Sunday, December 7**, you're invited to join a group of us to sing Christmas carols to the residents of two local long-term care facilities, including some of our own church members. We will meet at **1:50PM** at **EverVella** Care Center (formerly Mercy, formerly Rosewood) in Swansea for our first stop. **All ages are welcome!**



Advent Lessons & Carols

Please join us **Sunday, December 14** at **5:00PM** for our annual service of Advent Lessons & Carols with St. George's. This traditional service is a wonderful way to celebrate the season, with beautiful hymns and scripture passages to 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.

New Date for Important Safety Class

On **Saturday, February 7** from 9am-1pm in the parish hall, Chestnut Health Systems will present information on **Mental Health, Substance Abuse/Narcan and Suicide awareness/prevention**. Our target audience is the safety committee members, food pantry workers and ushers. Anyone else interested in this important information is also very welcome to attend. Please sign up in the Canterbury Room, on the available sheets, to assist in our planning.

For questions, please call Sue Vaughn at 618-593-7213.

Offerings (11/16): General Fund: \$2,600; Food Pantry (Andersen Memorial): \$50; Staff Gift: \$50
John Andersen Memorials: \$25; Wally Kleist Memorials: \$150; Christmas Flowers: \$25