MARK TIMES

News & Notes for the week of November 15, 2026

Monday, November 16:	2:30PM	Fiber Arts
Tuesday, November 17:	5:00PM	Food Pantry Meeting – *Conference Room*
Wednesday, November 18:	10:15AM	Health & Wellness Meeting – *Conference Room*
Thursday, November 19:	9AM-1PM	WC Conference Bishop's Colloquy – *Parish Hall*
	4:15PM	Voice Choir
	6:00PM	Bell Choir
	6:00PM	Yoga – *Parish Hall*
Friday, November 20:	12:00PM	Annual Meeting Reports Due

Pumpkin Palooza returns TODAY!

TODAY, Sunday, November 15, is the return of our eagerly anticipated **pumpkin-themed bake sale!** Bring - and shop for - **baked goods**, **crafts**, and **decorations** in the Parish Hall between and after all three services, with proceeds to **benefit our combined Food Pantry**.

St. Mark 50th Anniversary celebration!

St. Mark Lutheran Church turns 50 years old in December, and the anniversary committee has been hard at work planning events! A year of celebration kicks off on **Saturday, December 5 at 10:30AM** with a commemorative **worship service** in the place where it all started: the **Belleville Philharmonic Hall**. A catered luncheon in our Parish Hall follows. Sign-up sheets and invitations are available in the Parish Hall and narthex.

We are **capping attendance at the luncheon to 100 people; please **sign up/RSVP by November 20** so we can get accurate numbers to the caterer.*

GriefShare: *Surviving the Holidays* Event Next Saturday



St. Mark will again offer a one-day, two-hour session of *Surviving the Holidays* to offer support, encouragement, and practical tools to help you navigate this holiday season with peace and assurance after the loss of a loved one. Join our special session, led by Nurse Becky, NEXT **Saturday, November 21** from **1–3 PM** in the **Parish Hall**. The free event includes a video, group discussion, and a Survival Guide. Pre-registration is required at griefshare.org/events/294597

*If you've attended this session previously, please consider attending again; grief and loss affect us differently with the passage of time, and you may benefit from another session in ways you can't anticipate.

Food Pantry Pampered Chef Fundraiser Results



I'm excited to announce that the proceeds of the Pampered Chef Fundraiser for our Food Pantry were **$444.18**! Thanks to everyone who allowed me to use my Pampered Chef business to support our Food Pantry!! - *Sherri Foppe*

Community Dinner Volunteers Needed

St. Mark members have been assisting St. Paul UCC occasionally with their **free Community Dinner on Tuesday evenings**. Over the last several months, the number of individuals attending the dinner has increased. We have been asked to provide **two volunteers** on **1st Tuesdays** to assist their existing team. Volunteers would **arrive at 3:45pm** and **finish about 6:00pm**. No heavy lifting involved! Contact Sherri Foppe at 618 791-6148 or cookinsherri2@gmail.com if you would like to assist once a month or every other month.

Boy Scout Food Drive 11/21

This year's Boy Scout Food Drive is **THIS Saturday, November 21**. We need **volunteers** to help **sort food** for a couple of hours. *Meet at the **office/pantry** starting at about **12:30PM.**

"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. **Children's names/wish lists with instructions are in the narthex/Canterbury Room.**

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!

If you'd rather not shop, monetary donations are welcome.

Please return all gifts to church by December 6.

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 12/21 with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line. *Online donations may be made through VANCO at https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-ZMGD. All dedications will be published in the Christmas bulletin.

Thanksgiving Day Service



St. George's Episcopal Church is offering a **Thanksgiving Day worship** service at **9:00AM** in the **chapel** on **Thursday, November 26**. This is not a joint service but interested St. Mark members are welcome to attend!



Advent Evening Prayer Service & Soup Suppers return **Wednesday, December 2**. 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.

Offerings for 11/8: General Fund: **$3,339**;