

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for December 7, 2025

Wednesday, Dec. 10: 12:00PM Ladies Lunch Bunch – *Joe's Pizza & Pasta*
6:00PM Soup supper – *Parish Hall*
7:00PM Holden Evening Prayer - *church*

Thursday, Dec. 11: 4:30PM Chancel choir
6:00PM Bell Choir
6:00PM Yoga – Parish Hall

Saturday, Dec. 13: 9:00AM Church & chapel cleaning day

Annual Meeting TODAY!

The 2025 Annual Meeting is **TODAY Sunday, December 7 at 10:45AM** in the **Parish Hall**. Please plan to join us for this meeting; we will decide the budget for 2026, vote on new church officers, and receive updates from the council and committees.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

DECEMBER 7, 10:45AM

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS (*denotes incumbent)

Secretary:	Aaron Fuchs*
Treasurer:	Rick Crosby*
Christian Education:	Anita Robinson
Property:	Open
Financial Secretary:	Jan Litherland* Tom Partelow*

Synod Assembly Voting Members:

Adult Male:	Greg Martens
Adult Female:	Danielle Tribout

Christmas Caroling TODAY!

This afternoon (**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!**



Ladies Lunch Bunch December 10

The Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet **THIS Wednesday, December 10** at 12:30PM at Joe's Pizza and Pasta (4628 N Illinois, Fairview Heights). Please call Mary Boxdorfer at 618-233-0160 if you have questions!



Advent Evening Prayer Service & Soup Suppers continue this **Wednesday, December 10**. 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 (11/30): General Fund: \$545.50; Staff Gift: \$75; Christmas Flowers: \$75

LAST DAY to Bring Presents for the “Angel Tree” Project

Today, Sunday, December 7, is the LAST DAY to return your gifts for the Angel Tree Project Christmas Drive through Lutheran Child & Family Services. The project provides Christmas gifts to especially needy families in our area.

A reminder to *please attach the child's name/wish sheet to the UNWRAPPED gift*. 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 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.

Proclaim Christ's birth with flowers!

Anyone wishing to donate should watch for a special envelope in the pews, fill out the front portion, add your check/cash, and return it to the offering plate or the office **by December 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.



Cleaning & Decorating Days

The Advent **CLEANING DAY** for both the church and chapel will be **NEXT Saturday, December 13 at 9:00AM**. The following Saturday, December 20, at 9:00AM will be the hanging of the greens, and we will finish decorating for Christmas at 10:00AM on Tuesday, December 23. This is a joint effort by the altar guilds of St Mark and St George's, but **ALL** are encouraged to come and help!



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.

PLEASE use your code for the chapel door; do NOT unlock it with a key or using the bar!

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving, St. George's choir members departing after rehearsal found the chapel door to have been unlocked at some point during the evening. Since both choirs were rehearsing that night, we want to strongly emphasize to our folks that the doors should NEVER be unlocked with a key or by securing the crash bar *unless* a worship service is being held in the chapel. Doing so at any other time creates a safety risk to anyone using the building while expecting the door to be secure.