

# ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the  
**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
welcomes you!

December 15,  
2024



The Third  
Sunday of  
Advent

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY

“SHINE” CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (*1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays - Chapel*)

### SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM

*in-person & streaming*

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP HOUR: 10:30 AM

105 EAST “D” STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

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*The Reverend Brian M. Robison, Pastor*

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**PLEASE** wear a **mask/face covering** *if* you are **exhibiting any upper respiratory symptoms consistent with allergies, a cold, or COVID-19** (runny nose, cough, sore throat).

**To parents with small children:** We are glad your family is worshipping with us today! *“Quiet Bags”* (supplies & activities for use by small children) are available in the Welcome Area. If you or your child need a break from the service, feel free to walk to the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is still audible over the speakers).

**Parish Hall and Restrooms** are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. A second **handicapped access** restroom is available next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level is located in the Welcome Area. An usher will be happy to assist you with the lift.

**Assistive listening devices** and **low vision items** are available. Please ask one of our ushers for assistance.

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**PRELUDE** “Creator of the Stars of Night” by L. Koch & **WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *Please STAND as you are able*

Blessed be the one God who is alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon - Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Please KNEEL or remain as you are*

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

**God of might, we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

**God in our midst, we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** *Please STAND*

**“All Earth is Hopeful”**

**ELW 266**



1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
“A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el”; she con -  
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
ceived him, “God with us,” our broth - er, whose birth re -  
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
Je - sus is with us, and

ev - er sets us free.

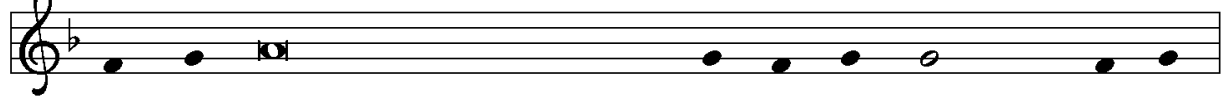
## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## KYRIE



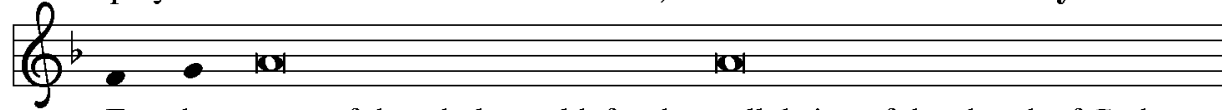
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



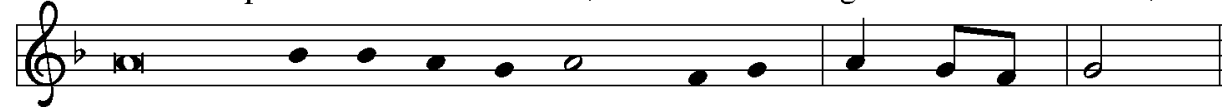
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



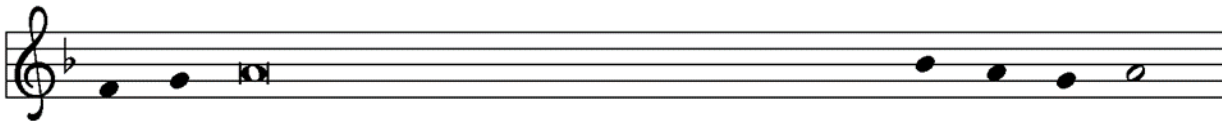
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



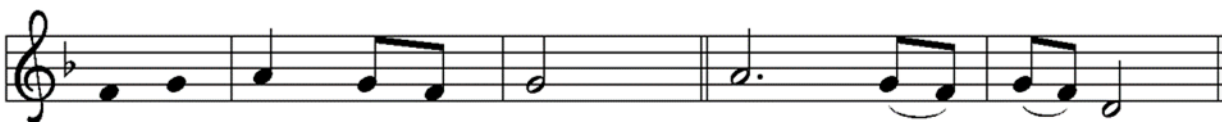
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**A - men.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**



### “Light One Candle”

ELW 240 vs. 3



3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Following the prayer, please SIT.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY: Isaiah 12:2-6** *spoken responsively between leader & congregation by half-verse*

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not <sup>|</sup> be afraid,

**for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become <sup>|</sup> my salvation.**

<sup>3</sup>With joy you <sup>|</sup> will draw water

**from the wells <sup>|</sup> of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the LORD, call <sup>|</sup> on God's name;

**make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;  
proclaim that this name <sup>|</sup> is exalted.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, who has done <sup>|</sup> gloriously;

**let this be known in <sup>|</sup> all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O <sup>|</sup> royal Zion,

**for great in your midst is the Holy <sup>|</sup> One of Israel.**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA VERSE** *The assembly STANDS to welcome the gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

<sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

<sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *Please SIT*

**SERMON**

*"What Should We Do?"*

**The Rev. Brian M. Robison**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"He Came Down"**

**ELW 253**



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;

## **APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *The names of for whom we pray aloud (Members, Staff, and First-Time additions) are listed below. Please read only the first names. Other prayer intentions can be found in the back of this bulletin.*

*The response to "Lord, in your mercy," is "Hear our prayer"...*

**Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Kathy Casey, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Bruce Martens,  
Dwight Ness, Mae Newsome, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson,  
Larry Shurtleff, Cohen Summers, & Carol Weshinsky.**

**PEACE** *The assembly is invited to share a greeting of God's peace with one another. Following **the Peace**, you may be seated for a few moments*

**OFFERING** *Should you wish to leave an offering today, it may be placed in the wooden box on the table near the baptismal font at any point during or after the service.*

**OFFERTORY** "Once in Royal David's City" Arr. by Tucker St. Mark Bell Choir

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

*Assistant:* Let us pray together... **Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY**

**“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”**

**ELW 257 v. 1**

**O Come, O Come, Emman - - uel, and ransom captive I -- srael,  
That mourns in lonely ex--ile here, until the son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to you O, Israel.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** (*Chanted to the tune of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*)

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts, **we lift them to the Lord.**

We give our thanks to Go-d our Lord

**It’s right to give our tha--nks and praise.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to you O, Israel.**

It’s right to praise God every time and place, through Jesus, promised gift of grace, whose advent sets God’s people free; with all creation we sing joyfully:

**Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to you O, Israel.**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** (*tune: O Come, O Come Emmanuel*)

**Oh, holy, holy, ho--ly Lord,**

**the God of pow’r and Go--d of might.**

**Your glory fills the hea-ven and earth;**

**Hosanna in the high--est!**

**Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to you O, Israel.**

Lord Jesus took and blessed & broke the bread;

“My body giv’n in love for you,” he said.

“This cup binds you in cov’nant with me;

Thus be forgiven and re-mem-ber me!

**Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to you O, Israel.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,**

**and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

**LAMB OF GOD** (tune: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*) Please **SIT**

**Oh, Jesus, wisdom, our Emmanuel,  
you take away the si-n of the world.**

**Have mercy on us La-mb of God;**

**Have mercy on us, gra-nt us your peace.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel, Shall come to you O, Israel.**

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*Communion is open to everyone. In this sacrament, we believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. At this service, communion will be served from around the altar rail. At the usher's direction, please come forward and kneel at the altar rail.*

- ✘ *After receiving the bread, you may take an individual cup or drink from the chalice.*
- ✘ *You may return to your seat after communing.*
- ✘ *Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this preference.*
- ✘ *Reception of the Eucharist under one kind (bread or wine) is valid communion for those who must avoid either for health reasons.*
- ✘ *If you are unable to go to the altar for communion, please notify an usher or the pastor, so that communion may be brought to you in your pew.*

**“Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly”**

**WOV 634**

1 Sing of Mar - y, pure and low - ly, vir - gin  
2 Sing of Je - sus, son of Mar - y, in the  
3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther; glo - ry

moth-er, wise and mild. Sing of God's own Son most ho - ly, who be -  
home at Naz - a - reth. Toil and la - bor can - not wea - ry love en -  
be to God the Son; glo - ry be to God the Spir - it; glo - ry

came her lit - tle child. Fair - est child of fair - est moth - er, God the  
dur - ing un - to death. Con - stant was the love he gave her, though he  
to the Three in One. From the heart of bless - ed Mar - y, from all

Lord who came to earth, Word made flesh, our ver - y  
went forth from her side, forth to preach, and heal, and  
saints the song as - cends, and the Church the strain re -

broth - er, takes our na - ture by his birth.  
suf - fer, till on Cal - va - ry he died.  
ech - oes un - to earth's re - mot - est ends.

After the distribution is complete, please **STAND** as you are able for the blessing.

### TABLE BLESSING

The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### CANTICLE AFTER COMMUNION "O Lord, Now Let Your Servant" ELW 313 v. 1



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,  
for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:  
a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,  
the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Assistant:* Let us pray together... **Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

### BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey - Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit - bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**



**Third Sunday of Advent**



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune”

by D. Lasky

### MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Danielle Tribut

**Crucifer:** Corbin Monfre + **Lector:** Aaron Fuchs

**Chalice Bearer & Livestream Camera:** Greg Martens

**Ushers:** Curt Gansmann & TBD + **Safety Volunteer:** Jan Richards

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## **Prayer Intentions**

### **St. Mark Members**

Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Kathy Casey, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Bruce Martens, Dwight Ness, Mae Newsome, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Larry Shurtleff, Cohen Summers, & Carol Weshinsky

### **St. Mark Family and Friends**

Dennis Althardt, Stellamarie Bearth, Bonnie Baete, Phyllis Booker, Kathy Boxdorfer, Thomas Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam, Patty Brennecke, Doug Carpenter, Susan Carson, Christine, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis, Marilyn Dichsen, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Josh Gansmann, Marge Gardner, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Jamie House, Debbie Jacobs, Jimmy Jurgens, Austin Lickenbrock, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Glenda Martiszus, Bobby & Joyce McCall, Allen Martens, Janet Middendorf, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Theresa Painter, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Debbie & Larry Powers, Darrell Robinson, Sarah and Family, Dave Schaaf, Jill Schlueter, Becky Schnitzius, Stefanie Schroeder, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep, Ingrid Thompson, Bob Vaughn, David Vaught, Toni Walston, Louise Wilson, Margie Wilson, Sue Witherell, Karen Woolf, Wilma Woolf, Jeanie Workman, Ken Zika, Chloe Zipperer

### **Members and Friends Serving in Our Nation's Military**

Taiylar Foppe Merrel & Josh Merrel, Ryan McKenzie

### **Members Celebrating Birthdays This Week**

Pastor Brian (12/15), Sarah Ott (12/16), Keith Kniepkamp (12/17), Kara Monfre (12/21), and Sam Simard (12/21)

### **Members & Friends who Grieve the Loss of Loved Ones**

The family and friends of **Herb Halwachs** (Missy Kimbrell's father)(12/9)  
The family and friends of **Mike Koeneman** (Nurse Becky's brother)(12/9)

### **St. Mark Staff**

**Pastor:** The Rev. Brian M. Robison  
**Office Administrator:** Randi Cardoza + **Music Director:** Carol Kugler  
**Organist:** Evelyn Duncan + **Parish Nurse:** Becky Schnitzius

### **Land Acknowledgement**

St. Mark Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the **Quapaw, Myaamia, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo** peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

# MARK TIMES

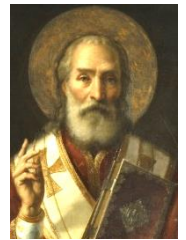
NEWS and NOTES for December 15, 2024

## *This Week at St. Mark:*

<b>Monday, Dec. 16:</b>	2:30PM	Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 18:</b>	11:30AM	St. Mark Table Talk: <i>Gluttony and Drunkenness in Israel</i>
	6:00PM	Advent Soup Supper
	7:00PM	Holden Evening Prayer
<b>Thursday, Dec. 19:</b>	6:15PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00PM	Voice Choir Rehearsal

## Today's Adult Forum – *St. Nicholas, Part 2*

Today's Adult Forum will feature the second half of the video documentary, *St. Nicholas – The Real Story*, led by Dr. Mark Wilson, one of the lecturers at the Bible and Archaeology Fest that Pastor Brian attended.



## Advent Lessons & Carols Tonight

Please join us **TONIGHT, Sunday, December 15 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 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.

## Table Talk Bible Class This Wednesday!

The rescheduled St. Mark Table Talk Bible class from November is **THIS Wednesday, December 18 at 11:30am** in the conference room. Appropriately dropping right in between the year's two great days of feasting, the topic is "**Gluttony & Drunkenness in Ancient Israel.**" Bring a lunch and let's dig in!



Our last **Advent Evening Prayer & Soup Supper** is this **Wednesday, December 18**. 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.

## 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 **THIS Wednesday, December 18** with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line. \*Online donations may be made through VANCO at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-ZMGQ>. All dedications will be published in the Christmas bulletin.



## Yoga at St. Mark!



Interested in **Yoga**? Whether you are a beginner or experienced, come to a **Meet and Greet** on **Thursday, December 19 at 6:15PM** in the **Parish Hall** to **meet the instructor** and **ask any questions** concerning the practice of yoga, the class itself and items you may need. **Formal classes will be held for 45 minutes on Thursday evenings at 6:15PM beginning on January 2, 2025** in the **Parish Hall**. A **donation of \$5.00** is asked for **each session**. Please **bring your own mat and water bottle** for classes.

Practicing yoga can help with body flexibility, strength, mobility, and balance. It also requires you to shift into a more relaxed state, which can help decrease stress, increase focus, and promote a stronger connection with yourself. You can't ask for a more pose-ative experience!

## Angel Tree THANKS

Thank you to everyone for making the Angel Tree Project very successful. Our faith communities at St George's and St Mark generously provided **gifts for over 70 children** through Lutheran Child & Family Services.



## Presiding Bishop Eaton's Christmas Message



In her Christmas message, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton calls our attention to the word "joy" in the angel's proclamation to the shepherds. "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11). Eaton reminds us that the message of Christmas is **joy, not** happiness. Happiness is transient and humanmade. But joy given by God is deep and strong and unshakable. "Joy is a sign of the reign of God...Perhaps that is

why in the middle of the night, to terrified shepherds, outside of a small town, God chose to send the angels to announce the birth of Jesus. No distraction. No interference. Just the simple, deep, profound gift of true and lasting joy." Watch the video message here: <https://bit.ly/3D9ULKc>

**St. Mark Offerings for 12/8: General Fund: \$7036; Food Pantry: \$14.14**

## Advent Word Search



N	P	E	A	C	E	C	A	N	D	L	E	S	L
F	H	O	E	A	O	N	K	R	C	V	U	W	L
R	A	C	J	N	E	N	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y
A	I	H	E	M	S	T	E	T	N	E	N	N	I
N	S	R	S	E	S	R	E	S	E	G	O	L	D
K	S	I	U	H	N	E	M	E	S	I	W	E	N
I	E	S	S	E	Y	S	Y	A	E	O	J	V	I
N	M	T	R	L	L	E	R	M	N	Y	R	O	T
C	S	M	A	H	T	P	R	W	J	G	R	L	L
E	A	A	M	T	M	O	H	Y	O	J	E	I	A
N	C	S	A	E	S	H	E	R	P	H	L	L	H
S	L	Y	A	B	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	R	S
E	N	O	W	A	D	V	E	N	T	S	C	N	A
S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	E	H	A	A	A

STAR  
SHEPHERDS  
ANGELS  
PEACE  
GOLD  
BETHLEHEM  
JESUS  
FRANKINCENSE  
JOY  
CANDLE  
NATIVITY  
CHRISTMAS  
WREATH  
LOVE  
WISEMEN  
MESSIAH  
MYRRH  
ADVENT  
HOPE