

ST. MARK'S BETHANY

NEWSLETTER

Telling the Story of God's Work at St. Mark's

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

That's a Good Question — "Where, O Death, is Your Victory"

This Sunday, November 1, we invite you to join us for a special All Saints Sunday as we remember and give thanks for the lives of those who have gone before us in faith. Pastor Randy continues our sermon series, "*That's a Good Question,*" with "**Where, O Death, is Your Victory?**" based on 1 Corinthians 15:42-57. Through Christ's resurrection, we are reminded that death does not have the final word. God's promise of eternal life brings us hope, comfort, and the assurance that His love never ends. Come worship with us as we celebrate the victory we have in Jesus Christ and the hope that carries us through both life and death.

Service times —

The Traditional service will begin at 9:30 a.m., and the Modern service begins at 11:00 a.m.. For individuals unable to attend in person, we are pleased to offer live streaming for our Traditional service.

To watch the live stream, please join us at:

9:30 a.m. Sunday morning on **YouTube** or on **FaceBook**

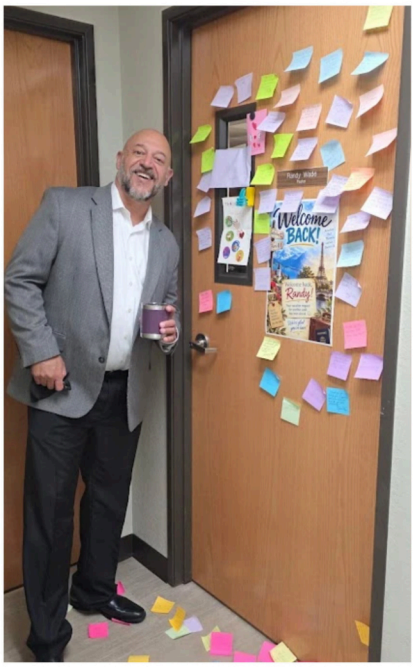


Sunday School Classes

CHILDREN	
"Seeds" (Ages 0-18 mos)	9:30 - 12;00
"Sprouts" (Ages 18 mo-3 yrs)	9:30 - 10:35
Kidmin 1 (Elementary)	9:30 - 10:35
Kidmin 2 (Elementary)	11:00 - 12:00
ADULT	
• 8:30 am	
New Life	Rm 18
Sonshine	Rm 17
• 9:30 am	
Books of the Bible	Rm 17
Disciple Class	Rm 18
Young Adults	Rm 5
• 10:45 am	
Faithbuilders	Rm 18
Good News Class	Choir Room
R.O.C.K.	Rm 19
Understanding God's Word	Rm 17



All Saints Sunday reminds us that we are part of something much greater than ourselves—a family of faith that stretches across generations. Though we may be separated by death, we remain united in Christ and in the hope of His resurrection. Join us for this special time of remembrance and worship.



You've Been *POST-ITively* Appreciated!

Pastor Randy got quite a surprise when his office door became a colorful display of love and appreciation! Sticky notes filled with kind words, encouragement, and heartfelt thanks were a fun way to remind him just how much he means to his St. Mark's family.

Sometimes the smallest notes carry the biggest blessings!

FALL BACK, Y'ALL!

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 1, at 2:00 a.m. Remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night!

You get an extra hour of sleep—no excuses for missing church!



Calling All Cookie Bakers!



The PCW Football team dinner is Thursday, October 29 --TOMORROW! Please bring homemade chocolate chip cookies to the church office as soon as possible. Thank you to those who have already dropped some off! The sooner they arrive, the more time we'll have to stack them up and get everything ready. Let's send these players home with full hearts and plenty of cookies!

Hear More, Join In!

We're excited to introduce St. Mark's new assistive listening system to help you hear more clearly during worship! Ten receivers are available to use with your own wired earbuds or earbuds we provide. Auracast listening is also available for compatible hearing aids. Stop by the tech booth at the back of the sanctuary for help getting connected. We want everyone to hear and take part in worship!

Our New Assistive Listening System

10 receivers available

Bring your wired earbuds
or use the earbuds we provide.

Auracast listening for
compatible hearing aids



Help is available in the Tech Booth at the back of the Sanctuary!

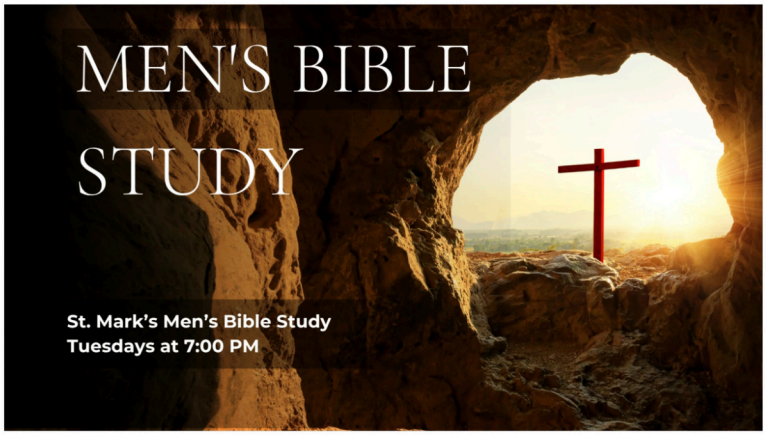
WHAT'S A Jesse TREE?

Have you ever heard of a Jesse Tree? No, it's not a new kind of Christmas tree! It's a special way to discover the story of God's promises, from creation to the birth of Jesus.

Something special is coming to St. Mark's this Advent season, so stay tuned! You might just discover a new Christmas tradition!

Bible Study UPDATES

Men's Bible Study Returns!



Men's Bible Study resumed on **Tuesday, October 27,** and will meet weekly at 7:00 p.m.. All men are invited to join us for Bible study, fellowship, and spiritual growth as we continue growing together in God's Word. Questions? Contact Fred Dalton or Allen Smith.

Administrative Council Meeting

The Administrative Council will meet on November 2 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 18 to discuss the work and ministry of St. Mark's. This meeting provides an opportunity to hear ministry updates, consider upcoming needs, and look ahead to the ways we can continue serving our church and community. The council will also be preparing for the Charge Conference, which will be held on November 5 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and learn more about the plans and decisions that help support our church's mission. We hope you'll join us as we prayerfully look toward what God has in store for St. Mark's!

Our Local Missions

At St. Mark's, sharing God's love doesn't stop at our church doors! Through our partnerships with local ministries like Willow Pregnancy Support and Reaching Our City (ROC), we have opportunities to make a meaningful difference right here in our community.

Together, we're putting our faith into action and showing Christ's love in practical ways!

willow PREGNANCY SUPPORT

Willow Pregnancy Support is continuing its ministry of caring for families at its new location, 41 7 N. Council in Bethany! Through encouragement, practical assistance, and compassionate support, Willow helps families feel valued and cared for during important seasons of life.

Donations currently welcomed include: Children's clothing (newborn - size 6), Children's shoes (up to size 13), Diapers (sizes 4-6), Baby bottles, bath wash, lotion, and Good Start formula.

Every gift, large or small, is an opportunity to remind a family that they are loved and supported. Thank you for helping St. Mark's be part of this important ministry!

ROC REACHING OUR CITY

Sometimes sharing God's love begins with something as simple as helping put food on a family's table! Through our partnership with ROC, St. Mark's continues to help provide food and encouragement to neighbors facing difficult circumstances.

Current food needs include green beans, corn and soup, although all nonperishable food donations are gratefully appreciated.

Please place your donations in the Grocery Basket in the Narthex.

The ROC Thrift Store and donation drop-off center is located at 5107 N. MacArthur in Warr Acres. Thank you for helping us make a difference--one meal, one family, and one act of kindness at a time!

St. Mark's Bethany Women – November Meeting



St. Mark's Bethany Women will meet on Monday, **November 9**, in Barnett Hall. The business meeting will begin at **10:00 a.m.**, followed by a special program at **11:00 a.m.** titled **"What I Didn't Know Because I Didn't Know."**

This informative presentation will focus on VA disability benefits, including how veterans who have not yet received a 100% disability rating may qualify for an increased rating and the additional benefits that may be available to them and their spouses. Many veterans and their families may not realize what benefits they could be eligible to receive.

Whether you are a veteran, spouse, family member, or someone who cares for a veteran, we encourage you to attend and learn more about these valuable resources. Everyone is welcome!

Be sure to bring a notebook! You'll want to take notes on all the helpful information being shared.

Second Winders Thanksgiving Gathering

Join the Second Winders on Thursday, **November 12**, in **Barnett Hall**, for a special Thanksgiving feast filled with delicious food, warm fellowship, and grateful hearts! We'll begin gathering at 11:30 a.m., with our Thanksgiving meal served at noon. **Turkey, dressing, gravy, ham, and drinks** will be provided. To complete our feast, everyone is asked to bring a favorite side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Following the meal, **Katelyn King from Navigating Medicare** will present an informative program about Medicare. Come enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration, spend time with friends, and learn something helpful along the way. We look forward to seeing you there!



Mexico Mission Trip

January 9-16, 2027

The Team is Ready — Will You Pray With Us?



Our Mexico Mission Trip team is complete, and preparations are underway for their journey January 9-16, 2027! We are grateful for those who have answered the call to serve and share God's love with others.

Although the team is filled, everyone in our congregation can be a part of this mission through prayer! Please pray for safe travels, good health, strength, unity, and opportunities for our team to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those they encounter.

Most importantly, pray that God's love will shine through everything they say and do. We look forward to hearing how God works through this mission.

Thank you for supporting our mission team with your prayers!

Student Ministry Fundraiser STRIVE 2026

STRIVE is an opportunity for our students to raise money toward camps, retreats, and mission trips through donations and participation in an 8-hour workday. Anyone planning to attend a camp, retreat, or mission trip may participate. Participation is mandatory for students enrolled in Jesus University.

How It Works



Students will receive pledge cards and envelopes to share with potential donors. Donations may be made as a flat amount or pledged toward the hours a student works during the fundraiser.

Donors should complete their pledge cards, keep their receipts, and return donations in the pre-addressed envelopes or place them in Bequer's box in the church copy room. All pledge cards must be returned to Bequer's box by **November 1** to count toward a specific student.

Incentive Levels

- **$400** – Free retreat and mandatory amount for Jesus University students
- **$700** – Free camp or mission trip
- **$1,050** – Additional free camp or mission trip
- **$1,300** – Additional free camp or mission trip
- **$1,750** – Season pass

Important Dates

- **September 30–October 25**: Students ask for donations at church on Wednesdays and Sundays.
- **November 1: Last day to turn in donations for a specific student.**
- **November 7**: STRIVE Workday and Banquet (subject to change depending on weather)



Thank you for supporting our students and helping make these life-changing ministry opportunities possible!

Church Construction Update from Pastor Randy

It may have taken a bit longer than we had anticipated at first, but the first phase of the building project is nearing completion. Most of the large scale work has been completed and what remains is largely details. For example, the family restroom in the front main hallway is functional, (and can be used) but is missing signs and the paper towel and soap dispenser have yet to be mounted. Barnett Hall is already being used, but the adjacent restrooms still need partitions, the new audio/video system is not yet installed, and there is still some touch up to be done on the walls. The Family Life Center is in much the same stage as Barnett Hall. We still need flooring in the youth room, mezzanine, lobby, and stairs, and the new areas will need to be furnished, but all of this should be done very soon. All in all, we are very close.

Thank you for your generosity of spirit and resources during this phase of the project. It has not been easy for anyone to be out of their normal ministry space and/or often having to share that space with other groups, but everyone has been patient and accommodating and our ministries have continued to thrive despite the inconveniences. And because of your continued financial generosity we are still in great shape moving forward. We have received a little over 1.3 million to date which allows us to move quickly on to phase 2 while keeping our promise to only spend what money has been given. We will still need more to finish all the projects included in the capital campaign, but, if past giving is our best predictor, we should be in good shape by the time the 3 year campaign ends in March of 2028.

Randy

Capital Campaign Update

TAKING ROOT a place to grow

106 Pledges	1,318,719
Rec'd toward Pledges 10/26/2026	1,303,529

St. Mark's Bethany SAFE CHURCH Policy

SAFE CHURCH

At St. Mark's Bethany, we prioritize the safety and well-being of our children and youth. In accordance with our commitment to maintaining a secure environment, we have established the following access policy for the children's programming areas:

Authorized Access:
Only children, parents, or approved caregivers are permitted to enter or traverse through the designated children's areas during the following hours:

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Wednesday: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Restricted Access:
For the safety of our children, we kindly ask that all other individuals refrain from entering or passing through these areas during the specified hours, except in cases of emergency or to access emergency exits.

This policy aligns with St. Mark's Procedure for the Implementation of the Safety Policy for Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults (Refer to Paragraph 2.c.).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in ensuring a secure environment for our children.

Mission Accomplished! Now, Where's Breakfast?









Orange Monday was quite an adventure! The St. Mark's staff got an early start (thank you Allen!) gathering pumpkins, gourds, and colorful chrysanthemums to give our church a beautiful fall welcome. With wagons loaded and our mission accomplished, we decided a little breakfast celebration was definitely in order! Good teamwork, lots of laughter, and a wonderful morning together. Just another day in the life of our St. Mark's family!

A special thank-you to the wonderful ladies who took it from there, planting the flowers and arranging the pumpkins around the church. Your hard work and creative touches have made St. Mark's look absolutely beautiful and welcoming for the season!











Coming Up IN NOVEMBER

Holy Rollers! Youth Bowling Night!



Get ready for an evening of strikes, spares, and plenty of fun at our **All Saints Costume Bowling Night!**

Join us this Sunday, November 1, for a fun-filled evening. We'll meet at the church at 4 p.m., then head out for bowling. The cost is **$20 per person,** which includes bowling and pizza.

Find your favorite costume and come ready for a great night! Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes!

Get ready for the TURKEY OLYMPICS!

Who knew turkeys could be so competitive? **Turkey Olympics** is coming to St. Mark's Student Ministry on **Wednesday, November 18!** Get ready for an evening filled with crazy challenges, plenty of laughs, friendly competition, and maybe even a little turkey-themed glory.

Students, bring your friends, bring your competitive spirit, and come prepared to have a great time. **You won't want to miss this one - because at the Turkey Olympics, everyone has a chance to be a champion!**



Growing in Faith and Having Fun!





Our youngest friends are learning, growing, and having fun in our classes! Each week they hear Bible stories, discover God's love, make new friends, and enjoy hands-on activities. It's a joy to see their smiles and watch them begin to understand that God loves them!





Crossing the Red Sea



















Growing in God's Love Every Week!

Join us in **KidMin 2** (during the 11:00 a.m. service) and on **Wednesday nights** as we discover how the Fruit of the Spirit helps us live more like **Jesus!**

- LOVE
- JOY
- PEACE
- PATIENCE
- KINDNESS
- GOODNESS
- FAITHFULNESS
- GENTLENESS
- SELF-CONTROL

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
GALATIANS 5:22-23

KidMin Sprouts Is Growing!

Ages 18 Months–3 Years

9:30 Worship Hour
Led by
Miss Christie Couch

WE STILL NEED DIFFERENCE MAKERS!

OUR GREATEST NEEDS:

KIDMIN SEEDS
Birth – 18 Months

- Volunteers needed during both worship hours
- Serve 1st and 3rd Sundays each month

Tiny seeds. Big impact!

KIDMIN SPROUTS
Ages 18 Months – 3 Years

- Assistant needed at the 9:30 a.m. service
- Commitment: One Sunday each month

Watch them sprout and grow in faith!

KIDMIN
- Assistant needed at the 11:00 a.m. service
- Serve the 2nd Sunday of each month

FILLED!! THANK YOU!

Building strong roots in Jesus!

KIDMIN RESPONSE TEAM
We also need a few volunteers who are willing to step in when someone is sick or unable to serve. If you're flexible and enjoy helping where needed, we'd love to have you on our **Response Team!**

Every child. Every story. Every life. Eternally impacted.

Could you give one Sunday a month?
Contact Sharon to learn more or to say, **"I can help!"**

The Gathering

A COMMUNITY FOR MOMS of babies + toddlers

Moms, you're invited!

Join us each **Wednesday** morning from **9:30–11:00 am** in **Room 19** for The Gathering, a welcoming time for moms to connect, encourage one another, and grow in faith while your little ones are lovingly cared for by our Titus 2 volunteers. Whether you're a first-time mom or have older preschoolers, we'd love to have *you join us!*

Help Build Our Titus 2 Team



We're looking for caring adults who enjoy spending time with babies and toddlers while parents participate in Bible studies and church activities.

No teaching required. Just a caring heart and a willingness to love our youngest children.

If you'd like to learn more about serving on the Titus 2 Team, **contact Sharon Hunt.**

Fall Fun with Our Overholser Neighbors!







What a wonderful evening of fall fun at the Overholser Fun Fest! From bouncy houses and foam fun to cookie decorating, a cake walk, colorful hats, hot dogs and popcorn, there were smiles everywhere.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the eveing special! What a blessing to reach beyond our church walls, build friendships, and share God's love with our community.

Sometimes ministry is simply about showing up, sharing a smile, and letting God's love shine!













Upcoming Events

Oct 28 - TONIGHT!
5:30 pm WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL
Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo

6:15 pm KidMin 2
6:15 pm Youth Ministry
6:30 pm Choir Practice

Oct 29 - PCW Football Dinner
Oct 29 - Nominations Committee
Nov 1 - All Saints Day
Nov 2 - Admin Council
Nov 3 - Men's Bible Study
Nov 4 - Gathering/Titus 2
Nov 5 - Charge Conference
Nov 8 - Team ION
Nov 9 - St. Mark's Women
Nov 10 - Men's Bible Study
Nov 11 - Gathering/Titus 2
Nov 11 - VETERANS' DAY
Nov 12 - Second Winders
Nov 14 - Men's Breakfast
Nov 16 - Wrapped in Love
Nov 26 - THANKSGIVING

Communion Servers - November 1

Traditional	Fred & Christie Agyemang Dave & Kathy Moore Vicki Leonard & Deb Wade
Modern	Youth

FACTS & Figures

2026 Annual Budget 684,155

Rec'd toward Operating
10/24/2026 7,584

Year to Date 2026
Rec'd toward offering
(thru10/24/26) 510,645
Expenses (thru 10/24/26) ... 526,261

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, October 25 Total 331

Traditional Worship 206
Modern Worship 47
Online Worship 78







Family of Don Boland
Don Greve
Christina Baisden
Donna Shriver
Karen Hall (Friend of Sandy Kelley)
Bobbie Gaston
Mary Jane Svejkovsky
Tamara Spear Kerr (friend of Dot Lyon's daughter, Lori)
Lucas (12 yr old nephew of Carolyn Grady's supervisor)
John Evans
Nichole Norberto
Judy Knight
Carol Hall
Brittany (Friend of Robin Stephenson-Bratcher)
Brandon Kilpatrick (friend of Steve Ross)
Coy Sue Tyler (best friend of Loretta Wright)
Tony Pellegrini
Evelyn Moore
Bill Underwood
Billy Joe Watson (friend of Wayne Barnes)
Sandy Rutherford
Mark Stover (SIL of Sandy Rutherform
Barbara Hill
Elmer (Friend of Barbara Hill)
Judy McMinn
Tiffany Montesano