

Happy Thanksgiving

ST. MARK'S BETHANY NEWSLETTER

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

O Holy Night— "Long Lay the World"

This Sunday, we begin the season of Advent and our new sermon series, "O Holy Night," with Pastor Randy's message, "Long Lay the World," based on Galatians 4:1-7.

For generations, the world waited for the promised Savior. Then, in God's perfect timing, Jesus came, bringing hope, redemption, and the wonderful promise that we are no longer slaves, but beloved children of God.

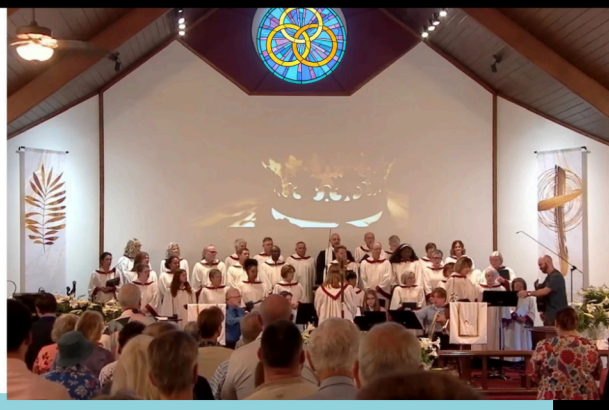
As we light the first Advent candle, the candle of Hope, join us in preparing our hearts for the miracle of Christmas and celebrating the hope that came into the world through Jesus Christ.

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:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on **YouTube** or **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



There is a special way to honor and remember loved ones and special people in your life this Advent season. Donate a Christmas poinsettia for $20 each. These beautiful flowers are a symbol of the holidays and will add to the beauty of our Christmas worship.

A sign-up sheet will be available on the ledge next to the church office. A special insert recognizing the dedications will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins.



This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, a season of hope, anticipation, and preparation as we await the celebration of Christ's birth.

Amid the busyness of the Christmas season, we invite you to set aside time each Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. for a special Advent Vespers service. Through Scripture, prayer, and quiet reflection, we will prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Join us November 29 and December 6, 13, and 20 as we take time to quiet our hearts, renew our spirits, and focus on the true meaning of this holy season.

All are welcome.

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, 4107 N. Council Rd, Ste D2, 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!

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE CDO CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

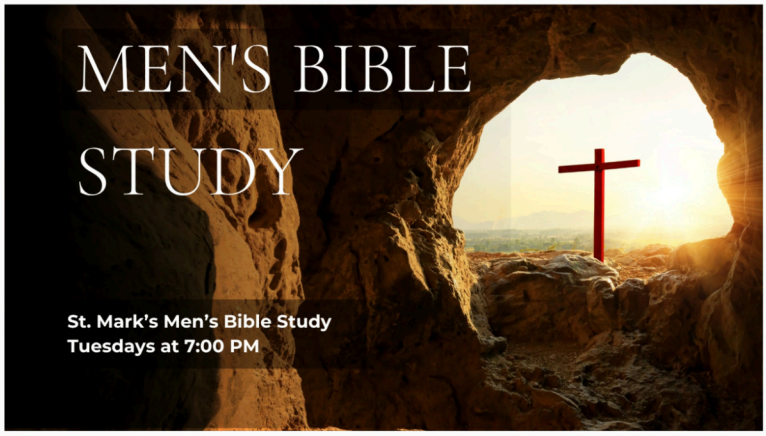


Our Children's Day Out (CDO) children are getting ready to celebrate Christmas, and the entire St. Mark's congregation is warmly invited to join the festivities! Come share in the joy of the season on **Thursday, December 10, at 6:00 p.m.**

A reception will follow, and we would love a little help making it extra special. Ladies of St. Mark's, if you would be willing to bake cookies or cupcakes for the reception, your contribution would be greatly appreciated. Please bring your baked goods to the church office by the morning of Thursday, December 10.

Thank you for helping make this a wonderful Christmas celebration for our CDO children and families!

Men's Bible Study



Men's Bible Study has resumed and will meet weekly on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the church. 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.

Staff Christmas Appreciation



During this Christmas season, we want to take a moment to recognize and thank our wonderful St. Mark's staff for all they do throughout the year. Their dedication, care, and faithful service are such a blessing to our church family.

For those who would like to share in this expression of gratitude, Staff Appreciation envelopes will be available the first two Sundays in December. Gifts may also be made online through Church Center by selecting **Staff Appreciation** from the giving options.

Thank you for helping us show our staff how much they are loved and appreciated this Christmas season!

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 scheduled for 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!

CareShare

Help Make Christmas Brighter with Care Share!

Once again, St. Mark's Bethany is excited to participate in the **Putnam City Schools Foundation Care Share program**, helping local students and their families experience a brighter, more joyful Christmas!

Beginning this Sunday, you'll find a tree filled with names and wish lists of children who could use a little extra Christmas cheer. We invite you to take a name—or several!—and help make the season special for these children.

Here's how you can help:

- Choose a child's name and wish list from the tree.
- Shop for gifts, spending $75 or less per child. Gifts may include toys, clothing, and personal items.
- All gifts must be new. Please, no bicycles or electronics.
- Remove price tags, but do not wrap the gifts.
- Place each child's gifts in a separate bag. If shopping for siblings, place their individual bags together in one larger bag to keep the family together.

Please return your gifts to **St. Mark's Bethany as soon as possible, please have them to the church by December 10th**, so we can deliver them to the schools in time for Christmas.

Together, we can share God's love and help make Christmas a little brighter for children and families in our community!

Church Construction Update from Pastor Randy

So what's new with the building project? I'm glad you asked! We continue to make progress toward the completion of Phase 1 which includes the total renovation of the gym, Barnett Hall, and the additional family restroom toward the front of the church. While most of the major work is already completed, we have had a number of details that are slowing us down a bit. We were hoping to be done by the middle of December, but we now expect completion closer to the beginning of the year. Things to look out for in the next few weeks: All the bathrooms should be fully operational. The new sound system for the gym and the sound and video for Barnett Hall should be ready to go. The entrance/lobby area into the Family Life Center will get new flooring. New interior signs will be going up. And, as is always the case with a project of this size, there is a lot of touch up/detail work to take care of. Once everything else is completed we will need to furnish the youth room and mezzanine. The good news is we are getting very close.

Looking ahead. We are planning a dedication worship and lunch on January 10 - which is wonderfully appropriate since that is "Epiphany Sunday" on the Christian calendar. While the official revealing of our first phase of renovation isn't nearly as important as Jesus being revealed to the world, it still makes for a nice parallel.

Capital Campaign Update

TakingRoot a place to grow

106 Pledges	1,318,719
Rec'd toward Pledges 11/24/2026	1,306,893

Also - Phase 2 will begin January 9 with a demolition day. Like with the beginning of Phase 1, we will need a lot of people to help tear out walls and floors as we prepare our front bathrooms, hallway, and Narthex for remodeling and reconstruction. Look for more details as we get closer to the date.

Randy

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.



Growing in God's Love - One Fruit at a Time!

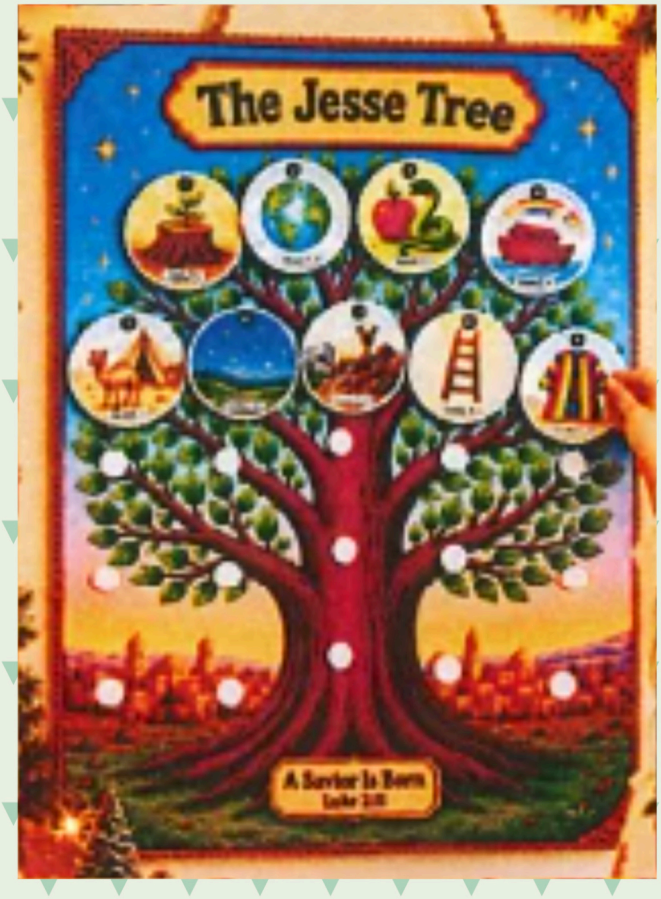


KidMin is continuing their journey through the Fruit of the Spirit, discovering how God's love can grow in their hearts and shine through their everyday lives!

Each week brings new opportunities to grow in faith and become a little more like Jesus!

KidMin Sprouts

Big faith begins with little hearts! KidMin Sprouts provides a loving, nurturing environment for children ages 18 months through 3 years. During the 9:30 a.m. worship service, Miss Christie Couch helps our little ones experience God's love through activities, play, and caring attention. We're planting seeds of faith that will continue to grow for years to come!



The Jesse Tree is coming!

We've been dropping a few hints about something special coming this Advent season. Now it's time to pick up one for your family!

This colorful Jesse Tree features 24 ornaments, each representing a Bible story that helps us follow God's promises from the beginning of Scripture to the birth of Jesus.

There is a different one for older kids too!

Check the KidMin Grid!

Advent is coming to KidMin!

Exciting new resources are here to help families celebrate Advent together! From family devotions and prayers to meaningful activities, there are opportunities to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus.





Favorite Advent books for your family are on the grid. Check them out, and be sure to order one for your family, and be sure to pick up the other Advent resources available.

Turkey Olympics













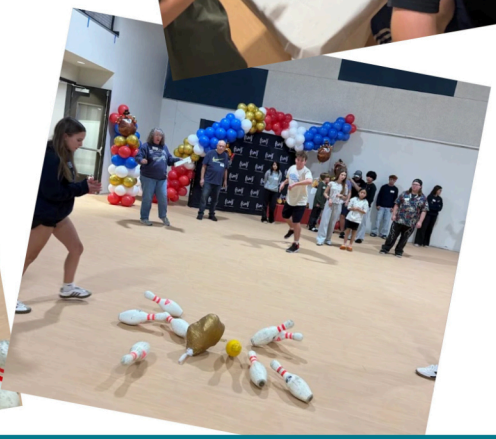












Upcoming Events

Nov 25 - No Wednesday Night Programming

Nov 26 - THANKSGIVING

Nov 29 - First Sunday of Advent

Dec 1 - Men's Bible Study

Dec 2 - The Gathering/Titus 2

Dec 5 - Faith Builders Christmas Party

Dec 6 - Team ION

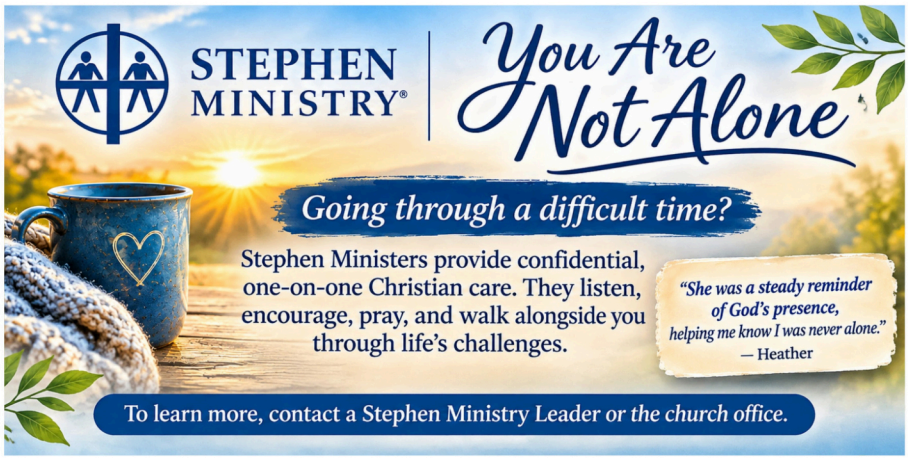
Dec 10 - CDO Christmas Program

Dec 13 - R.O.C.K. Christmas Party

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve

Dec 25 - CHRISTMAS





Communion Servers – November 29

Traditional	Leslie Sipes & Becky Chessmore Bob & Lynne Kanary Ed & Gina Boerner
Modern	Danny & Sabrina Beebe

FACTS & Figures

2026 Annual Budget 684,155

Rec'd toward Operating
11/21/2026 4,853

Year to Date 2026
Rec'd toward offering
(thru 11/21/26) 553,563
Expenses (thru 11/21/26) ... 582,087

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, November 22 Total 360

Traditional Worship 201
Modern Worship 45
Online Worship 114



Family of Sandy Rutherford
Fr Jim Dieker (friend of Lenita's daughter, Charity)
Sarah (Sister of Robin Bratcher)
In Utero Grandaughter (Connie Willis)
Norma Boland
Elle Gather
Don Greve
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
Tami Bryan (Homer family)
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
Skyler Wolfgang (granddaughter of Tony & Vicki Pellegrini)
Evelyn Moore
Bill Underwood
Mark Stover (SIL of Sandy Rutherford
Barbara Hill
Judy McMinn
Tiffany Montesano
Andre Frehley (daughter of Barbara Homer)