



ST. MARK'S BETHANY NEWSLETTER

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

The Life Was the Light of All People

Join us for worship this Sunday as Pastor Randy continues our Advent sermon series, *The Light Shines in the Darkness*. This week, as we celebrate the second Sunday of Advent--the week of **Peace**--his message, *He Came to Testify to the Light*, will reflect on Luke 1:67-79 and Zechariah's Spirit-filled prophecy. Together we'll remember **9:30 am Sunday morning** shine light into every shadow and to guide our feet into the way of peace. We look forward to worshipping with you!

Service times -

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

To watch the live streams, please join us at:

9:30 am Sunday morning 11:00 am Sunday morning



Sunday School Classes

We have classes for all ages and interests

CHILDREN

Nursery (Ages 0-3 yrs)	9:30 - 12:00
KidMin (Age 3 - 5th grade)	9:30 - 10:35
Wee Worship (Age 3- Kdgt)	10:45 - 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

DIAPER DRIVE

for Growing Families

We have two sweet moms in our St. Mark's family preparing to welcome new babies very soon - one of them in December! As their church family, this is our chance to surround them with love in a very practical way.

We're collecting diapers of any size, and we'd love your help. Whether you bring a pack or a whole box, every donation matters. You can drop diapers off in the church office or give them directly to Sharon Hunt.

Let's bless these families as they get ready for their little one's arrival!

And a quick reminder--St. Mark's will continue to celebrate each new mom and baby with a church-wide baby shower, just as we always have. Your gifts for the Diaper Drive simply help us extend the same love and support to moms who are already busy raising little ones at home.

Thank you for helping us care for our newest growing families!

Willow Needs Our Help

One of our local mission partners, Willow Pregnancy Support, has unexpectedly lost their lease and must relocate by January 1st. They are currently searching for a new Bethany-area space with 2,000+ square feet and a budget of around \$3,000 per month.

If you know of an available building, office space, or rental property that might meet their needs, please contact the church office or reach out to Willow directly. Let's come alongside this ministry that faithfully serves women, children, and families in our community.

Our Local Missions

St. Mark's believes that mission work happens both across the globe and right here at home. ROC and Willow are two incredible ministries that are making a real difference in the lives of individuals and families in our own community.

Through your prayers, service and generosity, we are able to partner with these organizations as they share hope, meet practical needs, and reflect Christ's love in meaningful ways.



Willow Pregnancy Support is grateful for contributions of clothing for newborns to size 6, shoes up to size 13, and diapers in sizes 4, 5, and 6. They also welcome donations of bottles, bath wash, lotion, and Good Start Formula. Your support truly makes a difference—thank you for your generosity!



ROC always appreciates our donations of canned and boxed food. Although they accept other types of contributions, our church focuses on providing food. Right now they especially need canned meats such as tuna or chicken, but any type of canned goods is welcome and appreciated. Please place your food donations in the Grocery Basket located in the narthex! Thank you for helping support this important ministry.

Marriage Conference – January 2 & 3, 2026

Hosted by St. Andrew's Community Church
Open to St. Mark's Couples

Start the new year by investing in one of God's greatest gifts--your marriage. St. Andrew's Community Church is hosting a two-day Marriage Conference, and they are graciously extending the invitation to all St. Mark's couples. Whether your marriage needs encouragement, a tune-up, or simply intentional time together, this conference will offer practical tools and Christ-centered wisdom to help your relationship grow and thrive.

Trey and Amy Dixon from Choosing Love Biblical Counseling will lead the sessions and share their experience and heartfelt guidance.

Ticket price is per couple and includes all conference materials, lunch on Saturday, snacks and childcare. Registration cost is \$145.

Please contact Rev. Josh Coats with any questions you may have by emailing jcoats@saokc.org.

Click this link for more information and to register:



Poinsettias for Advent

Help us beautify the sanctuary this Advent season with poinsettias given in memory of or in honor of someone special. After the Christmas Eve services, you're welcome to take your poinsettia home.

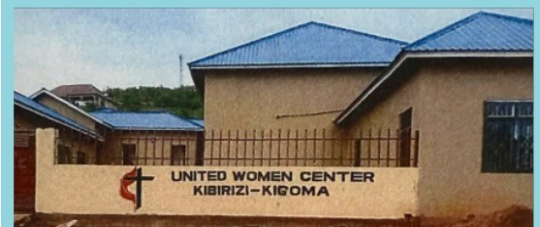
Please sign up for your poinsettias on the You may sign up at the church counter or by calling the church office. Poinsettias are \$20 each this year.



Kigoma Women's Center Dedication Mission Trip

Plans are moving forward for the June 7, 2026 dedication of the Women's Center in Kigoma, Tanzania, and Pastor Randy will be finalizing trip details and estimated costs this week. If you are considering being part of this mission team, now is the time to pray, think it over, and make your decision.

There will be a Mission Meeting after church this Sunday, November 23rd, for anyone interested in going. If you feel even a small tug toward this opportunity--or if you simply want more information--please plan to attend. Your presence at the meeting will help Pastor Randy know who is seriously considering the trip so preparations can continue.



Please keep this mission opportunity in your prayers, and ask God whether He might be calling you to be part of this meaningful journey.

Second Winder's to Meet December 11th

Looking forward to December 11th for the Second Winder's gathering. We will gather in the sanctuary starting at 11 o'clock to watch and enjoy the CDO Christmas program.

Our meal together starts at 12 o'clock. If you would like to bring homemade Christmas cookies to serve as our desserts, please feel free to do so.

Following the meal, we will be playing Jesus Bingo.



You're Invited to a Baby Shower



CareShare



St. Mark's is taking part in the Care Share program again this year.

Thank you, St. Mark's!!! All of the names have been taken --

THANK YOU ST. MARK'S!

Please be sure to return your gifts (unwrapped) to the church by DECEMBER 7TH!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
LOVING, GENEROUS
HEARTS!!**



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

4:00 pm

7:00 pm

11:00 pm

St. Mark's Bethany Women Meeting December 8th



St. Mark's Bethany Women are hosting a Christmas "Thank You" brunch at 11:00 am on December 8th in Barnett Hall.

Men's Breakfast Saturday - Dec. 13



Christian Symbol Candle



The candle symbolizes Jesus being the light of the world (John 8:12), as well as his call for Christians to be lights (Matthew 5:14).

Candles play a prominent role in the Christmas season. Each candle on an Advent wreath has a special meaning. Many churches have a candlelight worship service on Christmas Eve.

Men's Bible Study Tuesdays, 7:00 PM

Unashamed of the Gospel

St. Mark's Men's Bible Study

The St. Mark's men's Fall study is "Unashamed of the Gospel". The study meets at 7:00 pm in Room 17. This is Paul's longest letter, which includes some great themes.

For information, call Fred Dalton at 405-823-7264 or Rev. Allen Smith at 405-620-1861.

Bring your bible and join us.



KidMin is enjoying their Advent journey called "Waiting for Jesus" exploring the nativity story and discovering how God kept His promise to send a King--Jesus--just as the prophets foretold.

We're excited to walk through this season with your families as we help our children understand the true wonder of Christmas: the long-awaited arrival of our Savior.

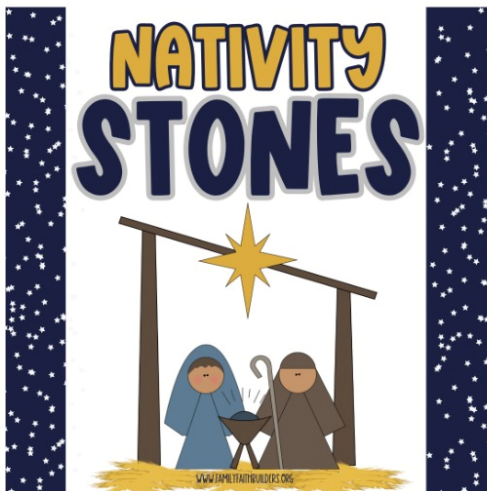
Cards of Thanks for Our Heroes



Our KidMin children are learning the importance of gratitude and service by creating handmade cards for the men and women serving in our military. These cards will be sent overseas through The Hugs Project, reminding our troops that they are loved, appreciated, and prayed for back home. Everyone can write a card!

Please turn in all letters and cards by **December 15** so they can be included in this special delivery of encouragement and love.

A HANDS-ON ADVENTURE FOR FAMILIES! TONIGHT! COME FOR A SPECIAL NIGHT!



Get ready for a special family night! On Wednesday, December 3rd, kids and families will create their very own Nativity Stones--a hands-on devotional kit designed to help your family walk through the Christmas story together.

You'll paint eight stones, each already patterned with a part of the nativity story. Every stone comes with its own matching devotion card. Families can use the cards at home throughout Advent to remember each step of Jesus' birth story--and kids will love retelling it to everyone in the house!

If you're unable to join us at church tonight, no worries--you can contact Sharon for a DIY kit to take home.



Christmas Mission Offering

Our Mission Committee has decided that our Christmas Eve offering will be going to support our mission partners in Kigoma, Tanzania. In 2021 we came alongside our long-time mission partners in Morogoro, Tanzania to expand their mission to the city of Kigoma, in western Tanzania. Through your generosity, we were able to raise enough money to build St. Mark's in Kigoma which is now a thriving congregation in a beautiful building. In 2023 we raised an even larger amount of money to build a regional women's center. That building is largely completed and we will be sending a delegation to celebrate its dedication on June 7 of this year. But both the Women's Center and the church were not able to complete a full equipping of their interiors with the dollars provided. Our goal with this offering will be to bring both projects to full completion. We will be sharing more details as we get closer to Christmas, but we ask now that you be in prayer for how you might be able to participate.



KidMin December Happenings!

Advent is here--a season of waiting, watching, and celebrating Jesus together! We have so many meaningful (and fun!) ways for families to grow in faith this month. Here's what's coming up:

Sunday Mornings in December

Our new Sunday series is called "Waiting" --learning from Isaiah and the New Testament how God's people waited with hope. Children will also help decorate and prepare our classrooms for Advent!

Wednesday Nights

Parents and grandparents are invited to join us on Wednesdays as we explore simple Advent activities that help prepare our hearts for Christmas.

December 3 - Nativity Stones Night (6:15 pm)

After dinner, families are invited to create Nativity Stones together. A special thank-you to Ed and Gina Boerner for preparing the stones.

December 10 - Christmas Lights Trip to Yukon

We're loading up the vans for a fun night of Christmas lightloping!

December 17 - Family S'mores Night

No regular programming this week - instead, we'll gather at the church or the lake (details coming soon!) for s'mores and fellowship. Come enjoy the warmth, fun and gooey goodness!

December 21 - Churchwide Caroling

Kelly Jo is organizing a festive night of Christmas caroling. All are welcome! Contact Kelly Jo to participate.

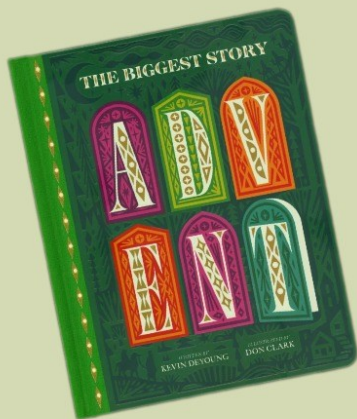
December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm - Family Service (no childcare)

7:00 pm - Traditional Service (Childcare for ages 5 and under)

11:00 pm - Midnight Communion Service

We can't wait to worship, wait, and celebrate the arrival of our Savior with you all month long!



A New Advent Story for Our Kids!

This year we're using a special Advent book for our kids called **The Biggest Story: Advent** --and it's not your usual Christmas story! Instead of starting with shepherds, angels, and wise men, this book takes us on an adventure *before* the manger. It shares the "story before the story"--the promises God made all through the Old Testament about the Savior who would one day come.

Each day of Advent, kids will hear a short, cozy, bedtime-style chapter that feels like a storybook...but every page points to God's big rescue plan and His amazing love for us. Some of the promises in the book are ones they might already know, and some might be brand-new--but all of them help us see how God was preparing the world for Jesus long before that first Christmas night.

Our hope is that this little Advent journey will help kids (and parents and grandparents!) see just how big and wonderful God's story really is.

Let's get ready for Advent together as we discover **THE BIGGEST STORY** of all!

25 Day Advent family Devotions & SCAVENGER HUNT

This year, KidMin is inviting families with children of all ages to experience Advent in a fun and meaningful new way! Our 25-Day Advent Family Devotions take your family on a daily journey toward Christmas, helping kids discover the story of Jesus' birth through simple readings, conversations, and hand-on activities.

It's simple, fun, and designed for all ages. Pick up your family's kit and get ready to begin your Advent adventure on December 1st!

Choose 1 or both for your family!



Youth Winter Retreat 2026 – Sign Up Now!



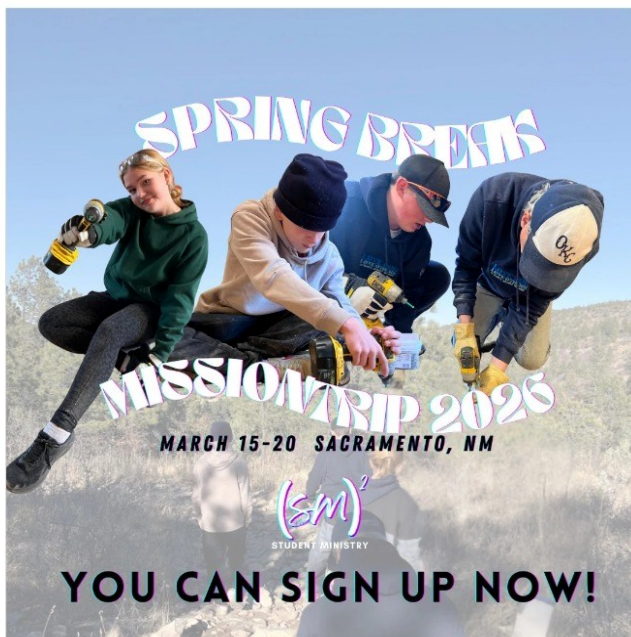
Our youth are heading to **Sky Ranch Cave Springs** for Winter Retreat 2026, and it's going to be an unforgettable weekend! This year's theme is "**Who's Our God?**" based on *Exodus 32* and students will spend February 13-15 growing in faith, building friendships, worshipping together and having plenty of winter fun.

Students can register using the QR code in the graphic, and the deadline to sign up is February 1st. If you have any questions, contact Bequer at bequer@stmarksbethany.com.

Let's encourage our youth as they prepare for an amazing retreat!

Spring Break Mission Trip 2026 -- Start Thinking Now!

It may feel a little early, but Spring Break 2026 will be here before we know it! Our St. Mark's Student Ministry is planning a Spring Break Mission Trip to Sacramento, New Mexico, on March 15-20, and we want students and families to start praying and thinking about going.



This week will be a great opportunity for our youth to serve others, learn new skills, grow in their faith, and have fun together as they work side by side. Whether this would be a first mission trip or a returning experience, all students are encouraged to consider taking part.

Sign-ups will open soon, but for now, please mark your calendars, start the conversation at home, and keep this trip in your prayers as we prepare for an amazing week of adventure!

Upcoming Events

TONIGHT - Wednesday Night Programs

5:30	Meal - Chili Dogs
5:15	Prayer
6:00	Prayer Walk
6:15	KidMin - Nativity Stones
6:15	Youth Ministry
6:30	Choir Rehearsal

December 6 - Faithbuilders Christmas Party

December 7 - R.O.C.K. Christmas Party

December 8 - St. Mark's Bethany Women

December 9 - Men's Bible Study

December 11 - Second Winders

December 12 - Kings & Queens

December 13 - Men's Breakfast

December 14 - Good News Christmas Party

December 16 - Men's Bible Study

December 21 - Christmas Caroling

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services
(4:00, 7:00. & 11:00 PM)

December 28 - Combined Service

February 22 - Chili Cook-Off

FACTS & Figures

2025 Annual Budget	632,679
Rec'd toward Operating 11/29/2025	18,245
Year to Date 2025	
Rec'd toward offering (thru 11/29/25)	576,128
Expenses (11/29/25)	575,896

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, November 30	Total	306
Traditional Worship		161
Modern Worship		50
Online Worship		95

Come pray with us -- whether you want to pray quietly alone, be prayed for, or join in intercessory prayer for others. Explore simple prayer tools, linger or come and go as you need, and experience the presence of God in a peaceful space.



Wednesdays 5:15-6:00 pm
Prayer Team meets 5:15 pm



Prayer Board

Donna Shriver
Donna Lautzenhiser
Tim Dearing (friend of Penny Fryman)
Jerry & Bonnie Fisher (brother and SIL to Sandy Kelley & Mike Fisher)
Kevin (son of Becky & Steve Chessmore)
Isaac Roman
Cindy Wilkerson
Beth (Bidne) Cook
Norma and Dan Boland
Jennifer and infant son, Jacob (friend of Christy Kiespert)
Vickie Wines (grandmother of Chealsie Zink)
Beverly Clark

Tony Pellegrini
Jim Donnan (father of co-worker of Deb Wade)
Kason (grandson of Cheryl Pavelko)
Kathi Wagner (Dot Lyon's daughter, Lory's best friend)
Bill Underwood
Billy Joe Watson (friend of Wayne Barnes)
Sandy Rutherford
Barbara Hill
Lief Hill (son of a friend of Wayne Barnes)
Dianna Davidson
Judy McMinn
Tiffany Montesano