



# ST. MARK'S BETHANY NEWSLETTER

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

### Jesus Is -- The Savior of the World

This Sunday Pastor Randy continues our series, "Who is Jesus and What Does He Want from Me?" with the message, "Jesus is the Savior of the World," based on John 4:23-29, 39-42. In this passage, we encounter the Samaritan woman at the well and witness how her life--and the lives of many others--were transformed by meeting Jesus. Come be reminded that His saving grace reaches across every barrier and offers living water to all who believe.

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

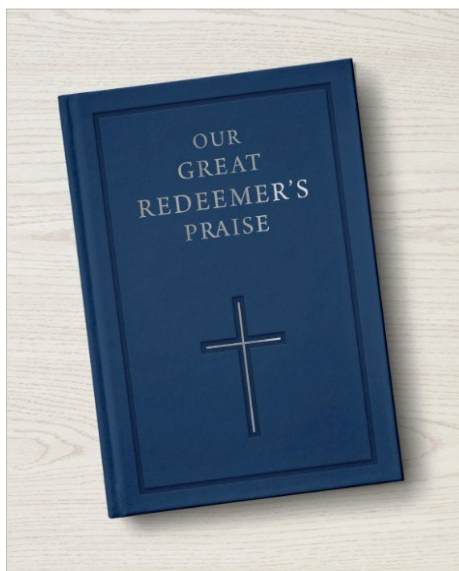


### Sunday School Classes

We have classes for all ages and interests

- 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

# Fill the Pews with Our Great Redeemer's Praise!



Fill the pews with

## OUR GREAT REDEEMER'S PRAISE!

If you would like to purchase a hymnal for the church in honor or memory of a loved one, please sign up in the Narthex or contact Kelly Jo Poss.

Our new GMC hymnal, "Our Great Redeemer's Praise" will enrich our worship for years to come. Each hymnal placed in our pews is not only a tool for worship, but also a lasting reminder of God's goodness and the faithful witness of His people.

You have a special opportunity to participate in this ministry by purchasing a hymnal in honor or in memory of a loved one. A bookplate inside the hymnal will bear their name, serving a visible tribute that will inspire worshipers for generations.

If you would like to give a hymnal, please sign up in the Narthex or contact Kelly Jo Poss for more information. The cost is \$30. Together, let's fill our pews and lift our voices in praise to the One who is worthy.

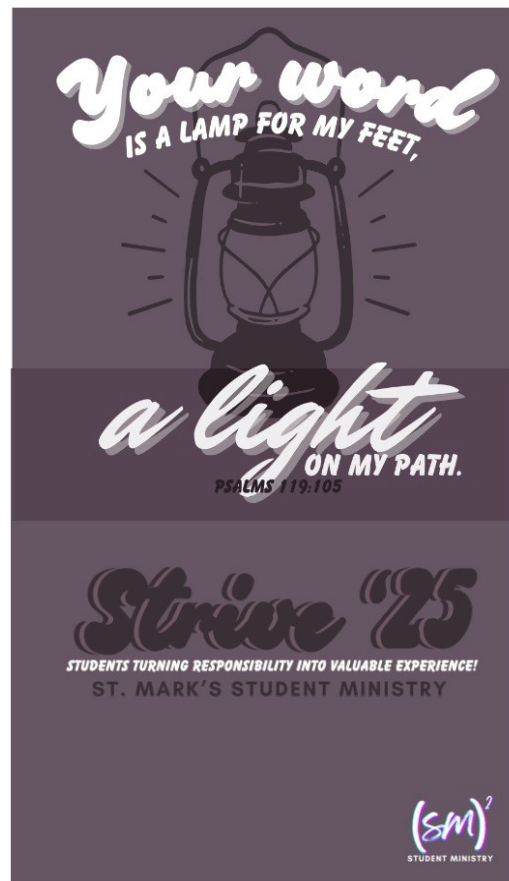
## STRIVE Annual Fundraiser for St. Mark's Student Ministries

This year marks the 26th anniversary of STRIVE at St. Mark's!

Here's how it works:

- Students will ask the St. Mark's family and friends and members of their families and the community for donations to support St. Mark's fall 2025-26-student camps, retreats, missions and the Jesus University Scholarship fund.
- At the end of the fundraiser, students will participate in an 8-hour workday as a way of saying "Thank You" to the church and the community!
- Each student will have a pledge card and envelope for donors.
- Donations may be either a flat amount or based on the number of hours a student works during the workday.
- Donors complete the pledge cards and keep the receipt.
- PLEDGE DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Your support makes an eternal difference in the lives of our students. Thank you for helping them STRIVE in faith and service.!





# MEMBER

## Spotlight

Since 1991, Joy and John Imel have called St. Mark's home. Their journey here began after a difficult church split at Putnam City Methodist. They were looking for a church closer to home—and one day, after their son went on a ski trip with a St. Mark's youth, they decided to visit. It didn't take long before they felt right at home. "We liked it," John said simply. "The preacher was good, and the people were friendly."

The Imels quickly became active members. John joined the choir, continuing a love of music he carried from his previous church, and together they found a welcoming Sunday School class. Over the years, they've built countless friendships and many happy memories—from children's events like the Bible Walk to large Christmas performances with choirs and actors. They still recall the day church members worked together to clear the lot next door, turning a mess into something beautiful through teamwork and dedication.



Joy and John Imel

Their spirit of service shines through their long involvement at The ROC, where they've volunteered for more than a decade—Joy for about 15 years and John for nearly as long. "We feel like we're doing some good to help people who really need it," John shared. Joy added, "It's almost like a family group now. The volunteers work really well together."

Faith has been woven through every part of their lives. Both grew up in church and raised their family in the same spirit. They've faced testing times but found deeper trust in God through those experiences. With three children, ten grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, they cherish the blessings of family—and are especially thankful that one daughter and her husband, a pastor, recently moved back to Oklahoma after many years in Missouri.

John and Joy have also been part of several mission trips—to Alaska, Arizona, Honduras, Puerto Rico, and even Russia—and have traveled widely, including Australia, New Zealand, and Scandinavia. They share a love for sports, golf, and laughter. In fact, their playful idea of buying their husbands golf passports led to something much bigger—the creation of Second Winders, a fellowship group for adults at St. Mark's. "We thought others might like to go too," Joy said, smiling. "So we planned a trip, called a meeting, and that's how Second Winders got started!"

When asked what St. Mark's means to them, their answer was simple but heartfelt. "It means an awful lot to us," John said. "All the friends we've made and the encouragement we've received from everyone." Joy added, "This has always been a place where we could help and a place we knew we could come if we needed help."

Thank you, Joy and John Imel, for sharing your story with us and for being part of our St. Mark's family.



# Oktoberfest

## Second Wunders Meeting

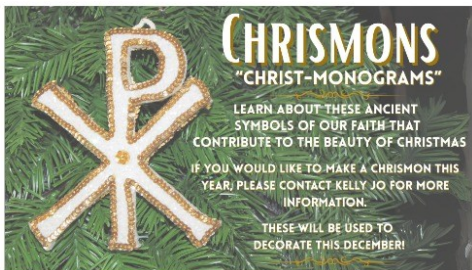
### October 9th

Welcome (Willkommen) to the sites and smells of an Oktoberfest at the Second Wunders on Thursday, October 9. The group will begin their gathering at 11:30 am for visiting (besuchen) and at noon we will have our devotion and meal. Our meal (mahlzeit) will feature German favorites such as Brats (sausage) and Bierocks (Hamburger-filled rolls), Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, Pretzels with mustard, German Apple Cake, and Strudels.

After lunch, sit back and enjoy a special treat as Carrie Fox from the Oklahoma Historical Center brings history to life with her WWII Home Front reenactment.

Come join (Komm Beitreten) in the festivities

## Chrismons - Symbols of Our Faith



This year at St. Mark's, we will be creating a special display of Chrismons (Christ + Monograms) to celebrate the Advent and Christmas season. These white and gold ornaments are crafted in the shapes of Christian symbols--reminders of Christ's presence and promises.

Everyone is invited to take part by making Chrismons at home. Kelly Jo has some templates available. Please see her if you are planning on participating.

All of the ornaments will come together to form a giant Chrismon wreath in the narthex, which will be hung when we decorate for Christmas on November 24th.

This is a wonderful opportunity to use your creativity and help fill our church with meaningful symbols of faith as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE VIDEO

If you missed last week's Capital Campaign Construction Update following the second service, you can now watch the presentation on our YouTube channel.

Learn more about the progress, plans, and next steps for our upcoming building improvements.

Click the box to watch -

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)

## 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.



# Growing Youth, Growing Needs!

Our youth program at St. Mark's is thriving! On Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings, our young people are diving into God's Word, making friends, and growing in faith--and the energy in the room is contagious. With all this growth, we need extra hands and hearts to keep things running smoothly.



From leading games, to helping with snacks, to just being a friendly face, there's a spot for you. You don't have to be a Bible expert, just willing to show up and care. Even an hour of your time can make a difference in the life of a student.

If you've been looking for a way to serve, this is it! Come join us in shaping the next generation of Christ-followers.

***Interested? Reach out to Bequer, or stop by the church office and we'll get you plugged in!***



## Help Feed the PCW Football Team!

St. Mark's will once again provide meals for the Putnam City West High School football team on Thursday, October 9, and Thursday, October 30. This year we will be delivering the meals.

We need volunteers to help prepare the meals beginning at 1:30 pm on each of those dates here at St. Mark's. Meals must be ready for delivery by 3:30 pm. Each player receives an individual meal--your help makes this ministry possible!

In addition to meal prep, we're asking for donations of chocolate cookies (the player's favorite!) or any kind you would like to bring! They can be left those weeks in the church office or in the kitchen.

If you can help with meal prep, please sign up on the counter in the narthex! Thank you for supporting and encouraging our local students.



## The Heartland Conference Women's Retreat November 14 & 15, 2025



Mark your calendars for the Heartland Conference Women's Retreat happening November 14-15 at Claremore FMC. The weekend includes teaching, fellowship and encouragement designed to refresh your spirit. Tickets are \$50, with childcare available and hotel options nearby.

Don't wait--registration deadline is October 24 at [claremorefmc.org/events](http://claremorefmc.org/events).

## Men's Bible Study Tuesdays, 7:00 PM

### Unashamed of the Gospel

St. Mark's Men's Bible Study

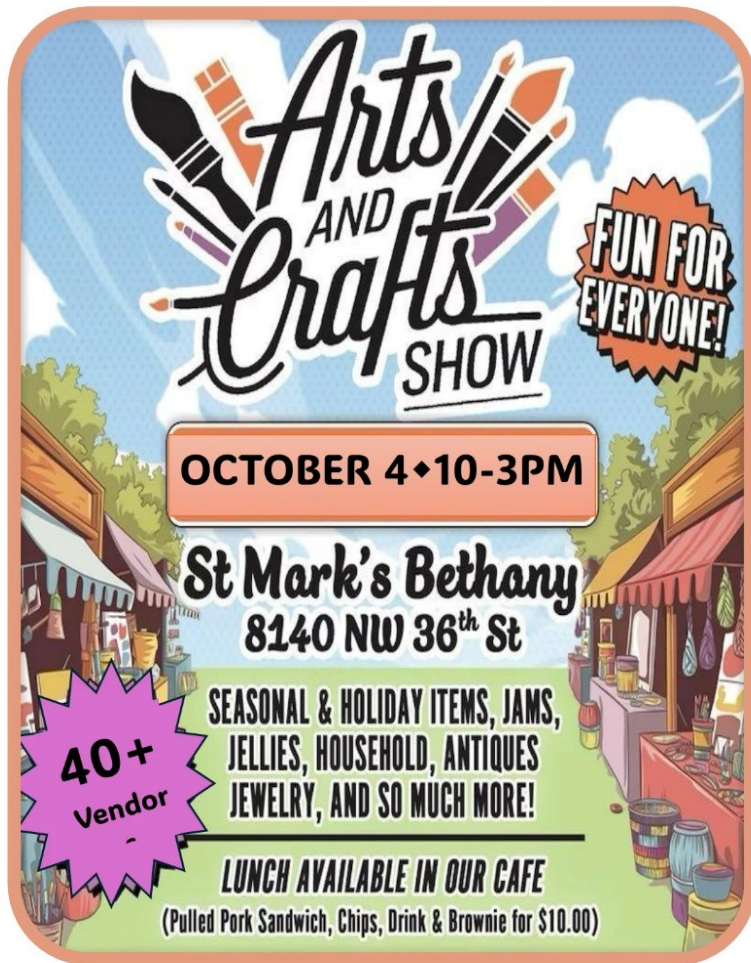
The St. Mark's men's Fall study is "Unashamed of the Gospel". The study meets at 7:00 pm in Room 17. This is Paul's longest letter, which includes some great themes.

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

Bring your bible and join us.



# THIS SATURDAY!!! DON'T MISS IT!



## Youth Costume Bowling

Get ready for a night of strikes, spares, and spooky fun! The youth will join a few other youth groups for Costume Bowling on Sunday, October 12 from 4 to 7 pm.

Meet at the church at 4 pm -- we'll ride together to Holiday Lanes. Make sure to sign up!



## Exciting Mission Opportunities Ahead

St. Mark's has two incredible mission opportunities coming up, and we would love for you to prayerfully consider joining in.

### Mexico City Mission Trip



We are putting together a team for a mission trip to Mexico. The dates are January 15-21. Final costs will be available soon, but we're asking anyone interested to sign up now so that we can begin making plans. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve, grow, and share Christ's love with our neighbors to the south. Please contact Bequer Gomez if you are interested in going!

### Kigoma Women's Center Dedication

We are thrilled to announce that the dedication of the Women's Center in Kigoma, Tanzania has been scheduled for June 7, 2026. This will be a meaningful and historic moment for our church family and our partners in ministry there. At this time, details are still coming together.

Please keep both of these mission opportunities in your prayers, and consider whether God might be calling you to be a part of one of these journeys.

Please contact Pastor Randy if you are interested in going on this trip.



# OVERHOLSER FALL FEST



St. Mark's is excited to once again partner with Overholser Elementary for their annual Fall Fest on Friday, October 24, from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. This is a tradition our church family looks forward to every year as we share in fun, fellowship and community.

The evening will include free food, games and a festive trunk-or-treat for the kids. It's always a highlight of the season!

We need your help to make it happen! Church members are encouraged to decorate their trunks and join the fun as we bless our neighborhood school. Costumes, creativity and joyful hearts are welcome as we shine the light of Christ in our community.

## Building Momentum PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT



Get ready to serve up some fun at the New Covenant Pickleball Tournament! 🥳🌟 Join us on October 4th from 8 AM to 12 PM at the Chicken N Pickle (8400 N Oklahoma Avenue, OKC) for a smashing good time, all while supporting Momentum Campus Ministry!

Don't wait until the last minute—space is limited, and you won't want to miss out on this epic pickleball showdown! 🥒 Rally your friends, polish those paddles, and get ready for a day filled with friendly competition, laughter, and maybe even a little chicken-inspired culinary magic!

Sign up early to secure your spot in the action. It's going to be a pickleball party you won't forget!

## USHERS -- We Are Growing!



Hospitality is excited to share that we've added **USHERS** to our Sunday morning crew! They'll be helping with seating and making sure everyone--both longtime members and first-time guests--feels welcome.

To help make room for everyone, please scoot toward the center of the pews and keep your belongings on the floor in front of you.

We're so blessed by our wonderful volunteers who serve as greeters and now as ushers. Thank you for helping make St. Mark's such a warm and welcoming place to worship!





# Sm kids

And let us keep on running the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith. —  
Hebrews 12:1-2

## KIDMIN ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS



### JONAH PLAYLIST

1. Big Fish by FFH
2. In the Belly of a Whale by Newsboys
3. Second Chance by Rend Collective
4. I Will Follow by Chris Tomlin
5. When We Pray by Yancy
6. Came to My Rescue by Hillsong United
7. This Is Amazing Grace by Amber Sky Records
8. Rescue by Lauren Daigle
9. Resurrection Story by Phil Wickham
10. Your Love Never Fails by Amber Sky Records

# SUNDAY MORNING



Relationships can't happen without communication, and our God is relational. He knows us and wants to be known by us. He is the God who speaks. Throughout His story, we see our Father talking to His kids. Whether in an audible voice or a gentle whisper, or through the godly advice of others, God speaks. And His words are always worth listening to. As you explore in this series the Old Testament stories of people who listened (and didn't listen) to God's voice, may you and the kids you lead tune your ears to the kind voice of our loving Father.

**Come near to God, and  
he will come near to you.**  
James 4:8a

**Train up a child in the way he should go,  
even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6**



GOD  
SPEAKS



# Upcoming Events

## TONIGHT - Wednesday Night Programs

|      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| 5:30 | Meal - TACO BAR |
| 5:15 | Prayer          |
| 6:15 | KidMin          |
| 6:15 | Youth Ministry  |
| 6:30 | Choir Rehearsal |

October 4 - SMBW Arts & Crafts Show  
10-3 Don't Miss It!!!

October 7 - Men's Bible Study

October 9 - Second Winders

October 9 - YAM - New Series!

October 10 - Kings & Queens Kids

October 11 - Men's Breakfast

October 13 - St. Mark's Bethany Women

October 14 - Finance Meeting

October 14 - Men's Bible Study

October 16 - YAM

October 20 - Wrapped in Love

October 21 - Men's Bible Study

October 23 - Kings & Queens Plus

October 24 - Overholser Fall Festival

## FACTS & Figures

|                                               |         |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|
| 2025 Annual Budget                            | 632,679 |
| Rec'd toward Operating<br>9/27/2025 .....     | 4,943   |
| Year to Date 2025                             |         |
| Rec'd toward offering<br>(thru 9/27/25) ..... | 433,373 |
| Expenses (9/27/25) .....                      | 463,071 |

### ATTENDANCE

|                           |       |     |
|---------------------------|-------|-----|
| Sunday, September 28      | Total | 342 |
| Traditional Worship ..... |       | 196 |
| Modern Worship .....      |       | 58  |
| Online Worship .....      |       | 88  |

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.



Prayer Team meets 5:15 pm



## Prayer Board

Family & friends of  
Susan McRae  
Julie Yardley (friend of  
Kathy Moore)  
Anthony Thomas (friend  
of Barbara Johnson)  
Norma and Dan Boland  
Jennifer and infant son,  
Jacob (friend of Christy  
Kiespert)  
Carole Rosenthal (sister of  
Elaine Talbot)  
Wendell Everett (friend of  
Gary Layton)  
Stephanie Maynard (cousin  
of Vickie Maynard)  
Vickie Wines (grandmother  
of Chealsie Zink)  
Tony Pellegrini  
Judy Ross  
Jim Donnan (father of  
co-worker of Deb Wade)

Vernon (Brother of  
Hazel Bremmer)  
Kason (grandson of  
Cheryl Pavelko)  
Evelyn Moore  
Sandy Rutherford  
Kathi Wagner (Dot Lyon's  
daughter, Lory's best  
friend)  
Bill Underwood  
Billy Joe Watson (friend of  
Wayne Barnes)  
Beverly Clark  
Barbara Hill  
Lief Hill (son of a friend of  
Wayne Barnes)  
Winn Lusk  
Ginger Fenton (daughter of  
Jeff & Dianna Davidson)  
Dianna Davidson  
Judy McMinn  
Tiffany Montesano