

"WERE NOT OUR HEARTS BURNING WITHIN US?"



# ST. MARK'S BETHANY NEWSLETTER

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

### Wait—It Doesn't End at the Empty Tomb — From Emmaus to Jerusalem

This week, we continue our series *"Wait—It Doesn't End at the Empty Tomb"* with a message titled "From Emmaus to Jerusalem" from the Gospel of Luke 24:13-35.

Two disciples walk a dusty road, weighed down by confusion and grief—until a stranger joins them. In the breaking of the bread, their eyes are opened, and everything changes. What begins in uncertainty becomes a journey back to hope, purpose, and proclamation.

Join us as we discover how Jesus meets us in our questions, walks with us in our doubts, and sends us back into the world with hearts set on fire.

### 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- Kdgtn)	10:45 - 12:00

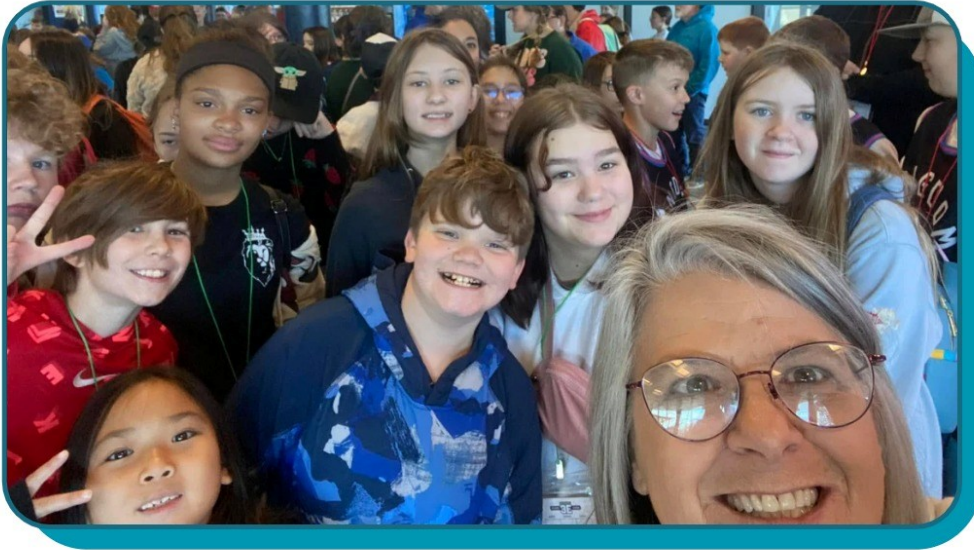
#### ADULT

• 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

# Welcome Back, Sharon!

## *A Season of Rest, A Joyful Return*

We are excited to welcome Sharon back from her sabbatical next week! This season of rest and renewal has been a gift, and we are thankful she has had this time to step away, be refreshed, and spend intentional time with the Lord.



*A glimpse of  
the joy and  
connection  
Sharon brings  
to our children.*

Sharon's heart for children and families is such a vital part of our church, and her presence has been deeply missed. From Sunday mornings to Wednesday nights, her creativity, care, and dedication help our children grow in faith in meaningful and lasting ways.

As we look forward to her return, we also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who have stepped in during her time away. Your willingness to serve – teaching, leading, organizing, and loving our children so well – has made such a difference. Because of you, our ministries have continued to thrive, and our children have continued to be nurtured in God's love.

This is what it means to be the body of Christ – each person stepping in, serving faithfully, and supporting one another.

As Sharon returns, we are excited for all that God has in store in this next season of ministry. We look forward to the joy, energy, and vision she brings as she continues to lead and care for our SM Kids and families.

Be sure to welcome Sharon back next week and let her know how much she is appreciated – we are so blessed by her and by each of you!

*We can't wait to welcome her back!*



# ST. MARK'S BETHANY

We are hiring for paid children/youth 2026 summer internships now!

Apply Here!



St. Mark's Bethany is a place for children/youth to build a foundation of faith and equip kids to KNOW God, GROW to be like Him, and GO serve Him. At St. Mark's, students come first! Our summer interns must have a heart to serve our church and love working with children and youth!

Interns are people who are interested in exploring ministry in the local church. They are selected because of their demonstrated leadership among their peers and students, maturity in their Christian faith, and a desire to see others come to know Jesus Christ. This would be an unforgettable and valuable experience for someone with a heart for students and wants to be involved with them.

## SAVE *The* DATE

### SMBW Arts & Crafts Fair

Applications for the 2026 Craft Fair are already coming in! Booth applications are available at St. Mark's—be sure to reserve your spot soon.

Not having a booth? Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 3rd** and plan to join us for a wonderful day of shopping, creativity, and community.



You won't want to miss it!

StMarksBethany.com

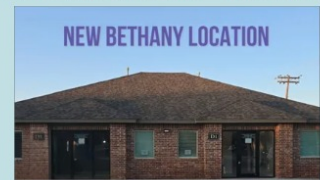
## Our Local Missions

At St. Mark's, we love being part of what God is doing not only around the world, but right here in our own community. Through partnerships with ministries like Willow Pregnancy Support and ROC, we have the opportunity to share Christ's love in meaningful, hands-on ways.

Because of your prayers, generosity, and willingness to serve, lives are being touched, needs are being met, and hope is being shared—right here at home.



We're excited to share that Willow Pregnancy Support has moved to a new location at 4107 N. Council in Bethany! Willow continues to be a place of care, encouragement, and practical support for families in our community.



They currently welcome donations of children's clothing (newborn through size 6), shoes (up to size 13), diapers (sizes 4-6), as well as bottles, bath wash, lotion, and Good Start formula.

Thank you for being part of the love and support we're able to share through this ministry!



Our partnership with ROC continues to be a simple but powerful way to care for neighbors in need. One of the main ways we support ROC is through donations of canned and boxed food.

Right now, canned meats like tuna and chicken are especially needed, but any nonperishable food items are greatly appreciated. Donations can be placed in the Grocery Basket in the narthex.

Thank you for helping us make a difference—one meal, one family at a time.

April 15, 2026



# Your Thoughts Matter!

On Wednesday nights, we have been learning that our thoughts matter because they lead to what we say and do. Last week, we learned about having joy even in hard times and loving our enemies. This week, we will learn about turning the other cheek. Did you know that striking someone's cheek was more about insults than physical harm? In Matthew 5:38-39, Jesus teaches us not to take revenge, but to love those who make our lives difficult.

We hope your child will join us on this journey as we discover that Jesus changes everything—for those who choose to follow Him!

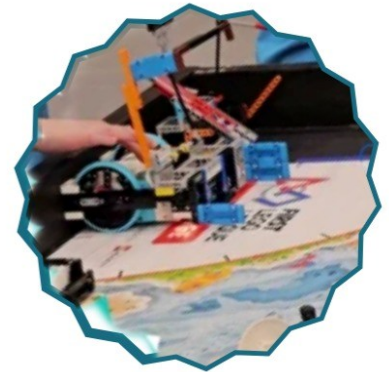
He is the way, the truth, and the life.  
— John 14:6



## ROBOTICS CAMP IS COMING June 29 - July 2



Plans are underway as we finalize details like ages and group sizes. We wanted families and volunteers to go ahead and save the date!



Watch Church Center for registration and details—coming soon!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

# Wrapped in Love

Wrapped in Love will meet on Monday, April 20 at 10:00 am in Room 18. This wonderful group gathers to knit and crochet items that bless others in need. All skill levels are welcome – come join us as we share fellowship and create with purpose!

All are welcome!

## MOMENTUM CAMPUS MINISTRY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mark your calendars! Join us for the Momentum Campus Ministry Golf Tournament on Monday, May 4, 2026 for a day of golf, community, and supporting what God is doing on campus.

- Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 (two flights)
- Location: Oak Hills Golf & Country Club, Ada, Oklahoma

All proceeds go toward helping Momentum continue its mission of impacting students' lives for Christ. CONTACT RANDY IF INTERESTED

# Monday Morning Gardening

Would you enjoy helping keep our church grounds beautiful?

Mondays, from 10 :00 am to 12:00 noon, Leslie Sipes will be in the garden.

Come join us for planting, watering, weeding, or whatever is needed. Every helping hand makes a difference.

Come when you can. No commitment required.



## Have Extra Canning Jars?

Do you have any extra canning jars you're not using? One of our St. Mark's Bethany Women lovingly makes homemade jelly for the craft fair and would appreciate any clean, empty canning jars you'd be willing to donate. You may drop them off by the church office -- thank you for supporting her ministry!

## We're Hiring!

### Part-Time Assistant Youth Minister

Do you know someone who:

- Has a heart for students?
- Loves Jesus?
- Is willing to serve?

We'd love to talk with them!

Contact the church office.



## Men's Bible Study Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Men of St. Mark's gather each Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm in Room 17 for a time of Scripture, conversation, and prayer.

This group offers a welcoming space to grow in faith, encourage one another, and explore how God's Word speaks into our daily lives. Whether you've been attending for months or are joining for the first time, you are invited to be part of the conversation.

Bring your Bible and come as you are — all men are welcome.

For information, contact

**Fred Dalton** (405-823-7264) or  
**Rev. Allen Smith** (405-620-1861)

## Youth Bible Reading Challenge Don't Break the Streak!

The Youth Bible Reading Challenge is going strong, and our students are continuing to build their streaks! Each day spent in God's Word is another step toward growing a steady, lasting faith.

Students -- keep that streak going! Even a few minutes in Scripture each day can make a big impact.

Parents, a simple question like, "What did you read today?" can encourage consistency and open the door for meaningful conversations at home. Let's continue cheering them on as they grow, learn, and deepen their connection with God each day!



## Kigoma Women's Center Dedication Mission Trip

Preparations are being finalized for the June 7, 2026 dedication of the Women's Center in Kigoma, Tanzania. Travel plans are in place, and the team is actively preparing for this meaningful journey.



Eight participants will attend from St. Mark's and David and Becky Roman will be meeting them there. As they gather supplies and make final preparations, this trip continues to be a powerful opportunity to celebrate God's work through long-term mission partnerships and to stand alongside those serving faithfully.

The mission team will depart from Oklahoma City on May 29th and return on June 10th.

**Please continue to keep this mission opportunity, the team, and the Women's Center in your prayers.**

# 2026 SUMMER CAMPS



Learn Character. Learn Independence. Learn Truth.

## KIDS NEED CAMP.

[www.newliferanch.com](http://www.newliferanch.com)

## St. Mark's Children's Summer Camp SAVE THE DATE!!!

We're excited to share information about a fantastic children's camp at New Life Ranch this summer for kids who are **going into 2nd-6th grade!**

**Junior Camp** runs June 14-20 (Sunday-Saturday) with the fun theme, "Superheroes."

Camp at New Life Ranch is an incredible opportunity for children to grow in faith, build friendships, and experience God's love in a fun and encouraging environment.

**Scholarships are available** to help make camp possible for every child.

## Youth Summer Camps 2026!!!



**Check out your Youth  
Newsletter for links to  
sign up for camps!**

Mark your calendars for our 2026 summer camps! These camps are wonderful opportunities for students to grow in faith, build friendships, and have fun in a Christ-centered environment.

**DAYSPRING May 26 - 30**

This is our high school camp for students entering 9th grade through graduating seniors. Camp will be held at New Life Ranch - Frontier Cove. The cost is \$325 per student, and Strive funds may be used for camps and retreats!

**YOUTH FORCE TULSA - June 14 - 19**

**DISCIPLE CAMP - July 22-25**

We encourage families to start planning now and prayerfully consider which camp opportunities are right for their students.

# Upcoming Events

April 15 - Wednesday Night Meal - CHILI DOGS

5:15 Prayer  
 6:15 KidMin  
 6:15 Youth Ministry  
 6:30 Choir Rehearsal

April 20 - Wrapped in Love

April 21 - SPRC Meeting

April 21 - Men's Bible Study

April 23 - Kings & Queens Plus

April 28 - Men's Bible Study

May 3 - Faith Promise Begins

May 4 - Momentum Golf Tournament

May 5 - Men's Bible Study

May 7 - CDO Lunch with Parents

May 8 - Kings & Queens Kids

May 10 - Mother's Day

May 11 - St. Mark's Bethany Women

May 12 - Administrative Council

May 14 - Second Winders

May 24 - Combined Service



Come pray with us – whether you prefer quiet, personal prayer, would like someone to pray with you, or feel led to pray for others. Explore simple prayer tools, spend time in God's presence, or come and go as needed.

All are welcome in this peaceful space.

Join us Wednesdays • 5:15-6:00 pm  
 Prayer Team gathers at 5:15 pm

*We would love to pray with you.*



## COMMUNION SERVERS April 19, 2026

Traditional: Agyemang Family  
 Mays Family

Modern: Youth Group

# FACTS & Figures

2026 Annual Budget	684,155	
Rec'd toward Operating 4/11/2026 .....		12,599
Year to Date 2026		
Rec'd toward offering (thru 4/11/26) .....	157,455	
Expenses (thru 4/11/26) ..	180,826	

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday, April 12	Total	381
Traditional Worship .....		197
Modern Worship .....		56
Online Worship .....		128



# Prayer Board

Family & friends of  
 Frank Wilkerson  
 Penny and James Hager  
 Nicole Norbert  
 Abbey (Evans) Stowe  
 Judy Knight  
 Paul Moon  
 Carol Hall  
 Brandon Kilpatrick (friend  
 of Steve Ross)  
 Norma McMurtry  
 Greg Tyler (friend of  
 Loretta Wright)

Norma and Dan Boland  
 Tony Pellegrini  
 Evelyn Moore  
 Bill Underwood  
 Billy Joe Watson (friend of  
 Wayne Barnes)  
 Sandy Rutherford  
 Barbara Hill  
 Elmer (Barbara's friend)  
 Lief Hill (son of a friend of  
 Wayne Barnes)  
 Judy McMinn  
 Tiffany Montesano