



# ST. MARK'S BETHANY NEWSLETTER

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

### Christmas Eve Services Tonight

Join us this evening for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 4:00, 7:00, or 11:00 pm. Whether you come early with family or late to welcome Christmas together, there's a service for you. We would love to worship with you.

### Combined Service this Sunday

This Sunday, we will gather for a combined worship service in the Family Life Center, a space that has held countless memories of worship, fellowship, laughter, and ministry. As we prepare for demolition in January and the beginning of an exciting remodel, we pause to give thanks for all that has happened with these walls and to look ahead with hope to what God is still building among us. Join us as we worship together, honoring the past and trusting God with what comes next.

### Service times -

Christmas Eve services will be held at 4:00, 7:00, and 11:00 pm. The 7:00 service will be live-streamed. To watch the live-stream, join us at: **7:00 pm Christmas Eve**

The Combined service will begin at 10:00 am and will be held in the Family Life Center. There will be NO live streaming of this service.



### 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

# Christmas Eve Mission Offering

Our Mission Committee has designated this year's Christmas Eve offering to fully support our mission partners in Kigoma, Tanzania. Every dollar given in tonight's offering will go directly to mission work.

In 2021, St. Mark's came alongside our long-time partners in Morogoro to help expand their work into western Tanzania. Through your incredible generosity, we were able to help establish St. Mark's Church in Kigoma, which is now a thriving congregation worshiping in a beautiful new building.

In 2023, your giving made it possible to take the next step by helping fund a regional women's center. That facility is now largely complete, and a delegation from St. Mark's will travel for its dedication in June of 2026.

While both the church and the women's center are operational, additional support is still needed to fully furnish and equip these spaces. This year's Christmas Mission Offering will help bring both projects to full completion so they can serve their communities as effectively as possible.

As you give tonight, thank you for prayerfully considering how God may lead you to participate in this meaningful work. Your generosity is making a lasting impact -- near and far.

## 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!

## 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](mailto:jcoats@saokc.org).

Click this link for more information and to register:



## PLEASE NOTE! Men's Bible Study

## No Classes over the Holidays!

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.

## 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. If you are prayerfully considering being part of this mission team, now is the time think it over and discern where God may be leading you.

A Mission Interest Meeting has already been held, and preparations for the trip are continuing. If you were unable to attend but feel a tug toward this opportunity or would like more information, please reach out to Pastor Randy to stay connected as plans move ahead.



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



## Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ with candlelight and worship. We invite you to attend the service that best fits you and your family.

**4:00 PM - Family Candlelight Service**

**7:00 PM - Traditional Candlelight Service**

**11:00 PM - Modern Candlelight Service**

All are welcome. Come and celebrate the light of Christ with us.

## Candlelight CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

### Learn Why We Worship the Way We Do!



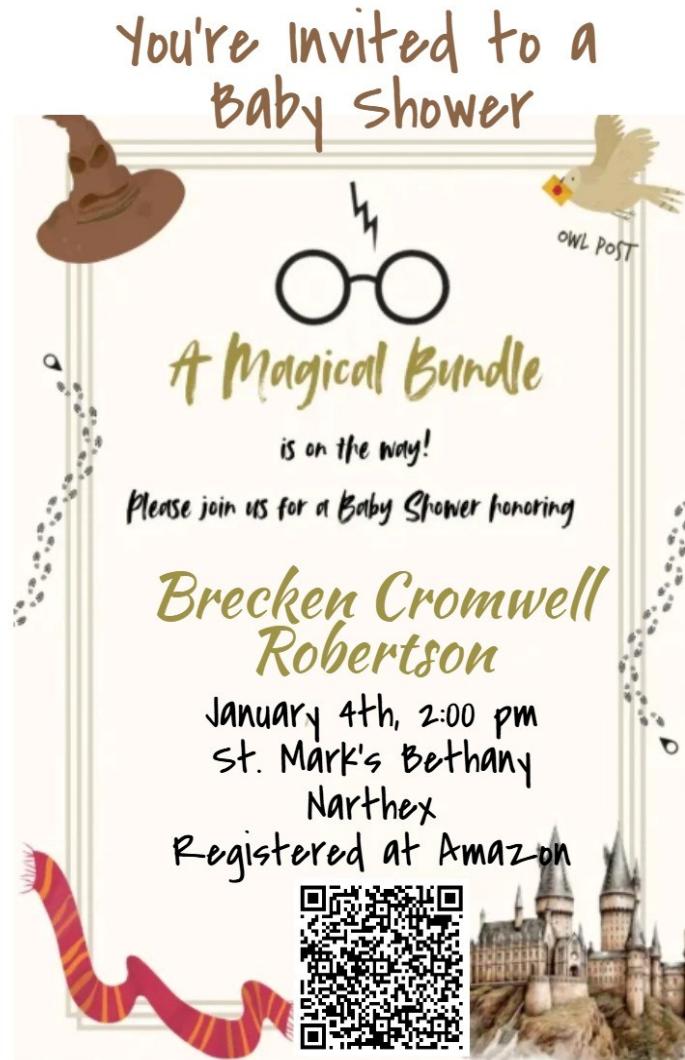
Have you ever wondered...

- Why we say some of the same words every Sunday?
- Why we celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday?
- Why different people help lead worship throughout the year?
- Why the colors in the church change throughout the year?

Join us Saturday, January 17th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for a special family-friendly event as we explore the meaning and beauty behind our worship traditions.

Through engaging teaching, hands-on crafts, food, and shared worship, families will discover how worship helps shape our faith and brings us closer to God--together.

*(Children must be accompanied by an adult.)*





**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.**

## **sm kids** KidMin December Happenings!

### **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 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!**

## **His Many Names, Our Great Hope**

Long before the manger in Bethlehem, the prophet Isaiah pointed God's people to the promise of a Savior. In Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) we read: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Even before Jesus' birth, his names revealed who he is and what he would bring. Each title carries a promise that still impacts our lives today.

**Wonderful Counselor.** Jesus brings wisdom and guidance for every situation. In moments of confusion, we can lean on him to direct our steps with love and truth.

**Mighty God.** He is strong enough to carry our burdens and powerful enough to overcome sin, fear and death itself.

**Everlasting Father.** Jesus reflects the heart of God the Father, offering care that is constant and unchanging. His love doesn't fade with time or circumstance.

**Prince of Peace.** In a world filled with turmoil, Jesus offers a peace that goes deeper than circumstances, a peace that guards our hearts and minds.

At Christmas, we celebrate more than a baby's birth. We celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise, a Savior with many names. Each one reminds us of his eternal love and presence. This season, let his names bring you comfort, strength and peace.

# Capital Campaign Update from Pastor Randy

This is an exciting time at St Mark's for many reasons, not the least of which being the progress on a major remodeling of our building. The prayers, the planning, the work, and the generosity are about to begin bearing fruit. All of these have been crucial. The people of St Mark's began praying about what was next for us years ago and those prayers have led us to where we are. Planning then came next. We met with small groups, an architect, a fundraising consultant, and a builder to come up with a workable plan. Then the work began: getting the plans worked out and drawn, setting budgets, executing a financial campaign and the physical work of getting the building ready for change. And, finally, the generosity of the congregation has brought us to this point where we are just days away from major work beginning. We have officially gone over the 1 million dollars received mark - a number we were not expected to hit until mid-2026!



## Capital Campaign Update

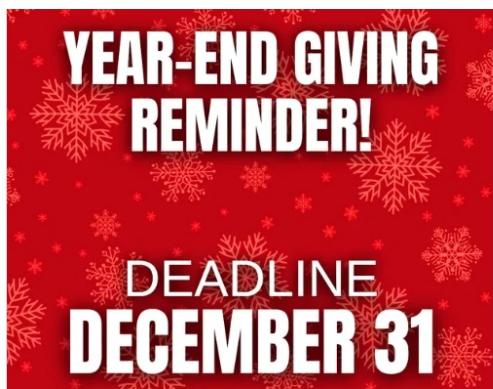
106 Pledges ..... 1,342,736

Rec'd toward Pledges  
12/21/2025 ..... 1,023,344

What comes next? January 3 is our first "Demolition Day" We will need all the help we can get to prepare the gym and Barnett Hall for future construction. There will be a lot of tear down and haul away work as floors come up and walls come down. If we don't get finished on the 3rd, we will come back and try again on the 10th. If we are still not finished, we will be back at it again on the 17th because our contractor will begin the rebuild on January 19.

As I said, this is an exciting time at St Mark's. All glory to God for the faithfulness and favor he has shown us. And thank you for all the prayers, planning, work and generous giving that has brought us to this point.

Randy



### End-of-Year Giving Reminder!

To be counted for 2025, donations must be turned in to the church office, scheduled online, or postmarked by **\*December 31.\***

Through your Church Center account, you can:

- Give online anytime
- Check your Capital Campaign pledge progress
- View your entire giving history

Giving statements will be available mid-January.  
Thank you for your generosity!  
<https://stmarksbethany.churchcenter.com/giving>

## St. Mark's Bethany SAFE CHURCH Policy



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.

# Youth Winter Retreat 2026 – Sign Up Now!



**YOUTH WINTER RETREAT 26**  
WHO'S OUR GOD - EXODUS 32

February 13-15 at Sky Ranch Cave Springs

Sign Up through the QR code!

Deadline to Sign up is February 1st  
For Questions get ahold of Bequer  
bequer@stmarksbethany.com

QR code

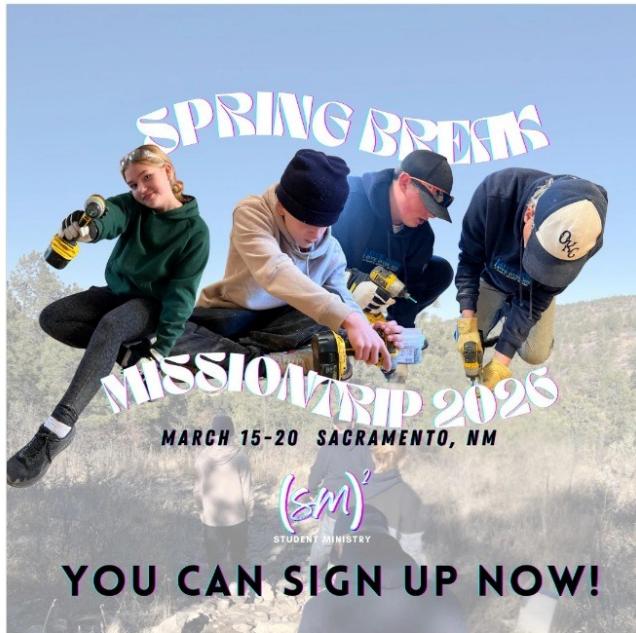
Our youth are heading to Sky Ranch Cave Springs for Winter Retreat 2026, and it's going to be an unforgettable weekend! This year's theme is "Who's Our God?" based on *Exodus 32* and students will spend February 13-15 growing in faith, building friendships, worshipping together and having plenty of winter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

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

December 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

December 26 - Office Closed

December 28 - Combined Service

December 31 - Office Closed at Noon

January 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

January 6 - Finance Meeting

January 8 - Second Winders

January 9 - Kings & Queens

January 10 - Men's Breakfast

February 22 - Chili Cook-Off

## FACTS & Figures

2025 Annual Budget	632,679
Rec'd toward Operating 12/20/2025 .....	9,464
Year to Date 2025	
Rec'd toward offering (thru 12/20/25) .....	613,441
Expenses (12/20/25) .....	622,734

### ATTENDANCE

Sunday, December 21	Total	390
Traditional Worship .....	193	
Modern Worship .....	68	
Online Worship .....	129	

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

Family of Dianna Davidson  
Frank Wilkerson  
DanielleQuinnnett (co-worker of Bekah Wade)  
Ava Norman (grand niece of Nancy Gray)  
Eilene Nelson (mother of Joey Pedigo's DIL)  
Greg Tyler (friend of Loretta Wright)  
Donna Shriver  
Donna Lautzenhiser  
Bonnie Fisher (sister-in law to Sandy Kelley & Mike Fisher)  
Isaac Roman  
Cindy Wilkerson  
Beth (Bidne) Cook  
Jennifer and infant son, Jacob (friend of Christy Kiespert)  
Norma and Dan Boland  
Vickie Wines (grandmother of Chealsie Zink)  
Beverly Clark  
Tony Pellegrini  
Evelyn Moore  
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)  
Judy McMinn  
Tiffany Montesano