

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

December 9, 2021

Upcoming Events.

Christmas Pageant

Sun, 12/12 10:00 a.m.

Access Plus Wheelchair Ramp Build

Sat, 12/18 8:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services

Fri, 12/24 5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

Sat, 12/25 10:30 a.m.

Church of the Good Shepherd

In This Issue

God's Promises

Warden's Corner

Christmas Pageant

Search Committee Update

Name Tags

Flowers

Access Plus Wheelchair Ramp Build

Christmas Services

Stewardship Season

Camp Capers Mid-Winter Camps

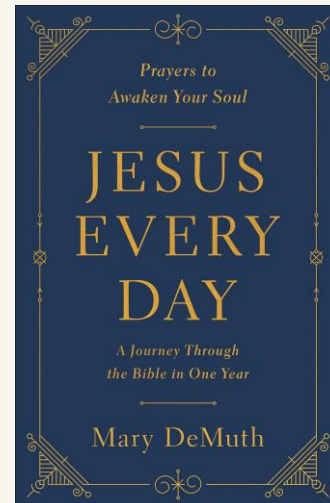
Giving Opportunities

Weekly Calendar & Schedule

Helpful Links

Sunday Worship Service:

10:00 a.m.--Morning Prayer--Pageant--Sanctuary



Excerpt taken from "Jesus Every Day" by Mary DeMuth

DAY 159

MORE

"I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings."

Hosea 6:6

Jesus, I admit it is easier for me to ask you for a list of things to do to be a "good Christian" than it is to really press in to know you and your heart. Just give me the list, and I'll happily complete it independently of you. I want to offer my simple sacrifices without getting my heart involved.

And for a time, that kind of superficial living works. I can playact my way on this earth, following others, and feeling a wee bit proud of myself. But you are not fooled. You remind me that it's me you want, not my rote actions meant to check off a spiritual list. You couldn't care less about my religious activity, particularly when it's devoid of meaning.

Of course there's a place for devotion, but it must spring from my heart. So, Jesus, would you remake my heart today? Would you stir up my desire to know you? Remove the lethargy of my heart and replace it with a holy desire to know you, to press

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into discerning who you are apart from my vague interpretation of you.

I want to know you--the real you. Not the one preachers have told me about. Not the one my culture defines. Not the one who can be understood easily. Not even the one I've convinced myself is really you. I want to shed all that pretense and, instead, be in a place where you can dazzle me with who you really, really are. I wait in anticipation right now, dear Jesus. Amen.

**Seek God! Pray!
Give it ALL to Him!**

Warden's Corner

Thankfulness

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

The Doxology is one of my favorite things about our worship. It's such a simple song, a prayer of thanks to God for all of our blessings, but each time we sing it I tear up a little because of its beauty and simplicity.

We have much to be thankful for, as we all know, but I wanted to share two things I am especially thankful for this week.



First, I am so thankful for all of our fellow parishioners who have volunteered their time and expertise to ensure that our end of year finances are understood so we can make well-informed decisions for the budget next year. There have been many changes this year due to giving amounts and general costs, so making sure that we have enough for what we must do, and hopefully have enough for what we want to do, is no small task. I know that cumulatively hundreds of hours have been spent over the last month to achieve this, and I am most grateful to everyone who worked so hard. Judy, Jane, Doug, John W., Paul, Daryl, Terry (and others I've no doubt failed to mention), have worked tirelessly for us. So next time you see them in the narthex, take a moment to say thanks. I know I will.

Second, we were very blessed to receive a very generous donation this week to support the Access Plus Wheelchair Ramp Ministry. That is hands-down the most successful and wide-reaching ministry we have, so anything we can do to keep it moving is a great thing, and a gift to help with that is beyond fantastic. I will keep the source confidential, but please say a thank you in your prayers this week for that. There are so many whom we have helped and so many remaining to be helped; the donation is truly a gift from God for which we are so grateful.

Have a great week, everyone!

Yours in service,

Jon

Christmas Pageant

Pageant THIS Sunday 12/12

Our children, youth, and a few adults will present their rendition of the Nativity Story this Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. service. This will be an inspired presentation!

A reception will immediately follow the service in the fellowship hall.

Be sure to join us this Sunday!



Search Committee Update

Update from John deMontel, Leader of the Search Committee

Dear St. Mark's!

Just a note to update you on our ongoing search process! We are making appropriate progress. Our Parish Profile has been completed and posted to our St. Mark's website, as well as to the Dioceses of West Texas website. You may also review the diocesan website under [churches in transition](#) to see that we have moved from the "pre-search" to the "active search" status meaning that we are ready to begin receiving names and preparing a list of potential candidates. Our Search Committee will meet next Wednesday evening to continue preparing for the research, interview, and discernment processes on your behalf. Please pray for our continued trust in and reliance on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ during the next several months of our work and discernment.



Proverbs 1:1-5 NIV

"The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel;
for gaining wisdom and instruction;
for understanding words of insight;
for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,
doing what is right and just and fair;
for giving prudence to those who are simple,
knowledge and discretion to the young-
let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance."

Name Tags

Name Tags for Sunday Services Have Returned

The name tag trees have been pulled out of the closet and are now back in their normal places in the entryway to the sanctuary. If you cannot find your name tag on either one, or you don't have a name tag, please let Judy know. Either call her at (361) 994-0285 or email her at judy@stmarkscc.org. She'll be happy to make you one.

As general rule, the name tag tree to the right as you walk in has last names beginning with A through L. The name tag tree to the left has last names beginning with M through Z. We also try to keep families together, so if there are different last names, look in both areas.



Flowers

Flower Chart for 2022

Sponsoring the altar flowers on a Sunday is a great way to honor a special someone or event in your life, as well as add more beauty to our altar. Each year a flower chart is available for people to sign up on for a particular Sunday. The flower chart for 2022 is now available in the entryway to the sanctuary.

After you sign up, an email will be sent out at the beginning of the month of the date that you requested. You will be asked how you would like the dedication on the back of the bulletin to read and whether you want to take the flowers after the Sunday service or have them donated. The cost is \$55.



Poinsettia Plants

Each year we use poinsettia plants to decorate the altar for Christmas Eve, and we need your help to continue that tradition. Please consider purchasing one or more plants. You will be invited to take them home after the Sunday service on December 26. Each plant costs \$12.

There will be red forms in the bulletins for the next two Sundays that will give you the opportunity to sign up and let us know how you would like to dedicate the plant. It could be in thanksgiving for someone or an event, or in memorial of a loved one. The deadline is Sunday, December 19th.



Thank you for your help!

Access Plus Wheelchair Ramp Build

Saturday, December 18th at 8:00 a.m.

The Access Plus Team will meet Saturday morning, December 18th, at 8:00 a.m. to build a ramp for Carol. As her main provider, her husband is really looking forward to having the ramp to assist him with getting her in and out of their home.

If you enjoy working with your hands or power tools, please consider being a part of the team. You don't need to have any experience, just a willing heart. Doug Wayland is the leader of this ministry and would be happy to train you. For more information, please contact him at (361) 813-1781.



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Services
Friday, December 24th
5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

We will have two services, both with Holy Eucharist, on Christmas Eve. The first service will begin at 5:00 p.m. and is more family oriented. The second service, starting at 10:00 p.m., will be our candlelight service.

Be sure to make plans to come worship on Christmas Eve!



Christmas Day Service
Saturday, December 25th at 10:30 a.m.
Church of the Good Shepherd

St. Mark's will not have a worship service on Christmas Day, but if you would like to attend a service, Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church is offering one. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will include Holy Eucharist.

Church of the Good Shepherd is located downtown at 700 S Upper Broadway. Here is a link to [a map](#).



Stewardship Season

Support Kingdom Work through St. Mark's

Our acts of obedience to what God calls us to do in terms of giving to His Kingdom are always blessed. We may not see how God chooses to use our gift, but do not doubt that God uses all gifts to bless others.

When you decide to make a commitment to give to God's Kingdom through St. Mark's, your commitment is not taken lightly. Your Estimate of Giving Card is prayed over and blessed even before the envelope is opened. God will do more with your act of obedience than you will ever know.

If you haven't been able to submit your Estimate of Giving Card, you still have time. There will be cards available in the sanctuary Sunday, or in the office. You can also email the office with your intentions for 2022.



Camp Capers Mid-Winter Camps

Support Kingdom Work through St. Mark's

Camp Capers will be hosting its weekend overnight Mid-Winter Camps this year in January. Camp offers the opportunity for our kids to experience new friends, campfires, outdoor games, singing, worship, growth in faith, and so much more. Scholarships are available.

- Mid-Winter Camp I--Jan 7-9 for 9th through 12th graders
- Mid-Winter Camp II--Jan 14-16 for 6th through 8th graders
- Mid-Winter Camp III--Jan 21-23 for 3rd through 5th graders

Here's [the link](#) to the registration and information page.



Ways to Support God's Kingdom through St. Mark's

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT ST. MARK'S CHURCH!

Is the Lord blessing you? Are you grateful for what He has done in your life? Remember His Church. Though we have experienced limitations for worshiping together, we still have ministries to support and salaries and bills to pay. Give out of faith, thanksgiving, and generosity, and never out of guilt. If you are blessed to be able to give, here are the four ways to do that:



- Online through our website. There is a blue "Giving" button at the bottom of each page. Just click on that and it will take you to our online EGiving page. You will need to set up a user profile, and then you can set up a one-time gift or recurring gifts. You can also give through the ["Donate to St. Mark's"](#) link.
- **NEW APP**----Through your cell phone using the app, Vanco Mobile. To get the app, go to the app store and search for "Vanco Mobile". The icon background is dark purple with a white circle and a purple letter "V" in the center. Download the app and follow the prompts. You can use it to set up a one-time gift or recurring gifts.
- Mail in your check to: St. Mark's Church, 2727 Airline Rd, CC, TX 78414. We have a drop-in mailbox that is locked at all times. We check the mail every day, so your check will be secure.
- Drop your check off at the church. Just put it in the locked mailbox to the left of the red doors at the fellowship hall.

**THANK YOU for helping spread the Kingdom
through your continuing support
of St. Mark's Church.**

Weekly Calendar

Calendar & Ministry Schedule

Here is the [link](#) to the December schedule for our ministries, which is still a work in progress. Please check each week to see if there are any changes.

December 12 - Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer--Pageant--Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. - Pageant Reception--Fellowship Hall

No SEEK Youth Group or Kids in Christ this Sunday

December 13 - Monday

6:30 p.m. - Vestry Meeting--Online Via Zoom

December 14 - Tuesday

10:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. - Men's Cursillo Reunion Group--Nolan's Restaurant on Staples near Yorktown
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer Group--Online--Zoom Meeting

December 15 - Wednesday

11:30 a.m. - Lunch with the Old Guys--Contact Doug Wayland for Location
12:00 p.m. - Noon Day Prayer Group--Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. - Search Committee Meeting--Fellowship Hall

December 18 - Saturday

8:00 a.m. - Access Plus Wheelchair Ramp Build--1106 Vernon St

Helpful Links

Below you will find several links to websites or Facebook Pages that you might find helpful.

[St. Mark's Episcopal Church](#)

[Donate to St. Mark's Church](#)

[St. Mark's Church Facebook Page](#)

[Diocese of West Texas](#)

[Diocesan Newsletter and Reflection Magazine](#)

[Denison Forum--News Discerned Differently](#)

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