

# *The Messenger of St. Mark's*



1908 Central Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82001

December 2017

## **Preparing for a Holy Advent and a Merry Christmas**

The season of preparation, Advent, will soon be upon us. We celebrate Christ the King Sunday on November 26, and welcome in the new church year on December 3. We prepare for four weeks, leading up to the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus, the Christ. This year the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve services are on Sunday, December 24. We will have regular 8 and 10:30 a.m. liturgies in the morning, a 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service with the children's pageant, and our traditional choral Christmas Eve service at 11 p.m. Prelude music begins at 10:30 p.m. Then, Monday morning, December 25 at 10 a.m. will be our Christmas Day liturgy. Join us for this holy and merry season.

## **A Prayer of Abundance and A \$45,000 Increase In 2018 Needed Income**

*O God, in whose every creation we discover a gift freely given: help us to understand that all we have comes from the outpouring of your generosity, inspire in our hearts a deep sense of gratitude, and move us to share what we have received with the same immensity of spirit in which it was given. May our gifts of substance and service be an example of Christ's enduring presence and outreach to this community and all beings. Amen.*

Yes, you read this article title correctly. God has blessed us with abundance overflowing at St. Mark's Church. And yes, we need a \$45,000 increase in income to match our projected expenses for 2018.

As we enter our 150<sup>th</sup> year of existence, you will notice our great commitment towards the children and teenagers, the worship and music, the outreach to our community, and many other areas of ministry. You will notice our great commitment towards our church family of over 400 people through the faithful staff and clergy. The addition of our half-time Director of Children's and Youth Ministries in 2016 has not only stabilized our ministry to babies, children, teenagers, and their families, but also increased the quantity of people that we serve, often doubling the numbers. Our Director of Music and Assistant Choir Director have helped to grow the quality of the worship experience on Sunday mornings and Friday nights. Our office staff continues to be the front line of ministry during the week as people stop by or call in. They also help stabilize our financial management during the year. The clergy continue to help guide our church in leadership, spiritual growth, and with pastoral care.

This commitment takes time and money. Within our budget that was handed out on Stewardship Sunday, you will notice that we have been using our operating reserves, interest from the Centennial Foundation, and left-over income from the previous years to make for a zero-based balanced budget. We do not want to continue tapping those reserves much longer, about 12% of our total budget. We are seeking your discernment in growing our giving as a church.

To allow a final budget to be produced by the January annual meeting, the vestry is asking that pledge cards be in to the church by December 16.

## **Rector's Corner**

I recently found this quote by Mandy Hale that made me think of our St. Mark's Youth Group: "Too busy' is a myth. People make time for the things that are really important to them."

It continues to amaze me at the commitment of our teenagers to youth group. They are some of the busiest and most active people you will ever meet. And yet, basically, every other Sunday they are at church from 5 to 7 p.m., eating dinner together, playing games, having discussions applicable to their lives and faith, and always ending with prayer requests. We take requests and then we pray. This last part often takes between 15 – 30 minutes. They are clearly very busy, but not too busy for being at church, loving God and loving each other. Thanks to Alek Keenan, our faithful young adult, who is there almost every time. And thanks to the 10 – 12 teenagers, as well as their parents and guardians, who make this group strong and cohesive and fun and holy. Thanks God!

**Who We Are / Whose We Are / Who We  
Are Trying To Become**

**Mission**

(Book of Common Prayer BCP, p. 855)

To restore all people to unity with God and each other in  
Christ.

**How**

(BCP p. 855)

Pray and worship  
Proclaim the Gospel  
Promote justice, peace, and love

**G.R.A.C.E Core Values**

God  
Rely on Each Other  
Acepting of All People  
Compassion for All Creation  
Excellence

**Sunday Adult Classes / 9:30 – 10:10 a.m. (In the Guild  
Room or Parish Hall)**

November 19 – C.S. Lewis / Dick Torkelson  
November 26 – Thanksgiving Weekend / No Class  
December 3 – C.S. Lewis / Dick Torkelson  
December 10 - The Psalms / Dick Torkelson  
December 17 – The Psalms / Dick Torkelson  
December 24 – No class  
December 31 – No class

**Living Compass ADVENT series -  
Mondays 12:10 – 12:50 p.m.**

Starting December 4 from 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. in the Guild  
Room

Chris Van Burgh and Kathy Keck

Enhancing your Well-being with Spiritual Practice. We will  
provide a pause, a time to study, share and reflect. Bring  
your lunch if you would like.

**Christian Education and Formation / Fall-Winter 2017**

**Adults**

**Sunday Adult Classes / 9:30 – 10:10 a.m. (In the Parish Hall)**

November 19 – C.S. Lewis / Dick Torkelson  
November 26 – Thanksgiving Weekend / No Class  
December 3 – C.S. Lewis / Dick Torkelson  
December 10 - The Psalms / Dick Torkelson  
December 17 – The Psalms / Dick Torkelson  
December 24 and 31 – No class

**Living Compass ADVENT series - / Mondays 12:10 – 12:50 p.m.**

Starting December 4 from 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. in the Guild Room

Chris Van Burgh and Kathy Keck

Enhancing your Well-being with Spiritual Practice. We will provide a pause, a time to study, share and reflect. Bring your lunch if  
you would like.

**Dolby Bible Study / Sharing Group / Thursdays 10 a.m.**

At Jim and Barbara Dolby's House

**Education for Ministry (EfM) / Tuesday evenings**

This is a four-year weekly course (Sept. – May) offered by Sewanee Seminary at University of the South. Participants will study  
Holy Scriptures, Theology, History, and Ethics. People can take one year at a time.

**Membership Class (Also for Baptism, Confirmation, Re-affirmation) / Throughout the year**

This class explores the scriptures, the Episcopal traditions and governance, church history.

**Youth Ministry (7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

**Youth Group / Sundays 5 – 7 p.m. (In the youth and children's area)**

This group includes dinner, games, life and faith discussions, prayer, and sometimes worship. It includes outreach opportunities  
and fun activities.

**Children's Chapel/Sunday School Worship Leaders / Sundays 10:30 – 11:10 a.m.**

This is a group of pre-teen and teenagers (5<sup>th</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) who help to lead Children's Chapel/Sunday School on Sunday  
mornings.

**Children**

**Children's Chapel and Sunday School / Sundays 10:30 – 11:10 a.m.**

This group is open to 5-year-olds and above. It is an Episcopal liturgy designed for children that includes scriptures, prayer, and a  
sermon (includes crafts, drama, games)

**Nursery / Sundays 9 – 12 noon**

This group is open to those just born through 5-years old. From 10:30 – 12 noon there is a chapel focus for the children.

# Children and Youth Ministry

Dear Church Family,

Children's and Youth Ministries has been busy this past month.

Our kids orchestrated the second annual Tower Tour. It is a collaborative effort among our young people of all ages, parent and adult volunteers. Our kids enjoy the event with great fellowship, adventure and fun. We did not have as many visitors from the community as we had last year, but the participation from the church was wonderful!

We celebrated "All Saints Day" with reading presentations and singing during the 10:30 service. The children learned about three significant saints and the history of their time on earth such as their involvement in the Crusades, the saltier cross, and the meaning of the word 'saint'- from the Latin 'sanctus'.

Andrew Lance received an Episcopal shield award for good leadership and selfless effort!

Our Youth Group loves to cook and our kitchen provides an excellent space for it. Our last cooking event was the Mother's Day Brunch where they cooked the entire meal. This month they enjoyed serving Sunday night dinner to the families staying at St. Mark's for the week, as part of the Family Promise program. Food was provided by Betsy and Warren Anderson, Ida Mae Apostolou and Mike and Tiffany Smith, and the drinks were provided by Rick and Janie Wilcox.

We will be entering the Advent season soon, and practices will begin for the annual Children's Christmas pageant (for all ages) to be held on December 24, Christmas Eve! This a very exciting time at St. Mark's church in our Children's and Youth Ministries. At the beginning of Children's Chapel each week, we will rehearse the Christmas carols to be sung for the pageant. Stay tuned for more Christmas activities planned!

Sincerely,

Sandy Shanor

Director of Children's and Youth Ministries



Tour the Tower hosts



Meal servers for Family Promise

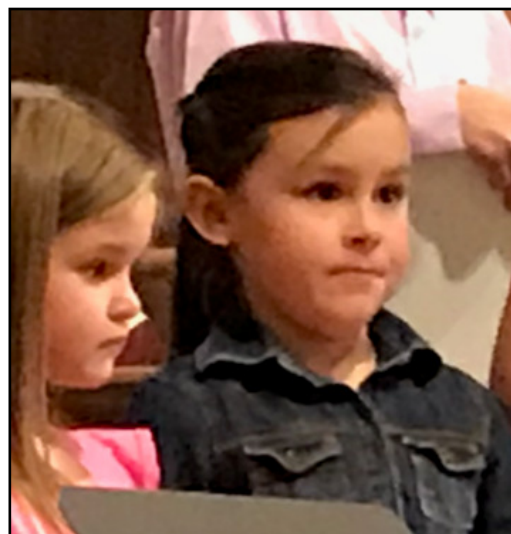


All Saints Day





All Saints Day



## December Birthdays

- |                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dec 2 Meg Rose         | Dec 18 Cathy Bullock         |
| Dec 4 Chuck Mills      | Lucy Swinford                |
| Dec 5 Ryan Lance       | Dec 19 Darwin Pace           |
| Dec 7 Brad Becker      | Dec 21 Erik Woolley          |
| Dec 8 Doreen Sing      | Dec 22 Katerina Smith        |
| Dec 9 Rick Davis       | Dec 23 David Sipe            |
| Cindy Langmo           | Claire Davis                 |
| Catherine Rogers       | Dec 25 Jane Swanhorst-       |
| Beth Lance             | Ringolsby                    |
| Dec 13 John Ott        | Dec 27 Huey Robinette        |
| Dec 14 Barrett Georges | Dec 29 Patrick Millin        |
| Dec 15 Tony Rose       | Dec 30 Bob Boyle             |
| Dec 16 Dennis Anderson | Dec 31 Maximilian Tisthammer |
| Michael James          |                              |
| Nathan Smith           |                              |

If your birthday was missed please notify the church office at 634-7709.



## Homebound Parishioners

If you would like Eucharist brought to you at your home, or in the hospital, please call the church office and this will be arranged. There is a contact number on the answering machine at the office if it is on the weekend.

## Living Compass Class

Please join Kathy Keck and Chris Van Burgh for an advent devotional study from Living Compass entitled Practicing Wonder with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind.

Those who participated last year found this to be a very rich and rewarding class. Gift yourself with the time to slow down and reflect during the busy advent season. We will meet on Mondays from December 4 -December 18 from 12:10-1:00. Bring a sack lunch, if you wish, and join us in the Guild Room. Books will be provided at no cost. To sign up please call Wanda at the church office, 634-7708.

## Outreach Schedule

Nov 28 Christmas Giving Tree will be up in the parish hall

Dec 6 Outreach meeting in Guild room, 7 p.m.

Dec 21 Serve evening meal at COMEA Shelter at 5:30 p.m.

### Is this a ministry for you?

The Outreach committee is looking for new members. If you are looking for another avenue to flex your spiritual muscles or a place to offer you time and talent, the Outreach program may be the place for you. The Outreach committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Guild Room.



*In Christ's love, we seek, welcome, embrace and serve the human family.*

### Altar Guild is Recruiting

If you have been thinking about a way to serve St. Mark's, please consider learning more about Altar Guild. We are quite informal in our organization, but none of us have been doing it for long, with the exception of Alice Ruble (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday). Other current members are Mara Funk (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday), Michele Rose (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday), and Troy Niesen (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday). We share out duties for the occasional 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. New members can choose a weekend based on individual preference, such as the weekend another member of your family serves. When you start with Altar Guild, you learn the tasks of preparing for 2 Eucharistic services: checking the hangings, putting out the lessons, filling the various candles, dusting the altar area, setting out the items (like the chalices) used for communion. Normally, a team will get together at a mutually-agreed-upon time on Friday or Saturday to do the set-up. At least one member needs to set-up between services. After the 10:30 service, the team cleans up and puts everything away. No sewing is involved (although Alice can). If a member needs to be out of town on a weekend, we shift things around to make sure the weekend has adequate coverage. Please talk to any of us for more information or to do a trial weekend.



### Sew and Sews

For we walk by faith, not by sight. *2 Corinthians 5:7*

Living in Advent awaiting Christmas, with all our decorating, shopping, parties and celebrating, imagine a child living through a horrible situation, comfort may come in the gift of a blanket. Primarily, we make blankets for "Blankets for Laramie County Kids" who find themselves in this situation. A blanket represents our kindness to that child. We also work on personal projects and or group projects depending on what you want to do. One important thing is our fellowship. We will continue to meet 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. on December 6.

**REMEMBER weather advisories may cancel our meeting.**

Come, we all belong in this community.



A prayer request can easily be made one of two ways. On the back of the "Welcome" card in the pews or by calling St. Marks office. Your prayer request will be prayed daily for 1 month. We currently have 10 women and 2 priests who receive these requests. All prayer requests are kept confidential.

Daughters of the King is an order of Episcopal women that was started in Philadelphia in 1885 for the express purpose of Evangelism and praying daily. Our chapter, Bishop Talbot chapter was founded in 1892. We will meeting from November through March monthly @ St. Christopher's on the 2nd Friday of each month at 3:45, and from March through November. We share, and culminate with Eucharist. If you would like more information, please contact Como Boyle, Joann McConnaughey, Mara Funk, or Patti Jones.

**If You Desire Baptism or Confirmation  
or Are New To Saint Mark's, Be Sure  
To Contact The Church Office  
To Learn About The Class.**

*Girlfriends Unlimited is St. Mark's women's ministry  
dedicated to the philosophy of befriending, belonging,  
believing and becoming.*

“For where two or three have gathered in my name, there am I  
in the midst of them.” *Matthew 18:20*

Little Free Pantry

Take what you need. Give what you can.

The pantry is really being used!

It is filled up! It is emptied out!

Please think of the pantry when grocery shopping.

Examples of Nonperishables That Can Be Placed

In the Little Free Pantry:

Power Bars	Dried Milk	Crackers
Toothbrushes	Toothpaste	Peanut Butter
Bisquick	Paper Goods	Dried Fruit
Ramen Soup	Fruit Rollups	Toiletries
Diapers	Individual Boxes of Cereal	
Kid-friendly items, such as crayons and coloring books		
Gloves	Caps	Bottles of Water

(Please, no homemade food or large items of clothing.)

If you have any questions about our activities, please see  
any Girlfriends Advisory Board member: Margie Hayes, Pam  
Snell, Barb Brower, Karine Sneesby, or Sharon Gostovich.

**Girlfriends Unlimited Fun Groups  
Have Fun & Get Connected**

Listed below are our current FUN groups and the Funicilator--  
a facilitator who likes to have fun with her girlfriends.

**Sew & Sews:**

Karine Sneesby, Laraine Hutchison, Chris Connell,  
Funicilators

The Sew & Sews Group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of  
each month to work on Blankets for Laramie County Kids,  
personal projects, group projects, and some just come for the  
fellowship.

**Flick Chicks** (movie group): Cheryl Jolley, Funicilator

Flick Chicks meet on the **last** Saturday of the month.

Movie and time will be announced by e-mail.

**Stitch 'n' Chatter** (small crafts group):

Margie Hayes and Barb Brower, Funicilators

Crafting Bee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Margie will host the Crafting Bee the 1st Monday at her home:

**624 Silver Sage Avenue** 632-9956

Barb will host the 3rd Monday at her home:

**5121 Hickory Place** 635-2836

**Lit 'n' Latte** (book group): Sharon Gostovich, Funicilator.  
Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at **Barnes & Noble** at 6:15  
p.m. For more information contact Sharon at 630-5356.

If you are interested in joining any of these FUN groups or  
starting a new shared-interest group, please contact the church  
office (634-7709) for more information.

***Changing Hearts. Changing Lives.  
One Girlfriend at a time.***



On behalf of all the people of St. Matthew's Cathedral, I  
wish to thank the 48 parishes around the diocese who all  
contributed a quilt square for the Diocesan Quilt that was  
displayed at Diocesan Convention and now hangs in the  
Cathedral. It serves as a constant reminder that the Cath-  
edral is a place of worship and gathering for the entire dio-  
cese. We hope that you will find time to visit St. Matthew's  
and see the quilt with your square. The squares are each  
unique and beautifully made. Thanks goes as well to Billie  
Kay Gross, who skillfully pieced the quilt together.

The Very Rev. Stephen Askew

**New Members and Transfers**

Transfers in:

***Tommy Richmond, Jimmie Richmond***

Transfers out:

Other:

Baptism:

Confirmation:

Reception:

Reaffirmation:

If you have come to St. Mark's recently and are inter-  
ested in officially becoming a member please contact the  
church office at 634-7709.



## Councils and Ministries

\* Represents scheduling only

### PROPERTY (Chair / Darwin Pace)

Supplies and Repairs, Gardening, Cleaning Contracts

### FINANCE (Finance Chair / Rick Davis)

Audit Team Sue Miller, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Budgeting Finance Committee/Rick Davis  
 Capital Campaign Finance Committee/Rick Davis  
 Centennial Foundation Kelly Rankin, Ryan Lance  
 Counters Darwin Pace, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stewardship Team Fr. Rick  
 Treasurer/Asst. Treasurer John Masters, Rick Davis

### CHRISTIAN ED./SPIRITUAL DEV. (Chair / Dick Torkelson)

Adult Classes Fr. Rick  
 Children's Chap./Sun. School Caroline Veit, Sandy Shanor  
 Dolby Sharing Group Jim Dolby  
 Nursery Sandy Shanor, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth Ministry Fr. Rick, Alek Keenan

### COMMUNITY LIFE(Chair/ \_\_\_\_\_)

Daughters of the King Patti Jones, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dinner Groups Kathy Ogle, Mary Guthrie  
 Girlfriends Unlimited Barbara Brower, Margie Hayes,  
 Karine Sneesby, Pam Snell, Sharon  
 Gostovich  
 ◊ Chrismon Creators TBD  
 ◊ Sew and Sews Karine Sneesby, Laraine Hutchison,  
 Chris Connell  
 ◊ Flick Chicks Cheryl Jolley  
 ◊ Stitch 'n' Chatter Margie Hayes/Barbara Brower  
 ◊ Lit 'n' Latte Sharon Gostovich  
 Prayer Ministry Lynne Swanson, Michele Rose  
 Parish Life Nancy Abraham, Chris Connell,  
 Rosemary Todd  
 Veterans Ministry Foy Jolley, \_\_\_\_\_

### OUTREACH (Chair/Eric Nelson, Carol Schiel)

Friday Food Bags Judy Weickum, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family Promise Eric Nelson, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Web Page Chris Barlow, \_\_\_\_\_

### WORSHIP (Chair/ The Rev. Rick Veit)

Acolytes \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
 \* Catherine Rogers (8 a.m. schedule only)  
 \* Tanya Hood (10:30 a.m. schedule only)  
 Altar Guild/Flowers \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Christmas Pageant Michele Rose,  
 Euch. Minister/Visitor/Hosp \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lectors Lynne Swanson, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Music/Organ Maint. Betsy Taggart, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ushers/Newcomers \_\_\_\_\_, Swede Nelson  
 Weddings Cheryl Lambert, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Worship Planning Fr. Rick, \_\_\_\_\_



## Saint Mark's Episcopal Church Small Groups

Contact the church office for more details on any of these groups.

Sunday

### Adult Forum

9:30 a.m. in the parish hall

Monday

### Living Compass (starting December 4)

12:10-12:50 in Guild Room

### Girlfriends Unlimited Stitch 'n' Chatter

6:30 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> Monday) Margie Hayes' House

6:30 p.m. (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday) Barb Brower's House

### Girlfriends Unlimited Lit 'n' Latte at Barnes and Noble,

6:15 p.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays)

Tuesday

### Education for Ministry

Wednesday

### Men's Coffee- 11 a.m. at Dazbog's Coffee

### Girlfriends Unlimited Sew and Sews Group

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. in Read Hall (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.)

Thursday

### Dolby Bible Study/Sharing Group

- 10 a.m. at Jim Dolby's house

Saturday

### Girlfriends Unlimited Flick Chicks, Last Saturday of month at 10:00 a.m.

### 5 Girlfriends Unlimited Groups (Women's Ministry)

Contact Karine Sneesby at karinesneesby@gmail.com to learn more about these different groups.

Stitch 'n' Chatter, Sew and Sews, Flick Chicks, Lit 'n' Latte

### Membership Class (Interested members, Baptism, Confirmation)

If you are interested in being a member of St. Mark's or being Baptized or Confirmed, be sure to attend this class. It is led by the Reverend Rick Veit. Contact the church office for further details. Times and dates vary.

## Stewardship Corner Ministry Highlights

Total monthly September income: 20,372.09

Total monthly September expense: 24,776.13

### Education, classes and Bible studies

Sunday morning: These classes meet Sunday mornings between services and includes Bible studies or thematic topics.

Monday noon: Kathy Keck, Chris Van Bugh

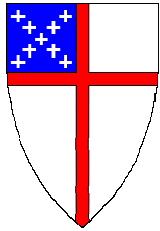
Living Compass Advent Classes

Tuesday evening: EfM Education for Ministry

This is a weekly group from September through May that studies scripture, theology, ethics, and church history. It is offered through Sewanee Seminary at University of the South.

Thursday morning: Dolby Sharing Group and Bible Study

This is a weekly group that meets for Bible study and prayer.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
1908 Central Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82001



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Cheyenne, WY  
Permit No. 28

## Come one! Come All! St. Mark's Christmas Pageant

**It's time to begin rehearsals for the 2017 St. Mark's Christmas Pageant which will be presented by our children and youth at the 5:00 p.m. service on December 24<sup>th</sup>!!**

All children are welcome to participate if their parents feel they can follow directions and sit in the pews with the rest of the children. Youth are encouraged to participate as narrators, actors or as helpers/stage managers. Children of out-of-town guests who can attend the dress rehearsal have joined us in the past. A short parent/guardian information meeting will be held immediately before the rehearsal on November 19. Volunteers are needed to help children dress in their costumes for the dress rehearsal and performance and to help provide lunches for Sunday noon rehearsals. Caroline Veit has offered to organize the meals. Please contact her at 421-4643, if you would like to help. If you have questions or need more information, contact Michele Rose at 307-287-2006.

**November 19:** Rehearse music during Children's Chapel. Light lunch provided after 10:30 service. Parent Meeting at 11:50 in the sanctuary. First rehearsal for children and youth will be held in the sanctuary from 12:00-1:00. We will begin assigning parts at this rehearsal.

**November 26 (Thanksgiving Sunday):** Rehearse songs during Children's Chapel.

**December 3:** Rehearse songs during Children's Chapel. Light lunch. Rehearsal in the sanctuary from 12:00-1:00. We will finish assigning parts at this rehearsal.

**December 10:** Rehearse songs during Children's Chapel. Light lunch. Rehearsal in the sanctuary from 12:00-1:00. We will begin fitting costumes.

**December 17:** Rehearse songs during Children's Chapel. Light lunch. Rehearsal in the sanctuary from 12:00-1:00. We will finish fitting and marking all costumes that day.

**\*Saturday, December 23-4:00-5:15:** Full dress rehearsal in the sanctuary. Participants will go to the Guild Room to put on costumes before going to the sanctuary. All children and youth are expected to be at this rehearsal to be able to participate in the pageant.

**\*\*Pageant performance during the Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24 at 5:00!!\*\*** Children need to arrive at 4:30 to dress in their costumes and to warm-up for the pageant.

Newsletter Articles are due the 2nd Monday of every month. The articles should be no larger than 1/8—1/4 page long. Please email them to the office at [stmark307.ad@gmail.com](mailto:stmark307.ad@gmail.com).