



ST MARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Happenings

Our mission is to glorify God and by the power of the Holy Spirit, provide opportunities for all people to know, love and follow Jesus Christ.

December 15 — 3rd Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:39-45

Let JOY Break Through

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 6:30 P.M. SANCTUARY



While the Christmas season can be full of great joy and excitement, it can also be a time of busyness, stress, grief, and loneliness. This service of worship offers a time to slow down, to recognize the pain while also looking to the hope of our faith and the light of Jesus. We gather near the longest night of the year with quiet music, times of silence, scripture, prayer, and the opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one. All are welcome as we look to the coming of our Savior.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 5:00pm. Family Worship O'Tannenbaum

December 24, 7:00pm. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion.

**ST. MARK SPONSORS
84 ANGELS FROM
31 HERFF ELEMENTARY FAMILIES**

THANK YOU!



If you have selected a Salvation Army drummer child tag from the Hospitality Center display, please return your unwrapped gift to the Hospitality Center by December 15th. Make sure to attach the package code securely to your bag.

*Contact Toni Hensley for more information

ST. MARK, WE DID IT!



Your gifts along with a \$25 gift card per family will be delivered on December 16.

We gave Hope, Peace, Joy and Love this Christmas to 84 children from 31 Herff Elementary School families.

Thank you for opening your hearts and giving generously to make this Christmas possible for these families. May your hearts be filled with the promises from the birth of Jesus Christ.

Celebrating the Good News!
Outreach Ministry



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 15:	3rd Sunday in Advent Christmas Joy Special Offering Worship Service: Let Joy Break Through Christmas Card Deliveries Longest Night Service	10:30am Noon 6:30 pm
December 22:	4th Sunday in Advent Worship Service: Let Love Break Through	10:30 am
December 23:	Youth Super – Secret Christmas Mission	4:00 pm
December 24:	Christmas Eve Family Service Candlelight and Communion Service (childcare available)	5:00 pm 7:00 pm
December 29:	1st Sunday of Christmas Worship Service	10:30 am
January 5:	Epiphany Worship Service Epiphany Party	10:30 am 11:30 am

ST. MARK IS CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITH OUR NEW NATIVITY ON BANDERA RD.



CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY
Sunday, December 15



CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY!

Sign up to create or join a team to deliver cards to those unable to attend worship.

Christmas Cards will be made by children at God's Gift Factory and bundled for delivery to friends and members of St. Mark.
Delivery teams will depart after worship on 12/15

Sign up in the Hallway or Contact ChristianED@stMarkTX.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15



You're invited!

EPIPHANY PARTY

Sunday, January 5, 2025
11:30 a.m. (following worship)
Family Life Center



a fun event for everyone
with lunch and activities to help us
discover our newborn savior

RSVP
CHRISTIANED@STMARKTX.ORG



WOMEN'S GATHERING 2025



WOMEN'S
Gathering
2025

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
8:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Join us for a morning of fellowship and renewal in God's Word!

Cost: \$25 includes breakfast and lunch
Childcare available
Register by 1/20/2025



...think on such things.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

LITTLE PANTRY



FAITHFUL FRIENDS AND FAMILY NIGHTS AT ST. MARK
Each Wednesday from 4:00-5:30pm.

JOIN US FOR
FAITHFUL
FRIENDS AND
FAMILY NIGHTS @ ST MARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Each Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:30 students cared for by St Mark volunteers while they enjoy soccer shots, Art/Drama/Story & Stretch, Snack.

REGISTER NOW >



150\$ for first child and 50\$ for each additional sibling

5:30 to 6:30, Families arrive and join children and church members for dinner!

Wednesdays from January 22nd to February 26th

VISIT Stmarktx.org

Soccer Shots®

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScN1YS5YxyXt2h_JA-wnNxslJz-qRYdT7nWmyAaa5bjGKBIXA/viewform

REFLECTIONS: ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

Ubiquitous Christmas tunes of assorted genres have returned to the airwaves. Two songs in particular serve as a starting point for writing this column. The first is Mariah Carey's "holiday classic" *All I Want For Christmas Is You*. For older readers, perhaps you will remember the novelty song supposedly sung by a little boy, *All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth* ("how happy I'd be if I could only whistle").



Going back in time, I remember as a young child wanting a Lionel model train set one year and always books for Christmas. Through the years, Barbie Dolls, Cabbage Patch Kids, Legos, and action figures have given way to smartphones, electronic gadgets, game consoles, and gift cards for our younger folks' wish lists. Many adults, too, hope to receive that second set of gifts along with jewelry and clothing under their Christmas tree. In contrast, hankies, after shave, diet plans, and bad romance novels fall in the category of least desired and most likely never to be used

For a number of folks, all they want for Christmas doesn't come in a wrapped package. Perhaps it might be to feel well again. For many service men and women, it's being home for Christmas (I know that's what I wanted the Christmas I spent in Viet Nam). Similarly, for families separated by great distances, it might be gathering together during the holidays once more. For others, a better job or a promotion. Still others yearn for a mended relationship. And then there are some who simply want the elusive peace of mind.

What do you most want for this Christmas? Will you find it under the tree?

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid (John 14:27, NIV).

Offered by Larry Warren





YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

*Christmas
Program*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 9:00 A.M.
IN THE ST. MARK SANCTUARY

BRING YOUR FAMILY TO ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL
VOICES OF THE CHILDREN AS THEY REJOICE IN THE
BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR!

ST. MARK LEADERSHIP 2024

ELDERS	
Adult Christian Education	Dan Garber
Children and Youth Christian Education	Kathleen Ramey
Communication	Karen Ragsdale
Congregational Life	Christine Snyder, Gina Klein
Finance/Stewardship	Wally Doppenberg
Outreach	Lynn Bellow, Woody Paul
Personnel	Neal Patton
Property	Rick Eckersley
Strategic Planning	Dave Thomas
Worship	Andy Phillips, Rylynn Fenton
Clerk of Session	Julie McCarty
Treasurer	Bill Manzini
Deacon Liaison	Lynn Bellow
ELC Liaison	Dave Thomas
DEACONS	
Card and Flowers	Monica Phillips - Clerk
Driver Assistance	Wanda Pounders - Moderator
Member Care	Crystal McElhenney
Member Care and In-Home Communion	Ruben Trono
Pastoral Support	Pat Anderson
Receptions	Nona Annett, Paula Witt
Visitors Follow Up	Melanie Doppenberg
TRUSTEES	
Member	Gina Klein
Chair	Andy Phillips
Secretary	Dave Thomas



Weekly Calendar December 15th – December 21st

Sunday, December 15th

Explorers Class – Rick Eckersley	9:00 AM	FLC # 107/108
Disciple Class – Dan Garber	9:15 AM	FLC # 109
Nursery Care (Birth to pre-kinder)	9:15 AM	FLC # 106
Elementary Sunday School – Angela Grover	9:15 AM	FLC # 104
Youth Sunday School – Theresa Gateley	9:15 AM	FLC # 103
Engaging God's Word – Rob West	9:15 AM	FLC # 101
St. Mark Worship Service in Person (Cantata)	10:30 AM	Sanctuary
https://www.youtube.com/@stmarkpresbyterianchurchbo7319/streams		Online
Table Fellowship – Karen Ragsdale	11:30 AM	Black Board BBQ
Deliver Cards to Nursing Home	12:30 PM	Various
Longest Night Service	6:30 PM	Sanctuary

Monday, December 16th

Session Meeting – Julie McCarty	6:30 PM	FLC # 107/108
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Tuesday, December 17th

Staff Meeting	12:00 PM	Parlor
Pickleball – Carol Trono	6:00 PM	FLC
Worship Team Rehearsal – Ron Thompson	6:30 PM	Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 18th

Morning Glorias – Carlyn Crawford	8:00 AM	ZOOM
Bible Study Rev. Ann Marie Swanson	10:30 AM	FLC # 107/108
Centering Prayer – Lynn Bellow	5:00 PM	ZOOM
Youth Meeting – Angela Grover	5:00PM	FLC
A Few Good Men – Rob Klein	6:30 PM	Parlor
Choir Rehearsal – Mary Beth Thomas	6:30 PM	Choir Room

Thursday, December 19th

Women of the Word - Angela Grover	9:00 AM	FLC # 107/108
Pickleball – Paul Cashion	11:00 AM	FLC

Friday, December 20th

Youth Bible Study	7:30 AM	Mary's Tacos
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