

St. Mark's

BETHANY



November 29, 2023

Join us this Sunday for worship at St. Mark's. This Sunday will be the beginning of Advent with the series titled, "Places It Happened". This week the message will be 'Jerusalem'. The scripture reference is Luke 5:5-25.

All Sunday school classes will be at their regular time and area. If you don't attend a class drop by one and try it out.

Sunday School classes:

8:30 New Life Rm. 18
Sonshine Rm. 17

9:30 Books of the Bibles Rm 17,
Disciple Rm. 18,
Young Adults Rm. 5

10:45 Faithbuilders Rm 18,
Good News Choir room,
R.O.C.K Rm. 19

Understanding God's Word Coming Jan. 7, Rm. 5



Traditional services are at 9:30 am and Modern services are at 10:55 am. If you are not able to attend Worship services there will be a live streaming of worship. To watch the life stream, you can join us at:

[9:30 am Sunday morning](#) or at [10:55 Sunday morning](#).

Come Celebrate the birth of Jesus



Photo booth

Snacks



St. Mark's Children's Christmas Performance
December 3rd, 4:00 pm doors open, curtain at 4:30

A New Place



Women's Center - Kigoma, Tanzania

St. Mark's has had a wonderful history with our Christmas Eve offerings. Each year money collected during Christmas Eve Services goes somewhere in the world to make a real difference in the world for the kingdom. This year we will be assisting to build a Women's Center in Kigoma, Tanzania. The Center will be next to the St. Mark's Methodist Church we helped to build there and will be heavily involved in the community to provide opportunities for events, teaching, shelter and other community

events. Start praying about how God would lead you into being a part in making a real difference.

Advent Calendar of Events

- November 26 Decorate Sanctuary
- Dec 3 1st Sunday of Advent
 - 4:00 pm Childrens play "A Night Full of Stars"
- Dec 8 Choir Christmas Party
- Dec 10 2nd Sunday of Advent
 - 9:30 am Choir Choral Presentation
 - 12:00 pm Rock Class Christmas Party
- Dec 11 St. Mark's Bethany Women Christmas Party
- Dec 13 All Church Caroling
- Dec 14 Second Winders Christmas Lunch
 - CDO Christmas Play
- Dec 16 Faithbuilders Christmas Party
- Dec 17 Good News Class Christmas Party
 - Kiespert Piano Recital
- Dec 24 10 am Combined Family Friendly Christmas Service
 - 7 pm Traditional Candlelight Christmas Service
 - 11 pm Midnight Candlelight Service



Poinsettias to Decorate Sanctuary for Advent



Poinsettias will help decorate the sanctuary this coming Advent Season. You can give one in memory of or in honor of someone. You will be able to take it home with you following Christmas Eve Services. You can sign up for your poinsettias on the church counter or by calling the church office. The price of the poinsettias this year will be \$30. apiece.

Purchase Deadline - December 3



Remember all gifts need to be turned in by this coming Sunday, December 3rd.

Thank you for your willingness to make a real difference in the life of these children.



Come & Go Prayer Time
Wednesdays 5-6 pm

Be Prayed For/With *Pray Alone*

November 29 Prayer Emphasis
Lost & Seeking

You are invited to spend time with God

COLLEGE AGE RETREAT **RENEW**

January 4-6, 2024
Camp Egan
Early Bird Cost: \$60
until September 1st

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SIGN-UP HERE

Instagram, Facebook, Twitter icons

QR code

@RENEW__RETREAT

HS SPRING BREAK

MISSION TRIP 2023

MARCH 17-22 MCALLEN, TX.
MORE DETAILS TO COME

Wednesday Night!



5:00 pm



5:30 pm



6:00 pm



6:15 pm



6:15 pm



6:15 pm




6:30 pm


YOU ARE INVITED TO
ST MARK'S BETHANY WOMEN
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH
POTLUCK SALAD AND DESSERTS
MONDAY DECEMBER 11
11:00 IN BARNETT HALL
COME JOIN US FOR
FUN, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP



St. Mark's Bethany
 During 2024, I commit, with the grace and help of God, to know Jesus better and support the ministries of St. Mark's with my prayers, presence, gifts, service & witness.



The amount I intend to give during 2024 is:

yearly

monthly

My financial commitment to St. Marks for 2024 is:

yearly

monthly


Prayers Presence Gifts Service Witness

If you have not turned in your pledge card, please take a moment to fill it out and turn it in. Cards are available in the Narthex.

New Sunday Morning Class

Starting Sunday, January 14th, 2024, at 10:50 a.m. in room 5, Don and Jan Greve will lead the class verse by verse with discussion and questions. Starting in the gospel of John, we will explore old and new revelations about God's word for His people.

To be a part scan code or sign up on counter





Now Collecting Donations for:

- Newborn clothes size 6 Gently used or new
- Shoes up to size 13
- Bath wash and Lotion
- Bottles
- Diapers size 4, 5, and 6
- Good Start Formula

Collection Box
outside of Sanctuary
near West Entry



Thank You!

Sm kids NEWS

Sunday Mornings
November

Kidmin

9:30 - 10:45 ages 4-5th grade

December 3rd,
2023



After the program we will have a popcorn bar, cookies and cocoa, and family memory photo booth



CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATING JESUS, GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

"A CHILD WILL BE BORN TO US.
A SON WILL BE GIVEN TO US.
HE WILL RULE OVER US.
AND HE WILL BE CALLED
WONDERFUL ADVISER AND MIGHTY GOD.
HE WILL ALSO BE CALLED FATHER WHO LIVES
FOREVER AND PRINCE WHO BRINGS PEACE."

Jesus Storybook Bible
**ADVENT
ACTIVITY BOOK**
24 DIVINE CRAFTS, PLUS GAMES, SONGS, RECIPES, AND MORE



Nursery

9:30 - 12:00 ages 6mo - 4

Wee Worship

10:45 am ages 2 1/2 - kindergarten



Prepare for the coming of Jesus, this Advent with God's Big Story. This Advent Book is a perfect compliment for the busy family.

**PAJAMA
PARTY**
Wednesday
Dec. 6th
in Kidmin

*Joy to the
World*



Christmas Caroling
December 13th
Contact Becky Roman



"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son."
JOHN 3:16, GNT



Train up a child in the way he should go,
even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6



November 2023

Prayer Guide

The Way to the Kingdom



Photo: John Wesley's prayer kneeler – The birthplace of Methodism.

Each morning at 4 a.m., John Wesley would kneel in prayer in his London home. It was in this place that the fires of Methodism began. As we seek to reconnect to our Wesleyan heritage, it seems the best place we can begin is in prayer. Join us in our monthly prayer series: The Way to the Kingdom.

The Way to Awakening

By David Thomas

The Global Methodist Church is emerging at such an extraordinary moment when the desperation of our cultural crisis has been met by a stunning outpouring of the presence of God. We had been hopeful as we read our history and took inspiration from the majority world church to pursue a courageous restart and restructuring. But with the outpouring we now have a concrete hope, a sign of the Spirit that Jesus is hearing us, that He is coming to rescue Gen Z and extend His mercy once more. Everything that happened at Asbury University in February 2023 was the fruit of prayer. And if that is what God does when His people pray, we have never been more motivated to pray. Deep within we know that what our hearts, homes, churches, and cities are needing is not just a better Methodism. Long ago we left behind the times when denominational improvements were a sufficient hope. If ecclesial corrections alone were enough to stem the tide of societal decay and renew the church, it would have happened by now. We are the best-resourced Christians who have ever lived and look where we find ourselves. No, the urgency we face is confronting us with unambiguous proof of how human excellence is too small a thing. What we're needing is what only God can do. The genesis of the GM Church is an unrepeatable opportunity to pray for awakening.

The Methodist tree sown and husbanded by our forebears, the fruit and shade of which shaped our society, has deteriorated down to little more than a stump compared to the great "oak of righteousness" (Is 61:3) that we once were. In its deep taproot beneath that stump, however, Methodism was—and, I believe, still is—an awakening movement. We began as a protracted movement of God that produced deep wholeness in people, renewal of the church, evangelization of generations, and transformation of society. And that awakening sap still lies dormant in the cherished root system of what we are becoming. We steward the archetype in our story of what the Church can be when it expresses the fullness of "plain scriptural Christianity," in John Wesley's words.

"There is a wide-open door for a great work here," Paul wrote the Corinthians (I Cor 16:9 [NLT]), and we could say the same of our moment now. The stakes are too high for the Global Methodist Church to be about little more than cobbling together whatever remains of traditionalism in the hope that liberated affinity will revitalize us. We will have to dig deeper than that, beneath the surface, down to the sacred root system from which we came and where there is awakening life still into culture-change. It's all down there in our inheritance.

What we find there is not complicated. Thirst, heart cry, and holy love. Safe and honest soul-friendship among the faithful. Passionate concern for the unbelieving. Endurance married to urgency. Overflow into culture-change. It's all down there in our inheritance.

We can never squeeze new life out of this legacy any more than we can restructure ourselves back into vitality, now or at any other time. Awakening is not something we can manufacture. But we can remove impediments to it. We can position ourselves to receive it. We can crucify careerism and offer ourselves afresh to these hopes. And we can join hands and hearts to cry out to God for His new work of grace until He sends it. More than at any other moment in our lives, this could be the way to awakening.

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A Suggested Pattern of Prayer

As you pray through the following prayer points, invite the presence of the Lord into your time of prayer. Each day's prompt has a Scripture reference for you to pray through. As you pray also allow time to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. When you have prayed through the Scripture and prayer point, you may be led to add your own prayers. Pray and consider what action steps you might take in response to the Lord's leading. Repeat this prayer pattern weekly for the month.

Sunday: Pray for personal awakening in all of us. Our awakening hopes emerge from our own fresh encounter with Jesus leading to the humility and repentance that opens all channels to His working. (Psalm 66:18)

Monday: Pray for deep embrace of a chosen desperation that defies any self-sufficiency and removes the veneer of abundance and capacity that can mask the actual urgency of our need for God. (Psalm 79:8)

Tuesday: Pray for a soaring vision of what the Christian movement has been at its best and can be again. Ask God to make the gap between that hope and our everyday experience of Church intolerable to our spirits. (Colossians 3:2)

Wednesday: Pray for a willingness to enter the posture and to receive the gift of travailing prayer. Ask God to give you in prayer a share of His burden for this world Jesus died to save, expressed from a heart filled with Gethsemane love. (Luke 22:44)

Thursday: Pray for the outpouring of the spirit of prayer in our hearts, homes, churches, and cities—that our petitions would be marked by a fervor and unity unexplainable in human terms. (Zechariah 12:10)

Friday: Pray for a renewal of evangelistic passion leading to boldness in the advance of Gospel, particularly among emerging adults. (Acts 4:29 / 28:31)

Saturday: Pray for a depth awakening—the healing and authenticity made possible in relationships formed from bonds of safety and courage. Ask God to breathe again on our inheritance in banded discipleship for the kind of relationship our world is craving and He could use to transform us from the inside out. (Galatians 6:2)

"He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance! Acts 28:31

David Thomas has served in leadership with Seedbed and New Room, initiatives of Asbury Theological Seminary, which exist to gather, connect, and resource the people of God to sow for a great awakening

Facts and Figures

2023 Annual Budget	601,800
Rec'd toward Operating 11/25/2023	6,930
Year to Date 2022	
Rec'd toward offering (thru 11/25/23)	507,988
Expenses (thru 11/25/23)	501,753
<u>Attendance</u>	
Sunday, November 26 Total	299
Traditional Worship	146
Modern Worship	65
Online Worship	88

Prayer Box

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| Miller Gerardy | Lee Spiser |
| Laurie Bucholtz | Paula Galt |
| Carter King (GS of Mary King) | Dorothy Sipes |
| Annie Imel (DIL John & Joy Imel) | Karen Hall (friend of Sally Kelly) |
| Kristen & Mike Musick | Jeff & Tiffany Montesano |
| Barbara Hill | Geo Montesano |
| Winn & Ginger Lusk | Hank Brueggen |
| Diana & Jeff Davidson | Carol Hall |
| Judy McMinn | Mary Jane Svejkovsky |
| Jane Foreman | Beth Bidne |
| Dan & Norma Boland | Judy Knight |
| Cheryl Andrews | Cindy Wilkerson |
| Greg Spiser | Mary Desmukes |
| Mike Spiser | Kelli Pavelko |