



The Lion's Tale

MAY/JUNE 2026

Palm Sunday Procession



Godly Play

On Easter, the children heard their favorite story with real eggs that had surprise symbols inside when they were cracked open. Flying the "Alleluia" flag is always fun, as well as the traditional egg hunt and festive reception.



This spring, the class planted potatoes and dozens of pea seeds. A few weeks later, they transplanted the pea seedlings in the garden, hoping to win the children's contest at Seed St. Louis.





From your Rector...

Rector Reflection

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit." -Galatians 5:25

In Paul's letter to the Galatians, he spills a great deal of ink on the work and movement of the Holy Spirit. This third person of the Trinity, whose presence and power are made manifest throughout the arc of scripture, is the focus of our worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 24. The Spirit of God is a lot bigger than one day, or even one season, of our life as church. Spirit is the one who breathes with us and guides us along the pathways where God calls. In my tradition, the Spirit is described as the one who calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the people of God. The Spirit is also the power of resurrection, who raises Jesus from the dead and sets the resurrection loose in the world.

This summer, we will begin a process of intentionally getting to know our neighborhood. Through walks, rides, prayer, and conversation, we will begin to map our community and notice where the Spirit draws us into new relationships. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. This summer, the Spirit of God will guide us on our way throughout the community. I hope we may be opened to notice!

Delaney+



FROM YOUR DEACON ...

Starting with our nation's civil rights struggles of the 1960's and continuing through the ensuing decades of multiple wars, we had the wise counsel of civil rights activist, ordained Baptist minister, and US Representative John Lewis. His plea was constantly for our country's policies and actions to redeem the soul of America. In this pursuit, he famously asked, "What does it profit a great nation to conquer the world, only to lose its soul?" With his death in 2020, we no longer have his voice addressing our current circumstances. But he did leave behind words that can guide us as individuals as we live in

community, whether that community be local or global. I would like to share the wisdom of his words with you at this time --

Study the path of others to make your way easier and more abundant. Lean toward the whispers of your own heart, discover the universal truth, and follow its dictates. Know that the truth always leads to love and the perpetuation of peace. Its products are never bitterness and strife. Clothe yourself in the work of love, in the revolutionary work of nonviolent resistance against evil. Anchor the eternity of love in your own soul and embed this planet with goodness. Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won. Choose confrontation wisely, but when it is your time don't be afraid to stand up, speak up, and speak out against injustice. And if you follow your truth down the road to peace and the affirmation of love, if you shine like a beacon for all to see, then the poetry of all the great dreamers and philosophers is yours to manifest in a nation, a world community, and a Beloved Community that is finally at peace with itself.

In Christ,
Deacon Jerre

Music Notes

Organ Recital

Sam Kendall's organ recital, scheduled for Sunday, May 3rd at 3 pm, has been postponed due to illness. Further information will be forthcoming.



Godly Play

The children enjoyed the Bishop's visit on Palm Sunday. They created a poster for the bulletin board and each of them made their own Bishop's miter hat that was much taller than the one that Bishop Johnson wears. The Bishop joined the children when Delaney read a story for Children's Time. During the preparation for communion, the class was at the altar rail for a close-up view.



Every year, on Palm Sunday, the children wear costumes and reenact the events of Holy Week. The oldest child in attendance was Bishop Johnson's son, Ja'Lon, who participated as our Jesus.



St. Mark's Events

Peace Meal

Are you interested in serving your neighbors? Consider joining St. Mark's at the Peace Meal at St John's Church on May 23rd. We need volunteers for the first afternoon shift for cooking from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and the 2nd shift from 3:45pm to 5:30pm to serve and clean up. Your help is greatly appreciated. Please let Marti Robards know if you are able to help (314-596-6383).

Meeting Jesus in Our Neighborhood

This summer, St. Mark's will begin an intentional time of listening and noticing in our neighborhood. Join in the process as we take group walks, rides, and self-directed noticing tours. Together, we will follow the Spirit, look for Jesus, and begin mapping our neighborhood.

Walking	Driving
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• W 5/6 1pm• W 5/27 5:30PM• Th 6/11 10AM• Sun 6/14 11:45AM• Th 7/16 10AM• Sun 7/12 11:45AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• M 5/4 5:30PM• T 5/12 11AM• M 6/15 5:30PM• Th 6/18 1PM• W 7/15 5:30PM• Th 7/23 11AM

Property Work Day

You're invited! Come join the fun on Saturday, May 30 from 9-12 as we work together on various projects around the church grounds and inside the buildings. Help us take care of our church building together. People of all abilities are welcomed! Some examples of tasks will include washing parish hall windows, cleaning out the refrigerators, replacing ceiling tiles, and tidying up. Thank you for helping us keep St. Mark's beautiful!



Francis Park Fellowship

It's that time of year! Stop by and spend some time with your church community. Rockwell offers non-alcoholic beverages, tasty food, and plenty of beer options. See you there!



Diocesan Events

SAVE THE DATE

Diocese of Missouri

*Episcopal Church Women
Retreat & Annual Meeting*

*Faith as a Source
of Strength*

in Times of

featuring

Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse

Turmoil

Friday & Saturday,

September 18 & 19, 2026

*All women in the diocese
are welcome*

See you there!

PALLOTTINE RENEWAL CENTER



**PRIDE
EVENSONG
SERVICE**

 THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF
MISSOURI

June 14, 2026
5:00 PM

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
9 South Bompert Avenue, Webster Groves, MO

With Guest Speaker
The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson

 diocesemo.org

The LGBTQIA+ Ministry warmly invites you to gather for Pride Evensong on Sunday, June 14 at 5:00 PM at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, located at 9 South Bompert Avenue in Webster Groves.

This sacred evening weaves together the contemplative beauty of Evensong with the joy, celebration, and witness of Pride Month. It is a time set apart to reflect, to give thanks, and to affirm the dignity and belovedness of every person.

We are honored to welcome guest preacher Bishop Gene Robinson, whose historic and courageous witness has helped open the life of the Church more fully to all of God's people.

Whether you identify as LGBTQ+, stand as an ally, or are simply seeking a community rooted in love and belonging, you are invited to come as you are. All are welcome.

Vestry Update

Each month our vestry meets to pray and work together for the ministry of St. Mark's. Your vestry includes Ellen Jeffery (Senior Warden), Margaret Hvatum (Junior Warden), Tom Bradley (Clerk), Greg Diekemper (Treasurer), Marilyn Wiethop, Lynn Heritage, Cindy Schroeder, and Melissa Edwards. This lovely group, along with your clergy, met on April 18; here are a few highlights from our time together:

The vestry voted to install a Narcan Life Box on the church property, providing free Narcan to our neighbors when they need it.

The vestry made plans to install the "Episcopal Church Welcomes You" sign this spring.

The vestry continued to learn about the endowment governance, working together to lay a foundation for continued fiduciary responsibility for St. Mark's legacy.

The vestry voted to welcome Chad Templin, seminarian and member of the Church of St. Michael and St. George, as our field education intern. Chad will begin his work at St. Mark's on July 1!

Playground Committee Update

The Playground Committee held its first meeting after church on Sunday, April 26. We began with a short prayer. The first topic for discussion was to all agree that before we could create a playground we would want to make sure that the St Mark's community would be in favor of our proposal, and that we would also need vestry approval before raising or spending any money. We decided that we would investigate the possibilities. Committee members were split between those who favored a traditional playground and those who had major concerns. We were concerned about possible insurance costs and whether having a playground would represent an attractive nuisance. However, a recent past investigation had shown that our premium would not be raised if we were to build a playground. Then each member reflected on what they would like to see in a playground. We discussed the cost of a traditional playground by a firm like Billy Goat Playgrounds, which was between \$10,000 to \$100,000. We discussed an inflatable, which may cost \$2,500, and possibly renting an inflatable as a trial. We also discussed the importance of both making current families feel welcome as well as attracting new families.

Pamela Stuerke told us about a wooden playground at Church of the Advent in Crestwood that is more of a nature scape, she and invited us to visit it. We each reflected a bit, and then answered the question about "What do kids really need to feel welcome and to have fun?" After discussion, we agreed that our goals for the playground are as follows:

Playground Committee Goal: We want to organize the natural world in a way that lets kids use their imagination and let their bodies move in an attractive outdoor place that is both child and adult friendly.

Our conversation lead us all to agree that rather than proposing a playground with traditional equipment such as swings, slides, and a jungle gym, that we explore designing a nature scape labyrinth that will include a grassy area with interesting kid-friendly path(s), natural pieces of wood and stones, hardy native plants, and bench(es) for adults. Every committee member agreed that this idea was both promising and exciting, and that we unanimously all favored that approach. Our next meeting is scheduled for after church on Sunday, May 24.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Hvatum

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays 7:00pm

Thursdays 7:30pm

Fridays 7:00pm

May 3rd

May 4th

May 6th

May 12th

May 14th

May 18th

May 23rd

May 23rd

May 26th

May 27th

May 30th

June 9th

June 11th

June 14th

June 14th

June 15th

June 15th

June 18th

June 18th

AA Meeting in Parish Hall

Choir Practice

SMART Recovery Group in Parish Hall

Worship Committee Meeting (after Service)

Neighborhood Drive 5:30pm (see page 5)

Neighborhood Walk 1pm (see page 5)

Neighborhood Drive 11 am (see page 5)

Beer Garden Fellowship (see page 5)

Vestry Meeting (Zoom)

Peace Meal

Delaney Graduates (The Rev. **Dr.** Delaney Schlake-Kruse)

Coffee Hour 10 –11:30 am MountainHouse (see page 5)

Neighborhood Walk 5:30pm (see page 5)

Property Work Day (see page 5)

Coffee Hour 10 –11:30 am Espresso Yourself (see page 5)

Neighborhood Walk 10am (see page 5)

Neighborhood Walk 11:45m (see page 5)

Pride Evensong at Emmanuel (see page 7)

Neighborhood Drive 5:30pm (see page 5)

Vestry Meeting (Zoom)

Neighborhood Drive 1pm (see page 5)

Beer Garden Fellowship (see page 5)

Bible Study on Break

Bible study will be taking summer vacation! Join us this fall as we gather together again.



The Lion's Tale is published bi-Monthly by St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Melissa Engle-Editor

To submit an article email it to parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org.
Deadline for article submissions are listed below.

July 27th Deadline for July/August Lion's Tale

August 26th Deadline for September/October Lion's Tale

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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www.saintmarks-stl.org