



The Lion's Tale

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

LATEST UPDATES

Have you noticed all the updates we've been making at St. Mark's? From our sign on the East lawn and attached Narcan box, to a banner in the works for the Clifton/Locke corner of the parish hall, to a fresh new pride flag outside, we have been making some big evangelism moves all around the campus. But the progress doesn't stop there. This summer, our parish administrator Melissa Engle worked together with photographer extraordinaire Ed Rich to put together our new photo directory! We also transitioned our livestream to YouTube and started using a new, more streamlined platform for our weekly e-newsletter, the Markings. This fall, we will launch a newly updated St. Mark's website, created by Kyra Duncan, in partnership with Delaney+ and Melissa. All of these changes are in service of the Gospel; by making our identity clear online and in person, we are partnering with God to draw new folks into relationship and connection with a loving community of faith!

Ice Cream Social

A special Thank You to Doug and Sam Jeffery for their support of this event. Also to the Godly Play children who also helped with the event.



Music Notes



Hymn Sing

On **Sunday, September 20** at 9:45 there will be a **Hymn Sing** before the service. We invite you to submit three of your favorite hymns using the forms available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. As in years past, we won't be able to use all the submissions, but we'll use as many as we have time for and incorporate some of the others into subsequent services, as appropriate. I look forward to hearing what your favorite hymns are and to the robust singing on September 20!

Choir Call

The choir will begin its weekly rehearsals on Thursday, September 3, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the choir room, and sing for the first time this season on Opening Day, September 13. We invite anyone who enjoys singing to join us. The ability to read music is helpful, but not necessary. We need all voice parts. If you're a long-time choir member, past choir member, or new to the choir, please consider participating in this very important ministry. We're a friendly, welcoming group-- we work hard, have lots of fun, and, most importantly, enjoy making music together. If you're interested in singing with us, please speak to Barbara Raedeke, or

Music at St. Mark's

In September, St. Mark's will welcome two St. Louis area music ensembles as we host their concerts in the nave. Check out the information below to learn more about these musical opportunities!

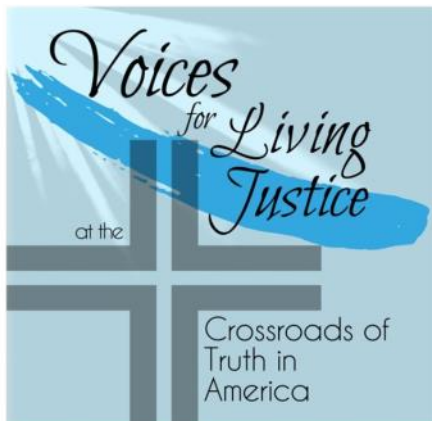


Music from the Romantic Parlor: 19th-Century Songs and Sonatas for Voice, Piano & Guitar

Charles Metz playing his original 1806 Clementi square piano; with Patrick Rafferty, Romantic guitar & Samantha Arten, soprano
September 13, 2026, 3 pm

\$20 admission at the door, student discounts

For more information, visit earlymusicmissouri.net



Voices for Living Justice: At the Crossroads of Truth in America September 15, 7pm

Free admission, donations accepted

Join Voices for Living Justice in reflection on the gift of democracy - working to insure the rights of all people and to care for all. The one-hour concert will speak with hope through two narrators, eight singers and three instrumentalists.



I am excited to introduce *Voices for Living Justice*. As we get closer to the mid-term elections, it is more important than ever to assert our constitutional right to vote and participate in re-affirming our democracy - working to insure the rights of all people and to care for all. The one-hour concert will speak with hope through two narrators, eight singers and three instrumentalists.

Bruce Vantine, creator and conductor
VantineVoices26@gmail.com



Getting to know our Field Education Intern

Chad Templin is a seminarian in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Church Divinity School of the Pacific and completing a Certificate in Benedictine Spirituality through Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary in Collegeville, Minnesota. He holds a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from the University of Missouri - Saint Louis.

A native of South St. Louis City, Chad grew up in Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, not far from St. Mark's. He has discerned a call to the priesthood since childhood, a vocation shaped through many seasons of formation, service, and spiritual discernment. Raised Roman Catholic, Chad spent time in seminary formation and later in religious life before being received into the Episcopal Church. Along the way, he served in a variety of ministry roles, including Head Sacristan at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis and other positions with the Archdiocese of St. Louis. He has assisted with church restoration, preservation, and liturgical design projects in several dioceses throughout the country. These experiences deepened his love for the Church's liturgical, sacramental, and spiritual traditions and continue to shape his understanding of ministry.

As part of his preparation for ministry, Chad is completing a year of contextual education and field placement at St. Mark's. Working alongside and learning from an experienced clergy, he will participate in worship leadership, preaching, pastoral care, Christian formation, parish administration, and the many other opportunities for learning that arise through sharing in the day-to-day life of a worshipping community. An essential component of seminary formation, contextual education gives seminarians the opportunity to integrate their academic learning with lived pastoral experience while developing the habits, skills, and presence needed for ordained ministry.

Before entering this season of theological formation, Chad spent many years in retail leadership, serving in both local and corporate-level roles with national brands. He currently serves as a Senior Executive Assistant for a global HVACR manufacturer. These experiences in leadership, administration, communication, and collaboration continue to inform his preparation for ministry.

Chad is a Benedictine Oblate of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, seeking to live the Benedictine charisms of prayer, hospitality, stability of heart, community, and ongoing conversion of life amid everyday circumstances. He is also a member of the Society of Catholic Priests, an Anglican association dedicated to priestly spirituality, theological reflection, evangelism, and mutual support among clergy and seminarians. Together, these commitments continue to shape his understanding of Christian discipleship, vocation, and priestly ministry.

Chad and his husband, Jacob, live in Benton Park with their three Havanese dogs, Lorenzo, Luca, and Lago. He is grateful for the opportunity to learn, serve, pray, and grow in faith alongside the people of St. Mark's during this year of formation.

Walking Through the Church Year

Why does the Church mark time differently from the rest of the world? Join us this fall as we explore the Liturgical Year and the rhythm of seasons, feasts, fasts, and holy days that shape our worship and Christian life. Together we will journey through the Church year, exploring its structure, major celebrations, and the historical and traditional practices associated with each season.

Classes will meet on October 25, November 1, 8, 22, and 29, from 11:30 am - 12:15 pm in the Parish Hall. Our final gathering, on the First Sunday of Advent, will include a Make-and-Take Advent Wreath as we begin a new liturgical year together. All are welcome!

St. Mark's Events



St. Mark's celebrates the return of choir, education offerings, and the program year on Sunday, September 13. Stick around after worship for yard games and a pot luck picnic. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers will be provided; please bring a side, chips, or dessert to share!



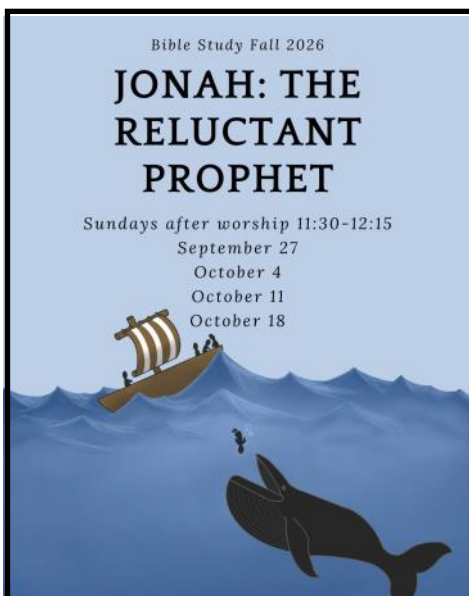
As we prepare to welcome the Schlake-Kruse baby, stick around after worship on Sunday September 20 for a baby shower! The Schlake-Kruse family has requested no gifts, but asks instead for diapers to share with the St. Louis Diaper Bank!

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4, 2026 **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP & PET BLESSING**

10:00 WORSHIP
PET BLESSING TO FOLLOW



Join us in worship on Sunday, 10/4 as we celebrate the feast of St. Francis with a pet blessing and worship planned and led by our children! Please feel free to bring pets to church; the blessing will take place on the plaza following worship.



Bible Study Returns

Join the conversation on Sundays 9/27-10/18 from 11:30-12:15, as we read and wrestle with the prophet Jonah's story! All are welcome.

Coffee Hours

Join Delaney+ and your St. Mark's community at Mountainhouse Café (2901 Macklind Ave, St. Louis, MO 63139) on Thursday, September 10th from 10-11:30am

Francis Park Fellowship

Our time in the beer garden will conclude with two final gatherings this fall! Stop by the Rockwell Beer garden for fellowship, snacks, and refreshing drinks. There are plenty of tasty non-alcoholic options available; fellowship is open to all ages!

- Thursday, September 24 5:00PM
- Thursday, October 8 5:00PM



From your Rector...

Rector Reflection

At the beginning of August, Matt started teaching a Monday morning Bible study class focused on the book of Revelation. Many Biblical scholars contend that Revelation was written to Christ-followers during times of persecution and oppression. Throughout the book, there are images of a divine throne room, painting God as the ruler whose power of life is more powerful than earthly rulers. I'm a big fan of Revelation; its beautiful imagery from Hebrew scriptures and the promises of a God who is more powerful than the powers and principalities of this world inspires hope and resilience when the going gets tough earthside. This fall, however, I have spent some time with these words from God in the first chapter of Revelation: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8)

As my family enters into a period of transition, with Milo starting school and our baby weeks away from birth, there is something very comforting about the encompassing constancy of God. When God professes to be the "Alpha and Omega, who is and was and is to come," we receive the divine promise of God's presence throughout all of life's circumstances—on the individual and communal levels. Autumn is often a time of transition for children in our culture, as they head off into new classrooms with new teachers and new friends, but it occurs to me that much of life is transition, isn't it? Sometimes it seems the only constant is change. In the midst of new jobs, new relationships, new opportunities, new challenges, new experiences, I hope the God who was, and is, and is to come brings you comfort too. Our Alpha and Omega God is the source of all that exists, and God is present through it all. As we prepare for a time of parental leave and new life in our parish, I hope we may all be comforted by God's presence in change and the excitement that can come with new experiences. May the God who was, and is, and is to come, shower you with blessings this day and remind each of us that God is faithful, always.

Delaney+

Parental Leave

Rev. Dr. Delaney Schlake-Kruse, rector here at St. Mark's, will be on parental leave for three months beginning Monday, October 19 (assuming the new baby does not arrive early!) She will be away October 19-December 13 before returning to St. Mark's December 14-30. Delaney+ will then take her final month of leave from January 1-31, 2027. She will return full-time February 1, 2027. Delaney+ is so grateful to work in a denomination with a three month parental policy—great work, Diocese of Missouri!

While Delaney+ is away, St. Mark's will be served by area priests as presiders and preachers on Sundays. Our field education intern, Chad Templin, will remain with the parish, and he will join the preaching and leadership schedule during this time as well. Rev. Jerre Birdsong, deacon at St. Mark's, will remain present throughout this time, and he and Chad will respond to pastoral care needs as they arise. Melissa will continue in her role as parish administrator while Delaney+ is away. Thank you for your excitement and support as the Schlake-Kruse family welcomes a new member!

Retreat & Annual Meeting

*Faith as a Source
of Strength in
Times of Turmoil*



Friday & Saturday, September 18 & 19, 2026
PALLOTTINE RENEWAL CENTER, FLOISSANT, MISSOURI

Join the Diocesan ECW Board for our Retreat and Annual Meeting, featuring guest facilitator Rev. Dr. Delaney Schlake-Kruse. Reflect on the ways that scripture has been a source of strength in times of challenge, and how the Psalms in particular offer support, comfort, and prayer when we struggle to find the words. Whether in times of individual or societal challenge and upheaval, the prayers and poetry of the Psalms offer pathways of prayer in moments of joy, desolation, and everywhere in between. Together with our facilitator, Rev. Dr. Delaney Schlake-Kruse (rector at St. Mark's in St. Louis Hills), we'll connect over song, prayer, reflection, laughter, art, and time in nature, coming away with a renewed sense of strength and support. We can't wait to step away from the busyness of the outer world and linger in the beauty of peace, stillness, and the Divine.

Rev. Dr. Delaney Schlake-Kruse (she/her) is thrilled to lead the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Missouri in our retreat this fall. Through reflection, conversation, music, and fellowship, she hopes participants will come away with renewed faith and relationships. Delaney+ is passionate about relational ministry, theological curiosity, and helping folks connect their daily lives with the gifts of scripture. Delaney+ has served as rector at St. Mark's since winter 2025. She is a parent to a 4-year-old son and another child due in October 2026! When she's not engaged in ministry work, Delaney+ likes to spend time with her family and friends, grow things in the garden, and relax with a good book.



Please register in advance for this event by downloading a form at www.diocesemo.org/episcopal-church-women/.

\$50 cost includes overnight accommodations, meals and activities. \$20 commuter option for meals and activities only.

For more information, contact Susan Goen at 314-374-2152 (voice/text) or susangoen@sbxglobal.net (email).

ECW Retreat

The Episcopal Church Women's retreat will be Friday and Saturday September 18th & 19th at the Pallottine Renewal Center featuring our very own rector, The Rev. Dr. Delaney Schlake-Kruse. See Susan Goen for more information on either of these exciting events. Or contact Melissa in the Parish Office to find out how to sign up.

Finucane Baptism



Patriotic Sing-a-long



FROM YOUR DEACON ...



IN-PERSON INTERACTION WITH THE KIDS BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT ECM ARE BACK!!!

Prior to COVID, twice a year, St. Mark's with The Faith Christian Church of India would sponsor birthday parties for kids at the City Detention Center. (Kids at the detention center are awaiting their hearings – they have not had a conviction.) We served them pizza, soda, Ted Drewes, and birthday cake. We also provided a bag of presents for each kid having a birthday that month. Then we played bingo with them, providing candy bars to the bingo winners. You could tell the kids really enjoyed the parties.

Since COVID, we have not been allowed to be inside the detention center with the kids. We have just dropped off the items for the party at the front door. But with our next party, on FRIDAY OCTOBER 2, we will again host the in-person party. This is tentatively scheduled for 3:30 P.M. We need 4-5 volunteers to make this celebration happen. If you would like to volunteer, please contact our ECM Ambassador Evan Meyer at tmeyer724@gmail.com.

If you volunteer, you will not have to get a background check, but you will need to sign a form agreeing to their code of conduct. Forms will be available in the back of the nave. We will need to get the signed forms to ECM a couple of weeks before the party.

Feel free to ask me any questions you may have.

In Christ,
Deacon Jerre

Barrett Baby Shower



Forest Park Playdate



Upcoming Events

Wednesdays 7:00pm

Thursdays 7:30pm

Fridays 7:00pm

September 5th

September 10th

September 13th

September 13th

September 15th

September 18th-19th

September 20th

September 20th

September 21st

September 24th

September 27th

September 27th

October 2nd

October 4th

October 4th

October 8th

October 11th

October 18th

October 18th

October 19th

October 19th

October 25th-Nov 22nd

AA Meeting in Parish Hall

Choir Practice (Starting September 3rd)

SMART Recovery Group in Parish Hall

Peace Meal (St. John's Church)

Coffee Hour with Delaney + 10am (see page 4)

Opening Day after Service

Early Music Concert in Nave 3pm (see page 2)

Voices for Living Justice Concert in Nave 7pm (see page 2)

Episcopal Church Women's Retreat (see page 6)

Hymn Sing 9:45am before worship (see page 2)

Schlake-Kruse Baby Shower after worship (see page 4)

Vestry Meeting

Beer Garden Fellowship 5pm (see page 4)

Baptism and Eucharist during Worship

Bible Study begins after Worship (for 4 Weeks) (see page 4)

Kids Birthday Party at Juvenile Detention Center (see page 7)

Children's led Worship and Blessing of the Animals (see page 4)

Bible Study after Worship (see page 4)

Beer Garden Fellowship 5pm (see page 2)

Bible Study after Worship (see page 4)

Delaney last Sunday before Parental Leave

Bible Study after Worship (see page 4)

Baby Schlake-Kruse due

Vestry Meeting

"Walking Through the Church Year" Adult Formation Class
(see page 3)



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.

October 27th Deadline for November/December Lion's Tale

December 22nd Deadline for January/February Lion's Tale

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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www.saintmarks-stl.org