



The Lion's Tale

JULY/AUGUST 2025

Godly Play

The Godly Play Class is exploring the parables, telling stories to each other, and learning new songs. The class presented special cards to Frankie Danieleley at her Rite 13 ceremony and to Ben Cashen and Lucy Danieleley at their graduation reception.



On Pentecost, the class enjoyed reaching for the Holy Spirit dove at the end of a long flag.



Evening Prayer on the Plaza

Come to St. Mark's for evening prayer on the plaza this summer! Bring snacks, drinks, and a lawn chair for community and worship. We will gather on the plaza for songs and prayer at 6:30pm, followed by fellowship!

May 28

June 18

July 30

August 20, meeting at 5:30pm before moseying to the beer garden at Francis Park!

Evening Prayer

Each month this summer, our St. Mark's family gathers for evening prayer outside. Join the group at 6:30pm on July 30 and August 20. Bring a chair and an openness to prayer. All are welcome!



Summer Sabbath

“On the sixth day God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that God had done.”

-Genesis 2:2

Well, friends, here we are in the middle of the dog days of summer. Air conditioners have been blowing, popsicles melting in small, sticky hands, and sweat wiped from brows on a continual basis. Summer in St. Louis reminds me of winter in Milwaukee—certainly not in terms of the temperature, but rather the weather tends to dictate how we spend our days. In Milwaukee, when the lake would dump a foot of snow we knew it was a day for hot cocoa and the snow blower. Here in St. Louis in July and August, when the heat index tops 100 we know it’s a day for popsicles, ice water, and slow movement. In some ways, these extremes (when we have what we need to survive) are almost like a Sabbath reminder from God. When it gets too hot to live our busy schedules, it’s almost like our creator pressing a pause button, and reminding us to slow down.

On the final day of creation, so the story goes, God rested. After all the work that God had done, separating the waters, causing dry land to appear, creating plants, animals, and all that is, God was tired. So, God rested. This act of sabbath-taking from whence “Sabbatical” comes, is a gift from God just like all the other parts of creation. God’s pause reminds us that part of being made in God’s image is taking a break and resting. In the midst of a busy life and a hot season here in St. Louis, I hope you find some time to engage the gift of sabbath. After all, if rest is good enough for God, it’s good enough for us.

Delaney+

The Nitty Gritty on Committees

In the distant past, at St Mark’s, to be on Vestry meant that you had to chair one of the many ongoing committees. And if you were the Junior Warden, you were in charge of convening any ad hoc committees deemed necessary.

And the people grew weary of committees. There is a joke (is it a joke?) that there is no problem that cannot be made worse by forming a committee to solve it...

And the pendulum swung in the other direction to “Mutual Ministry” where no one was “in charge” and the theory was that if someone was passionate about doing something, they would rise up and make it happen.

And then very little actually happened. And people who wanted to get involved and join others in doing the work of the church did not have an organized way to go about it.

So, in an effort to reclaim Via Media (the middle way), your vestry has established the following groups:

Welcome (Scott Thompson, vestry liaison) to make sure St. Mark’s is the most welcoming place for all

Nurture (Vicki Stegmann, vestry liaison) including card ministry, parish celebrations, caring for each other as needs arise

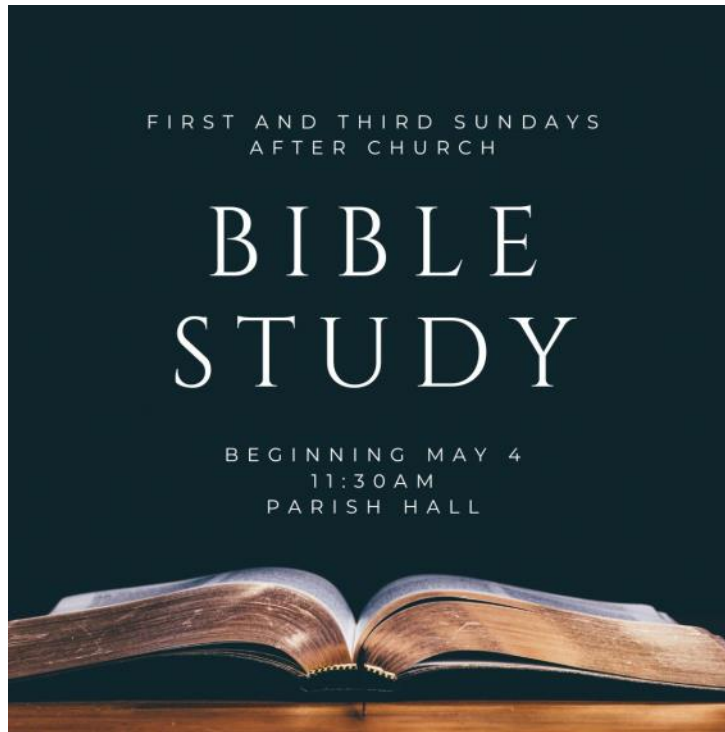
Outreach (Jerre+, Deacon and Marilyn, vestry liaison) to care for our neighbors

Building and Grounds (Margaret Hvatum, vestry liaison) to care for our physical worship and gathering spaces

Don’t be shy about getting involved, or asking questions, and don’t be surprised if you get invited to participate.

By Ellen Jeffery, Vestry Clerk

St. Mark's Events



Bible Study

Are you interested in exploring scripture and growing your skills as a Bible interpreter? Join us for Bible study every first and third Sunday from 11:30-12:15 in the parish hall. No prior attendance or experience required. Bring a Bible and a willingness to talk through the text!





FROM YOUR DEACON ...

Have you explored our national church's website, episcopalchurch.org ? It has a PLETHORA of information about our church's social ministries. The banner at the top of the page announces that our ministries are "Loving, Liberating, and Life-Giving." Below that are links to 30 separate ministries where you'll find many useful resources available to us. Examples include the following:

Domestic Poverty
Creation Care
Global Missions
Latino Ministries

Armed Forces Ministries
African Descent Ministries
Gender Justice Ministries
Racial Reconciliation

Asiamerican Ministries
Migration Ministries
Indigenous Ministries
Healthcare

There are two separate links involving advocacy, Social Justice & Advocacy Engagement, and the Office of Government Relations. There are so many initiatives that contain Action Took Kits, I can't even begin to give a summary here. But just to mention one, "From Pew to the Public Square" provides quick coaching in moral agency, discernment, and decision-making for community and social change. The six themes it addresses are prisons and criminal justice, water access, food justice, health and healthcare, immigration, and housing.

I am not exaggerating when I say there are so many resources that I can't even begin to introduce them to you. I invite you to log on to episcopalchurch.org and just surf away – surf away where your heart of compassion takes you!

In Christ,

Deacon Jerre



KIDS!



JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR



Hearing Stories
Telling Stories
Songs
Costumes
Challenges
Painting
Clay



Indoor and Outdoor Fun
Digging in the Dirt
Surprises

... and More Fun, Fun, Fun!



EVERY SUNDAY

June 1 - September 7

9:30 am to the Peace During the Church Service
Children over 10 years old can volunteer as helpers.



The garden produced over 600 peas, with a plant that reached 98 inches tall! Just below the apple tree, the class was surprised with the discovery of a duck sitting on several eggs. They are patiently waiting to see the ducklings hatch.



Many of the children's drawings are appearing in Markings, in the weekly bulletins, and on the church bulletin board.



The kids enjoyed talking with Lou Swallow on his last visit to St. Mark's on June 22. When I told them that Lou was going to be 93 years old, one of them said that he looked like he was only 70. He still has a great connection with the kids, and we will continue sending him cards and praying for him.

FLAGS, SIGNS AND BANNERS AT ST. MARK'S

Pride Flags:

- St. Mark's now has the Inclusive Progress Pride Flag flying from the sign near the rectory, and the new Episcopal Pride Shield has been added to the marquee.
- You may have also noticed the individual pride flags strewn around the edges of our plaza! Visit <https://gtp.mhs.yourcultureconnect.com/e/home/lgbtqia-flags> for a brief overview of the history and symbolism behind these and other LGBTQ+ pride flags.

Coming Soon:

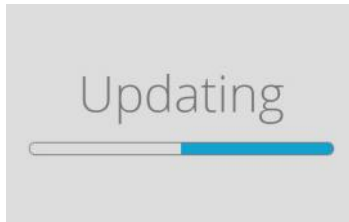
- We will soon have a small sign hosted by Slyman Bros Appliances on Hampton Avenue to let the community know that "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You!"
- The signs hanging from the utility poles around the church campus are getting an update! Currently they celebrate our 75th anniversary, an exciting milestone St. Mark's reached in 2014.
- We plan to hang a permanent banner on the side of the rectory facing Clifton Avenue specifically welcoming LGBTQ+ folks to St. Marks.



Upcoming Events

Wednesdays 7:00pm	AA Meeting in Parish Hall
Fridays 7:00pm	SMART Recovery Group in Parish Hall
July 2nd-4th	Independence Day (office closed)
July 6th	Bible Study after Service
July 7th-14th	Rev. Delaney Vacation
July 17th	5:30pm St. Mark's at the Park (Beer Garden Fellowship)
July 17th-29th	Melissa Engle Vacation (Parish Office Closed)
July 30th	6:30pm Evening Prayer on the Plaza
August 3rd	Bible Study after Service
August 17th	Bible Study after Service
August 19th	Vestry Meeting (Zoom)
August 20th	5:30pm Evening Prayer on the Plaza followed by Beer Garden Fellowship

It's time for an UPGRADE



The St. Mark's Website is going to get a facelift. A small committee has been formed to upgrade the website. We've looked in to different platforms and making sure all of our digital communications will be on brand. The main focus will be to make sure our website is easy to navigate both through a computer and with a mobile device. We'd like to keep it simple to navigate and also focusing on a welcoming atmosphere for all. We want to thank Neal Borowiak

and Ed Rich for their expertise with this endeavor. If this is something you might be interested in helping with, contact Rev. Delaney.



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.

August 27th	Deadline for September/October Lion's Tale
October 28th	Deadline for November/December Lion's Tale

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

4714 Clifton Ave St. Louis, MO 63116

www.saintmarks-stl.org