The Lion's Tale

November/December 2026

Opening Day 2026


















Opening Day Cont.



































FROM YOUR DEACON …

Every Sunday in our Prayers of the People, we pray for our Jubilee Ministry partner, Isaiah 58 Ministries, and for our outreach partner, Doorways Interfaith Housing. Jubilee Ministry is a social justice ministry of advocacy and services for the poor, oppressed, and marginalized within the Diocese. Its purpose is to advocate and act toward meeting the basic human needs of those on the margins. Deacon Barbi Click was our Jubilee Missioner for many years, and after her death, Jonathan Cureton, parishioner at St. John's Tower Grove, serves in this role.Jubilee Ministry Centers empower those who are poor and oppressed in their communities by providing direct service such as food and clothing while also advancing for human rights and social justice. There are 14 Jubilee Ministry Centers in the Diocese. St. Mark's, Emmanuel, and Isaiah 58 Ministries have together been named a Jubilee Ministry cluster as one of these centers in our ministry to the poor.

Since 1970, the Mission of Isaiah 58 Ministries has been to seek "to be the heart and hub of our beloved community, living out God's call to offer essential services with compassion and care. Through our food pantry, clothing room, shower ministry, and outreach programs, we strive to meet the needs of all who come to us, fostering hope, dignity, and a sense of belonging. We are dedicated to creating a place where individuals and families find support, restoration, and the opportunity to thrive in a loving and inclusive environment." Those dedicated St. Markans who volunteer their time at Isaiah 58 can tell you that this is indeed what happens there. We also collect school supplies for them for their annual Back-to-School Fairs, collect food (pudding this year) for their guests' Thanksgiving table, and funds to purchase gift cards so their guests may get their Thanksgiving turkey or ham and other needed items.

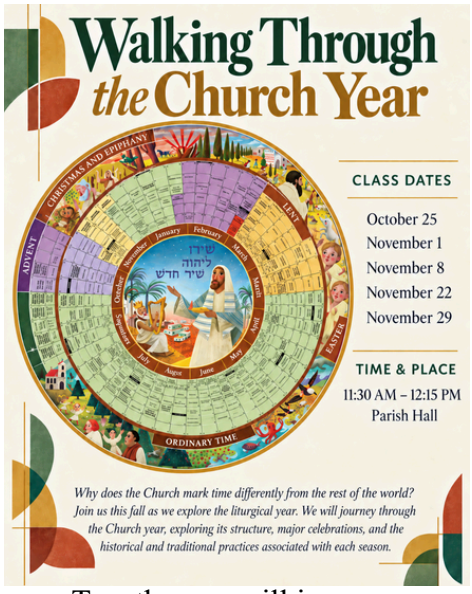
Doorways' eleven housing facilities with 219 units are located throughout St. Louis, but they have a main impressive campus at Jefferson and Cass Avenues. Doorways' mission is to "improve the quality of life of people affected by HIV, illness, and poverty, advancing their stability and well-being through housing, health, and empowerment services." HIV/AIDS doesn't make the news much anymore, but there are 1.2 million people in the US who are HIV positive, and only 65% have achieved undetectable, untransmittable status. Many still have difficulty with employment, housing, food security, and medical care.Doorways assisted 3,000+ people last year. 98% had incomes of less than the Federal poverty Level upon intake. We have not as a church community volunteered on-site for several years, but we still investigate this possibility as we help fund their ministry.

The guests of Isaiah 58 and the recipients of care from Doorways certainly need our continued prayers.

In Christ,

Deacon Jerre

St. Mark's Events



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 through Nov. 29, from 11:30 am - 12:15 pm in the Parish Hall.



On November 22 we will celebrate the culmination of our stewardship season in worship. Please send in your 2027 pledge card or bring it with you to worship on November 22 as we give thanks to God through generosity! And don't forget to bring a pie for our Pie Social. Sign up sheet is in the Parish Hall.



On November 29th, the First Sunday of Advent, will be creating a Make-and-Take Advent Wreath as we begin a new liturgical year together. All are welcome!No prior attendance required. Sign-up sheet in Parish Hall.



This year's festive walk will be held on Saturday, December 5th. There will be a signup in the Parish Hall. Please plan on bringing a small donation to cover the cost of the pizza and make sure to put which pizza you prefer on the sign-up sheet; Cheese, Veggie, Gluten-free, or Pepperoni along with the number of people in your group. This is a fun family event, so you are welcome to invite friends to join us. For more information, please contact Margaret Hvatum.



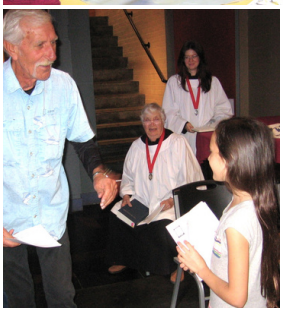


The Annual St. Mark's Christmas Party will take place on December 20th at 5PM. Carols, a buffet dinner, and load of good cheer will be on hand as we wait for a "special guest" to complete the festivities. $15 Adults, $8 Children over 5 years, $50 family max. Once again, we'll be asking folks to help with the dessert and snacks table. Please see the sign-up sheets in the parish hall to RSVP and to bring a dessert or appetizer. Or contact Melissa in the Parish Office.

Children's Worship and Blessing of the Animals



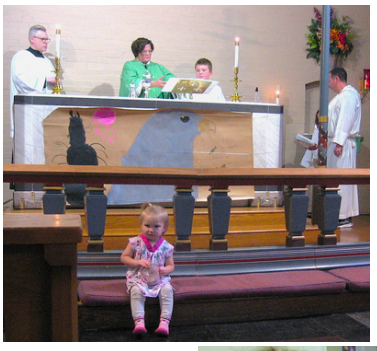




















Children's Worship and Blessing of the Animals cont.












Vogel Baptism














MUSIC NOTES



Choir Call

November is upon us, and that means December, with its wealth of beautiful music for the Advent and Christmas seasons, isn't far away. I'd like to invite anyone who enjoys singing but isn't able to sing with the choir on a regular basis to join us for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 p.m, and we'll sing for all the Sundays in Advent as well as for the 10:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. If you'd like to sing with us during Advent and/or for Christmas Eve, please be in touch with me (braedeke@aol.com). We would be delighted to have you join us!
Barbara Raedeke

GODLY PLAY

Children of all ages, including the Godly Play class, participated in many ways during the October 4th service celebrating the feast of St. Francis and blessing of the animals for the second year. They helped welcome the congregation, usher, and were acolytes, torchbearers and readers as well as followed Delaney at the altar, helped bless the animals and more. They spent weeks preparing the prayers for the people, singing, creating animal pictures, and writing out verses for the altar, lectern and pulpit, and baking the bread for the service. Celeste told the gospel story in the format of the Godly Play class. The kids made special bookmarks with a verse from St. Francis and animal rocks that were distributed after church. Thanks to our youngest St. Marks family for assisting in this beautiful service.

After the October 4th service, the class resumed hearing stories from Exodus. Our new Assistant Teacher, Michelle enjoyed dressing up as the Pharaoh and Eliza was her servant.

The class enjoyed watching the baptism of Isla on September 27, and made a special card for her for the occasion.

See the pictures throughout the newsletter of all of these exciting events.







Upcoming Events

Wednesdays 7:00pm	AA Meeting in Parish Hall
Thursdays 7:30pm	Choir Practice
Fridays 7:00pm	SMART Recovery Group in Parish Hall
November 1st	All Saints' Day Service
November 1st	Walking Through the Church Year cont. (see page 4)
November 8th	Walking Through the Church Year cont. (see page 4)
November 15th	Walking Through the Church Year cont. (see page 4)
November 16th	Vestry Meeting
November 21st	Peace Meal at St. John's (see below)
November 22nd	Walking Through the Church Year cont. (see page 4)
November 22nd	Consecration Sunday and Pie Social (see page 4)
November 26th	Thanksgiving Day
November 27th	Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
November 29th	1st Sunday in Advent
November 29th	Take and Make Advent Wreath (see page 4)
December 5th	Candy Cane Lane Walk (see page 4)
December 20th	Flora Schlake-Kruse Baptism and Eucharist Bishops Visitations
December 20th	St. Mark's Annual Christmas Party 5pm (see page 4)
December 24th	Christmas Eve Service Family Worship 5pm
December 24th	Christmas Eve Festive Choral Eucharist 10:30pm
December 25th	Christmas Day Worship 10am
December 24th -January 3rd	Office Closed for Christmas Break

Peace Meal

We need St Mark's volunteers for the next Peace Meal at St John's Church on November 21st. This is a great opportunity to serve our neighbors in need. We need volunteers for the first afternoon shift from 2pm – 4pm for cooking and the 2nd shift from 3:45pm - 5:45pm to serve and clean up. Your help is greatly appreciated. Please notify Diane Nienkemper 314/602-9532 or Marti Robards 314/596-6383 if you would like to help.

The Lion's Tale is published bi-Monthly by St. Mark's Episcopal Church. MelissaEngle-Editor
To submit an article email it to parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org.
Deadline for article submissions are listed below.

December 22nd Deadlinefor January/FebruaryLion'sTale

February 24th Deadlinefor March/April Lion'sTale

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 4714 Clifton Ave St. Louis, MO 63116
www.saintmarks-stl.org