



Worship Bulletin

December 7, 2025

QR Code for Volunteer
Accelerator Survey



ORDER OF WORSHIP

CENTERING PRAYER

O Root of Jesse, O Peace, stir up your power within us as we wait with abundant expectation. Fulfill your eternal promise, emerge among us in a new and powerful way, and reign over us today. We ask this of you our Maker, Savior, and Giver of Life, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ, as we await the blessed hope and manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior.

Now is the moment to wake from sleep, for salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in harmony with one another, welcoming one another, just as Christ welcomed us, for the glory of God.

The night is far gone; the day is near.

† HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
verses 1, 2, 6, & 7

Hymnal #88

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people. We confess we do not believe in your incarnation. We do not heed your word each day in all we say and do. We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends as beloved children whom you made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and look to your power to heal us and raise us up, so that, at the last, you will gather us to you and give us peace. (Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

† GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, amen.**

Hymnal #581

TIME WITH CHILDREN (Children's Sunday School is in Fellowship Hall)

† HYMN

“Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining”

Hymnal #192

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON

“Built for Show or Go?”

Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Confession of 1967 – 9.07

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with humankind. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humans, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

OFFERTORY

Breath Of Heaven (Mary's Song)
Amy Shelton

Chris Eaton and Amy Grant

† THE DOXOLOGY

Hymnal #609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer
Words of Institution
Sharing of the Bread & Cup
Prayer After Communion

† HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Hymnal #93

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Peace on Earth”

Sussex Carol

Peace on the earth, Good will to all,
the angels sang from Heav'n above.
Peace on the earth, Good will to all,
we go to share God's peace and love.

POSTLUDE

†In body or spirit, please rise.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- 7 Adult Bible Study, 8:50 am
- 7 Children & Youth Christmas program, 4 pm
- 7 Jingle Mingle, 5 pm
- 8 Prayer Circle, 9:30 am
- 9 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am
- 9 Go Getter Luncheon, 12 pm
- 10 Children & Youth Activities, 5 & 6 pm
- 10 Chancel Bells & Choir Practice, 6 & 7 pm

- 11 Chair Exercise, 10 am
- 12 Friday Bible Study, 9:30 am
- 13 Santa Breakfast, 9:30 am
- 14 Christmas Cantata, during worship
- 14 Zoo Lights Family Outing, 5 pm
- 18 Blue Christmas Service, 7 pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship, 4 & 7 pm
- 28 Pajama Worship, 10 am

WELCOME TO ST. MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

We are pleased to have you join us this morning. Your presence enriches both us and this experience of worship together. It is our prayer this will be a time of challenge and encouragement. Wherever you may be on your faith journey, there is a place for you to participate in our life together here at St. Mark.

TO OUR GUESTS: We hope you enjoy your visit today. Whether this is your first visit, or you have been coming to St. Mark and are considering joining the church and you would like to know more about St. Mark, we would be happy to talk with you. For more information, please contact the church office, 636-394-2233.

TO ALL: Listening devices are available from a sound technician in the booth at the back of the sanctuary. Large print bulletins and hymnals are also available upon request from an usher.

Devotional Booklets, *These Days* are available in the lobby at the main entrance.

Flowers in the Sanctuary are donated by Gary and Sherry Naylor in celebration of the December birthdays of their children Amy and Alan and by Donna, Ray, Jen, Mary, and Anne in loving memory of Raymond W. Bosenbecker III.

Please be aware that, as St. Mark works to increase safety and security, all doors to the building are locked Sunday morning once worship has begun. Those who arrive late should approach the door at the office entrance and will be admitted by a member of the Security Team.

TO MEMBERS: Please wear your NAMETAG at church. Don't have one? Stop by the church office where you will find a form to fill out in the "Name Badge" mailbox.

WAYS TO GIVE: There are several convenient and easy ways to contribute to St. Mark:

In-person: During Sunday Worship Service

Mail: Please make check out to St. Mark Presbyterian Church and send to St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 601 Claymont Drive, Ballwin, MO 63011

Online: To donate, use the **QR Code** here to be directed to our giving page on discoverstmark.org.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING—THE PERFECT GIFT

Jesus became One with us. In all our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us—leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us—past, present and future—who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

Be part of the Gift that comes through the Joy Offering. Use the envelope in your packet or make a note on your check to St. Mark Presbyterian Church.

BRING YOUR SANTAS AND SNOWMEN!

Do you believe in the magic of Santas and Snowmen during the Christmas season? In past years our congregation has displayed their favorite angels and

crèches in the narthex. On Cantata Sunday, December 14, tables will be in the narthex before and after church to display your Santas and Snowmen. For your displays. Please write a short description about your items, and include your name.



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK



SUNDAYS AT 8:50

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us for a study of the books called "Angels" by Vinita Hampton Wright. Fridays at 9:30 am.

"What - or who - are angels? Where did they come from, and what is their purpose? What is their relationship to us as human beings? This study will explore numerous Bible passages that reveal the services these heavenly beings perform, the part they play in spirituality, and how they differ from other beings in God's created order."

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Tuesday Bible Study is reading Max Lucado's book, "You Are Never Alone". It uses the Gospel of John as a source of God's active presence in our lives. All men are welcome to join us for Bible study every Tuesday morning at 7:30 am! If you have questions call or email Bruce Cranston.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school for children PreK – 5th grade takes place during Sunday worship, immediately following the Children's Message.

NURSERY

Nursery Care, for ages 0 – 2 years, is available Sunday mornings from 8:30 am – 11:00 am, except for the first Sunday of the month when the nursery is open but there is no attendant present.

WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

Midweek Praise Club, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL SIGN IN!

Use this QR code to sign in for Sunday School. Scan the code to access the attendance form and enter the required information. We ask that you have your student registered before Time With Children so that we can contact you via text in the event that you are needed.



Return once again to Candy Cane Lane and join the Merry Music Makers at St. Mark for breakfast with Santa on December 13, 9:30 – 11:30 am.

Festivities include music from the St. Mark Youth Ensemble, Jingle Bell Sing along, crafts, cake walk, photo opportunities, & storytime with Santa at 10:30 am. The breakfast menu includes scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, sausage, pancakes, fruit, coffee, and hot chocolate. All are welcome!



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH



Youth 6th– 12th grade. Join us for food, fun, faith, and fellowship! If you have any questions, call the church office.



YOUTH MISSION TRIP INFORMATION MEETING

Attention all youth and parents! If you are 12+ years of age and in 6th grade or higher, and are interested in participating in this year's mission trip please make sure you are at youth on Wednesday, December 10th at 6pm in the youth room. There is plenty of information to be passed along. Any adult interested in being a chaperone is welcome as well.

MISSION AT ST. MARK DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Baking basics and mixes
- Canned and dry beans
- Canned tomatoes (15 oz & larger)
- Dinner Helpers
- Personal Care Items



All year long, we collect food and hygiene items for Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58 Ministries. Please place your donations on the mission table outside the church office.



Many people in our region lack enough warm clothing to stay protected throughout winter. New and gently used clean winter coats

and clothing are needed, **adult sizes for men and women in particular**. Our mission partners will ensure someone in need receives your gift of warmth. Dog and cat coats are appreciated too!

Please place your donations in the bins in the office foyer.

EQUAL EXCHANGE

In the Narthex on
December 7, 14, & 21

St. Mark supports this mission to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just, environmentally sustainable, and to foster mutually beneficial relationships between small farmers and consumers.

Cash, Credit, Debit, Digital Wallet Payments Accepted

Equal Exchange Small Farmers Fund lost its USAID funding, so are seeking funding alternatives that are reliable and consistent. 100% of your donation goes to co-op development projects that offer much needed help support to our farmer partners as they face unprecedented market and climate challenges. Tariffs are also having a significant impact on Equal Exchange. For more info, see

<https://shop.equalexchange.coop/products/donate>



HONORING FAMILY AND FRIENDS THROUGH ALTERNATIVE GIVING

Finding the perfect, meaningful gift for someone who has many wonderful possessions is a difficult task! With this in mind, the newly formed Mission Committee at St. Mark created "Christmas Alternatives" in 2001.



Purchasing a gift through Christmas Alternatives honors the recipient and will help lift a family out of poverty. That family will in turn help another community member. Every gift is another word in an ongoing story of hope that will help create a cycle of change for generations to come.

The "shopping list" will be available in December's Messenger and bulletins and on the welcome desk. Displays will be in the Narthex on December 7, 14, & 21st.



More information coming soon about rescheduling this program.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BOOK CLUB

The Presbyterian Women's Book Club will meet December 10 to discuss the book, *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers* by Jesse Sutanto. There is a virtual option for meeting as well. Please contact Judy Richardson for more information.



Blue Christmas service provides a quiet and contemplative worship space as an alternative to the more traditional Christmas gatherings. This service is in honor of those who are experiencing grief and struggling with loss and is a holiday tradition in the U.S. dating back to 1990.

Join us here at St. Mark Presbyterian Church for a service of hope and healing where you will have an opportunity to honor your loved one as you are invited to light a candle in their name.



For more information and to register, please go to our registration website

<https://go.rallyup.com/christmascamp2025> or email Sarah Ripka-Towe at slyn18@yahoo.com.



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess
Dir. of Children's Ministry: Latisha Gilliland
Dir. Of Claymont Preschool: Jessie Bahr
Parish Associate: Donna Schiro

601 Claymont Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011
(636)394-2233
website: discoverstmark.org

Dir. of Music: Ethan Forte
Accompanist & Organist: JeeHye Lee
Special Music: Amy Shelton
Advent Liturgists: The Hegger Family

Honoring Family and Friends Through Alternative Giving

Because we are blessed with many material possessions, when Christmas comes around, we encounter a huge challenge selecting gifts for family and friends. Finding the perfect gift for someone who has many wonderful possessions is a difficult task! With this in mind, in 2001 the newly formed Mission Committee at St. Mark created "Christmas Alternatives."

Purchasing a gift through Christmas Alternatives honors the recipient and also helps deserving people who have so little, but need so much.

Thank you for your faithful support during the past 25 years (2001-2025)
Your generosity has transformed lives and had a lasting impact around the world!

Christmas Alternatives 2025 - Our 25th Year!

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
CITY, STATE, ZIP:	
PHONE:	
St. Mark Member ?	YES NO
If Yes, contributions will be included on your annual giving statement.	
If No, would you like us to mail you a receipt ?	
	YES NO

DEADLINE: December 24th, 2025

Please include payment with form.

Place in Mission Committee Mailbox in Church Office

-- or --

Mail to:

St. Mark Presbyterian Church
ATTN: Christmas Alternatives
601 Claymont Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE SUBMITTED:

PAID?

Shopping List 2025 Christmas Alternatives

Marion Medical Mission (Africa)	Price	Qty	Total
Build a Well (\$475/well)	\$ 25.00		
	Total		

Medical Benevolence Foundation	Price	Qty	Total
Nursing school scholarships: Malawi, Haiti, DR Congo, Kenya	\$ 30.00		
Life Saver Clinics: DR Congo, Malawi, Kenya and Haiti	\$ 25.00		
Share for Greatest Needs (e.g., vaccinations, malaria nets)	\$ 15.00		
	Total		

Equal Exchange Small Farmer Fund *	Price	Qty	Total
Equal Exchange Small Farmer Fund (100% to Co-op Dev Projects)	\$ 50.00		
* Equal Exchange Small Farmers Fund lost funding through USAID, so now need our support.	Total		

PCUSA International Food and Income Security Missions	Price	Qty	Total
Farming Tools (e.g., machetes, shovels)	\$ 10.00		
Family of Chickens (\$25/family)	\$ 25.00		
Share of Cow (\$450/dairy cow)	\$ 50.00		
Share of Goat (\$178/pair)	\$ 30.00		
Piglet (\$40/piglet)	\$ 40.00		
Share of Bee Hive (\$240/hive)	\$ 20.00		
Share of Moringa Seeds (food for humans - \$40/bag)	\$ 20.00		
Share of Rainwater Catchment (\$75/system)	\$ 25.00		
Share of Sewing Machine (\$50 each)	\$ 25.00		
	Total		

PCUSA	Price	Qty	Total
Rev. Jed and Jenny Koball, Peru	\$ 50.00		
	Total		

Rise Against Hunger	Price	Qty	Total
Support annual meal packaging event at St. Mark (50 meals)	\$ 25.00		
Support annual meal packaging event at St. Mark (100 meals)	\$ 50.00		
	Total		

General Gift to Christmas Alternatives	Price	Qty	Total
St. Mark Mission Committee to Designate Recipients	\$ 50.00		
	Total		

SHOPPING LIST GRAND TOTAL

Checks to: St. Mark Presbyterian Church
Memo Line: Christmas Alternatives

\$