

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 21, 2024

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (in-person and live-streamed)



History

Serving God and God's people since 1836 and worshipping in this Sanctuary since 1848.

Mission

We are an inclusive community of faith, reflecting Christ's love, ministering to all who hunger in body, mind and spirit.

Vision

Our strength as a faith community depends on our inner vitality, inclusive welcome, and outward action. Grounded in these values, we continue our strong tradition of liturgical worship and education for all ages. We advocate for justice, serving those in need.

Statement of Inclusion

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a growing, welcoming, and affirming community of faith in a vibrant urban community. In our worship and in our service to the community, we proclaim that all people are worthy of God's love. We celebrate and uphold the dignity of all people whose ethnicity, cultural heritage, and denominational traditions are examples and celebrations of God's love. We welcome visitors and parishioners from all social, political, and educational backgrounds, and all abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. We affirm all people and celebrate diversity, as we work to fulfill God's love for all people as a community of faith.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
134 N. Division Ave
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
www.stmarksgo.org
616.456.1684

Welcome to St. Mark's!

... a vibrant community of faith, which has gathered for worship since 1836 and in the current building since 1848. If this is your first visit with us, know that we are delighted you are here. Please, introduce yourself and be sure to sign our guest sign-in sheet in the foyer and/or fill-out a Visitor's Welcome Card. Also, please take a welcome folder on the Welcome Desk.

Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday— 9 a.m. to noon.

Reserved Spaces for Those in Need: Note, there are three designated spaces for those in need, two in the north transept and one on the north side of the nave. Please, leave those spaces available and the adjoining pews for family members.

Safety: The outer doors to the Parish House will be locked fifteen minutes after Services begin with a security guard on duty to be of assistance. Upon leaving a restroom, please wash hands with warm soapy water and sanitize. Please, pay attention to the nearest exit in the Sanctuary. An announcement will be made in case of an emergency. Children will be ushered out of the building to a designated place for safety away from the Church complex.

Parking on Sundays: Limited parking is available in the Parish Lot. If you are an able-bodied person, please, consider not parking in the Parish Lot to enable those less mobile more parking potential. Please, consider the free metered parking on Pearl, Ionia, Lyon, Fountain and other streets near the church, the Kendall Lot across the street (only if you will leave by noon, to avoid being locked into the lot), the upper levels of the GRCC building on Fountain Street, and the Ellis Parking Lot at 210 Ionia just west of Lyon Street. For the Ellis Lot: Vouchers for free parking on Sundays and to exit are available from an Usher, a Greeter or on the Resource Table in the north transept. A white voucher is required and must accompany the original parking ticket in order to exit the Ionia Lot.

Rest Rooms are located on the main level of the Parish House under the exit sign at the top of the Foyer ramp. Additional rest rooms are located on the second level of the Parish House; those able to use stairs are encouraged to reserve main-floor restrooms for others.

Weekly Worship and Prayer at St. Mark's: Eucharist on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Midweek Eucharist on Wednesdays at noon from September through May. Compline (Night Prayer) on Mondays and Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. via Facebook live. All are always welcome!

Children's Ministry: Sundays, we offer children's formation during 10:30 services. This includes formation, nursery care and church school. Please contact the church office.

Youth Ministry: Grand Rapids Episcopal Youth: G.R.E.Y. is a joint youth ministry between St. Mark's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Churches for youth in grades 6-12. We have regular formation gatherings during the school year and service as well as social activities throughout the year. Please contact our Director of Youth Ministry, Jeff Brown, for more information: jeffatgrey@gmail.com.

Adult Formation Ministry: *Adult Forums* are offered on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings at different times of the year. Seasonal *Saturday Retreats* for adults are offered by the Rector. *Episcopal 101: An Inquirer's Journey* is offered yearly for adults especially those seeking Confirmation, Reception into the Episcopal Church or to Reaffirm one's faith. A multi-year seminar, *Education for Ministry* (EFM), is offered during the program year. Please, contact Doug Karsen for more information at karsencd@gmail.com. A *Book Study* is offered for adults.

Breakfast Café Ministry: A program to nourish our neighbors with a hot meal, is at 8:15 a.m. every Saturday. If you would like more information and to possibly volunteer, please contact Judy Freeman at judyfw@comcast.net.

Land Acknowledgment: St. Mark's recognizes that our property sits on land of the indigenous people of the Three Fires. It is our privilege to occupy this land while recognizing and acknowledging with sadness the deep wounds created many years ago by our forebears.

St. Mark's eNews: For the fullest expression of St. Marks' activities, see the weekly eNews in your email or our website.

Cell Phones: We ask that you silence your cell phone; if you are on call, please turn it to vibrate when you enter the church.

St. Mark's Full-Time* and Part-Time Staff

The Rev. David Blank, Interim Rector*
The Rev. Susan York, Associate Rector
The Rev. Jan Gockerman, Deacon

Pam Stevenson, Finance Manager*
Kate Assarian, Administrative Associate*
Dr. Gregory Crowell, Director of Music
Jeff Brown, Director of Youth Ministry
Alexis VanZalen, Organ Scholar

Mike Armour, Operations Manager
Ronnie Hammond, Sexton
Craig Mosley, Sexton Associate, Video
Doris Molina, Weekend Sexton
Jamie Interrial, Security Representative
Eric Gable, Webmaster

The Gathering of God's People

The Prelude — Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word

J.G. Walther

Lector I The Welcome

Gathering Hymn - Blue Hymnal No. 537: Christ for the World We Sing

Moscow

Welcome and Invitation (*You may stand.*)

Presider I: †Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed God's reign now and forever. Amen.**

Presider I: Eternal loving God through the birth of your Son, you filled the world with the brightness of your one true light.

People: **May the light of Christ illumine our paths and shine in hearts forever.**

Presider I: May the peace, joy and love of Christ's coming among us enable us to be people of justice, peace and love.

People: **May we share in the divine life of your son, Jesus, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.**

Presider I: Bless us in the true gift of Christmas, your son, Jesus the Christ.

People: **Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

People: **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Confession

Presider I: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors. (*Silence is observed.*)

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen**

Absolution

Presider: May †Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Gloria

John Rutter

1. Glo-ry to you, Lord God of our fa - thers; you are wor-thy of
praise; glo-ry to you. 2. Glo-ry to you for the ra - di-ance of your
ho - ly Name; we will praise you and high-ly ex - alt you for ev-er.

3. Glo-ry to you in the splen - dor of your tem-ple; on the throne of your
ma - jes-ty, glo-ry to you. 4. Glo-ry to you, seat-ed be - tween the
Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and high-ly ex - alt you for ev-er.
5. Glo-ry to you, be - hold-ing the depths; in the high vault of
hea-ven, glo-ry to you. 6. Glo-ry to you, Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly
Spi-rit; We will praise you and high-ly ex - alt you for ev-er.

Collect of the Day

Presider II: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Hebrew Scripture

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Lector I: A Reading from the Prophet Jonah.

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

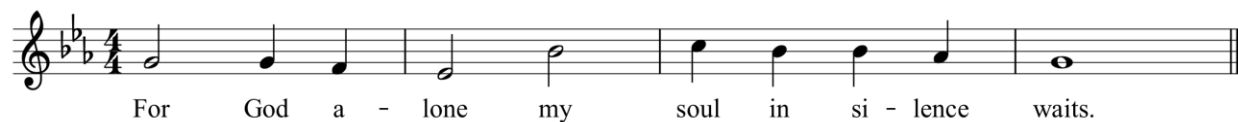
Lector I: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 62:6-14

Nonne Deo?

(Prayed responsively by half verse at 8 a.m.; Antiphon intoned by the choir and repeated by all at 10:30 a.m.)



For God alone my soul in silence waits; *
truly, my hope is in him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, *
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

Antiphon

In God is my safety and my honor; *
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

Put your trust in him always, O people, *
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

Antiphon

Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, *
even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

On the scales they are lighter than a breath, *
all of them together.

Antiphon

Put no trust in extortion;
in robbery take no empty pride; *
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, *
that power belongs to God.

Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, *
for you repay everyone according to his deeds.

Antiphon

The Christian Scripture

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Lector II: A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Lector II: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Hymn — Blue Hymnal No. 661: They Cast Their Nets

Georgetown

The Gospel (*You may stand.*)

Mark 1:14-20

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Gospeler: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Homily

The Rev. David Blank, Interim Rector

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made a man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, the Spirit is worshiped and glorified. The Spirit has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People *(You may stand.)*

Lector I: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons: Michael, Presiding Bishop; Skip, our Assisting Bishop; Bonnie and Rayford, Bishops of Michigan and Northern Michigan; Moises, Bishop of the Dominican Republic and Craig, ELCA Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod; Christ Church of Owosso and its Priest, Paul Brunell; St. Peter’s-by-the-Lake, Montague, and its Rector, David Meyers. We remember the Church of South India. We pray:

All: **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Lector II: O God, you pierced the quiet by the utterance of your Word in Jesus. May your compassion and reconciliation resound in and through us, that we may be people of integrity, reconciliation and love. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lector I: O God, angels proclaimed the peace of your Son. Strengthen all who work for peace and justice. Help us to value the dignity of every human person. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lector II: O God, you came to us in a manger. Open our hearts to the needs of the homeless, the hungry, the battered, the abused and all those in need. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lector I: O God, shepherds heard your good news. Give us grace to spread your Gospel of Peace. Bring an end to terrorism, violence, racism, bigotry and war. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lector II: O God, Christians throughout the world celebrate Christ's birth. Unite us in one family, that we may shine with the one light which scatters all darkness. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lector I: O God, give strength and comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We especially remember those on our Parish Prayer List for whom we have promised to pray, all those in areas of active conflict and those we name silently or aloud. *(Pause to include additional names.)* God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lector II: O God, we give you thanks for all those who have gone before us in faith, especially remembering those we name silently or aloud. *(Pause to include additional names.)* May they rest in peace and may all who mourn them be comforted. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Presider II: O God, we ask you to hear these prayers, those we have named aloud and those which lie deep within our hearts. All these things we ask through the power of the Holy Spirit and in the Name of Jesus. **Amen**

The Peace

Presider I: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us offer one another a sign of that peace.

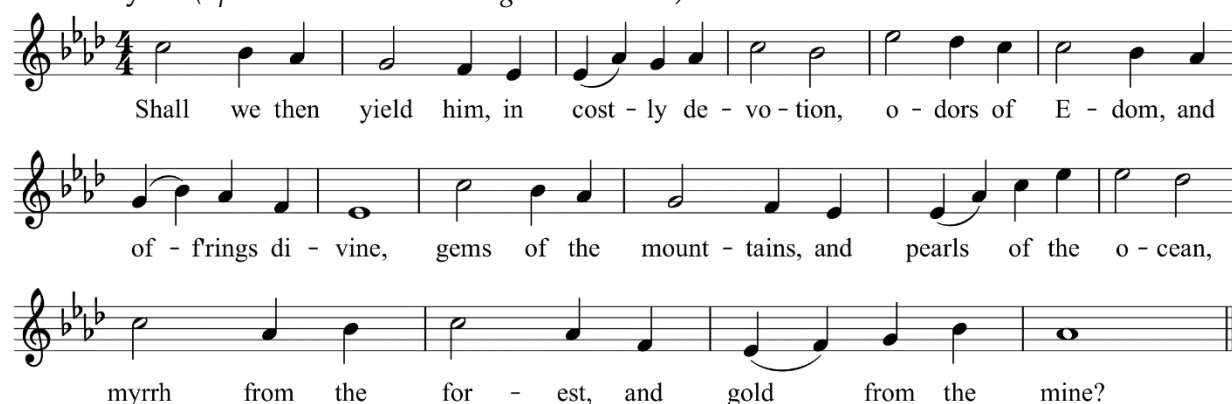
Announcements

Offertory Music — All My Hope on God Is Founded

Herbert Howells

Presentation Hymn *(Spoken at 8 a.m. and sung at 10:30 a.m.)*

Morning Star



Shall we then yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion, o - dors of E - dom, and
of - frings di - vine, gems of the mount - tains, and pearls of the o - cean,
myrrh from the for - est, and gold from the mine?

The Liturgy of the Table

The Invitation

Eucharistic Prayer, Enriching Our Worship, 3

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Presider: O God in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son Jesus Christ our Lord.

So now we watch for the day, knowing that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. And so, with saints and angels praising you, we gladly thank you as we pray:

Sanctus (Spoken at 8 a.m. and sung or spoken at 10:30 a.m.)

Franz Schubert

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, — Ho - ly,
ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, — hea - ven and earth are
full, — full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes — in the name of the
Lord. — Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho san - na in the high - est.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died, Jesus had supper with his friends, and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended, he took the cup of wine. Again, he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory:

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Presider: God of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

†Look with favor on your people. Gather us in your loving arms and bring us with St. Mark and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider I: Please pray the Lord's Prayer in whichever language or version you prefer.

(Traditional) **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

(Contemporary) **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against**

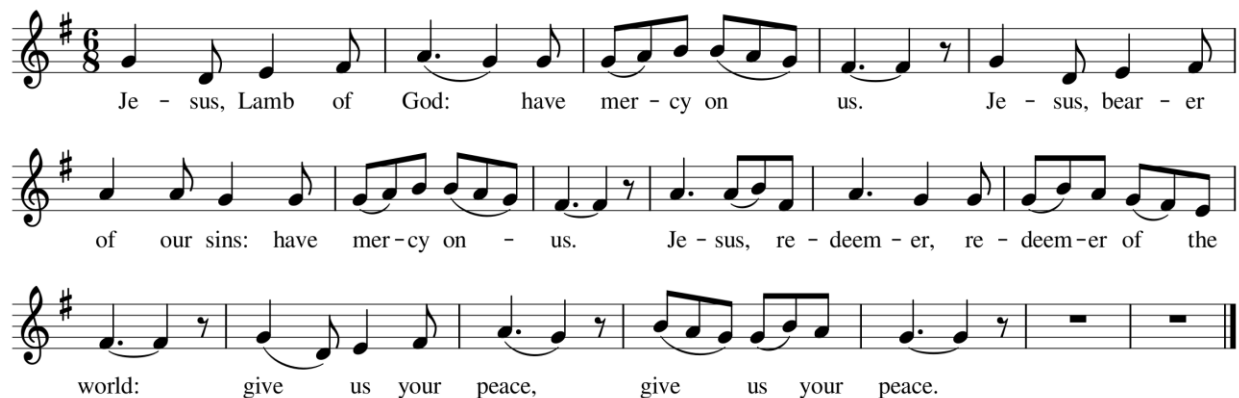
us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

(Spanish) **Padre nuestro, que estas en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre; venga a nosotros tu reino, hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo, danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día, perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden, no nos dejes caer en la tentación y libranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and the Reception of the Sacrament

Franz Schubert

(Spoken at 8 a.m. and sung or spoken at 10:30 a.m.)



Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Let us take them in remembrance that Christ died for us and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Instructions for Receiving Communion: As is our tradition, all are invited to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus. Following the distribution of consecrated bread, please feel free to dip your host into consecrated wine offered in a cup for intinction. Gluten-free consecrated bread is available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, come forward with hands crossed over your chest. Please follow the Ushers' direction to the communion rail and fill in from right to left. All are welcome at the Table of the Lord.

Healing Prayer: When present in the South Transept, healing ministers offer a brief and simple healing prayer.

The Distribution of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Minister: The body and blood of Christ.

All: Amen.

Communion Hymn — Blue Hymnal No. 324: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

Post-Communion Prayer

Presider II: Let us pray.

People: God our Creator, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts, shine in our words and deeds and give us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart through Christ the Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Presider I: May God, the Creator, fill us with light in abundance.

May God, the Son, illumine our paths.

May God, the Spirit, breathe new life into our lives of faith.

†And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us this day

And remain with us always. We pray: **Amen.**

The Hymn of Sending Forth — Blue Hymnal No. 530: Spread, O Spread, Thou Mighty Word *Gott sei Dank*

Here, we are sent into the world having been nourished and fed for the journey of life. We will go with thanksgiving to be light in the world for those all around us.

The Sending Forth

Deacon: Friends in Christ, let us go forth to love and serve God and all God's people. Alleluia. Alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Postlude — Toccata Prima

Georg Muffat

Thank you all for being with us today. We are all invited to participate in the St. Mark's tradition to remain seated until the postlude has ended and candles are extinguished. Then, join us in the Parish Hall for further fellowship. Thank you.

Church Spotlight: History of Healthcare in Grand Rapids, January 24th, 6:00 p.m.

Special Presentation in the Parish Hall, by Caroline Cook; hosted by Dr. Lee Begrow. Come learn about St. Mark's contributions to local healthcare, from female members starting a rest home that would become a first local hospital, all the way to our current partnership between Breakfast Cafe and the MSU School of Human Medicine.



Medical Milestones: Not even 200 years ago, a group of American settlers chose the east bank of the Grand River to put down roots and claim this place to be Grand Rapids. There were no family physicians, a corner Walgreens nor a plethora of hospitals to select from. You'll learn about frontier medicine, the origin of our healthcare institutions, and meet the marvelous medical heroes who not only paved the way for a healthier Grand Rapids, but for patients the world over.

The St. Mark's Prayer List

Contact the church office to add names to the prayer list. Names will be removed after one month unless requested.

The Sick and Other Needs	Inbound Parishioners	Members of the Vestry	Search Committee
Vic Balser	Sue Allen	Dawn Buller, Sr. Warden	Bob Brower
Linda, Doug Busman	Susan Andrews	Chuck Hoyt, Jr. Warden	Doug Busman
Cathy Cooper	Nita DeGraaf	Marc Vander Velde, Treasurer	Nancy Dodge
Ed Cox	John Gracki	Brian Topolewski, Clerk	Karen Hunter
Bishop Michael Curry	Irene Haizman	Jon Anderson	Penny Larson
Ruth Hammond	Mary Rollins	Judy Freeman	Shawn Miller
Jamie Interrial	Irene Savara	Joshua Gonzales	Heather Tafel
Kathryn Marmion	Roma Warmington	Laura Kozminski	Darren Walhof
Laura Maslonka	Jean Zylstra	Gloria Lara	Jackie Yam
Doris Molina		Penny Larsen	
	In Military Service	Dan McDonald	
	B.G. Timothy Brower, Sr. USA	Amy Richards-Duncan	
	Henry Dykema, USNG		
Prayer for the Transition	Cpt. Nathan Gaggin, USAF	Discernment for Ordained Ministry	Postulancy
	Col. Gabriel Monsalvo, USMC		Cathy Stevens
	Lt. Col. Todd Murray, USAF	Rachel Ravellette	

Offerings and Multiple Ways to Give to St. Mark's

- 1) Place check or cash in the offering plate
- 2) Electronic giving (email pams@stmarksgr.org)
- 3) Vanco Mobile App from any mobile device:
- 4) Pay by text – text 616-205-9714 from your phone to send a payment
- 5) Mobile App Square Cash – Cashtag: \$stmarksgr Web address: [cash.me/\\$stmarksgr](https://cash.me/$stmarksgr)
- 6) Mail a check to the church
- 7) Online at our website at www.stmarksgr.org through PayPal
- 8) Remember St. Mark's in your Estate Planning (A brochure is available at the Welcome Desk.)
- 9) Gifts or Transfer of Stock



Finance Update: As 2024 begins, St. Mark's remains in good financial health. We remained on budget last year. Our endowment remains strong at nearly 3 million dollars and serves as a blessing to help out our operational needs when necessary. Our pledge goal for 2024 is \$550,000, and we hope all of us can find a way to make a financial commitment to St. Mark's that will allow us to continue as a thriving and growing congregation. Therefore, please get your pledges in as soon as possible so we can budget for 2024 accurately.

Parish Notes

Welcome! Guests, please sign the guest book on the podium in the front lobby. Fill out a Welcome Card (stored inside the podium) to receive the weekly eNews or to join the St. Mark's Family in Faith as a full member.

Adult Formation Bible Study, Sundays, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.: Meet in the Canterbury Room to discuss the upcoming Sunday's readings.

Weather Policy: St. Mark's will post closures to WZZM 13, WOOD TV8, Facebook and our website by 7:00 a.m. or as soon as possible. While we hope to offer all our scheduled worship, we also prioritize safe travel. The decision on evening activities will be made separately from morning closures and will be posted by noon.

Congratulations to 1st Sgt. Deidre Piechocki, USA upon her retirement this month. Thank you for your service!

Prayers for Bishop Michael Curry are welcomed as he recovers at home from a medical procedure this week.

Update from the Search Committee: Two members of the team met with Vestry on December 18th to provide an update on the process and share the raw data from the Parish survey and Listening Sessions. We agreed on only slight modifications to this draft which are even now in process. Our next meeting is January 22nd. We will be participating in the Wednesday, January 31st Education Session.

A Case For Love Documentary, This Tuesday: A St. Mark's group will gather at Celebration Cinema North, on Beltline Ave., at 3:45 p.m. Buy tickets individually, onsite if you would like to sit together. Interest sheet at the Welcome Desk. See eNews to find other locations, at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. Our own Bishop Michael Curry stars in this heartfelt yet personally challenging movie. It was inspired by his teachings on unconditional, sacrificial love. In the film, famous and not-famous people discuss how to apply "unselfish love" in our communities and politics. You'll recognize Al Roker, Sam Waterston, Pete Buttigieg and others.

History of Healthcare in Grand Rapids, This Wednesday: See Church Spotlight on p. 10.

Training from Together West Michigan, January 27th, 9:00 a.m.-noon: Learn to build Organizing Teams to make real change. This could aid our other ministry work as well. At Brown-Hutcherson Ministries, 1065 36th St. SE.

Annual Meeting, January 28th, noon–2 p.m. Please plan to attend. We will gather for a light meal in the Parish Hall, then move to the Sanctuary to review: written reports from all St. Mark's ministries, the proposed and vetted candidates for the Vestry (for approval by membership), and the 2024 budget (approved by Vestry).

Education Sessions on Building Improvements, Wednesdays, January 31st and February 7th, at 6:00 p.m. Join us for dinner and important discussions. The January 31st session "Resourcing Our Vision" will talk about the draft of St. Mark's new strategic plan. The planning team will then help make connections as to how the building planning may support that plan. We will also hear from the Rector search team to confirm some of our needs and learn how we are all working together to stay informed as we plan for the future of St. Mark's. The information in these education sessions will be repeated on Sundays between our two services in the month of March for those who are unable to attend the first sessions.

Basic Life Support Course, February 3rd, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. St. Mark's will host and cover training costs. Learn to assess a situation and administer First Aid, AED, CPR or Narcan as needed. Certification slots are capped at 25 people, who must be able to get on their knees to perform chest compressions. All others are welcome to audit the course. To audit or add your name to the list for certification, sign up at the Welcome Desk or call the church.

Valentine Cookie Walk, February 11th: St. Mark's annual Cookie Walk is back, but this year for Valentine's Day! It will be held Sunday, February 11, after the 10:30 Eucharist. Bakers are invited to bring their cookies to the kitchen before the Service. Please sign up ahead of time on the sheet at the Welcome Desk indicating how many dozen cookies you will bring. Following the Service you may purchase these freshly baked cookies by the bag for \$5 per quart-size bag. Funds collected will go towards summer camp scholarships.

Save the Date: Shrove Tuesday Gathering, February 13th