

Our Mission Statement To build a family of believers who glorify God and help each other become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ

Racing to the Finish

We are looking forward to Advent and Christmas. During worship services in December, we will be asking "What Child is This?" The question will be raised from the perspectives of shepherds, Magi, and Mary & Joseph. Each Sunday thoughtful soliloquies will help us experience the awe and wonder of God's Son born to a virgin. The joy, love and miracle of Christmas touch us all.



Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. We will have one morning service at 10:00 followed by a party in the atrium. The Candlelight, Communion and Carols services will be at 6 and 7:30 PM.

December is full of opportunity to worship Jesus and invite someone to worship with you.

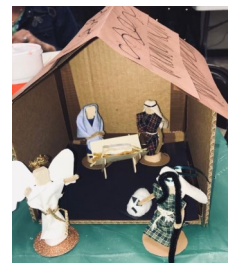
This year will be over before we know it. Since we are already looking forward to and planning for ministry in 2018, it is very helpful for you to turn in a giving estimate now. If you have not been able to do so, please do so as soon as you can. The information is available at the office and in the atrium. Call us if you would like the material mailed to you.

Pastor Keith

Advent and Christmas Sightings around St. Mark's



Visit from a shepherd and a wiseman, great music by the choir and the children, Kings & Queens respite party, Keepsake Christmas, caroling, and so much more have already been a part of this season at St. Mark's. As the season continues we hope you take the opportunity to be a part of preparing to meet the Christ child anew. Here are just a couple of quick glances.



Christmas Eve Offering Set

We have an exciting opportunity this year for our St. Mark's Christmas Eve offering. Mark & Kenzi Fogleman, missionaries we support in Kenya, have an opportunity to put in a water well in Magomano, Kenya where they are serving. They work with the school there as well as the community. Information from Mark :

"With a new water well and tank we have a very real opportunity to **love our neighbors** as ourselves and **help each life thrive** in the name and love of **Jesus**. This water project at Magomano Primary School will not only help provide a **clean source of water** for drinking and cooking, but will allow students to have **more time in school** and parents to **empower themselves** and better care for their families. We are helping the community and school leaders form a Water Committee to make it a **locally owned** project and **sustainable** for many years to come.



Current Magomano water supply

Results: Healthier Lives. Brighter Futures.

450+ Students

2000+ Community Members

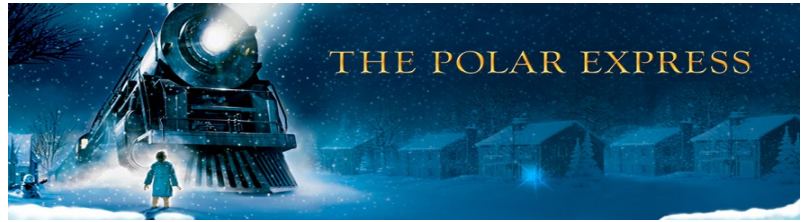
Clean Water for ALL.

Be Praying now about how God will lead you.



Come be a part of the Polar Express

On Thursday, December 21st from 10 am to 2:00 pm we will be having a special family Christmas time together with our children as we gather to watch the class movie "The Polar Express". The children will have the opportunity to make their own train car and enjoy the movie in their car with snacks at hot chocolate. If you need a box check with Sharon Hunt and she can help you get one. For more information contact Sharon Hunt.



Second Winders

Second Winders will meet in the sanctuary on Thursday, December 14th at 11:30 to enjoy the CDO Christmas program before going back to Barnett Hall for our annual ham and bean dinner prepared at church. Meal cost: \$5.

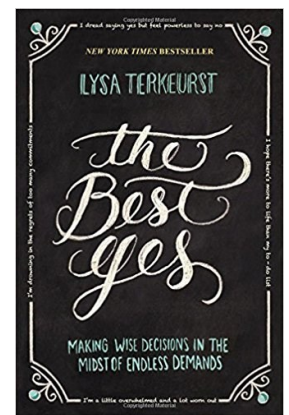


Anyone interested is invited to join us as we go to Guthrie's Victorian Walk on Saturday, December 16th. The Downtown Historic District come alive with living scenes in windows, carolers and peanut vendors in the streets and shopkeepers and elegant folks dressed for the celebration in period costumes. We will leave St. Mark's at 4:00 and return around 9:00. Transportation cost: \$5.00. There is a sign-up sheet on the ledge outside the office.



St. Mark's Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible study group will not meet in December. Their next meeting will be on January 5th. It will kick off at 6:00 pm with a covered dish at the home of Emily Hollon. We will be starting a new study "The Best Yes" by Lysa Terkeurst. You are encouraged to join this group of women seeking to grow in Christ and in fellowship with one another. For more information contact Kayla Gannon



Sunday School Parties

Discipleship Class

This party is for St. Mark's families or individuals who attend or serve during the 9:30 Sunday School time and/or attend or serve during the 11:00 service time. The party will be at Brad & Jenn Cromwell's (4100 Hefner Road Northeast, El Reno) on Sunday, December 10th from 4:30 - 7:00 pm. Please bring plenty of food to share. We will provide coffee, water, hot cocoa, and paper goods.

Feel free to bring your fishing poles, outdoor games, indoor games, and outdoor chairs. (We can hope the weather will be nice.)

Good News Class

The Good News class will be having their annual Christmas party together on Friday, December 15th at 6 pm. They will be in Barnett Hall and will have a catered meal. The event will include fellowship and great food. There will be no gift exchange.

Faithbuilders Class Faithbuilders Class will hold their Christmas party on Friday, December 15th at 6:30 pm in the home of Steve and Christie Couch (7420 NW 19th St., Bethany). They are providing the meat and everyone else will bring sides and dessert. They will also do a dirty Santa exchange

New Life Class

New Life will have their annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 16th at 6:00 pm in the home of Frank & Nadine Wilkerson (1208 Kingsway, Yukon). The event will feature a covered dish meal and a gift exchange (\$10 max).

Sonshine Class

The Sonshine Class party is Dec. 15 at Mike and Beverley Bevins house (15720 Egerton Pl., Edmond). It will begin at 6:00 pm. For more details contact the Bevins or Adrienne Cressman

Looking Ahead to Advent at St. Mark's



Dec. 13 - Student Ministry Party

Dec. 14 - CDO Christmas Program

Dec. 17 - Mary & Joseph visit Worship

Dec. 17 - Choir Christmas Party

Dec. 17 - Kiespert Christmas Concert

Dec. 21 - Children's Polar Express

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services

10:00; am 6:00 pm; 7:30 pm

Dinner On Wednesday Night

Every Wednesday's from 5:30-6:15
Great place to get fed and fellowship before programming. Everyone welcome.

Cost is only \$2. a person.

Tonight!





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

MISSION: St. Mark's Children's Ministry exists to partner with parents to equip, train, and release children to be passionate disciples filled with the heart of Jesus to minister today!



"Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ~Matthew 19:14

SUNDAY MORNING:

Age Nursery - Kindergarten
Time 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Age Kindergarten - 4th grade
Time: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Children, ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are studying the same Advent series that Keith is preaching - **What Child is This?** We've had a visit from a shepherd and a wise man, now we look forward to meeting Mary and Joseph on Dec. 17. On Sunday Dec. 24 there will be no Sunday school for children. There is one combined morning service at 10:00 a.m. and a big birthday party for Jesus following that service.

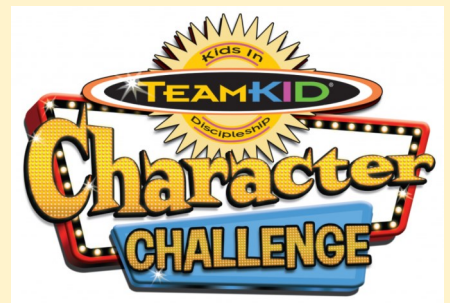
Reminder: All children ages Kindergarten through 4th grade will attend the beginning of the 10:55 service with their families. Keith will dismiss those children who wish to go back to children's Sunday school with Alicia about 15-20 minutes into that 10:55 service. All children, any age, are welcome to attend service with their parents in the sanctuary on any Sunday. St. Mark's values the presence of children in worship services and also values families worshiping together. We encourage each family to pray about and do what is best for their children each Sunday at church.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:
Alicia Schneider
Phone: 789-9033
Email: alicia@stmarksbethany.com

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY DIRECTOR:
Sharon Hunt
Phone: 789-9033
Email: sharon@stmarksbethany.com

Tonight at TeamKID, children can learn that God is FORGIVING, and He expects them to be forgiving too! We will look at exactly what forgiveness is and why it is important. Memory verse is Colossians 3:13 "Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." Looking forward to seeing everyone at 6:30!

~Ms Alicia



STUDENT MINISTRY

We have an exciting week this week as we close out this semester and prepare for an exciting and new one around the corner! Here are the happenings this week.

Wednesday, December 13th- Christmas Party Time! There will be food, games, Christmas movie, and dirty Santa! Please remember this year for Dirty Santa you must bring something from home, wrapped and ready to play! We will run 6:30-8pm and I can't wait to see you there!

Reminders

Winter Retreat- This year for Winter Retreat we will be teaming up with Chapel Hill and New Covenant UMC and traveling to Canyon Camp in Hinton. Cost will be \$70 and the first 3 friends invited by our students will go for free. This retreat is open for 5-12 graders and our dates our Jan 19-21. Our theme will be Anchor.

John Hollon
Youth Pastor



Laura	Brown	Evyline	Hickman	Evelyn	Moore
Jamarion	Collins	Mary	Holliday	Carl	Myers
Kirsten	Collins	Gabrielle	Jones	Chris	Pavelko
Don	Deal	Brian	Kiespert	Kelli	Pavelko
Mildred	Dix	Christine	Kiespert	Sharon	Payne
Jamie	Fallon	Michael	Kilby	Megan	Pedigo
Joelle	Ferguson	J.B.	King	Wyatt	Pedigo
Josie	Ferguson	Kason	Knutson	Betty	Pope
Matt	Ferguson	Donna	Lautzenhiser	Beverly	Ray
Mike	Fisher	Ashley	Lusk	Becky	Roman
Michael	Fryman	Jarrel	Lyon	Robert	Sample
Christine	Funk	Sara	McLain	Analiese	Steffin
Don	Greve	Avery	Meisenburg	Sandy	Tull
Donna	Harder	Tate	Miller	Margaret	Turner
Logan	Harrison	Draven	Montesano		

Facts and Figures

2017 Budget 595,337
 Rec'd toward Operating 12/10/2017 11,106
 Rec'd toward Operating 12/10/2017 524,843
 Expenditures 12/10/2017525,931
 Sunday December 10. 2017

Sunday School 190
 Worship 262

Prayer Box

Don & Fran Nobles	Dave Moore
Kason Knutson & family	Bob Rutherford
Don Wonderly	Vic Gammill & family
Kieth Ballard	Tiffany Montesano
Mackenzie Marks family	Betty Miller
Wyatt Pedigo	Beverly Clark
Jim Brewer	Genie Funk
Wayne Barnes	Becky Horrigan
Tyler Boerner	Kathy Green