

December 2018

**Upcoming Services at St. Mark's
10:30 a.m.**

Sunday, December 2nd – 1st Sunday of Advent “Hope”

**Sunday, December 9th – 2nd Sunday of Advent “Peace”
White Gift and Congregational Christmas Party**

Sunday, December 16th – 3rd Sunday of Advent “Joy”

Wednesday, December 19th – Blue Christmas Service 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 23th – 4th Sunday of Advent “Love”

**Monday, December 24th “Christmas Eve Service
7 p.m.**

Sunday, December 30th – 10:30 a.m. Service

**Sunday, January 6th – Epiphany Service
Brunch 10:30 a.m. with Service to follow**



Message from Rev. Ryan...

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed...And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

Luke 2.1,3

Imagine the chaos of this event; across an empire the words of one person had the power to send 45 million people into action. Some would make the journey back to an ancestral home for registration and taxation. For safety, people like travelled in large groups – caravans – as they made their way. Others would present themselves before a local official and seek an exception, so as to be registered in the city where they now lived. Where would you have to travel to be registered and taxed?

Across the world today, it is estimated that 34,000 people become refugees each day; 65 million people live displaced due to war or violence of some kind.¹ Millions more migrate to seek better economic opportunities for themselves and their children. Though many among us feel settled, the children and grandchildren of the congregation are on the move seeking their own opportunities for education and employment, which often takes them away from home.

As we make our way towards Christmas celebrations, pausing to consider these great migrations, both ancient and modern gives us a different perspective. While often glossed over as part of the setting of the story, the forced temporary migration would have presented real danger and hardship to all involved. Two or three days of travel by foot, with cell phones and hiking boots, is trouble enough. Travelling in rudimentary shoes, carrying what little cash you had to pay tax and travel costs, made your ripe for injury and robbery.

Among a people displaced and in danger, among a people with little control over their lives, God chooses to break-into the world. Again today God calls from the margins, what do we hear?

Ryan

¹ <https://www.care.org/emergencies/global-refugee-crisis>

Message from Stewardship...

The cool, shorter days and falling leaves are sure signs that winter is “just around the corner”. It has been a busy fall with lots of activities.

Our treasurer, David tells us that financially we did well over the summer and fall as we were able to pay all of our expenses without having to get any money from the Manse Fund. The proceeds from the bazaar and also from several families who donated money in memory of their loved ones this year have been very helpful. We are very thankful to both families and to our people in the pew for their continued financial support.

Over the summer the committee purchased 22 new tables replacing the old heavier ones that were hard to move from place to place. We also purchased five blinds for the five remaining windows in the sanctuary. These items were all purchased with money from the Memorial Fund.

Just a reminder that if you are going to be making a special donation at the end of the year, we ask that you please have it to Dona before the 27th of December.

Blessings to you and your families over this Christmas Season.

Dona Plumton
Chair of Stewardship Committee



Message from UCW...

The hard working ladies of St. Marks UCW have had a very busy year. Under the great leadership of our Catering team, we have baked, served and delivered again this fall.

Our preparations for the Country Bazaar in October paid off with a presentation to the board of \$4,000.00! We couldn't have done it without all the planning, participation and enthusiasm from our church and community. At the door this year, it was rewarding to hear compliments from the many people who came to participate in the Bazaar.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas with family and friends.

Alfreda Rupert, UCW President



Each day add an item to a box. Food will be donated to the Food Bank.

December 1 – box of cereal	December 13 – canned beans
December 2 – peanut butter (small)	December 14 – box of crackers
December 3 – stuffing mix	December 15 – package of rice
December 4 – boxed potatoes	December 16 – package of oatmeal
December 5 – macaroni & cheese	December 17 – package of pasta
December 6 – canned fruit	December 18 – spaghetti sauce
December 7 – canned tomatoes	December 19 – chicken noodle soup
December 8 – canned tuna	December 20 – tomato soup
December 9 – dessert mix	December 21 – can corn
December 10 – jar of applesauce	December 22 – canned mixed vegetables
December 11 – Juice	December 23 – canned carrots
December 12 – cranberry sauce	December 24 – canned green beans



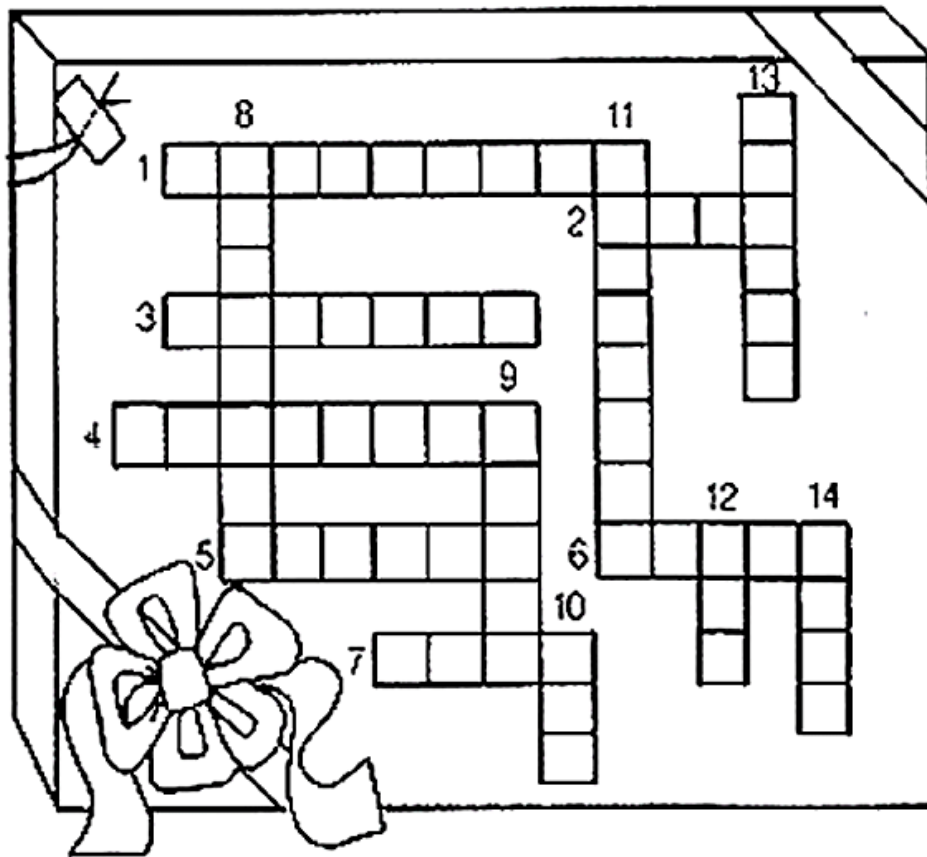
Looking for that special gift...

St. Mark's Bus Trip: We are on the road to see "Jersey Boys" in Toronto on **Saturday, March 9th, 2019**. Cost **\$150/person**. Great Christmas Gift for someone you love! Please let Sheila Parks know if you are interested by **January 6th, 2019**. Please share with your friends and neighbours and make this trip a huge success!



Something for everyone...

Christmas Crossword



Across

1. Hang these on the tree
2. Evergreen or pine
3. Frosty is one
4. You give and receive these
5. Tie this on your package
6. A Christmas color
7. For the top of the tree

Down

8. Rudolph
9. Jolly toymaker
10. Color of Santa's suit
11. Hang this from the mantle
12. Santa's Helper
13. Santa's transportation
14. Christmas carol



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



O P R I N L I G G Q Q R G L U N H Z E F
 C H Z Q E J A O R E I N D E E R I R L Q
 M B M O L S Z T V W U P O B N D T T V V
 N H N J O L L Y N U Y E N M I H C C E U
 X P M N P P S F I A G K A C L Y V H S Z
 D L A E H X C E L B S F P G C E T Q E G
 Z O M N T H E D A Y S G N I T E E R G M
 S D Z I R V T Q P S G S B W C C P W V Q
 P U I Z O V A J A E O R U A C F S O G S
 G R E H N X R L B P Y N N N H R S O I L
 B N Z C S T B H J O M D P I M O A B V M
 Y M I S T L E T O E Y R D E E S M C I U
 G O C N O R L D K C O Q O N R T T W N B
 W K Y Q C Z E J A G O V T D R Y S D G Q
 L O R T K L C N I C G P N R Y L I N X S
 J N X J I R E F B A V A P J E H R D C Z
 X L W O N H T A E R W V I I L E H A Y E
 W L R D G Z G Y L D J C G N X E C M B O
 M Y A D I L O H L S U H J A W N Z A M J
 I X P D B T V H S K M W S E L D N A C U

BELLS
 CANDLES
 CANDYCANE
 CARDS
 CELEBRATE
 CHIMNEY
 CHRISTMAS

RUDOLPH
 SANTA
 SEASON
 SLEIGH
 STOCKING
 TREE
 WREATH

ELVES
 FROSTY
 GIFT
 GIVING
 GREETINGS
 HOLIDAY
 JOLLY

JOY
 MERRY
 MISTLETOE
 NOEL
 NORTHPOLE
 REINDEER