

MARK TIMES

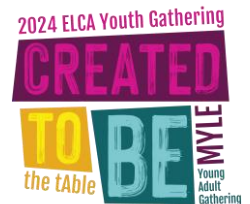
NEWS and NOTES for August 25, 2024

This Week at St. Mark:

Monday, August 26:	6:00PM	Pastoral Care committee – conference room
	7:00PM	Church Council meeting – conference room
Tuesday, August 27:	6:30PM	Safety Committee meeting – conference room

Youth Gathering Service Today

This morning, the ELCA youth gathering attendees will help present a special worship experience during our regular service time and present on their trip during the Education Hour in the Parish Hall. Come and hear about their inspirational journey!



Choirs Resume in September

Chancel and Bell Choirs resume rehearsals on **Thursday, September 5**. Bell Choir meets at 6:15PM, and Chancel Choir meets at 7:00PM. If you can carry a tune, you don't need to sing solo or read music. The Chancel choir would love to welcome you!

Joint Safety Volunteer AED/CPR Recertification Opportunity

The Joint Safety Committee of St George & St Mark's will be hosting an AED and CPR certification class. It is scheduled in the parish hall on **Saturday, October 19** from **9am-12noon**. The cost is \$65 for recertification or \$75 for new certifications.

We need additional Safety Volunteers, so if you've thought about joining the Safety Volunteer Team, or even the Joint Safety Committee, this fall would be an ideal time. The AED/CPR certification is all that is required, except of course a willingness to serve occasionally during church service.

I am available nearly anytime to answer any questions and/or provide greater detail.
Mark Bearth: mark.bearth@gmail.com or text 618-767-6543.

Special Prayer Service for a Nation in Turmoil

St. George's hosts a service of **Evening Prayer with special prayers for the nation on first Mondays from now until Election Day**. The service will also feature a common recitation of the Great Litany, the church's ancient and traditional prayer of intercession, to beseech Almighty God for blessing and protection over the church and the world in the months leading up to Election Day.

Evening Prayer for the Nation will be held at **6:00PM** in the **chapel** on **September 2, October 7, and November 4**. St. Mark members are welcome to join and to invite others to take part in this important endeavor in witness to our faith.

White Cottage Night! Tuesday, September 10, 5-7PM. A % of every purchase benefits our food pantry! Be sure to mention the pantry when you come to enjoy dinner and sweets!

St. Mark Offerings for 8/18: Operating Fund: **\$3,623.41** (online giving received by 8/16); Food Pantry: \$5

St. Mark is Now on Instagram!

If you already follow us on Facebook, or even if you don't, our Instagram feed is slightly different. Some things are posted to both, but not everything! Our Instagram is more photo-based, so you will see more artistic pics and words of inspiration on top of upcoming events! Search for STMARKBELLEVILLE on Instagram or use the QR code to find us!



Coffee Hour Teams

Being on a Coffee Hour team is not just “bringing snacks and making coffee;” it is a **ministry of service and hospitality** to our members and guests that is MUCH appreciated. If you would like to serve on a coffee hour team, or be a captain, or make a change to a different role on a team, please contact Melanie Robison in person or at 314-265-8722 or melanierobison@earthlink.net. We are looking to have 5 people on each team, so help is wanted and needed!

June 2024 Treasurer's Note

	June	Year-to-Date
2024 Income	\$20,794.26	\$107,363.67
2024 Expenses	\$23,456.84	\$121,676.53
2024 Net Cash Flow	(\$2,662.58)	(\$14,312.86)

Shown here are St. Mark's operational financial results for the June 2024 period and year-to-date. As the numbers above show, we have a negative cash flow through the first half of our fiscal year.

St. Mark's 2024 Budget is \$250,464. Of note, our actual revenues for the first half reflect 85% of our budget to-date while our expenses are at 97%.

Based on our first half, and in order to limit the operational cash shortfall for the year, we will reduce specific giving programs by basing the monthly payments on actual monthly income, rather than the original budget. This approach maintains the percentages adopted in the approved budget, but reflects the need to adapt to our reduced actual income. The following programs will be affected by this change:

- C/SIS Benevolence – paid to the synod
- Mission Gifts including:
 - Beacon Ministry
 - ELCA World Hunger
 - ELCA Disaster Relief
 - Food Pantry
 - Appointed monthly missions

We appreciated the congregation's understanding, help, and inquiries in this regard.

Franklin School Lunch Packing

St. Mark will once again be packing and delivering free sack lunches this year to 20 needy students at Franklin School for holiday weekends. Our food shelves are stocked currently, but you can help by volunteering to pack lunches. It only takes about an hour on the last school day before **Labor Day, Columbus Day, election day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Spring Break & Memorial Day weekends**. See Peggy Andersen (618-791-0992) to sign up or to ask questions. Your support is so much appreciated by the Franklin children and staff and our Evangelism/Social Ministry Committee!