

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
welcomes you!

September 17,
2023



The 16th
Sunday after
Pentecost

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

“SHINE” CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (*1st Saturdays - Chapel*)

SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM

in-person & streaming

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP HOUR: 10:30 AM

105 EAST “D” STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

PHONE: 618.233.9809

EMAIL: WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG

The Reverend Brian M. Robison, Pastor

PLEASE wear a mask/face covering *if* you are exhibiting **any upper respiratory symptoms consistent with allergies, a cold, or COVID-19** (runny nose, cough, sore throat).

To parents with small children: We are glad your family is worshiping with us today! **“Quiet Bags”** (supplies & activities for use by small children) are available in the Welcome Area. If you or your child need a break from the service, feel free to walk to the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is still audible over the speakers).

Parish Hall and Restrooms are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. A second **handicapped access** restroom is available next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level is located in the Welcome Area. An usher will be happy to assist you with the lift.

Assistive listening devices and **low vision items** are available. Please ask one of our ushers for assistance.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Please STAND as you are able*

Blessed be the one God who forms us, who bears the cross, and who makes our joy complete – Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility as we confess our sin.

Please KNEEL or remain as you are

Steadfast and faithful God, **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“I Come with Joy”

ELW 482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Following the prayer, please SIT.

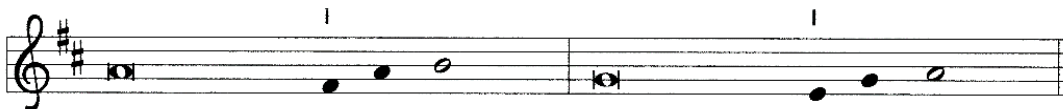
WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103: 1, 8-13 *chanted in unison*



¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
⁸LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;
⁹you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
¹⁰You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

¹²As far as the east is | from the west,
 so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
¹³As a father has compassion | for his children,
 so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE *The assembly STANDS to welcome the gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *Please SIT*

SERMON

The Rev. Brian M. Robison

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

ELW 359



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *The names of those for whom we pray aloud are listed below. Please read only the first names. Other prayer intentions can be found in the Mark Times newsletter. The response to Merciful God, is Hear our prayer...*

**Dave Brauer, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Mary Hill, Bruce Martens, Dwight Ness,
Mae Newsome, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Sandy Purdy, Marilyn Robinson,
Carol Weshinskey, Gary Weshinskey, & Barb Wurdinger**

MEAL

PEACE *The assembly is invited to share a greeting of God's peace with one another. Please be respectful to those who wish to do so from a distance. Following **the Peace**, you may be **seated** for a few moments*

Should you wish to leave an offering today, it may be placed in the wooden box on the table near the baptismal font at any point during or after the service.

OFFERING MUSIC

"Fill My Cup Lord"

OFFERING PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray together...

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right...we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table. Come forth, eat and live.

LAMB OF GOD

S 154

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *Please SIT*

Communion is open to everyone. In this sacrament, we believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. At this service, communion will be served from around the altar rail. At the usher's direction, please come forward and kneel at the altar rail.

- ✘ *After receiving the bread, you may take an individual cup or drink from the chalice.*
- ✘ *You may return to your seat after communing.*
- ✘ *Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this preference.*
- ✘ *Reception of the Eucharist under one kind (bread or wine) is valid communion for those who must avoid either for health reasons.*
- ✘ *If you are unable to go to the altar for communion, please notify an usher or the pastor, so that communion may be brought to you in your pew.*

"When We Are Living"

ELW 639

1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
 2 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain, . . .
 3 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find . . .

and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord, . . .
 when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace, . . .
 those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind; . . .

Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
 wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
 and when we help them, or when we feed them,

we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.

“Now We Join in Celebration”

ELW 462



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav'n - ly glad - ness.
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

*After the distribution is complete, please **STAND** as you are able for the blessing.*

TABLE BLESSING

The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

CANTICLE AFTER COMMUNION

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”

ELW 207



Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry - one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together... **Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word - Jesus Christ - the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of glory, Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

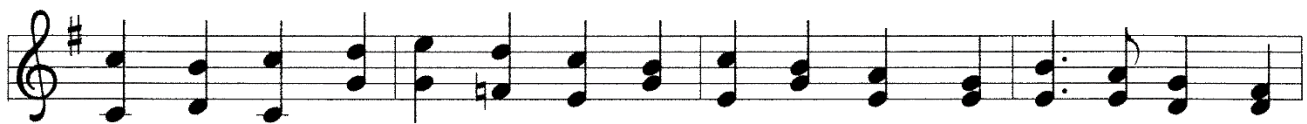
ELW 543



- 1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Assistant: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Sherri Foppe

Crucifer & Chalice Bearer: Greg Martens

Lector: Terry Tribout + **Livestream Camera:** Aaron Fuchs

Ushers: Danielle Tribout & Curt Gansmann + **Trained Responder:** Jan Richards

Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

Dave Brauer, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Mary Hill,
Bruce Martens, Dwight Ness, Mae Newsome, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Sandra Purdy,
Marilyn Robinson, Carol Weshinskey, Gary Weshinskey, & Barb Wurdinger

St. Mark Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Phyllis Booker, Kathy Boxdorfer, Patty Brennecke, Susan Carson, Dorothy Cheek, Christine, Catherine Davis, Brian Dinges, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Josh Gansmann, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Graber, Margy Groennert, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Randy Hayes, Jamie House, Donna Koudelka, Austin Lickenbrock, Elroy Luffman, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Glenda Martiszus, Bobby & Joyce McCall, Allen Martens, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Theresa Painter, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Debbie & Larry Powers, Darrell Robinson, Sarah and Family, Dave Schaaf, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep, Ingrid Thompson, Maggie Tribout, Kris Whitley, Louise Wilson, Elisabeth Woodrome, Karen Woolf, Wilma Woolf, Ken Zika, Chloe Zipperer

St. Mark Thanksgivings

We pray for those who grieve the loss of loved ones:

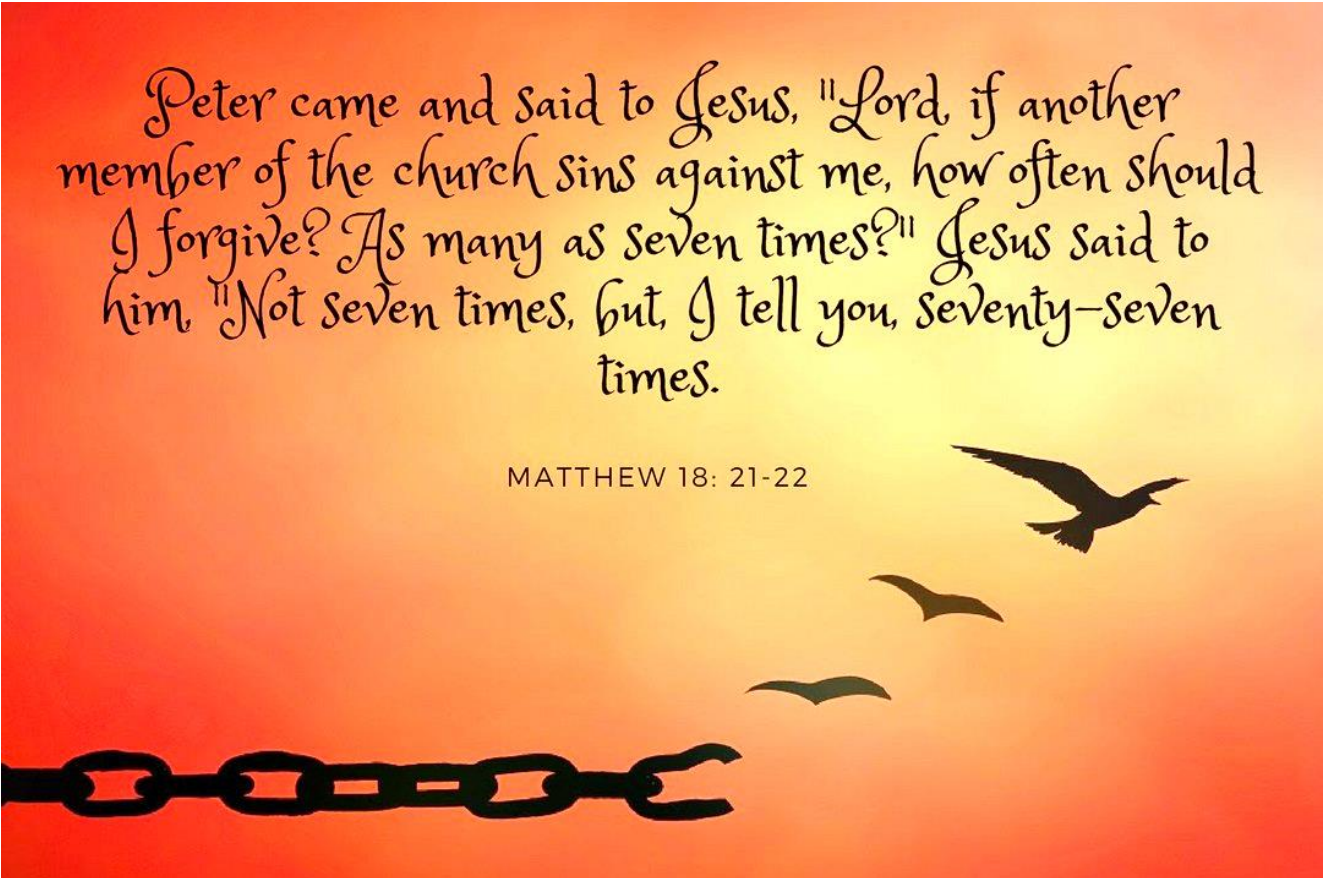
The family and friends of **Randy Hinkle** (9/11)

We pray for those who celebrate their birthdays this week:

Lisa Reyes (9/19) and **Beverlee Worley** (9/20)

We pray for those who celebrate wedding anniversaries this week:

Ivan & Judy Kohlmeier (9/23) and **Brad & Laurie Geppert** (9/23)



Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

MATTHEW 18: 21-22

ST. MARK STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Brian M. Robison

Administrative Assistant: Randi Cardoza + **Organist:** Evelyn Duncan

Director of Choirs: John Andersen + **Parish Nurse:** Becky Schnitzius

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MARK TIMES NEWS & NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

THE SIXTEENTH WEEK AFTER PENTECOST

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

- Monday 9/18:** 2:30PM Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
Monday evening through Wednesday: Pastor at Fall Theological Conference, Carlinville
- Tuesday 9/19:** 2:00PM Evangelism/Social Ministry Meeting-Conference Room
- Thursday 9/21:** 6:30PM Bell choir
7:15PM Voice choir
- Saturday 9/23:** 11:00AM Installation of Bishop Greg Busboom, Springfield

Church Picnic September 24

This year's church picnic is **NEXT Sunday, September 24** from **noon to 4pm** at **Schranz Memorial Park** in Swansea. Bring food enough for you and your family, and a board game, card game, or yard game to share!



Food Pantry Needs!



The joint Food Pantry is serving more families each week and **our shelves need restocking!** We can always use **canned meats, soups, fruits, pasta sauce, and canned vegetables.**

Soon we will also be offering **warm items for winter** months, which means we can use donations of **coats, jackets, sweatshirts, gloves, and hats.** All items can be placed in baskets in the narthex/Welcome Area or taken to the church office. THANKS for helping us help others!

Journey to the Holy Land!

A reminder that St. George's is planning a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, February 17-28, 2025 and **St. Mark members are invited to participate!** Sites include: The Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, The Jordan River, Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, Jerusalem, the sites of the crucifixion and empty tomb, and more. To obtain a brochure, please contact St. G's office. For additional information, contact Bob or Sue Vaughn, 618-593-7213 or Dawn Jung, 618-792-6035.



A discount of \$100 applies when registration is received by February 1, 2024; full payment is due September 20, 2024. Registration requires the first page of current passport; recent reports stated passports may take up to 12 weeks to receive.

Pastor at Leaders Conference

Pastor Brian will be away from the office from noon tomorrow (Monday, 9/18) until Wednesday (9/21) for the synod's Fall Theological Conference in Carlinville.

St. Mark Offerings Report for September 10:

General Fund: **\$3,443.11** (includes online offerings received by 9/15); Food Pantry: \$19

Medicine Bottle Collection

The Fiber Arts group that meets at Westfield is collecting orange medicine bottles for a fall craft project. Please save them and bring them to church. We will clean off the labels before we use them. There will be a plastic jar in the welcome area to place them in. Thanks for your help. Fiber Arts Folks

Franklin School Lunch Packing

St. Mark will once again be **packing and delivering free sack lunches** this year to **20 needy students** at **Franklin elementary school** for long holiday weekends. Our shelves are stocked full of food at the moment, but you can help by volunteering to **pack**. Packing lunches only takes **about an hour** on the **day before Labor Day, Columbus Day, election day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Spring Break** and possibly **Memorial Day** weekend. See **Peggy Andersen (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! Thank you!!!

Chili Cook-Off Help Wanted!

'Tis the season! Belleville's annual Chili Cook-Off will be **Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7**. The production and sale of St. George's white chili benefits both congregations, and volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Chicken preparation has already begun! A sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall. Cooking sessions are divided into two 3-hour shifts of two people each. The **first shift (9:00AM-12:00PM)** primarily trims, grinds, and prepares the 10 batches of chicken for the oven, and (hopefully) cooks at least four of the batches. The **second shift (12:00PM-3:00PM)** will cook the remaining batches, cool, and bag the cooked chicken.



Open first and second shifts are available on the following Wednesdays: **September 22, 27, and October 4**. For additional information or to volunteer, please phone David Buckley at 618-520-9333.

Seizure Awareness Class

The **Joint Safety Committee** of St. George's and St Mark is sponsoring an educational class which will be taught by a representative of the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Southern Illinois. This class is being presented to educate and prepare us for the safe and correct care of a person exhibiting any type of seizure activity.

All members of the Joint Safety Committee and our respective Safety Volunteers are encouraged to sign up and attend. This class is free of charge and will take place on Saturday December 2, 2023, from 10:00am - 11:30am in the Parish Hall.

We also wish to offer an open invitation to any member of our two congregations who may be interested in this educational opportunity.

To ensure we have the correct amount of handouts and materials, it is important that you sign up in the Canterbury Room if you plan to attend. The last day to sign up is Tuesday November 28. For more information, please contact Mark.Bearth@gmail.com or text him at (618) 767-6543.

"God's Work. Our Hands." Day THANKS!

Many thanks to all who participated in and supported our efforts in concert with the ELCA's national day of service. We so much appreciate all of our sewers and stuffers, our organizers, drivers, and movers, and the folks who provided and served the food during our fellowship and preparation hour. We do our best work together!

