

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for June 23, 2024

THE WEEK AHEAD:

Monday 6/24: 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting—*conference room*

Tuesday, 6/25: 5:30PM Food Pantry meeting

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Brian will be on vacation from **Monday, June 24 through Sunday, June 30**. In case of pastoral need, please contact **Greg Martens** at **618-530-8674** and he will refer the information to available clergy.

Care Facility Sing-a-Longs

All those with joyful voices are welcome to join us in visiting local care facilities **TODAY, June 23**. We will meet first at Mercy Care Center (formerly Rosewood) in Swansea **at 12:30pm** to sing a few religious, patriotic and just plain fun songs, before moving on to The Colonnade in O'Fallon. Contact persons: Pastor Brian or Peggy Andersen.

Youth Gathering In-Kind Collection for World Hunger

The world produces more than enough food to feed every person, yet the number of people who are hungry has grown since 2019. More than 2 billion people around the world aren't sure where their next meal will come from, and for as many as 828 million people, that next meal won't come at all.

But there is another story unfolding around us: **the story of God at work through you in ELCA World Hunger** (<https://elca.org/worldhunger>) around the world. It's a story that has been unfolding for the last 50 years through our church as we worked together to create sustainable, lasting change. It's a story of **new homes** being built, of **new fields** being planted with crops. It's a story of **wells** bubbling with clean water and of **small businesses** bursting with opportunity, a story of **caring for the environment** and of **healthy communities** thriving. **We all have a role to play!**

At the 2024 Youth Gathering (<https://www.elca.church/gathering>), join ELCA World Hunger and be part of the generation taking action to usher in a world without hunger, and futures filled with hope.

We are accepting cash and check donations; look for the world **shadow box** in the back of church!

Cookie Baker Wanted for Neighborhood Watch Meeting!

St. George's and St. Mark are attempting to re-energize the Hexenbukel Neighborhood Watch program by hosting meetings in the Parish Hall.

As an extra-nice touch, we would like to offer **a dozen or two homemade cookies** to be served at the meeting this **Wednesday, June 26**. If you are willing and able to bake a couple dozen cookies for the event, please let Greg Martens know. We ask that the prospective baker bring them this **Sunday, June 23** and leave them with the Coffee Hour team. Thank you in advance!



Please Speak Softly Before Services

In consideration of our friends at St. George's, as well as our own members who wish to sit in quiet prayer before service begins, **please speak in soft, low tones while in the narthex/welcome area while waiting to enter for our service.** Voices tend to echo loudly and can be disruptive to those already in the church. Thank you!

Belleville Summer Sack Lunch Program

We at St. Mark are excited to continue our partnership with Westview Baptist Church to provide free lunches for low-income children this summer!



Our commitment to this year's project is 9 weeks due to no lunch delivery on Thursday, July 4.

We are collecting individual size bags of Cheez-its, potato chips, nacho chips, individually wrapped store-bought cookies (*no nuts or peanut butter please!*), and fruit juice pouches (i.e. Capri Sun), for the lunches. No peanut butter please! Donations may be brought to church on Sundays or contact Sherri to drop off at her house or arrange pick up.

Monetary donations are always welcome for those who would rather not shop. Monetary donations can be made to Sherri Foppe or Ann Martens or electronically to

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR>

Minimum of 4 volunteers are needed to help pack **150-200 lunches** at **Westview Baptist** on the following **Wednesday evenings** from **5:00-5:45PM**: **June 26; July 10, 17, 24 & 31; Aug 7**

One volunteer driver and one co-pilot are needed to help **deliver the lunches** from 10:35AM to approximately 12:45PM on the following Thursdays: **June 27; July 11, 18, & 25; Aug 1 & 8**

Volunteer sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall. For more information, please contact Sherri Foppe (618-791-6148 or cookinsherri2@gmail.com) or Ann Martens 618-235-7762 or ga72mart@charter.net



Second Sunday Food Collection

Sunday, July 14 is our **monthly focus on food pantry donations**, and for July we ask folks to bring **canned fruit and canned meats or soups with meat** (i.e., stew, chicken & dumplings, etc.); please place them in the big basket as you come into church.

St. Mark Offerings for 6/16:

Operating Fund: **\$3,949.61** (online giving received by 6/14); Al Boxdorfer Memorials: \$10.10
Food Pantry: \$101; Thrivent Choice: \$142; Organ Fund: \$20; Youth In-Gathering: \$300

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Thanks to Ian (See Mark 4:35-41)

06-23-2006

JUST GIVE ME FIVE MORE MINUTES