

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

May 5,
2024



The Sixth
Sunday of
Easter

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.

PRELUDE

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

Arranged by M. Burkhardt

WELCOME *Please STAND as you are able*

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN FROM PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

Jesus Christ, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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.**

Refrain S 140

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Following the prayer, please SIT.

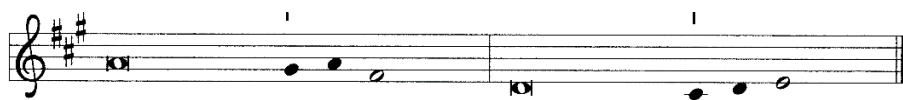
WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

PSALM 98 *sung responsively between leader and congregation by whole verse*



¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made | known your victory,**
you have revealed your righteousness
in the sight | of the nations.

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, ¹all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- ¹joice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD ¹with the harp,
with the harp and the ¹voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound ¹of the horn
shout with joy before the ¹king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and ¹all that fills it,
the world and those who ¹dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers ¹clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
who comes to ¹judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the ¹world with righteousness
and the peo- ¹ples with equity.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

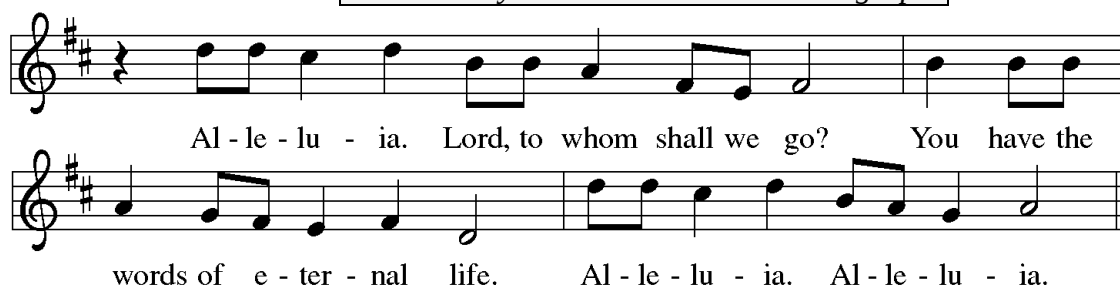
¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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



GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ⁹"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

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

SERMON

The Rev. Brian M. Robison

Following the sermon, the assembly STANDS to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"In Christ There is No East or West"

ELW 650



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man-kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

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 God of grace, is **Hear our prayer...***

**Eleanor Benton, Al Boxdorfer, Toni Brendel, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Ellie Geppert,
Mary Hill, Bruce Martens, Greg Martens, Dwight Ness, Mae Newsome, Kim Palmer,
Marilyn Robinson, Larry Shurtleff, Cohen Summers, & Carol Weshinskey**

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.*

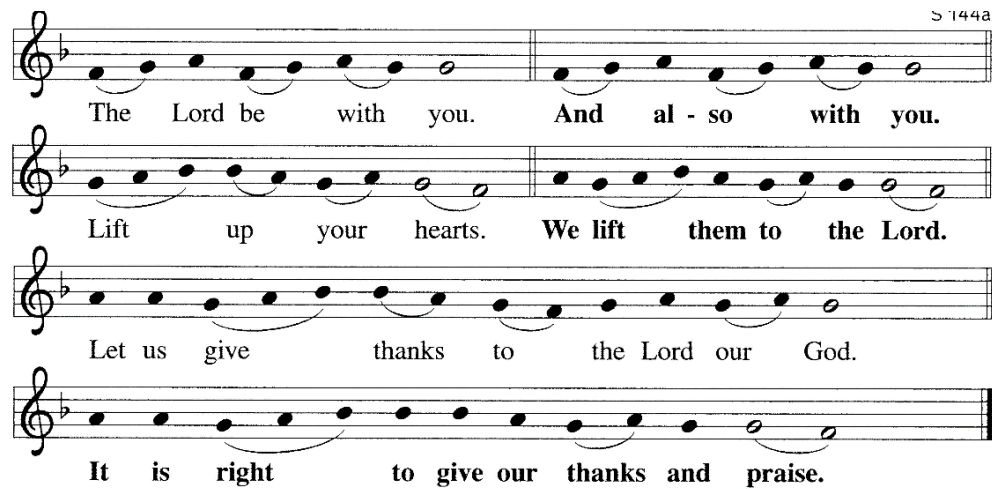
ST. MARK CHANCEL CHOIR *"The Lamb"* by G. Coleman; Arr. by M. Hayes

OFFERING PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray together... **Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

S 144a



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, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. 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 *contemporary*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come;

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

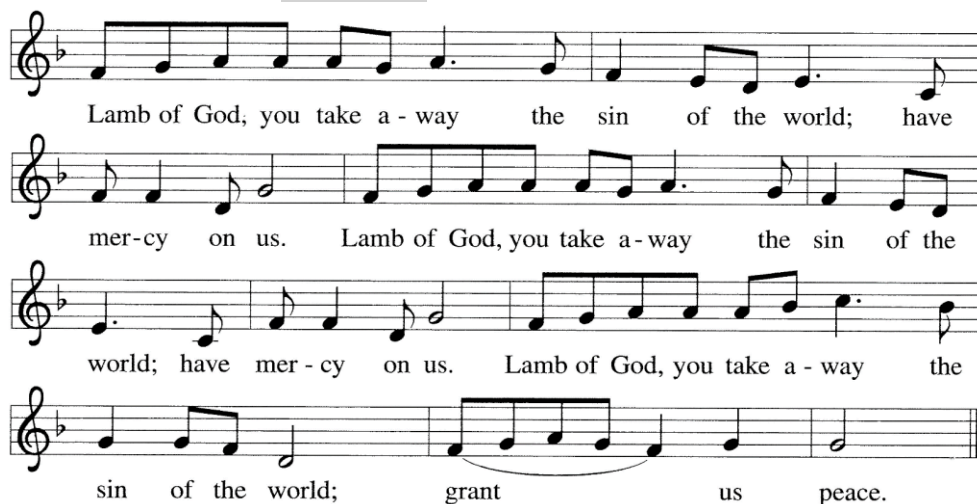
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

LAMB OF GOD *Please SIT*



COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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.

SONG DURING THE DISTRIBUTION:

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love” ELW 708

Refrain

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent-ly wash-es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent-ly wash-ing their feet:

Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

“Beautiful Savior”

ELW 838



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,
 Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!
 Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,
 light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

*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.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

“Thankful Hearts”

ELW #204



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
 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

Let us pray together... **Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power and unending joy – Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit - bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

ELW 389

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to
emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and
prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

by R. Brown

MINISTERS OF TODAY’S LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Greg Guenther

Crucifer: Rex Rothgangel + **Lector:** Charlie Duncan + **Organist:** Evelyn Duncan

Chalice Bearer: Mike Murakami + **Livestream Camera:** Aaron Fuchs

Trained Responder: Cathie Shurtleff + **Ushers:** Frank Dressel & Jason Martens

Land Acknowledgement

St. Mark Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Quapaw and Myaamia peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

Eleanor Benton, Al Boxdorfer, Toni Brendel, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Ellie Geppert,
Mary Hill, Bruce Martens, Greg Martens, Dwight Ness, Mae Newsome, Kim Palmer,
Marilyn Robinson, Larry Shurtleff, Cohen Summers, & Carol Weshinsky

St. Mark Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Stellamarie Bearth, Phyllis Booker, Kathy Boxdorfer, Thomas Boxdorfer,
Jim Braeutigam, Patty Brennecke, Susan Carson, Christine, Catherine Davis, Brian Dinges, Mike Ellison,
Katrina Fenner, Josh Gansmann, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Graber,
Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Jamie House, Debbie Jacobs, Austin Lickenbrock, Becky Loeschner,
Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martisus, Glenda Martisus, Bobby & Joyce McCall, Allen Martens,
Janet Middendorf, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Theresa Painter, Hilda Parnell,
Tim & Missy Partelow, Debbie & Larry Powers, Michelle Rideout, Darrell Robinson,
Sarah and Family, Dave Schaaf, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep, Ingrid
Thompson, Toni Walston, Kris Whitley, Louise Wilson, Sue Witherell,
Elisabeth Woodrome, Karen Woolf, Wilma Woolf, Ken Zika, Chloe Zipperer

Members and Friends Serving in Our Nation's Military

Taiylar Foppe, Ryan McKenzie

Members celebrating wedding anniversaries this week

Jason & Aurora McKenzie (5/8)

Those who grieve the loss of loved ones

The family and friends of **Donna Martin** (Mike Foppe's cousin, 4/17)
The family and friends of **Clifford Culpepper** (John & Peggy Andersen's nephew)
The family and friends of **Jennifer Whitaker** (daughter of Mike & Cheryl, 4/29)

The text for the choir anthem is below:

*1. The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!*

*2. The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!*

*3. The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill.
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!*

*4. He sighs, he dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness.
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!*

*5. He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong.
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!*

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for May 5, 2024

THE WEEK AHEAD:

Monday 5/6:	9:00AM	Health & Wellness Meeting — conference room
	2:30PM	Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
Wednesday, 5/8:	11:45AM	Ladies Lunch Bunch at No Jack's, Smithton
Thursday, 5/9:	1:30PM	Evangelism & Social Ministry Meeting
	7:00PM	Joint Ascension of Our Lord Service
		<i>Ice Cream Social to follow</i>

Adult Forum: *Funeral Planning with the Pastor*

During today's Adult Forum, Pastor Brian will lead attendees through a workshop related to preparing for one's funeral, but from the church ministry perspective and role as opposed to that of a funeral home. Choosing hymns and Scripture readings are just part of this process that can be both a gift you can leave for your loved ones, and a gift that they can in turn give back to you.

Ascension Worship & Ice Cream!

THIS Thursday, May 9 at 7:00PM, St. Mark and St. George's will celebrate the Ascension of Jesus with a joint worship service & ice cream social immediately after! Make plans to join us for this special celebration and fellowship with our Episcopal friends. St. Mark will host the service with Fr. Mark preaching.



Ladies Lunch Bunch

All St. Mark ladies are invited to join the new "Lunch Bunch" at No Jacks (4001 IL-159, Smithton, IL) on **Wednesday, May 8** from **11:45A-1:00P**. Please RSVP **Anita Robinson** by text or call at **618-420-2838** by **Monday, May 6**.

Tea and Fellowship Hour on 5/26

In place of the Ladies' Tea gathering offered last year, the congregations of St George's and St Mark are invited to a special Tea/Coffee Hour **following our joint service on May 26, 2024** in celebration of Trinity Sunday. We hope to see you there to enjoy time together in fellowship. This gathering is open to all members of St Mark and St George's: ladies, gentlemen, and children!

St. Mark Offerings for 4/28:

Operating Fund: **\$3,104.11** (including online giving received by 4/26); Fiber Arts: \$101;
Barb Wurdinger Memorials: \$1,658.66 (\$1,278.66 to Food Pantry); Grounds Maintenance: \$101;
Dorothy Koeneman Memorials: \$15 (Food Pantry); Muller Landscaping Fund: \$101

First Quarter 2024 Treasurer's Note

Q1 2024 Income	\$52,263.37
Q1 2024 Expenses	\$56,503.29
Q1 2024 Net Cash Flow	\$(4,239.92)

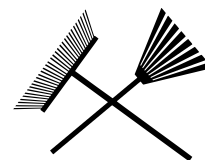
Q1 2023 Income	\$57,764.20
Q1 2023 Expenses	\$55,584.17
Q1 2023 Net Cash Flow	\$2,180.03

Shown here are St. Mark's financial results for the 1st quarter of 2024. As we noted for the close of Q4 2023, December 2023 giving was very generous and resulted in a positive cash flow for the 2023 year (of \$2,980). As the numbers above show, we have a negative cash flow through the first quarter of 2024 of approximately \$4,240; and, this compares to a slight positive cash flow for the same period in 2023. Of note, our Q1 income is at 83% of our budget for the period and our Q1 expenses are at 90% of our budget for the period (which is \$62,620 for the quarter). So, both are below budget projections, and expenses slightly more so.

A positive note is that March of 2024 was a favorable (positive) cash flow of \$2,060 while January and February were both unfavorable (negative). This is of course a trend we hope will continue as the year progresses. We trust that the St. Mark's congregation finds this information to be useful and that we collectively will strive to maintain the positive trend started in March.

Workday!

The St. Mark/St. George's joint property committee will hold a workday on Saturday, May 18 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM to finish some of the projects that weren't able to be done in March. Word on the street is that coffee and donuts will be provided!



Youth Gathering Collection

A goal for this summer's ELCA Youth Gathering is to create 3,000 disaster relief kits filled with the eight most-requested items to help residents as they wait for the power grid to be restored after a storm or other natural disaster. It takes about \$100 to create an entire disaster relief kit.

Each region is asked to bring a different item to build relief kits. Our region, Region 5, is tasked with bringing **cooling towels**. These are specially designed microfiber towels that hold water without being heavy or bulky. We will accept donations of the towels themselves, or financial donations towards the purchase of such towels. Please talk to Melanie or Melaina and Anna if you have questions!

