

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

June 16,
2024



The Fourth
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.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

“Petite Pasacaglia”

by V. Antonyak

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Please STAND as you are able*

Blessed be the one God - Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit - the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance, let us confess our sin.

You may KNEEL or remain as you are. Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider, **help us. It is difficult to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, the bread of life, you are shown God’s mercy: in his name, + you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”

ELW 516



1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world’s de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav’n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - ’ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow’r may know.

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 God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** *Following the prayer, please SIT.*

WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;

I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

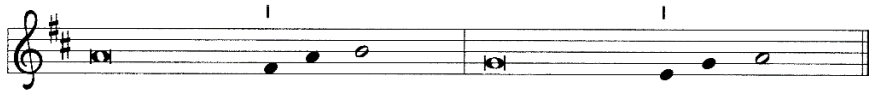
I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 *chanted in unison*



¹It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;
²to herald your love | in the morning
and your faithful- | ness at night;
³on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,
and to the melody | of the harp.
⁴For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands.
¹²The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.
¹³Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;
¹⁴they shall still bear fruit | in old age;
they shall be | green and succulent;
¹⁵that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:7a, 14-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight.

¹⁴The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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

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



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia once

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus said,] "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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.



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1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

PRAYER & BLESSING FOR FATHER'S DAY

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 back of this bulletin.*

*The response to "Merciful God," is **Hear our prayer...***

Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Curtis Dowty, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Bruce Martens, Greg Martens, Dwight Ness, Mae Newsome, Kim Palmer, Marilyn Robinson, Larry Shurtleff, Cohen Summers, & Carol Weshinsky

PEACE *The assembly is invited to share a greeting of God's peace with one another. Following **the Peace**, you may be seated for a few moments*

OFFERING *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.*

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray together... **Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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, our duty, and our joy... and join in their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *chanted*

♪ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins

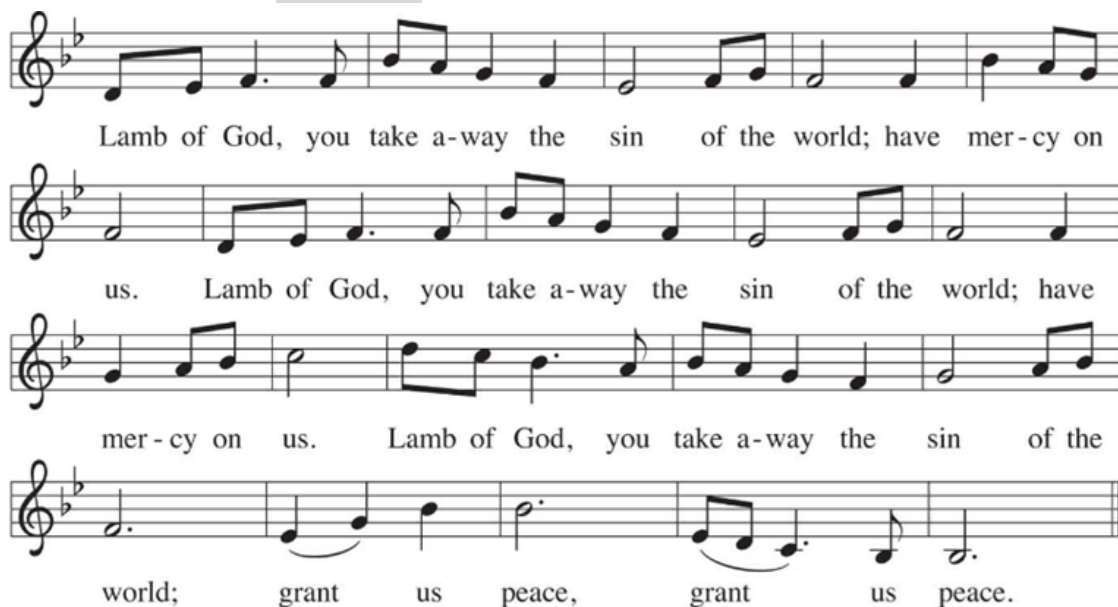


as we for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo-ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come forth and receive life!

LAMB OF GOD *Please SIT*



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

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.*

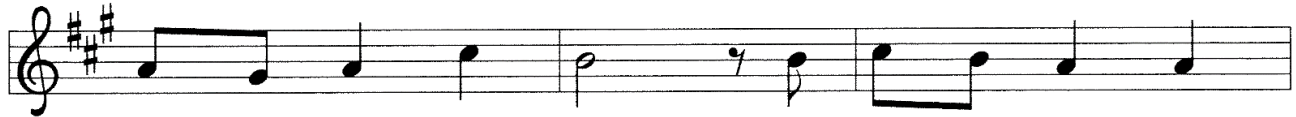
HYMN DURING THE DISTRIBUTION:

“We Walk by Faith”

ELW 635



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - jice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found:
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

“God Whose Farm is All Creation”

ELW 734



1 God, whose farm is all cre - a - tion, take the grat - i -
 2 Take our plow - ing, seed - ing, reap - ing, hopes and fears of
 3 All our la - bor, all our watch - ing, all our cal - en -



tude we give; take the fin - est of our har - vest,
 sun and rain, all our think - ing, plan - ning, wait - ing,
 dar of care in these crops of your cre - a - tion,

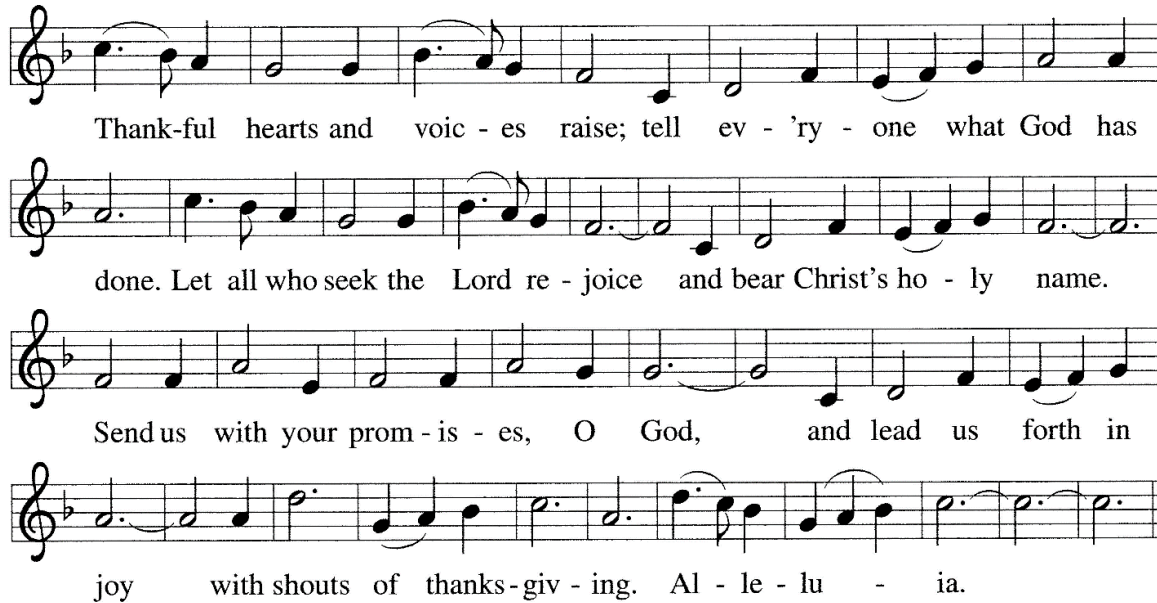


crops we grow that we may live.
 rip - ened in this fruit and grain.
 take, O God: they are our prayer.

TABLE BLESSING *After the distribution is complete, please STAND as you are able.*

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 206**



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, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together... **Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.**

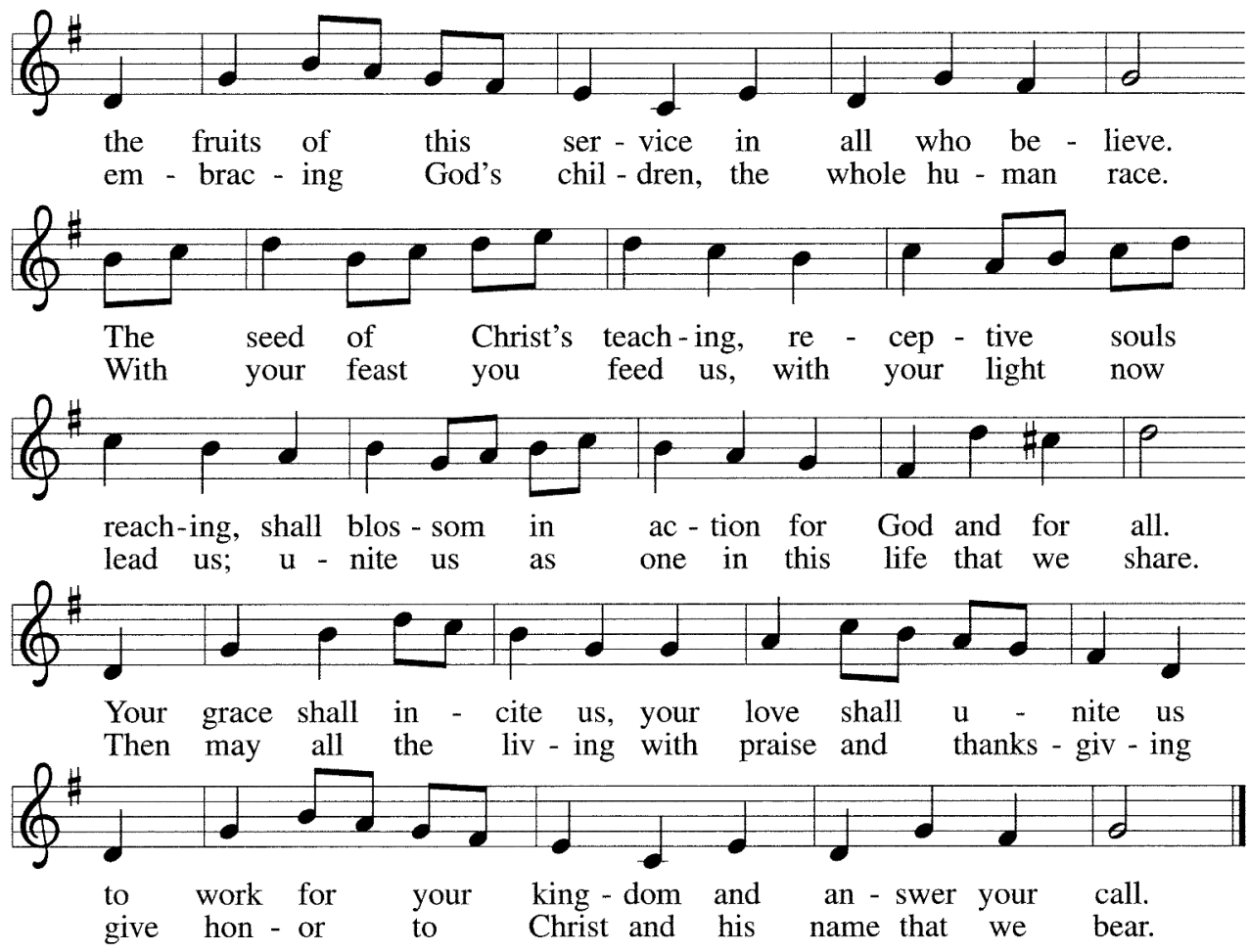
BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us - Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit - be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” **ELW 547**



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—
The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
em-brac-ing God's chil-dren, the whole hu-man race.

The seed of Christ's teach-ing, re-cep-tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach-ing, shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
lead us; u-nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in-cite us, your love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing with praise and thanks-giv-ing

to work for your king-dom and an-swer your call.
give hon-or to Christ and his name that we bear.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“We Walk By Faith”

arr. S. McFarland

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Greg Guenther
Crucifer: Keith Kniepkamp + **Lector:** Kathy Rothgangel + **Organist:** Evelyn Duncan
Chalice Bearer: Mike Murakami + **Tech Minister:** Melanie Robison
Safety Volunteer: Jan Richards + **Ushers:** Danielle Tribout & Curt Gansmann

Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Curtis Dowty, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan,
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 Martiszus, Glenda Martiszus, Bobby & Joyce McCall, Allen Martens,
Janet Middendorf, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Theresa Painter, Chris Parmeter,
Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Debbie & Larry Powers, Goldie Rideout, Darrell Robinson,
Sarah and Family, Dave Schaaf, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep,
Ingrid Thompson, David Vaught, 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 birthdays this week

Jackie Lynch (6/17) and Karen Eggemeyer (6/20)

Members celebrating wedding anniversaries this week

Bruce & Diane Martens (6/16), John & Peggy Andersen (6/19), and Carol & Gary Weshinsky (6/19)

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.)

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for June 16, 2024

THE WEEK AHEAD:

Monday 6/17: 2:30 PM Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor

Tuesday, 6/18: 5:30PM Food Pantry meeting

Today's Adult Forum: *Sabbatical Reflections – One Year Later*

Today, **Sunday, June 16** during the education hour, Pastor Brian will look back on his sabbatical last summer and offer reflections on the experience and its effect going forward, accompanied by photos from the journey.

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!

Care Facility Sing-a-Longs

We are seeking joyful voices to visit local care facilities on **Sunday, June 23 from about 1:15 to 3:15pm** to sing a few religious, patriotic and just plain fun songs!

After the fellowship hour, the group will go to lunch together then to a few locations. Performance times and locations will be announced next week.

Congratulations Graduates!

Our sincerest best wishes and prayers for God's blessings upon our recent graduates:

Corbin Monfre – 8th grade, Mascoutah Junior High School

Jaxson Robinson – 8th grade, Smithton Elementary School

Anna Robison – 8th grade, Central Jr. High School

Braden Valerius – Bachelor's in Education for Secondary Social Studies, Southeast Missouri State

Cookie Baker Wanted for Neighborhood Watch Meeting!

St. George's and St. Mark are attempting to re-energize the Hexenbukel Neighborhood Watch program. We've had a good start, and meetings will be ongoing until the organization can be self-sustaining.



As an extra-nice touch, we would like to offer **a dozen or two homemade cookies** to be served at the meeting on **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 to our service on 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.

Sherri Foppe serves as the project coordinator again, but a co-chair is welcome!

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 19 & 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 20 & 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



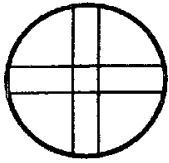
Second Sunday Food Collection

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 6/9:

Operating Fund: **\$5,091.11** (online giving received by 6/7); Al Boxdorfer Memorials: \$40

Food Pantry: \$101



SAINT MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Reverend Brian M. Robison, Pastor
105 East "D" Street + Belleville, Illinois 62220-1205 + (618) 233-9809

June 13, 2024

Dear Members of St. Mark & St. George's:

We are excited to share with the congregations of St. George's and St. Mark that we are now able to put down the deposit to secure a place in the queue to get the chapel organ console rebuilt by the Buzard Pipe Organ Builders beginning in the summer of 2025. Through the generous donations of many individuals, the tips from the Ladies Tea last spring, proceeds from the pie sale, the ornaments made by Diane Earhart and her garage sale, and the pledges of parishioners, we have the full amount to get the console rebuilt.

However, we're not quite done. We need to raise around \$10,000 for a contingency fund to pay for lodging, mileage and other possible expenses connected with the project.

The organ was installed in 1938 and is now 86 years old. When this work is completed, we hope it will last another 86 years! It will be used to play for weddings, funerals, services on days when both sanctuaries are being used, practicing, and for rehearsals before services.

If you still would like to donate towards this project, we hope to raise the additional funds by the end of June. If we have extra money after the project is completed, we will put it in a fund which will pay for the tuning of the chapel organ each year.

For anyone desiring to support the repair of the Chapel organ, please contact Henry Evans, St. George's Administrative Assistant.

The Organ Renovation Committee offers thanksgiving to all who have supported this campaign.

Soon, organ music will be filling the chapel once more.

The Organ Renovation Committee,

*Fr. Mark Ohlemeier, Pr, Brian Robison,
Evelyn and Charles Duncan,
Ken Gottschall, Dawn Jung, Brian Maves,
Nancy S. Ypma, and Bill Zimmermann*