

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for September 1, 2024

This Week at St. Mark:

Monday, Sept. 2:	6:00PM	Evening Prayer with St. George's—chapel
Thursday, Sept. 5:	6:15PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, Sept. 7:	6:00PM	SHINE Worship—chapel

Choirs Resume This Week!

Chancel and Bell Choirs resume rehearsals **THIS 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!

Thank You from Pastor Ron

Dear St. Mark congregation,

What a gift and what an honor that on Sunday [August 11] you named me your *Pastor Emeritus*.

The service itself was wonderful and the reception following the liturgy was so much fun! Ice cream! Face and Luther seal cookies! Cake! Fruit! Punch and coffee! Tablecloths and flowers! Who could ask for anything more! Your thoughtfulness and generosity reminded me once again what a wonderful congregation you are.

I give thanks for all of you who made this day such a joy for Debbie and Me.

Peace and joy! - *Pastor (Emeritus) Ron*

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.

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!

New/Returning in September

After a hiatus of several years, on **Wednesday, September 18** we will restart the monthly “**St. Mark Table Talk**” Bible class, which will take place on **third Wednesdays** at **11:30AM** in the conference room. Bring your lunch and listen to a class and discussion led by Pastor Brian and occasional guest speakers. These are self-contained classes that do not require you to have attended any previous or subsequent classes. Classes in the past have included such topics as, “Dogs in the Bible,” “Turkeys in the Bible,” “Humor in the Bible,” “Left-Handed People in the Bible,” “How December 25 Became Christmas,” and many more!

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 very important endeavor in witness to our faith.

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!

Adult Forum 9/15 - *Tax Efficient Gifting/Tithing Strategies*

Join us for the education hour on **Sunday, September 15** as we welcome First Command Financial Advisor **Steve Bione** to help us learn how **qualified charitable distributions (QCD)** or **donor advised funds (DAF)** can help reduce taxes even in today’s higher standard deduction environment.

QCD can be utilized for those individuals who have turned 70 ½ by helping reduce their required minimum distributions (RMD). Even if you are nearing age 70, this is valuable information.

DAF is a multi-year gifting strategy and does not have any age limitations or restrictions.



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!

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet at **Charlie’s Place** at 12 noon on **Wednesday, September 11**. They would like a headcount, so please let Peggy Andersen (618-791-0992) know if you are planning to go!

St. Mark Offerings for 8/25: Operating Fund: **\$3,196.16** (online giving received by 8/23); Muller Landscaping Fund: \$101; Fiber Arts: \$101; Property/Grounds Maintenance: \$101