

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

September 10,
2023



The 15th
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

“Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven”

ELW 864



- 1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
- 2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
- 3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
- 4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.
Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

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, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Following the prayer, please SIT.

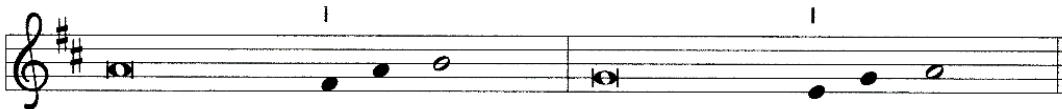
WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

PSALM 119:33-40 *chanted in unison*



³³Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.

³⁵Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

³⁶Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain.

³⁷Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

³⁸Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
 which is for | those who fear you.
³⁹Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
 because your judg- | ments are good.
⁴⁰Behold, I long for | your commandments;
 by your righteousness en- | liven me.

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if

two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. *Please SIT*

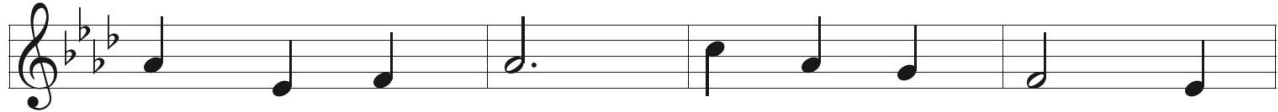
SERMON

The Rev. Brian M. Robison

HYMN OF THE DAY

"God's Work, Our Hands"

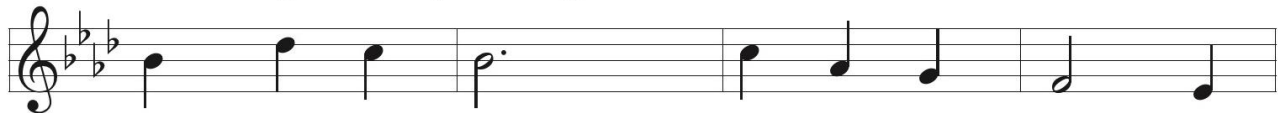
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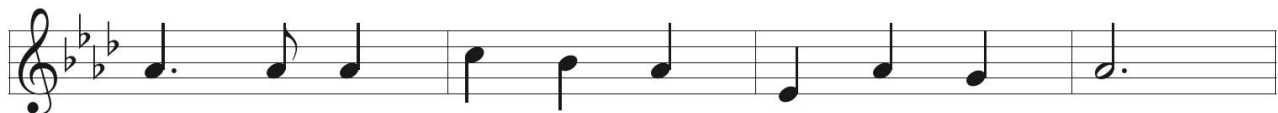
1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



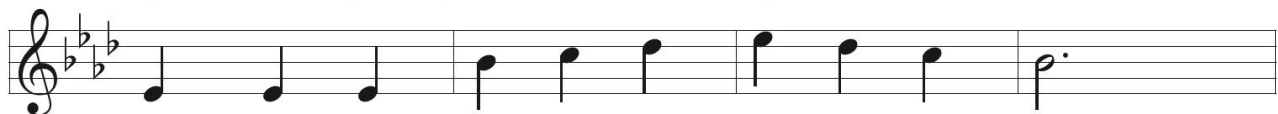
build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



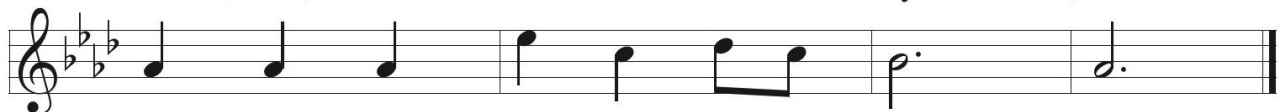
rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

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, Randy Hinkle, 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 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.

S 152

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.

S 153

EUCHARISTIC 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.

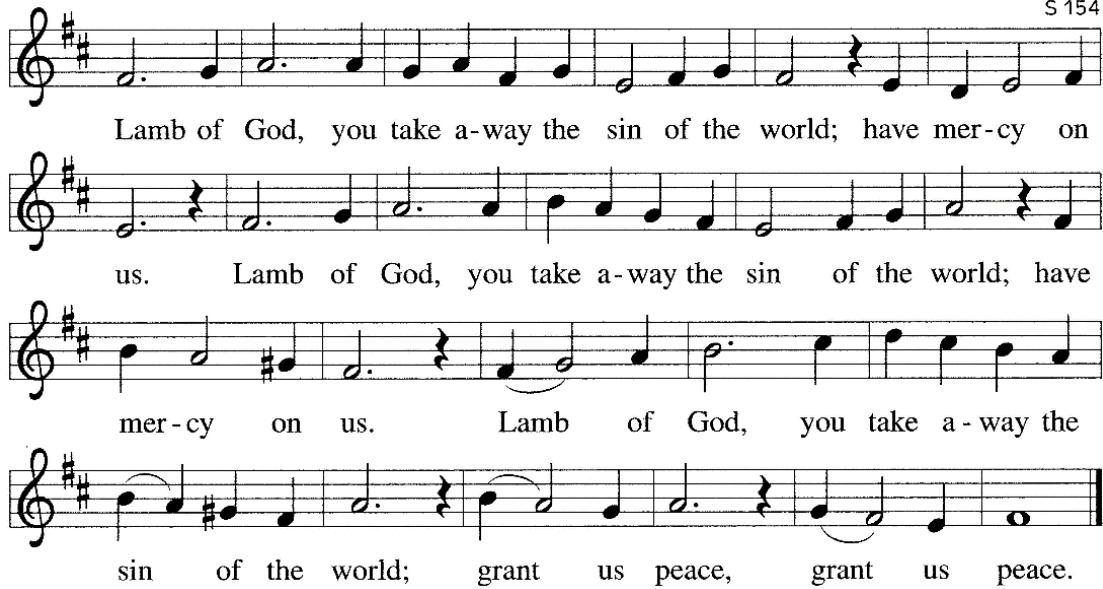
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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.*



“As We Gather at Your Table”

ELW 522



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - umphant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an-gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

ELW 656



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend-ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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

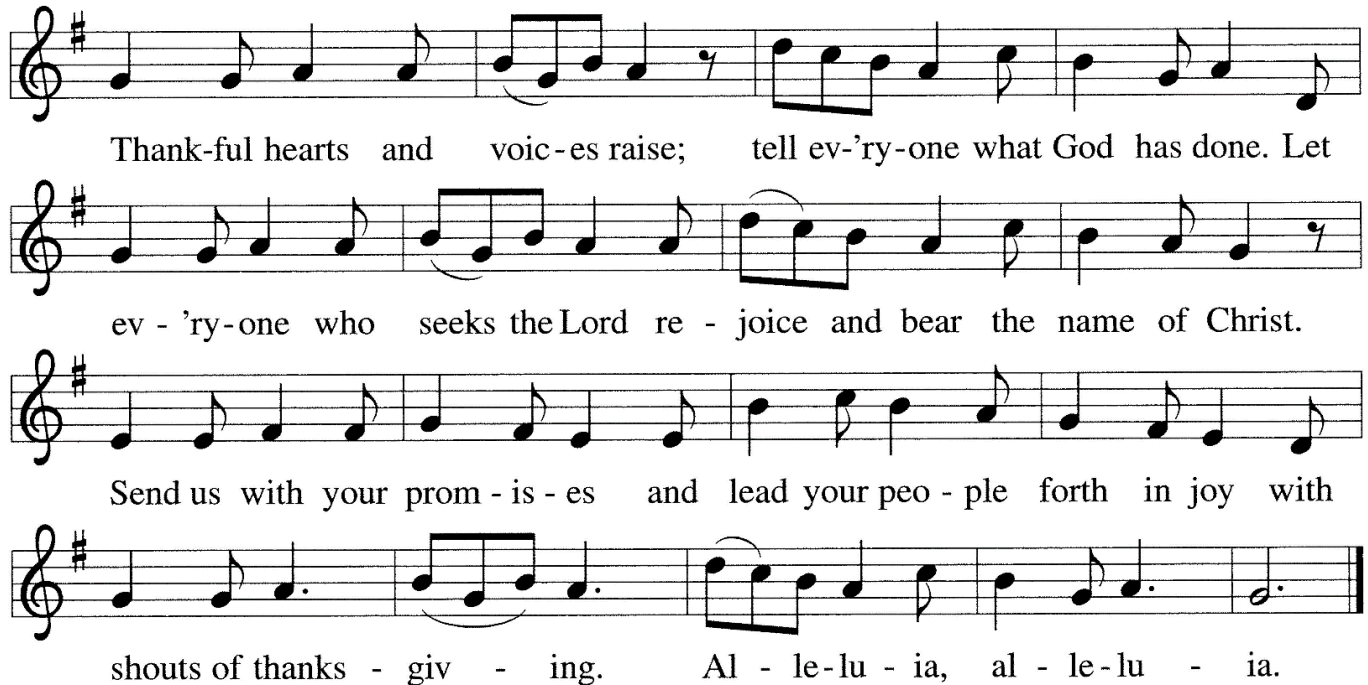
TABLE BLESSING

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

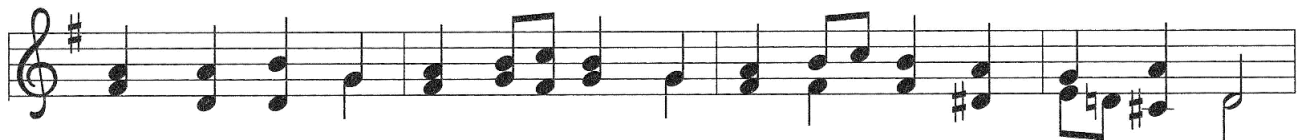
The God of glory, Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

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 & Crucifer: Danielle Tribout

Chalice Bearer: Tom Partelow

Lector: Charlie Duncan + **Livestream Camera:** Greg Martens

Ushers: Rick Crosby & Rex Rothgangel + **Trained Responder:** Missy Kimbrell

Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

Dave Brauer, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Mary Hill, Randy Hinkle,
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, 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, 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 celebrate their birthdays this week:

Diane Wagner (9/10), and **Natalie Hayes** (9/12)

We pray for those who celebrate wedding anniversaries this week:

Kara & Joe Monfre (9/10), **Gayle & Randy Hinkle** (9/11), and **Bethany & Kristopher Thilmont** (9/11)

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 10, 2023

THE FIFTEENTH WEEK AFTER PENTECOST

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Monday, September 11

9:00AM Health & Wellness meeting – conference room

1:00PM Search Committee meeting – conference room

Thursday, September 15

1:30PM Evangelism & Social Ministry meeting – conference room

7:15PM Voice choir

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday

Today, **Sunday, September 10**, is the ELCA’s annual day of service.

Our projects this year include assisting **Beacon Ministry** with their **furniture services**, including the **pick-up and/or delivery** of furniture

to needy people in Belleville, Fairview Heights, or Caseyville, or

assisting in the **sorting and organizing of bedframes** at Beacon’s furniture warehouse in Belleville.

In the **Parish Hall**, participants will **cut, stuff, and sew fabric and/or felt hearts** for Foster Care totes,

port pillow, and more. A **light lunch will be provided** before the service projects begin. Thank you for

being part of this churchwide tradition!



Church Picnic September 24

This year’s church picnic will be **Sunday, September 24** from **noon to 4pm** at **Schranz Memorial**

Park in Swansea. Format will be as in years past: bring food enough for you and your family, and a

game to share. More info to come!

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 all your support, and for helping us help others!



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 13, 22, 27, and October 4**. For additional information or to volunteer, please phone David Buckley at 618-520-9333.

Living Lutheran

Be sure to pick up the latest issue of the Living Lutheran magazine on the St. Mark table in the narthex/Welcome Area. Only a few more months of a printed, physical copy of the magazine remain, as they will shift from printed to online-only editions beginning in January 2024.

Maui Wildfire Donations

The devastating wildfires experienced by the Hawaiian island of Maui in recent weeks claimed dozens of lives and destroyed homes, landmarks, businesses, and lines of communication. Thousands of people were displaced, some moving to other Hawaiian islands. Wildfires also affected the Big Island of Hawaii, and the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season. Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. Gifts given to LDR equip them to respond to this and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts given specifically to "U.S. Wildfires" will be restricted to and used in full (100%) for those affected by wildfires. *There are four ways for you to help:*



1. You may donate online at elca.org using a credit card
2. You can mail in your donation making checks payable to:
"Lutheran Disaster Response."
Write "U.S. Wildfires" on your check's memo line and send to:
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009
3. You may write a check to "Lutheran Disaster Response" and place it in the offering box on Sunday.
4. You can give to "ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response" through our VANCO online portal (<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91>).

St. Mark Offerings Report for September 3:

General Fund: **\$4,234.11** (includes online offerings received by 9/8);
ELCA Disaster Relief: \$20

