

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for January 25, 2026

THE WEEK AHEAD

Thursday, January 29:	4:15PM	Chancel choir
	6:00PM	Bell Choir
	6:00PM	Yoga – Parish Hall

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Pastor Brian and the Church Council express their deepest gratitude for the extraordinary generosity displayed by church members at the end of 2025. Thanks to the bequeath to St. Mark from the estate of Wally Kleist and several other large contributions, the church was not only able to end the year on a positive note, but “in the black!”

Please keep St. Mark in mind when financial and/or estate planning for the future. Doing so helps to ensure our ability to bring the Good News to the people of our community for many years to come.

Important Safety Class Upcoming!

On **Saturday, February 7** from **9am-1pm** in the **parish hall**, Chestnut Health Systems will present information on **Mental Health, Substance Abuse/Narcans** and **Suicide awareness/prevention**. Our target audience is the **safety committee members, food pantry workers** and **ushers**. Anyone else interested in this important information is also very welcome to attend. Please sign up in the Canterbury Room on the available sheets on St. George’s table to assist in our planning. For questions, please text **Mark Bearth @ (618) 767-6543**

Lenten Quiet Day - Save the Date

This year’s **Lenten Quiet Day** at Toddhall Retreat Center will be on **Saturday, February 28** from **10am–2pm**, led by Father Mark. The event is **FREE**, although freewill donations will be accepted at the event. **Lunch is included with registration**. The **deadline** for registrations is **Friday, January 30**, and can be made by calling St. George’s office or through this link: <https://forms.gle/eq5DsL32MAC8U6F7A>

Great (Super) Bowls of Fire!



St. George’s famous **white chili** (both mild and hot) will be sold **Sunday, February 8** after **each church service** and from **noon to 3:00PM** in the Parish Hall. Cost is **\$11/quart** when ordered in advance and prepaid, and **\$12 on the day of sale**. Orders with payment can be made to Henry in the office or by mail to St. George’s. Proceeds benefit our food pantry.

As sign-up sheet to help prepare chili on Wednesday, January 28 and to make and dispense it on the day of sale is in the parish hall.

*Those who may be out of town Super Bowl Sunday but would like to order chili can request another Sunday for pickup.





Yoga Day Change in February

To accommodate Lenten midweek activities for both churches, yoga classes will move to **Mondays at 6:30pm beginning February 2**. Classes will remain on Mondays through the end of May.

50th Anniversary Committee

St. Mark Lutheran Church celebrates the 50th anniversary of its first worship service on December 6, 2026. This will kick off a year of celebration surrounding our 50th year. We are looking for members who might be interested in serving on a **planning committee** to devise ideas for events to help celebrate this milestone. Please contact Pastor Brian if you're interested!

From the Parish Nurse... Upper Respiratory Infections

If you have symptoms of the flu, common cold, or COVID, **please stay home** if possible, and **wear a mask** to prevent spreading to others who may be vulnerable to infection. Everyone should be washing their hands diligently and/or using hand sanitizer as needed. **Common symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough, or sore throat.** These upper respiratory infections (*especially the FLU*) are **very** active right now, so please take care of yourself, and in doing so, take care of others!!

GriefShare 12-Week Session at Zion

Loss is hard. Even when we trust our loved ones are with the Lord, it can be hard for those of us left behind. GriefShare is a loss support group starting a new session at **Zion Lutheran Church** (1810 McClintock Ave, Belleville) on **Monday, February 2, 2026 at 6:00 pm**. The program is led by Nurse **Becky Schnitzius**, and will include video, group discussion, and personal workbook components. This group is open to the whole community. If you or someone you know may benefit from this group, please share this information with others. Sign up at <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/283072>



End-of-Year Giving Statements Email Error

If you receive an electronic giving statement via email, those were sent out this past week. The subject and content of the email indicated it was the "Third Quarter Giving Statement." This is not correct; the subject line and content was not updated to present it as the end-of-year giving statement for 2025.

To clarify, **the giving statement attached to that email was indeed the end-of-year giving statement for the whole of 2025.** Please be sure to retain the attachment for tax purposes.

St. Mark Offerings for 1/18: General Fund: **\$2,376.19**; Wally Kleist Memorial: \$50; Toni Brendel Memorials: \$97.32;

I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S LIKE JESUS
CAN'T GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT FULFILLING
SOME RANDOM PROPHECY!

