

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

May 24,
2026



Pentecost
Sunday

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

“SHINE” CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (1ST SATURDAYS-CHAPEL)

SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM

EDUCATION HOUR: 10:30AM

105 EAST “D” STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

EMAIL: WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG

THE REV. BRIAN M. ROBISON, PASTOR

THE REV. RONALD C. NEUSTADT, PASTOR EMERITUS

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- + **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 use the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is audible over the speakers).
 - + An **accessible Restroom** is available off the Welcome Area/Narthex next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level. **Parish Hall and additional Restrooms** are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. 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.
 - + **Land Acknowledgement:** This church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the **Quapaw, Myaamia, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo** peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and still call this land home.

WELCOME

OPENING BLESSING *Please STAND as you are able*

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

OPENING READING: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-21

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ ”



GATHERING HYMN "O Spirit All-Embracing" ELW 944 *Please STAND as you are able*



1 O Spir - it all - em - brac - ing and coun - sel - or all - wise,
 2 O Beau - ty ev - er blaz - ing in flow - er, field, and face,
 3 Come, pas - sion's pow - er ho - ly, your in - sight here im - part,



un - bound - ed splen - dor grac - ing a shore - less sea of skies:
 you show your - self a - maz - ing in un - ex - spect - ed place.
 and give your ser - vants low - ly an un - der - stand - ing heart



un - fail - ing is your trea - sure, un - fad - ing your re - ward;
 We see you and re - mem - ber what once our dreams had been;
 to know your care more clear - ly when faith and love are tried,



sur - pass - ing world - ly plea - sure, the rich - es you af - ford.
 you fan the glow - ing em - ber and kin - dle hope with - in.
 to seek you more sin - cere - ly when false i - deals have died:



Come, stream of end - less flow - ing, and res - cue us from death;
 Come, fire of glo - ry gra - cious, bless all who trust in you;
 for vi - sion we im - plore you, for wis - dom's pure de - light;



come, wind of spring - time blow - ing, and warm us by your breath.
 un - dy - ing flame te - na - cious, burn in your church a - new.
 in prayer we come be - fore you to wait up - on your light.

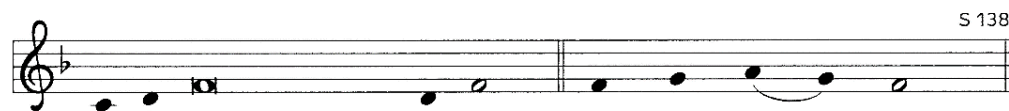
GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

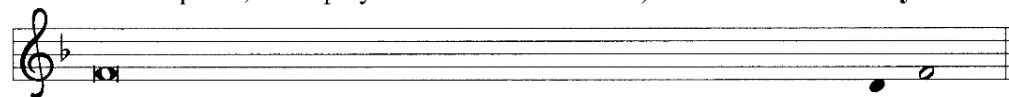
And also with you.

KYRIE

ELW 138



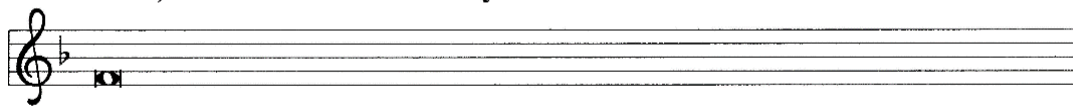
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



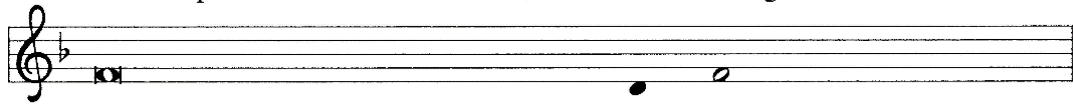
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



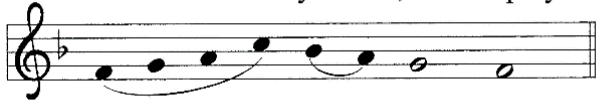
Lord, have mer - cy.



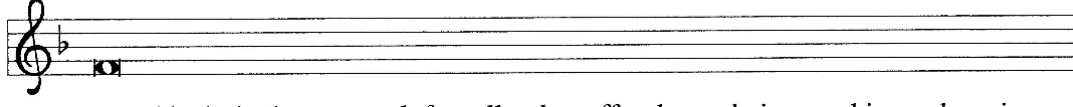
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

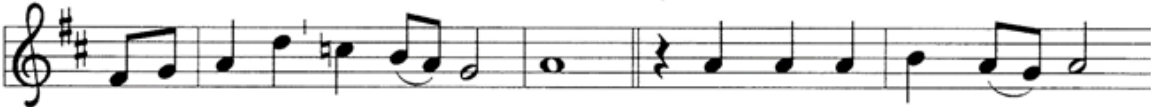


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Feast" ELW 140



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



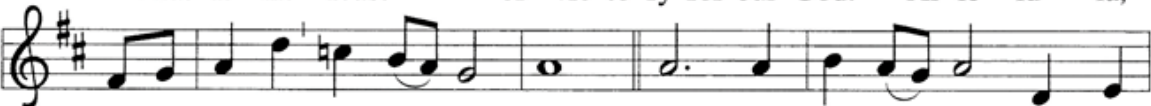
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



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,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, 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

READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

^{3b} No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-23

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

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

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

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind”

ELW 400



1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl-wind, as on Pen - te -
 2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your
 3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from
 4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's



cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;
 pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,
 leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,
 rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,



past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,
 let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,
 for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;
 may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;



there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!
 kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!
 make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!
 claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *The names of those for whom we pray aloud (members, staff, first-time additions) 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 “Receive our prayer.”*

Ken Augustine, **Eleanor** Benton, **Rob** Buck, **Gary** Dozier, **Evelyn** Duncan, **Art** Engelage,
Michael Foppe, **Mary** Hill, **Morris** Kugler, **Diane** Maes, **Bruce** Martens, **Greg** Martens, **Diane** Martens,
Lucy Montgomery, **Ron** Neustadt, **Tina** Partelow, **Marilyn** Robinson, **Cohen** Summers,
Carol Weshinsky, **Gary** 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.*

CHOIR ANTHEM “Circle of Love” *Chopin* *Text can be found on the last page*

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.

OFFERING PRAYER *Please STAND as you are able*

Assistant: Let us pray together... Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us,
a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus, 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.

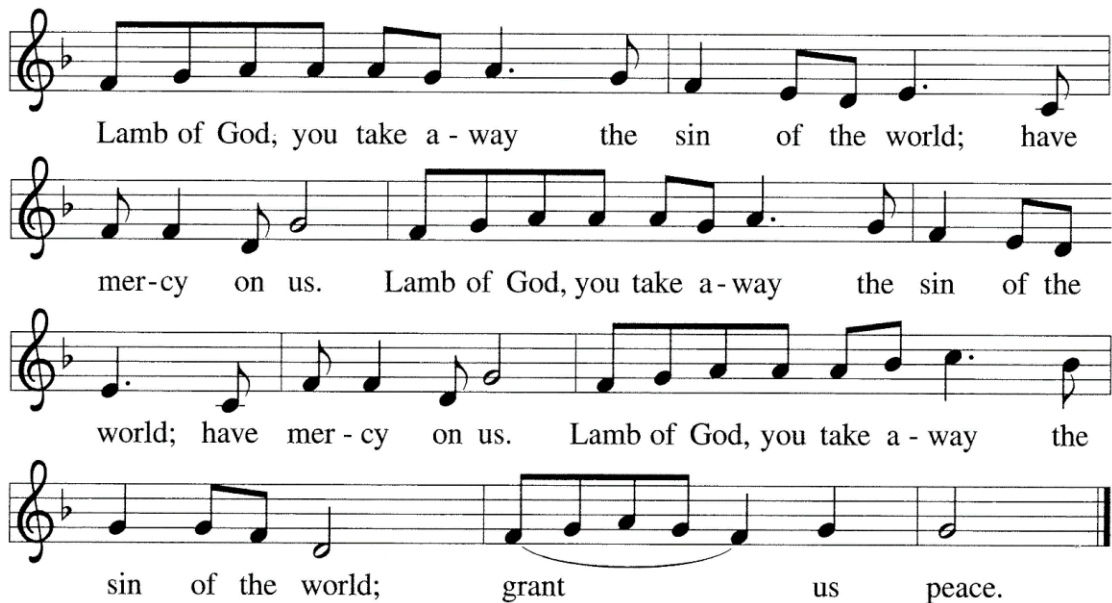
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

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.

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.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

“As the Wind Song Through the Trees”

ELW 943

1 As the wind song through the trees, as the stir - ring of the
 2 As the rain - bow af - ter rain, as the hope that's born a -

breeze, so it is with the Spir - it of God,
 gain, so it is with the Spir - it of God,

as the heart made strange-ly warm, as the voice with - in the
 as the green in the . . . spring, as a kite on a . . .

storm, so it is with the Spir - it of God.
 string, so it is with the Spir - it of God,

Nev - er seen, ev - er known where this wind has come
 mak - ing worlds that are new, mak - ing peace come

blown bring-ing life, bring-ing pow'r to the world,
 true, bring-ing gifts, bring-ing love to the world,

as the danc - ing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep de -
 as the ris - ing of the yeast, as the wine at the . . .

sire, so it is with the Spir - it of God.
 feast, so it is with the Spir - it of God.

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

ELW 599

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,

from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
 let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
 through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

After the distribution is complete, the assembly **STANDS** for the blessing.

TABLE BLESSING

The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together... Holy One,

through this meal you have made your home among us, and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies,

and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

ELW 942

Refrain

Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing
in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the
spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,
2 . . . All a - round me looked so fine,
3 . . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

Refrain

out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
asked my Lord if all was mine.
chills the bod - y but not the soul.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“Let Praises Ring Forth”

E. Broughton

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Danielle Tribout

Lector: Missy Kimbrell + **Crucifer:** Danielle TriboutCorbin Monfre + **Chalice Bearer:** Greg Martens

Tech Minister: Melanie Robison + **Safety Volunteer:** Tina Partelow

Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Ushers:** Kathy Casey & Nancy Guenther

Circle of Love *Words and Music by Pepper Choplin*

A circle goes 'round and 'round again. It has no beginning and has no end for it will be spinning eternally. A circle was drawn by God's hand. Filled with love, it will expand to welcome all who will hear the call to join in love, circle of love, of love. Join in the circle of love, join in the circle of love.

God gives love and there's enough for all who need a holy touch of love and care open hearts can share.

God will touch many hearts, make us one from many parts and we will be joined in unity.

We're joined in love, circle of love, of love. Join in the circle of love, join in the circle of love.

So share the circle of love we've found. God is the center and God surrounds us with His love, with holy love, with His holy love. The circle of love goes 'round again and its power shall never end, for love will be living eternally. Love is strong, love is great. Come together and celebrate and welcome all as we hear the call, to share the circle of love.

The circle of love was formed by God's hand. Filled with love, it will expand. Share the circle of love we've found. God is the center and God surrounds. Love is strong, love is great. Come together and join in the circle of love. Join in the circle of love. This circle of love goes 'round again, it has no beginning and has no end.

Prayer Intentions

Members

Ken Augustine, Eleanor Benton, Mary Boxdorfer, Rob Buck, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Art Engelage, Michael Foppe, Greg Guenther, Mary Hill, Morris Kugler, Diane Maes, Bruce Martens, Greg Martens, Diane Martens, Ken Augustine, Eleanor Benton, Mary Boxdorfer, Rob Buck, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Art Engelage, Michael Foppe, Mary Hill, Morris Kugler, Diane Maes, Bruce Martens, Greg Martens, Diane Martens, Lucy Montgomery, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Cohen Summers, Carol and Gary Weshinsky

Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Bert Alvarez, Stellamarie Bearth, John Belz, Jim Boeving, Thomas Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam, Patty Brennecke, Patrick Campbell, Susan Carson, Christine, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Josh Gansmann, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Glenna Hamilton, Andrea Hendrix, Jamie House, Jimmy Jurgens, Austin Lickenbrock, Dusty Little, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Bobby McCall, Don McCoy, Allen Martens, Janet Middendorf, Linda Munn, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Lana Perry, Larry Powers, Goldie Rideout, Darrell Robinson, Sarah and Family, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, Larry Powers, Goldie Rideout, Jerry Robbins, Darrell Robinson, Sarah and Family, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, Denise Sebastian, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep, Tom Stookey, Ingrid Thompson, David Vaught, Toni Walston, Louise Wilson, Margie Wilson, Molly Witherell, Karen Woolf, Ken Zika, Chloe Zipperer

Members and Friends Serving in Our Nation's Military

Joshua Anthony, Ethan Collins, Tom Fox, Taiylar Foppe Merrel, Josh Merrel, Ryan McKenzie, Amy Morgan

Members celebrating birthdays this week

Jan Litherland (5/24), Abby Monfre (5/24), Dee Zipfel (5/27), Frank Dressel (5/27), Roger Carnaghi (5/28), and Lucy Downen (5/30)

Members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries this week

Elizabeth & Rick Crosby (5/29)

Mark Times



News & Notes for May 24, 2026

THE WEEK AHEAD

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|---|
| Monday, May 25: | 6:00PM | Pastoral Care committee – conference room |
| | 7:00PM | Church Council - CR |
| Thursday, May 21: | 6:00PM | Yoga – Parish Hall |
| Friday, May 29-Mon., June 1 | | <i>Pastor on vacation</i> |

Adult Forum: *Who was Trajan?*

Trajan was emperor of Rome from **AD 98 to 117**. He was a philanthropic ruler and a successful soldier-emperor who presided over one of the greatest military expansions in Roman history, during which, by the time of his death, the Roman Empire reached its maximum territorial extent. His reign also occurred during a time of considerable growth for **Christianity**, and thus his policies towards the Church shaped how Christians lived and adapted to the always-changing imperial environment. Join us as Pastor Brian leads a couple of videos about this important historical figure.



Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Brian will be on vacation next **Friday, May 29 through Monday, June 1**. We welcome back **Pastor S. Blake Duncan** as our guest preacher and presider on May 31.

In case of pastoral emergency, please contact **Fr. Mark Ohlemeier** of St. George's at **785-220-5528**.



Belleville Summer Sack Lunch Program is Back!

We're partnering again with Westview Baptist to provide **free lunches for low-income kids!**

Donations: Individually packaged Cheez-Its, chips, pretzels, nut-free cookies (homemade cookies are welcome!), and juice pouches (e.g., Capri Sun). Drop off at church or contact **Sherri Foppe** for other arrangements.

+ **Monetary gifts welcome:** Give to Sherri, Ann Martens, or online: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-15AC7>

+ **Volunteers Needed for...**

Packing: Wednesdays, 5–5:45 PM @ Westview Baptist

Delivery: Thursdays, 10:35 AM–1 PM

Dates: June 1–Aug 7 (weekly)

+ Sign-up in Parish Hall!

Info: Sherri (618)791-6148 | cookinsherri2@gmail.com or Ann (618)235-7762 | ga72mart@charter.net

ConGRADulations Graduates!

Our sincerest best wishes and prayers for God's blessings upon this year's graduates:

Tucker Downen – Belleville East High School (*will attend Kansas University*)

Ellie Geppert – Belleville West High School (*will attend Saint Louis University*)

Kylie Martens – Freeburg Middle School (*will attend Freeburg High School*)



Save the Dates!

+ **Beacon Ministries Fundraiser Yard Sale** on **Friday, June 12** and **Saturday, June 13** from **7:30am to 1:30pm**. This is a *multi-congregational* fundraiser. Volunteers are needed before the event to move and arrange furniture, household items and other items that were donated but do not serve Beacon's clients' needs. Volunteers are needed both days of the event also. Please contact Sherri Foppe for more information and/or to volunteer.

+ This year's "**Patriotic Potluck**" will be held in the Parish Hall on **Saturday, June 27** from **4:00PM-6:00PM**. Watch for a sign-up sheet for attendance and dishes to be out soon (maybe today!).

+ Consider joining the group of us traveling to **EverVella** (formerly Mercy/Rosewood) **Rehab & Care Center** (Swansea) and **another location to be determined** on **Sunday, July 5** to **sing some patriotic songs and other favorite melodies**. More information coming soon!

Reflection on this Week's Readings

The opening line of the epistle reading (1 Co. 12: 3b-13) strikes at the heart of Lutheran theology: "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit." Some in our communities have memorized or learned these words in confirmation classes: "**I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith**" (Martin Luther, *Luther's Small Catechism*, Anniversary Study Edition (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2016)). Our world is marked by the choices we make, the results of our efforts, the tasks we accomplish. Belief in Jesus can become just another thing to do. Yet, Luther's invitation is clear: rely on the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our times of need, rather than on our own understanding. – from *Sundays & Seasons*

St. Mark Offerings for 5/17: General Fund: **\$1,942.75**; Food Pantry: **\$5**

