

# MARK TIMES

## NEWS & NOTES FOR MARCH 15, 2026

### THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>Monday, March 16:</b>	2:30PM	Fiber Arts – Westfield Manor
	6:30PM	Yoga – Parish Hall
<b>Tuesday, March 17:</b>	5:00PM	Food Pantry meeting
<b>Wednesday, March 18:</b>	11:15AM	Health & Wellness meeting - CR
	6:00PM	Soup supper – Parish Hall
	7:00PM	Lent Evening Prayer - church
<b>Thursday, March 19:</b>	4:00PM	Chancel choir
	5:45PM	Bell Choir
<b>Saturday, March 21</b>	5:30PM	Trivia Night at Christ Community Lutheran Church

### Today's Adult Forum: *Medicine in the Ancient World*

This morning, join Pastor Brian as he explores **health and healing in the ancient world**. Life in antiquity was filled with peril — war, disease, famine, and childbirth all contributed to dramatically shorter lifespans than we enjoy today.



Yet ancient peoples were no less determined to prevent and cure illness. Entire cults, sanctuaries, and professions devoted to healing shaped the spiritual and cultural landscapes of the ancient world.

Together we will explore what these cultures actually did to combat disease and injury — and whether their methods hold up to modern science. The answers may surprise you!

### Proclaim Christ's Resurrection with Easter Flowers!

Special envelopes can be found in the pews. Please complete the front portion of the envelope and return it, with a check or cash, to the offering box or to the office **by Tuesday, March 31**. All dedications will be printed in the bulletin.



### Bunny Bazaar Coming Next Sunday!

**NEXT Sunday, March 22**, in the tradition of November's "Pumpkin Palooza," we will host an Easter/Spring-themed **bake sale and craft sale** between and after all three services, with proceeds to **benefit our combined Food Pantry**. Bake an Easter/spring treat and bring before services on March 22!

### Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers

Come enjoy an evening of fellowship over a meal of soup and salad at **6:00PM** in the Parish Hall on the **Wednesdays of Lent**, before joining us in the church for **evening prayer** at **7:00PM** (see below).

## Lenten Evening Prayer: *Ad Astra per Aspera*

This Lent, journey with us on **Wednesdays at 7:00PM** in the church for a special evening prayer series: “*Ad Astra Per Aspera: A Trek Through Lent.*” Using a space exploration theme inspired by events like Sputnik, the Space Shuttle Challenger, Apollo 13, and more, we explore how faith carries us “*through hardships to the stars.*” Each service includes Scripture, prayer, and reflection in the style of Evening Prayer from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Come be grounded in God’s grace as we trek together toward Easter hope.



## Christ Community Trivia Night Fundraiser!



A Sweet Adventure in TRIVIA

Visit the sweetness of “**Jesus Land**” at **Christ Community Lutheran Church** (Columbia) for their annual TRIVIA NIGHT youth fundraiser on **Saturday, March 21** from **6-8:00PM** (doors open at 5:30p)! \*This event will raise funds for this summer’s youth mission trip to Duluth, MN, **which our youth from St. Mark will be participating in!**

- + Cost is **\$15 per person**, or **\$110 for a table of 8**
- + Bring your own food and snacks. Drinks available for purchase include mocktails, soda, and water.
- + Costume and Table Decorating Contests - **dress up as your favorite Board Game and/or create cool matching table decor.** GET CREATIVE!!
- + Generic trivia categories - there will be something for everyone!

\*\*Let **Melanie** know if you haven’t had a chance to sign up – there may still be space available.

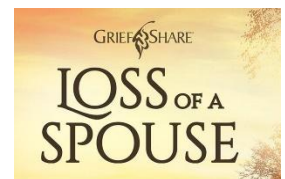
Checks can be written to **St. Mark Youth**.

## Financial Update from the Treasurer

The St. Mark congregation is truly blessed! Many will recall the concerns expressed at the congregational meetings in December regarding a projected financial shortfall for the year. This was based on year-to-date results reported through October of 2025 which showed a deficit condition. We had been conducting a much-needed financial audit which delayed our fiscal year reporting. However, member donations received in November and December were **\$55,563** (\$14,215 and \$48,332 respectively). The December donations were particularly significant and brought us into a net-positive result for the year of \$1,218. And then, just at year’s end, we received a bequest of \$31,960 from the estate of a member who had passed. This pushed our fiscal year surplus to \$33,178. Our congregation should be proud of this response and fiscal year completion.

## GriefShare: *Loss of a Spouse* Event on April 18

People who are widowed haven’t just lost a **loved one**; they’ve lost an *entire lifestyle*. This one-day, two-hour session GriefShare session hopes to offer support, clarity, and peace during this unsettling time.



You will meet people who understand what you are going through in a safe space to talk, be encouraged, and connect. This 2-hour seminar includes a short video featuring expert Christian counselors, authors, and pastors, followed by small-group discussion.

Join St. Mark’s special session, led by Nurse Becky, on **Saturday, April 18** from **1–3 PM** in the **Parish Hall**. The free event includes a video, group discussion, and a Survival Guide. Pre-registration is required at <https://find.griefshare.org/events/290253>

**Offerings for 3/8:** General Fund: **\$4,310.07**; Coffee Fund: \$72; Noisy Offering: \$25