ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

October 26, 2025

Reformation 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

+ **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.

PRELUDE *"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast"* *M. Luther*

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Please* **STAND** *as you are able*

Blessed be the one God - Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit - our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Please **KNEEL***, or* **remain as you are***. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God**, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace, you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins + are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you through the power of the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *Please* **STAND** **"A Mighty Fortress"** **ELW 504**

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE **ELW 204**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Following the prayer, please **SIT.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Sirach 35:12-17

12 Give to the Most High as he has given to you,
and as generously as you can afford.
13 For the Lord is the one who repays,
and he will repay you sevenfold.

[14]Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it;
[15]and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice;
for the Lord is the judge, and with him there is no partiality.
[16]He will not show partiality to the poor;
but he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged.
[17]He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan,
or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

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

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

[19]Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. [20]For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

[21]But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, [22]the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, [23]since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; [24]they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25]whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; [26]it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

[27]Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. [28]For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

ALLELUIA VERSE *The assembly* **STANDS** *to welcome the gospel.*

GOSPEL: Luke 19:1-10

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

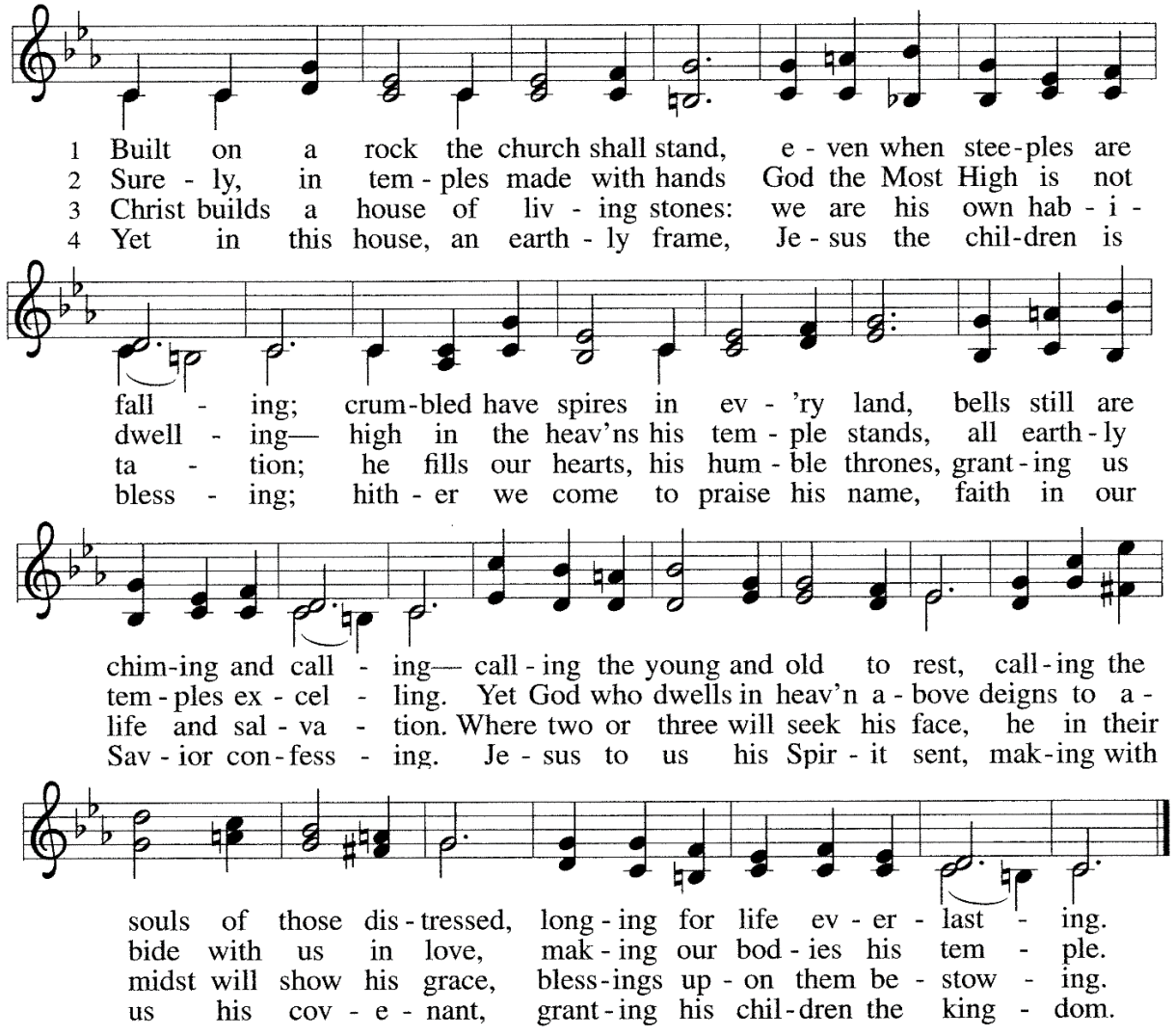
[1][Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through it. [2]A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. [3]He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. [4]So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. [5]When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." [6]So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. [7]All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." [8]Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." [9]Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. [10]For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

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

SERMON *"When Grace Rewrites the Rules"* **The Rev. Brian M. Robison**

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

HYMN OF THE DAY **"Built on a Rock"** **ELW 652**



CREED *tune: Austria*

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 "God of grace," is* **"Hear our prayer"…**

Ken Augustine, **Eleanor** Benton, **Toni** Brendel, **Gary** Dozier, **Evelyn** Duncan, **Art** Engelage, **Wally** Kleist, **Ivan** Kohlmeier, **Bruce** Martens, **Linda** Ness, **Kim** Palmer, **Tina** Partelow, **Marilyn** Robinson, **Cohen** Summers, **Carol** Weshinskey**, Gary** Weshinskey

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.*

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.*

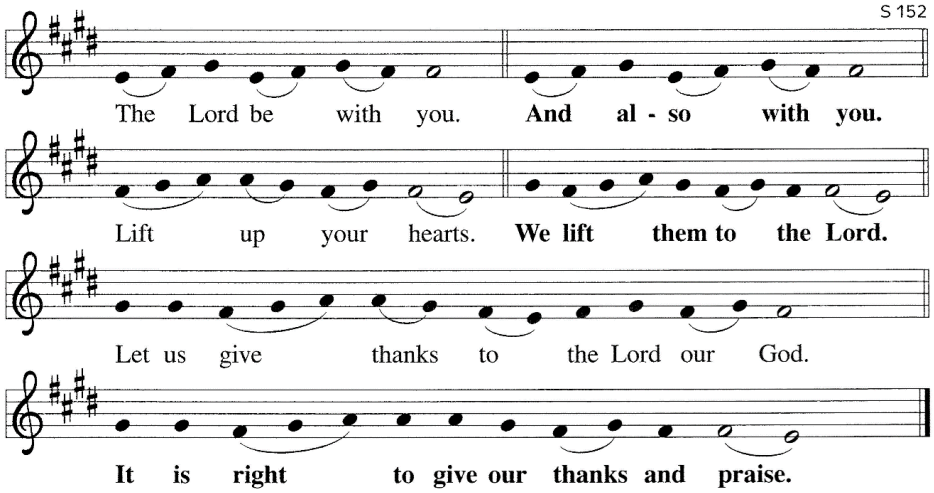
CHOIR ANTHEM *"Great is the Lord"* *Smith*

OFFERING PRAYER *Please* **STAND** *as you are able*

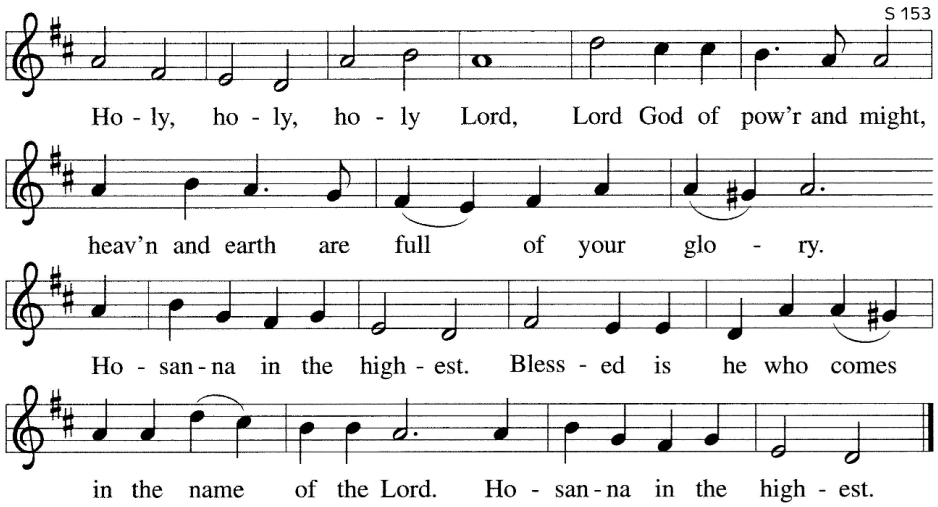
Assistant: Let us pray together…

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you,
who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right…we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *traditional*

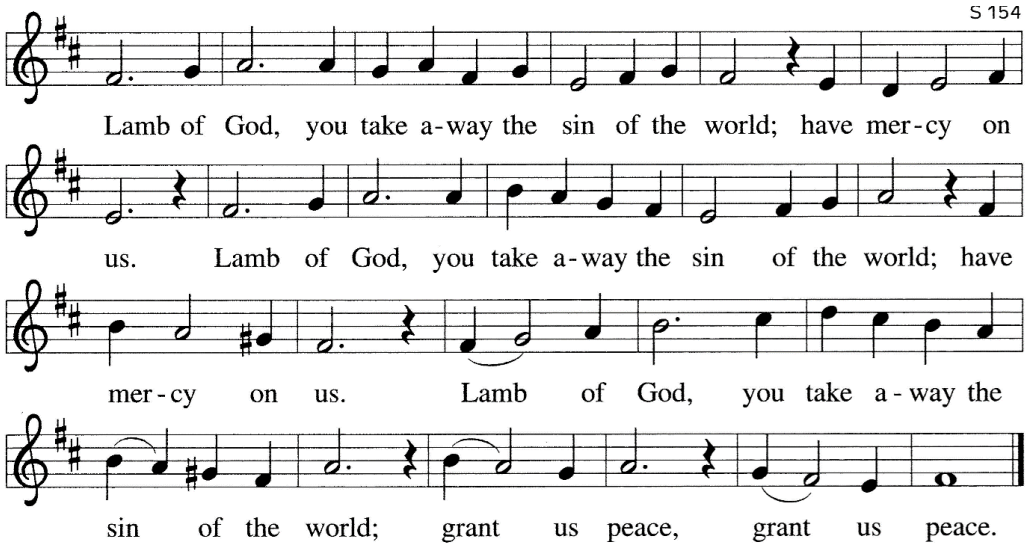
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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, the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

LAMB OF GOD *Please* SIT



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.*

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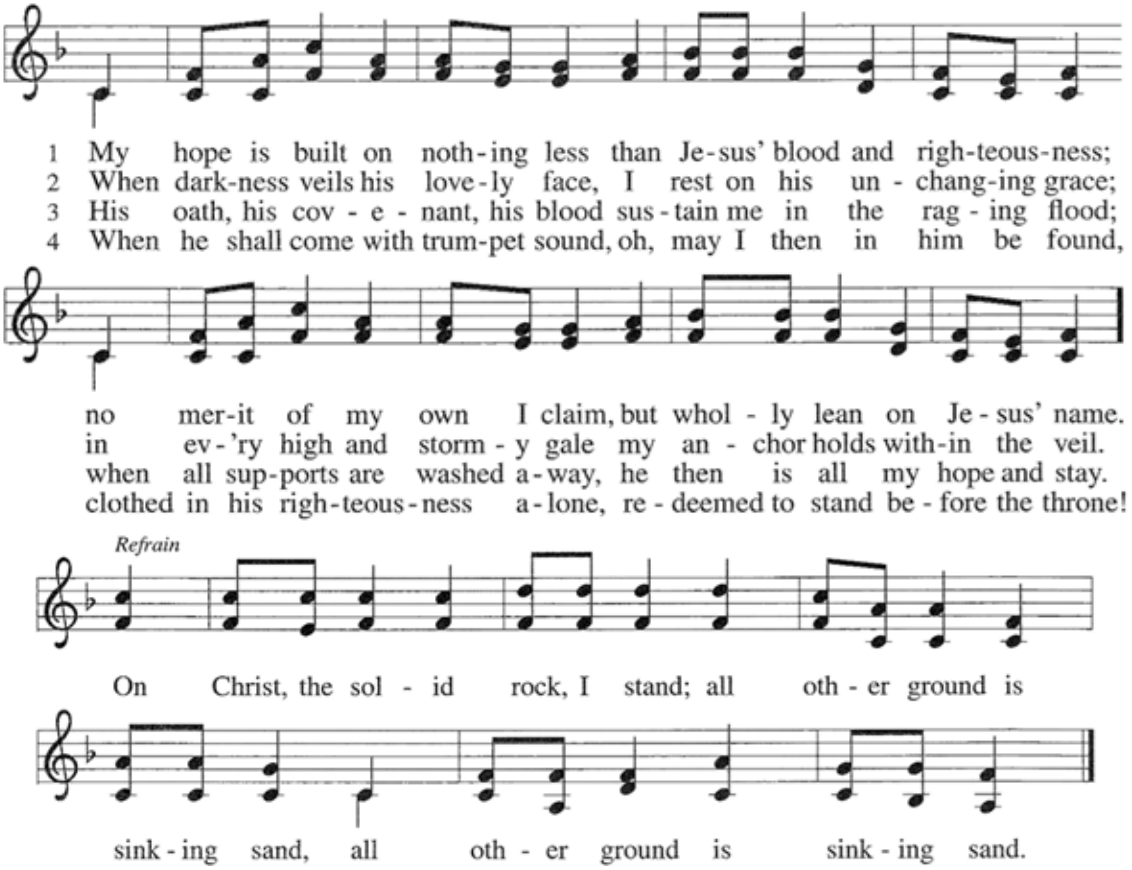
SONGS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION:

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" **ELW 596**

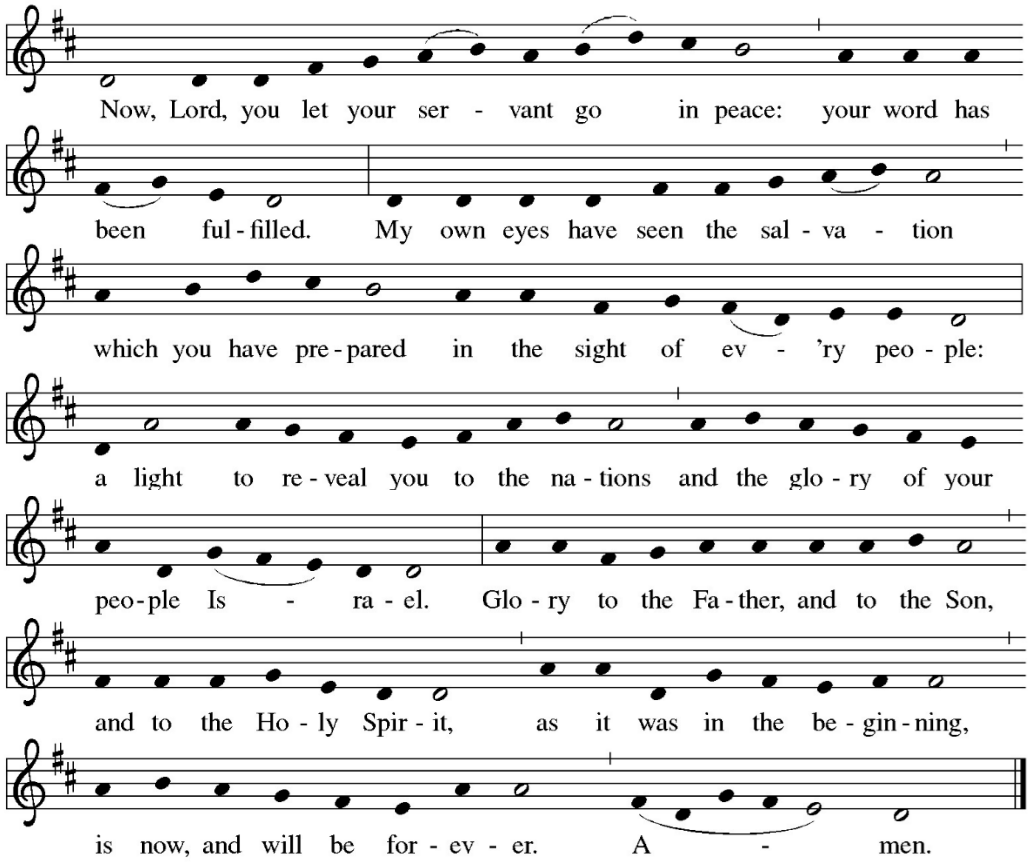


"The Church of Christ in Every Age" **ELW 729**

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.**

CANTICLE AFTER COMMUNION "Now Lord" ELW 201



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Assistant: Let us pray together…
O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our resources with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

BENEDICTION
May the blessed and most holy Trinity –
Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit –
bless you and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN **"The Church's One Foundation"** **ELW 654**

ANNOUNCMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *"Gavotte"* *J.S. Bach*

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister & Crucifer:** Greg Martens
Lector & Tech Minister: Aaron Fuchs + **Chalice Bearer:** Danielle Tribout
+ **Safety Volunteer:** Mark Bearth + **Ushers:** Kathy Casey & Nancy Guenther
Organist: Evelyn Duncan

Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

Ken Augustine, Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Art Engelage, Wally Kleist, Ivan Kohlmeier, Bruce Martens, Linda Ness, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Cohen Summers, Carol and Gary Weshinskey

St. Mark Family and Friends

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

Members and Friends Serving in Our Nation's Military

Taiylar Foppe Merrel, Josh Merrel, Ryan McKenzie

Members who celebrate birthdays this week

Jason Martens (10/26), Gary Weshinskey (10/28), and Curtis Dowty (11/1)

Members who celebrate Wedding Anniversaries this week

Charlie & Evelyn Duncan (10/26)

St. Mark Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Pastor *Emeritus***: The Rev. Ronald C. Neustadt
Administrative Assistant: Randi Cardoza + **Music Director**: Carol Kugler
Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Parish Nurse:** Becky Schnitzius

Mark Times

NEWS and NOTES for October 26, 2025

Monday, October 27:	6:00PM	Pastoral Care committee meeting – *conference room*
	7:00PM	Church Council meeting – *conference room*
Thursday, October 30:		*No Choir Rehearsals*
	6:00PM	Yoga – Parish Hall
Saturday, November 1:	6:00PM	SHINE worship

Adult Forum: *A Storied Address: 318 E. Washington, Belleville*

Be sure to join us this morning for a special treat, with no tricks! We welcome William Shannon, Executive Director of the St. Clair County Historical Society, to present about the history (haunted and otherwise) of the former Lutheran school building now occupied by Papa Vito's restaurant in downtown Belleville. The perfect start to Halloween week!

SHARE THE WARMTH – LAST SUNDAY!

Today is the **last Sunday** for collecting gently worn **coats**, **thermal underwear**, **sweatshirts**, **t-shirts**, **undershirts, socks, hats, mittens, gloves,** and **scarves** for the homeless in our area. **Warming blankets**, **handwarmers** and **new underwear for men and women** are also appreciated! Donations will be distributed to various organizations throughout the project period with donation numbers provided periodically. A collection container is in the Narthex!

Our All Saints Sunday worship service is NEXT Sunday, November 2 at 9:00AM.

Names of deceased loved ones may be entered into our Book of Remembrance, which is now on the St. Mark table in the Narthex. **You are welcome and encouraged to write names of *any* deceased loved ones you wish to remember**. You may also contact the church office (office@stmarkbelleville.org) to add a someone to the list.

All written names will be included in the worship folder, but **only** the names of those **who have died over the past year** will be **read during the service**. Please mark a **star** or an **asterisk** next to the names of loved ones who have died in the last year.

GriefShare: *Surviving the Holidays* Event on November 15

The holiday season can stir difficult emotions, especially after the loss of a loved one. Again this year we are offering the one-day, two-hour session of *Surviving the Holidays* to offer support, encouragement, and practical tools to help you navigate this time with peace and assurance. Join St. Mark's special session, led by Nurse Becky, on **Saturday, November 15** 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 griefshare.org/events/276776

NOTE: Even if you attended this session last year, please consider attending again; grief and loss affect us differently with the passage of time, and you may benefit from another session of *Surviving the Holidays* in ways that you don't anticipate.

Meals on Wheels Needs Help!

The Meals-On-Wheels services provided out of our Parish Hall need more volunteers, particularly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please see Frank Dressel or David Buckley for more details about serving those for whom these meals may be the only substantial meal of the day.

Pumpkin Palooza returns November 16!

On Sunday, November 16, our eagerly anticipated **pumpkin bake sale** between and after all three services is back, with proceeds to **benefit our combined Food Pantry**. Bake a fall treat and bring before services on November 16!

Boy Scout Food Drive 11/22

This year's Boy Scout Food Drive will take place on **Saturday, November 22**. We need **volunteers** to help **sort food** in the **Parish Hall** for a couple of hours starting at about **10:30AM.**

From the Parish Nurse: Healthy Habits That Protect Breast Health

While not all risks can be eliminated, daily choices can make a difference for breast health. Small, consistent habits are powerful.

Here are steps that promote lower risk:

- Exercise regularly (150 minutes moderate or 75 vigorous weekly)
- Maintain a healthy weight, especially after menopause
- Limit alcohol to one drink per day or less
- Eat a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and lean proteins
- Avoid smoking
- Breastfeed if possible
- Limit hormone replacement therapy, exploring non-hormonal options with your doctor

Knowing your personal health history is just as important. If breast cancer runs in your family, consider genetic testing or enhanced screening. In high-risk cases, some people explore preventive medications or surgery—decisions best made with a healthcare provider.

Above all, follow mammogram recommendations. Early detection is the strongest defense.

A diagnosis does not have to mean the end of health or hope. With screenings, lifestyle changes, and treatment, many people live long and fulfilling lives after breast cancer. Prevention and vigilance empower you to take control.

Offerings (10/19): General Fund: $2,576.81; Food Pantry: $5; John Andersen Memorials: $449