

MARK TIMES

NEWS & NOTES FOR MARCH 1, 2026

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, March 2:	2:30PM	Fiber Arts – Westfield Manor
	6:30PM	Yoga – Parish Hall
Wednesday, March 4:	10:30AM	Joint Use taskforce
	6:00PM	Soup supper – Parish Hall
	7:00PM	Lent Evening Prayer - church
Thursday, March 5:	4:00PM	Chancel choir
	5:45PM	Bell Choir
Saturday, March 7:	6:00PM	SHINE worship - chapel

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’ll 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.



Epiphany Diaper Collection January 2026

THANK YOU to those who contributed diapers/pull-ups, training pants, diaper wipes, diaper cream and monetary donations. A Thrivent Action Team Grant for \$250 was also received. Target’s special offers provided an additional \$120 in gift cards which were used to purchase more of the needed items.

Diapers were delivered to St. Mark/St. George Food Pantry, Violence Prevention Center (x2) and Pregnancy Care Center (x2) (Unfortunately, Fontabella Maternity Home has closed). Additional pictures are on the Parish Hall bulletin board.



Noisy/Not so Noisy Change Collection Next Sunday

Lent is a perfect time to dig through your couch, car seats, purse and all the other places coins tend to hide! Many Franklin School students still owe past book fees totaling ~\$1600, and we can help! **Collection will be taken NEXT Sunday, March 8** during worship. The Change bucket will also be available on March 15 before and after service. Electronic donation may be made to https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR?access=tile_direct.

Christ Community Trivia Night Fundraiser!

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!** 10 awesome kids are going on this trip so far!

+ Cost is **\$15 per person**, or **\$110 for a table of 8**

+ Bring your own food and snacks. Drinks will be available for purchase including mocktails, soda, and water.

+ Costume and Table Decorating Contests - dress up as your favorite Board Game and/or create cool matching table decor. Time to GET CREATIVE!!

+ Generic trivia categories - there will be something for everyone!

+ Childcare available

+ Raffle baskets and 50/50

Let **Melanie know if you are planning to join, and she will sign up all the tables at once. Checks can be written to **St. Mark Youth**.



Bunny Bazaar Coming March 22!

On **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!

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!

Ladies Lunch Bunch

For February’s gathering, the LLB will meet **Wednesday, March 11** at **12 noon** at **Fazzi’s** (1813 Vandalia Dr./Route 159, Collinsville). **Call Carol Kugler at 618-571-3079** with questions or to reserve a spot.



St. Mark Offerings for 2/22: General Fund: **\$3,652.11**; Food Pantry: \$101; Fiber Arts: \$101; Muller Landscaping: \$101; Grounds/Property Maintenance: \$101