

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

January 18,
2026



The Second
Sunday after
Epiphany

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 worshipping 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

“Andante Cantabile: the Swan”

St. Saens

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Please STAND as you are able*

Blessed be the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit - the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the One who knows us completely.

Please KNEEL or remain as you are

**Mighty God, you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and † forgives your sin in Jesus’ name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“Arise, Your Light Has Come”

ELW 314



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

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

Assisting minister

S 139



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Following the prayer, please SIT.

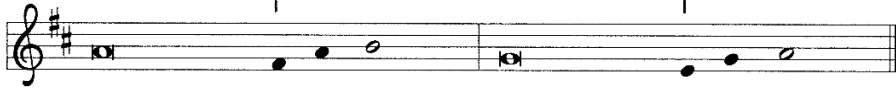
WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

- ¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born;
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
- ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
- ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
- ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord
and my reward with my God."
- ⁵ And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
- ⁶ he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
- ⁷ Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
"Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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

PSALM 40:1, 3-4, 9-11 *chanted responsively between choir and congregation*



¹I waited patiently up- | on the Lord,

who stooped to me and | heard my cry.

³**The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise | to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust | in the Lord.**

⁴Happy are they who trust | in the Lord!

They do not turn to enemies or to those who | follow lies.

⁹**I proclaimed righteousness in the | great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O | Lord, you know.**

¹⁰I have spoken of your faithfulness and | your deliverance;

I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the | great assembly.

¹¹**You are the Lord; do not withhold your compas- | sion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually | keep me safe.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

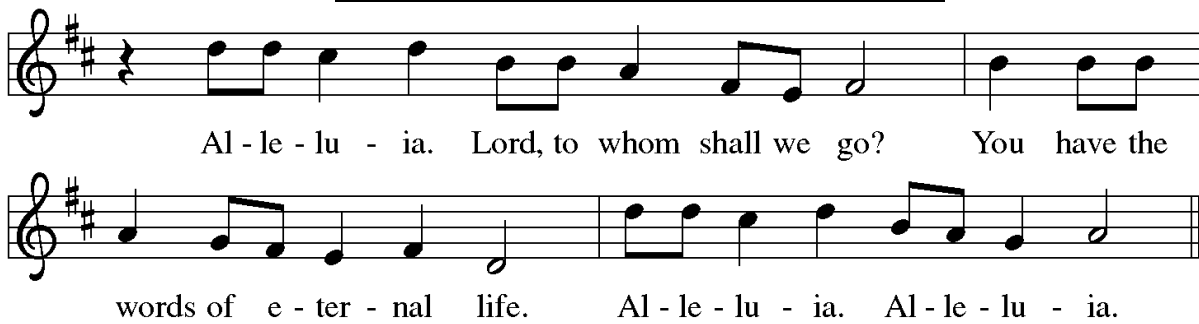
¹This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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 1:29-42

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

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

SERMON

“The Drum Major Instinct”

The Rev. Brian M. Robison

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



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me":
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,

God's only Son, our Lord.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

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, **Charlie** Duncan, **Evelyn** Duncan,
Art Engelage, **Michael** Foppe, **Morris** Kugler, **Bruce** 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 “*The Star Still Shines*” *Sterling & Greer 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...

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard

what you have prepared for those who love you,

yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.

Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near,

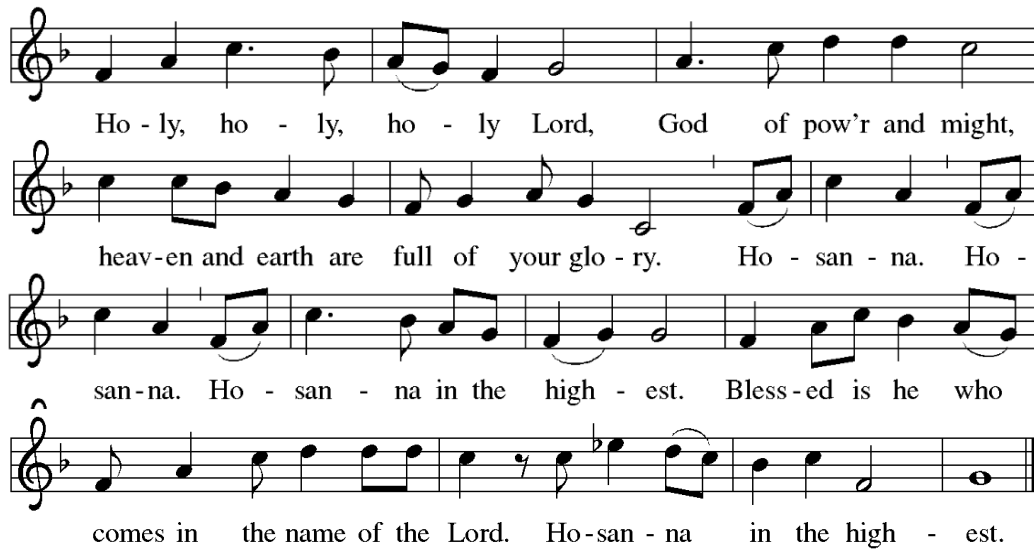
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *traditional*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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;

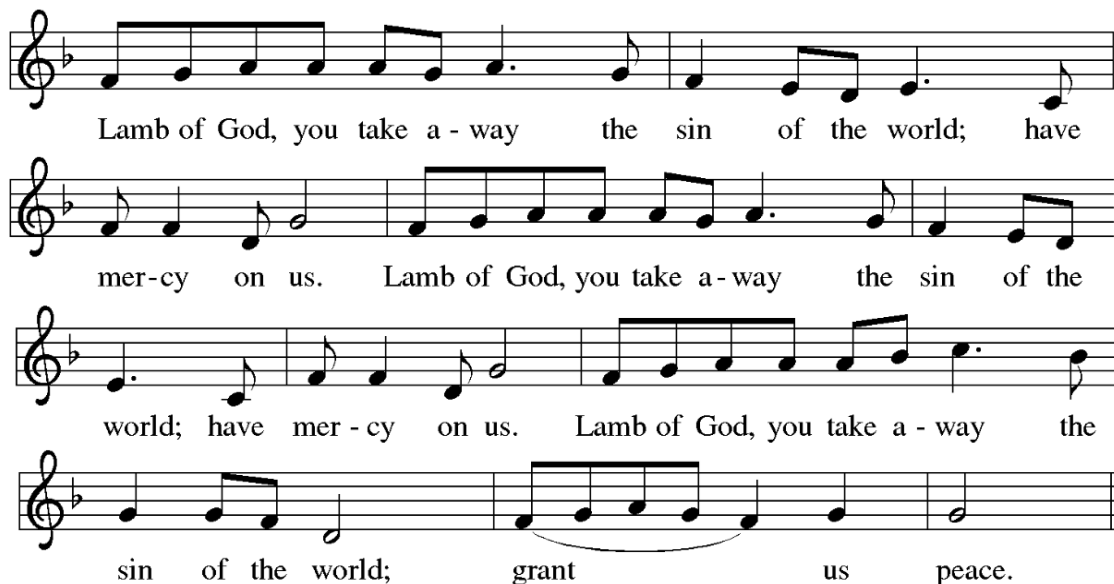
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

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.*

SONGS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION:

“Jesus Come! For We Invite You”

ELW 312

Tune: Angels from the Realms of Glory

1. Jesus, come! for we invite you,
Guest and master, friend and Lord;
Now as once at Cana's wedding,
Speak, and let u-s hear your word:
Lead us through our need or doubting,
Hope be born and joy restored. ↓

3. Jesus, come! in new creation,
Heav'n brought near in pow'r divine;
Give your unexpected glory
Changing wate-r into wine:
Rouse the faith of your disciples —
Come, our first and greatest Sign!

2. Jesus, come! transform our pleasures,
Guide us into paths unknown;
Bring your gifts, command your servants,
Let us trust i-n you alone:
Though your hand may work in secret,
All shall see what you have done.

4. Jesus, come! surprise our dullness,
Make us willing to receive
More than we can yet imagine,
All the best yo-u have to give:
Let us find your hidden riches,
Taste your love, believe, and live!

“Lamb of God”

ELW 336



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and

Refrain

sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.

God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me
 in your pre-cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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... **Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May the triune God - who has given you a new song and tuned your heart for praise - bless you Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“We are Marching in the Light”

ELW 866

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Perpetual Motion”

Von Weber

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Greg Martens
Lector: Curtis Dowty + **Crucifer:** Keith Kniepkamp + **Tech Minister:** Melanie Robison
Chalice Bearer: Mike Murakami + **Safety Volunteer:** Frank Dressel
Ushers: Danielle Tribout & Curt Gansmann + **Organist:** Carol Kugler

The Star Still Shines by Cindy Sterling and Tommy Greer

Night, one distant heaven's angels appeared in Bethlehem: What a sight this holy night!
Gone, the stable's gone and the manger that held the baby King 'til the dawn now is gone.

But the star still shines in the night, the star still burns just as bright;

The star still beams down from heaven with a holy light.

Ooo 'til we follow the single ray of hope: Heaven's Star in the dark.

Here, His love is here, and it shines in our hearts like a beacon; Strong and clear, God is here!

And the Star still shines in the night, the Star still burns just as bright;

The star still beams down from heaven, the Star still beams down from heaven.

The Star still shines in the night, the Star still shines,

The Star still shines in the night! The Star still shines!

Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

Ken Augustine, Eleanor Benton, Robbie Buck, Gary Dozier, Charlie Duncan, Evelyn Duncan,
Art Engelage, Michael Foppe, Morris Kugler, Bruce Martens, Lucy Montgomery, Tina Partelow,
Marilyn Robinson, Cohen Summers, Carol and Gary Weshinsky

St. Mark Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Bert Alvarez, Stellamarie Bearth, Bonnie Baete, John Belz, Thomas Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam,
Patty Brennecke, Susan Carson, Christine, Jody Cosson, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis, Mike Ellison,
Katrina Fenner, Josh Gansmann, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert,
TC Groennert, Andrea Hendrix, Jamie House, Glenda Jacquot, 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, Larry Powers, Goldie Rideout, Darrell Robinson, Shirley Saia,
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

Ethan Collins, Taiylar Foppe Merrel, Josh Merrel, Ryan McKenzie, Amy Morgan

Members who celebrate birthdays this week

Rex Rothgangel (1/18), Julie Valerius (1/23), and Laurie Geppert (1/24)

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 January 18, 2026

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, January 19:

Office closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

2:30PM Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor

6:00PM Pastoral Care committee – conference room

7:00PM Church Council – conference room

Thursday, January 22:

4:15PM Chancel choir

6:00PM Bell Choir

6:00PM Yoga – Parish Hall

Installation of Church Council

New and ongoing members of the Church Council will be installed during worship during this morning's worship.

Adult Forum: *Why are Pagan River Gods in Scenes of Jesus' Baptism??*

Among the expected figures in images of Jesus' baptism are the Lord himself, John the Baptist, a dove, and sometimes angels and/or lookers-on. But beginning in the late fifth or early sixth century C.E. and continuing to modern times, another figure turns up in scenes of baptism: a classical male river deity, either sitting on the side watching the action, or partially submerged in the river itself. What is the purpose of this uninvited guest, and why did artists feel the need to include him? We'll discuss this and more in this morning's adult forum with Pastor Brian.



Diaper Drive for Epiphany!



As the Wise Men brought gifts to the baby Jesus, we will celebrate **Epiphany** with a **Diaper Drive** for little ones in need in our community.

Our Epiphany Diaper Drive runs through TODAY, January 18. Items collected will be donated to The Pregnancy Care Center of Belleville, Fontabella Maternity Home in O'Fallon and other local organizations.

Diapers sizes 3 through 7, and pullups sizes 2T through 6T, and disposable pants sizes 2T through 6T and 3T are most needed. Open packages will be accepted. **Unopened packages of diaper wipes and diaper rash cream are also welcome.**

Realizing diapers are expensive, members are encouraged to join together on purchases or give monetary donations to Sherri Foppe or Ann Martens. Donations may also be made electronically at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR?access=tile> **direct** through January 18.

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/Narcan** 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 following 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.

Let it Shine!

THANKS to those involved in getting the Parish Hall floor buffed and waxed – the difference is amazing, and it's so nice to see it SHINE!



50th Anniversary Committee

As most folks know, St. Mark Lutheran Church celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2026. 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!!

St. Mark Offerings for 1/11: General Fund: **\$7,301**; Epiphany Diaper Drive: \$195.99;
Toni Brendel Memorials: \$100;