



MARK TIMES

October 1, 2017 + Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



Celebrating 40 Years in God's Grace + Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future

From your Pastor...

It's been a couple of weeks now since the verdict in the Jason Stockley case sparked numerous protests in the St. Louis area. Peaceful protests during the day went on generally unimpeded by police (including one in Belleville last Sunday), while after-dark activities were marred by individuals bent on vandalism, violence, and general mayhem, which resulted in escalation of police action. Businesses were shut down and concerts were cancelled.

Some have asked, "What are the protestors trying to accomplish?" I think the simple answer is, "awareness" and "change." The protests are about more than a single verdict; they're about People of Color still being treated differently in this country than "whites." People of Color are given the "benefit of the doubt" far less than whites. In many ways this is seen as a new Civil Rights Movement, albeit without the unifying presence of a Martin Luther King, Jr.

Many members of our congregations remember the 1960's very well; are the methods used today to

bring awareness and hope for change really all *that* different from 50 years ago? Violence and property damage is certainly uncalled for, but what about **inconvenience**? Consider this from Valerie Cooper, professor of religion at Duke Divinity School: "There's never an appropriate venue for a protest. When civil rights activists tried to desegregate a lunch counter, people could say 'don't interrupt my lunch.' If you're desegregating a school, it's 'Why must you interrupt education?' Protest is never convenient... The real question is, when is it time for justice? If it is really justice we seek, it's always the right time."

The legacy of the 1960's beckons us, at the very least, to **listen**.

Pastor Brian

Trivia Night on October 21!



St. Mark hosts a "This is Most Certainly Trivia Night" on **Saturday, October 21** at 6:00PM in the Parish Hall as part of our local Reformation celebrations. Tickets are **\$15 each**. Proceeds will benefit Lutheran Disaster Response. Email stmarktrivianight@gmail.com for reservations.

Blessing of the Animals Next Sunday!

Join us **NEXT SUNDAY, October 8** at 5:00PM in the upstairs courtyard for a special **SHINE** worship service with a



"Blessing of the Animals" in gratitude to God and in respect and affection for our animal friends. Invite your human friends and **bring your animal friends to be blessed**. Dogs & cats, birds & reptiles, fish & hamsters, even stuffed animals – any creatures who share their lives with you are welcome!

FROGs Sunday School Bonfire



Everyone is invited to the Monfre's **THIS Friday, October 6 at 5pm**, for the FROGs Sunday School bonfire! We plan to have a fire pit to **roast hotdogs and make s'mores**. FROGs will provide meat and drinks. Please bring a side dish to share. We plan to sing, tell "Holy Ghost" stories, play flashlight tag, and enjoy other activities! Don Muller's sister and brother-in-law are coming at 6:30 to set up astronomy equipment and tell us a bit about the stars and planets! Please **RSVP to Kara by September 30**, so we can plan for space. Hope to see you all there!

Belleville's **Chili Cook-Off** begins **THIS Friday, October 6**. St. George's continues their tradition of making "**Dragon's Breath**" **white chicken chili**. A sign-up poster is in the Parish Hall for anyone who wants to help! Proceeds benefit the **Franklin Neighborhood Community Association**.



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday	2:00PM	Fiber Arts @ Westfield Place
Thursday	7:00PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	8:00PM	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, 10/6		Chili Cook-Off— Downtown Belleville
	5:00PM	FROGS Sunday School Bonfire
Sunday, 10/8	9:00AM	The Divine Liturgy
	10:20AM	Coffee Hour
	10:30AM	Sunday School
	10:30AM	Adult Forum: <i>We Must Plant the Church, Part 2: In Times of Trial: Arriving in Waves</i>
	5:00PM	SHINE Worship w/ Pet Blessing

Offerings for September 24, 2017

Sunday worship attendance:	71
General Fund Donations	\$3,624
ELCA Disaster Response	\$50

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
9/3-9/9	\$2,859	\$23.27	\$2,835.73
9/10-9/16	\$3,259	\$810.84	\$2,448.16
9/17-9/23	\$2,233	\$2,711.59	-\$478.59
9/24-9/30	\$3,624	\$7,943.96	-\$4,319.96
YTD	\$118,213.20	\$124,798.13	-\$6,584.93

Pumpkin-Palooza!

The St. Mark/St. George's Food Pantry has a large patch of **unclaimed canned pumpkin**. The Pantry would like folks to **take a few cans, bake something delicious with it, and return the baked item(s) to church for a BAKE SALE on Sunday, November 12**. Proceeds will benefit the Pantry. Your imagination is the limit! Cans are available for the taking under the bulletin boards in the Parish Hall.

**LOOKING
AHEAD****Sunday, October 8, 2017****READINGS:**

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

WORSHIP SERVERS

Presider: The Rev. Brian M. Robison
Preacher: Seminarian Brian Moeller
Assisting Minister: Greg Martens
Acolyte: Braden Valerius
Crucifer: Keith Kniepkamp
Chalice Bearer: Barb Wurdinger
Lector: Jim Montgomery
Ushers: TBD & Jim Montgomery

Sack Lunches for Franklin School

This **Thursday, October 5** we meet in the **Parish Hall** to make sandwiches and pack lunch bags for 12 needy Franklin School students to cover the long Columbus Day weekend. All of the food & materials will be ready and waiting in the church kitchen. A sign-up sheet is on the counter in the **Parish Hall** by the coffee stand to cover the holiday weekends through Christmas. Thank you!

"Music of the Reformation" Concert

The Lutheran School of Theology presents a concert of Reformation music performed by **The Bach Society of St. Louis** on **Sunday, October 29** at 3:00PM at **First Presbyterian Church** (100 E. Adams Ave, near the Magic House) in Kirkwood, MO. Tickets are: \$25 (Balcony), \$35 (Rows 13-26), and \$45 (Rows 1-11). **Purchase tickets by October 8**. See Greg Martens to order tickets or for more info call 235-7762.

Choirs, Choirs, Choirs

Yes, it's that time of year to join CHOIRS! The Bell choir will rehearse on Thursdays at 7:00PM followed by Adult Choir at 8:00PM. *New singers are welcome!*



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