



# MARK TIMES

October 22, 2017 + Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



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

From your Pastor...

There was a very small article tucked near the back of the main section of last Sunday's *Belleville News-Democrat* that caught my eye. It said that some 6,600-plus inmates of **Texas prisons** collectively contributed **over \$53,000** for **Hurricane Harvey** relief in *one month*. The contribution was sent to the American Red Cross.



And this wasn't the first time: after **Hurricane Katrina** in **2005**, Texas inmates donated over **\$40,000**, according to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Facebook page.

I found this *striking*. Prison inmates receive a meager stipend each month to use however they wish, be it for saving, sending to family members, or using at the prison commissary for small niceties not provided for them.

It's incredibly touching to think that in a situation in which they have lost their very freedom, so many were willing to give up even the smallest of comforts for people in need.

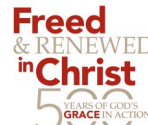
For many of us, it's easy to have a "lock 'em up and throw away the key," "out of sight, out of mind" kind of attitude about prisoners. So we can use a reminder every now and then that **prison inmates are beloved children of God too** – people with families and hopes for the future. People who have made mistakes, yes, but who still **can** and **do** show sympathy for others who are in need, and act in whatever small way they can to relieve that need.

**Lutheran Social Services of Illinois** has an excellent "**Returning Citizens**" program intended to help newly-released inmates reintegrate to society. The recidivism rate (the number of those citizens who end up back in prison) of those who complete LSSI's program is astonishingly low. A lot of people are in need of donations right now, but if you have a place in your heart to do so, I assure you that donations to this LSSI program is money well-used.

*Pastor Brian*

Reformation Sunday Services

**NEXT Sunday, October 29** is **Reformation Sunday**, and in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, there are **two special services** in addition to our regular 9AM service: **4PM** at **Faith-O'Fallon** (Metro-East ELCA); **7PM** at the **St. Louis Cathedral Basilica** (joint Lutheran/Catholic). Please check with Pastor Brian or in next Sunday's Mark Times for more information on either service. *\*We did not have enough people to make a bus to the St. Louis service a financially viable option, and so we will arrange for carpools.*



**BREAKING NEWS:** Rumor has it that **MARTIN LUTHER** himself will make an **appearance** during our 9:00AM service next Sunday for an interview with Pastor Brian during the sermon time. Don't miss it!!!



From Fiber Arts...

**TODAY, Sunday, October 22** is your **chance to find a unique gift** for someone special (*even if it's you!*). **Fiber Arts will have a few items for sale during the coffee hour** for those who are interested. Prices are all whatever you want to donate. Hope to see you downstairs after worship!



Sack Lunches for Franklin School

A **sign-up sheet** is on the counter in the **Parish Hall** by the coffee stand to **make sandwiches** and **pack lunch bags** for **12 needy Franklin School students**. With **3 weekend lunches** for Franklin School in **November**, we also need **donations of protein items** such as individual servings of mac 'n cheese; chicken salad and crackers; cheese and crackers; peanut butter and crackers; Slim Jims, etc. **There are 12 children, so 12 of anything helps us greatly.** All of the food & materials will be ready and waiting in the church kitchen.



**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Monday	6:00PM	Pastoral Care Committee
	7:00PM	Church Council
Thursday	7:00PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	8:00PM	Choir Rehearsal
Friday		<i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>
Saturday		Renaissance Faire at St. Martin of Tours Lutheran Church, Mascoutah
<b>Sunday, 10/29</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>The Divine Liturgy for Reformation Sunday</b>
	10:20AM	Coffee Hour
	10:30AM	Sunday School
	10:30AM	Adult Forum: <i>We Must Plant the Church, Part 5: In Modern Times: Becoming an American Church</i>
	4:00PM	<b>Metro-East Reformation 500 service at Faith Lutheran of O'Fallon</b>
	7:00PM	<b>Lutheran/Catholic Prayer Service at the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica</b>

Offerings for October 15, 2017

<b>Sunday worship attendance:</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>General Fund Donations</b>	<b>\$1,869</b>
<b>Food Pantry</b>	<b>\$25</b>

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
10/1-10/7	\$2,044	\$112.95	\$1,931.05
10/8-10/14	\$2,699	\$4,229.02	-\$1,530.02
10/15-10/21	\$1,869	\$5,547.74	-\$3,678.74
YTD	\$124,825.20	\$134,687.84	-\$9,862.64

Sunday, October 29, 2017

**READINGS:**

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
 Psalm 46  
 Romans 3:19-28  
 John 8:31-36

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**WORSHIP SERVERS**

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Brian M. Robison  
**Assisting Minister:** Brian Moeller  
**Acolyte:** Grace Moeller  
**Crucifer:** Frank Dressel  
**Chalice Bearer:** TBD  
**Lector:** Charlie Duncan  
**Ushers:** Don Muller & Nancy Guenther

**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 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 in the Welcome Area.



**All Saints Sunday**

Our All Saints worship service will take place **Sunday, November 5** at 9:00AM.



Names of deceased loved ones may be entered into our Book of Remembrance, on the St. Mark table in the Welcome Area. **You are welcome and encouraged to write names of any deceased loved ones you wish to remember.**

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, with a single toll of a bell after each name. Please mark a **star** or an **asterisk** next to the names to indicate a loved one who has died in the last year.

**Next Saturday, October 28, St. Martin of Tours Lutheran Church in Mascoutah will host a Renaissance Faire on their grounds from 12noon to 5pm, with a Polka Mass in the church at 5PM.**

105 East "D" Street, Belleville, IL 62220  
 Office: 618.233.9809 Fax: 618.233.4090  
 Pastor Brian's cell phone: 314.363.6784

Email: office@stmarkbelleville.org  
 pastor@stmarkbelleville.org  
 Website: stmarkbelleville.org