



MARK TIMES

September 10, 2017 + Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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

From your Pastor...

After our "Sole Hope" shoe cutting party for "God's Work. Our Hands." today, members of our **Star Trek ministry group** will head out to the **O'Fallon 15** cinema for a viewing of **Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan**. The film is being re-released for its 35th anniversary.



When we meet for our quarterly "Star Trek Saturday" gatherings, we watch an episode and talk about the theological implications of themes within it. *Star Trek II* has one of the most clearly "Christian" themes in all of the *Trek* canon: (Spoiler alert!) Mr. Spock sacrifices himself to save his friends on the *Enterprise*, but it is an act that results in his death. He does so quoting his reasoning as such: **"The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one."**

While highly logical, this is also the key component of **agape self-sacrificing love**. The love through which Christ gave up everything for the sake of all humanity.

This the love to which all Christians are called. To give of ourselves—our time, talents, and treasures—for the sake of others in need. It's why we **donate to help victims of Hurricane Harvey**; why we gathered yesterday to **pack meals to be sent to Honduras**; It's why we meet today to begin the process of **making shoes for children** without any. And we do so because as Christians, following the lead of Jesus himself, we believe that "the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one." 'Tis indeed the **logical** and the **loving** thing to do.

Pastor Brian

St. Mark Table Talk starts Wednesday!

The first meeting of our relaunched weekday Bible class is **THIS Wednesday, September 13** at **11:30AM** in the conference room. Bring something for lunch and enjoy a lesson and discussion for about an hour. Topic: **"A Time to Laugh:" Humor in the Bible.**

Rally Day/"God's Work. Our Hands." Day

TODAY our Sunday School staff and Evangelism/Social Ministry committee will host a light **breakfast** after our 9AM worship. Come **greet our teachers & helpers**, see our **new curriculum**, have a bite to **eat**, and **stay to cut out & assemble parts** for our "Sole Hope" shoe cutting party, sponsored by Thrivent.



To help with the shoe project, we are **collecting coins** that will be sent to Uganda to help pay tailors and cobblers to craft the shoes to be given to children who often get chiggers, sores, and infections in their feet. Sole Hope asks for **\$10** to be sent for **each pair** of shoes cut out. Change will be collected today, and other donations can be made.

Church Picnic Next Sunday!

Join us for our church picnic **NEXT Sunday, September 17** from **Noon to 4:00PM** at **Schranz Memorial Park** (360 Honeysuckle Lane) in Swansea. The event will again be "picnic style," so **bring only enough food for you & your family. Drinks (lemonade & water) and dessert will be provided!** Picnic tables will be available, but you might want to bring **lawn chairs**. In addition to the great playground, a variety of outdoor and table games will be available – feel free to bring one to share if you'd like!



ELCA Youth Gathering parent planning meeting on Friday, September 22 at 6:00PM in the conference room!

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 always welcome!*

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Wednesday	11:30AM	St. Mark "Table Talk" – conference room
Thursday	7:00PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	8:00PM	Choir Rehearsal
Friday		Pastor's Sabbath
Sunday, 9/17	9:00AM	The Divine Liturgy
	10:20AM	Coffee Hour
	12:00PM	Church Picnic @ Schranz Park

Offerings for September 3, 2017

SHINE worship attendance:	24
Sunday worship attendance:	60
General Fund Donations	\$2,859
School Supply Drive	\$20
Darrell W. Memorial Gen. Fund	\$25
Lutheran Disaster Response	\$100

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
9/3-9/9	\$2,859	\$23.27	\$2,835.73
YTD	\$109,097.20	\$113,331.74	-\$4,234.54

Food Pantry Needs...

The food pantry spotlight item for September is **spaghetti sauce**. We get a lot of donations of pasta, so let's add something to spice it up! You can bring donated items to the church Welcome Area on Sundays or the office during the day. Thank you!



FROGs Sunday School Campout

Everyone is invited to the Monfre's on **Friday, October 6 at 5pm**, for the FROGs Sunday School campout! 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! Everyone who wants to stay the night, please bring either a tent or camper, flashlights, sleeping bags and pillows! Please **RSVP by September 30**, so we can plan for space. Hope to see you all there!



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Sunday, September 17, 2017

LOOKING AHEAD

READINGS:

Genesis 50:15-21
 Psalm 103:[1-7], 8-13
 Romans 14:1-12
 Matthew 18:21-35

WORSHIP SERVERS

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison
Assisting Minister: Greg Guenther
Acolyte: Jackie Lynch
Crucifer: Rex Rothgangel
Chalice Bearer: Tom Partelow
Lector: Charlie Duncan
Ushers: Frank Dressel & Jason Martens

Pre-Gathering Event

The first Metro-STL Youth Coalition pre-Gathering event is **Sunday, September 24 at 5:00PM** at Good Shepherd-Manchester. Meet at Pastor's house to carpool. **Bring \$10**. All high schoolers are welcome, even if you're not going to the Gathering next year in Houston. RSVP to Melanie!

Sack Lunches for Franklin School

The Evangelism/Social Ministry committee needs volunteers to **make sandwiches and pack lunch bags** for 12 **needy Franklin School students** to cover **long holiday weekends**. All of the food & materials will be ready and waiting in the church kitchen. There is a **sign-up sheet** on the counter in the **Parish Hall** by the coffee stand for the first six holiday weekends through Christmas. Stay tuned to the *Mark Times* for requests for food donations and other ways to contribute. Thank you!

Randi's Office Hours

Mondays: 10AM-2PM; Tuesdays: 8AM-12PM;
 Wednesdays: 12:15-4:15PM; Thursdays: 7:30-11:30AM; and Fridays: 12:15-4:15PM.

*Henry Evans of St. George's is generally in the office from 9AM-3PM, Monday-Friday if you need to drop something off.

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