



MARK TIMES

January 7, 2018 + The Feast of the Epiphany



From Your Parish Nurse...

I would like to share with you a few things I observed during the time of my mom's death and funeral.



My mom had been in failing health for some time. We knew that she wouldn't live forever, but the end came quicker than expected. I was with mom when she passed. Mom usually told people, "this is my daughter, the nurse." I found it very hard to separate being "nurse" from "daughter." The only thing I have been longer than a nurse is a daughter and sister. I used my nursing skills to advocate for my mom in her final hours. I knew that she needed to be comfortable to pass. I asked the staff to contact the hospice staff for additional medicine. My family couldn't believe it when I called them after her death. They all commented they would have stayed had they known she would go so quickly. I have heard this often as a nurse; only God knows the time.

My parents did not believe in funeral preplanning: Mom was somewhat superstitious, and also believed in not paying for something before you were going to use it. She often told us to pay our taxes on the due date; why let someone else earn interest on your money! At the time of one of my grandparent's

deaths, Dad took us into the casket room (some may remember when you looked at an actual casket not a book or piece of wood) and told us that someday we would need to do this.

As we gathered as a family to start the planning of the funeral and service, we worked together to plan. My parents raised their children with fairness. No one was treated differently from the other. We treated their funeral in the same way. What we did for dad, we did for mom.

As we finished with the details, one of my sisters made the comment that my parents knew what they were doing. This would make us work as a team. My sisters, brother and I get along well. We often get together as a group and I see no reason this will stop. Our children are sometimes more like sisters and brothers than cousins.

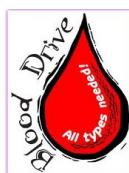
I know that I am fortunate that we get along as well as we do; this doesn't happen in every family. It is a tribute to my parents and the great job they did in raising their family.

Thank you for allowing me to share a little bit of myself with you. As we begin the New Year, I wish good health to all! *-June Benedick, RN*

PLEASE come and help us UNDECORATE THE CHURCH today (January 7) at 11:30AM!

Blood Drive

St. George's is hosting a Blood Drive TODAY, January 7, from 9:00AM-1:00PM in the parish hall. Please donate and give a gift that cannot be bought.



St. Mark Table Talk

Bring a lunch and join us in the conference room at 11:30AM **THIS Wednesday, January 10** for our monthly Bible study. This month's topic is *Singing our Praises: Extolling God with Words & Music*, led by Henry Evans.

Trivia Night 2018!

Lutheran Campus Ministry in St. Louis is hosting its annual TRIVIA NIGHT on **Saturday, February 3, 2018**. We need you for our biggest fundraiser of the year! The cost is \$20/person with teams of eight. Register in advance at www.lcmstl.org/trivia or by calling **314.863.8140**. The doors open at 5:45pm and play begins at 6:30pm. (Bethel Lutheran Church, 7001 Forsyth Blvd). *Can't make it to trivia, but still want to help out? Contact us about donating prizes or using a Thrivent Action Grant for our event!*



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday	2:00PM	Fiber Arts @Westfield
Thursday	7:00PM	Bell Choir rehearsal
	8:00PM	Choir rehearsal
Wednesday	11:30AM	St. Mark Table Talk: <i>Singing Our Faith: Extolling God with Words & Music</i> , led by Henry Evans
Friday		<i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>
Sunday, 1/14	9:00AM	The Divine Liturgy
	10:20AM	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30AM	Adult Forum: <i>Steve Clement, Copper Bend Pharmacy</i>
	10:30AM	Sunday School

Offerings for December 31, 2017	
Sunday worship attendance:	38
General Fund Donations	\$2,406
Anita Shafer Memorials	\$270
Fiber Arts	\$20
Christmas Flowers	\$40

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
12/31	\$2,406	N/A	N/A
2017 Totals	\$162,309.70	\$179,132.59	-\$16,822.89
1/1-1/6	N/A	\$517.52	N/A
YTD	N/A	\$517.52	N/A

Adult Forum

You won't want to miss our next couple of guest speakers at the Sunday morning Adult Forum:
January 14: **Steve Clement**, Pharm.D, *Copper Bend Pharmacy*
January 21: **Mike Stidham**, *Beacon Ministries*

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

Sunday, January 14, 2018

LOOKING AHEAD

LESSONS:
 Genesis 1:1-5
 Psalm 29
 Acts 19:1-7
 Mark 1:4-11

WORSHIP SERVERS
Co-President: The Rev. Brian M. Robison
Assisting Minister: Greg Guenther
Acolyte: Jackie Lynch
Crucifer: Keith Kniepkamp
Chalice Bearer: Barb Wurdinger
Lector: Jim Montgomery
Ushers: TBD & Jim Montgomery

LST at St. Mark

The next course from the Lutheran School of Theology in St. Louis offered HERE at St. Mark is titled "**CHRIST AND CULTURE REVISITED.**"

In this 4-week class, the **Rev. Dr. Warren Crews** explores the question, "How does our faith relate to all that is going on in our country and our world?" In 1951 H. Richard Niebuhr published *Christ and Culture*, a classic on the ways Christians have applied their faith to the issues arising in the culture around them. But our culture has changed dramatically since Niebuhr's time when Christianity was firmly established in culture. Crews will present Niebuhr's five models to allow the class to evaluate how well they work today and then he will offer some new approaches.

DATES: Tuesdays, January 23 through February 20, with no class February 13. 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Tuition: \$59 by January 10, \$64 after
Register at www.lststl.org/courses, by phone to LST at 314-918-2556 or by email to registrar@lststl.org.

Cards and Calendars! We are gathering greeting cards and calendars, either new or used, to take to our friend in St. Charles who will create books and other crafts for children here and abroad. Please place your items in the box near the St. Mark table any Sunday through January 28th. Thanks for your donations!

TURTLEs Laser Tag on 1/19! More info next week!

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