



# MARK TIMES

July 15, 2018 + Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



## From Your Pastor...

We may not have a **belfry** at St. Mark, but we do have **bats**. Over the last couple of years, we have found numerous bats in the main church building: a couple of years ago, it was five bats over the course of the summer, whereas in 2018 we've found at least one per week in the parish hall, the vestibule, or the narthex.



Part of the reason for the uptick in activity is that **May, June and July are mating months** for bats in Illinois. For this reason, pest control companies cannot/will not remove the colonies during this time (we checked). Related to that, **all 12 species of bats inhabiting Illinois are protected by law**. It is unlawful to harm or kill a bat.

The first concern many people have about bats is **rabies**. Like most mammals, bats *can* contract rabies. However, less than one half of one percent of bats *actually* catch the disease. According to the CDC, people cannot get rabies from just seeing a bat in a structure, in a cave or at a distance. In addition, people cannot get rabies from having contact with bat guano (feces), blood, or urine or from touching a bat on its fur (even though **bats should never be handled, especially bare-handed!**).

Because bats are nocturnal, the ones we've found at church have always been seemingly sound asleep. Most of the time they are not easily removed, and are simply gone the next day. **If you see one in the church building, please do not disturb the bat**. If it is on the floor, the best procedure is to simply **place a box over the bat until the area is no longer in use**, then remove the box so it can find its way out of the building when night falls. If it needs to be removed, once the box is placed over it, a piece of cardboard can be slid under the box between the bat and the floor, then the whole thing carried outside and placed in a discrete location with the cover removed.

Fun Fact: Although bats are among the most unique and fascinating of all animals, Leviticus 11:19 lists bats among the creatures deemed "unclean" per Jewish law.

*Pastor Brian*

## Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Brian is on vacation through **Tuesday, July 24**. **Pastor Candice Wassell** will be **on call in case of pastoral emergency**. To reach her, contact the office or June Benedick.



Next Sunday we welcome the **Rev. Dr. John Lottes** as our guest preacher and presider.

## Men's Clothing Drive

Through the end of July, we will be collecting **men's suits, blazers, dress shirts & pants, and ties** for LSSI's "Returning Citizen" program. Hang your donations on the rack just inside the church door, or place non-hanging items in the tote below the rack.



## It's almost "Back-to-School" Time!

We'll be collecting supplies for **the Franklin students**. Any school supplies are appreciated. You don't need to fill an entire backpack, but can if you like. We have some **lists on the St. Mark table** to use as a guide. Choose as many items as you like to help fill our collection boxes. **Collection starts TODAY, July 15.**



## Church Council & PCC Meetings

Due to the unavailability of several members, July's Pastoral Care committee and Church Council meetings will be moved to **Monday, July 30 at 6 and 7pm**, respectively.

## Save the Date—Church Picnic

We will hold our annual church picnic on **Sunday, August 12 from 12-4pm** at Schranz Memorial Park in Swansea. More details soon!

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Monday	2:00PM	Fiber Arts @Westfield
Tuesday, 7/14-7/21		<i>Pastor on vacation</i>
Sunday, 7/22	9:00AM	<b>The Divine Liturgy</b>
	10:20AM	Coffee & fellowship

**Offerings for July 8, 2018**

<b>Sunday worship attendance:</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Shine worship attendance:</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>General Fund Donations</b>	<b>\$3,629</b>

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
July MTD	\$5,679	\$3,553.91	\$2,215.09
YTD	\$93,780.44	\$108,059.25	<b>-\$14,278.81</b>

**Lawn Mowing in August**

St. Mark lawn mowing duties are in August & October. If you would like to volunteer contact Rex R. at 558-8349.

**Food Pantry Spotlight for July is**

**Toilet Paper!** Drop donations in the church Welcome Area or the office during the day.

**Children's Chapel**

Continuing through the summer, children ages 10 years old & younger are invited to their own liturgy in the chapel immediately following the Gospel reading. They will participate in **songs, prayers, a children's Creed and a simple lesson from the day's Scripture readings.** They will rejoin the adults during the Sharing of Peace.



**Parents are welcome to attend too!**

**Upcoming Children's Chapel Leaders:**

7/15: Kim O.	8/12: Youth service
7/22: ??	8/19: Melanie R. or ??
7/29: Kim O.	8/26: Melanie R. or ??
8/5: ??	9/2: Melanie R. or ??

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Sunday, July 22, 2018**

**LESSONS:**

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**WORSHIP SERVERS**

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Dr. John Lottes

**Assisting Minister:** Jill T.

**Acolyte:** Grace M.

**Crucifer:** Frank D.

**Chalice Bearer:** Mike M.

**Lector:** Charlie D.

**Ushers:** Jim J. & Roland J.

**Summer Sack Lunch Program**

We meet at **Turkey Hill Grange** on **Mondays at 9AM** to pack lunches. **Rice Krispy treats makers** are needed. See Peggy A. for info.

**Coffee Hour Hosts!**

If you can help host our coffee/fellowship hour on an occasional Sunday morning, please sign up in the Parish Hall near the coffee stand!

**Musicians Wanted!**

There are plenty of summer Sundays left! We would love to have **guest musicians share your talents** during the offering! **See Jill Thompson to sign up.**



The **TURTLES** will lead worship on **August 12**, as well as host the fellowship hour and give a presentation about their experience at the Youth Gathering in Houston!

**Electronic Giving** is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to St. Mark, **even when you're out of town.** Please contact the church office to learn how you can participate!



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