

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for June 9, 2024

THE WEEK AHEAD:

Monday 6/10:	9:00 AM	Health & Wellness meeting – conference room
Wednesday, 6/12:	11:30AM	Ladies' Lunch Bunch – Papa Vito's, Belleville
Thursday, 6/13:	1:30PM	Evangelism & Social Ministry meeting – conference room
Friday, 6/14:	7:00PM	Seminex 50 th Anniversary Hymn Fest – Atonement, Florissant

Today's Adult Forum: *The Order of St. Luke the Physician*

Today, Sunday, June 9, we welcome St. George's members from the Order of St. Luke to present about this ministry of healing and support during the education hour.

Ladies' Lunch Bunch This Wednesday!

All St. Mark ladies are invited to join the new "Lunch Bunch" at Papa Vito's (318 E. Washington, Belleville) **THIS Wednesday, June 12** from **11:30A-1:00P**. Reservations are not necessary. Contact **June Benedick** with questions at 618-977-4389.

Seminex Hymn Festival This Friday!

THIS Friday, June 14 at 7:00PM at **Lutheran Church of the Atonement** in **Florissant** (1285 N. New Florissant Rd., Florissant, MO), the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago will hold a **hymn festival** celebrating the **50th anniversary** of the formation of **Christ Seminary-Seminex** (aka "Seminary-in-Exile"). All are welcome and encouraged to attend this commemoration! RSVP is requested – register at <https://lstc.edu/registration/st-louis-hymn-fest>

Congratulations Graduates!

Our sincerest best wishes and prayers for God's blessings upon our recent graduates:

Jaxson Robinson – 8th grade, Smithton Elementary School

Anna Robison – 8th grade, Central Jr. High School

Braden Valerius – Bachelor's in Education for Secondary Social Studies, Southeast Missouri State

Chapel Organ Update

Thanks to donations, pledges, and fundraising efforts, the full amount to get the Chapel organ console rebuilt has been met. We still need to raise around \$10,000 for a contingency fund to pay for lodging, mileage and other possible expenses connected with the project.

If you still would like to donate towards this project, we hope to raise the additional funds by the end of June. Any funds left after the project is completed will pay for the yearly tuning of the organ.

St. Mark Offerings for 6/2:

Operating Fund: **\$7,399.11** (online giving received by 5/31; Barb Wurdinger Memorials: \$135

Youth Group Cooling Towels: \$120

Youth Gathering In-Kind Collection for World Hunger

The world produces more than enough food to feed every person, yet the number of people who are hungry has grown since 2019. More than 2 billion people around the world aren't sure where their next meal will come from, and for as many as 828 million people, that next meal won't come at all.

But there is another story unfolding around us: **the story of God at work through you in ELCA World Hunger** (<https://elca.org/worldhunger>) around the world. It's a story that has been unfolding for the last 50 years through our church as we worked together to create sustainable, lasting change. It's a story of **new homes** being built, of **new fields** being planted with crops. It's a story of **wells** bubbling with clean water and of **small businesses** bursting with opportunity, a story of **caring for the environment** and of **healthy communities** thriving. **We all have a role to play!**

At the 2024 Youth Gathering (<https://www.elca.church/gathering>), join ELCA World Hunger and be part of the generation taking action to usher in a world without hunger, and futures filled with hope.

We are accepting cash and check donations; look for the world **shadow box** in the back of church!

Next Sunday's Adult Forum: *Sabbatical Reflections – One Year Later*

Next **Sunday, June 16** during the education hour, Pastor Brian will look back on his sabbatical last summer and offer reflections on the experience and its effect going forward, accompanied by photos from the journey.

Belleville Summer Sack Lunch Program

We at St. Mark are excited to continue our partnership with Westview Baptist Church to provide free lunches for low-income children this summer!



The project began this past week and lasts 10 weeks. *Our commitment this year is 9 weeks due to no lunch delivery on Thursday, July 4.*

Sherri Foppe serves as the project coordinator again this year. A co-coordinator would be helpful if anyone would like to volunteer.

We are collecting individual size bags of Cheez-its, potato chips, nacho chips, individually wrapped store-bought cookies (*no nuts or peanut butter please!*), and fruit juice pouches (i.e. Capri Sun), for the lunches. No peanut butter please! Donations may be brought to church on Sundays or contact Sherri to drop off at her house or arrange pick up.

Monetary donations are always welcome for those who would rather not shop. Monetary donations can be made to Sherri Foppe or Ann Martens or electronically to

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR>

Minimum of 4 volunteers are needed to help pack **150-200 lunches at Westview Baptist** on the following **Wednesday evenings** from **5:00-5:45PM**: **June 12, 19 & 26; July 10, 17, 24 & 31; Aug 7**

One volunteer driver and one co-pilot are needed to help **deliver the lunches** from 10:35AM to approximately 12:45PM on the following Thursdays: **June 13, 20 & 27; July 11, 18, & 25; Aug 1 & 8**

Volunteer sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall. For more information, please contact Sherri Foppe (618-791-6148 or cookinsherri2@gmail.com) or Ann Martens 618-235-7762 or ga72mart@charter.net

Care Facility Sing-a-Longs

We are seeking joyful voices to visit local care facilities on **Sunday, June 23 from about 1:15 to 3:15pm** to sing a few religious, patriotic and just plain fun songs!

After the fellowship hour, the group will go to lunch together then to a few locations. Performance times and locations will be announced next week.