

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for July 28, 2024

This Week at St. Mark:

Monday, July 29:	6:00PM	Pastoral Care Committee meeting – conference room
	7:00PM	Church Council meeting – conference room
Tues. 7/29-Tues. 8/6:		<i>Pastor on vacation</i>
Saturday, August 3:	4:00PM	Ott/Best wedding – church
	6:00PM	SHINE worship - chapel

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Brian will be on vacation from **Tuesday, July 29 through Tuesday, August 6**. We welcome back Pastor **S. Blake Duncan** as our guest preacher and presider on August 4.

In case of pastoral emergency, please contact **Fr. Mark Ohlemeier** of St. George's at **785-220-5528**.



School Supply Collection!

Believe it or not, it will soon be Back-to-School time! We will again be collecting **school supplies** in support of Franklin Elementary. **Collections run through August 4**. A box and can are in the narthex/Canterbury Room. Things are a little different for the school this year, and they have adjusted their needs. Items most needed: **boxes of 24 crayons; large colored washable markers; colored pencils; colored highlighters; plastic folders with prongs; earbuds; adult scissors; dry-erase markers; glue sticks; Kleenex; One-gallon Ziplock bags; One-inch and 2-inch binders**. They do NOT want backpacks, paper, pencils, and pens. Cash, of course, is always helpful!

Honoring Pastor Ron

At its June monthly meeting, the Church Council voted unanimously to **name the Rev. Ron Neustadt**, former long-time pastor of St. Mark, as ***pastor emeritus***. The declaration will become official at our regular worship service at **9:00AM on Sunday, August 11**, in which we will also pay tribute to Pastor Ron's **50th ordination anniversary**. Bishop Greg Busboom of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod will be present to preach and bring greetings from the synod. A cake and punch reception will follow in the Parish Hall. Please plan to join us for this special celebration!

Guys' Nite is Back!

The rumors are true - Guys' Nite is back! This event for the men (age 14+) of St. George's and St. Mark (and friends!) will be held in the **circle driveway** area on **Friday, August 16 at 5:00PM** (food served at 6PM). Fly solo or bring a friend and enjoy an evening of beverages, brats, games and more! The event is free but a donation of \$20 per person is suggested to help offset the cost; any money remaining after expenses will be donated to the Chapel Organ fund. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex and Parish Hall. If you have any questions, contact Bob Vaughn (618-593-7263) or Greg Guenther (618-910-4594).



Land Acknowledgement

By now, many of you have likely noticed the “Land Acknowledgement” that has been printed somewhere in our Sunday bulletins (usually near the end) for the past few months. This is an **ELCA-wide endeavor in which all congregations are encouraged to participate**. From the ELCA’s Land Acknowledgement Guide:



“On Indigenous Peoples’ Day in 2021, the ELCA published ‘*A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People*,’ in which the church confesses its sins toward Indigenous peoples and lists the commitments it will begin working toward as it responds to its original ‘*Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery*’ from 2016.

One commitment found in each document is to formally acknowledge the original inhabitants of North America. The declaration states, ‘*We commit to begin the practice of land acknowledgments at all expressions of the church.*’

This is arguably one of the easier commitments, though it should never be thought of as simple or meaningless. Land acknowledgments are indeed meaningful and play a crucial part in combating the erasure of Indigenous peoples.”

SHARE GOD’S WARMTH through a Hot Meal

For many years, St. Paul’s United Church of Christ (just blocks from St. Mark) has offered a FREE Tuesday evening meal from about 4:30PM to about 5:15 for Belleville’s homeless and those of low-income. In considering how we might help folks who fall into these populations, our Evangelism team decided to put our efforts towards assisting local organizations rather than trying to “duplicate efforts/reinvent the wheel”.

With that in mind, **we invite 5-6 people to be part of a group that will help once a month or every other month at St. Paul’s Tuesday evening meal**. A couple of volunteers would assist from about 3:00pm until about 6:00pm for meal prep, serving and clean up. Others will assist with serving and clean up from about 4:00 to 6:00pm. This is a fantastic way to help others who often find themselves desperately in need! Please contact Sherri Foppe at 618 791-6148 or cookinsherri2@gmail.com for more information or to join!

Belleville Summer Sack Lunch Program THANK YOU!

The Social/Evangelism Committee thanks everyone who supported the program again this year by donating money, chips, cookies, fruit juice pouches, packing and/or delivering to provide free lunches for low-income children!

A couple more volunteers for lunch packing on July 31 & Aug 7 at 5pm at Westview Baptist would be helpful.

A driver and co-pilot are needed for Aug 1.

Please contact Sherri Foppe 618 791-6148 or cookinsherri2@gmail.com if you can assist with any of these final dates.



Save the Date!

Ladies Lunch Bunch meets at **noon** on **Wednesday, August 14** at **Eckert’s**.

Questions: Cindy Collingham 816 387-3302

Joint Safety Volunteer AED/CPR Recertification Opportunity on **Saturday October 19** from **9am-12noon** in the Parish Hall. The cost is *\$65 for recertification* or *\$75 for new certifications*.

St. Mark Offerings for 7/21: Operating Fund: **\$2,755.16** (online giving received by 7/19);

Food Pantry: \$105