

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for September 15, 2024

This Week at St. Mark:

Monday, Sept. 16:	2:30PM	Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
Wednesday, Sept. 18:	11:20AM	St. Mark Table Talk – conference room
Thursday, Sept. 19:	6:15PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

TODAY'S Adult Forum: Tax Efficient Gifting/Tithing Strategies

Join us for this morning's education hour as we welcome First Command Financial Advisor **Steve Bione** to help us learn how **qualified charitable distributions (QCD)** or **donor advised funds (DAF)** can help reduce taxes even in today's higher standard deduction environment.

St. Mark Table Talk 9/18: "A Biblical Spice Rack"

THIS Wednesday, September 18 we resume the monthly "St. Mark Table Talk" Bible class, which will take place on **third Wednesdays** at **11:30AM** in the conference room. Bring your lunch and listen as Pastor Brian leads discussion of **"A Biblical Spice Rack: Herbs & Spices of the Ancient Near East."**



"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday THANKS



Thank you to everyone who helped make our participation in the ELCA's national day of service a big success! We will have a summary report and photos to share soon!

Church Picnic September 29

This year's church picnic will be **Sunday, September 29** from **noon to 3pm** at **Schranz Memorial Park in Swansea**. Format will be as in years past: bring food enough for you and your family, and a game to share. More info to come!



Joint Safety Volunteer AED/CPR Recertification Opportunity

The Joint Safety Committee of St George & St Mark's will be hosting an AED and CPR certification class. It is scheduled in the parish hall on **Saturday, October 19** from **9am-12noon**. The cost is **\$65 for recertification** or **\$75 for new certifications**.

We need additional Safety Volunteers, so if you've thought about joining the Safety Volunteer Team, or even the Joint Safety Committee, this is an ideal time. The AED/CPR certification is all that is required, in addition to a willingness to serve occasionally during church services.

I am available nearly anytime to answer any questions and/or provide greater detail.
Mark Bearth: mark.bearth@gmail.com or text 618-767-6543.

St. Mark Offerings for 9/1 & 9/8:

General Fund: \$5,697 (9/1) & \$1,283 (9/8); **Food Pantry:** \$343.33 (9/1) & \$150 (9/8);
Kris Whitley Memorials (Food Pantry): \$345 (9/8); **Thrivent:** \$80 (9/8)

Special Prayer Service for a Nation in Turmoil

St. George's hosts a service of **Evening Prayer with special prayers for the nation** on **first Mondays from now until Election Day**. The service will also feature a common recitation of the Great Litany, the church's ancient and traditional prayer of intercession, to beseech Almighty God for blessing and protection over the church and the world in the months leading up to Election Day.

Evening Prayer for the Nation will be held at **6:00PM** in the **chapel** on **October 7** and **November 4**. St. Mark members are welcome to join and to invite others to take part in this important endeavor in witness to our faith.

Franklin School Lunch Packing

St. Mark will once again be packing and delivering free sack lunches this year to 20 needy students at Franklin School for holiday weekends. Our food shelves are stocked currently, but you can help by volunteering to pack lunches. It only takes about an hour on the last school day before **Columbus Day, election day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Spring Break & Memorial Day weekends**. See Peggy Andersen (618-791-0992) to sign up or to ask questions. Your support is so much appreciated by the Franklin children and staff and our Evangelism/Social Ministry Committee!

Chili Cook-Off Help Wanted!

Belleville's annual Chili Cook-Off is **Friday, October 11 and Saturday, October 12**. The production and sale of St. George's chili benefits both congregations, and volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Plans are to make and sell at least 200 gallons of White Chili this year.



Chicken cooking is scheduled **9:00AM-3:00PM** on **Wednesdays September 18, 25, October 2 & 9**. Each cooking day will need two three-hour shifts of two people to accomplish the grinding, cooking and bagging of the cooked chicken.

A signup sheet for helping with cooking is in the Parish Hall on the wall opposite the stairs.

Don't "Fall" for Scams

Periodically, members report receiving **scam emails and texts claiming to come from Pastor Brian**. Here are some quick ways to check on the legitimacy of any message you receive:

- Check the sender's email address, if possible. Pr. Brian's email is pastor@stmarkbelleville.org or worship@stmarkbelleville.org, and the church office is office@stmarkbelleville.org. If the message doesn't come from one of those, it's likely bogus.
 - A computer expert told us that if the scam email is not from one of the email addresses above, it is likely that it is *your* email (or someone in your contact list) that has been hacked – not Pastor's.
- The word "Reverend" is always properly preceded by the indefinite article "The," as in "The Reverend Brian Robison," NOT simply "Reverend Brian" or "Rev. Brian." If the article is missing, that should be a red flag. Plus, Pr. Brian will generally sign his emails as "+PB" or "Pastor Brian."
- Pastor Brian will NEVER, EVER ask you to purchase gift cards or anything else through an email or text, unless he's already spoken to you previously about it.
- DO NOT click on any links or open any attachments unless you've verified that the message is real.
- If you're still not sure, call Pastor Brian directly or contact the church office. Otherwise, simply delete the message or flag it as spam.