

# ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the  
**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
welcomes you!

January 12,  
2025



The  
Baptism  
of Our  
Lord

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY

“SHINE” CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (*1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays - Chapel*)

### SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM

*in-person & streaming*

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP HOUR: 10:30 AM

105 EAST “D” STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

PHONE: 618.233.9809

EMAIL: [WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG](mailto:WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG)

WEBSITE: [WWW.STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG](http://WWW.STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG)

*The Reverend Brian M. Robison, Pastor*

---

**PLEASE** wear a **mask/face covering** *if* you are **exhibiting any upper respiratory symptoms consistent with allergies, a cold, or COVID-19** (runny nose, cough, sore throat).

**To parents with small children:** We are glad your family is worshiping with us today! “*Quiet Bags*” (supplies & activities for use by small children) are available in the Welcome Area. If you or your child need a break from the service, feel free to walk to the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is still audible over the speakers).

**Parish Hall and Restrooms** are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. A second **handicapped access** restroom is available next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level is located in the Welcome Area. An usher will be happy to assist you with the lift.

**Assistive listening devices** and **low vision items** are available. Please ask one of our ushers for assistance.

---

## PRELUDE & WELCOME

Please **RISE** in body or in spirit and turn to face the baptismal font

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

**Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.**

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

**By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that we who have been washed in the waters of baptism may continue in the new life you have given us. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

### "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

ELW 310



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;  
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;  
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;  
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:  
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,  
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

## GREETING

Blessed be the one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life: Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### “Glory to God”

Assisting minister

S 139



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - migh - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Following the prayer, please SIT.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—

<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 29 *spoken responsively by half-verse*

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

**ascribe to the LORD glo-ry and strength.**

<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;

**worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

**the LORD is upon the mighty waters.**

<sup>4</sup>The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;

**the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;

**the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;**

<sup>6</sup>the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup>The voice | of the LORD  
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength | to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

## SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

<sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup>(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA VERSE *The assembly STANDS to welcome the gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

A reading from the Holy Gospel... as recorded by the evangelist Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Following the sermon, the assembly **STANDS** to proclaim the word of God in song.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Wade in the Water”**

**ELW 459**

*Refrain*  
All



Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,  
wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader All



1 See that host all dressed in white,  
2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the  
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?  
4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader



wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.  
looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led.  
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.  
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All *Refrain*



God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

**APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,**

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## MEAL

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *The names of those for whom we pray aloud (members, staff, first-time additions) are listed below. Please read only the first names. Other prayer intentions can be found in the back of this bulletin. The response to "God of grace," is "Hear our prayer"...*

**Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Kathy Casey, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Ivan Kohlmeier, Bruce Martens, Dwight Ness, Mae Newsome, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Larry Shurtleff, Cohen Summers, Carol & Gary Weshinsky.**

**PEACE** *The assembly is invited to share a greeting of God's peace with one another. Following **the Peace**, you may be seated for a few moments.*

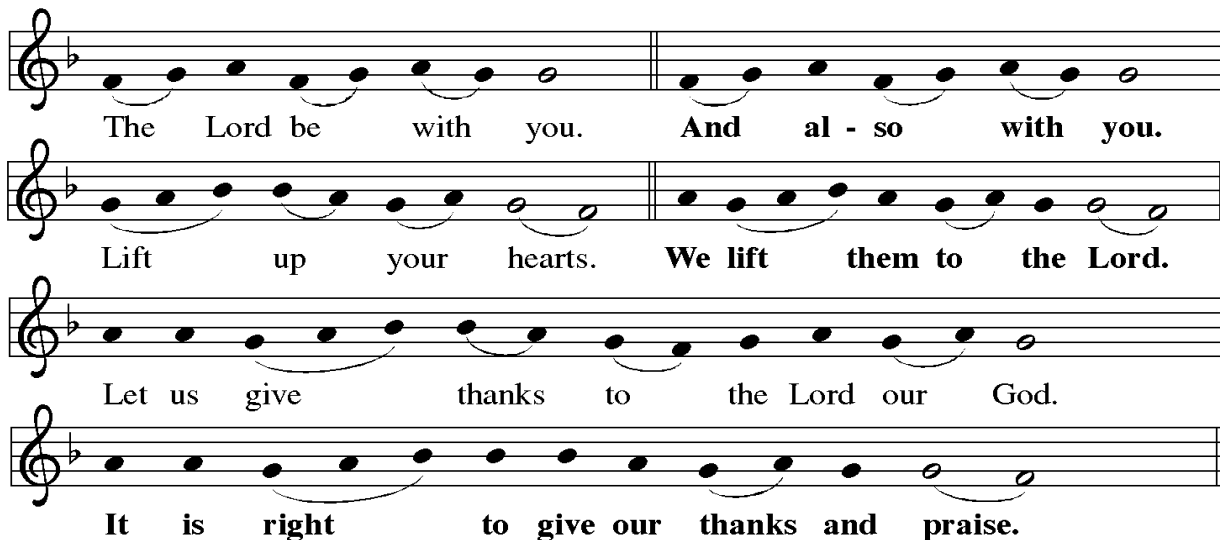
**OFFERING** *Should you wish to leave an offering today, it may be placed in the wooden box on the table near the baptismal font at any point during or after the service.*

**OFFERTORY** "Rise, Shine" by Wood St. Mark Chancel Choir

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

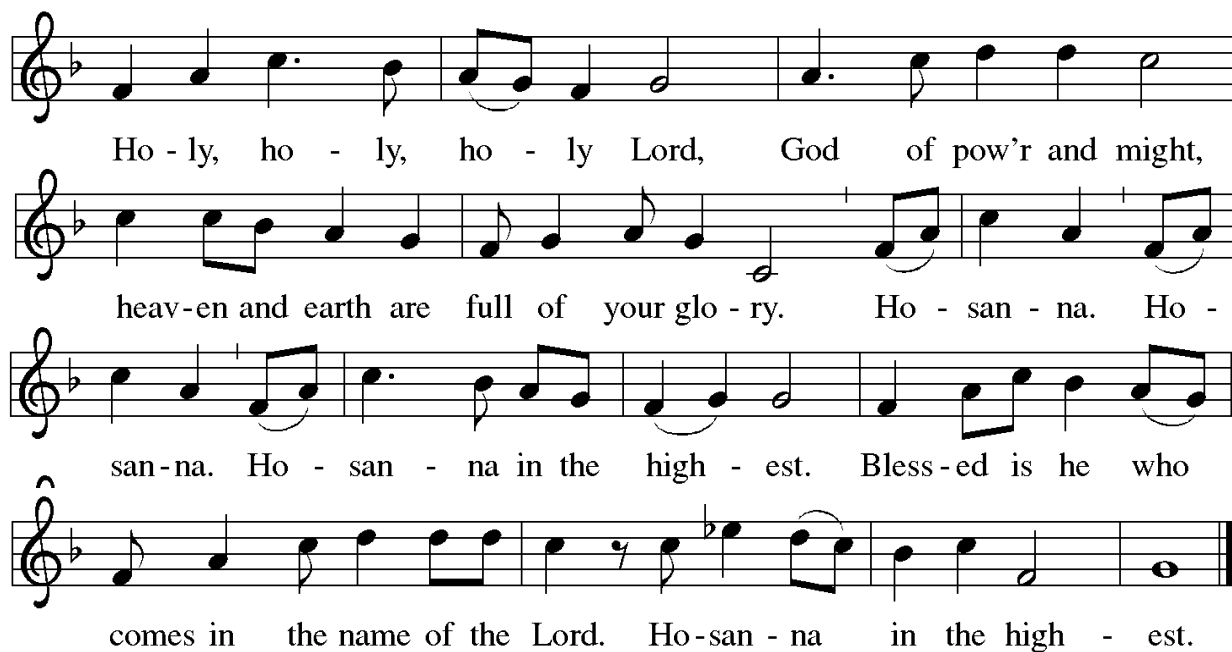
*Assistant:* Let us pray together. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*It is indeed right...we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER** *traditional*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

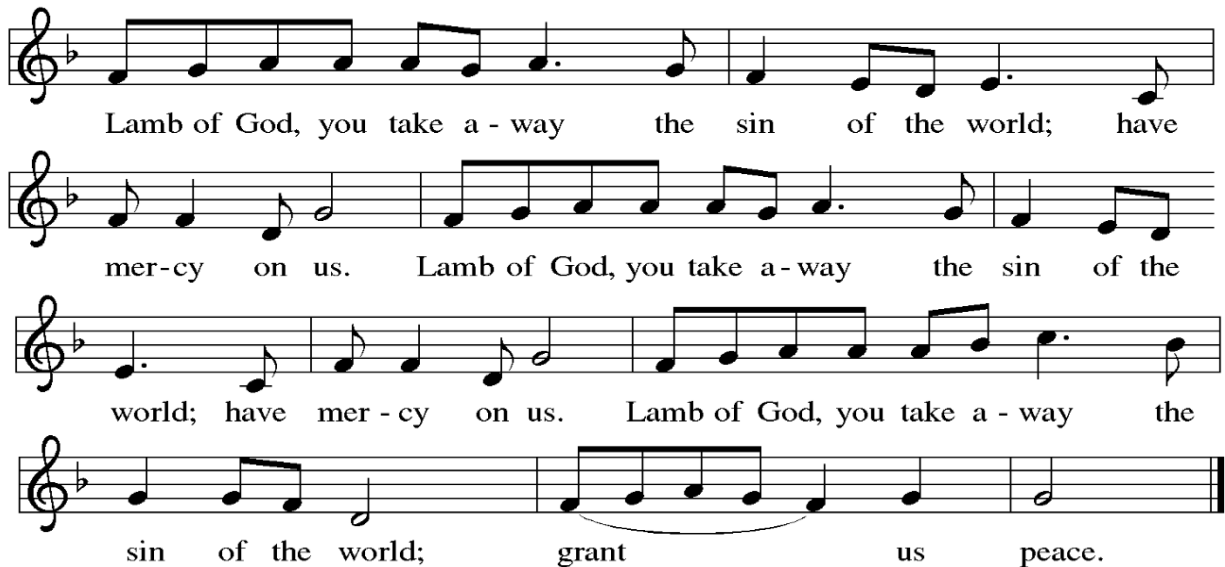
**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, receive this meal of gladness.

### **LAMB OF GOD** *Please SIT*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Communion is open to everyone. In this sacrament, we believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. At this service, communion will be served from around the altar rail. At the usher's direction, please come forward and kneel at the altar rail.*

- ✘ *After receiving the bread, you may take an individual cup or drink from the chalice.*
- ✘ *You may return to your seat after communing.*
- ✘ *Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this preference.*
- ✘ *Reception of the Eucharist under one kind (bread or wine) is valid communion for those who must avoid either for health reasons.*
- ✘ *If you are unable to go to the altar for communion, please notify an usher or the pastor, so that communion may be brought to you in your pew.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

### “Oh, Love, How Deep”

ELW 322



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all  
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er  
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly  
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of  
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of  
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion  
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.  
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,  
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
he bore the shameful cross and death;  
for us he gave his dying breath.
- 6 For us he rose from death again;  
for us he went on high to reign;  
for us he sent his Spirit here  
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 7 All glory to our Lord and God  
for love so deep, so high, so broad:  
the Trinity whom we adore  
forever and forevermore.



1 All who are thirst-y for mer - cy, all who are thirst-y for  
 2 All who are thirst-y for heal - ing, all who are thirst-y for  
 3 All who are thirst-y for beau - ty, all who are thirst-y for  
 4 All who are thirst-y for jus - tice, all who are thirst-y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,  
 touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,  
 truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,  
 peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

**TABLE BLESSING** *After the distribution please STAND.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**CANTICLE AFTER COMMUNION** “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise” **ELW 204**



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Assistant:* Let us pray. **Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

May God bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love – Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit – today and always. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN “Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

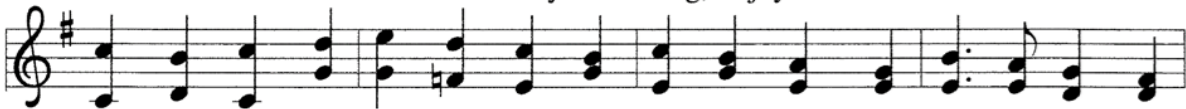
ELW 543



1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

### MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Sherri Foppe

**Crucifer:** Frank Dressel + **Lector:** Aaron Fuchs + **Organist:** Evelyn Duncan

**Chalice Bearer:** Tom Partelow + **Tech Minister:** Melanie Robison + **Choir Director:** Carol Kugler

**Ushers:** Rick Crosby & Rex Rothgangel + **Safety Volunteer:** TBD

---

*Acknowledgements:* Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgy reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Used with permission of OneLicense #SBL07861. Songs and hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-729176 “Come to the Water of Life” Text ©1983 Concordia Publishing House; Tune ©1983 Oxford University Press; “Thankful Hearts and Voices” © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress; “Go My Children, With My Blessing” Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House; Tune Arr. © Oxford University Press. All other printed hymns used are in the Public Domain. **Choir Hymn:** “Rise, Shine” Tune: © 1974 Augsburg Fortress | Setting © 1974, 1996 Augsburg Fortress Text: © 1974 Augsburg Fortress.

## **Prayer Intentions**

### **St. Mark Members**

Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Kathy Casey, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Ivan Kohlmeier, Bruce Martens, Dwight Ness, Mae Newsome, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Larry Shurtleff, Cohen Summers, Carol & Gary Weshinsky

### **St. Mark Family and Friends**

Dennis Althardt, Stellamarie Bearth, Bonnie Baete, Phyllis Booker, Kathy Boxdorfer, Thomas Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam, Patty Brennecke, Patrick Campbell, Doug Carpenter, Susan Carson, Christine, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis, Marilyn Dichsen, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Josh Gansmann, Marge Gardner, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Jamie House, Debbie Jacobs, Jimmy Jurgens, Austin Lickenbrock, Donna Lesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Glenda Martiszus, Bobby & Joyce McCall, Allen Martens, Janet Middendorf, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Theresa Painter, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Debbie & Larry Powers, Darrell Robinson, Sarah and Family, Dave Schaaf, Jill Schlueter, Becky Schnitzius, Stefanie Schroeder, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep, Ingrid Thompson, Bob Vaughn, David Vaught, Toni Walston, Louise Wilson, Margie Wilson, Sue Witherell, Karen Woolf, Wilma Woolf, Jeanie Workman, Ken Zika, Chloe Zipperer

### **Members and Friends Serving in Our Nation's Military**

Taiylar Foppe Merrel & Josh Merrel, Ryan McKenzie

### **Members Celebrating Birthdays This Week**

Steve Bamvakais (1/12), Jerry Southers (1/17), and Rex Rothgangel (1/18)

### **St. Mark Staff**

**Pastor:** The Rev. Brian M. Robison

**Administrative Assistant:** Randi Cardoza + **Music Director:** Carol Kugler

**Organist:** Evelyn Duncan + **Parish Nurse:** Becky Schnitzius

### **Land Acknowledgement**

St. Mark Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the **Quapaw**, **Myaamia**, **Kaskaskia**, and **Kickapoo** peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

# MARK TIMES

## NEWS and NOTES for January 12, 2025

Tuesday, Jan. 14:	9:30AM	Health & Wellness meeting – conference room
Wed., January 15:	11:30AM	St. Mark Table Talk – conference room
Thursday, Jan. 16:	6:00PM	Yoga – parish hall
	6:15PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:15PM	Voice Choir Rehearsal

### Staff Gift Thank You!!!

We wish to thank the St. Mark congregation for their generous Christmas gift for 2024. We all feel so blessed to serve this congregation in the different ways we are called. May all of us continue to be blessed and thrive in 2025!!! ~*Evzlyn Duncan, Gary & Marilyn Huffman, Carol Kugler, & Randi Cardoza*

**Thank You** to all who contributed to the financial gift from the congregation and those who gave individual gifts, including those who fed my addiction to cookies and sweets! I continue to be deeply touched by your tremendous generosity. - *Pastor Brian*

### Diaper Drive for Epiphany!



As the Wise Men brought gifts to the baby Jesus, we will celebrate **Epiphany** with a **Diaper Drive** for little ones in need in our community.

**Our Epiphany Diaper Drive will run January 5 through February 9.** Items collected will be donated to The Pregnancy Care Center of Belleville, Fontabella Maternity Home in O'Fallon and other local organizations.

**Diapers sizes 3 through 7, pullups sizes 2T through 6T, and disposable pants sizes 2T through 6T are most needed.** Open packages will be accepted. **Unopened packages of diaper wipes and diaper rash cream are also welcome.**

Realizing diapers are expensive, members are encouraged to join together on purchases or give monetary donations to Sherri Foppe or Ann Martens. Donations may also be made electronically at [https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR?access=tile\\_direct](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR?access=tile_direct) through February 9.

### St. Mark Table Talk: ***Unholy Ink – What Does the Bible Say About Tattoos?***

For those of us over 50, any mention of a person with tattoos might bring to mind a rowdy sailor or a motorcycle gang member. Over the past generation, however, the art of tattooing has become part of mainstream culture, part of a larger phenomenon that includes the art of body piercing.



**Did the biblical writers weigh in on the practice?** We wouldn't have a class if they didn't! Come to Table Talk this **Wednesday, January 15 at 11:30AM** in the conference room for an ink-redible discussion!

## Installation of Church Council next Sunday

New and ongoing members of the Church Council will be installed during worship next Sunday, 1/19.

## Next Sunday's Adult Forum: *Hospitality in Ancient Israel*

In consideration of the weather, Pastor Brian has rescheduled his Adult Forum class on *Hospitality in Ancient Israel* to next Sunday, January 19 so that more people may be able to attend.

## Interested in Yoga at St. Mark?



Classes are held for 45 minutes on Thursday evenings at 6:15PM in the Parish Hall. A donation of \$5.00 is asked for each session. Please bring your own mat and water bottle for classes.

Practicing yoga can help with body flexibility, strength, mobility, and balance. It also requires you to shift into a more relaxed state, which can help decrease stress, increase focus, and promote a stronger connection with yourself. You can't ask for a more pose-ative experience!

## Office Hours Changing

As of January 2, Randi's office hours are Monday-Friday from 12-4:30PM.

## Week of Christian Unity Service 1/29

Belleville's annual ecumenical prayer service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held on Tuesday, January 28 at 9:30AM at Holy Virgin Mary & Shoghagat Armenian Church (400 Huntwood Road, Swansea). A light reception will follow. Bishop Robert McGovern of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Belleville will be the preacher for this service. Clergy and members from many local congregations have been invited to participate in this annual event, which gives us an opportunity to know each other a little better as sisters and brothers in Christ. Any interested members of St. Mark are welcome and encouraged to attend!

## Trivia Night!

Shake off the winter rust and get "Animated for God" at Christ Community Lutheran Church (Columbia) for their annual TRIVIA NIGHT youth fundraiser on Saturday, February 8 from 6-8:00PM! \*This event is to raise funds for this summer's youth mission trip to Milwaukee, which our youth from St. Mark will be participating in!

+ Cost is \$15 per person or \$100 for a table of 8.

+ Bring your own food; drinks will be available for purchase.

+ **Costume and Table Decorating contests!** Dress up as your favorite animated characters and create cool matching table décor!

+ **Generic trivia categories** – there will be something for everyone!

**Tickets on sale now!** Follow the link below to sign up yourself or an entire table of friends:

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLScsTqKie9IkeJ.../viewform>

If you are interested & able to serve on a snow removal team at church, please contact the office at (618)233-9809 or [office@stmarkbelleville.org](mailto:office@stmarkbelleville.org).

**St. Mark Offerings for 12/24 & 12/29:** General Fund: \$862.11; Food Pantry: \$1000; ELCA Disaster Relief: \$195.54; Diaper Drive: \$146.88 – January 5 offerings will be reported on 1/19