

# MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for July 14, 2024

## THE WEEK AHEAD:

**Monday, 7/15:** 2:30PM Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor  
**ELCA Youth Gathering July 15-20**

### Youth Gathering Sending Today

**Today, Sunday, July 15**, near the end of the service we will offer a special prayer of sending for the teenagers and adult leader traveling to New Orleans this week for the ELCA Youth Gathering.

### 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 from now 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!

### Youth Gathering In-Kind Collection for World Hunger – LAST SUNDAY

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. **Your donations** make you part of a story that has been unfolding for the last 50 years through our church working together to create sustainable, lasting change.

**Cash-only donations can still be accepted today;** place yours in the **shadow box** in the narthex!

### 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 **50<sup>th</sup> 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!

\*The conferring of the title of *pastor emeritus* represents recognition of exceptional ministry setting and a sign of a congregation's high regard for a retired pastor. It is honorary and confers no pastoral responsibilities, expectations, or compensation. The *pastor emeritus* may be listed among the congregation's staff, which will be the case with St. Mark and Pastor Ron.

## May 2024 Treasurer's Note

Shown to the right are St. Mark's operational financial results for the May 2024 period and year-to-date. As the numbers show, we have a negative cash

	May	Year-to-Date
<b>2024 Income</b>	<b>\$14,921.76</b>	<b>\$86,569.41</b>
<b>2024 Expenses</b>	<b>\$20,156.17</b>	<b>\$98,219.69</b>
<b>2024 Net Cash Flow</b>	<b>(\$5,234.41)</b>	<b>(\$11,650.28)</b>

flow through the first five months of our fiscal year (this compares to an operational loss of \$2,273.12 for the same period in 2023). Next month represents the mid-point in our fiscal year. At that time, we will provide an update on our financials, including our performance against budget.

## SHARE GOD'S WARMTH through a Hot Meal

For many years now, St. Paul's United Church of Christ (just a few blocks from St. Mark) has been offering 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 the folks who fall into those populations, our Evangelism & Social Ministry team has decided to put our efforts towards assisting other local organizations serving our community instead of trying to "duplicate efforts/recreate 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](mailto:cookinsherri2@gmail.com) for more information or to join!.

## Belleville Summer Sack Lunch Program

We at St. Mark are excited to continue helping to provide free lunches for low-income children this summer!

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! Bring donations to church on Sundays or contact Sherri to drop off or arrange pick up.

Monetary donations are also welcome and 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: July 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: **July 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](mailto:cookinsherri2@gmail.com)) or Ann Martens 618-235-7762 or [ga72mart@charter.net](mailto:ga72mart@charter.net)*

**St. Mark Offerings for 7/7:** Operating Fund: **\$2,642.11** (online giving received by 7/05);

Al Boxdorfer Memorials: \$40; Food Pantry: \$50; Coffee Fund: \$71.25; Summer Sack Lunches: \$50