

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for August 18, 2024

This Week at St. Mark:

Monday, August 19: 2:30PM Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
Tuesday, August 20: 5:30PM Food Pantry meeting – conference room

Thanks be to God for Cohen!

We give thanks for God's richest blessings bestowed on **Cohen Darrell Summers** as he is baptized into Christ this morning. Congratulations to parents Brooke & Damian Summers and grandparents Bonnie & Mike Schaefer!

Thank You for Last Sunday!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the service and reception surrounding Pastor Ron's honoring as *pastor emeritus* last Sunday so beautiful and memorable! From the set up and clean up, to the food providers and servers, to the worship leaders and musicians, ushers, and attendees – it was a lovely celebration of our community and one whose steadfast leadership helped make us what we are today.



Choirs Resume in September

Only one month of summer left, and only one month until Chancel and Bell Choirs resume rehearsals! **Rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 5.** If you can carry a tune, the Chancel choir would love to welcome you.

Joint Safety Volunteer AED/CPR Recertification Opportunity

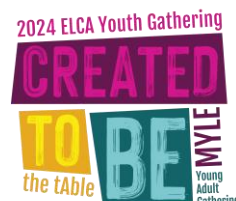
The Joint Safety Committee of St George & St Mark's will be hosting an AED and CPR certification class. It is scheduled in the parish hall on **Saturday, October 19** from **9am-12noon**. The cost is \$65 for recertification or \$75 for new certifications.

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

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.

Youth Gathering Service Next Sunday

Next Sunday, the ELCA youth gathering attendees will help present a special worship experience during our regular service time and present on their trip during the Education Hour in the Parish Hall. Come and hear about their inspirational journey!



St. Mark Offerings for 8/11: Operating Fund: \$15,118.11 (online giving received by 8/9)

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 **September 2, October 7, and November 4**. St. Mark members are welcome to join and to invite others to take part in this very important endeavor in witness to our faith.

St. Mark is Now on Instagram!

Help us grow our following! If you already follow us on Facebook, or even if you don't, our Instagram feed is slightly different. Some things are posted to both, but not everything! Our Instagram is more photo-based, so you will see more artistic pics and words of inspiration on top of upcoming events!



Search for STMARKBELLEVILLE on Instagram or use the QR code to find us!

Coffee Hour Teams

Being on a Coffee Hour team is not just "bringing snacks and making coffee;" it is a **ministry of service and hospitality** to our members and guests that is MUCH appreciated. If you would like to serve on a coffee hour team, or be a captain, or make a change to a different role on a team, please contact Melanie Robison in person or at 314-265-8722 or melanierobison@earthlink.net. We are looking to have 5 people on each team, so help is wanted and needed!

June 2024 Treasurer's Note

	June	Year-to-Date
2024 Income	\$20,794.26	\$107,363.67
2024 Expenses	\$23,456.84	\$121,676.53
2024 Net Cash Flow	(\$2,662.58)	(\$14,312.86)

Shown here are St. Mark's operational financial results for the June 2024 period and year-to-date. As the numbers above show, we have a negative cash flow through the first half of our fiscal year.

St. Mark's 2024 Budget is \$250,464. Of note, our actual revenues for the first half reflect 85% of our budget to-date while our expenses are at 97%.

Based on our first half, and in order to limit the operational, cash shortfall for the year, we will be reducing specific giving programs by basing the monthly payments on actual monthly income, rather than the original budget. This approach maintains the percentages adopted in the approved budget, but reflects the need to adapt to our reduced actual income. The following programs will be affected by this change:

- CSIS Benevolence—paid to the synod
- Missions Gifts Including:
 - Beacon Ministry
 - ELCA World Hunger
 - ELCA Disaster Relief
 - Food Pantry
 - Appointed monthly missions

We appreciated the congregation's understanding, help, and inquiries in this regard.