

# MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for September 8, 2024

## *This Week at St. Mark:*

<b>Tuesday, Sept. 10:</b>	5:00PM	White Cottage Food Pantry Benefit
<b>Wednesday, Sept. 11:</b>	12:00PM	Ladies Lunch Bunch at Charlie's Place
<b>Thursday, Sept. 12:</b>	1:30PM	Evangelism/Social Ministry Meeting—conference room
	6:15PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday

The ELCA’s national day of service returns **TODAY, Sunday, September 8.**

Please join in to help make a difference in someone’s life!

This year’s activities include:

+ **Assist at BEACON Ministries’ furniture warehouse in Belleville:**

Lifting/organizing couches and other furniture; Sorting/organizing Linen Room and other light weight donated items; Furniture pick-up and/or delivery in Belleville, Fairview Heights or Caseyville (we need 2-3 pickup trucks and 6-9 individuals able to load/unload furniture)

+ **Activities at church:** Sewing, decorating and labeling fabric hearts; Sewing buttons on cloth bracelets; Cutting twine for children’s cross kits

+ **Other activities:** Joyful visit to one or more of our Homebound members



**White Cottage Night! THIS Tuesday, September 10, 5-7PM.** A % of every purchase benefits our food pantry! Be sure to mention the pantry when you come to enjoy dinner and sweets!

**Ladies Lunch Bunch** will meet at **Charlie’s Place** (200 Mascoutah Ave, downtown Belleville) at 12 noon **THIS Wednesday, September 11.** They would like a headcount, so please let Peggy Andersen (618-791-0992) know if you are planning to go!

## **Adult Forum 9/15 - Tax Efficient Gifting/Tithing Strategies**

Join us for the education hour **NEXT Sunday, September 15** 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.

QCD can be utilized for those individuals who have turned 70 ½ by helping reduce their required minimum distributions (RMD). Even if you are nearing age 70, this is valuable information.

DAF is a multi-year gifting strategy and does not have any age limitations or restrictions.

## **St. Mark Table Talk 9/18: “A Biblical Spice Rack”**

On **Wednesday, September 18** we will restart 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.**”

## St. Mark Offerings for 9/1:

Due to Randi being on vacation last week, the 9/1 offerings will be posted in the 9/15 Mark Times.

## 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](mailto:mark.bearth@gmail.com) or text 618-767-6543.

## 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!



## 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 very 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!

'Tis the season! Belleville's annual Chili Cook-Off will be **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. Tentative plans are to make and sell at least 200 gallons of White Chili this year.



Preparation begins next week! **Chicken cooking** is scheduled **9:00AM-3:00PM** on **Wednesdays September 11, 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.

The sign-up sheet for helping with the Chicken Cooking is in the Parish Hall on the wall opposite the stairs.