

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

August 31,
2025



The Twelfth
Sunday
after
Pentecost

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

“SHINE” CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (1ST SATURDAYS-CHAPEL)

SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM

EDUCATION HOUR: 10:30AM

105 EAST “D” STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

EMAIL: WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG

THE REV. BRIAN M. ROBISON, PASTOR

-
- + **To parents with small children:** We are glad your family is worshipping 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 use the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is audible over the speakers).
 - + An **accessible Restroom** is available off the Welcome Area/Narthex next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level. **Parish Hall and additional Restrooms** are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. 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.
 - + **Land Acknowledgement:** This 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 recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and still call this land home.

PRELUDE

“Gather Us In”

J. Behnke

WELCOME *Please STAND as you are able*

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are +forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“Gather Us In”

ELW 532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,
 we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

GREETING

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** *Following the prayer, please SIT.*

WORD

FIRST READING: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

My child, conduct your affairs with humility,
 and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.

Humble yourself the more, the greater you are,
 and you will find favor with God.

What is too sublime for you, seek not,
 into things beyond your strength, search not.

The mind of a sage appreciates proverbs,
 and an attentive ear is the joy of the wise.

Water quenches a flaming fire, and alms atone for sins.

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

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

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



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite

you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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

SERMON

"The Healing Gift of Listening"

The Rev. Brian M. Robison

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Be Thou My Vision"

ELW 793

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

LITURGY OF HEALING

Let us pray... God our healer, whose mercy is like a refining fire: by the loving-kindness of Jesus, heal us and those for whom we pray; that being renewed by you, we may witness your wholeness to our broken world; through Jesus Christ, the Physician of our bodies and souls, in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LITANY OF HEALING

Silently or aloud, let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers...

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, disabled, or in any need especially...

John Andersen, **Ken** Augustine, **Eleanor** Benton, **Toni** Brendel, **Gary** Dozier, **Evelyn** Duncan,
Art Engelage, **Wally** Kleist, **Ivan** Kohlmeier, **Bruce** Martens, **Linda** Ness, **Kim** Palmer, **Tina** Partelow,
Marilyn Robinson, **Cohen** Summers, **Carol** Weshinskey, **Gary** Weshinskey, **Jackie** Woodrome

That they may be made whole, we pray; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Bless physicians, nurses, therapists, and all who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

You are the Lord who does wonders; **You have declared your power among the peoples.**

With you, O Lord, is the well of life; **And in your light we see light.**

Hear us, O Lord of life; **Heal us, and make us whole.**

Let us pray... Almighty God, giver of life and health: Send your blessing on all who are sick, and upon those who minister to them, that all weakness may be vanquished by the triumph of the risen Christ; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS & ANOINTING

The ministry of Jesus invites us to new life in God and with each other. In the laying on of hands and anointing, we proclaim the Good News that God desires us to be healthy and one in the body of Christ. You are invited to offer yourself, whatever your sickness in spirit, mind, or body, and ask for healing and wholeness in the Name of the holy and undivided Trinity. If you are coming forward for healing in place of another, please hold that person in your heart and mind as you are being prayed over.



*You may be **SEATED**. Please come forward for prayer as you wish.*

HYMNS DURING THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

“Touch That Soothes and Heals (*See My Hands and Feet*)”

ACS 939

Tune: Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurting,
Hands that break a loaf of bread;
Steps that walk beside the weary,
Bearing burdens in their stead;

3 Love and serve without distinction
All earth's people, first and least,
Know within each act of kindness
Hope and wholeness are increased.

Refrain: “See my hands and feet,” said Jesus,
Love arisen from the grave.
“Be my hands and feet,” said Jesus,
“live as ones I died to save.”

Refrain.

2 Feed the hungry, clothes the naked,
Visit ones in need of care,
Give the homeless warmth and shelter;
Christ will find a welcome there. *Refrain.*

4 Hands that beckon little children,
Bind a wound, prepare a meal,
Feet that rush to share good tidings,
Christ arisen, still reveal.

Refrain.

“Before the Waters Nourished Earth”

ACS 1049

1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness

ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -

u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray... Living God, through the laying on of hands and anointing, grant comfort in suffering to all those before you today. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when feeling alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, + Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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

OFFERING *Your offering today may be placed in the wooden box on the table near the baptismal font at any point during or after the service.*

OFFERTORY *“A Short Prelude”*

J.S. Bach

OFFERING PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray... **Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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, the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.



LAMB OF GOD *Please SIT*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.



COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *Please SIT*

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.*

SONGS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION:

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

ELW 461

1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil-der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less - ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.

You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.

Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;
 There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,

teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.
 may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

After the distribution is complete, the assembly STANDS for the blessing.

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together...

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace.

Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves

and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

Acknowledgements: Reprinted from Words for Worship, copyright 2024 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 “Gather Us In” Text & Tune © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.; “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly” Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.; Tune Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress; “Touch That Soothes and Heals (See My Hands and Feet)” © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.; “Before the Waters Nourished Earth” © 1996 admin Augsburg Fortress; “As We Gather at Your Table” © 1989 Hope Publishing Company; “Now We Join in Celebration” © 1978 Augsburg Fortress Publishers; “Thankful Hearts” Tune: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Text: © 1978 Augsburg Fortress; “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” © 1964 World Library Publications. Some hymn music has been altered due to space considerations. All other printed hymns used are in the Public Domain.

1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,
 and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
 its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;
 for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
 but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,
 at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
 though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:
 we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
 for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
 to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,
 we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
 and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
 and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"The Ashgrove"

W. Held

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

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

Lector: Terry Tribout + **Crucifer:** Greg Martens + **Chalice Bearer:** Mike Murakami

Tech Minister: Melanie Robison + **Safety Volunteer:** Mark Bearth

Guest Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Ushers:** TBD

Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

John Andersen, Ken Augustine, Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Art Engelage, Wally Kleist, Ivan Kohlmeier, Bruce Martens, Linda Ness, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Cohen Summers, Carol and Gary Weshinskey, Jackie Woodrome

St. Mark Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Stellamarie Bearth, Bonnie Baete, John Belz, Thomas Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam, Patty Brennecke, Susan Carson, Christine, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Andrea Hendrix, Josh Gansmann, Marge Gardner, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Jamie House, Jimmy Jurgens, Mark Klawonn, Austin Lickenbrock, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Bobby & Joyce McCall, Don McCoy, Allen Martens, Janet Middendorf, Linda Munn, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Debbie & Larry Powers, Goldie Rideout, Darrell Robinson, Sarah and Family, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, Denise Sebastian, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep, Ingrid Thompson, Bob Vaughn, David Vaught, Toni Walston, Louise Wilson, Margie Wilson, 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 who celebrate birthdays this week

Joshua Robinson (8/31) and Cheryl Whitaker (8/31)

Members who celebrate Wedding Anniversaries this week

Kathy & Steve Bamvakais (9/2) and Bill & Angie Bjornstad (9/6)

St. Mark Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Pastor Emeritus:** The Rev. Ronald C. Neustadt

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

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

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for August 31, 2025

Monday, Sept. 1:		Office Closed for Labor Day
Tuesday, Sept. 2:	6:30PM	GriefShare – Parish Hall
Wednesday, Sept. 3:	10:30AM	Joint Use Taskforce – conference room
Thursday, Sept. 4:	6:00PM	Yoga – Parish Hall
Saturday, Sept. 6:	6:00PM	SHINE worship - chapel

Heroes & Hand-Me-Downs: The Great Church Lot Bash is coming to the big parking lot (the corner of D and High Streets) on **Saturday, September 13 from 10am-2pm!**



Sell your arts, crafts, used home goods, et al, at the **tailgate sale** (rent one a single parking space for \$25.00 or two for \$35.00; **proceeds from rentals benefit the food pantry, but you keep proceeds from the sale of your goods**). A limited number of spaces are available, so make your reservation soon! To reserve a spot, e-mail heroesandhandmedowns@gmail.com.

In addition, there will be **free hot dogs**, and children's activities include "touch the trucks" (fire truck, police car, ambulance), face painting, and meeting costumed superheroes and *Star Wars* characters!

GriefShare Group at St. Mark Begins TUESDAY

St. Mark will host an 11-week GriefShare program at the church **beginning Tuesday, September 2**. Sessions will be held from **6:30-8:00PM** alternating between the **Parish Hall and the conference room** due to available space.



Sign up at [GriefShare at St. Mark](#), or <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/269699> All are welcome! The program is free but freewill donations are accepted. Sign up by midnight on Monday, Sept. 1.

Chestnut Health Systems will present information on *Mental Health, Substance Abuse/Narcotics and Suicide Awareness/Prevention* in a class sponsored by the Joint Safety Committee on **Saturday, September 20** from 9am-1pm. A sign-up sheet is on St. George's table in the narthex.

Choirs Resume THURSDAY – Note NEW TIMES

Choirs resume rehearsals this **Thursday, September 4**. Voice Choir meets at 4:00PM; Men's Choir meets at 5:30PM; and Bell Choir meets at 6:00PM. If you can carry a tune at all (you don't need to sing solo or even read music), the chancel choir would love to welcome you!

Parking Lot Cleaning Day September 6

All are invited for a work day to clean up the parking lot on **Saturday, September 6** starting at **8:00AM** in preparation for the tailgate sale the following weekend. We'll rejuvenate the circular flower bed, clean up organic debris, and trim branches and brambles. Many hands make work light, and fast!

Offerings (8/24): Gen. Fund: **\$4,889**; Fiber Arts: \$101; Muller Landscaping: \$101; Property: \$101

Franklin School Lunch Packing Returns

The shopping and stocking of shelves has been done for the Franklin School holiday lunch program for this school year. We pack 20 bag lunches for needy students for all long weekends and are ready to have volunteers sign up to help pack. This requires about an hour on the day before Labor Day, Columbus Day, election day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Spring Break and possibly Memorial Day weekends.

See **Peggy Andersen** (618-791-0992) to sign up or to ask questions. There is also a sign-up sheet downstairs near the coffee hour tables. Your support is so much appreciated by the Franklin children, staff, and our Social/Evangelism Committee. Thank you!

From the Parish Nurse: National Immunization Awareness Month

Part 2: How Vaccines Work

Vaccines protect us by teaching the body how to fight disease without causing the illness itself. They do this by introducing antigens—harmless pieces or weakened forms of a virus or bacteria—that trigger the immune system. This response creates memory cells that remain ready to act quickly if the body encounters real infection in the future.



Essentially, vaccines imitate an infection in order to train the immune system. Antigens can come from several sources: killed or weakened germs, proteins from their outer surface, or genetic material such as that used in mRNA vaccines. No matter the type, the goal is the same: stimulate the production of antibodies and memory cells that provide lasting protection.

While vaccines are highly effective, it is still possible to get sick afterward—especially in the weeks right after vaccination, before immunity has fully developed. However, vaccinated people are far less likely to experience severe illness or death than those without protection.

Most vaccines require more than one dose. Live-attenuated vaccines (such as measles and mumps) may offer long-term immunity with just two doses, while inactivated or non-live vaccines often require multiple doses and boosters to maintain protection. Modern options include live attenuated, inactivated, subunit, mRNA, and vector-based vaccines—each designed to safely train the body's defenses.

And while we're on the topic...

Decades of research confirm that there is **no link between vaccines and autism!**

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), is a condition that affects how people communicate, learn, and interact with others. It varies from person to person, and some need more support than others.

The exact causes aren't fully understood, but **genetics play a key role**. Some environmental factors during pregnancy may also contribute. Research is ongoing, but one thing is clear: **Vaccines are NOT a factor.**

Where did this myth come from? In the 1990's, a doctor published a **fraudulent study** suggesting a connection. His research was **disproven and retracted**, and he **lost his medical license**. Since then, massive studies of millions of children worldwide have shown:

1. There is no link between vaccines and autism
2. Autism rates are the same in vaccinated and unvaccinated children

Vaccines are safe! They protect kids from serious diseases and are an essential part of public health!

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 <i>Office Closed</i> 2:30PM Fiber Arts @ Westfield Manor	2	3 10:30AM Joint Use Committee Mtg—CR	4 4:00P Voice Choir 5:30P Men's Chorus 6:00P Yoga—PH 6:00P Bell Choir	5 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	6 6:00PM SHINE Worship—chapel
7 13th Sunday aft. Pentecost 9:00A The Divine Liturgy 10:20A Coffee & Fellowship 10:30A Adult Forum: <i>A Pilgrimage to the Site of the Swine Miracle (PB)</i>	8 9:30AM H&W Meeting—CR	9 5:30P Food Pantry meeting—CR	10 9:00A Evangelism/Social Ministry meeting—CR	11 4:00P Voice Choir 5:30P Men's Chorus 6:00P Yoga—PH 6:00P Bell Choir	12 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	13 10A-2P: <i>Heroes & Hand Me Downs</i> event – parking lot
	Randi on Vacation (Sept. 8 & 9)					
14 Holy Cross Day 9:00A The Divine Liturgy 10:20A Coffee & Fellowship 10:30A Adult Forum: <i>The True Cross (PB & Video)</i>	15 2:30PM Fiber Arts @ Westfield Manor	16	17 11:00AM St. Mark Table Talk class —CR	18 4:00P Voice Choir 5:30P Men's Chorus 6:00P Yoga—PH 6:00P Bell Choir	19 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	20 9a-1p: Mental Health class by Chestnut Health Systems —PH
21 15th Sunday aft. Pentecost 9:00A The Divine Liturgy 10:20A Coffee & Fellowship 10:30A Adult Forum: <i>The Parables of Luke 16, Pt. 1 (PB)</i>	22 6:00PM Pastoral Care Committee 7:00PM Church Council Mtg.	23 <i>Pastor at Fall Theological Conference</i>	24	25 4:00P Voice Choir 5:30P Men's Chorus 6:00P Yoga—PH 6:00P Bell Choir	26 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	27
28 16th Sunday aft. Pentecost 9:00A The Divine Liturgy 10:20A Coffee & Fellowship 10:30A Adult Forum: <i>The Parables of Luke 16, Pt. 2 (PB)</i>	29	30				

St. Mark Lutheran Church 105 East D Street Belleville, Illinois

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assisting Minister</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Chalice Bearer</u>	<u>Tech Minister</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Safety Volunteer</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
Sept. 7	Greg G.	Charlie D.	Rex R.	Mike M.	Mike M.	Frank D. & Jason M.	Jan R.	Team 1
Sept. 14	Corbin M.	Aaron F.	Frank D.	Tom P.	Melanie R.	Rick C. & Rex R.	Mark B.	Team 2
Sept. 21	Danielle T.	Terry T.	Keith K.	Mike M.	Greg M.	TBD & Curt G.	Frank D.	Team 3
Sept. 28	Sherri F.	Corbin M.	Corbin M.	Greg M.	Aaron F.	Kathy C. & Nancy G.	Jan R.	Team 4



Randi C.	9/7	Diane W.	9/10	Natalie H.	9/12
Sawyer B.	9/15	Lisa R.	9/19	Beverlee W.	9/20
Evelyn D.	9/24	Anna R.	9/25	Piper P.	9/27
Wilma S.	9/28	Kim P.	9/28		



Kathy & Steve B.	9/2
Angela & Bill B.	9/6
Joe & Kara M.	9/10
Bethany & Kristopher T.	9/11
Ivan & Judy K.	9/23
Brad & Laurie G.	9/23
Carolyn & Matt S.	9/25
Mark & Patty B.	9/27
Letitia & Todd D.	9/27
June & Jim I.	9/27