

MARK TIMES

News & Notes for October 4, 2026

THE WEEK AHEAD

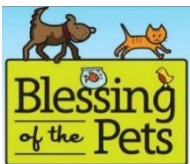
Sunday, October 4:	4:00PM	SHINE Worship with Pet Blessing
Monday, October 5:	2:30PM	Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
Wednesday, October 7:	10:30AM	Joint Use Meeting – <i>Conference Room</i>
Thursday, October 8:	4:15PM	Voice Choir
	6:00PM	Bell Choir
	6:00PM	Yoga – <i>Parish Hall</i>
Friday, October 9-10:		Belleville Chili Cook-Off

Adult Forum: *Witchcraft: Strictly Taboo?*

What does the **Bible** actually say about **witchcraft** — and how has the **church** wrestled with it, badly and well, across two thousand years? Join Pastor Brian as we trace this question from Exodus and the witch of Endor, through a hard stretch of church history that both Rome and Wittenberg have to own, into what Lutheran and Catholic teaching say today. We'll close by looking at a living reality for our own Lutheran communion: sister churches across Africa who handle witchcraft accusations and exorcism ministry as ordinary pastoral work. All are welcome (pointy hats encouraged, but not required!).



Blessing of the Animals TODAY!



We join our partners from St. George's and our animal friends to celebrate the feast of St. Francis with a special SHINE service and a **Blessing of the Animals!**

Our service is at **4:00PM TODAY, October 4** in the **church courtyard***. Please **bring your own chair** if possible.

Part of our service is dedicated to **remembering our beloved pets who have died**. You are invited to **bring a photo of your departed pet** (framed, if possible) to place on a remembrance table.

*If the courtyard is obstructed by construction materials, the event may be held on the big parking lot.

Pastor at Continuing Education

Pastor Brian is away for a conference **Friday, October 8** through **Sunday, October 11**. In case of **pastoral emergency**, please contact **Fr. Mark Ohlemeier at 785-220-5528**.

St. Mark Offerings for 9/27: General Fund: **\$985.16**; D Muller Landscaping: \$101; Fiber Arts: \$101; Grounds/Property Maintenance: \$101

Chili Cook-Off Help Wanted!

'Tis the season! Belleville's annual Chili Cook-Off will be **Friday, October 9 and Saturday, October 10**. 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! **FINAL Chicken cooking** is scheduled **9:00AM-3:00PM** on **Wednesday October 7**. Each cooking day needs two three-hour shifts of two people to accomplish the grinding, cooking and bagging of the cooked chicken.

SHARE THE WARMTH October 4 thru 25, 2026

Continuing to be inspired by "Phillip's Wish" in the movie **5000 Blankets** and the needs of our food pantry clients, a collection of gently worn **coats, thermal underwear, sweatshirts, t-shirts, undershirts, socks, hats, mittens, gloves, scarfs**, etc. will be collected for the homeless in our area. Warming blankets, handwarmers and new underwear for men and women are also greatly appreciated. Donations may be distributed to various organizations throughout the project period with donation numbers provided at the end of the collection. A collection container will be in the Narthex/Canterbury Room next Sunday. Please feel free to contact Sherri Foppe at 618 791-6148 with any questions.

Our All Saints Sunday worship service is **Sunday, November 1** at 9:00AM.



Names of deceased loved ones may be entered into our Book of Remembrance, which is now on the St. Mark table in the Narthex. **You are welcome and encouraged to write names of any deceased loved ones you wish to remember.** You may also contact the church office (office@stmarkbelleville.org) to add a someone to the list.

All written names will be included in the worship folder, but **only** the names of those **who have died over the past year** will be **read during the service**, with a single toll of a bell after each name. Please mark a **star** or an **asterisk** next to the names of loved ones who have died in the last year.

St. Mark 50th Anniversary celebration!

St. Mark Lutheran Church turns 50 years old in December, and the anniversary committee has been hard at work planning events! A year of celebration kicks off on **Saturday, December 5 at 10:30AM** with a commemorative **worship service** in the place where it all started: the **Belleville Philharmonic Hall**. A luncheon in our Parish Hall immediately follows.



Then starting in January, we will alternate celebrating a "decade" of St. Mark (with photos, memorabilia, and special guests) one month, and an anniversary activity the following month. Activities will include a church retreat, trivia night, organ concert, picnic/BBQ, bells/choirs concert, and culminating in a float in the 2027 Belleville Santa Parade!

The anniversary committee meets each month in the Parish Hall, and anyone may sit in on the meetings. OR, if you missed the original call for committee members, it's not too late! **We're glad to have more committee members** to help make our celebration as grand as it can be. All are welcome!

Ladies Lunch Bunch NEXT Week

the LLB will meet this **Wednesday, October 14 at 12 noon** at **Belleville Pancake House** (3605 North Belt West, Belleville). **Call Cheri Batten at 618-233-5649** with questions.

