

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

April 19,
2026



The Third
Sunday of
Easter

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

THE REV. RONALD C. NEUSTADT, PASTOR EMERITUS

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- + **To parents with small children:** We are glad your family is worshiping 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

“At the Lamb's High Feast”

J. Bender

WELCOME *Please STAND as you are able*

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

HYMN FROM PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

Jesus Christ, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!

GATHERING HYMN

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

ELW 385



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joyce and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joyce and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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.**

Refrain S 140

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
 who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
 strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Following the prayer, please SIT.

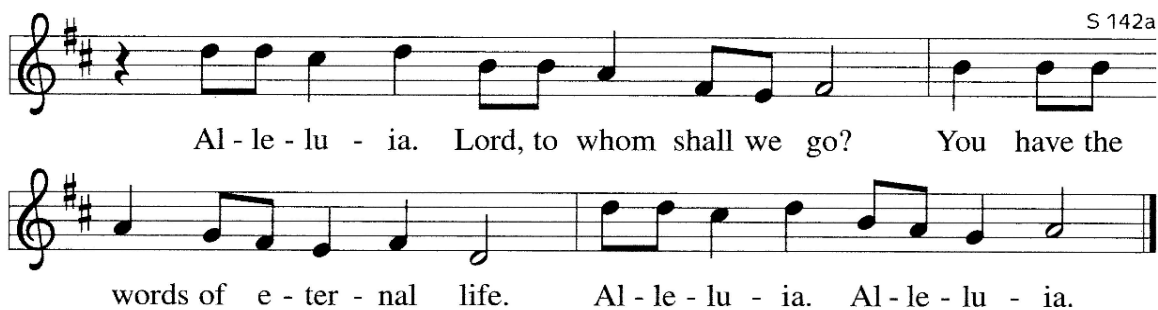
WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

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



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

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

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

SERMON

“The Way is Made by Walking”

The Rev. Brian M. Robison

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



1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;
 2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn-ful sigh?
 3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;
 4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran-somed of the earth.
 5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom-y halls of death Christ, the con-quer - or, has gone,
 Christ who died our broth - er here lives our broth - er still on high,
 joined to Christ, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;
 Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n-ly birth.
 Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
 lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless-ings on his church be - low.
 with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.
 Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.
 Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *The names of those for whom we pray aloud (members, staff, first-time additions) are listed below. Please read only the first names. Other prayer intentions can be found in the back of this bulletin. The response to "Merciful God," is "Receive our prayer."*

Ken Augustine, **Eleanor** Benton, **Rob** Buck, **Gary** Dozier, **Evelyn** Duncan, **Art** Engelage,
Michael Foppe, **Morris** Kugler, **Diane** Maes, **Bruce** Martens, **Diane** Martens, **Greg** Martens,
Lucy Montgomery, **Ron** Neustadt, **Tina** Partelow, **Marilyn** Robinson, **Cohen** Summers,
Carol Weshinsky, **Gary** Weshinsky

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

CHANCEL CHOIR

"Celtic Benediction"

Brad Nix

Text can be found on the last page of this bulletin

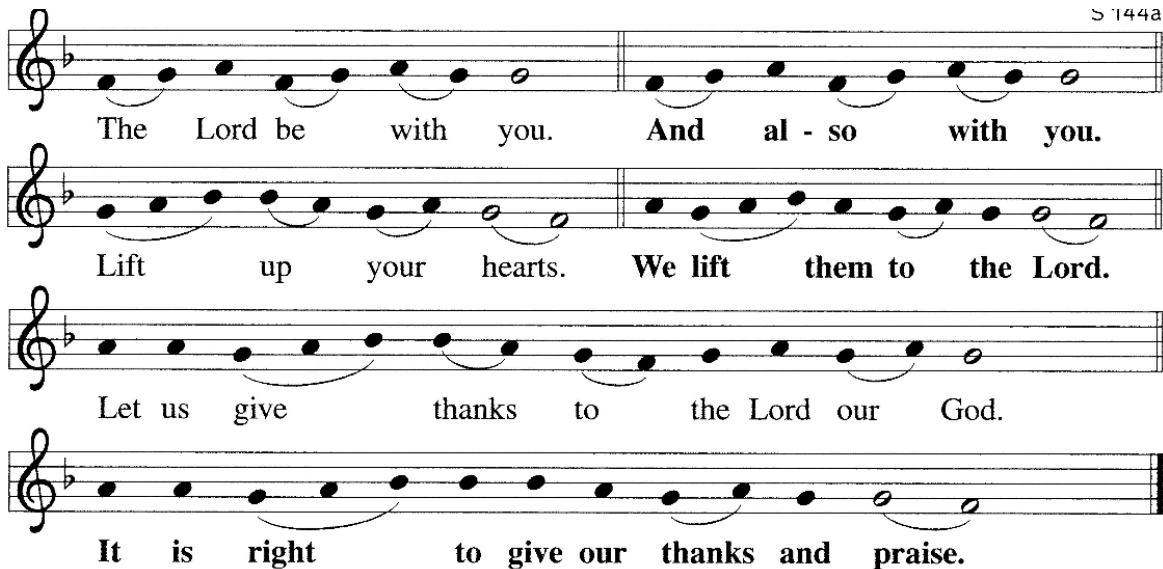
OFFERING *Should you wish to leave an offering today, it may be placed in the wooden box on the table near the baptismal font at any point during or after the service.*

OFFERING PRAYER *Please STAND as you are able*

Assistant: Let us pray together...

**Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us,
a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

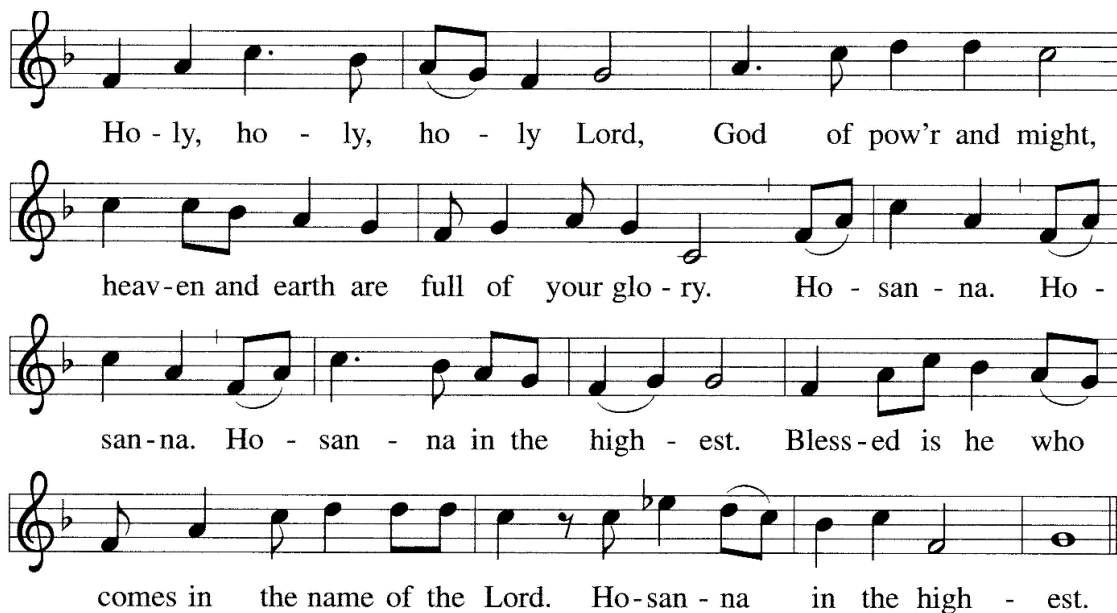
GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

S 144a

It is indeed right...we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *contemporary*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come;

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

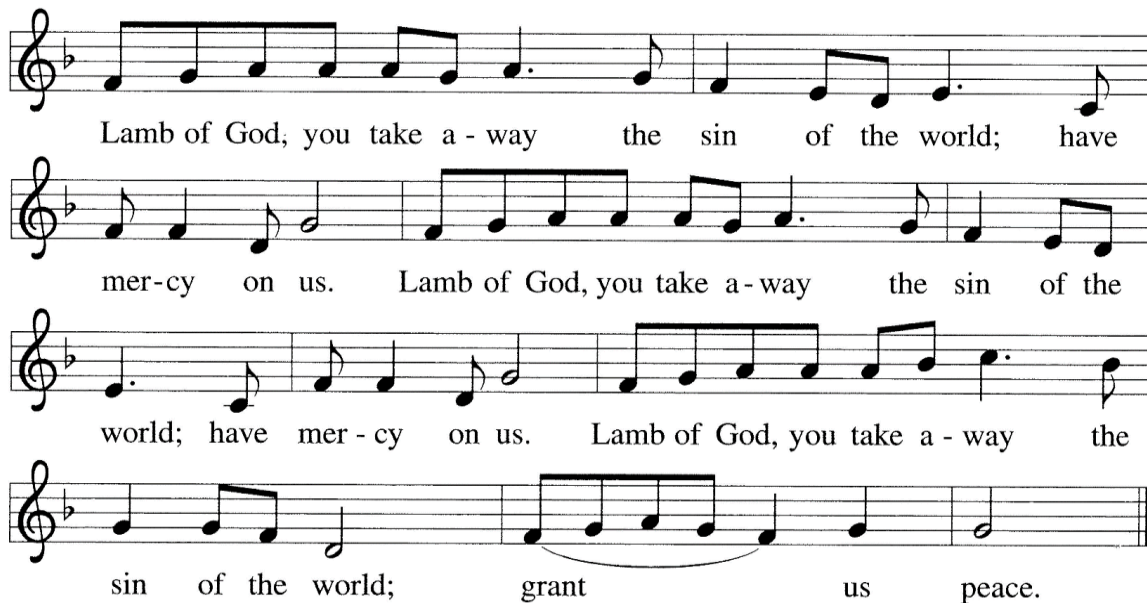
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way 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.*



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

“Christ is Alive”



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

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.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE “Thankful Hearts & Voices Raise” ELW #204



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together... Holy One, **through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave-clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan



where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
 to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Easter Hymn"

M. McDonald

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Corbin Monfre

Crucifer: Keith Kniepkamp + **Chalice Bearer & Tech Minister:** Mike Murakami

Lector: Corbin Monfre + **Safety Volunteer:** Frank Dressel

Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Ushers:** Danielle Tribout & Curt Gansmann

Celtic Benediction by Brad Nix

*Go forth into the world in peace. Go forth into the world in peace.
Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the Lord. Go forth into the world in peace.
Go forth into the world in peace. Go forth into the world in peace.
Go forth into the world rejoicing in the Lord. Go forth into the world in peace.
Hold fast to what is good, hold fast to what is right, repaying no evil for evil.
Support the faint of heart, give strength unto the weak.
Go forth in the power of Christ. Go forth into the world in peace.
Go forth into the world in peace. Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the Lord.
Go forth into the world in peace. Amen.*

Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

Ken Augustine, Eleanor Benton, Mary Boxdorfer, Rob Buck, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Art Engelage, Michael Foppe, Greg Guenther, Morris Kugler, Diane Maes, Bruce Martens, Diane Martens, Greg Martens, Lucy Montgomery, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Cohen Summers, Carol and Gary Weshinsky

St. Mark Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Bert Alvarez, Stellamarie Bearth, John Belz, Jim Boeving, Thomas Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam, Patty Brennecke, Susan Carson, Christine, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Josh Gansmann, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Glenna Hamilton, Andrea Hendrix, Jamie House, Jimmy Jurgens, Austin Lickenbrock, Dusty Little, 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, Lana Perry, Larry Powers, Goldie Rideout, Jerry Robbins, Darrell Robinson, Sarah and Family, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, Denise Sebastian, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep, Tom Stookey, Ingrid Thompson, David Vaught, Toni Walston, Louise Wilson, Margie Wilson, Molly Witherell, Karen Woolf, Ken Zika, Chloe Zipperer

Members and Friends Serving in Our Nation's Military

Ethan Collins, Taiylar Foppe Merrel, Josh Merrel, Ryan McKenzie, Amy Morgan

Members celebrating birthdays this week

Todd Downen (4/19), Cheri Batten (4/21), Janet Jacquot (4/23), Judy Kohlmeier (4/23), and Rachel Southers (4/25)

Members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries this week

Aaron & Susan Fuchs (4/19) and Mike & Sherri Foppe (4/20)

For Those Who Mourn the Loss of Loved Ones

The family and friends of **Wilma Woolf** (friend of Cheri Batten, on 4/9)

MARK TIMES

News & Notes for April 19, 2026

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, April 20:	2:30PM	Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
Thursday, April 23:	4:15PM	Chancel choir rehearsal
	6:00PM	Bell choir rehearsal
	6:00PM	Yoga – Parish Hall

Today's Adult Forum: *The Suppression of Mary Magdalene in the Gospel of John*

Did ancient scribes *intentionally* erase evidence of Mary Magdalene's true influence in the life and story of Jesus as told in the Gospel of John? It could be a conspiracy straight out of *The DaVinci Code*, and using information from a lecture he heard at the 2024 Bible and Archaeology Fest, Pastor Brian brings the evidence for you to consider in the conclusion of this 2-part series this morning!

Joint Service April 26 at 10AM

You won't want to miss our annual joint service to celebrate the feast days of St. Mark (4/25) and St. George (4/23) **NEXT Sunday, April 26 at 10:00AM**. St. George's hosts the service, and Pastor Brian will preach. A **luncheon** for everyone with a free will offering follows the service!



♪ Music Notes ♪

There will be an opening for **one new bell player** in the fall. If you can read music even a little and would like to play bells, see director Carol Kugler.

It would also be wonderful to have new singers join the Chancel Choir. No requirements other than being able to carry a tune and a love for singing!

On another note, many thanks and much appreciation to all members of both choirs for sharing their time and talent all season long. Kudos!

St. Mark Logo Wear – New Items Available!

Now available at <https://www.richsstitchesemb.com/store.php> through May 3. Order sheets are also in the Parish Hall for those who prefer not to order online. Prices on the order sheets include taxes, payment is due when the order is placed. Payment may be given to Sherri Foppe or Ann Martens. Sherri Foppe will pick up completed orders and bring them to church through May 10.

Several styles and colors available:

Crew Neck Sweatshirt with embroidered logo on the shoulder S-XL \$25 2XL-3XL \$28

Hoodie with embroidered logo on the shoulder S-XL \$37 2XL-3XL \$40

Polo Shirt with embroidered logo on the shoulder. \$23 S-XL 2XL-3XL \$26

Short Sleeved T-shirt with images on front and back S-XL \$20 2XL-3XL \$23

Short Sleeved T-shirt with *front image only* S-XL \$18 2XL-3XL \$21

Long Sleeved T-shirt with images on front and back S-XL \$23 2XL-3XL \$26

Long Sleeved T-shirt with *front image only* S-XL \$20 2XL-3XL \$23

St. Mark Offerings for 4/12: General Fund: **\$3,304**; Coffee Fund: \$47

A Word to Easter from Bishop Busboom

“So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added” (Acts 2:41).

“The church is emerging as a community wherein lives are connecting with and being transformed by a boundless God who was incarnate in Jesus and in the witness of those who welcomed the Spirit.” When I first read these words from United Methodist Pastor Timothy Hare, I was struck by what an appropriate description Hare gives of our 21st-century Christian church — a church that is “emerging,” a church that is “connecting with and being transformed,” a church rooted in “a boundless God who was incarnate in Jesus and in the witness of those who welcomed the Spirit.” Sound familiar?



And yet, even more striking to me is that with these words Pastor Hare is not seeking to describe the church of today. Instead, Pastor Hare writes these words as a description of the church that came into being on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, just fifty days after Jesus’ rising from the grave on Easter Sunday. Remarkable, isn’t it? Two thousand years later and the Christian church is still exactly what the Spirit at Pentecost created us to be — a church that is emerging!

Surely the Christian community that was emerging just weeks after Jesus’ death and resurrection must have felt like their existence was fragile and precarious. After all, Jesus, the one who had been the center of their community, was no longer physically with them the way he once had been. Their numbers were small. They had very few resources, having left everything to follow Jesus. They were living under the control of the oppressive Roman empire. How long would it be before their small community disappeared altogether? Surely, their days were numbered.

But then ... something happens! God intervenes! Having received the promised Holy Spirit, Peter begins to preach the good news of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. Moved by the Spirit, the crowd asks, “What should we do?” to which Peter responds, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:37-38). And that day three thousand persons were baptized and added to the community! What happens that day in the early church is not the result of Peter or of the crowd or of those who were baptized. What happens is solely the work of the Holy Spirit through the proclamation of the gospel!

Yes, we are an Easter church! However, we are also a Pentecost church! The Spirit is just as active and alive in the church today as it was on that first Pentecost. As I travel around our synod week after week, I see it. I see new Christians being baptized, both infants and adults. I see communities of disciples feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, clothing families in need. I see relationships being formed and leaders being called into ministry. And I hear stories — stories of lives being transformed, stories of students on our college campuses being welcomed into church for the very first time, stories of churches building tee ball fields on their church lawns and installing basketball hoops in their parking lots, stories of disciples publicly living out their faith in increasingly bold and courageous ways.

As we continue to bask in the joy of Easter, what might the Spirit be bringing to new life in the midst of our seemingly fragile, precarious, struggling communities of disciples? What transformation might the Spirit be working in peoples’ lives as the gospel is preached and the sacraments are shared? By the power of the Spirit, how is the church of today “emerging as a community wherein lives are connecting with and being transformed by a boundless God who was incarnate in Jesus and in the witness of those who welcomed the Spirit?

I am convinced more than ever that the Christian church is not dying. The church is emerging, just as it always has and just as it always will, by the power of the Spirit!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Bishop Greg